

# Sea level rise may be higher in Bangladesh than predicted

Says new study of US researchers

BSS, Dhaka

With the current level of continuation of human effects on climate, coasts of Bangladesh and India might experience higher sea level rise compared to mean level predicted for the planet.

Researchers from the University of Colorado of the United States found this in their new study, published in Nature Geoscience this week, leading science and development network SciDev Net said.

The same rise may occur in the mid Indian Ocean islands Mascarenhas archipelago, Indonesian and Sumatran coasts, but not in the Maldives, east coast of Kenya and African Tanzania.

According to the fourth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) sea level on an average would rise by between 190mm and 590mm by the end of this century.

The study found that global sea level has risen during the past decades as a result of thermal expansion of the ocean and freshwater addition from melting

continental ice.

However, the level of rise is not globally uniform as regional sea levels can be affected by changes in atmospheric circulation and oceanic circulation.

The study revealed that sea level has decreased substantially in the south tropical Indian Ocean whereas it has increased elsewhere because of the atmospheric and oceanic circulation.

On the basis of all-season records, there is no significant sea-level rise around the Maldives which might only experience substantial sea-rises during the winter monsoon, which might have significant impact on the country because of its low elevation, the study report said.

The study revealed that Zanzibar, a small African country in the Indian Ocean, could experience fall in sea rise, while Seychelles and the east coasts of Kenya and African Tanzania may see little or no rise.

The variations in sea-level rises at different parts of the world were known using observational and satellite data

combined with climatic and ocean circulation models, including the results from the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, said Prof Weiqing Han of Colorado's Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences and lead author of the study.

He said the sea-level rise occurs in the south subtropical-mid-latitude basin, the eastern equatorial region, the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea. Conversely, the Seychelles, east coasts of Kenya and Tanzania see little or no sea-level rise.

Prof Han said mapping variations in regional sea-level changes in different parts of the Indian Ocean could help developing countries better adapt to the effects of climate change.

The information will be crucial for effective risk assessments in future and help inform adaptation and response options for human society, he said.

However, the extent of the variations has not been known till now, Han said adding along the coasts of the north Indian Ocean, tide-gauge data show an average rise of 12.9cm per century.



Vehicles get stuck in a gridlock in the city's Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue. The picture was taken at 3:30pm yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Law Minister Barrister Shafique Ahmed speaks at the inaugural session of a workshop at Westin in the city yesterday. Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) organised the workshop titled 'Combating terrorism in Bangladesh: Developing a national counter-terrorism strategy' in association with Defence Institutions Reform Initiative (DIRI). (Story on Page 16)

## BRAC VARSITY DEBATE 'War crimes trial second liberation war'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A four-day debate competition with the theme 'Liberation War, War Crimes Trial and Today's youth' kicked off at the Brac University in the city yesterday.

State Minister for Science, Information and Communication Technology Yafes Osman said trial of war criminals is the second war of liberation and should be led by the young generation. He was speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of the debate.

He also hoped that the new generation would change the country and create a new Bangladesh. He also urged the young generation to learn more about the country's history, to lead the second war.

A total of 24 public and private universities are taking part in the debate competition organised by Brac University Debating Club and sponsored by the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs.

Speaking as special guest journalist Shahriar Kabir said, "We must try the war criminals to establish ourselves as a civilised nation so that we can free the world from the curse of war."

Director of Brac Development Institute Syed M Hashemi, eminent writer Selina Hossain among others spoke at the event, presided over by Brac University Vice-Chancellor Ainun Nishat.

## Long-term plan on ICT in higher edn stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a meeting yesterday stressed the need for an integrated and long-term planning on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in higher education, said a press release.

The meeting titled 'ICT in education master plan: Higher education' was organised by the working committee of University Grants Commission (UGC) at its building in the city.

Stressing the use of ICT in higher education, UGC Chairman Prof Nazrul Islam said UGC Commission has already taken initiative in this regard.

There is no alternative to using ICT in higher education, said the speakers, adding that establishing a knowledge-based society is only possible by the proper and time-befitting usage of ICT.

Prof Nazrul Islam presided over the meeting.

## PM shocked at PAK plane crash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has expressed deep condolences at the tragic plane crash in Pakistan on Wednesday.

