

# Climate change mars achievements in water, sanitation: Hasan Mahmud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Climate change is threatening to bring down all the previous achievements of Bangladesh in water and sanitation sectors and making it harder to meet the millennium development goal.

State Minister for Environment and Forest Dr Hasan Mahmud said yesterday at a dialogue calling to integrate climate change issues with relevant sectors including water and sanitary, agriculture, health, education and industry for sustainable water resource management stating Bangladesh as the most vulnerable country due to climate change.

Bangladesh government have given emphasis on multilateral funds to deal with climate change challenges, the minister said.

NGO Forum for Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation in cooperation with Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) and Terre des Hommes organised the dialogue on 'Impacts of climate change on water and sanitation in Bangladesh' at the National Press Club.

Dr Atiq Rahman, executive director of BCAS and coordinator of the dialogue, recommended integrating climate change issues into Water Policy, Environment Policy and in National



State Minister for Environment and Forest Hasan Mahmud speaks at a dialogue at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right is Dr Atiq Rahman and Jan Moller Hansen.

Water Management Plan. He also said that the government should come up with integrated plans to coordinate 10,000 government agencies to cope with the effects of climate change.

Chief of the Department of Health engineer Md Nuruzzaman mentioned that the scarcity of

drinking water remains acute in the hard to reach areas. "The situation is deteriorating due to impacts of climate change," he added.

He also said the Sidr and Aila also fully or partially destroyed 1,098 latrines and thousands of tube wells and 1,800 ponds were filled with saline water.

Jan Moller Hansen, deputy head of mission of Dutch Embassy, emphasised implementing the climate change related programmes through local government. He also stated his concerns for the governance issues related to population control that was putting further pressure on Bangladesh's limited resources.

Terming the saline water intrusion a matter of great concern, he said there was not a single tube well or source of pure drinking water usable as all of them were destroyed in the Sidr and Aila affected areas.

Dr Dweijen Mallick presented a keynote paper at the seminar where he illustrated that 60 to 70 percent of the global impact due to climate change is going to be reflected in the water sector.

WaterAid country representative Dr Khairul Islam, executive director of NGO Forum SMA Rashid and its advocacy chief Joseph Halder were also present in the seminar.

## Tk 316.78cr remains unpaid to CAAB by 54 airlines

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As many as 54 local and international airlines owe Tk 316.78 crore to the Civil Aviation Authorities of Bangladesh (CAAB) for using Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka.

During question time yesterday, Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister GM Quader placed in parliament a list of names of the airlines that did not pay the arrear to the CAAB.

Biman Bangladesh Airlines Limited tops the list with unpaid Tk 144.40 crore.

The major international airlines in the list are Emirates Airlines, Saudia Airlines, Indian Air, Thai Airlines, Air India, Air Arabia, KLM, Al-Italia, Japan Air, Sahara Air, Royal Nepal Airlines, Royal Jordan, Virgin Air, Sri Lanka Air and Jet Air.

The local airlines include GMG Airlines, United Air, Best Air, Air Parabat, Aero Bengal, and Bismillah Airlines.

The minister in the scripted answer said the airlines were served notices repeatedly asking them to clear the arrear, but they have yet to respond.

He said the CAAB has filed money suit against Aero Bengal Airlines to realise arrear of Tk 5.86 lakh.

On operating new flights, the minister said the national flag carrier has planned to operate flights in two new destinations, Colombo in Sri Lanka and Guangzhou province in China.

The airliner has also planned to resume operation of flights in New York, Manchester and Tripoli routes, he said.

## Suspected robber beaten to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man suspected to be a robber was killed in a mob beating at West Dogair under Demra police station early yesterday.

The deceased, aged around 30 years, could not be identified.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) Bhuiyan Mahabub Hasan of the PS said: a gang of some 10 to 12 robbers tried to break into a house at West Dogair around 2:30am yesterday. As the house inmates cried out for help, local people rushed to the spot.

The robbers managed to flee the scene, he said.

However, the locals caught a man, suspecting him to be one of the gang members, and beat him, leaving him spot dead, the OC added.

Demra police recovered the body and sent it to Sir Salimullah Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Local people said, from the last 10 days of Ramadan, incidents of theft, snatching and robbery were rampant in the area. So, they decided that if any such incident occurred, immediate announcement would be made through the loudspeakers of the local mosque to urge people to come forward for help.

They also alleged that the police remained silent and did not take any action for many past robberies in the area.

## 'Set up internet exchange to cut cost'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Setting up a national internet exchange (NIEX) is an imperative to reduce the cost for internet use and ensure the security of the emails exchanged in carrying out the government functions, a parliamentary body observed yesterday.

The parliamentary standing committee on post and telecommunications ministry urged the same ministry to take necessary steps for setting up NIEX soon.

"If established, we will not require using international circuits in UK, USA, Hong Kong and Singapore to receive and send emails. Then the

content of official emails will remain secured," Hasanul Haque Inu, chief of the parliamentary body, said.

Inu was briefing reporters at parliament's media centre after the committee's meeting held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

He claimed that it is possible to set up the NIEX within two months by formulating a policy.

"Establishing the NIEX will also reduce cost," he said.

The parliamentary body also recommended that the ministry take necessary steps to become host of international search machines like Google, Yahoo and social networking site like facebook,

twitter.

"Google has already expressed interest to Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission," Inu added.

He said Bangladesh Telephone Shilpo Sangstha will start manufacturing PSTN telephone sets, mobile phone chargers and battery from this month.

