

GLOBAL WARMING

60 lakh coastal people to be affected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The temperature of the earth would increase up to 1 degree centigrade in summer and 1.5 degree in winter by 2050, said an eminent environment expert at a workshop yesterday.

As a result, the sea level will rise engulfing 11 percent of the land and affecting nearly 60 lakh people along the coastal belt, he added.

The regional workshop on 'Climate change negotiations in South and Southeast Asia: The role of Bangladesh and Least Developed Countries' was held at a city hotel.

Speaking as a keynote speaker, Prof Sir Gordon Conway, chief scientific advisor of the Department for International Development (DFID), said the overall rainfall is likely to increase with greater intensity, although the number of rainy days

may decrease.

This will result in the mean sea level rise by up to half metre by the year 2050, he added.

"Some parts of Bangladesh may start to experience new forms of disaster like drought spreading from the northwest of the country during the dry season, and sea-water inundation moving further inland than at present leading to increased salinity," Gordon said.

He said as an adverse effect of the climate change the country would face frequent incidents of flooding, river erosion, storm surges and tornadoes affecting agriculture, health, water supply and human safety.

Inaugurating the two-day workshop, Environment and Forest Minister Tariqul Islam said an individual of a least developed country is

responsible for emitting only 0.3 tonnes gas while a US citizen emit 20 tonnes of gas.

He laid emphasis on strengthening cooperation between the developed and developing countries to face the crisis.

State Minister Jafrul Islam said the poor people in the least developed countries suffer most from the adverse effects of climate change as they are directly dependent on natural environment and agriculture for their survival.

British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Anwar Chowdhury called for facing unitedly the challenges created by the climate change.

He said the United Kingdom has put utmost emphasis on climate change issue to protect bio-diversity. Executive Director of Bangladesh

Advanced Studies Centre Dr Atique T Rahman, Director and Head of Fellowship Programme Dr Benito Muller and London-based IIED Director Dr Saleemul Haq also spoke.

A total of 45 delegates from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Maldives, Vietnam, Thailand, the UK and the Netherland were present at the inaugural function.

The workshop was organised jointly by the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies, International Institute for Environment and Development, UK, European Capacity Building Initiative, British High Commission in Dhaka and Department of International Development, Bangladesh.

PM returns today

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia returns home today concluding her weeklong pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia for performing Umrah.

On Saturday, Khaleda observed holy Lailatul Qadr in Makkah and spent the day offering prayers. She took part in Kiamul Lail prayer (prayer of dead night) along with huge Muslim devotees at the holy Kaba Sharif. She also took part in a special munajat on the occasion of Lailatul Qadr.

The Prime Minister prayed for continuous progress and prosperity of Bangladesh, its people and Muslim Ummah.

She left Dhaka on October 24 for Saudi Arabia and arrived in Madinah on the first stop.

Khaleda called on Saudi King Abdullah bin-Abdul Aziz at the Royal Palace in Makkah on Friday.

Prime Minister's youngest son, Arafat Rahman, State Minister for Civil Aviation Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin and Mohammad Mosaddeq Ali MP accompanied the PM.

N'ganj traders bring down onion price after warning by magistrate

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Traders at main kitchen markets in Narayanjan yesterday brought down the prices of onion to Tk 28 per kg from Tk 38 after the magistrate of a mobile court gave them a warning during a drive against price hike.

Magistrate Rafiqul Islam along with BDR personnel conducted the drive in different markets, including Digubabu Bazaar, Kali Bazaar and Mina Bazaar.

The magistrate wanted to see the receipts for purchase of onion, but no traders could produce the papers.

The magistrate then ordered them to sell onion at a reasonable price. Otherwise, legal action will be taken against them, he warned.

Immediately after the warning, the traders reduced the price of onion by Tk 10 per kg.

BDB supports movement to oust govt

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) yesterday expressed its solidarity with the movement of the 14-party opposition combine to unseat the government.

BDB Organising Secretary Mahi B Chowdhury MP said all opposition parties have taken the right decision of carrying out a movement to bring a meaningful change in the country after Eid by toppling the government.

"If the combined opposition holds a grand rally aiming at toppling this uncivilised government on November 22, Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh will support it," he said.

