

Carbon dioxide level reaches record high

AP, Mauna Loa Observatory

Carbon dioxide, the gas largely blamed for global warming, has reached record-high levels in the atmosphere after growing at an accelerated pace in the past year, say scientists monitoring the sky from this 2-mile-high station atop a Hawaiian volcano.

The reason for the faster buildup of the most important "greenhouse gas" will require further analysis, the US government experts say.

"But the big picture is that CO2 is continuing to go up," said Russell Schnell, deputy director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's climate monitoring laboratory in Boulder, Colo., which operates the Mauna Loa Observatory on the island of Hawaii.

Carbon dioxide, mostly from burning of coal, gasoline and other fossil fuels, traps heat that otherwise would radiate into space. Global temperatures increased by about 1 degree Fahrenheit (0.6 degrees Celsius) during the 20th century, and international panels of scientists sponsored by world governments have concluded that most of the warming probably was due to greenhouse gases.

The climatologists forecast continued temperature rises that will disrupt the climate, cause seas to rise and lead to other unpredictable consequences unpredictable in part because of uncertainties in computer modeling of future climate.

Before the industrial age and extensive use of fossil fuels, the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere stood at about 280 parts per million, scientists have determined.

Average readings at the 11,141-foot Mauna Loa Observatory, where carbon dioxide density peaks each northern winter, hovered around 379 parts per million on Friday, compared with about 376 a year ago.

That year-to-year increase of about 3 parts per million is considerably higher than the average annual increase of 1.8 parts per million over the past decade, and markedly more accelerated than the 1-part-per-million annual increase recorded a half-century ago, when observations were first

HC asks IGP

FROM PAGE 1

IGP was convicted was civil in nature.

The court turned down the argument, saying the petition has no nexus with the appeal of the IGP to the Supreme Court.

The petitioner had referred to the relevant sections of the Public Servants (Dismissal on Conviction) Ordinance 1983 and submitted that Sahabudin Huq on the delivery of conviction of criminal offence stands dismissed forthwith.

On January 27, the same bench found IGP Huq guilty of gross misconduct in a contempt case and fined him Tk 2000 and ordered that he would have to serve out a one-month jail term if he defaults on paying up the fine.

Meanwhile, the Chamber Judge of the Appellate Division yesterday extended its stay order on the High Court verdict against the IGP till April 17 upon a petition moved by Barrister Mainul Hosein, counsel for the IGP whose service contract expires this month.

Azad blames

FROM PAGE 1

of Islamic fundamentalism that has raised its ugly head in the country. Although the fundamentalists have failed (to kill me) this time, I know they will continue their attacks."

He expressed his gratitude to people for the compassion and love he received from them following the attack on him. "I am indebted to people of the country, the vice chancellor of Dhaka University, my colleagues at the university and the employees."

The writer said he can't tremble anything between February 27 when the attack was made and March 3 as he was 'virtually dead'.

"I came to life in the afternoon of March 3, started knowing about the outside world and that people of Bangladesh are so anxious about me," he added.

Three armed youths attacked the writer with butchers' knives near the Teacher-Student Centre while he was returning from the Ekushey Book Fair at around

WB to provide

FROM PAGE 1

programmes instead of usual small-scale projects.

This six-year programme aims at increasing gross enrolment ratio and net enrolment ratio to 107 and 99 percent from 97.5 and 90 percent in 2002. The education achievement of girls is expected to reach the same level of boys in 2009.

The project has four main components -- quality improvement through organisational development and capacity building; quality improvement in schools and classroom; quality improvement through infrastructure development and improving and supporting equitable access to good schooling.

Arrested NBCP's third man sent to Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

made here.

Asked to explain the stepped-up rate, climatologists were cautious, saying data needed to be further evaluated. But Asia immediately sprang to mind.

"China is taking off economically and burning a lot of fuel.

India, too," said Pieter Tans, a prominent carbon-cycle expert at NOAA's Boulder lab.

Another leading climatologist, Ralph Keeling, whose father, Charles D. Keeling, developed methods for measuring carbon dioxide, noted that the rate "does fluctuate up and down a bit," and said it was too early to reach conclusions. But he added: "People are worried about 'feedbacks.' We are moving into a warmer world."

