

WATERLOGGING IN AIRPORT AREA BR's filling up of waterbody makes things worse

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

People of many areas across the country are dealing with waterlogging and those in the capital's Airport area are no exceptions.

Over six months ago, the Bangladesh Railway authorities filled up a waterbody near the Airport Railway Station as part of the Dhaka-Tongi-Joydebpur railway expansion project. Due to this, areas in Uttara, Ashkona, Dakshinkhan and even the airport premises face severe waterlogging during the rainy season, causing immense sufferings to people in those neighbourhoods.

Under the project, two additional lines and platforms for passengers are to be built in the area.

The waterbody played a vital role in containing rainwater and mitigating flooding during the monsoon.

Environmentalists have raised concerns and warned that filling up waterbodies in the city can have severe impact on biodiversity and can hamper flood control.

Sharmin Begum, of the Airport area, said, "The railway authorities' actions have left our homes and streets flooded. Do they even care about the misery they're causing?"

Al Mamun, a resident of Uttara sector-2, said, "The recent rains had caused waterlogging around my house like never before. The flooding has now become constant whenever it rains."

In response to the situation, Dhaka North City Corporation wrote to the railway ministry on June 13 this year, highlighting that even a

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



The waterbody adjacent to the Airport Railway Station was filled up six months ago as part of the Dhaka-Tongi-Joydebpur railway expansion project by the Bangladesh Railway. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

UKHIYA CAMP Three of a Rohingya family shot dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Cox's Bazar

Three members of a Rohingya family were shot dead by unknown assailants at a refugee camp in the Ukhiya upazila of Cox's Bazar early morning yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Ahmed Hossain, 60, his son Syedul Amin, 28, and daughter Asma, 13, from block 104 under Camp 17 in the upazila.

The attack was carried out at Camp 20 extension, where the family was living temporarily, said Additional Deputy Inspector General of Police Mohammad Iqbal, commander of the 14 Armed Police Battalion (APBn).

He said 15-20 attackers entered their house around

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Around 1,400 sued as Dhaka protesters take first legal step

Hasina made prime
accused in case filed
over July 15 attack in DU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Activists of the Anti-Discrimination Students Movement in Dhaka yesterday took the first legal step against the atrocities committed during the July uprising.

They filed a case with Shahbagh Police Station, naming former prime minister Sheikh Hasina as the prime accused, in connection with the July 15 attack on the quota reform protesters at Dhaka University.

Mahin Sarkar, a key coordinator of the movement, first filed a written complaint in the afternoon, accusing 391 named people and around 1,000 unnamed people, including leaders and activists from the Chhatra League, Awami League and Jubo League.

Later, the complaint was taken into cognisance as a case, confirmed Khalid Mansur, officer in charge of Shahbagh Police Station.

Talking to reporters inside the police station after filing the complaint, Mahin said, "July 15 was a dark day in Bangladesh's history, as our female students were brutally attacked and harassed. We think it's important to bring those responsible to book, which

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

Israeli strikes hit Hezbollah-linked finance network

AFP, Beirut

Lebanese state media reported Israeli strikes Sunday on branches of a Hezbollah-linked financial association, including near the country's only airport, after the Israeli military warned it would attack Al-Qard Al-Hassan's branches.

The strikes mark an expansion of the Israeli campaign against Iran-backed group Hezbollah after a year of cross-border exchanges that escalated in late September into a full-blown war.

Meanwhile, an Israeli strike on the main eastern city of Baalbek killed six people, including a child, yesterday, with state media reporting it hit a building in a densely populated residential area.

"The Israeli enemy strike... in Baalbek killed six people, including a child," the Lebanese health ministry said, and the state-run National News Agency reported that all six were from the same family.

Hezbollah said it had downed an Israeli drone Sunday, without saying where, after Lebanon state media

reported heavy Israeli strikes across the country targeting branches of a financial institution linked to the militants.

Hezbollah fighters from the group's "air defence units... downed an Israeli Hermes 450 drone", the armed movement said. The official National News Agency had reported Israeli bombardment in Beirut, south Lebanon and the eastern Bekaa Valley.

Lebanon's official National News Agency (NNA) reported 11 strikes on Beirut's southern suburbs, many of them targeting Al-Qard Al-Hassan, which Israel says is financing Hezbollah's operations against Israel.

It said a strike landed near Beirut's airport, the main entry point of humanitarian assistance to the country and a major evacuation hub for those fleeing the conflict.