He was speaking at a press conference at BDB office at KC Memorial Hospital in Dhaka in protest against Saturday's attacks on the party leaders and workers, including its Secretary General Major (rtd) MA Mannan in Noakhali and himself in Joypurhat.

Mahi alleged that at the instigation of Tarique Rahman, activists of the BNP, Jubo Dal and Chhatra Dal had attacked the BDB men while they were returning to Dhaka after joining an Iftar organised by the party in Naogaon.

"BDB leaders of Naogaon went to the police station to file a case in connection with the attack, but police did not take the case. Tarique Rahman himself will have to prove that he is not responsible for the terrorist attacks on the BDB leaders," he said.

In reply to a question, Mahi told the news agency that senior BDB leaders will decide whether they will formally join the 14-party opposition combine.

"If I get invitation from the 14-party opposition combine, I will join the grand rally on November 22," he said.

Sheikh Nadir Ahmed, ATM Kamal, Wazed Ali Chowdhury Parvez, Shahiduzzaman, Jahangir Alam Biplab and Zillur Rahman, who were injured in the attacks, were present at the press conference.

Death anniversary



Today is the 3rd death anniversary of Achiya Parveen, wife of MAM Ziauddin, former secretary, Government of Bangladesh, says a press release.

She was a senior teacher of Eskaton Garden High School in Dhaka.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to pray for the peace and salvation of her departed soul to Almighty Allah.



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia offers prayers at Masjidul Haram at Makkah in Saudi Arabia on October 29 on the occasion of Lailatul Qadr.

Institutional change a must for mainstreaming gender

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An institutional change in infrastructure, culture and policy making is a must for mainstreaming gender and people should implement gender parity in their own life, speakers said at a discussion in the city yesterday.

Everybody in the society should be involved in the gender mainstreaming programmes in order to change their concept and attitude to gender discrimination. At the same time, the government, non-governmental organisations and civil society should work together to root out gender discrimination, they said.

Steps Towards Development organised the panel discussion titled 'Mainstreaming gender' at the end of its 5th Development Internship course.

Enactment of new law is necessary to prevent early marriages. Besides changes should be made in family law and personal law, as uniform family code has no justification if gender discrimination exists in law, said Maleka Begum, a renowned women

leader.

"We should not consider mainstreaming gender in global perspective. Rather we need to make an effective curriculum on the basis of our society and culture," she said adding that as gender is a primeval issue, we should think of mainstreaming gender in a different and positive way.

Bangladeshi culture is not gender friendly. Though the constitution says about gender parity, it is not implemented so gender mainstreaming is not possible in a short time, said Shafiqul Haque, senior research officer of Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC).

The media environment should be gender sensitive and women-friendly as they have already proved their efficiency in this sector, said Mozammel Hossain Manju, a subeditor of the daily Samakal.

The speakers criticised the governmental activities regarding mainstreaming gender as it is going on asteroetyped way.

Ranjan Karmakar, executive director of Steps Towards Development,

women leader Bela Nabi, Tasmina Hossain, editor of fortnight magazine Anannya and Lutfur Rahman, director of Centre for Development Training, were also present at the function.

Cable operators threaten to suspend all Star channels

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Satellite Cable Network Owners' Association (SCNOA) and Dhaka Cable Operators' Forum (DCOF) yesterday threatened to suspend nationwide transmission of all pay channels operated under the Star Group run by a local company, MGH INFOCOM Ltd, if they do not withdraw the additional subscription fees.

They also demanded unconditional apology from MGH for the criminal charges it had lodged against some of their members within next 15 days.

SCNOA President Mir Hossain Akhter read out a written statement at a press conference in the city. He said, "We have already suspended transmission of all pay channels relayed by the Star Group in the capital on October 23 in protest against recent increase of charges for subscribing to Star Group channels run by MGH".

Akhter said they would sue MGH after Eid-ul-fitr if it does not apologise to our members for their lawsuit which has been proved false.

MOBILE COURTS

Hotels, medicine stores fined Tk 11.52 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mobile courts yesterday fined hotels, medicine stores and bakeries Tk 11.52 lakh on various charges during their ongoing drive in the capital against food adulteration and unhygienic condition.