He explained that warming itself releases carbon dioxide from the ocean and soil. By raising the gas's level in the atmosphere, that in turn could increase warming, in a positive feedback," said Keeling, of San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change projects that, if unchecked, atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations by 2100 will range from 650 to 970 parts per million. As a result, the panel estimates, average global temperature would probably rise by 1.4 to 5.8 degrees Celsius (2.7 and 10.4 degrees Fahrenheit) between 1990 and 2100.

The 1997 Kyoto Protocol would oblige ratifying countries to reduce carbon dioxide emissions according to set schedules, to minimize potential global warming. The pact has not taken effect, however.

The United States, the world's biggest carbon dioxide emitter, signed the agreement but did not ratify it, and the Bush administration has since withdrawn US support, calling instead for voluntary emission reductions by US industry and more scientific research into climate change.

Fish farming

FROM PAGE 12

A section of officers, employees and teachers of the university are reportedly making money from the fish cultivation project, sources said. Asking not to be named, a member of JU Central Resources Management Committee alleged that individuals and firms having links with university authorities and the JU unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, the ruling BNP's student wing, usually get the lease.

The JU earns Tk 5 lakh a year from the lease.

Meanwhile, members of the Nature Study and Conservation Club (NSCC) protested the university's decision to lease out the lake beside Al-Beruni Hall. The NSCC last Thursday formed a human chain in front of the JU administration building and handed over a memorandum to the vice-chancellor demanding an immediate end to fish cultivation in the lake.

"We leased out the lakes for fish cultivation to meet the increased demand for protein and it has also increased campus security due to the presence of a large number of workers associated with the project," said Prof ABM Enayet Hossain, convenor of the central resources management committee.

Altaf blames

FROM PAGE 12

They are also indulging in rape, robbery in a bid to create anarchy across the country... They will be banished once for all with the help of the people," home minister told the rally organised by the ruling four-party alliance.

He referred to the recent murder of Abdul Halim, Salam Howlader, Partha Protin Roy, Sarder Habibur Rahman and Sahidul Islam of BNP and Abu Bakar Siddique of Jamaat and said the killers have now targeted Bagerhat.

Chowdhury asked the police to immediately arrest the killers and prosecute them in the speedy trial tribunal.

The home minister said leaders and activists of four-party alliance had been implicated in false cases during the Awami League rule. List of such cases should be forwarded to him for withdrawal.

Food Minister Abdullah Al Noman and local BNP and Jamaat leaders also spoke at the rally at Rimpimpur square.

Later, the home minister held a meeting with senior police officials of ten districts under the Khulna range.

Sources close to the meeting told the news agency that the minister reviewed the law and order situation in southwest region where rising incidents of killing and extortion were reported in the media.

The meeting decided to strengthen the ongoing drive of the joint forces against terrorism.

"We leased out the lakes for fish cultivation to meet the increased demand for protein and it has also increased campus security due to the presence of a large number of workers associated with the project," said Prof ABM Enayet Hossain, convenor of the central resources management committee.

Roads deptt

FROM PAGE 1

DCC Chief Engineer Habibur Rahman however denied receipt of any letter from the R&HD till yesterday.

"They can make complaints and I can say something only when I get such complaints," he added.

Every year, especially during the monsoon, service providers including Desa, Titas, Wasa and T&T dig over 100-km stretch of different city roads causing immense sufferings to the commuters.

Last year, the DCC set up a one-stop clearance centre and asked service providers not to dig any roads without its permission and fixed compensation rates. The step was taken to avoid lack of coordination among the organisations concerned and maintain the roads properly.

Azad's family members, DU Vice Chancellor SMA Faiz, DU Teachers Association President AAMS Arefin Siddique and General Secretary Akhtaruzzaman were at the airport to see Azad off.

Gulshan lake

FROM PAGE 1

Over the last few years, influential quarters including some big business houses and multinational companies have carried out indiscriminate and widespread encroachment upon the lake, sources said.

Sources alleged that some Rajuk officials are directly involved with the systematic land-grab by helping the grabbers prepare forged documents. Some of the land-grabbers have already obtained court order in their favour by using these forged papers.

