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Depression to cause more downpours today

3 drown, over a dozen missing

STAR REPORT

At least three people have died, and 18 others gone missing after boats capsized due to inclement weather in three districts since Friday evening.

The maritime ports of Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Mongla and Payra have been advised to keep hoisted local cautionary signal-3 due to a depression over the Bay, said a weather bulletin of the Met office.

"All fishing boats and trawlers over the north Bay have been advised to remain in shelter till further notice," it added.

Low-lying areas of Chattogram division may be inundated as water level of the rivers in this region may increase in the next 24 hours, said a bulletin of the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) at 6:00pm yesterday evening.

The Land Deep Depression is

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Tourists were back at the Cox's Bazar beach yesterday despite bad weather after being stuck in their hotels for a day due to waterlogging triggered by record-breaking rainfall.

PHOTO: MOKAMMEL SHUVU

Clear journos of wholesale allegations

Urges Editors' Council

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Editors' Council yesterday called for promptly clearing journalists of wholesale allegations levelled against them, in a spree of murder cases, if their involvement is not found in proper scrutiny.

"The Editors' Council wants to say unequivocally that the continuity of such action is tantamount to the abuse of the existing law and a breach of the interim government's promise to ensure freedom of journalism," the council said in a statement.

If journalists have committed any crime, legal action can be taken against them on specific allegations following appropriate legal procedure, said the statement, issued by the council's President Mahfuz Anam and General Secretary Dewan Hanif Mahmud on its behalf.

It said attempts to silence journalists with repressive laws like the Digital Security Act or the Cyber Security Act, along with harassment and arrests during the previous government, were

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Man held for assaulting women on the beach

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Police have arrested a suspect in the harassment and assault of several women at Cox's Bazar sea beach and Lal Digghi area of the beach town on the night of September 11.

A team of the Detective Branch of Cox's Bazar police picked up Mohammad Farukul Islam, 22, from the town's Kalur Dokan area on Friday night, hours after videos of harassment and assault of several women went viral on social media, said Javed Mahmud, an officer-in-charge of DB in Cox's Bazar.

Farukul, a former madrasa student hailing from Chattogram's Lohagara upazila, has been residing in the Rumaliar Chhara area of Cox's Bazar town for several years. He claimed himself to be an Islami Chhatra Shibir activist.

A victim, who is also a member of the third gender community, filed a case with Cox's Bazar Sadar Police Station yesterday against two named and five-six unnamed suspects for harassing and assaulting women, said Jasim Uddin Chowdhury, additional superintendent of Cox's Bazar district police.

Farukul has been named as the prime accused in the case. The other named accused is one Nayan Rudra.

The arrestee was produced before a Cox's Bazar court yesterday.

The Daily Star has analysed at least seven videos of the harassment and assault. One of those videos shows Farukul, armed with a stick, and his associates verbally abusing a woman at the sea beach and forcing her to do sit-ups while holding her ears.

In another video, the same group of men are seen approaching a woman sitting on a beach chair late at night on September 11.

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Farukul Islam

Nagorik Committee for new constitution

People to decide how it's to be done, the body says in first press briefing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Recently launched citizen's platform Jatiya Nagorik Committee has said it is in favour of replacing the current constitution with a new one.

"We believe the 1972 constitution did not reflect the dreams and aspirations people had in 1971. It was a partisan constitution..." Nasir Uddin Patwary, convener of the committee, told its first press briefing held at Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday.

He added, "There were opportunities before 1975 to rebuild the country, but it was not done. There was chaos.

"In 2024, we have the chance once again. The majority of our people are young and the people of every sector took part in the mass uprising, irrespective of party and ideology.

"We will draft a new constitution based on people's opinions after discussions with the stakeholders. The will of the people will be reflected in it, and we will make sure that no fascist can get hold of the country.

"We will hold a public discussion to determine how it will be written... A few young people cannot make a decision on the matter. All the people and stakeholders will decide. Whatever they decide will reflect the will of the people."

Leaders of the committee formed on September 8 asserted that theirs is not a political party, but their initiative is political in nature.

"Jatiya Nagorik Committee will work to create a new democratic political settlement by abolishing the fascist system. We want to reach a settlement, so that no head of the government has to flee like Sheikh Hasina," said committee spokesperson Samantha Sharmin.

Other members said the places of worship were being attacked to divert the masses and the mob violence is calling the mass uprising into question.

