



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

Plus Star Forum

COMMITTED
TO
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www.thedailystar.net

• REGD. NO. DA 781 • VOL. XIX NO. 318 • DHAKA MONDAY DECEMBER 7, 2009 •

• AGRAHAYAN 23, 1416 BS • ZILHAJ 19, 1430 HIJRI • 24 PAGES PLUS STAR FORUM PRICE: TK 10.00 •



Climate bell tolls

Livelihood changes with weather

INAM AHMED

Inside her small dark, musty hut, Pia Rani looks like a haunted animal. Fear and insecurity etched in her desperate eyes; she is even hesitant to open the bamboo door just a crack to see her visitors.

"My husband is away. He has left the village," she then says quietly. "What else could he do?"

Well. What else could he do? The villagers agree. In fact, what should we all do? Follow Pia Rani's husband Ranjan Jaladash? they ask. At Chokoria's fishermen's colony, everybody is desperate to find a way out, to know what lies ahead for them.

This year, Ranjan tried and failed repeatedly to make a single successful trip to the deep sea. Each time he sailed out,

the sea turned rough after a few days. The danger signals were raised. The waters roiled and darkened. The fishing trawler tossed madly. And Ranjan had to abandon his trip.

"With every trip he abandoned, our loans piled up," Pia says. "He borrowed from the mahajans. A lot of it. And then he just lost the battle."

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Pia Rani sees a bleak future. At Chokoria's Jaladash neighbourhood in Cox's Bazar, many fishermen like her husband Ranjan are deserting the village or changing their profession failing to cope with a changed weather and a changed sea. Inset, two rickshaws kept at a corner of this house in the village indicate that fishermen are now pulling rickshaw instead of fishing.

PHOTO: STAR

Copenhagen talks open today

Rising sea to cost Bangladesh dear

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Just a one-meter rise in sea level might cause around 17 percent of Bangladesh's landmass to go under water, displacing some 20 million people living in coastal areas,

forecasts Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

A model developed by Bangladesh Centre for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS) also demonstrates a similar scenario.

In its model, CEGIS shows if the sea level rises 32cm, it

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PINAKI ROY from Copenhagen

Bangladesh is all set to place its demands including reduction of carbon emission by developed countries, to fight the impacts of global warming as the United Nations Climate Change Summit kicks off today in Copenhagen, Denmark.

As a representative of the least developed and most vulnerable countries, Bangladesh

demands that the developed nations (Annex I countries) commit to reduce 40 percent carbon emission by 2020 and 80 percent by 2050 and keep the rise of world temperature within 2 degrees Celsius.

Bangladesh is also demanding allocation of adaptation funds according to a climate vulnerability index.

The inaugural session of the summit will

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An SOS from newspapers

Today, over 56 newspapers in 44 countries take the unprecedented step of speaking with one voice through a common editorial. We do so because humanity faces a profound emergency.

Unless we combine to take decisive action, climate change will ravage our planet, and with it our prosperity and security. The dangers have been becoming apparent for a generation. Now the facts have started to speak: 11 of the past 14 years have been the warmest on record, the Arctic ice-cap is melting and last year's inflamed oil and food prices provide a foretaste of future havoc. In scientific journals

the Daily Star

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