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Agriculture takes a hit from floods

Aman crop on over 83,000 hectares totally or partially ruined

MD AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

The recent flash floods that marooned over 100,000 people in Mymensingh, Netrakona and Sherpur have left a trail of serious damage in the croplands of the three districts.

Official estimates suggest the floods damaged Aman paddy on over 83,000 hectares of land, affecting around 322,000 farmers.

In Mymensingh, 96,855 farmers were affected, according to Nasrin Akter Banu, deputy director of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in the district.

She said Aman crops on 25,795 hectares were damaged fully or partially in the district, including Dhobaura and Haluaghat upazilas.

The fish in some 10,800 ponds were washed away, and 6,875 fish farmers faced a loss of over Tk 50 crore, said District Fisheries Officer Mohammad Nazim Uddin.

Fish farmer Abul Kalam of Dosharpur village in Haluaghat said the fish in his pond with a 50 decimal area were washed away in the flood.

Nurul Amin, a farmer of the same locality, said the

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Australia off-spinner Ashleigh Gardner celebrates with teammates after one of her four wickets which helped dismiss Pakistan for 82 in their Women's T20 World Cup fixture in Dubai yesterday. The defending champions chased down the target with nine wickets in hand and nine overs to spare.

PHOTO: ICC

THIRD T20I VS INDIA

Tigers play for pride in Riyad's swansong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mahmudullah, the last of Bangladesh's long-serving five pillars still active in



T20Is, will bid adieu to the format today as Bangladesh look to restore some pride against India in the third and final T20I at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad.

Mahmudullah, who began his 17-year-long T20I career against Kenya in Nairobi way back in 2007, had announced he will be quitting the format after the series ahead of the second T20I in Delhi.

His announcement, however, did not spur any inspirational performance from his teammates as

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LPG importers demand probe into 2 vessels

The ships alleged to have brought LPG from sanctioned Iran

ASIFUR RAHMAN

Two vessels anchored in Chattogram port last week to unload about 70,000 tonnes of liquefied petroleum gas by misreporting the country of origin of the product, said the LPG Operators Association of Bangladesh (LOAB).

The product might be from Iran, a heavily-sanctioned country by the West and international entities, LOAB said.

Subsequently, the industry body requested the Chattogram Port Authority (CPA) and the customs to conduct a thorough investigation of the two vessels.

On October 3, Gaz GMS anchored at the Bay of Bengal and three days later, MT Captain Nikolas. Gaz GMS arrived from the UAE's Sharjah and Captain Nikolas from Oman's Sohar, according to data provided to the port authorities.

LOAB demanded the port authorities detain the two vessels and their crews, ask for the Certificate of Origin and independently verify the information.

Disclosing the country of origin (COO) of the products is mandatory to get customs clearance and some companies tend to bypass the rule by loading the cargo from another ship, commonly referred to as ship-to-ship transfer (STS), and reporting the location of transfer as the source of the products, according to LPG importers.

This misleads the customs and the port authorities.

Data from Kpler, a globally used ship tracker, shows Gaz GMS was loaded ship-to-ship from Sharjah on September 8 and Captain Nikolas from Iran on September 16.

In the letter, LOAB said they will not take responsibility for such "unlawful" activities that violate international sanctions and undermine the integrity of Bangladesh's LPG market.

The organisation also sought intervention from the ministry of power, energy and mineral resources to stop the "malpractice".

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Bangladesh likely to keep power deal with Adani

Say sources

REUTERS, Dhaka/New Delhi

Bangladesh is likely to set aside pricing concerns and retain a power purchase pact with India's Adani Power, in the face of supply worries and gloomy prospects for a legal challenge, said two sources with direct knowledge of the matter.

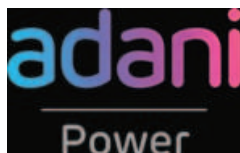
The new government has set up a panel to gauge whether its predecessor's contracts adequately protected the nation's interests, particularly projects faulted for lack of transparency that were initiated under a special expediting law.

One contract being scrutinised over price concerns is a 2017 deal to buy electricity for 25 years from Adani's \$2-billion, 1,600-MW power plant in India's eastern state of Jharkhand that exclusively supplies Bangladesh.

The project meets nearly a tenth of Bangladesh's demand for power, so cancelling the Adani deal outright would be difficult, however, said one of the sources. Both spoke on condition of anonymity as the matter is a sensitive one.

