

### 3 hurt in crude bomb attacks in Jashore

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Benapole

Three employees were injured in separate crude bomb attacks on two business establishments in Nawapara of Abhaynagar upazila in Jashore on Wednesday night.

Witnesses said unidentified assailants hurled two crude bombs at the office of Biswas Trade International near Nawapara Rail Station Bazar around 9:30pm. One exploded inside the office and the other outside, injuring three staffers — Masum, 32, Shawon, 30, and Jahangir, 28.

Soon after, another crude bomb went off in front of Taralder Traders near the ferry ghat area, though no casualties were reported in that blast.

On information, army personnel and police visited the scene.

Abhaynagar Police Station Officer in Charge Robiul Islam told The Daily Star that bomb fragments were recovered.

He said they have launched an operation to identify and arrest those responsible.



A boy cries as a young girl pulls him by the arm in Bhabadah Dumurtala village of Abhaynagar upazila after he slipped on a waterlogged road. Thousands of families have been suffering for nearly three months due to waterlogging in the area. With canals clogged and no proper drainage, locals face the crisis of homes, roads and farmland remaining submerged every year, while children and the elderly fall prey to waterborne diseases. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

### Rain likely for next 1-2 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rainfall is expected to continue across Bangladesh for the next one to two days, with heavier showers in the southern districts, according to the Bangladesh Meteorological Department.

BMD Senior Meteorologist Bazlur Rashid said the country will see widespread rainfall as a well-marked depression over the west-central Bay of Bengal and adjoining areas moves northwestwards, gradually intensifying into a deep depression.

The five-day forecast, issued at 9:00am yesterday, said most areas of Rangpur, Rajshahi, Mymensingh, Dhaka, Khulna, Barishal, Chattogram, and Sylhet divisions are likely to experience light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty winds. Heavy to very heavy rainfall may occur in some places.

Similar conditions are expected in most parts of the eight divisions today. Rainfall is expected to decrease from October 7.

## Holidaymakers defy rain and rough seas

### Beaches packed, hotels sold out in Cox's Bazar

MOKAMMEL SHUVO, Cox's Bazar

There was hardly any space to step foot at Sugandha Beach in Cox's Bazar yesterday as it was packed with holidaymakers. Some played in the sand, some dived into the sea, while others enjoyed horse riding or jet-ski rides. Smiles and joy were visible on every face as a light drizzle added to the thrill.

In the afternoon, standing on the crowded beach, Osman Gani, supervisor of Sea Safe Lifeguard, estimated that nearly 100,000 people were present. "Due to a low-pressure system, the sea is rough. That's why we are repeatedly requesting tourists not to go too deep into the water. We are keeping a close watch to prevent any accidents," he said.

Heavy rain began in Cox's Bazar in the morning. Although the rainfall lessened as the day progressed, the Met Office issued local cautionary signal number three. The waves in the sea also remained rougher than usual.

Despite the warnings, thousands of tourists from

across the country flocked to Cox's Bazar to spend their holidays during the Durga Puja festival and the extended weekend.

Nusrat Jahan, a tourist from Dhaka, said, "The weather may

Durgapur in Rajshahi, said he came with a group of 45 family members and friends. "We somehow managed to book seven rooms, and all of us are crammed in. There is hardly any space to move around inside."

have brought an extraordinary influx of tourists. Almost all hotel rooms are sold out. Without advance booking, it is practically impossible to get a room."

Abu Morshed Chowdhury, president of the Cox's Bazar Chamber of Commerce, said the beach town has around 500 hotels and motels. "Right now, finding a room is extremely difficult. But neither we nor the administration have exact data on how many tourists come during such festivals. That's why it's hard to determine the exact scale of business. Still, we expect business transactions worth several hundred crore taka during this puja holiday period."

Meanwhile, the administration has imposed a ban on entering the sea due to rough weather.

Apel Mahmud, additional DIG of Tourist Police (Cox's Bazar region), said, "Adequate police are present at various points of the beach. CCTV monitoring has been increased, and patrols have been intensified to ensure safe travel for tourists."



be bad, but for us it's a different kind of joy. Watching the sea in the rain is an extraordinary experience. However, it was really tough to manage a hotel room."

Israfil Hossain, a visitor from

Hotel owners said such crowding has now become common during holidays. Mukim Khan, general secretary of the Cox's Bazar Hotel Motel Owners' Association, said, "This year's Puja and the long holiday

### Man generates power from sluice gate water

#### Self-made device lights up 50 bulbs



SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Harnessing the current of sluice gate water, a man in Barguna has devised a way to generate electricity at no cost.

