

Dhaka urges int'l community to help address climate change

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh has urged the major global polluters to help address the challenges of climate change by setting and implementing short-, medium- and long-term global targets.

Addressing a Thematic Debate of the UN General Assembly in New York on Thursday, Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ismat Jahan also called on the international community to fully implement the Kyoto Protocol.

This informal thematic debate on climate change was convened by the president of the General Assembly as a preparatory step for the upcoming high-level meeting of the General Assembly in September 2007 on the sidelines of the 62nd session of the General Assembly, according to a message received in Dhaka.

"For Bangladesh, climate change is a matter of survival. According to the recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change (IPCC), the projection for Bangladesh is ominous, to say the least," Jahan told the meeting.

The ambassador also said the frequency and intensity of extreme weather caused devastating impacts on the country's socio-economic development.

Referring to Bangladesh's initiatives in addressing the climate change, she said the government has already submitted its National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA) to UNFCCC in November 2005.

Bangladesh has set up a two-tier Designated National Authority (DNA) for access to Clean Development Mechanism projects under the Kyoto Protocol.

Ambassador Jahan referred to the establishment of a climate change cell under the Ministry of Environment for mainstreaming climate change issues in the national development strategies and activities.

She stressed that national efforts are unlikely to succeed without commensurate level of global actions and called upon the international community to fully implement the Kyoto Protocol.

Urging the international community to support the efforts of Bangladesh in implementing its adaptation programmes, the ambassador underscored the importance of access to environmentally sound technologies, know-how, practices and processes at an affordable cost.

She also urged the international community to strengthen the Least Developed Country fund under the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Ismat Jahan cautioned that climate change might trigger a large number of 'climate refugees' through sea-level rise and other adverse weather events, particularly in many low-lying developing countries. She called for urgent international attention to address this alarming issue.

She underlined that the concerns and particularities of the least developed countries (LDCs) should get special attention in all future climate change-related discussions and decisions. There should be specific commitment from the development partners for financial and technical assistance for this group of countries, she said.

She said since there is a 'scientific consensus' in climate change, the international community needs to translate this into 'political consensus' for a concrete global action.

One stabbed, Tk 2.04 lakh looted in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muggers stabbed a man and snatched away Tk 2.04 lakh from his sister at Pallabi in the city on Thursday.

Sources said four muggers intercepted Faizur Rahman and his sister Noor Jahan, a British citizen, at Section 7 in Pallabi at around 11:30am when they were returning home in a rickshaw after drawing the money from the Mirpur-10 branch of Islami Bank.

As Faizur tried to resist, the muggers stabbed him in his left thigh and made away with the vanity bag of Noor Jahan that were carrying the money.

BBC Bangladesh Sanglap today


STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The second edition of BBC World Service's Bangladesh Sanglap will be held at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city at 5:45pm today.

Brig Gen (Retd) ASM Hannan Shah, adviser to BNP chairperson, Mahmudur Rahman Manna, Awami League organising secretary, Dr Ainun Nishat, country representative of IUCN, and human rights lawyer Tarana Halim will feature in today's Sanglap.

It will be broadcast on BBC Bangla Radio at 8:00pm on Sunday and telecast on Channel-i television at 8:00pm on Monday.

Appeal for help

 Sarwar Hossain, 30, a database operator, has been suffering from kidney diseases.

Sarwar, son of late Altaf Hossain, is now undergoing treatment at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMU) in critical condition as his both kidneys have been damaged.


According to the doctors, he needs immediate kidney transplantation which involves Tk 10 lakh. But it is not possible for his family to arrange such a big amount of money.

So they have made fervent appeal to the well-off people of the society to come forward in extending financial assistance to save his life.

Contributions can be sent to Muhammad Shahadat Hossain (elder brother) Savings Account No 02003940, Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd, Head Office, Dhaka.

Interested persons can also contact him over cell phone no 01911-256070, says a press release.

Abdullah

 Lying on a bed, Abdullah, a bright student of class six, is fighting for his life as a valve of his heart has been damaged.

After obtaining a scholarship in class five from a school at Rugganj in Narayanganj when he was dreaming of a golden future, he was diagnosed with the disease.

Doctors said he needs immediate treatment which will involve Tk 2.20 lakh.

But his poor father is unable to arrange such a huge amount of money. He has nothing to sell as he had already sold lands to meet the cost of the treatment of his son.