"Though we are helpless in some situations, preparations are underway to take legal action to recover some land," said a top Rajuk official, preferring anonymity.

"During the last fiscal, we made a pragmatic layout forecasting how much project aid may come to Bangladesh," the planning ministry source noted, "but the government high-ups asked us to increase project aid by 59 percent. The approved ADP had such a weak base from the very beginning."

The ADP allocation for the last fiscal was set at Tk 19,200 crore, but was trimmed down to Tk 17,100 crore. Still, the government could actually utilise Tk 15,000 crore.

Chowdhury said both sides at the meetings discussed ways of expanding trade and economic cooperation as two-way annual

Arabs call for revenge after Yassin killing

REUTERS, Cairo

Arab leaders have condemned the assassination of Hamas leader Ahmed Yassin by Israel and have predicted a new wave of violence in the Middle East.

Angry Arabs and Palestinians in exile called for revenge and blamed the United States for its pro-Israel policies.

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad called the killing on Monday "an ugly crime" and an official Syrian statement said it was "the climax of the terror that Israel practices continuously."

King Abdullah of Jordan, which has a peace treaty with Israel, said: "This crime would only lead to more escalation, violence and instability in the region."

President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, the biggest recipient of U.S. aid in the Arab world after Iraq, condemned the assassination as a savage act which killed off peace prospects.

"With this act we have aborted the peace process today. It will have big effects on the region," he told reporters.

Mohamed Mahdi Akef, leader of Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood, called it "an unforgivable crime" and said the Palestinians should not lay down their arms because violence was the only language that Israel understood.

"We will not rest, we will not sleep until the last Zionist leaves our territory," Akef told Reuters. The influential Brotherhood shares the Islamist views of Hamas.

The head of Lebanon's Hezbollah guerrillas said Israel would pay the highest price yet for Yassin's assassination.

"The Zionists will discover soon that they have committed a very big folly, to add to their series of previous follies," said Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah. He said Yassin's death would have ramifications "more important and dangerous than all that this cancerous entity (Israel) has witnessed until now."

Egypt backed out of plans to send officials to Israel to mark the 25th anniversary of their peace treaty on March 26.

But Barak also called for a return to direct talks between the Israeli government and the Palestinian Authority.

The home minister said leaders and activists of four-party alliance had been implicated in false cases during the Awami League rule. List of such cases should be forwarded to him for withdrawal.

Food Minister Abdullah Al Noman and local BNP and Jamaat leaders also spoke at the rally at Rimpimpur square.

Later, the home minister held a meeting with senior police officials of ten districts under the Khulna range.

Sources close to the meeting told the news agency that the minister reviewed the law and order situation in southwest region where rising incidents of killing and extortion were reported in the media.

The meeting decided to strengthen the ongoing drive of the joint forces against terrorism.

"We leased out the lakes for fish cultivation to meet the increased demand for protein and it has also increased campus security due to the presence of a large number of workers associated with the project," said Prof ABM Enayet Hossain, convenor of the central resources management committee.

Erratic power

FROM PAGE 12

Officials at Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation at Bogra said their daily supply of diesel to different northern oil depots varies between 12 and 20 lakh litres against a demand of 45 lakh litres.

There are also reports that the low voltage of electricity is damaging the pumps of the irrigation machines to render them inoperative.

Shops and schools closed in north Lebanon's Palestinian refugee camps and residents took to the streets to vent their anger and vow revenge. Thousands of Palestinians also took to the streets of al-Yarmouk camp near Damascus after holding a symbolic funeral prayer and chanted slogans against Israel, the United States and Arab governments allied with Washington.

Shops and schools closed in north Lebanon's Palestinian refugee camps and residents took to the streets to vent their anger and vow revenge. Thousands of Palestinians also took to the streets of al-Yarmouk camp near Damascus after holding a symbolic funeral prayer and chanted slogans against Israel, the United States and Arab governments allied with Washington.