Using a self-designed device, Monirul Islam of Purbo Burir Char village in Sadar upazila produces enough power to light over 50 electric bulbs for 15 to 18 hours a day on a limited scale.

Monirul's home stands near the Payra River by the Purakata ferry ghat. An irrigation sluice gate connects the river to nearby farmlands. He has installed his device at the sluice gate, where the force of flowing water spins it to generate electricity.

A fuel trader by profession, Monirul said the project was the result of three months of effort and cost him Tk 70,000. The Payra river experiences tidal surges twice a day, enabling continuous power generation for up to 18 hours, he said.

"Given the opportunity, I could light up village after village at no cost. Wherever there is water current, this technology can work."

Jamal Mia, a workshop mechanic who helped in the project, said, "We are producing electricity by harnessing nature's force at minimal cost. The light from this electricity is brightening up the village."

Locals said such initiatives could open a new horizon in cost-effective electricity production if supported and expanded.

Contacted, Sheikh Abdur Rahman, deputy general manager of Patuakhali Palli Bidyut Samity, said, "We are not aware of electricity generation using sluice gate water, but it is something worth looking into."

### Anthrax cases reach 17 in Rangpur

UNB, Rangpur

The number of confirmed anthrax infections has climbed to 17, with four new individuals diagnosed in three upazilas of Rangpur.

Among the new cases, two were identified in Kaunia, one in Pargachha and one in Mithapukur upazilas.

The district's civil surgeon, Shaheen Sultana, said they have so far received 23 suspected anthrax cases, of which 17 tested positive.

The first 13 infections were detected in Pargachha, where two people died in July and September with symptoms of the disease, she said.

A team from the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research arrived in Pargachha last month.

On September 13 and 14, they collected samples from 18 suspected patients, and 13 were found infected with anthrax.

Livestock samples collected from the affected areas were also found to be infected, according to IEDCR sources.

### Once a road, now a nightmare

#### 1.5km stretch of Habiganj road impassable for months

MINTU DESHWARA

A 1.5-kilometre stretch of Kalenga Road in Habiganj's Chunarughat upazila has fallen into such disrepair that locals say it is barely recognisable as a road.

When it rains, the potholes turn into pools of mud and water, leaving the road from Himalaya to Chamlati almost impassable.

Students, farmers and traders say daily life has become a struggle, with vehicles frequently breaking down or getting stuck.

"When it rains, my books get drenched. It's impossible to walk in the mud, and going to madrasa has become painful," said Sumaiya, a student at Himalaya Noorani Madrasa.

Her classmate Sadia added, "I can't get to class on time. One day, I even slipped and got hurt."

Local trader Sohel Mia Hannan said, "Vehicles avoid the road, making it difficult to transport goods. It has become a serious issue for anyone in business."

Farmers are also facing rising costs. "To transport rice and vegetables to the markets, we often have to pay double the usual fare, and sometimes no vehicles are available at all," said Hossain Mia.

CNG driver Sajid Mia said, "Engines get stuck in the mud, passengers get off, and we have to lift the vehicle out. It's unbelievable that such roads still exist."

Retired government official Mahbubur Rahman said, "We've been raising the issue for years, but no meaningful action has been taken."

Chunarughat Upazila Engineer Imam Hossain said a renovation proposal has been submitted. "We are waiting for the necessary funds to start the work," he added.



A CNG-run autorickshaw driver tries to push his vehicle out of a muddy pothole. This 1.5-kilometre stretch of Kalenga Road in Habiganj's Chunarughat upazila has fallen into disrepair, breaking apart whenever it rains and turning potholes into pools of mud and water.

PHOTO: STAR

### 2 dead, 396 hospitalised with dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least two people died of dengue, and 396 others were hospitalised in the 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.

One of the deaths was reported from Dhaka North City Corporation areas and the other from Chattogram division, according to the DGHS.

With this, the total number of dengue-related deaths this year has risen to 202, while total number of cases have climbed to 48,228.

Of the total cases, 45,682 patients have been released so far following treatment. Currently, 2,344 dengue patients are undergoing treatment at different hospitals.

**PRAYER TIMING**  
OCTOBER 3

| Fazr        | Juma  | Asr  | Maghrib | Esha |
|-------------|-------|------|---------|------|
| AZAN 4-45   | 12-30 | 4-15 | 5-53    | 7-30 |
| JAMAAT 5-20 | 1-15  | 4-30 | 5-56    | 8-00 |

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION