

Meghna to be model basin for flood forecasting, rainfall

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh is going to evolve a model for forecasting flood and rainfall in the Meghna and after completion of the Meghna model by 2011, all the river basins of the country will be brought under the model attuned to the Meghna.

In view of looming impact of climate change, a 10-year implementation plan has been taken under the framework of Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) to improve sustainable water resource management in Bangladesh.

The GEOSS, an alliance of 52 governments, including European Commission, is assisting the South Asian 18 countries, including Bangladesh, to improve the water resources management through sharing data and information system as part of regional cooperation among the regions.

As part of the move, Asian Water Cycle Initiative (AWCI) under the GEOSS, a comprehensive environmental data and information provider worldwide, has selected Bangladesh's Meghna river basin as a model basin.

Joint Secretary of the defence ministry Brig Gen Shah Md Sultan Uddin Iqbal yesterday told the news agency that a committee has been formed where a cell comprising a number of organisations is working on it.

The organisations are Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD), Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) along with number of NGOs.

Sultan Uddin Iqbal, who is also the 2nd focal point of GEOSS, said under the cell a doppler radar is being installed in Moulvibazar and it will come to an end by March

2009.

Talking to the news agency, Head of Synoptic Division of Saarc Meteorological Research Centre (SMRC) Dr Nazrul Islam said the earth system would provide the country with proper inputs for actual projection of climate change towards formulation of planned climate change adaptation strategy.

Dr Islam, however, observed that SMRC urgently required a high-powered server worth to be around Tk 12 crore for long-time and permanent climate change forecasting. The server will help keep the planned Meghna model operational.

A report of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) revealed that Bangladesh is vulnerable to climate change impacts where scientific and technical capabilities are must to cope with the change.

The IPCC report said the global

average temperature increased 0.74 degree Celsius during the last 100 years leading to melting of good amount of snow and ice. This increase in the temperature eventually led sea-level rise to 17cms changing the global rainfall pattern.

It suggested capacity building of the country's research institutions related to climate change for yielding comprehensive and scientific results on climate change impacts, vulnerabilities, adaptation and mitigation, adding that if it continues in the present trend, the low-lying countries might face increase in droughts resulting changed coastlines and inundation.

As a result of climate change, Bangladesh and low-lying countries in South Asia will be the worst affected ones leading to hamper the sustainable development in the Saarc countries, the IPCC report added.



PHOTO: STAR

Dr Samanta Lal Sen speaks at a discussion on 'Rehabilitation of the acid burnt women and awareness' at the Sirajganj College auditorium in the town yesterday. The daily Prothom Alo organised the discussion.

Refusal to love, altercation over land main reasons of acid violence

Speakers tell discussion

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Speakers at a discussion here on Saturday said refusal to proposals of love or marriage and altercation over land are among the main reasons of acid violence and all forms of such violence occur for such incidents.

Miscreants use acid as a weapon for taking retaliation on their rivals, they said, adding, all should follow the acid selling and purchasing rules completely to resist the violence.

Prothom Alo, a leading national vernacular daily, organised the discussion on 'Rehabilitation of the acid burnt women and awareness' at the Sirajganj College auditorium in the town.

Presided over by Sub-Editor of the daily and Coordinator of Prothom Alo Assistance Fund for Acid Burnt Women Ferdous Foyzal, the programme was attended by Dr Samanta Lal Sen, surgeon and Burn Unit chief of Dhaka Medical College Hospital and adviser of the assistance fund, as the chief guest.

The speakers said an acid victim is likely to get back a normal life again, if he or she gets assistance from the society. Besides, a little financial assistance can change their life and make them solvent.

They called on all to become aware of acid throwers and illegal traders so that they cannot damage any potential life further.

The speakers further said Shahzadpur and Belkuchi upazilas of the district are places of high acid violence, as the upazilas are famous for loom industries in the country, adding that as acid is available here for use in the industries, people use the chemical as a weapon when they engage in family feud, they said.