In a message sent to her Pakistani counterpart yesterday, she said, "We have learnt with deep shock and sorrow of the tragic air disaster near Islamabad, Pakistan. I convey deepest sympathy and condolences to you, and to the Government and the people of Pakistan for the unfortunate loss of so many precious lives."

"I hope that members of the bereaved families would be able to bear the loss of their loved ones with courage and fortitude. We solemnly pray to the Almighty for the salvation of the departed souls" the Prime Minister added.

Foreign Minister Dr. Dipu Moni in a separate message sent to her Pakistani counterpart yesterday also expressed her great sadness on the tragic plane crash near Islamabad, Pakistan on Wednesday.



## Imtiaz made envoy to Bhutan

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government has appointed Imtiaz Ahmed, current Bangladesh ambassador to Sweden as the next ambassador of Bangladesh to the Kingdom of Bhutan, according to an official announcement yesterday.

The relation between Bhutan and Bangladesh has always been positive since the former became the first country to recognise Bangladesh on December 7, 1971. And Bangladesh is one of the only two nations, other being India, to have a residential embassy in Bhutan.

A career diplomat, Imtiaz Ahmed belongs to the 1984 batch of BCS (Foreign Affairs) Cadre and joined in 1986. During his 24 years of diplomatic career, he has served in Bangladesh Missions in Washington, Kathmandu, Kuala Lumpur, Rome and Cairo in various diplomatic capacities.

He served as Bangladesh ambassador in Kathmandu from 25 September 2006 to 24 August 2009 as his first ambassadorial assignment and then moved to Bangladesh Embassy in Stockholm on 01 September 2009.

Imtiaz Ahmed holds a post-graduate degree in Geology from the University of Dhaka. He also obtained a Diploma in International Relations and Diplomacy from IIA, Paris.

Bangladesh and Bhutan signed a bilateral trade agreement first in 1980. Bangladesh slashed the import duties on 18 products to 15 percent in 2003. The trade agreement was renewed on November 7, 2009.

Trade between the two countries is largely in favour of the Himalayan kingdom. Bhutan's current export to Bangladesh now stands for US \$25 million while its imports on the other hand is only \$3 million, according to official estimates.

## 16 get Sarojini gold medals

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday called for presenting the life and works of poet Sarojini Naidu before the country's young generation.

He made the call at a function arranged for awarding the Poet Sarojini Naidu Gold Medal-2010 at the city's Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the afternoon.

He also unveiled a book titled 'Bikrampranaya Kanya Sarojini Naidu' at the function, organised by Sarojini Naidu National Memorial Council.

The president handed over Sarojini Naidu gold medals to some 16 scholars as recognition of their extraordinary contributions in different sectors of the society.

The award recipients are M Mahbubuzzaman (posthumous) in administration, Prof Nayyar Sultana (posthumous) and Kazi Sirajul Islam in education, Prof Dr Jamilur Reza Chowdhury in science and technology, Prof Mohammad Farashuddin in economics, CM Shafi Sami in diplomacy, Poet Syed Shamsul Haq in literature, Muhammad A Rumeel Ali, Tazneen Aman and Naaz Ahmed in banking, KM Mahmudur Rahman in ship-building, MRA Taha in nature & conservation, AKM Faruque Ahammed in export promotion, M Abdul Quddus in roads and highways and Sharif Rafiqul Islam in water and power.

## Threat to indigenous rape victim, police indifferent

Say two rights groups

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The raped daughter of an indigenous freedom fighter and her family members in Tangail are being threatened instead of being provided due justice.

The alleged rapist, Helal Hossain, 35, who is a garments worker in Dhaka and a resident of Bhuaid village in Tangail district, even filed a case against the victim and her family members.

Bangladesh Adivasi Odhikar Andolon and Bangladesh Nari Pragati Sangha demanded immediate arrest and punishment of Helal at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday. They also demanded security to the victim and her family members.

An investigation by the two organisations and National Coalition on Adivasi Affairs found that police have remained indifferent to the matter.

The family is also receiving threat from a

local influential leader named Habibur Rahman, to withdraw the case against the rapist, said leaders of the organisations.