Also, a legal challenge in an international court was likely to fail

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Israeli forces fire at UN position in south Lebanon

2 peacekeepers injured; UN chief, France, UK condemn attack; 22 killed in Beirut strike

REUTERS, Beirut

Israeli forces fired at a watchtower used by UN peacekeepers in southern Lebanon yesterday, injuring two, a UN source said, the third day in a row peacekeepers have reported Israeli fire at their positions as Israel wages war on Hezbollah.

A separate Israeli strike late on Thursday in the heart of Beirut killed 22 people and injured more than 100. The target was a senior Hezbollah official - Wafiq Safa - who survived, according to three security sources.

In northern Israel, a Thai worker was killed when Hezbollah fired an anti-tank missile at a farming area, the national ambulance service said. The Israeli air force killed a Hezbollah commander responsible for attacks with anti-tank missiles into the area of Ramot Naftali in northern Israel, the military said.

Hezbollah, however, issued no immediate comment on that claim. The UN source said the UNIFIL peacekeeper tower which came under Israeli fire yesterday is located at the force's main base in Naqoura. Israeli forces yesterday also breached the perimeter of another UNIFIL position which they had fired at on Thursday.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, France and UK condemned the Israeli attacks that wounded the UN personnel.

In New York on Thursday, Israel's UN Ambassador Danny Danon said Israel recommends UNIFIL relocate 5 km (3 miles) north "to avoid danger as fighting intensifies". Israel's military said in a statement on Thursday that its troops operated in the Naqoura area, "next to a UNIFIL base."

» UN says safety of 10,400 peacekeepers in 'jeopardy'

» 100 rescue workers killed in Lebanon conflict

Man hurls 'molotov cocktail' at puja mandap

Say locals; he stabs 5 while fleeing; cops claim it's a case of mugging

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An unidentified man threw what locals said was a molotov cocktail at idols of a puja mandap in the capital's Tanti Bazar last night.

In a security camera footage the puja organisers showed reporters, a man in a white shirt is seen throwing an object at the mandap and running away. It is not clear in the video what had been hurled by the man.

Puja organisers said the incident happened around 8:00pm.

Bijoy Saha, general secretary of Tanti Bazar Puja Udjapon Committee, said, "An unidentified man threw a molotov cocktail at the stage. Thankfully, the idols remain unharmed."

Chandan Kumar Dey, president of the Puja Udjapon Committee, said the man in a white shirt threw a bottle at the mandap. "Some of our volunteers pursued him and caught him. But he stabbed them with a sharp weapon and got away."

He added that there was probably kerosene in the bottle.

The injured, Jhontu Dhar, 45, Shagor Ghosh, 38, Khokon Dhar, 35, Dipto Dey, 26, and Ramijuddin, were admitted to

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UN reaffirms support for govt's reform initiatives

UNB, Dhaka

The UN under-secretary-general for political and peacebuilding affairs, Rosemary DiCarlo, has reaffirmed the organisation's strong support for the reform initiatives of Bangladesh's interim government.

"Had a productive meeting with Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Jashim Uddin, discussing the country's transition, regional challenges, and cooperation with UN," she said in a message on X.

DiCarlo expressed gratitude for Bangladesh's generosity towards the Rohingya.

The meeting was held in New York on October 10 during the foreign secretary's maiden visit there.

Termining the UN support crucial in realising the aspiration of July-August revolution, the foreign

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A priest performs the rituals of Kumari Puja at Ramakrishna Math and Mission in the capital's Gopibagh yesterday on Maha Ashtami of Durga Puja, the largest religious festival of the Hindus. Kumari Puja involves the worship of a prepubescent girl as the living embodiment of the goddess Durga.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Obama blasts 'crazy' Trump in 1st rally for Harris

AFP, Pittsburgh

Former US president Barack Obama on Thursday lashed out at "crazy" Donald Trump and urged voters to back Kamala Harris as he brought his star power to the 2024 election campaign trail for the first time.



US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION
24 DAYS TO GO

As he hit the stump in the must-win state of Pennsylvania, Obama also chided Black male voters for what he called hesitancy in supporting Democrat Harris because they "just aren't feeling the idea of having a woman as president."

Obama trained his fire on Trump during a pumped-up rally in Pittsburgh, comparing the Republican's long speeches to late Cuban communist leader Fidel Castro's and calling the billionaire out of touch with ordinary people.

America's first Black president admitted that "this election's going to be tight" as many voters were still struggling with high prices.

But he told the crowd that "what I cannot understand is why anybody would think that Donald Trump will shake things up", adding: "You think Donald Trump ever changed a diaper?"