Chief Executive of Persona Beauty Care Kaniz Almas Khan, Principal of Sunnydale School Tazin Ahmed, Additional District Magistrate (ADM) in Sirajganj Rafiqul Alam, Sirajganj Police Super Alami Rahman and Sharp Director Shaukat Ali also spoke at the programme.

At least 46 female acid victims were identified in the district in a

survey so far. Most of them came under acid attacks at Shahzadpur and Belkuchi upazilas, the survey report revealed.

Prothom Alo at the programme gave away certificates and provide financial assistance, including 18 cows, seven sewing machines, a handloom machine, two rickshaw vans, three houses and 28 goats, for 43 female acid victims for their rehabilitation.

Kohinur Khatun, an acid victim of Solonga who got a cow for rearing, expressed her reaction to The Daily Star, saying she had been leading an uncertain life after being the acid victim.

People disregard her as she has lost her facial and body charm. Nobody likes to talk to her and wants her company. But now she had found a ray of hope to survive, she added.

"I want to be a solvent woman by rearing the cow. If I become solvent, nobody will dare disregard

me. I'll set up a dairy farm in future with my continuous effort", Kohinur said.

Farzana Khatun Shova, another acid victim who got a job with the help of the daily at a beauty parlour, said she is now earning Tk 2500 per month. She wants to be a beautician in future.

Acid victims Maya Begum, Anowara Khatun and Rubi Khatun said they will try to make them solvent with these assistance. They called for putting an end to throw acid on men or women and demanded that law enforcement agencies try acid attackers in a symbolic tribunal.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Non-govt Primary School Teachers' Samity President Aminul Islam Chowdhury addresses a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity in the city yesterday. On his right is Abu Bakar Siddique. Bangladesh Non-govt Primary School Teachers' Samity organised the press conference.

Ban on movement of trucks during daytime in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A restriction on movement of trucks and covered vans and loading and unloading of the vehicles during the daytime in Chittagong came into effect from yesterday.

The traffic department of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) enforced the restriction under which trucks and covered vans are not allowed to enter or depart the city during the daytime from 7:00am until 8:00pm.

The restriction came into effect after the seven days' notice to the concerned transport owners expired on Saturday.

On the first day of enforcement of the restriction, the CMP traffic

department detained 67 vehicles, including 47 trucks, for violating the restriction, said DC (traffic) Abu Sufian, adding that 223 vehicles were fined on different charges for violation of the traffic rules.

Under the restriction, trucks and covered vans carrying goods to and from the Chittagong Port are allowed to continue movement only along the Dhaka-Chittagong highway diverting the city centre, he said.

However, trucks or covered vans engaged in carrying export-import goods, particularly the essential commodities for the holy Ramadan, would be able to ply the city roads during the daytime with stickers of CMP traffic department,

said the DC (traffic).

The stickers are available at the offices of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI), he said.

A coordination meeting of the CMP traffic department with BGMEA and CCCI leaders, exporters, importers, godown owners and businessmen on August 3 unanimously decided to restrict movement of trucks during the daytime.

Such restriction on movement of trucks that already exists in Dhaka city is aimed at easing traffic congestion in the city, sources said.

Road accident kills schoolgirl in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A schoolgirl was killed and her mother critically injured when a covered van hit their rickshaw on the way to their relative's house in the city's Shyampur last night.

The victim was identified as Niki Akhet, 12, a student of class-V of Chand Ghoru Govt Primary School in Uzirpur upazila in Barisal. Her body was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy while the mother, Lutfa Begum, 45, was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

Police said Niki and her mother were going to their relative's house at Muradpur under Shyampur police station in a rickshaw from Sadarghat Launch Terminal at about 8:00pm.

Police said a speeding covered van hit their rickshaw, leaving Niki dead on the spot and injured her mother critically, near the residence of their relative.

Police seized the vehicle and arrested its driver, a 35-year-old man.

Time won't be extended for submission of moallem fees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will not extend time of submitting moallem fees of the aspirant hajis, Religious Affairs Secretary Muhammad Ataur Rahman yesterday informed different hajj agencies who yesterday demanded to give a chance for at least a day to submit moallem fees.

