

Heavy rains cripple Dhaka life, submerge many areas



By- Siam Sarower Jamil
Dhaka, May 31,

Heavy rains and thundershowers on Thursday morning crippled Dhaka city dwellers' life as most roads in different parts of the capital went under water, causing immense sufferings to commuters. The rain, however, brought relief from the searing heat that has been continuing for the last couple of days. The Met office recorded 81 millimeter rainfall in three hours starting from 6:00am to 9:00am on Thursday, said Mohammad Shahinul Islam, meteorologist of

Bangladesh Meteorological Department.

Vehicles were seen stranded while people were seen wading through the water to reach their destinations in the busy populous city. The worst affected areas include Mohammadpur, Dhanmondi road no 27, Karwan Bazar, Khilgaon, Malibagh, Motijheel, Paltan, Kazipara, Rokeya Sarani, Shewrapara, Kazipara and Mirpur-10. Hundreds of commuters especially office goers faced huge troubles in reaching their destinations this morning due to water-logging and lack of

transports caused by the incessant rains. 'Rain may continue for two more days,' meteorologist Shahinul added.

PGCIL presents 30 Garbage bin to JMC

Jiribam, May 31,

Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, (PGCIL) today presented 30 garbage bins to Jiribam Municipal Council (JMC) for use at Kadamtala Jiribam area. The motive is to keep the area clean garbage free zone.

CM Stresses on Job Creation, Self Employment

DIRP

Imphal, May 31,

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh has mooted the importance of job creation and self employment towards making Manipur a self reliant State. He was speaking at the foundation stone laying function of an Essential Oil Distillation Plant cum Distribution of High Yielding Medicinal and Aromatic Plants and Health Camp at CSIR: North East Institute of Science and Technology (NEIST), Branch Laboratory complex, Lamphelpat today.

The Chief Minister said that Manipur is blessed with rich and diverse natural resources, and many of the floras and faunas found here have medicinal values. As such, Manipur needs to explore the ways to generate self employment to boost its economy and make itself a self reliant State, he added.

Manipur is gifted with good rainfall, so lemongrass plantation can be easily adopted as an alternative means of livelihood by poppy growers, the Chief Minister said while adding that the State Government has already started taking up necessary steps to encourage the villagers of hill districts to plant lemongrass. Stating that the new Government is putting in effort to change the tradition of



importing everything from other States and seeking help from the Centre for every single matter.

He said that the State Government has sanctioned Rs. 1.5 crore to set up a fish feed production plant. Likewise, a chicken feed production unit would come into being in the State soon, he added. Although, the State has vast water bodies, around Rs. 400 crore is being spent every year by the State in importing fish from other States, he said. Urging the public to use social networking sites in a socially responsible manner, the Chief Minister opined that reckless criticism would not bring any solution. He observed that issues must be resolved through policy execution. Stating that the new Government is committed to protect the indigenous people of the State, the Chief Minister said that strict enforcement of

the Manipur Conservation of Paddyland and Wetland Act, 2014 is a clear testimony of the new Government's commitment towards safeguarding the indigenous population.

Stating that the new Government would never go against the will of the people, the Chief Minister said that the State Government had already opposed the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill. Regarding territorial integrity issue, N. Biren said, he immediately conveyed Manipur Government's and people's stand to Naga peace talks interlocutor R.N. Ravi soon after his statement regarding possible outcome of the ongoing peace parleys was found published on a National daily.

Regarding National Sports University (NSU), he said that he had received a WhatsApp message from Union Youth Affairs and Sports Minister

Shri Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore stating that the headquarters of the National Sports University with all departments, facilities and faculties will be in Manipur, and all degrees will be issued from Manipur.

Narendra Modi is one of the most honest and dedicated Prime Ministers of the country, so he would never betray the people of the State on the matter, the Chief Minister said. Speaking at the occasion, CAF & PD Minister Karam Shyam said that earning livelihood through self employment is the best way to live life with dignity and respect.

Director of CSIR-NEIST, Jorhat, Dr. Pinaki Sengupta, Director of AYUSH, Dr. A. Guneshwor and Principal Scientist and Head of CSIR-NEIST Branch Laboratory, Lamphelpat, Dr. H. Birkumar Singh also attended the function as dignitaries.

J-K sex scandal: Five held guilty including former BSF DIG, ex-DSP, two acquitted

Agency
Chandigarh, May 31

In the infamous 2006 Jammu and Kashmir sex scandal case, the special CBI court today convicted five accused including a former DIG of BSF and an encounter specialist former DSP of J&K Police and acquitted two others due to benefit of doubt. The quantum of judgement will be pronounced on June 4. This scandal had hit headlines after the J&K police discovered two video CDs showing Kashmiri minors being sexually exploited. A special CBI court of Gagan Geet Kaur here held five people guilty in a 2006 sex scandal in Jammu & Kashmir in which minors were sexually exploited. Those who have been held guilty are former DSP of J&K Police and encounter specialist Mohd Ashraf Mir, former DIG of BSF KC Padhi and three others Shabbir Ahmad Laway, Shabbir Ahmad

Langoo and Masood Ahmad. Meanwhile the then Advocate General of Jammu and Kashmir Anil Sethi and businessman Mehraj-ud-Din Malik have been acquitted by court due to benefit of doubt. CBI prosecutor K P Singh said, "The court has held five persons guilty in the scandal while two persons have been acquitted in this case."

This sex scandal came to light in 2006 after the Jammu and Kashmir police came across video CDs of some Kashmiri minors being sexually exploited and during the investigations names of 56 people allegedly involved in the racket came up including the then two ministers in J&K government besides several legislators, bureaucrats and police officials. The police had then questioned the minors and the alleged kingpin Sabeena. These minors who were forced into prostitution were paid

between Rs 250 to Rs 500.

In May 2006 this case was transferred to CBI from J&K Police and later that year the Supreme Court transferred the case to the district court in Chandigarh due to sensitive nature of the case.

As per the CBI charge sheet, there were four survivors and nine accused in the case. During the course of the trial, prime accused Sabeena and her husband Abdul Hamid Bulla died as they allegedly used to run a brothel in Habba Kadal area of Srinagar. Meanwhile three survivors turned hostile during the trial and the fourth one was kept in CBI protective custody. Due to the sensitive nature of the case and involvement of minors, the entire trial was kept in-camera and code words were used by the CBI so that the identity of the complainants and witnesses were not compromised. The then J&K chief minister Omar Abdullah submitted his resignation when his name was linked with this case but

the then J&K Governor N N Vohra had refused to accept his resignation.

The case was among the oldest listed cases in the district court here.

TIMELINE

In 2006 this case came to light when J&K police got two video CDs showing Kashmiri minors being sexually exploited.

These minors were forced into the sex trade & were exploited sexually by politicians, bureaucrats and police officials.

In May 2006 the case was transferred to the CBI after names of then two J&K ministers and several MLAs came up during investigation.

The Supreme Court shifted the trial to Chandigarh CBI court the same year.

In 2009 the then J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah resigned after his name was also linked to the case but the governor rejected his resignation.

The main accused Sabeena, and her husband Abdul Hamid Bulla died during trial.

Awareness on the importance of solar energy should be initiated: Dy. CM

DIRP

Imphal, May 31,

Deputy Chief Minister Yumnam Joykumar Singh said, public awareness campaigns have to be initiated to make people aware on the importance of solar energy. He was speaking at the inaugural function of a grid connected roof top solar power plant (5 KW) at Lainingthou Eshing Chaiba Complex, Nagamapal in Imphal today.

Deputy Chief Minister said, it is time to understand the importance of solar energy as an alternative source of power. There may be a number of sources of power like coal, hydro, thermal and nuclear, however solar and wind energy are the cheapest and the most abundant sources of power. He said, availability of power has been an index of development as it is required at any developmental activities. Stating that requirements of

power will increase further, Shri Joykumar Singh said, power generation from renewable sources should be developed to cater the needs. Technologies have been developing to tap energy from such sources and it is for us to invest on it.

Mentioning about the ongoing project jointly taken up by MANIREDA & MSPDCL, Deputy Chief Minister said, it is an ambitious project through which energy generation can be enhanced and overall power generation in the state will also be increased. He said, altogether 42 Grid connected roof top solar power plants will be installed in Uripok Assembly Constituency by June this year. It will help to electrify streets and public places in the constituency. If once installed, there will be no shortage of power. Stating that his constituency would be a model constituency in solar energy generation, he said, if such plants have been

installed in all the Constituencies in the State, there will be an overall improvement in power sector. Director, MANIREDA L. Manglem Singh said, the project has been taken up as a part of India's Vision of generating one lakh megawatt of power from solar energy by 2022. He said, under the vision, grid connected roof top solar power plant is a new initiative through which maximum energy can be generated and stored. Maintaining that it will help to increase generation, Manglem Singh urged people to install such plants at their homes. He further said, power tariff has been increasing and therefore at least there should be a provision to harvest solar energy in new buildings and other constructions.

Later today, Deputy Chief Minister also inaugurated another grid connected roof top solar power plant (5 KW) at Imphal Public Library of Uripok Sorbon Thingel in Imphal.

INX Media case: HC protects Chidambaram from arrest till July 3

Agency
New Delhi, May 31

The Delhi High Court today granted former Union minister P Chidambaram interim protection from arrest till July 3 in the Central Bureau of Investigation's INX Media corruption case. Justice A K Pathak asked Chidambaram to join and cooperate in the questioning session as and when called by the CBI. The court also sought the investigating agency's

response on the Congress leader's anticipatory bail plea and listed the matter for further hearing on July 3. Additional Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the CBI, opposed the anticipatory bail plea saying he was merely called for questioning.

Chidambaram had yesterday rushed to a trial court for protection from arrest in Aircel-Maxis case before approaching the Delhi High Court in connection with the INX Media case, in which he

has been asked by probe agencies to join investigations.

Chidambaram's role has come under the scanner of investigating agencies in the Aircel-Maxis deal of Rs 3,500 crore and INX Media case involving Rs 305 crore. It was during his tenure as finance minister in the UPA-1 regime that FIPB clearance was granted to the two ventures in which alleged irregularities have been found.

In the INX Media case, the CBI had registered an FIR on May

15 last year against alleged irregularities in the FIPB clearance to INX Media for receiving overseas funds to the tune of Rs 305 crore in 2007 when Chidambaram was finance minister.

Chidambaram's son Karti Chidambaram was also arrested in the matter for allegedly receiving funds to the tune of Rs 10 lakh in the case.

The other accused in the case include then INX Media Director Indrani Mukerjea and then INX News Director Peter Mukerjea.

Death toll from Nipah virus rose to 15 in Kerala

Agency

Kozhikode (Ker), May 31

The death toll due to Nipah virus in the state rose to 15, with a 28-year-old man succumbing to the deadly virus here, a health department official said today.

Akhil, a native of Karassery, who was undergoing treatment at the Kozhikode Medical college hospital (KMCH) since May 29, died last night, the official said.

Two more persons, confirmed of having contracted the virus are being treated at KMCH, he said.

Besides, 1,353 people who had been in contact with the affected persons before the confirmation of the disease, are under observation, the official said.

Yesterday, Madhusudhanan (55) of Nellikode in the district, who was undergoing treatment in a private hospital here also breathed his last.

He was working as a Senior superintendent in the Kozhikode District Court.

The outbreak of the Nipah virus infection, a newly emerging zoonosis that causes severe disease in both animals and humans, is suspected to be from an unused well in Perambra which was infested with bats. The natural host of the virus is believed to be fruit bats of the Pteropodidae family, Pteropus genus.