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Warning in the winds

Bangladesh slated to take the brunt of global warming fallout

PINAKI ROY

When it comes to global warming and its devastating effects on the environment, Bangladesh is commonly referred to by the world's leading atmospheric scientists who tell us that a gradual warming of our climate is underway and will continue, largely due to emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.

Low-lying Bangladesh is predicted to be one of the worst victims of global warming. Latest climate models indicate its devastating impact on the country. For example,

flooding, which affects roughly a fifth of the country each year, will go up by up to 40 percent this century as sea levels rise, monsoons become wetter and more intense cyclones lead to higher tidal surges.

To make things worse, experts say, heavier rainfall triggered by global warming will swamp the country's riverbanks, a previously unforeseen effect, flooding between 20-40 percent more land than today. As a result, the land available to grow rice, vegetables, lentil, onion and mustard crops will be significantly reduced, placing an intolerable pressure on farmers.

The interconnectedness of life on earth has become one of the sentimental clichés of the environmental movement. A recent New York Times article indicated that the expected change in sea levels from Antarctic glacial melting "already constitutes a slow-motion catastrophe for places like Bangladesh..."

Unfortunately, the mainstream US media in general has notoriously downplayed the global warming trends and its catastrophic effects that scientists generally put down to human activities including industrial processes, fossil fuel combustion, and changes in land use, such

as deforestation; in other words, the way we power our global economy.

But over here in Bangladesh, where millions of people live in coastal areas, the threat from global warming is real -- inundation of coastal areas, changes in precipitation patterns, increased risk of droughts and floods, threats to biodiversity and a number of potential challenges for public health.

There is every indication that the climate is undergoing a change for the worse. In Bangladesh, we now experience unprecedented intense heat waves in summer and

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

DSE trading touches 8-year high

MONJUR MAHMUD

Dhaka Stock Exchange selective index reached a new high yesterday at 2025.63 points with highest ever transactions in eight years.

"Transactions amounted to Tk 47.13 crore for the first time after the 1996 boom," Ahmed Iqbal Hassan, chairman of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), told The Daily Star yesterday.

The DSE-20 index crossed the 2,000-point mark for the first time on October 24 this year to close at 2003.68. But then it went down substantially in the following weeks.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

3 outlaws killed in Rab 'crossfire'

Trader slaughtered in Chuadanga

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Three people including a businessman allegedly linked with outlawed party were killed in 'shootout' between law enforcers and outlaws in Kushtia and Jhenidah while outlawed Janajuddho slaughtered a trader in Chuadanga in early hours yesterday.

Police recovered firearms and ammunition. The killed in 'crossfire' are Ashraf

Joardar alias Colonel, 34, a businessman and son of late Shahidul Joardar of Chourash area of Kushtia town, Masud Ali, 29, son of Rabi Uddin of Ziarokhi in Kushtia Sadar upazila and Sahajahan alias Sahaj of Jugirhuda in Moheshpur upazila in Jhenidah district.

Police said Ashraf was a 'godfather' of outlawed Gana Mukti Fouz (GMF) and an accused in a number of cases including one murder case and 11 GDs (general diary) filed with

Sadar Police Station concerning tenders of different organisations.

GMF cadre Masud was accused in three cases including a murder case and two GDs filed with Sadar Police Station.

Both were listed criminals of the district, police said.

Tipped off, a Rab team raided the house of Ashraf on Saturday evening when a meeting of GMF was going on there. Rab arrested Ashraf and

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Assailants stab CEC's brother to death

Police suspect killing pre-planned, relatives see no reason for it

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unknown assailants stabbed a senior assistant secretary of the government to death near Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital in the capital early yesterday.

Ibrahim Kamal, 49, also younger brother of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) MA Syed, died at the hospital at 12:30am, 15 minutes into the attack.

The police, after primary investigation, suspect it was a pre-planned murder but relatives of the victim



Ibrahim Kamal

failed to find any reason behind it.

The attackers waylaid Kamal, assistant secretary at the Planning Commission and a freedom fighter, while he was returning on foot to his government quarters in the Bailey Road Officers' Colony.

The victim's relatives and witnesses said three youths jumped out of a silver-coloured car and caught him near the hospital, hardly 300 metres from the colony.

"I woke up hearing the shouts of some people and saw him jostling

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

How free would new graft body be?

ZAYADUL AHSAN

The way the government has formed the Anti-Corruption Commission casts shadows of doubt whether this would at all serve the purpose of fighting corruption independently.

This doubt solidified with the appointment of the three core members of the Commission whose past records show that they are loyal to the BNP-led government and may not go for taking actions that will displease the BNP high command.

From the beginning of the process of forming the much-talked-about Commission, the government apparently tried to devise ways to ensure its maximum control over the body, which is supposed to work

independently.

The government's intention was reflected in first proposed six-member selection team to nominate the Commission members that had included names of two ministers. The names were, however, dropped from the list amid protests.

