

Floods wreak havoc in Pakistan

Death toll nears 1,000; emergency declared; thousands more ordered to evacuate

AGENCIES

Pakistan witnessed another day of deaths and devastation yesterday as dozens of people were left dead and thousands stranded as a result of landslides and floods in the country's north amid "high to very high" floods in Kabul and Indus rivers.

Thousands of people living near flood-swollen rivers in Pakistan's north were ordered to evacuate yesterday as the death toll from devastating monsoon rains neared 1,000, with no end in sight.

The government has declared an emergency and mobilised the military to deal with what Climate Change Minister Sherry Rehman on Wednesday called "a catastrophe of epic scale".

Many rivers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa -- a picturesque province of rugged mountains and valleys -- have burst their banks, demolishing scores of buildings including a 150-room hotel that crumbled into a raging torrent.

"The house which we built with years of hard work started sinking in front of our eyes," said Junaid Khan, 23, the owner of two fish farms in Charsadda.

"We sat on the side of the road and watched our dream house sinking."

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The queues in front of the OMS trucks keep getting longer, as prices of essentials spiral out of the reach of the people on low income. The photo was taken near Mugda Hospital in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HUQ

5 held with 4 lakh yaba pills, firearms

Over 1kg crystal meth recovered in a separate drive

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Cox's Bazar

Rab yesterday detained five people and recovered 410,000 yaba pills and three firearms from different areas of Cox's Bazar's Ukhia upazila.

The detainees are Md Ilias, 38, Razzak Majhi, 55, Md Shahed, 28, Aiyaz alias Azizul, 37, and Saiful Islam, 27, Lt Col Khairul Islam Sarker, commander of Rab-15, told a press briefing at the Rab headquarters yesterday.

Of them, Razzak Majhi is a Rohingya, while the other four are locals. They will be handed over to Ukhia police soon, he added.

Rab said a team of the elite force first raided the upazila's Jamtoli area and detained Ilias with 100,000 pills around 8:00pm on Friday.

Based on information
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GLOBAL CRISIS

Bangladesh's gains feared to reverse

Reports FT

UNB, Dhaka

Power blackouts and high import prices are fuelling fears that Bangladesh's previous gains could be reversed by the global crisis, according to British daily the Financial Times.

In South Asia, a region of almost 2 billion people across India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, Bangladesh stood out for its development and success in fostering a globally competitive goods export sector.

But now, along with most of its neighbours, the country is being rocked by soaring prices of energy and food following the pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine. These have led to energy shortages and rising import bills that are, in some cases, straining their ability to keep up with debt payments, the daily said.

The regional economic crisis in South Asia has been swinging in its casualties, claiming countries whose governments pursued reckless spending policies, such as Sri Lanka, alongside model development economies. It now threatens to reverse hard-won, generational gains made in the world's most populous emerging market region.

The crisis is punishing countries with an array of different economic performances and models, said Mark Malloch Brown, a former UN and World Bank official who now heads the George Soros-backed Open Society Foundations. "Bangladesh, a very internationally oriented economy known for its garment sector, is getting killed by economic conditions elsewhere in the world."

Bangladesh had until recently been better insulated from recent economic

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BNP leaders vow to stand ground

They get attacked for sixth consecutive day

RASHIDUL HASAN AND MUNTAKIM SAAD

Amid frequent attacks on their protest programmes, the BNP leaders and activists have vowed not to leave the streets this time.

On August 22, the BNP started its fresh series of nationwide programmes. They have been attacked, either by the police and the ruling party men, every day.

The attacks were made even after the prime minister on August 14 said the opposition should be allowed to protest and not be harassed.

"I want them to protest. I have given strict orders that no one should be arrested. If they want to besiege the Prime Minister's Office, let them do that," Sheikh Hasina said that day.

The situation, however, is the opposite of what the prime minister said, alleged the leaders of the BNP.

Most of the BNP men, attending programmes protesting the price hike in fuel and daily essentials, have come under attack, if not sued or arrested since August 22, they said.