The family has made a fervent appeal to generous people to extend financial assistance to save the life of their son.

Contributions can be sent to Ayesha, Savings Account No 14002, Agrani Bank, Kanchan Branch, Narayanganj.

Interested persons can also contact her over cell phone no 01725645143 or 01718-772654.



PHOTO: PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU OF INDIA

Home Secretary Mohammed Abdul Karim and Indian Union Home Secretary Madhukar Gupta jointly brief the media after signing an agreement on the lines of the 8th Home Secretary level talks in New Delhi yesterday.

Lake Superior changes mystify scientists

AP, Marquette

Deep enough to hold the combined water in all the other Great Lakes and with a surface area as large as South Carolina, Lake Superior's size has lent it an aura of invulnerability. But the mighty Superior is losing water and getting warmer, worrying those who live near its shores, scientists and companies that rely on the lake for business.

The changes to the lake could be signs of climate change, although scientists aren't sure.

Superior's level is at its lowest point in eight decades and will set a record this fall if, as expected, it dips three more inches. Meanwhile, the average water temperature has surged 4.5 degrees since 1979, significantly above the 2.7-degree rise in the region's air temperature during the same period.

That's no small deal for a freshwater sea that was created from glacial melt as the Ice Age ended and remains chilly in all seasons.

A weather buoy on the western side recently recorded an "amazing" 75 degrees, "as warm a surface tempera-

ture as we've ever seen in this lake," said Jay Austin, assistant professor at the University of Minnesota at Duluth's Large Lakes Observatory.

Water levels also have receded on the other Great Lakes since the late 1990s. But the suddenness and severity of Superior's changes worry many in the region. Shorelines are dozens of yards wider than usual, giving sunbathers wider beaches but also exposing mucky bottomlands and rotting vegetation.

On a recent day, Dan Arsenault, a 32-year-old lifelong resident of Sault Ste. Marie in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, watched his two young daughters play in mud on the southeastern coast where water was waist deep only a few years ago. A floatation rope that previously designated the swimming area now rests on moist ground.

"This is the lowest I've ever seen it," said Arsenault.

Superior still has a lot of water. Its average depth is 483 feet and it reaches 1,332 feet at the deepest point. Erie, the shallowest Great Lake, is 210 feet at its deepest and averages only 62 feet. Lake Michigan averages 279 feet and is 925 feet at its deepest.

Yet along Superior's shores, boats can't reach many mooring sites and marina operators are begging the US Army Corps of Engineers to dredge shallow harbours. Ferry service between Grand Portage, Minnesota, and Isle Royale National Park was scaled back because one of the company's boats couldn't dock.

Sally Zabelka has turned away boaters wanting to dock at Chippewa Landing marina in the eastern Upper Peninsula, where not long ago 27-foot vessels easily made their way up the channel from the lake's Brimley Bay. "In essence, our dock is useless this year," she said.



No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over Sylhet, Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said in a forecast.

Highest temperature 34.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sayedpur and lowest 24.0 degree Celsius at Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:40pm today and rises at 5:29am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in	
	in celsius	percentage	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.7	26.4	78	63
Chittagong	32.8	26.3	76	83
Rajshahi	34.3	26.0	84	94
Khulna	33.8	27.0	69	66
Barisal	33.5	26.7	81	69
Sylhet	34.0	24.0	76	66
Cox's Bazar	32.2	25.6	80	83