They also filed 244 cases and sentenced ten people to 15 days' imprisonment for violating Motor Vehicle Ordinance, BSTI Act, Food Standard Act, DMP Act and Environmental Act.

During a raid on Hotel Razmoni Isha Kha at Kakrail, the magistrate of a mobile court found unhygienic condition in its kitchen and rotten chicken in its refrigerator. The hotel was also selling bottles of mineral water without BSTI mark. The court fined the hotel Tk 1.50 lakh for such anomalies.

The mobile court also raided Apu Enterprise, Sheba Pharmacy, Khan Jahan Pharmacy and Joyati Pharmacy in Dhaka Medical College area and fined them Tk 33,000 for selling date-expired medicines, sample medicines for doctors and other drugs produced by anonymous companies.

In New Market area, a mobile court fined Hotel Amtola Tk 32,000 and Chhayanee Bakery Tk 15,000 for unhygienic environment.

In Shaympur, a mobile court fined Madina Bakery Tk 30,000 and a hotel Tk 20,000.

Another mobile court fined 12 people Tk 12,000 for piling up construction materials on a road.

British HC closed on Nov 1, 6 and 7

UNB, Dhaka

British High Commission in Dhaka and its office in Sylhet will remain closed to the public on November 1 on account of Shab-e-Qadr and November 6 and 7 for Ei-ul-Fitr.

SAARC SUMMIT

Three-day illumination of road medians, islands from Nov 11

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) yesterday asked different organisations engaged in city beautification works, specially on VIP Roads, to illuminate their respective road medians and islands marking the upcoming 13th Saarc summit.

The summit is scheduled to be held in the city on November 12-13.

At a meeting at its auditorium, DCC Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka said the VIP road medians and islands would be illuminated for three days from November 11.

"The power consumption would be very minimal and the DCC will not have to spend for this," he added.

The mayor said the foreign ministry would place the portraits of the heads of states and governments of the Saarc countries.

Chief Executive Officer M Saifuddin Ahmed said the DCC is preparing a tree-plantation manual for the organisations engaged in beautification works.

Chief Conservancy Officer Sohail Farouque, who is also the member-secretary of the city beautification cell, and representatives of different organisations, were present at the meeting.

CU withdraws price hike of admission forms

CU CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong University (CU) authorities withdrew the increased price of first year honours admission form for the session 2005-2006 in the wake of student agitations.

The decision came at a meeting of deans and heads of all faculties and institutions on Saturday.

Earlier, the authorities were stick to sell forms at Tk 300 instead of Tk 250.

Allegation against Jahiruddin Swapan protested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Local leaders of BNP and its front organisations from Gournadi and Agailjhara yesterday protested the allegation of demanding extortion by local lawmaker and BNP's central leader M Jahiruddin Swapan.

Addressing a press conference at Barisal Reporters' Unity office, they said the allegation against the lawmaker is a deep-rooted conspiracy targeting the next election.

"We are stunned to see the news stories on allegation of extortion against Swapan in different dailies," said Nur Alam Hawlader, president of Gournadi upazila unit BNP.

In a written statement he said the allegation is false, untrue and a conspiracy targeting the next general election.

On Saturday, Akon Quddus, assistant publicity secretary of Jubo Dal (BNP's youth front) central unit, in a letter to Agailjhara BNP leaders alleged that Swapan demanded Tk 13 lakh in exchange for giving him a road construction work.

Leaders at the press conference said local Jubo Dal would seek Akon Quddus's clarification about the allegation at a meeting to be held on November 8.

Industrial sector on the brink of ruin: AL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League leaders at a seminar yesterday strongly criticised the ruling four-party alliance government for closing down mills and factories one after another and for failing to check price spiral of essentials.

The industrial sector is also facing a serious crisis due to shortage of gas and electricity supply, they said.

Blaming the government for pushing the sector to the brink of ruin, AL presidium member Tofail Ahmed said the ruling alliances are now busy earning commission.

The government was able to add only 80 megawatt of power in the last four years, he said, adding that even that power plant was closed down a day after it went into operation.