Shops and schools closed in north Lebanon's Palestinian refugee camps and residents took to the streets to vent their anger and vow revenge. Thousands of Palestinians also took to the streets of al-Yarmouk camp near Damascus after holding a symbolic funeral prayer and chanted slogans against Israel, the United States and Arab governments allied with Washington.

Shops and schools closed in north Lebanon's Palestinian refugee camps and residents took to the streets to vent their anger and vow revenge. Thousands of Palestinians also took to the streets of al-Yarmouk camp near Damascus after holding a symbolic funeral prayer and chanted slogans against Israel, the United States and Arab governments allied with Washington.

Shops and schools closed in north Lebanon's Palestinian refugee camps and residents took to the streets to vent their anger and vow revenge. Thousands of Palestinians also took to the streets of al-Yarmouk camp near Damascus after holding a symbolic funeral prayer and chanted slogans against Israel, the United States and Arab governments allied with Washington.

Shops and schools closed in north Lebanon's Palestinian refugee camps and residents took to the streets to vent their anger and vow revenge. Thousands of Palestinians also took to the streets of al-Yarmouk camp near Damascus after holding a symbolic funeral prayer and chanted slogans against Israel, the United States and Arab governments allied with Washington.

Shops and schools closed in north Lebanon's Palestinian refugee camps and residents took to the streets to vent their anger and vow revenge. Thousands of Palestinians also took to the streets of al-Yarmouk camp near Damascus after holding a symbolic funeral prayer and chanted slogans against Israel, the United States and Arab governments allied with Washington.

Shops and schools closed in north Lebanon's Palestinian refugee camps and residents took to the streets to vent their anger and vow revenge. Thousands of Palestinians also took to the streets of al-Yarmouk camp near Damascus after holding a symbolic funeral prayer and chanted slogans against Israel, the United States and Arab governments allied with Washington.

Shops and schools closed in north Lebanon's Palestinian refugee camps and residents took to the streets to vent their anger and vow revenge. Thousands of Palestinians also took to the streets of al-Yarmouk camp near Damascus after holding a symbolic funeral prayer and chanted slogans against Israel, the United States and Arab governments allied with Washington.

Shops and schools closed in north Lebanon's Palestinian refugee camps and residents took to the streets to vent their anger and vow revenge. Thousands of Palestinians also took to the streets of al-Yarmouk camp near Damascus after holding a symbolic funeral prayer and chanted slogans against Israel, the United States and Arab governments allied with Washington.

Shops and schools closed in north Lebanon's Palestinian refugee camps and residents took to the streets to vent their anger and vow revenge. Thousands of Palestinians also took to the streets of al-Yarmouk camp near Damascus after holding a symbolic funeral prayer and chanted slogans against Israel, the United States and Arab governments allied with Washington.

Shops and schools closed in north Lebanon's Palestinian refugee camps and residents took to the streets to vent their anger and vow revenge. Thousands of Palestinians also took to the streets of al-Yarmouk camp near Damascus after holding a symbolic funeral prayer and chanted slogans against Israel, the United States and Arab governments allied with Washington.

Shops and schools closed in north Lebanon's Palestinian refugee camps and residents took to the streets to vent their anger and vow revenge. Thousands of Palestinians also took to the streets of al-Yarmouk camp near Damascus after holding a symbolic funeral prayer and chanted slogans against Israel, the United States and Arab governments allied with Washington.

Shops and schools closed in north Lebanon's Palestinian refugee camps and residents took to the streets to vent their anger and vow revenge. Thousands of Palestinians also took to the streets of al-Yarmouk camp near Damascus after holding a symbolic funeral prayer and chanted slogans against Israel, the United States and Arab governments allied with Washington.

Shops and schools closed in north Lebanon's Palestinian refugee camps and residents took to the streets to vent their anger and vow revenge. Thousands of Palestinians also took to the streets of al-Yarmouk camp near Damascus after holding a symbolic funeral prayer and chanted slogans against Israel, the United States and Arab governments allied with Washington.

Shops and schools closed in north Lebanon's Palestinian refugee camps and residents took to the streets to vent their anger and vow revenge. Thousands of Palestinians also took to the streets of al-Yarmouk camp near Damascus after holding a symbolic funeral prayer and chanted slogans against Israel, the United States and Arab