

Khulna under grave risk

Climate report sees it among 15 most threatened cities in world

PINAKI ROY from Copenhagen

Khulna, the southern metropolis of Bangladesh, has been identified as one of the 15 most vulnerable cities under climate change impact. The report "Climate Change and the Urban Poor: Risk and resilience in 15 of the world's most vulnerable cities" published recently by International Institute for Development and Environment termed 12 cities from Africa and three from



World leaders pledge support
Hasina urges them to give priority to mankind
UNB, Copenhagen

World Leaders assured Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of standing by Bangladesh in its grim fight against the climate change impacts on human life, ecology, economy and agriculture. Hasina got the assurances when she attended a joint luncheon hosted by Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao at his hotel Radisson Blue Scandinavia suite and a break-fast meeting with six world leaders including UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon at the Bella Centre in the Danish capital yesterday. Abul Kalam Azad, Press Secretary to the Bangladesh premier, briefed newsmen

Inflation shoots up by 46pc in a month

Rising food price blamed

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Inflation rate on point-to-point basis has increased by 46 percent in a month and stood at 6.71 percent in October mainly because of rising food price. In September, the inflation rate was 4.60 percent. According to statistics of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), the food inflation in urban areas has reached near about double digit. Economists and development partners said it is not yet alarming but the government would have to be cautious so that the rate does not go further up as the poor people are most hurt by the inflation. According to the BBS statistics, the inflation rate for both food and non-food

items has increased. Compared to September food inflation rose by 56 percent in October and the inflation became 7.78 percent, which was 4.98 percent in September. Non-food inflation rate rose by 18 percent and stood at 5.07 percent in October, which was 4.28 percent in September. Food inflation rose at higher rate in urban areas than in rural areas. In October, urban food inflation was 9 percent, which was 7.26 percent in rural areas. During the immediate past caretaker government, the inflation rate crossed double digit. But after the present government assumed power, it started to fall and in June the inflation fell down to 2.25

percent. But since July it started increasing slowly every month. Recent food inflation is caused by both national and international factors. India has been for the first time in 21 years importing rice as drought damaged paddy in that country. On the other hand two consecutive cyclones in the Philippines destroyed rice crop. As a result, the Philippines is also importing rice. These factors have pushed the rice price up in world market. In Bangladesh drought damaged Aus crop and delayed rainfall is most likely to cause lower Aman harvest. Already rice price has started increasing in local markets in last one month. According to TCB report published

SC UPHOLDS HC VERDICT
Law secy's appointment illegal
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday upheld the High Court (HC) verdict that declared illegal the appointment of Kazi Habibul Awal as law secretary. A seven-member full bench of the Appellate Division headed by Justice Md Tafazzul Islam passed the verdict, after dismissing two appeals filed by Habibul Awal and the government. On February 18 last year, the HC delivered the verdict upon a writ petition. Awal was continuing in the service of the law secretary, since the Appellate Division stayed the HC verdict. Writ petitioner's lawyer Barrister Ajamul Hossain yesterday told reporters Awal has to go back to his previous office of the additional secretary to the legislative and

4 rivers declared ecologically critical

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) on December 15 declared the four rivers and its foreshores, adjacent to the capital, ecologically critical to save the rivers from encroachers and pollution. They banned dumping sewage from home, industries and other institutions, setting up industries which pollute soil, water, air and sound and any work which can change the natural character of rivers Buriganga, Turag, Shitalakhya and Balu. They also banned activities and hunting that destroy habitation of fish and other aquatic animals. According to the Port Act 1908 and Port Rules 1966, setting up any unapproved structures, digging soil or sand, filling through soil and sand or waste are punishable offences. To keep up the navigability of the rivers and to keep the rivers and its foreshores free from encroachers, BIWTA requested everyone to refrain from setting up illegal structures and lifting sands on the bank of the four rivers. BIWTA also warned the persons who set up illegal structures there and asked them to shift the structures immediately, otherwise they will take action. According to survey report by Dhaka, Narayanganj, Gazipur and Munshiganj district administration, over 8000 land grabbers occupied areas of the four rivers building various structures.



Encroachers fence off a section of the Buriganga near Dikr Char in Narayanganj to set up a brickfield. The Daily Star ran a news item on the same on May 31 this year but the authorities are yet to take any action against the grabbers.