"Our immediate target is to organise people and strength the grassroots, but our ultimate goal is to force the government to resign and hold a free and fair election under a non-partisan government," said BNP Standing Committee Member Nazrul Islam Khan.

The prime minister may be the source of all power but the police and her party men are not paying any heed to her instructions, he added.

"Either she [Hasina] did not mean what she said [about not harassing the opposition] or police and her party men act as per the

instructions of others," Nazrul said.

The BNP will take the protest programmes to village and union levels, he added.

ALL THE CLASHES

At least 30 people, including four policemen, were injured as the activists of the Awami League and the BNP locked in a clash in Noakhali's Sonaimuri yesterday afternoon.

Sonaimuri BNP Convener Motaher Hossain Manik alleged that the ruling party men attacked them when they were holding a rally.

Crude bombs were also hurled during the attack, he added.

Harun Or Rashid, officer in-charge of Sonaimuri Police Station, said the law enforcers swiftly brought the situation under control.

The attack was nothing but a drama staged by the ruling party men and police to spread fear among the BNP leaders, said Manik.

Meanwhile, in Jashore, the activists of the ruling party and the BNP got involved in a chase counter chase in Rupdia Bazar area.

Jubo Dal activist Afzal Hossain was abducted during the clash, alleged BNP leaders.

Police and the Awami League refused to talk about the "abduction".

At a press conference, BNP Khulna Divisional Organising Secretary Anindya Islam Amit said a rally was held at Kachua union in Jashore as part of their series of programmes.

After the rally, as the BNP procession reached Rupdia Bazar, local Awami League leaders threw brick chunks and attacked the procession with sharp weapons and sticks. BNP leader Syed Hossain Palash, 32, was injured in

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Bangladesh won't import Russian crude
Says Salman F Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will not import crude oil from Russia as the former's lone refinery -- Eastern Refinery Ltd -- does not have the capacity to refine it, said Salman F Rahman, private industry and investment adviser to the prime minister.

The Eastern Refinery has the capacity to refine crude from Middle Eastern countries, but not that from Russia, which has different characteristics, he said at a meeting of the Overseas Correspondents Association of Bangladesh at the office of the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority in Dhaka yesterday.

"So, even if Russian crude oil is imported, it is not possible to refine it here."

Salman said Bangladesh was considering India as an alternative source of oil, adding that the idea of importing oil from Russia is still at the exploration stage and no final decision had been made.

A senior official of the energy ministry said that Russia has already sent a proposal for selling its crude oil to Bangladesh. He also informed Russia that Bangladesh has no capacity to refine it.

Bangladesh has been planning to import oil

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People who look alike may have similar DNA

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Unrelated people who look alike are likely to have similar DNA, new research suggests.

Researchers studied pairs of unrelated people who are look-alikes, and determined the impact of inheritance versus environment on their appearance.

They found that the doppelgangers (doubles) in their study not only had similar faces, height and weight, but also had similarities in some aspects of their behaviour.

Senior author Manel Esteller of the Josep Carreras Leukaemia Research Institute in Barcelona, Spain, said: "For decades the existence of individuals who resemble each other without



having any family ties has been described as a proven fact, but only in anecdotal terms and without any scientific justification.

"The widespread use of the internet and social networks for image-sharing has meant that we are now able to identify and study such people."

Researchers recruited 32 look-alike pairs who had been photographed as part of a series by the Canadian artist Francois Brunelle.

They each completed a questionnaire about their lifestyle and body measurements.

Three different facial recognition programmes were used to determine how much each pair looked alike – their likeness.

According to the study, 25 out of 32 couples

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জুলাই ও আগস্ট মাসে বিক্রিত প্রতি ব্যাগ থেকে ২টাকা ব্যয় করা হচ্ছে বন্যার্তদের সহায়তায়।
ইতোমধ্যে তিনটি ধাপে বিভিন্ন এলাকায় বন্যা দুর্গতদের মাঝে ত্রাণ বিতরণ করা হচ্ছে,
যা অব্যাহত থাকবে ৩১ শে আগস্ট পর্যন্ত।

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