Haj Agencies Association of Bangladesh (Haab) urged the government to declare haj flight schedule immediately and withdrawn all punitive steps taken against a section of haj agencies.

"This year time of submitting moallem fees was for four months while the time was three months in the previous year," Ataur Rahman told the haj agencies at a meeting at the Ashkona Haj Camp at Uttara in the city.

"We have urged the government to give us time at least for one day to submit moallem (guide) fees," said Haab Secretary General Muhammad Eyaqub Sharafati.

Religious adviser warned the haj agencies of stern action if hajis are cheated and handled disgracefully.

The meeting discussed the development of taking rented houses in Saudi Arabia for hajis and training of the aspirant pilgrims.

Presided over by Joint Secretary AHM Afzal Hossain, the meeting was also addressed by Haab President Muhammad Faruq.

JAIL KILLING CASE Defence counsels conclude submissions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) today starts hearing the prosecution arguments in the 1975 Jail Killing Case, as the defence counsels have concluded their submissions yesterday.

The HC bench comprising Justice Nazrul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Md Ataur Rahman Khan yesterday adjourned the hearing and fixed today for next proceedings of the case.

Barrister Abdullah-al Mamun, a counsel for the convicts, told The Daily Star that after hearing the submissions from the prosecution lawyers, the HC would deliver the verdict in this case.

On July 30, the government appointed seven lawyers, including Anisul Huq and Nurul Islam Surjan, as state counsels for conducting the case on behalf of the family members of the four national leaders killed in Dhaka Central Jail.

TRAWLER CAPSIZE 8 fishermen rescued, 5 still missing

A CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Eight fishermen, who went missing on Saturday after a trawler sank at the estuary of the Bay of Bengal near Nijhum Dwip, were rescued in a critical condition yesterday.

Five other fishermen, however, are still missing.

They are identified as Jahir, 40, Liton, 17, Robiul, 40, Nobil, 27, and Rafique, 35. All the missing fishermen are resident of Nijhum Dwip.

The trawler went missing on Saturday evening with 13 fishermen and boatmen on board. Other boats fishing in the sea

returned and informed police about the incident. Police with the help of local people began rescue operation the next morning.

Nijhum Dwip ward member Tajul Islam said that the trawler turned turtle on its way home due to gusty wind.

Eight people, including owner of the trawler Jahangir, were rescued yesterday.

"Rescue operation was going on to rescue the missing five fishermen and the trawler," said Babul Chandra Banik, officer-in-charge of Hatia Police Station.



PHOTO: STAR

Govt College Hostel Karmachari Oikya Jote leader Md Haider Ali speaks at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right are Kamal Hossain and Md Wahiduzzaman. Govt College Hostel Karmachari Oikya Jote organised the press conference.

DU MCJ Alumni Assoc formed

BSS, Dhaka

The Teachers-Students Centre (TSC) of Dhaka University (DU) became full of life last night as hundreds of former students of Department of Mass Communication and Journalism (MCJ) of the university gathered on the occasion of formation of DU MCJ Alumni Association.

While recalling the campus life in a unique ambience, the former students got back to the golden days by greeting and enquiring each other's welfare. With eyes probing, they were looking for the friends of the varsity days and became charged with emotion getting some of them in their midst.

The function started with observing a minute's silence as a mark of respect to the memories of teachers and students who left this mundane world.

Chairman of the department Dr Shaikh Abdus Salam presided over the function.

It was addressed, among others, by former chairman of the department Prof Shakhwat Ali Khan, ex-president of Dhaka University Teachers Association Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique, additional secretary of the Cabinet Division Zahid Hossain, district and sessions judge of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-5 of Dhaka Mohammad Shamsul Haque, Zafin Zabin Chowdhury of Unicef, Dilrose Hossain of ActionAid and Sheikh Nazrul Islam of ATN Bangla.

Later, a 41-member committee of DU MCJ Alumni Association was formed for one year with Dr Shaikh Abdus Salam, Mohammad Shamsul Haque and Kazi Moazzem Hossain as its president, general secretary and organising secretary.

The function ended with performing songs by former students of the department.

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Please write the post title you are applying for on the top of the envelope.

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