Khaleda wants 25pc more carbon cut

She slates govt's lobbying for 'handouts' at Copenhagen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday hoped that the Copenhagen climate conference would bring an international global charter with the developed nations promising to cut carbon emission by 25 percent more than they promised in the Kyoto Protocol. She said Bangladesh is one of the countries to be worst affected by climate change and it would not be possible for Bangladesh to face this challenge alone with-



out unity and solidarity among the people of the whole world. "We have expressed our solidarity to the possibility of unity of thinking and work in this regard across the world," she said at a press conference at her Gulshan office yesterday evening. Khaleda "on behalf of the people of Bangladesh" placed a three-point policy stance that includes the carbon emission issue. She expressed hope that the government

BANGABANDHU VERDICT Text released

Convicts get copy Sunday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The convicts on death row in Bangabandhu assassination case will get copy of the historic Supreme Court (SC) judgement on Sunday. They will get 30 days for filing review petitions with the apex court after receiving the copy. The full text of the 412-page judgement was released yesterday but copy of it was not available since the SC bench signed it late in the afternoon. The five-member bench headed by Justice Md Tafazzul Islam heard appeals by five of the 12 convicts sentenced to death by the High Court (HC). Earlier on November 19, the SC bench dismissed their appeals against the HC verdict. These five -- Lt Col (sacked) Syed Farooq Rahman, Lt Col (ret'd)

Coco-4 capsized for overloading

Probe body also blames inefficiency of staff; similar report on Kishoreganj tragedy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The two inquiry committees, formed to investigate the recent ferry disasters in Bhola and Kishoreganj, made public their reports yesterday. The probe body on Bhola launch capsized blamed overloading and carelessness of MV Coco-4 staff for the incident. While the committee on Kishoreganj motorboat accident said lack of skill of the motorboat driver, carelessness of the staff and overloading

caused the motorboat accident. Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan disclosed the reports at the conference room of the ministry. The Bhola report, submitted to the ministry on December 10, identifies seven reasons behind MV Coco-4 capsized in the river Tentulia in Bhola on November 27 that left 85 persons dead. It says for collecting fares the Coco-4 crew locked its exit gate creating panic among the passengers.

Ruling party men beat up two journos

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jubo League men beat up two newsmen at Dhunat upazila in Bogra leaving them badly injured last night because of publication of reports against their activities on December 16. The reporters are identified as Rafiqul Alam of the Jugantor and Masud Rana of the Prothom Alo. They were rushed to Dhunat Upazila Health Complex with injuries to their head, eyes and ears. Officer-in-charge Mohammad Yasin of Dhunat Police Station told reporters that a team of police led by him rescued the two reporters

New climate deal may have to wait

Dhaka disappointed; developed, developing nations fail to bury differences

PINAKI ROY from Copenhagen

The climate deal prospect looked bleak yesterday as 119 heads of state and government attending the UN climate summit in Copenhagen struggled to bury the differences between the developed and developing nations over the issue of carbon emission cut. But not much progress in any sector has been achieved so far, one of the negotiators from Bangladesh said. Since the high level segment began on Tuesday, the ministers took over the negotiation part and were struggling to reach an agreement on different issues -- the peaking year of temperature, percentage of emission cuts and financing the poor nations to deal with the climate change.

Both the coalitions of developed and developing nations remained at odds over who should cut emissions and to what extent and how much financial aid should go to poor countries. Fighting over emissions cut issue the talks remained stalled for almost two working days in the last two weeks. It came to a halt for nine hours on Wednesday what Yov de Boer, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) secretary general, termed "unexpected stop". However, the ministers were busy to fix the stalemate till late into the night yesterday. Though world leaders are not acting as per the demands of least developed countries


More EC grant for Aila-hit people

BSS, Dhaka

The European Commission (EC) has allocated a further 5 million euro to continue the humanitarian assistance to the Aila-affected people of the country's southwestern region. "Europe has been closely following the victims of Aila in the last months, for many this was their second cyclone within eighteen months--Sidr then Aila," said Jean-Jacques Lauret, Charge d' Affaires of the European Union (EU) Delegation to Bangladesh. Earlier this year, said Jean-Jacques, the EU allocated 4

In the Name of Allah, the most beneficent, the most merciful.

WE MOURN



Mr. Omar Faruque, renowned industrialist, director Raj Textile Mills Ltd, former director Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industries and Bangladesh Textiles Mills Association, veteran Rotarian has passed away on Wednesday, 16th December in Singapore General Hospital (Inna-illahi---rajeewoon). He was 69.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held today, 18th December after Jumma prayers at Gulshan No. 1 Jam-e-Mosque (Opposite Pizza Hut).

A devout son, adoring husband, devoted father, doting grandfather, dedicated social worker and benevolent patron to his employees, late Omar Faruque will be dearly missed.

We seek prayers for the salvation of his departed soul.

Lutf-un-Nessa Khatoun (Mother), Professor Dr. Hasina Banoo (Wife), Mostafa Kamal-Quader Nawaz (Brothers), Suhana Ahmed-Anis Ahmed, Omar Shareef-Samiya Shareef, Omar Sadat- Sarwat S. Omar
House # 28, Road # 23, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212.

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