



Police use water canons to disperse university students and demonstrators protesting against the Sri Lankan government and for the release of student leaders in Colombo, yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

# ‘Pakistan is awash in suffering’

## Says Guterres as UN appeals for \$160m to help amid ‘epochal’ floods

REUTERS, Charsadda

The United Nations yesterday appealed for \$160 million to help Pakistan as army helicopters rescued stranded families and dropped food packages into inaccessible areas following “epochal” rains and flooding.

The historic deluge, mainly triggered by abnormal monsoon rains, has killed more than 1,100 people, affected 33 million, and destroyed homes, businesses, infrastructure and crops.

“Pakistan is awash in suffering,” UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in a video message to launch the appeal in Islamabad and Geneva.

“The Pakistani people are facing a monsoon on steroids - the relentless impact of epochal levels of rain and

flooding.”

He said the scale of the country’s needs - with millions forced from their homes and schools, health facilities and livelihoods destroyed by the climate catastrophe - required the world’s collective and prioritised attention.

Nearly 300 stranded people, including some tourists, were airlifted in northern Pakistan, a state-run disaster management agency said in a statement, adding that over 50,000 people had been moved to two government shelters in the northwest. People complained at the shelters.

“Life is very painful here,” 63 year-old villager Sadiq Hussain told Reuters.

He said he and his family had to bear it all just because, “we lost everything.”

Hussain said his entire village on the bank of Kabul river had escaped to safety.

He was housed in the camps together with his parents and five children.

“Diarrhoea and fever is common here,” he said of the camp, adding no sufficient medical assistance was available. He said he had already shifted his diabetic mother to a relative after she spent a harsh night at the camp.

“Life is bitter here,” said Sidra Bibi who fled the same village as Hussain’s.

Early estimates put the damage from the floods at more than \$10 billion, the government has said, adding that the world had an obligation to help Pakistan cope with the effects of man-made climate change.

Pakistan estimates the floods have affected more than 33 million people, or more than 15 percent of its 220 million population.

# Govt to fix prices of commodities

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Businesspeople expressed guarded optimism about the government move, saying the pricing method may not be realistic for commodities like rice.

Mostofa Azad Chowdhury Babu, senior vice-president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), said, “The government can intervene in the market when a section of businesspeople manipulates the prices and tries to make a quick buck, taking advantage of the situation.”

Such intervention at a time of abnormal price spiral is a normal practice, but it will be difficult to fix prices of some

commodities, he told The Daily Star over phone after the meeting.

He pointed out that it’s easier to fix the prices of imported goods such as edible oil and sugar as the government has the data on production, import and marketing costs of those.

“But it is tough to fix the prices of rice because of wide varieties of the staple and the fact that the government does not have the exact data on its production and stock,” added Mostofa.

Echoing his words, Rizwan Rahman, president of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), said it will be beneficial for the people if the government fixes the prices of basic

commodities.

“But it will be very challenging,” he said.

However, Khondaker Golam Moazzem, research director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), said the government move will not yield any positive results, rather it will make the market more volatile.

“And it’s not logical.”

He said there is a lack of reliable data on production and stock of basic commodities. “The move may backfire and could lead to a supply crunch...”

Instead, the government should strengthen market monitoring to keep the prices of basic commodities stable, he added.

Contacted, Tapan Kanti Ghosh, senior secretary at

the commerce ministry, said they will soon sit with the ministries of food and agriculture to fix the rice price because they alone cannot do it.

Admitting that it’ll be difficult to fix the rice price, he said they will find a way upon consultation with the ministries concerned and other stakeholders.

“It may take more than 15 days.”

Tapan further said “The Control of Essential Commodities Act, 1956” empowered the government to intervene in the market in times of crisis.

“There is no legal bar to intervening in the market for the sake of consumers,” he added.

# Stop denial

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disappearance. Tulee’s brother Sajedul Islam Sumon, a Bangladesh Nationalist Party leader, became a victim of enforced disappearance nine years ago.

“We want immediate release of the detainees from the secret detention cells. The authorities should stop their denial,” said Tulee.

Such secret detention cells must be abolished, said Mahbubur Rahman Manna, the convener of Nagorik Oikyo.

“I once spent 40 hours inside one of these cells, so I know what the conditions are like inside,” he said.

The mothers, wives, sisters and daughters of Mayer Daak yesterday took

to Shahbagh to once again call out to their loved ones who had been picked up and never returned.

In the searing heat, the feeble Saleha Begum stood behind a banner, propped up from either side by others, as she demanded that her son be returned to her.

Her son Moazzem Hossain Topu, the Rampura thana president of Bangladesh Chhatra League, was allegedly picked up from Bashundhara in 2016.