Commercial planes were still seen flying past clouds of smoke over the embattled southern suburbs, said an AFP correspondent, who watched them land at Beirut's airport, located near targeted areas.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

GRAFT ALLEGATIONS Travel ban slapped on Bashundhara boss, family

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued a travel ban on Bashundhara Group Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan Shah Alam and seven members of his family in connection with corruption allegations.

The family members include Shah Alam's wife Afroza Begum, his four sons -- Sadat Sobhan, Sayem Sobhan Anvir, Safiat Sobhan Sanvir and Safwan Sobhan -- and his daughters-in-law, Sonia Ferdowshi Sobhan and Sabrina Sobhan.

Judge Mohammed Ash-Shams Joglul Hossain of the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court in Dhaka passed the order after the Anti-Corruption Commission officials submitted five separate applications seeking their travel bans.

ACC Public Prosecutor Mahmud Hossain Jahangir moved the petition on behalf of the anti-graft watchdog, The Daily Star has learnt from an ACC official involved with the proceedings.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Trump's wild, lewd rhetoric reaches new extreme

CNN ONLINE

Even by his high wire standards, Donald Trump's latest rhetoric and behaviour is erratic, autocratic, and vulgar and hints at four years of unpredictable leadership that may lie ahead if he's elected president in 15 days.

Vice President Kamala Harris and top Democrats are seizing on the Republican nominee's bizarre antics to inject new urgency and a sharper focus into her campaign, arguing he "demeans" the presidency and is "deranged."

As Trump cancels one-on-one interviews and piles up odd public appearances, Democrats are suggesting that he is "unstable" and showing cognitive decline, using the same critique he once used against President Joe Biden.

The Harris campaign, for example, immediately highlighted the 78-year-old Trump saying on Sunday that he's "not that close to 80" when calling for cognitive tests.

The former president this weekend described Harris as a "sh*t" vice president, opened a rally with a rambling and explicit story about late golfing legend Arnold Palmer's anatomy, and justified his previous threat to use the military on enemies "from within" even as House Speaker Mike Johnson insisted in an interview on CNN's "State of the Union" that Trump meant nothing of the sort.

Trump seemed to validate Harris' message that he is an "unserious man" who poses "extremely serious" consequences if he is returned to the White House as both campaigns chase the last undecided voters in an agonizingly close race that could be decided by tens of thousands of votes in a few swing states.

Taijul saves the day

SAMSUL AREFIN KHAN

The opening day of the first of two Tests between Bangladesh and South Africa at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur yesterday saw a staggering 16 wickets fall, but it was hosts' spinner Taijul Islam who garnered the spotlight with his 13th five-wicket haul in the format.

Despite security concerns due to both anti- and pro-Shakib protests ahead of the fixture, it got underway on time and amid tight security.

Opting to bat, demonstrating yet another disastrous batting performance, the home side mustered 106 runs in 40.1 overs -- their second lowest total at the venue.

At stumps, however, the Tigers were relieved bunch, having reduced the visitors to 140 for six, thanks to Taijul Islam who

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2



Bangladesh left-arm spinner Taijul Islam celebrates the dismissal of South Africa batter Matthew Breetzke during the opening day of the first Test in Mirpur yesterday. Taijul's 13th Test five-for helped his side fight back from a batting debacle, as the visitors scored 140 for six in reply to Bangladesh's 106 all out in the first innings.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Pakistan MPs get more power to appoint top judges

Govt passes constitutional
amendments aimed at courts

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's government narrowly passed constitutional amendments yesterday giving lawmakers more power to appoint top judges, who have issued a series of recent decisions favouring opposition chief Imran Khan.

Since February elections marred by rigging allegations, relations have soured between Islamabad and the top courts as rulings litigating results have backed the party of jailed ex-prime minister Khan.

The 72-year-old former cricket star had been barred from running and his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party previously claimed the courts were used to sideline their hugely popular campaign.

Under the judicial reforms passed during an early morning session of parliament, Pakistan's chief justice will now be selected by a parliamentary committee and have a fixed term of three years.

The amendments come just days before Supreme Court Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa is due to retire.

Under the previous law he would have been automatically replaced by the next most senior judge -- currently Mansoor Ali Shah, who has consistently issued verdicts deemed favourable to Khan and his party.

New benches will also be formed of senior judges from

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5