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Pragati to start assembling sedans by Dec



City begin bid for PL history



Hawaii wildfires kill 36



Of displaced people and lost arable land

FLOODS IN CTG DIVISION

Waters recede, misery lingers

Roads take hit; thousands left without electricity, access to water

STAR REPORT

Besides leaving thousands of people without safe water and prompting evacuations of many others, the floods in Chattogram division damaged over the last few days at least 282 kilometres of major roads in just three districts.

As waters recede, locals are confronting the grim reality of damaged or completely wrecked houses with no means of cooking.

Thousands of residents in Bandarban and Chattogram's Satkania and Chandanaish upazilas are left without drinking water and electricity. Cellular networks in the areas have also been very poor over the last few days.

Flooded roads to Bandarban have been closed since Sunday while the Chattogram-Cox's Bazar highway, with new potholes and craters, opened to traffic yesterday morning.

Locals in Pekua upazila of Cox's Bazar found the bodies of three children of a family a day after they went missing from the flooded neighbourhood of Ferasingapara.

The children are Tauhida, 10, daughter of Nurul Alam; her brother Amir Hossain, 5; and their cousin Humaiara, 8, daughter of Saber Ahmed. The bodies of the children, still holding each other, were found around 6:30am, said local union parishad chairman Tofazzal Karim.

The situation is likely to improve in the coming days as Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre yesterday said the level of water in the Muhuri, Feni, Halda, Karnaphuli, Sangu and Matamuhuri will continue to fall.

In Satkania and Chandanish, thousands of residents' homes were still

Roads to Bandarban have been closed since Sunday while the Chattogram-Cox's Bazar highway, with new potholes and craters, opened to traffic yesterday morning.

under two to five metres deep in flood waters yesterday.

Those who returned to their homes found their earthen stoves washed away.

"On return, we found that the house is not liveable any more. We have not eaten cooked food in two days," said Abdul Haque, a resident of Satkania.

The farmer said he lived on rail lines with his wife and two children for several days after his house got inundated.

In places where the flood waters have completely receded, owners of restaurants and shops were busy cleaning up, he added.

Abul Hossain, a shopkeeper at Keranirhat Bazar in Satkania, said, "At least 300 sacks of rice in my shop were ruined."

Many other shopkeepers said their lives have been upturned by the floods. Bandarban town has not had electricity since Sunday night and thousands of people are suffering a severe crisis of drinking water. Many neighbourhoods were still under water yesterday.

ROADS TAKE HIT

According to the Roads and Highways Department (RHD), 142kms of road got damaged in its Chattogram (south) division, 79kms in Chattogram division, 59kms in Cox's Bazar, and 1.88kms in Rangamati.

The Marine Drive road, a tourist attraction in Cox's Bazar, also got damaged.

The scale of the damage to the roads in Bandarban is not clear yet as the RHD headquarters could not contact its local office.

An engineer at the RHD headquarters said since July 15, floods damaged 163km of roads in Kurigram, Nilphamari, Rangpur, Khulna, Baghat, Sunamganj, Tangail, Jhalakathi and Feni.

In different districts, 65.31km of national highways, 120.75km of regional highways, and 258.97km of district roads got damaged.

The newly built Chattogram-Cox's Bazar rail lines were also damaged by the flood.

[Our correspondents from Chattogram, Cox's Bazar and Bandarban contributed to the report]

AL, BNP to hold counter-programmes in city today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP and Awami League-led 14-party alliance are once again set to take to the streets today.

The BNP will bring out two processions from Badda and Kamalapur in the capital as part of its one-point movement demanding resignation of the government and election under a non-party government.

The party's Dhaka south and north city units will organise the processions, which will begin at 3:00pm.

Meanwhile, to "counter" the BNP's programme, the AL-led 14-party alliance last night said they would hold a "peace rally" in Uttara, like what the AL did in the last two months.

The rally will be held in front of Rajlaxmi Amir Complex at Uttara around 4:00pm. Alliance coordinator Amir Hossain Amu will be present as the chief guest, said a press release of the combine.

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One-year-old Mariam lying next to seven-month-old Maria, held by her mother, as they are having to share a bed at the dengue ward of Mugda Medical College Hospital, with a surge of child patients being admitted yesterday. Due to the scarcity of beds, many dengue patients now have to share their spaces.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

CYBER SECURITY ACT

Stakeholders have to give opinions by August 22

Says law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq has said stakeholders can give their views on the draft of Cyber Security Act (CSA) within August 22, and well-thought-out opinions will be considered.

