

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 a 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 17cm 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 in 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.

Road accident kills schoolgirl in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A schoolgirl was killed and her mother critically injured when a covered van hit her 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 Ghora Govt Primary School in Uzirpur upazila in Barisal. Her body was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy while the mother, Lutfia 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, one of high offi

ce of the day.

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 haji 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 hajagencies.

"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 haji agencies at a meeting at the Ashokna Haj Camp at Uttara in the city.

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

Religious adviser warned the haji 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 Abdulla-al Momin, 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 Sujan, as state counsels for conducting the case on behalf of the family members of the four national leaders killed in Dhaka Central Jail.

Nicholas Genis, international affairs counsellor to IUBAT, will present a keynote paper in the dialogue.



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.

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, Robul, 40, Nobi, 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.

TRAWLER CAPSIZE 8 fishermen rescued, 5 still missing

A CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

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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.

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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.



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.

Misscreants 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 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.

Kohirun 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 said.

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

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 Shahjadpur and Beluchi 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 feuds, 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 Alamgir Rahman and Sharp Director Shawkat Ali also spoke at the programme.

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

Set up girls' cadet college in Rajshahi

RU female students urge govt

RU CORRESPONDENT

Around 100 female students of Rajshahi University (RU) have urged the caretaker government to establish a girls' cadet college in Rajshahi and ensure equal rights for women in education sector.

In a memorandum faxed to the chief adviser on Saturday, they said the army chief earlier announced that girls' cadet college would be set up in every district of the country.

"We, the female students of RU, congratulate the decision and hope that the government will take necessary steps for establishing a girls' cadet college in Rajshahi," they said.

The signatories to the memorandum include Munmun Yesmin, Shamina Nasrin, Sabina Chowdhury, Laboni Sarker, Saleha Khatun, Fatima Khatun and Laila Zakia.

The Centre for Global Environmental Culture (CGEC) of International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) will organise a dialogue on 'education for sustainability' at 11:00am tomorrow at the Cirdap auditorium in the city, says a press release.

Nicholas Genis, international affairs counsellor to IUBAT, will present a keynote paper in the dialogue.

The British Council, an equal opportunity employer, is looking for a young and energetic person to fill in the following post in its main office in Dhaka. The post will encompass duties and competencies as outlined below:

Finance Officer

Duties

- Preparation of payment instrument (vouchers, indents).
- Managing debtor accounts.
- Management of Standing Balances.
- End of month & end of year procedures.
- Cash management.
- Maintaining day to day accounts (feeding into SUN/SAP systems).
- Preparation of monthly staff payroll.
- Preparation of Revenue reconciliation.

Competencies Required

- Achievement: Works towards goals and manages obstacles to set and meet challenging targets, in compliance with quality, time and diversity standards and delivering the required business results.
- Customer Services Orientation: Qualities to give priority to customers, delivering high quality services to meet their needs.
- Analytical Thinking: Thinking facts, data and situations analytically to find cause and effect and to use them to make effective decisions.
- Team Working: Ability to work in a team co-operatively, across cultural and organisational boundaries to achieve shared goals.
- Professional Confidence: Have confidence on own ability and make decisions without deferring unnecessarily to others and is prepared to stand by difficult or unpopular decisions.
- Financial Planning and Management: Planning & Forecasting, Monitoring & reporting, Receipts process, Payment process.

Qualifications

- Bachelors degree or equivalent in Accounting, ACCA, CIMA etc
- Excellent spoken and written English
- Excellent IT/web skills
- Working experience preferably in foreign organisation, donor agencies, NGOs etc.