On the night of July 17, Helal broke into the house of the victim and raped her in front of her 5-year-old son. He was caught while trying to escape and was beaten up by the victim's brother-in-law. However on the next day, Helal's family members forcefully took him away.

Despite intervention from a local Awami League leader, a police case was filed following newspaper reports.

The organisation leaders also added that Helal has been harassing and stalking women of the village for some time. He was held accused in several village arbitrations but was never punished.

"He was encouraged to repeat his crimes yet once again because he went unpunished for his previous crimes," read the statement.

## Namaz-e-janaza

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Namaz-e-janaza of former foreign secretary AHS Ataul Karim will be held on

the Dhanmondi Eidgah Mosque premises in the city after Juma prayers today, says a press release.

His quikhani will be held at Chowdhury Community Centre at House No # 42, Road No # 6/A at Dhanmondi in the city after Maghrib prayers on Sunday. He passed away at a city hospital on Tuesday night.

## Reception for GPA-5 achievers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The installation ceremony of newly elected executive committee of Mohamadpur Government High School Old Students' Association and reception for the GPA-5 achievers of the school in this year's Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination will be held at the school auditorium at 4:00pm on August 6, says a press release.

Finance Secretary Mohammad Tareq, also a former student of the school, will be the chief guest.

This year's SSC examinees to collect invitation cards from the school office, the release said.

### DHAKA TODAY

<p><b>AGM</b> The annual general meeting of the DU83 Batch Foundation will be held. Venue: Biam auditorium, Time: 4:00pm.</p> <p><b>Discussion</b> DhakaNews24.com will hold a discussion. Venue: National Press Club, Time: 4:00pm.</p> <p><b>Cultural event</b> Bangladesh Abritti Samannaya will organise a cultural event demanding trial of war criminals. Venue: Motijheel TNT Colony ground, Time: 4:30pm.</p> <p><b>Installation ceremony</b> The installation ceremony of 'Uttarayan' will be held. Venue: National Museum, Time: 6:30pm.</p> <p><b>Exhibition</b> Sammilito Jaladhar Rakkha Andolon will organise an exhibition. Venue: Chhobir Haat (beside Department of Fine Arts, DU), Time: 11:00am.</p> <p><b>Reception</b> Architectural Alumni Association of Buet will arrange a reception "Gunijon Shongbordhona". Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, Time: 5:30pm.</p> <p><b>Roundtable</b> National Democratic Party will hold a roundtable. Venue: Reporters Unity auditorium, Time: 10:30am.</p>	<p><b>Roundtable</b> Bangladesh Sammilito Peshajibi Parishad will hold a roundtable. Venue: National Press Club, Time: 10:00am.</p> <p><b>Music festival</b> The Department of Music of Dhaka University will organise "Music Festival 2010". Venue: TSC auditorium, Time: 5:00pm.</p> <p><b>Exhibition</b> Galleri Kaya will hold the solo art exhibition by Ranjit Das titled "Images and Reflections". Venue: Galleri Kaya, Time: 5:30pm.</p> <p><b>Memorial lecture</b> The "Eighth Ahamad Sofa Memorial Lecture" titled "Society and civil society" will be held. Venue: Business Faculty conference room, Time: 10:00am.</p> <p><b>Tree identification</b> Tarupallab will organise the 7th session of introducing trees. Venue: Ramna Park, Time: 8:30am.</p> <p><b>Discussion</b> A discussion will be held marking the birth anniversary of Nurul Islam. Venue: Kendrio Kochi Kachar Mela auditorium, Time: 11:00am.</p> <p><b>Human chain</b> A human chain will be formed marking the birth anniversary of Nurul Islam. Venue: Muktagong, Time: 4:00pm.</p>
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## WEATHER

### Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at most places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi, Rangpur and Dhaka divisions with moderately heavy to heavy falls at places in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:43pm today and rises at 5:27am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 34.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Majidee Court and Sayedpur and lowest 24.8 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

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	31.8	27.5	87	69
Chittagong	32.0	26.4	86	90
Rajshahi	32.0	26.5	85	77
Khulna	33.8	27.8	82	78
Barisal	33.0	27.6	87	78
Sylhet	30.5	25.2	96	83
Cox's Bazar	33.2	26.5	78	79

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