

## Khaleda wants

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will not reduce the COP 15 conference to a mere opportunity of getting fund from the rich countries by not raising fundamental issues that affect all both globally and nationally.

"Lobbying for handouts [at Copenhagen] is below our national dignity," Khaleda said.

"We hope the government of the day does not fail us by stooping low to get funds at the Copenhagen meet. Affluent countries ought to meet their moral obligations," she added.

Khaleda said she already gave a statement appealing to world leaders and the global community committed to save life on earth and livelihoods, saying, "Let us stand together to save the planet and the people of Bangladesh, now."

In her address to newsmen, the leader of the opposition also warned people of the country that an effort is going on in the name of global warming to hide local and regional crimes that are destroying life and environment.

"Bangladesh becomes dry because of the Farakka barrage... Salinity is increasing in the southeast region," she said.

Trees in the Sundarbans are dying and many other flora and fauna are facing extinction because of salinity. Meanwhile a conspiracy is going on to implement the Tipaimukh dam project, she said, urging the head of Indian government to refrain from implementing projects detrimental to environment.

Asked about her observation regarding the activities of the Bangladesh delegation led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Copenhagen, Khaleda said she does not know anything about their activities as of now.

She expressed gratitude to those who raised voices for the people of vulnerable countries and took part in peaceful demonstrations across the world. "A demand for compensation for adaptation has been raised but we think it is a moral obligation for the rich countries," she said.

Khaleda's three-point policy also includes assurance that Bangladesh will not be deprived of technologies because of restrictions on the rights to intellectual property or the desire for high profit. She asked developed nations to make technologies available for countries like Bangladesh to tackle the impacts of the abnormal change in climate.

The former prime minister also requested development partners of Bangladesh to cooperate in formulating policies for a sustainable development and provide support to implement those.

BNP General Secretary Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Senior Joint Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, former secretaries Shamsheer Mobin Chowdhury and Sabihuddin Ahmed and former IGP Abdul Quayyum were present at the press conference.

**STATEMENT TO GLOBAL COMMUNITY**  
In her statement, Khaleda thanked the millions of people who took a strong stance to get "climatic justice" delivered as

### Third BDR trial

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A preparatory meeting was held at the 19 Rifles Battalion headquarters yesterday morning where officials of BDR, army, district administration, police, jail authorities, NSI, DGI and other departments concerned were present.

The BDR started the trial for the mutiny across the country on November 24 from Rangamati and the second trial started on December 7 in Satkhira.

Sources say BDR Director General Maj Gen Mainul Islam would conduct the third trial in Feni. Lt Col Zaman and Maj Masud of the BDR Comilla Sector will also be in the court.

Commander of 19 Rifles Battalion Lt Col Salah Uddin would serve as the prosecutor. A representative nominated by the attorney general and two public prosecutors would stand for the state in the court.

Some members of the 19 Rifle Battalion took part in the mutiny by opening blank fires and putting up barricade on Feni-Majiddeh road on February 26 following revolt at the Pikhana headquarters in Dhaka.

The then officer-in-charge of Daganbhuiyan police Santosh Barua filed a case against 64 people, who were all arrested on May 14 and sent to Feni jail through the Judicial Court of Md Emdad Ullah.

Lt Col Salah Uddin said of the 64, trial of 62 will start on Sunday under the BDR Act, but as the other two are civilians their trial will be held later.

Complainant of the case BDR Subedar Jalal Ahmed will read out the allegations brought against the accused in the court. The accused will be present in the court in BDR uniform.

an outcome of COP-15.

"Their demand for unconditional compensation from rich the countries, for those who have become victims of this human-induced calamities caused by greenhouse gas emission, has united them with a deep bondage with the people of Bangladesh," she said.

Khaleda hoped that world leaders stand for justice and will not lose this opportunity to come up with a final text that is based on the positions for which people's consensus all over the world has already been formed.

"We all must save our planet, people and life from the imminent danger of global warming. We must take responsibility defined by our different capacities, moral obligation and differential position in the global economy," she said, adding that the opportunity that has arrived in Copenhagen must not end in vain.

She said the people of Bangladesh do not like to see themselves as dependent on aid or be conceived as merely receivers of money. But the developed countries have the moral obligation not only to mitigate this global vulnerability but also to support people's capacity for adaptation.

"I expect that the present Awami League-led grand alliance government will look at both local and global factors as well as regional factors that is definitely going to increase vulnerabilities of people due to climate change and will act to mitigate such threats," her statement said.