The ruling alliance has totally failed to check prices of essentials due to lack of coordination among the ministries and departments, said Tofail, a former industries and commerce minister.

During the previous Awami League rule, the price of sugar ranged between Tk 29 and Tk 30 per kg, which has now gone up to Tk 45, he mentioned.

The Awami League organised the seminar on 'The crisis in the country's industrial and commerce sectors created by the alliance government and the possible way out' at the National Press Club, moderated by Lt. Col. (retd.) Faruk Khan MP.

The alliance government has forced several private and public jute mills to close down after turning them into loss-making units, said Tofail.

When the government shut down the Adamjee Jute Mills, four big jute mills went into production in the West Bengal state of



PHOTO: STAR

Awami League presidium member Tofail Ahmed speaks at a seminar on 'The crisis in the country's industrial and commerce sectors created by the alliance government and the possible way out' at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right is AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil and on his left is Lt. Col. (retd.) Faruk Khan MP.

India, he said.

AL presidium member and former agriculture minister Motia Chowdhury said about 30 lakh people in 16 northern districts are starving as prices of essentials have gone beyond their purchasing capacity.

"Chittagong Fertiliser Factory has been closed. As there is no electricity, how can the government run the factory," she said. "Shutting down our own factory due to shortage of electricity, the government is now importing fertiliser at higher prices."

AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil criticised the ruling alliance for its poor preparation for the upcoming ministerial conference of the World Trade Organisation in Hong Kong, saying that the government is yet to prepare the

country's working paper.

AHSK Sadek, former education minister, said the ruling four-party alliance want to use religion for its political gains.

Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, former state minister for planning, said the ruling party leaders are busy looting national resources by destroying small- and medium-scale industries.

The Awami League leaders said the price of coarse rice ranged between Tk 10 to Tk 11 per kg during the tenure of the AL government, but it was now selling between Tk 17 and Tk 18.

Abdul Mannan, organising secretary of the Awami League, and Prof Abul Barakat, general secretary of Bangladesh Economic Association, also spoke.

Nine killed in road accidents

BDNEWS, Dhaka

At least nine people were killed and four others injured in separate road accidents in Munshiganj, Feni and Mymensingh yesterday.

A Noakhali-bound taxicab from Dhaka collided head-on with a truck coming from the opposite direction at

Baushia of Gazaria upazila on Dhaka-Chittagong highway yesterday leaving four people, including the driver of the taxicab dead on the spot and two others seriously injured.

The taxicab driver was identified as Makbul while the identity of others could not be known immediately. The wounded were admitted to local

hospital.

Road communications on the highway remained suspended for about 30 minutes due to the incident.

Three people were killed and two others injured in two separate road mishaps in Feni yesterday.

Police and witnesses said a bus of Ananda Super Service hit a rickshaw in sadar upazila in the afternoon leaving two people dead on the spot and two others seriously injured.

The deceased were identified as rickshaw passenger Sumi, 10, and cycle rider Kamrul, 18.

The injured - Abul Kashem, 30, a rickshaw puller and Anwara, 35, the mother of Sumi, were admitted to Feni Sadar Hospital.

After the incident, angry people set the bus on fire and put barricade on Feni-Porshuram road bringing the traffic movement to a halt for about an hour.

Later police restored traffic movement on the road.

In a separate accident, a speeding bus crushed a person under its wheels at Dulamia on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at about 1:30 pm yesterday.

The identity of the deceased could not be known immediately.

Two people, including the driver of a truck, were killed in a road accident at Darirampur of Trishal upazila on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway.

Police said the accident occurred when a truck hit another truck, which was being repaired, leaving two people dead on the spot. The deceased were identified as Helal, 35, a truck driver and Chanu, 36, helper of the truck.

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry over the country with chances of rain or thundershowers at one or two places over Chittagong division till 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 33.3 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sandwip and lowest 19.6 degree Celsius at Sayedpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:20pm today and rises at 6:05am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.1	24.4	66	67
Chittagong	32.5	24.0	72	83
Rajshahi	30.8	22.5	72	79
Khulna	31.5	24.8	75	76
Barisal	32.3	22.6	83	86
Sylhet	32.8	22.0	64	75
Cox's Bazar	30.5	23.8	79	88