“His father has already died waiting for him, and I too am on the same path,” cried Saleha. As her voice trailed off, her companions led the ailing old woman to the shade of a nearby tree.

Anisha, the teenage daughter of Ismail Hossain

Baten, a timber trader from Mirpur who was allegedly picked up in 2019, posed a question to the prime minister, “You understand the pain of losing a father ... do you understand my pain?”

Nur Khan Liton, executive director of Ain o Salish Kendra, demanded independent probe into the cases of enforced disappearance.

“Bangladesh should ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance,” he demanded, referring to the international treaty initiated by the United Nations in 2007.

“All those involved in this crime should be identified and tried,” demanded the

human rights activist.

BNP organised a separate programme at their party office in Paltan to mark the day since many of the victims of enforced disappearance were politically linked to the party.

At the event, eight-year-old Safa, whose father Md Sohel was the president of the Bangshal thana unit of Bangladesh Chhatra Dal, spoke about never having been able to see her father who was taken away when she was in her mother’s womb.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir addressed the families of the victims and said, “You are not alone. You have the whole of Bangladesh supporting your struggle.”

# Tension over

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Earlier on August 28 afternoon, two mortar shells from Myanmar landed in Ghumdhum union.

The foreign ministry on Monday summoned Myanmar Ambassador Aung Kyaw Moe to its office and lodged a protest.

BGB stepped up vigilance along the border in Bandarban after this.

# Wrong policies

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means some projects at an “unimaginable cost”.

“The Hindustan Times reports that the Rooppur power plant in Bangladesh costs five times that of a similar power plant of the same capacity in Tamil Nadu of India,” she added.

JSD chief Hasanul Haque Inu apologised to the countrymen on behalf of

himself and the government for people’s suffering for the price hikes.

“The ministers who cannot carry out their responsibilities should quit and thus save people and save the prime minister,” he said.

Agriculture Minister Abdur Razzaque said, “We will not deny that the prices of some essentials

have increased and there is unrest in the market.”

Veteran AL leader Tofail Ahmed said the reality does not match what BNP MPs say.

“Inflation in Europe has hit a 25 year high. Inflation has been as high as 23 percent in some countries. In this situation, Bangladesh’s position in South Asia is very strong,” he added.

# Nagad Finance gets BB nod

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A second application was submitted on January 11 to the same fate.

Then on January 20, a third application was submitted where the name of the proposed company was changed to Nagad Finance Ltd.

Nagad Finance Ltd sought to conduct “small-value lending” and provide MFS. That application was also turned down by the BB board.

Soon after, a fresh application was filed seeking just the NBFI application.

That application was approved by the BB board last evening, taking the total number of NBFIs to 36.

As of June, default loans in the NBFI sector stood at Tk 15,936 crore, which is about 23 percent of the total outstanding loans, according to the latest data from the BB.

The development raises questions about the fate of Bangladesh Post Office’s MFS brand Nagad Ltd, which is yet to get a full licence from the BB in more than three years of its operations due to its inability to fulfil conditions.

To get the licence, a subsidiary company needs to be formed and for that, the Post Office Act, 1898 and the Post Office (Amendment) Act 2010 need to be amended.

For now, Nagad remains the brand name of the BPO, so the new NBFI’s name is bound to run into trademark issues.

But the two organisations share board members.

Mohammad Aminul Haque and Tanvir A Mishuk are directors of both Nagad Ltd and Nagad Finance.

Mishuk is the MD of Nagad Ltd and Haque is an executive director. Haque previously served as Nagad’s acting chief executive officer and chief financial officer.

Rahel Ahmed, the chief executive officer of Nagad Ltd, has been proposed as the managing director of Nagad Finance.

Asked whether the new NBFI would run MFS, Islam said the issue would be considered later.

Muhammad Farid Khan, the vice-chairman of the Summit Group of Companies, is the chairman of Nagad Finance. His son Farhan Karim Khan is also a director of the proposed NBFI.

The other directors of Nagad Finance are Hasib Hasan Taralder and Dan Parker, both of whom work for HomePay, a Silicon Valley-based fintech company specialising in for real-time cross-border and local payments and identity verification founded by Rubel Ahsan, a director of Amar Capital.

The Summit Group vice-chairman and his son and Ahsan were shown to be directors of Amar Capital in the first three applications filed with the BB.

The seventh director in Nagad Finance is

Nakib Choudhury, who is a representative of Finclusion. Nagad CEO Ahmed is part of the Nagad Ltd board as a representative of Finclusion.

The proposed NBFI would be bringing 98 percent of the paid-up capital of Tk 100 crore from the US and Singapore, said a BB official on the condition of anonymity.