### Ruling party

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from upazila Jubo League office after they (reporters) were severely beaten by the ruling party men.

Reporter Masud Rana at the hospital told The Daily Star that upazila Awami League president TIM Nurunnabi Tareque over cellphone asked him to go to upazila complex from Dhanat bazaar around 5:00pm.

On his arrival, around 15 ruling party activists led by Nurunnabi started beating him up and at one stage he was taken to upazila Jubo League office.

Reporter Mohammad Rafiqul Alam said Boni Amin Mintu, general secretary of the upazila AL, over cellphone asked him to go to the Jubo League office around 5:30pm.

On his arrival, Boni Amin and Nurunnabi along with around 15 others beat him up leaving him injured.

The victims said the police rescued them around 7:15pm and took them to the hospital. The newsmen said that they filed a report on a clash between AL and BNP activists in which at least eight BNP activists were hurt by the AL activists on the Victory Day night at the upazila sadar.

The AL leaders and activists were also infuriated by another report on awarding a collaborator of Pak forces in 1971 by the ruling party men, they added.

District and upazila AL leaders refused to make any comment regarding the incident.

### Police hiring

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Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner AKM Shahidul Hoque were present, among others.

Sources close to the meeting said the meeting discussed the need of additional manpower in the police department and decided to finalise all the internal procedures before the police week kicks off.

The meeting also finalised the ratio between upper ranks and lower ranks of the police solving the long awaited feud between the police high-ups and finance ministry officials over fixing up the numbers of recruitment, one of the sources told The Daily Star.

"The meeting discussed how the government can appoint 17,000 police personnel and how they will be trained up and get logistics," IGP Nur Mohammad told The Daily Star.

"The government wants to appoint the new officials as soon as it is possible through the procedure," he said.

Replying to a query, the IGP said the new police members would be appointed according to the government proposal from the finance ministry.

"The proposal submitted by the Police Department would be considered in the second phase when 15,000 more police members will be appointed," he said.

Talking to The Daily Star, Additional IGP NBK Tripura said the meeting had finalised the list based on the quotas for different ranks.

### Khulna

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South Asia most vulnerable to climate change.

However, the report did not rank the cities, as their problems differ. Rather it divided the cities into three categories -- coastal, highland and dryland.

Khulna is included in the report as one of the most vulnerable coastal cities. The city is home to around 1.3 million people.

The report says the major concerns for Khulna are frequent and increased level of floods, storm surges, intensity of cyclones, water logging, saline intrusion, sedimentation and river erosion.

According to the report, the most vulnerable coastal cities are Khulna of Bangladesh, Maputo of Mozambique, Dar Es Salaam of Tanzania, Mombasa of Kenya, and Cotonou of Benin.

The dry land cities are Nouakchott of Mauritania, Diourbel of Senegal, Bamako of Mali, Khartoum of Sudan while the highland cities are Thimphu of Bhutan, Kathmandu of Nepal, Harare of Zimbabwe, Kampala of Uganda, Lusaka of Zambia and Blantyre of Malawi.

The report says only two percent of the world's land is in the Low Elevation Coastal Zone (LECZ) -- coastal areas less than ten metres above the average sealevel.

This zone is home to ten percent of the world's population. Besides, constant urbanisation is likely to attract more people in these areas.

Of countries with the largest share of their population living in the LECZ, all but two are low or middle-income nations and are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

Low altitude of many coastal cities makes them highly vulnerable to flooding and tropical storms, says the report.

Meanwhile, Bangladeshi expatriates in Europe and members of parliament yesterday formed a human chain at Bella Centre urging to save Bangladesh.

### Inflation

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yesterday coarse rice price jumped up by 3 to 9 percent over one month.

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) Senior Research Fellow Zaid Bakht said the inflation rate is not yet worrisome. But if it goes up further it would become a big challenge for the government's macro-economic management.

International food price is on the rise. Inside the country the Aus and aman harvest did not meet expectations. Besides, the government has announced new pay scale for the public servants, which would produce inflationary pressure.

Bakht also said the government would have to maintain smooth supply of inputs so that next boro crop is better. The government will also have to closely monitor the world market to build up food crop stock if the price increases internationally.

ADB in its quarterly update released yesterday said though the inflation is still low compared with previous years, price pressures are again building. Inflation over the next few months will depend on how the various underlying factors play out.

It said rising commodity prices in the international market along with the rising food prices in India because of the shortfall in crop production might create pressure on domestic food prices.

The ADB quarterly also said excess liquidity in the banking system because of lower investment demand and likely depreciation in taka exchange rate may also push up inflation rate.

