

Flood risk rises in the north

Situation in northeast likely to worsen

STAR REPORT

Heavy rainfall in the last few days and onrush of water from upstream have caused sudden flooding in the country's northeast and raised the risk of flooding in the north.

Water levels in all major rivers in the regions are rising fast, increasing the risk of floods in new areas in the coming days, said officials of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB).

At least three rivers -- the Surma, Old Surma and Someswari -- in Sunamganj and Netrakona were flowing above the danger level yesterday morning, according to a bulletin of the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC).

The bulletin released at 9:00am yesterday said the overall flood situation in Sunamganj and Netrakona may deteriorate slightly in the next 24 hours.

The flood situation in the country's northeastern region may deteriorate in the next 24 hours but is expected to improve in the next 48 hours.

It, however, predicted that the situation may improve in the next 48 hours.

For the country's northern region, the bulletin predicted short-term flooding.

"With the possibility of heavy rainfall upstream, the Teesta, Dharala and Dudhkumar rivers, may rise rapidly at times in the next 48 hours. The water level at Dalia point of the Teesta may cross the danger level in the next 24 hours, causing short-term floods in the low-lying areas of Lalmonirhat and Nilphamari," it added.

The bulletin said the flow of water in the Brahmaputra-Jamuna river system was steady, while a rising trend was observed in the Ganges-Padma river system.

"The water level in these rivers may rise in the next 48 hours," it added.

In Sunamganj, several thousand people have been

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2



Oil tanker Sagar Nandini-2 on fire for the second time this week on the Sugandha in Jhalakathi yesterday evening. The blast prior to the fire injured 13 including policemen.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Oil tanker in flames again

3 more bodies recovered from vessel prior to 2nd blast

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

At least 13 people, including nine law enforcers, were injured after a massive fire erupted following an explosion on the Sagar Nandini-2 oil tanker on the Sugandha river in Jhalakathi yesterday evening.

On Saturday, four people were killed and five others were injured in another blast at the vessel.

The latest explosion occurred as petrol was being pumped out of the oil tanker.

Moinul Haque, the district's additional superintendent of police, informed The Daily Star that six policemen and three river police personnel sustained injuries in yesterday's incident.

"Of the nine injured, six were admitted to the local upazila health complex and police hospital in the district," he said.

"Critically injured, three cops -- Sawkat Jamil, 24, Dip Samaddar, 25, and Sharif, 35 -- were admitted to the burn unit of Sher-E-Bangla Medical College Hospital in Barishal," he added.

Md Shafiqul Islam, station officer at Jhalakathi Fire Service and Civil Defence, said, "Despite limited resources, we have been trying to extinguish the fire and save the oil tanker."

The fire broke out at 6:30pm while preparations were being made to unload 4 lakh litres of petrol from the tanker, according to Mohammad Selim, the joint director

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Japan emerges as lucrative labour market

Recruiting agents say thousands could be sent after training, skill development

JAMIL MAHMUD

With numerous job opportunities and the scope to earn a decent living, Japan has emerged as a lucrative labour market for skilled Bangladeshi migrant workers.

Bangladesh and Japan signed separate Memorandums of Cooperation (MoC) in 2018 and 2019 on the recruitment of Bangladeshis under Japan's "technical intern training" and "specified skilled worker" schemes.

There are also opportunities for Bangladeshis to work as professionals in Japan, such as professors, researchers, and engineers, according to the website of the Bangladesh Embassy in Tokyo.

However, the proportion of Bangladeshis sent to rich East Asian countries has been very low compared to other countries accepting migrant workers.

According to the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET), Bangladesh sent 3,030 migrant workers to Japan between 1999 and May this year.

In the first five months of this year, 290 migrant workers went to Japan. Last year, a total of 508 migrant workers went there, shows

BMET data.

Alongside BMET and state-owned Bangladesh Overseas Employment Services Ltd (BOESL), about 70 private recruiting agencies are approved to send workers to Japan, as per a list from the expatriates' welfare ministry.

The process of sending workers to Japan is a little different since aspiring migrants need to have, among other qualifications, proficiency in the Japanese language.

Ali Haider Chowdhury, secretary general of the Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies, said that in Japan, there are currently job openings in a variety of sectors, including construction, industry, and agriculture.