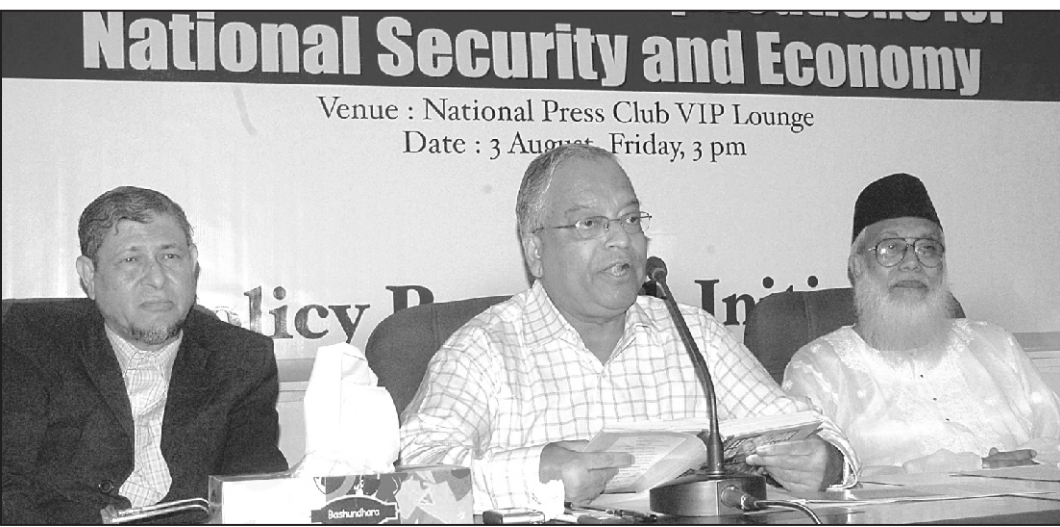


PHOTO: STAR

Prof Dr Mahbubullah speaks at a roundtable on 'Transit-Corridor: Implications for National Security and Economy' at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his left is Justice Abdur Rouf and on his right is Shah Abdul Hannan.



PHOTO: NEWS WORLD

US chapter of Awami League stages a demonstration at Hamtramck city in Michigan yesterday demanding immediate release of AL President Sheikh Hasina.

Govt yet to appoint chair, members in Labour Appeal Tribunal

The government is yet to appoint a chairman and members in Labour Appeal Tribunal although nine months have already passed since the tribunal was formed under Bangladesh Labour Law-2006, said speakers at a discussion on Thursday.

A total of 256 cases are now pending for hearing for this reason, they added.

Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) held the discussion at its office, says a press release.

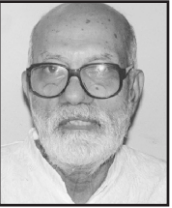
The speakers said the Labour Appeal Tribunal was formed under the Bangladesh Labour Law-2006 and the government implemented the law on October 11, 2006 through publishing a gazette.

They suggested appointment of a Justice and member in the Labour Appeal Tribunal and formation of many benches for quick disposal of the pending cases.

They also emphasised forming the tribunal according to Section 218 under the Bangladesh Labour Law-2006.

Advocate Nesar Uddin Ahmed, president of Labour Court Bar Association and Syed Sultanuddin Ahmed, assistant executive director of Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS), also spoke at the discussion presided by Taslimur Rahman.

Obituary



Muhammad Abu Bakar, former director general of Directorate of Geological Survey and elder brother of former chief election commissioner

MA Syeed, passed away due to a cardiac arrest on Thursday night at the age of 82, says a press release.

He left behind his brothers, sisters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

He was buried at Gopalganj after Asr prayers yesterday.

A milad mahfil will be held at Eastern Housing apartment at Kobi Jasimuddin Road after Asr prayers on August 9 to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Death anniversary



Today is the 30th death anniversary of renowned physician Dr Nawab Ali, says a press release.

Born at Matlab in

Chandpur in 1902, he was a professor of medicine at Dhaka Medical College and one of its founder principals.

Dr Nawab Ali was the surgeon general of the then East Pakistan and founder president of the then East Pakistan Medical Association.

He was also one of the founders of Matlab Cholera Hospital in Chandpur.

He was elected a member of the then provincial assembly (MPA).

Comptroller and Auditor General Asif Ali is his second son.

Dr Nawab Ali Smriti Parishad has taken up several programmes on the occasion.

Lutfur Rahman Zulfikar



Today is the 14th death anniversary of journalist and poet Lutfur Rahman Zulfikar, says a press release.

He was the editor of the

'Natun Din'.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at East Bashabo Jame Mosque after Maghrib prayers. Relatives and well-wishers are requested to attend the milad mahfil and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

'Strengthen WARPO to implement water projects'

Speakers at a dialogue have called for strengthening the Water Resources Planning Organisation (WARPO) to implement National Water Management Plan.

They said the WARPO deserves to be strengthened to act as the 'Clearing House' for all water sector projects.

The national dialogue on 'Developing coordination mechanism and strengthening apex body in the water sector in Bangladesh' was jointly organised by Bangladesh Water Partnership (BWP) and WARPO in the city on Wednesday, says a press release.

A keynote paper on 'Integrated water resources management' was presented at the dialogue by WARPO Director General M Inamul Haque.

