



Gold price now over Tk 1.27 lakh per bhoari B1



Stabilising prices is the immediate priority P8



Discourse on flood: Power, politics and people P9



Local coaches deserve recognition, opportunity P11

Relief delivery is now the challenge

4 more die; new areas flooded in Noakhali, Cumilla

MD ABBAS, ANWARUL HAIDER and KHALID BIN NAZRUL

People wishing to distribute relief materials among the flood victims are finding it very difficult to reach remote areas due to a lack of boats.

All major roads in the 12 flood-affected districts have been flooded at places.

People in the hardest-hit districts -- Noakhali, Feni, Cumilla, and Laxmipur -- blamed a lack of coordination between government agencies for their plight.

Many in the four districts said relief was being distributed among those living close to the main roads and some people received relief materials multiple times. They called for a more equitable distribution of relief.

The water levels of all major rivers in the 10 districts dropped yesterday. However, some new areas went under water in Cumilla, and Noakhali.

Four more flood-related deaths were reported yesterday, including two minors in Cumilla's Burichang upazila, raising the death toll to 23.

5.71 million people affected

Some got relief materials multiple times

Many didn't get any over the last six days

Two people were reported missing in Moulvibazar.

Israt Jahan, of Feni's Parshuram upazila, said despite being hit by floods six days ago, no relief materials reached them.

"We badly need food and drinking water as our stock has run out. No one in my neighbourhood has received aid," she said yesterday.

Volunteers said they could not access remote areas due to a shortage of boats.

"We wanted to distribute relief in Bhaluka and Ghopal areas, but we could not go past Shuvapur because of a scarcity of boats," said Shihab Jisan Anik, a RELATED STORY ON PAGE 3 SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



Nurul Absar along with his mother Bibi Sakhina navigates through floodwaters on their way home in Feni Sadar upazila's Purba Fazilpur yesterday. They would move their furniture and belongings at home before heading back to a shelter. Flooding has inundated hundreds of villages in Feni.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

S Alam barred from fund transfer, cashout, LC opening

MD MEHEDI HASAN

The Bangladesh Bank yesterday instructed six S Alam-owned banks to stop any money going out of the accounts in the name of the Chattogram-based business giant, its associates' companies and related persons.

However, all types of deposits can be accepted in their accounts, according to the letter from BB's banking inspection department-7.

Islamic Bank, First Security Islamic Bank (FSIBL), Social Islamic Bank (SIBL), Union Bank, Global Islamic Bank (GIB) and Bangladesh Commerce Bank (BCB) have already passed on the BB instruction to their branches and sub-branches.

The instruction was given as the central bank has started to reconstruct the board of directors of the banks linked to the business group, said BB spokesman Md Mezbautul Haque.

Once the banks' boards are reconstituted, the instruction to bar any withdrawals from the accounts would be relaxed, he added.

The BB has verbally instructed the other banks to suspend fund transfer and

withdrawal requests of S Alam Group, its associates' companies and related persons, The Daily Star has learnt from the managing directors of three leading banks.

Banks have been asked to not renew any investment facilities or stop any new investment. They have been instructed to suspend any new disbursement or withdrawal.

The lenders will not be able to disburse and withdraw any new investment from the investment accounts that are previously approved in their name, the BB letter said.

The banks have also been asked not to make any application to the central bank for any refinance scheme; ban credit card transactions; and decline requests for fund transfers outside of Bangladesh in

companies of the business group and its associates' companies.

However, banks can open LC in favour of the companies at a 100 percent margin.

Banks have also been asked to disallow bill discounts or purchases in their name; not to make any application to the central bank for any refinance scheme; ban credit card transactions; and decline requests for fund transfers outside of Bangladesh in

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Roadmap for transition to democracy not there

Fakhrul on chief adviser's address to the nation

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday expressed frustration that Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus' address to the nation lacked a roadmap for transition to democracy.

Speaking at a discussion, the BNP leader hoped the interim government will soon engage in talks with political parties to make a decision on the next national election and state reforms.

"We are still confused as things remain unclear. We had anticipated that the chief adviser would present a roadmap. But we didn't find that roadmap for moving to democracy in his speech," Fakhrul said.



SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

GAZI TYRES FACTORY Blaze under control after 22 hours

Factory looted; locals claim many who went there are missing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nganj

Firefighters after 22 hours of frantic efforts brought the blaze at Gazi Tyres factory in Rupganj of Narayanganj under control at 7:05pm yesterday.

The fire was yet to be doused at 12:30am today, when this report was filed. There have been no reports of casualties.

Criminals set fire to the factory, owned by former Awami League minister Golam Dastagir Gazi, around 9:00pm Sunday, hours after the arrest of Gazi.

Factory officials claimed that hundreds of people in two groups stormed the six-storey building in the Rupshi area beside Dhaka-Sylhet highway and resorted to vandalism and looting Sunday afternoon.

Saiful Islam, assistant general manager at Gazi Tyres, said the criminals set fire to the ground floor around 9:00pm. Fire service reached the scene around 11:40pm.

Locals and family members of factory workers started gathering in front of the building yesterday morning and reported to the fire service about their loved ones being missing.

They claimed that those missing were at the factory during the mob attack.

Locals also claimed that they reported to the fire service about missing individuals who had gone into the building "to see what was going on" during the melee on Sunday.

Saiful said none of the factory employees were missing. "Some looters were still inside the building when it was set on fire. Some are claiming that their relatives are trapped in the building," he said.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Protecting rights of every citizen govt's responsibility Says chief adviser



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser to the interim government, Prof Muhammad Yunus, yesterday said Bangladesh is like a large family, and the government bears the responsibility of protecting the rights of every citizen.

The chief adviser made the remarks while exchanging greetings with leaders of Bangladesh's Hindu community on the occasion of Janmashtami.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

Hasanul Haq Inu arrested in Uttara

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hasanul Haq Inu, president of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) and former information minister, was arrested at one of his relatives' house in Uttara yesterday afternoon in connection with a murder case filed with the New Market Police Station on August 21.

Former prime minister Sheikh Hasina is the main accused in the case, while Inu is accused number 29.

One Abdur Rahman filed the case over the death of his brother-in-law Abdul Wadud in the New Market area on July 19.

The complaint alleged that Inu along with the other accused ordered law enforcers to open fire on protestors.

JSD in a statement, urged the interim

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Firefighters fight blaze in a six-storey building of Gazi Auto Tyres Factory in Narayanganj's Rupganj upazila yesterday afternoon. Factory officials said arsonists set fire to the building around 9:00pm on Sunday.

PHOTO: STAR

437 Ansars sued over clashes near Secretariat

11,100 unnamed people made accused in 4 cases filed by cops; 377 Ansars sent to jail

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

A total of 437 Ansar personnel have been named as suspects in four cases that also accuse 11,100 unidentified people over clashes between the members of the force and students outside the Secretariat in Dhaka on Sunday night.

The cases were filed at Shahbagh, Ramna, Airport, and Paltan police stations on charges related to attempted murder, grievous injury, illegal gathering, rioting, and assaulting law enforcers.

As many as 377 Ansar members, including two women, were produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka in these cases yesterday. The court sent all of them to jail after hearing the police forwarding reports submitted by the investigators.

A total of 191 Ansar members were arrested in the case filed at Shahbagh Police Station, 85 at Ramna, 95 at Paltan and six were arrested in the case filed at Airport Police Station.

According to the case statements, the Ansar personnel carrying sticks and brick chunks were instigated by some unidentified people in a planned attack on police and students with the intent to kill.

The suspects are also accused of obstructing police

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4