### More EC grant

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million euro for helping the cyclone-hit people.

The Charge d' Affaires said it is important to boost humanitarian assistance for those still living in hardship and help them rebuild their lives in the aftermath of this catastrophe.

Cyclone Sidr, which was more ferocious than Aila, has left more devastation due to the heavy monsoon rains, which raised the river levels and submerged agricultural and shrimp farmlands.

The tidal waves brought salinity to lands and water sources, which could take years to recover.

The humanitarian funds will primarily focus on assisting the most vulnerable population in Bangladesh with food, drinking water, access to sanitation, provision of shelter and helping to regain their income generating activities such as fishing, agriculture and small livestock.

All funds are channelled through the EC's Humanitarian Aid Department that works with international non-governmental organisations, specialised United Nations agencies and the Red Cross, the EU sources told BSS.

The department has long been actively helping Bangladesh's cyclone-hit people and working with communities to build their resilience to ever frequent and more intense catastrophes.

## Solar panels light

**FROM PAGE 16**  
National figures are 39.5 percent and 17.5 percent for absolute and hardcore poor.

Infant and maternal mortality rates and school dropout rates are also higher in GHT than that of national figures because of two decades of conflicts. But hills people are now aspiring to live a peaceful life following the CHT peace accord signed in 1997.

On the sideline of a community experience-sharing meeting with a high-level delegation of the development partners on November 26, Anil Kumar said it was easy for him to pay the monthly instalments against the solar panel, which has a guarantee for 20 years, and helps him save money for not using kerosene oil.

"With the savings I can buy bulbs and battery as and when go out of order. While we had used kerosene oil, we could not buy it during the rainy days that hampered the study of my children. But now they are not facing such problems."

"As we get electricity from solar panels, we can weave clothes extra hours at night, charge mobile phones, cook in ovens and watch televisions," said Bharati Chakma, 35, while sharing her experience with the

delegation.

They can also learn good practices in agriculture and handicrafts through televisions, she said, adding that they also bought cows and goats and have rice-husking mills, which help them supplement their income.

Akhoya Mong, a leader of Aungmyajayi Karbari Para PDC in Rangamati, said they bought 37 cows with Tk 2.8 lakh in 2004 and after three years sold them at Tk 4.16 lakh. Of the money, Tk 2.76 lakh has been deposited to a bank while some corrugated iron sheets and solar panels bought for the members using rest of the money.

They meet monthly to discuss their problems and the means to overcome those.

"Such sharing meetings give us confidence. Now we also go to banks and other offices in the towns. But a major problem for us is transport," Mong says.

"Yes, these people are coming out, but they need better negotiation skills to sell their products. A major problem they face is the land dispute. Once land disputes are over, I am sure their lives will be more stable and peaceful," said Patrick Sweeting, project director of CHT Development Facility.

## New climate deal

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(LDCs) and the negotiators think that they are still far away to reach any agreement. However, they are expressing hopes about negotiation.

Expressing her concerns for farmers of Bangladesh affected by the climate change, Hilary Clinton, the US secretary of state, yesterday at a press conference urged all to take a joint global effort to save the world.

"We cannot afford to fail. I hope the world leaders will reach an agreement," she said.

However, she stood by the US position regarding 17 percent emission reduction below 2005 levels by 2020 which is ultimately around 4 percent reduction below 1990 levels.

But as the US is one of the largest polluters, the LDCs have been demanding 30 percent emission cut by 2020.

Mohammed Nasheed, president of the Maldives, yesterday told the journalists at Bella Centre that the progress has not been achieved much so far in talks.

"But I am still hopeful," he said.

From yesterday morning to noon, there were rumours that developed countries and developing countries were trying to put forward their new texts for discussion to reach an agreement.

But one of the negotiators said that finally they would continue to discuss the old text.

The adaptation fund contact groups yesterday sat again and Bangladeshi negotiators actively participated there demanding inclusion of the international migration of climate refugees in the adaptation text.

"I am hopeful something may happen about adaptation fund," said one of the government delegates negotiating adaptation fund contact group. Meanwhile, Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina spent a busy day yesterday meeting with different heads of delegation.

Speakers set to address the summit yesterday included German Chancellor Angela Merkel, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula de Silva and Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

US President Barack Obama is due to attend the final day of the meeting today.

However, different media reports quoting US officials said that Obama wouldn't bring anything to the talks beyond

### 4 rivers declared

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The districts prepared the reports on river demarcation as per the Cadastral Survey (CS 1910-1913) and submitted them to the High Court (HC) recently.