But the government did not give up. It then formed a five-member selection team, which proposed six names out of which the president was supposed to pick three in consultation with the prime minister (PM). The government did not even like the list.

The six-member panel was then changed replacing two with those

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

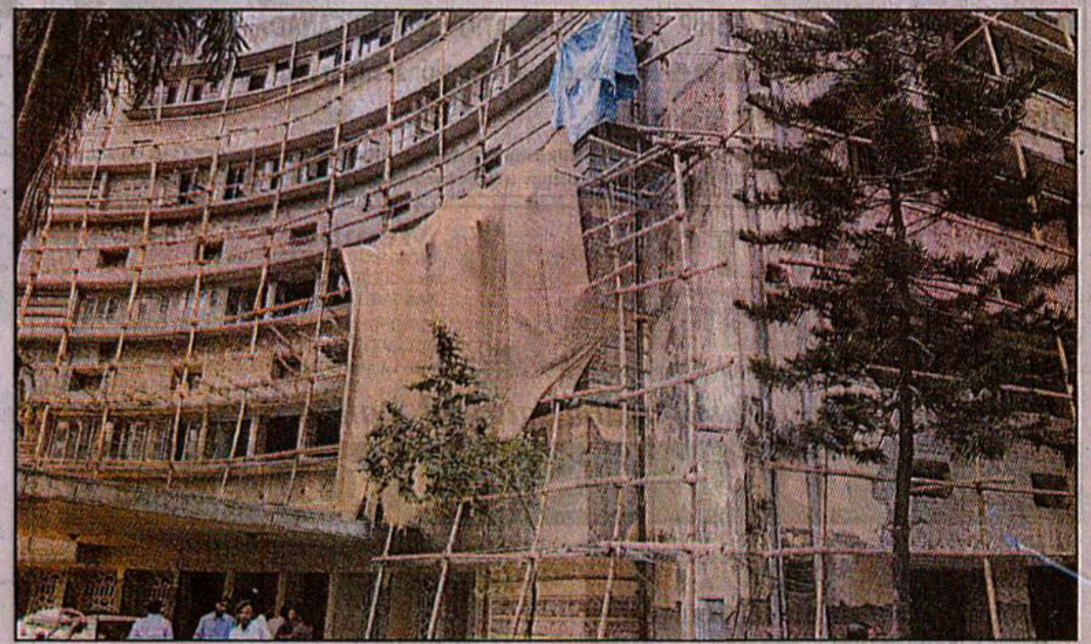


PHOTO: STAR

The office of the Bureau of Anti-Corruption at Segunbagicha in Dhaka being renovated after the formation of Anti-Corruption Commission on Sunday dissolving the Bureau.

NEW BANGABAZAR FIRE Traders to be relocated to other DCC markets

Multi-storey shopping complex planned on burnt-down market

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Authorities are thinking of putting up a multi-storied shopping complex to rehabilitate around 1,500 traders of New Bangabazar

Hawkers' Market in Gulistan, who lost around Tk 200 crore to Sunday's 'mysterious' blaze.

Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka told The Daily Star last night that Dhaka City Corporation (DCC)

plans to put in place a 'permanent structure' to avoid such 'accidents'. His comments came in the wake of a demand for immediate rehabilitation of the affected traders during

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



PHOTO: STAR

Firefighters yesterday continue frantic efforts to douse the devastating fire that broke out on Sunday at New Bangabazar Hawkerc's Market in the capital, reducing to ashes merchandise worth around Tk 200 crore and killing one.

Commission to start work in a month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The newly formed Anti-corruption Commission will begin functioning within a month, Law Minister Moudud Ahmed said yesterday.

At a press conference, the minister refuted the main opposition Awami League's allegation that members of the commission have been appointed on political consideration and said, "It is just opposition for the sake of opposition. It is an example of negative politics."

Moudud also explained why the government changed two names out of a list of six a selection body nominated for the commission.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Murder accused assaults Barisal judge in court

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A judge was assaulted during trial yesterday by an accused in a murder and abduction case in Patuakhali.

Ersad Ali, a ferry boatman of Galachipa upazila, hurled his shoe at Judge Md Abdul Majid of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal, Patuakhali. He was accused of murdering a woman and kidnapping a child.

Judge Majid immediately gave him four month's rigorous imprisonment and fined Tk 1,000 on charge of contempt of court. He will have to serve one more month of RI

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Army man shot dead in Bandarban

UNB, Bandarban

Miscrants shot dead a non-commissioned army officer and looted his gun at Jamchhari in Sadar upazila of the hill district in the early hours yesterday.

Officials and locals said Lance Corporal Abu Bakar Siddique, hailed from Maniganj, was in an army team on duty at a religious fair at a Buddhist temple at about 1:30am.

"A gang of tribal miscrants in the guise of devotees suddenly shot him down and took away his sub-machine carbine," says a spot

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

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