“Subject to the final approval of our strategy, Nagad Finance will operate as an independent financial institution,” Mishuk said.

However, the existing partnership between the postal department and the mobile financial service provider Nagad Ltd will remain unchanged.

“Nagad Ltd will be run as a Postal Department’s mobile financial service whereas Nagad Finance will thereafter operate similarly to any other NBFI.”

As a mobile financial service, Nagad Limited is currently in partnership with several institutions.

“In this case, the relationship between Nagad Finance PLC and Nagad Ltd will also remain the same.”

However, Nagad Finance will promote its products and services through Nagad Ltd, Mishuk said.

“Jointly, Nagad Finance and Nagad Ltd will work to bring the underserved into the fold of digital financial inclusion.”

# HC orders taking

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the state.

Two lawyers -- Nilufer Anjum and Md Ashraf -- recently filed the writ petition as public interest litigation.

On August 21, Supreme Court lawyer Arafat Hosen Khan sent a legal notice on behalf of Nilufer and Ashraf to the authorities, asking them to remove the content in 48 hours.

The lawyer served the notice to Facebook; Sabhanaz Rashid Diya, head of public policy, Bangladesh, Facebook; YouTube; and several government bodies, including the chairman, BTRC; director general, Digital Security Agency; and Inspector General of Police.


# Student killed

FROM PAGE 12

Mohsin Ali, a sub-inspector of Jatrabari Police Station, said they seized the bus but the driver had fled.

The body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College morgue for an autopsy.

Road accidents, many of them fatal, are common on the Mayor Mohammad Hanif Flyover, where vehicles are often driven recklessly and at high speeds.



**UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA:** Applications in prescribed form, obtainable from the office of the Registrar are invited from the Bangladeshi nationals for filling up **1(One) temporary post of Lecturer** against leave Vacancy in the Department of **Fisheries**.  
Pay scale of Tk. 22,000-53,060/- (National pay scale 2015).  
**Qualifications:** Candidates must have minimum CGPA 3.50 out of 4.00 in Honours and Master’s degree in **Fisheries/any branch in Fisheries** with minimum GPA/CGPA 4.25 out of 5.00 in S.S.C. & H.S.C. Examinations. Other qualifications being equal preference may be given to those who have higher degrees. One of the approved condition of S.S.C or H.S.C Examination may be relaxed to those who obtained first position/achieved highest CGPA in Honours or Master’s degree.  
Eight copies of application together with attested copies of certificates, testimonials, Mark sheets and proof of experience along with a Pay Order/Bank Draft of the value of Tk. 750/-(seven hundred fifty) only, payable to **the Registrar, University of Dhaka**, should reach him on or before **20.09.2022** Candidates already in service must apply through proper channel.  
GD-1642



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ক্রমিক নং	কাজের নাম	টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্টস বিক্রির শেষ তারিখ	টেন্ডার বন্ধ বন্ধের তারিখ ও সময়	টেন্ডার খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্য সংগ্রহের স্থান
ক)	Fortnightly Cheeking & Monthly Servicing of 6Nos. Lift for 7 March Bhaban, Ruqayyah Hall, University of Dhaka with minor spare parts for the Session of 2022-2023. সিডিউল মূল্য = ৩,০০০/-	১১/০৯/২০২২ চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।	১২/০৯/২০২২ দুপুর: ১২.০০ টা পর্যন্ত।	১২/০৯/২০২২ দুপুর: ১২.৩০ মিঃ	ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েব সাইট এবং প্রধান প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর, নোটিশ বোর্ড, চায় বিঃ।
খ)	Supply of essential spare parts for maintaining the lifts installed different building of Dhaka University, (For Group-B, Session of 2021-2022). সিডিউল মূল্য = ২,০০০/-	১১/০৯/২০২২ চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।	১২/০৯/২০২২ দুপুর: ১২.০০ টা পর্যন্ত।	১২/০৯/২০২২ দুপুর: ১২.৩০ মিঃ	ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েব সাইট এবং প্রধান প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর, নোটিশ বোর্ড, চায় বিঃ।
গ)	Supply and fixing of necessary electrical wiring including LED Tube light, LED metal light, Sub distribution box & ceiling fan supply for TSC Cafeteria, Back stage Dressing Room and Makeup room of TSC, University of Dhaka. সিডিউল মূল্য = ২,০০০/-	১১/০৯/২০২২ চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।	১২/০৯/২০২২ দুপুর: ১২.০০ টা পর্যন্ত।	১২/০৯/২০২২ দুপুর: ১২.৩০ মিঃ	ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েব সাইট এবং প্রধান প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর, নোটিশ বোর্ড, চায় বিঃ।