



Building a stronger and safer nation for 70 years
Our victories are for the people




Call for Order
01954 55 66 33

READY-MIX CONCRETE
SHAH CEMENT

SMART CONCRETE SOLUTION

Another haor inundated

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Another haor in Sunamganj's Derai upazila – Huramandira – has been inundated after an adjacent levee broke due to excessive pressure of water.

It happened early yesterday, a day after fresh flash floods hit the district.

So far, Boro paddy on 495 hectares has been submerged as three haors have been flooded in the district. With this, paddy on 5,510 hectares has gone under water since April 1, according to the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE).

Farmers claim Boro paddy on almost double the land area is at risk because of the flash floods.

Mobarak Ali, a farmer of Baroil village in Derai, said, "The dyke [near the Huramandira Haor] was at risk. Due to the huge water pressure, it broke early yesterday and all our ripe paddy was under water by morning."

Golgolia and Tana haors were submerged on Sunday night after water started overflowing a dyke.

All rivers in Sunamganj were flowing right below the danger level yesterday afternoon, according to the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB).

Md Shamsuddoha, executive engineer of BWDB in Sunamganj, said, "The river water is showing no signs of receding. Moreover, the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre has issued a notification alerting that it would rain heavily in the next 24 to 48 hours."

Meanwhile, Boro harvesting was progressing in full swing in the district.

Bimol Chandra Shome, deputy director of DAE in Sunamganj, said, "Of 2.22 lakh hectares, Boro on 51,000 hectares was already yielded as of Sunday evening. We are hopeful about harvesting most of the crop before it's too late."



A woman helps a farmer salvage paddy after flash floods inundated Huramandira haor in Sylhet's Derai upazila. Farmers of the region continue to struggle to keep their paddies alive and thriving due to frequent floods. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Diplomats of '71 set example of patriotism

Say speakers on Foreign Service Day

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladeshi diplomats, who responded to the call of Bangabandhu and expressed allegiance to the Mujibnagar Government before December 16, 1971, set the example of sacrifice and patriotism.

Despite knowing of the uncertain and risky future for them and their families, they took the side of the common people, who faced oppression from the Pakistani regime for decades – something that will remain as an inspiration for today's diplomats.

This was stated by speakers at a discussion marking the Foreign Service Day organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the Foreign Service Academy yesterday.

"Let us salute those brave souls for their courage and of course, for their commitment to humanity and democracy," said Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen addressing the event virtually from Singapore.

On April 18, 1971, after the Mujibnagar Government was formed, Bangladeshi diplomats and staffers stationed in Calcutta (Kolkata), defying the oppressive and occupation regime of Pakistan, took over the Pakistan Deputy High Commissioner's Office and hoisted the Bangladesh national flag atop and thus established the first Bangladesh Mission abroad.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

Lankan president regrets crisis

Expands cabinet ahead of IMF talks

REUTERS, Colombo

Sri Lanka's embattled president announced 17 new ministerial appointments yesterday, notably leaving out members of his own family, and expressed regret for his government's handling of a devastating economic crisis that has led to widespread protests.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and his elder brother, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, will stay on despite demands from protesters and the opposition for them to quit. Rajapaksa has governed the South Asian island nation since 2019 with other family members in top government positions.

The island nation of 22 million is experiencing prolonged power cuts and fuel and medicines shortages triggered by a tumble in its foreign exchange reserves that has stalled imports of essentials,

leading to daily protests in the commercial capital Colombo.

The government was set to begin talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) yesterday for a loan programme, and analysts have flagged political instability as a

Thousands of Sri Lankans have been protesting outside the president's office in Colombo for over a week, demanding that the Rajapaksas resign.

risk to Sri Lanka finding a way out of its financial turmoil.

Credit rating agency Moody's downgraded the country's debt rating yesterday, putting it even deeper in "junk" territory, below investment grade.

In a speech to his new

cabinet, President Rajapaksa said the country should have sought help from the IMF sooner – as urged by opposition parties and experts.

"I believe that we should have gone for a programme with the International Monetary Fund earlier," he said, according to a statement issued by his office.

"Today, people are under an immense pressure due to this economic crisis. I deeply regret... this situation," the president said.

"The pain, discomfort and anger displayed by the people for having to spend time in queues to get essential items at a high price...is justified."

Thousands of Sri Lankans have been protesting outside the president's office in Colombo for over a week, demanding that the Rajapaksas resign.

Faced with growing popular

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4
RELATED STORY ON B2

MP 'threatens' UZ chairman 'with life'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A upazila parishad chairman in Gopalpur, Tangail, alleged that he received death threats from the local lawmaker.

A letter sent to the prime minister through the district administration on Sunday mentioned that Chairman Yunus Islam Talukder Thandhu was threatened by Awami League lawmaker Tanvir Hasan Monir.

The letter contains signatures of seven other upazila parishad chairmen of Tangail, said Deputy Commissioner Ataul Gani.

Chairman Talukder told The Daily Star that he addressed a meeting of the District Law and Order Committee on April 10 where he demanded an end to illegal sand extraction from the banks of the Jamuna in Tarakandi and Bhuapur. He also demanded fair trial for the murder of a local Awami League leader.

After the meeting, MP Monir threatened him with life.

"When I told the other upazila chairmen of the district about the matter, they decided to inform the prime minister," he said. "I am not feeling safe."

Contacted, MP Monir said he had not spoken to the upazila chairman at the end of the April 10 meeting.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 7



A SMILE FOR DAD
... A baby all smiles as his father takes him for a dip in the lake surrounding the Swadhinata Stambha in the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan. As summer has hit the country at full throttle, people have been finding their own ways to get some relief from the sweltering heat.

PHOTO:
ANISUR RAHMAN

SI closed for 'assaulting' suspect's wife

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A sub-inspector of Sitakunda Model Police Station has been closed for allegedly assaulting an accused's wife when the SI went to his house to arrest him.

SI Mahbub Morshed was attached to Chattogram District Police Lines after the victim lodged a complaint with Superintendent of Police SM Rashidul Haque, said Abul Kalam Azad, officer-in-charge of the police station.

"Mahbub Morshed went to arrest fugitive Nurul Islam on Saturday. There is an arrest warrant against him," the OC said, adding that the allegation against the SI was being investigated.

In her complaint, the woman mentioned that SI Mahbub, two other policemen in

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Earliest evidence of Maya calendar found in Guatemala

REUTERS, Washington

A glyph representing a day called "7 Deer" on mural fragments dating from the third century BC found inside the ruins of a pyramid in

Guatemala marks the earliest-known use of the Maya calendar, one of this ancient culture's renowned achievements.

The fragments were found at the San Bartolo archaeological site in the jungles of northern Guatemala, which gained fame with the 2001 discovery of a buried chamber with elaborate and colorful murals dating to about 100 BC depicting Maya ceremonial and mythological scenes, researchers said.

The pieces with the "7 Deer" glyph were unearthed inside the same Las Pinturas pyramid where the still-intact later murals were located. As was the case with this structure, the Maya

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5