He said the process of sending workers to Japan is different from that of the traditional labour market in

the Gulf since aspiring migrants need to have, among other qualifications, proficiency in the Japanese language.

He added that it is possible to send several thousand workers to Japan each year after preparing them by providing the necessary skills and language training.

According to a news report in The Japan Times, when the "Specified Skilled Worker" programme was first introduced in April 2019, the Japanese government set the maximum number of specified skilled workers it would accept in fiscal 2019-23 at 345,150.

On the other hand, Kyodo News, a Japanese news agency, said in a report published on June 9 that there were about 150,000 specified skilled workers in Japan as of March 2023.

The scheme was introduced to attract foreign workers in response to Japan's severe labour shortage caused in part by a declining birthrate, added the report.

Recently, Japan's cabinet approved a plan to expand the scope of industries covered by the blue-collar skilled worker visa, which creates a path to permanent residency for foreigners, it also said.

Besides, Japan introduced the

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

110 children killed in six months: ASK

694 more were tortured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 110 children were killed across the country in the first half of the current year, according to a report released yesterday by the rights body Ain o Salish Kendra.

Besides, 694 children were victims of different forms of torture, 45 died by suicide, the corpses of 87 children were recovered, and 27 minor boys were raped during the time.

The ASK report also stated that at least six people were killed in "extrajudicial killings" and "custody of law enforcement agencies", while six other people were abducted by law enforcers in plainclothes.

Meanwhile, 24 people were killed by lynch mobs nationwide. At least 11 Bangladeshi nationals were killed on the Bangladesh-India border by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF).

Also, 119 journalists from different media outlets have been tortured, harassed, threatened or sued across the country in the last six months.

ASK prepared the statistical report based on information from ten daily newspapers, online news portals and its own sources during the period between January and June.

During the period, a total of 24 cases were filed under the Digital Security Act (DSA) in which 60 people were accused. Twenty-six people were arrested immediately.

In the last six months, 253 women were victims of domestic violence assault, of which 156 were killed and 59 others died by suicide.

Besides, 294 women were raped. Of them, 20 were killed after rape while three others died by suicide.

Ten women died by suicide after they became victims of sexual violence while two men and a woman were killed while they were protesting the assault incidents.

Besides, 154 women and men fell victim to sexual violence, it added. Meanwhile, 14 people were killed and 2422 were injured in a total of 179 incidents of political violence, including local elections at different levels, across the country. Additionally, 51 people died in different jails throughout the country due to various reasons including illness.

Also, 119 journalists from different media outlets have been tortured, harassed, threatened or sued across the country in the last six months.

Scientists find a planet that 'shouldn't exist'

CNN ONLINE



A Jupiter-like planet located 520 light-years from Earth may be an unlikely survivor after its host star had a temper tantrum.

Astronomers believe that the planet somehow survived after its star experienced a violent transition that should have destroyed nearby planets. A study detailing the findings was published on Wednesday in the journal Nature.

The gas planet was named Halla after its initial discovery by Korean astronomers in 2015. Halla, regarded as a sacred place, is the highest mountain in South Korea.

Observations of Baekdu were made using NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite, which studies nearby stars. The team's observations revealed that the star is burning through the supply of helium at its core, since it already appears to have exhausted its hydrogen. The revelation suggests to astronomers that the star once expanded into a red giant star.



The Kutubkhali canal is clogged with waste in Madrasa Road area of the capital's Dakshin Jatrabari. Many areas in the city remain waterlogged after rain as clogged canals cannot drain water. Uncleaned water bodies also become safe breeding grounds for mosquitoes. The photo was taken on Sunday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

FRANCE UNREST

Fireman dies during riots on 6th night

AFP, Paris

A French fireman died while seeking to douse burning cars north of Paris, during a sixth consecutive night of rioting over the police killing of a teenager, the interior minister said yesterday.

The 24-year-old fireman died fighting the fire in an underground car park in the suburb of Seine-Saint-Denis north of the capital, Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said.

Yesterday's demonstrations -- called a "mobilisation of citizens for a return to republican order" -- came after the home of the mayor of a Paris suburb was rammed with a flaming car, prompting widespread outrage.

A total of 157 people were arrested in relation to the unrest nationwide, according to the interior ministry -- a fraction of the

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1