In his paper, Haque pointed out that water resources management in Bangladesh has many diverse problems and issues.

The most critical of these are alternating flood and water scarcity during the wet and the dry seasons, ever expanding water needs of a growing economy and population,

and massive river sedimentation and bank erosion, he added.

CEIGIS Executive Director Giasuddin Ahmed Chowdhury presented the other paper on 'Capacity building of water sector institutions in Bangladesh.'

In his paper, Chowdhury categorically underscored the need to recognise WARPO as apex body in water sector for macro-planning.

Additional Director General of Bangladesh Water Development Board Engineer Md Amir Khosru highlighted the inadequate size and capacity of WARPO to carry out its mandated function.

Chaired and moderated by BWP President Qamrul Islam Siddique, the dialogue was also participated by eminent personalities like Prof Asif Nazrul of law department at Dhaka University, Country Representative of IUCN-Bangladesh Dr Ainun Nishat, BWP Vice-president Ambassador Muhammad Zamir, Programme Manager of Poverty Group at UNDP Shaila Khan, Senior Specialist of World Bank K Minnattullah, Zahiruddin Ahmed of

Asian Development Bank, JICA Expert Susumu Sugatani, Paul Edwards of Unicef, SM Rafiquzzaman of World Bank and TEC Member Harmul Bruhl of GWP.

One killed in B'baria road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT B'baria

A passerby was killed when a truck knocked him down on a bridge on Chandura-Akhaura road at Arial in Brahmanbaria Sadar yesterday.

The victim was identified as Aftab Ali, 35, of the village Arial.

Witnesses said as the truck boarded on the bridge, its front wheel went out of order. As a result, the truck dashed the railing of the bridge and rammed Aftab who died on the spot.

The driver and the helper of the truck managed to escape.

The body was sent to Sadar hospital morgue for autopsy.



PHOTO: STAR

National Professor Dr MR Khan cuts a cake at a programme celebrating his 80th birthday at the Central Hospital in the city yesterday. The hospital authorities organised the programme.

DHAKA TODAY

Orientation

The orientation programme of Purana Paltan Girls' Degree College will be held. Venue: College premises. Time: 11:00am.

Discussion

Nirapad Sarak Chai will hold a discussion titled 'We want implementation of existing laws to prevent road accidents: We want new laws'. Venue: Shishu Academy auditorium. Time: 10:30am.

Cultural day

The British Council's Young Learners' Centre organises its Cultural Day 2007. Venue: British Council. Time: 10:30am.

Discussion on 1857 movement

A discussion titled 'The first independence movement in 1857: Context today's Bangladesh' will be held. Venue: Faculty of Business studies auditorium. Time: 3:30pm.

Convention

The Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Managers of Bangladesh (ICSMB) organises a programme marking its 10th Anniversary and National Convention 2007. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre.

Time: 9:00am.

Rotary Dhaka Central

The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1:30pm.

View exchange meeting

Stranded Pakistanis' Youth Rehabilitation Movement organises a view exchange meeting titled 'Enlistment of Urdu-speaking camp dwellers in the voter list as Bangladesh citizens and their human rights'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

Workshop

E-Zone HRM Limited Dhaka in association with Knowledge Globalisation Institute, Boston, USA will organise a workshop on 'Identifying, managing and implementing organisational change'. Venue: Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. Time: 8:30am.

Discussion on politics

A discussion titled 'The new journey of Bangladesh politics' will be held. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:00pm.

Rotary Dhaka North West

The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka North West will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 5:30pm.

Concern over laid-off jute mills, workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different socio-political organisations on Thursday expressed grave concern over laying-off the jute mills at Khalishpur in Khulna and demanded immediate payment of due salaries and arrears of the workers and their alternative employment.

They also urged the government to review its decision on humanitarian ground.

In a joint statement, Karmojibi Nari (KN) President Shirin Akhter and General Secretary Sharmin Kabir said a disaster will happen if the workers are not paid their due salaries.

Leaders of Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (Skop) said laying-off the jute mills will cause huge unemployment and a decline in country's jute industry.

Bangladesh Trade Union Kendra President Wajedul Islam Khan said the decision to lay off the jute mills doesn't preserve national interest.

Leaders of Jatiya Samajtantrik Sramik Jote urged the concerned ministry and Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) to review their decision on humanitarian ground.