

# Step up govt-NGO coordination to protect climate migrants

Speakers tell policy dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Raising awareness among the community members and decentralising the administration are imperative to maintaining preparedness to respond to climate change, speakers said at a policy dialogue yesterday.

Referring to the suffering of Aila victims, they also stressed the need for better coordination among government and non-government organisations in addressing climate change-induced migration.

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and Brac Development Institute organised the policy dialogue on 'Environment, climate change and migration in Bangladesh' at the Brac Centre Inn in the city to mark the first anniversary of cyclone Aila.

Minister for Environment Hasan Mahmud said a huge number of population will be displaced due to long-term impacts of the global climate change.

"The government has already allocated requisite resources to address the climate change issue. We also have enough food grains to support communities affected by natural disasters. But ensuring shelter for the displaced population still remains a challenge," he said.

He also stressed the need to establish an international legal regime to address climate change-induced cross-border migration.

At the dialogue, national and international experts and representatives of government, non-government and international organisations stressed the need for a national survey on displaced population.

Rabab Fatima, the regional representative of the IOM, said Bangladesh can address the challenges of internal displacement and possible cross-border migration on the basis of experiences of managing international migration.

IOM's recent experiences in Aila-affected areas show that while disaster risk reduction efforts and post-disaster response have improved significantly over recent decades, there is still considerable room for improvement, she said.

IOM has distributed food and non-food items to around 28,000 people severely affected by cyclone Aila in two upazilas. They also launched a website -- ccm.iom.org.bd -- to let the world know about the situation of displaced Aila victims.

A report on 'Assessing the evidence: Environment, climate change and migration in Bangladesh' by Matthew Walsham was launched at the programme.



A girl falls into sleep while waiting for a long time to collect drinking water at Basila in Mohammadpur in the city yesterday. Severe water crisis has gripped many areas of the city.

PHOTO: STAR



Awami Muktijodha Projanma League stages a demonstration at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday protesting June 27 hartal called by Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

## BNP's hartal observed peacefully in Munshiganj

A CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

A dawn-to-dusk hartal enforced in Munshiganj by BNP protesting the killing of one of its activists passed off peacefully yesterday.

Vehicular movements in the district town as well as on Dhaka-Munshiganj highway remained suspended but communications on Dhaka-Chittagong and Dhaka-Mawa routes were normal, police control room in the district said.

The district unit BNP, led by its president Abdul Hai, brought out a procession from Mukhtarpur bridge area in the morning.

The BNP leaders alleged that ruling party cadres attacked some party men while they were going to Dhaka to attend the grand rally on May 19 and killed BNP activist Akbar Hossain, whose body was recovered later.

## RSF QUIZ CONTEST Award giving ceremony June 5

METRO DESK

Rural Services Foundation (RSF) has recently announced the names of winners of its environment quiz contest for SSC examinees, says a press release.

The award giving ceremony will be held on June 5 on the occasion of the World Environment Day at the Mirpur Indoor Stadium.

The contest was held on May 7 in 30 upazilas. The objective of the quiz contest is to increase awareness of global environmental concerns.

A total of 450 contestants were nominated for awards -- 15 contestants from each upazila.

## Mass inquiry commission to try 1/11 actors in public

UNB, Dhaka

BNP leader Barrister Moudud Ahmed yesterday said a national mass inquiry commission will be formed soon with representatives of different professional groups to try six actors in public of 1/11 "illegal" caretaker government.

The actors are: Former army chief Gen (ret) Moeen U Ahmed, former chief advisor Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed, Lt Gen Masud Uddin Chowdhury, former home advisor Maj Gen (ret) Abdul Matin, Maj Gen (forced ret) Amin, and Brig Gen Bari who was called back from Bangladesh Mission in Washington but did not return.

Addressing a press conference at his Motijheel chamber, Moudud said all the six will be put on 'mass trial' for unconstitutionally ruling the country causing harm to the national interest.

He said the commission will not be formed under any political party's banner. The mode of the commission and its terms of reference will be determined soon through discussions with cross-sections of people and leaders of professional groups - teachers, engineers, businessmen, former judges, legal experts and journalists.

Moudud said the commission will be set up as the present government does not want to hold trial of the main actors of the 1/11 emergency government. Awami League has come to power with their support, he alleged.

He said primarily, the commission will

examine how the last caretaker government violated the Constitution, identify the economic and social sectors that suffered during its rule, and also see how it damaged politics, politicians and political institutions in the name of anti-corruption drive.

He said it will also find out data and information of violation of human rights, torture on people, injustice, killing, arrest, torture on remand and killing in police custody during the last caretaker government.

Replying to a question, Moudud, former law minister of the previous BNP government, said he wants to remain as a lawyer of the planned commission, not as BNP leader.