### Law secy's

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drafting wing of the law ministry following the SC judgment.

Meanwhile, Awl's lawyer Barrister M Amir-Ul Islam said his client is now abroad, and after his return home, decision of filing a review petition with the apex court against this verdict will be taken.

The caretaker government appointed Awl as acting law secretary on June 28, 2007. Later his appointment was confirmed.

Former District and Sessions Judge Aftab Uddin Ahmed, on July 5, 2007, filed a writ petition with the HC challenging Awl's appointment as acting law secretary.

In the petition, he stated that as per the government promotion rules 2000, the highest position of the legislative and drafting wing is the additional secretary. But Awl was appointed as secretary violating the rules.

Washington's already stated goals: to commit to reducing greenhouse gas emission of 17 percent below 2005 levels by 2020 and to pay a "fair share" into a \$ 100 billion fund to help developing countries deal with climate change.

Asked what actually was going on in the negotiations, one of the observers, who has been observing COP since the first one, said, "Something may happen in the last hours. You have to wait till 18 December midnight to see what happens here."

**DELEGATES TO WORLD MEDIA**

Bangladesh yesterday expressed disappointment over huge differences among the member countries and yet inconclusive Kyoto Protocol and Long-term Coordinated Action texts (text to make Copenhagen deal) though the summit has just a day to reach a conclusion.

Demanding Bali Action Plan as the guideline for the developed and developing countries, Hasan Mahmud, state minister for environment and forests, asked the developed nations not to exceed the average global temperature by more than 1.5 degrees Celsius than that of the pre-industrial period.

"They must confirm the net reduction of emission. How they will do so is their affair," the state minister said.

Mentioning Bangladesh still hopeful for a major breakthrough, the state minister urged all the developed and emerging developing nations to come forward.

Health Minister AFM Ruhul Huq and other Bangladeshi delegates were present at the media briefing at the main press conference room of the Bella Centre, Copenhagen.

### Coco-4 capsized

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As the passengers gathered on a side, the launch lost its balance. The crewmembers did not even moor the vessel at the terminal.

The report mentions that the Coco-4 starting from Sadarghat launch terminal picked excess passengers through boats in the middle of the journey.

The report, which made 19 recommendations, suggested taking action against the Coco-4 staff.

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority, according to the probe report's recommendation, will take action against some of the BIWTA staff on charge of false voyage declaration.

Voyage declaration affirms the actual number of passengers on board.

The committee also recommended speeding up the process of purchasing high capacity salvage vessels and increasing the number of salvage stations to reach the accident place quickly.

A four-member committee headed by Shipping Secretary Abdul Mannan Hawladar has been formed to scrutinise the recommendations and to submit a report in this regard within next 15 working days, said Shahjahan Khan. It will also suggest how to implement the action in phases.

The government on November 30 formed the seven-member inquiry committee headed by Joint Chief of the shipping ministry Jayanta Kumar Nandi, to investigate the tragic launch accident in Bholia.

Another committee headed by Joint Secretary (commerce) of shipping ministry Md Abdul Kuddus identified three reasons behind sinking of MV Al Helal-1 on December 4 in the River Daira in Kishoreganj and made 12 recommendations. At least 50 people died in the accident.

The report suggested taking legal action against the owner of the motorboat and two of its staff.

### Civil surgeons

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Following an advertisement at different newspapers, some 33 drug companies applied for supplying medicines and of these 28 companies have got approval.

A three-member committee comprised of representatives from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Drug Administration and CMSD has already been formed to scrutinise the credibility of these listed drug companies to ensure quality of their products, he said.

The lowest bidder will win the tender and within 21 days of getting the work permit, the company will have to supply the drugs.

Around 40 items including antibiotics, anti analgesic-inflammatory, anti diabetic, anti asthmatic, cardiovascular, saline infusion, gastrointestinal drugs and ophthalmological cream worth over Tk 70 crore will be procured.

Health Minister AFM Ruhul Haque has recently said the drugs with green and red packaging will be used only in the public hospitals and added that stern action will be taken against anybody possessing the drugs illegally.

### Text released

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Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan, Maj (ret'd) Bazul Huda, Maj (ret'd) AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed and Lt Col (ret'd) Muhiuddin Ahmed--now languishing in jail, had filed the appeals in October 2007.

Of the seven other convicts, six have been absconding and one is dead.

### Ashura

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Shamim Mohammad Afzal and Khatib of the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque Prof Maulana M Saleh Uddin, among others, were present at the meeting.