Speaking at a press conference yesterday, he said there are provisions in the Digital Security Act for big penalties which has been reduced in the CSA. Also, non-bailable offences under several sections of the DSA have been made bailable in the proposed law.

The minister said the sections of the DSA that stipulate double or extended sentences for repeat offenders have been

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CHILDREN BELOW 10

31 die from dengue so far this season

Shows DGHS data; 2,959 new cases detected, 12 more deaths recorded

HELEMUL ALAM

With her health improving, two-year-old Mayamanat Islam Sadia was spending her time playing with a balloon on her bed at the dengue ward of Mugda Medical College and Hospital.

The toddler was admitted to the hospital on August 7 after showing a dengue warning sign – extreme weakness.

"Whenever she feels better, she smiles and plays," said Rokaya Ferdous, the child's mother and a resident of the capital's Khilgaon. Rokaya and her sister live in the same house, along with their mother and children. Her sister's six-year-old child Mariyam and Mayamanat were diagnosed with dengue on the same day.

"We admitted them together, and they are still under treatment," she said.

Meanwhile, Farida Begum has been in the hospital with her three-year-old twin girls, Humayra and Faria, who also fell sick together.

"They've been undergoing treatment for the last few days and their conditions have not yet improved," she said, as she sat between their neighbouring beds.

At least 9,541 dengue child patients between zero and 10 years of age were hospitalised across the country, accounting for 12 percent of the total number of dengue patients this year.

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5 Shariah banks fined Tk 281.3cr in six months

MD MEHEDI HASAN

Bangladesh Bank slapped five shariah-based banks with fines amounting to Tk 281.3 crore in the first six months of the year for their failure to maintain the minimum levels of cash and liquidity.

Islami Bank, Bangladesh's largest private sector lender, faced the highest amount of penalty: Tk 162 crore. It was followed by First Security Islami Bank (Tk 61.3 crore), Social Islami Bank (Tk 30 crore), Union Bank (Tk 20 crore) and Global Islami Bank (Tk 8 crore).

"We are imposing fines as per rules on those banks that are facing CRR and SRR shortfall," Md Sarwar Hossain, assistant spokesman for BB, told The Daily Star.

As per rules, banks have to keep a certain amount of deposit with the central bank every night. This is called the cash reserve ratio (CRR). They also have to keep a minimum percentage of customers' deposits in the form of liquid cash, gold or other securities overnight. This is called the statutory liquidity ratio (SLR).

For Islamic banks, the minimum CRR requirement is 4 percent of cash and the SLR requirement is 5.5 percent of deposits, as per the central bank rules.

For failure to maintain the CRR and SLR, the penalty is 9 percent and 8.5 percent of the shortfall amounts for the day respectively.

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Businessman, 4 others sued for laundering Tk 100cr

Brother of ex-LGRD minister Mosharraf among the accused

STAR REPORT

Police on Wednesday filed a money laundering case against Siddiqur Rahman, businessman and former president of Faridpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and four others for aiding him in amassing Tk 100.5 crore illegally.

The four others are Khandaker Mohtesam Hossain Babar, brother of former LGRD minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain; AHM Fuad, former assistant personal secretary of Mosharraf; and former Faridpur AL leaders Sajjad Hossain alias Barkat and his brother Imtiaz Hasan alias Rubel.

Inspector Nasir Uddin, of Faridpur's Criminal Investigation Department, filed the case with Kotwali Police Station.

All five accused were charge-sheeted in an earlier Tk 2,000 crore money laundering case, also filed by the CID with Kafrul police, against Barkat and Rubel, in June 2020.

CID initially submitted a charge sheet against 10 people, including Babar, Fuad, Barkat and Rubel, before a Dhaka court in March 2021.

However, on September 1, 2022, the court said the charge sheet was submitted without following the due procedure and ordered further investigation.

The CID then found the involvement of 37 others, including Siddiqur, and framed a new charge sheet.

In the statement of the case filed on Wednesday, plaintiff Nasir Uddin said Siddiqur would snatch tenders from different offices, initially with the Mohtesam's help, by giving a 3-5 percent commission.

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