Though pressed hard, he would not say the possible date of setting up the commission. "It would be formed soon," he told reporters.

Moudud said the matter will be dealt with seriously and methodically to set up an instance so that the country is not placed under such unconstitutional rule in the future.

He said the present government, after assuming power, had pledged that it will publish a white paper on the activities of the last caretaker government but till date no such initiative has been taken.

He said the demand for trying the six persons was raised from a grand rally of lawyers (pro-BNP) held recently in the capital. Besides, people from all spheres of society also manifested such aspiration at the BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's grand rallies at the divisional HQs.

## 2 army officers promoted to lieutenant general

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Army has got two more lieutenant generals as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday approved the promotion of Major General M Mainul Islam and Major General Mollah Fazle Akbar, said a source in the army on condition of anonymity.

Mainul, former chief of BDR, recently joined as the chief of general staff (CGS) and Akbar is currently the director general of DGF.

Now there are four lieutenant generals in the army including these two officers. Two others are Quarter Master General Iqbal Karim Bhuiyan and Principal Staff Officer (PSO) of Armed Forces Division Abdul Wadud. Another lieutenant general Masud Uddin Chowdhury is now serving as the Bangladesh high commissioner in Australia.

The source said the prime minister approves all appointments and promotions in the defence from the rank of colonel and above.

Gen Mainul has got two major promotions within 15 months.

He got first promotion from the rank of brigadier general to major general in February last year when he was appointed as director general of BDR immediate after the carnage at Palkhona.

## Road crashes kill 2

UNB, Tangail

Two young men were killed and one was injured as an autorickshaw collided with a Mymensingh-bound bus at Bangra in Kalihati yesterday.

Autorickshaw driver Shawkat Ali, 22, and passenger Hitu Mia, 20, died on the spot. Another passenger Liton, 30, injured was rushed to Dhaka in a critical condition, witnesses said.

### BELA LEGAL NOTICE

## 'Ensure proper management of medical waste'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela) yesterday issued a legal notice asking the government to ensure proper management of medical waste and close down illegal medical centres in the city.

In the legal notice, Bela said medical wastes from thousands of hospitals, clinics and medical centres are causing severe pollution to the environment in the capital.

Most of the medical centres do not follow the mandatory rules for medical waste management, it said, adding that they even do not have any environmental certificates.

The legal notice was served on Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), secretaries to the ministries of forest and environment, health and family planning, and LGRD, the director general of the directorate of environment and the chief cleaning officer of DCC.



### Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at the places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions, Met Office said.


It said day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:39pm today and rises at 5:12am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 35.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 22.5 degrees Celsius at Rangamati.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.0	25.0	68	66
Chittagong	27.0	24.0	93	95
Rajshahi	35.0	24.9	76	63
Khulna	34.5	24.0	87	88
Barisal	31.4	24.9	87	90
Sylhet	33.2	25.0	83	72
Cox's Bazar	30.5	24.0	95	96



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তারিখ: ৩০ মে ২০১০ রবিবার • অনুষ্ঠান শুরু: সকাল ১০:০০ মি: • আসন গ্রহণ: সকাল ৯:৩০ মি:

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- সংবর্ধনা অনুষ্ঠানে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য সংশ্লিষ্ট শিক্ষার্থীদেরকে রেজিস্ট্রেশন ফরম পূরণ করে ২৬ মে ২০১০ ইং তারিখের মধ্যে কুইন মেরী কলেজ অফিসে জমা দিতে হবে। রেজিস্ট্রেশনের সময় সদ্য তোলা ২ (দুই) কপি রঙিন ছবি, এসএসসি পরীক্ষার প্রবেশপত্রের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি এবং ইন্টারনেট থেকে সংগ্রহকৃত জিপিএ-৫ প্রাপ্তির প্রমাণপত্র সঙ্গে আনতে হবে। রেজিস্ট্রেশন ছাড়া কেউ সম্মেলন কেন্দ্রের ভেতরে প্রবেশ করতে পারবে না।
- জিপিএ-৫ প্রাপ্ত সকল শিক্ষার্থী রেজিস্ট্রেশন করতে পারবে। রেজিস্ট্রেশনের জন্য কোন প্রকার ফি দিতে হবে না।
- প্রত্যেক সংবর্ধেয় শিক্ষার্থীর একজন করে অভিভাবক (পিতা/মাতা/আইনানুগ অভিভাবক) সম্মেলন কেন্দ্রের ভেতরে প্রবেশ করার সুযোগ পাবেন।
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- সংশ্লিষ্ট শিক্ষার্থী ও অভিভাবককে নিজ দায়িত্বে বঙ্গবন্ধু আন্তর্জাতিক সম্মেলন কেন্দ্রে আসা-যাওয়ার ব্যবস্থা করতে হবে।

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