Ashura is observed on the 10th Muharram to commemorate the Karbala tragedy in which Hazrat Imam Hossain (RA) along with his family members and followers embraced martyrdom.

The day is a public holiday.

### EC moves

**FROM PAGE 16**  
increased from Tk 5,000 to Tk 10,000 to 30,000 on the basis of number of voters in each ward, according to the new draft electoral rules for city corporation polls.

The security deposit of a candidate will be forfeited if s/he fails to obtain one-eighth of the vote cast in the city corporation/ward, says the draft rules which will soon be promulgated by the EC.

Officials in the EC secretariat said the increased amount of security deposit would discourage a large number of dummy candidates in the polls. In the past, the size of ballot papers used to be painfully long due to the participation of a large number of dummy candidates, they added.

The EC also decided to include another provision in the new electoral rules to impose ban on distributing voter slips by mayoral candidates ahead of polling day to reduce poll expenditure, said officials in the EC secretariat.

Meanwhile, the commission decided to double the election expenditure for mayoral candidates. However, none would be allowed public rallies, as the EC itself will arrange projection meetings in the upcoming DCC polls, which is likely to be held in late March or early April.

According to the proposal on security deposit, the amount for mayoral candidates of other city corporations will also be increased based on the number of voters.

In a city corporation with five lakh voters, the deposit for a mayoral candidate will be Tk 20,000 while Tk 30,000 for voters up to five to 10 lakh, Tk 50,000 for voters up to 10 to 20 lakh and Tk 1 lakh for above 20 lakh voters.

As the number of voters under the DCC is around 40 lakh, the security deposit of a mayoral candidate here will be Tk 1 lakh in place of the previous Tk 10,000.

Similarly, the electoral expenditure will be Tk 10 lakh for a mayoral candidate having five lakh voters in a city corporation while Tk 14 lakh for voters up to 10 lakh, Tk 20 lakh for voters up to 20 lakh and Tk 30 lakh for voters totalling above 20 lakh.

Previously, Tk 15 lakh was the highest level of expenditure for a mayoral candidate in the city corporation having more than 20 lakh voters.

Meanwhile, security deposit of a councillor will be Tk 10,000 against 15,000 voters in a ward, Tk 20,000 for voters up to 30,000, Tk 30,000 for voters up to 50,000 and Tk 50,000 for more than 50,000 voters.

## World leaders

**FROM PAGE 1**  
about the outcomes of the luncheon and breakfast meetings on the sidelines of the global summit meet.

On her arrival at the hotel, the Chinese premier warmly received the Bangladesh prime minister.

Heads of government and state of the Maldives representing small islands, Sudan representing G-77, Ethiopia representing African climate victims and Grenada also attended the joint lunch.

Hasina in the lunch meet requested the Chinese PM and other stakeholders of the Copenhagen summit to give priority to the interests of the global human kind for safeguarding the existence of the earth and its creatures.

She said Bangladesh, the Maldives and other such countries are already facing the wrath of the climate calamities.

These countries' development programmes would go in vain if the international community does not come forward with financial assistance to compensate for the climate losses, Hasina said.

Following the massive victory in the December 29 general election, the present Awami League-led government is working round the clock to change the fate of the people chalking out and implementing various development plans and programmes, mostly with its own resources, she said.

"But the climate change has appeared as the biggest obstacle to achieving the targets with no faults of Bangladesh's own."

"We do not contribute to the global warming, but the irony is that we are the worst sufferer from the global warming," she added.

In reply, the Chinese PM and the other world leaders told Hasina that they would stand by Bangladesh government and its people to tackle the challenges stemming from the climate change.

The participants in the lunch meeting took part in an official photo session. Hasina also had unofficial individual talks with

Maldives president and other heads of government and state at the lunch venue.

Earlier in the day, Hasina attended a breakfast meeting hosted by Danish Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen, the new chairman of the Cop-15 summit.

Among others, Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and President of the Maldives Mohamed Nasheed attended the breakfast meet.

Over the breakfast, Hasina thanked UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon for United Nations arranging the climate conference at a time when the human kind is facing serious threats from the global warming.

She renewed her call for the international community to stand by Bangladesh with financial assistance and cooperation to enable the nation to tackle the challenges of climate change.

### Light to control

**FROM PAGE 16**  
A driver of a bus company operating on route-6 from Motijheel to Badda said around 23 unfit buses of the company have been shifted to Narayanganj while over 40 drivers who did not have driving licence have lost their jobs.