"We ask the government why the law enforcement forces are not taking action against those attacking temples and shrines. Failure to stop this will harm the government and the

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The places of worship are being attacked to divert the masses and mob violence is calling the mass uprising into question.

Beware of attacks by AL cadres

Says Fakhru



UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday urged the people to stay vigilant against any possible attack from Awami League cadres.

Speaking at a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar, he called upon all political parties not to succumb to the plots of the associates of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

The BNP leader urged the interim government to provide appropriate compensation and allowances to the families of those killed, maimed, or wounded in the movements against Hasina's regime.

"Our Swechhasebak Dal President SM Jilani and his wife were injured

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Israeli air strikes hit house, school

Rescuers say at least 26 bodies pulled from rubble in Gaza

AFP, Palestinian Territories

An Israeli air strike hit a school-turned-shelter in Gaza City yesterday, with Palestinian rescuers reporting five dead and the Israeli military saying it had targeted Hamas fighters.

Thousands of Palestinians displaced by the war, now in its 12th month, have sought shelter in the Shuhada al-Zeitun school, said Mahmud Bassal, spokesman for the civil defence agency in the Gaza Strip.

It was the latest school building housing displaced Gazans to be hit by an Israeli air strike, resulting in "five martyrs, including two children and a woman", Bassal told AFP, adding that several other people were wounded.

AFP could not independently verify the toll.

Bassal said the bodies "were pulled from under the rubble after Israeli warplanes hit the Shuhada al-Zeitun school with two missiles".

The Israeli military said it carried out a "precise strike" on the school compound which "was used by Hamas terrorists".

Earlier in the day, the civil defence agency reported an Israeli air strike on a house elsewhere in Gaza City had killed at least 11 people, with more strikes overnight in other parts of the Hamas-run territory leaving at least 10 dead.

"We have recovered the bodies of 11 martyrs, including four children and three women, after an Israeli warplane hit a three-storey house of the Bustan family," Mahmud Bassal, spokesman for the agency, told AFP.

He said the strike took place at around 1:00 am (2200 GMT Friday) and that the house was located near the Shujaiya school in the Al-Tuffah neighbourhood of eastern Gaza City.

"Several families had taken refuge in the house targeted with a single missile without any prior warning," Bassal said, adding that many others were wounded.

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Woman with disabilities killed for playing music loudly

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A woman with intellectual and physical challenges was killed in Satkhira yesterday after being struck with a hammer for playing loud music in front of a house.

The incident occurred around 10:00am near the Thanaghata intersection of Labsa union under Satkhira Sadar upazila.

Five people, including main suspect Ilias Hossain, 27, were detained, said Faisal Tanvir, commander of Rab 6.

The victim, identified as Rozina Sultana Chumki, 20, daughter of Rezaul Karim of Thanaghata village, was a vocational student at SWID Khatimunnesa Hanif Laskar Intellectually Challenged School in Satkhira town.

"Chumki was walking on the road and playing music loud on her bluetooth speaker around 10:00am. At that time, Ilias of the same area hit Chumki on the head with a hammer. Chumki died on the spot," said Sakhina Khatun, a resident of the area. Locals later detained Ilias and handed him over to the Rapid

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An army soldier stands guard as people look at the Shah Sufi Fasih Paglar Mazar in Gazipur's Porabari after it was attacked and vandalised on Friday.

PHOTO: STAR

Hasina, 58 others sued in Dinajpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A case has been filed against 59 individuals, including former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, accusing them of attempting to murder a student during an anti-government protest in Dinajpur on August 4.

Fahim Faisal, 22, a resident of Rajbati area in Dinajpur, filed the case at Kotwali Police Station on Friday, claiming he was shot and injured during the demonstration.

Officer-in-Charge of the police station Farid Hossain confirmed the development to The Daily Star yesterday.

According to the case statement, Faisal, who participated in the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, was shot during an attack on protesters near Dinajpur Sadar Hospital.

Protesters were assaulted with firearms and local weapons, resulting in multiple injuries to Faisal's face, chest, arms, and other parts of his body. He was treated at Dinajpur Medical College Hospital and recovered partially.

Former whip Iqbalur Rahim, Dinajpur Sadar Upazila Chairman Imdad Sarkar, and general secretary of the district's Jubo League Anwar Hossain are among the accused.