Moreover, he said people might get scope to buy laptop at a cost of Tk 10,000 from June next year as the Telephone Shilpo Sangstha is working on it.

The committee urged the government to waive all import duties from raw materials needed to manufacture those laptops.

## Risk still prevails in sending Hajj pilgrims, says Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A risk is still prevailing in sending all Hajj pilgrims to Saudi Arabia this year as the number of the devotees is almost double than the previous year, said Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister GM Quader yesterday.

"This year the number of Hajj pilgrims is almost double than the previous year. So, the flight schedule is very tight and if anyone misses scheduled flight then his journey would fall to uncertainty."

Describing possible risk at the Hajj flight management, the minister said, "We hope that we will be able to manage the flights but still the ministry is at risk."

Briefing journalists at the PID conference room about the Hajj preparation of the ministry GM Quader said the religious affairs ministry has told them only a month ago that the number of Hajj pilgrims would be near one lakh though in August they said the number won't exceed 75,000.

The number of Hajj pilgrims is 93,900 this year, which was 58,090 last year. Of the total, 6,733 are going under government management and the rest are under private management. The minister suspected "abnormal reasons" behind the unusual rise of the number of Hajj pilgrims.

"The rise in the number of pilgrims is unusual, there might be abnormal reason behind it. The government is conducting scrutiny of the pilgrims. After scrutiny, the

number might decline," he said.

Of the total, Biman Bangladesh Airlines Limited will carry 47,684 Hajj pilgrims while Saudi Airline 26,000 to 28,000, Gulf Air 7,000, Kuwait Airways 2,500, Qatar Airways 1,342, GMG Airlines Limited 3,000, Bahrain Air 3,000, Air Arabia 2,000, Jet Air 400 and Emirate Airlines 4,000.

Meanwhile, the official Hajj flight will start at 10:40pm on October 8, Air Commodore (Retd) Muhammad Zakiul Islam told the journalists at the press conference.

"It is really a tight schedule and risks prevail in case of flight disruption and if passengers fail to travel on scheduled time. The Hajj pilgrims, Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh, the religious affairs ministry, the civil aviation ministry and the Biman authorities will have to work sincerely so that all Hajj pilgrims can travel without any hassle," said the minister.

The parliamentary standing committee on the civil aviation and tourism ministry on last Tuesday expressed deep concern over the smooth flight arrangements for the Hajj pilgrims this year. They suggested leasing an aircraft for Biman to accommodate all the pilgrims.

The JS body and the minister have a dispute over hiring an aged aircraft of Nigerian based Kabo Airlines.

Secretary to the civil aviation and tourism ministry Shafique Alam Mehedi was also present at the press conference.



WHO director arrives today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

World Health Organisation (WHO) Regional Director for South East Asia Dr Samlee Plianbangchang will arrive in Dhaka today for one day visit.

He will attend the inaugural session of a 3-day regional consultation meeting on 'Primary healthcare approach in emergencies' that will begin in the city tomorrow.

During the visit Dr Samlee will meet State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr Capt (retd) Mozibur Rahman Fakir and other high officials.

They will discuss different issues related to health and environment, support of WHO and technical assistances in this regard.

## CHILD PARLIAMENT SESSION 'Stop use of mobiles at classrooms'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Child parliamentarians yesterday urged the government to take initiatives to stop use of mobile phones by teachers during class hours through issuing a gazette notification.

Using mobile phone by teachers in classrooms disrupts educational activities, they said suggesting proper monitoring whether the teachers are taking class regularly.

They were speaking at the Child Parliament Session 2010 titled "Education and Good Governance" facilitated by Save the Children Australia at LGED Auditorium in the city.

The Child Parliament is a national child organisation where the children discuss about their rights and demands at the national level and place their suggestions to the authorities concerned.

Children from 64 districts took part in the session and talked elaborately about the teaching process at schools, management, infrastructural problems and school environment with recommendations.

The recommended building infrastructure for children of specialised regions, forming school management committee free from political influence, supplying pure drinking water in schools, arranging separate toilets for male and female students, changing vacation schedule for disaster-prone areas and removing video shops from near schools.

Speaking as the chief guest, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said the recommendations would be placed before the authorities concerned soon.

"Young generation is the main driving force to materialise the dream of building a developed and prosperous Bangladesh," he said, adding, "To move the country forward we need to build our generation competent with modern education and technology."

That's why, he said, the government has formulated the education policy.

Nahid said they would warn schoolteachers to stop using of mobile phones in the classrooms.

Speaker of the Child Parliament Sulata Selim Nishi and Deputy Speakers Shafika Nawrin Oishi and Naser Al Mahmud Jami conducted the session.

## How Dr Alim was killed in 1971

BSS, Dhaka

"I will get peace, when the trial of war criminals will be completed. Then, we will get the real independence," said Shaheedjaya Shyamoli Nasrin Chowdhury, widow of Shaheed Dr Alim Chowdhury.

Dr Alim, an eminent physician, was brutally killed at the fag end of the Liberation War.

After long nine-month war in 1971 one dawn after a sleep-less night, Shyamoli became optimistic about the return of her husband with the resounding 'Joy Bangla' slogan when Bangladesh emerged as an independent country.

"Now the country is independent. The dearest man will return surely. The freedom fighters will find him out," thought a naive Shyamoli.

But the freedom fighters wanted to know from her, "Bhabi (sister-in-law) where is Razakar (collaborator) Mannan, who has killed Alim Bhai. We will kill him at once."

When the whole country was jubilant with the joy of victory and freedom, Nasrin came to know that her nearest man is no more in this world. Mannan has killed him taking the advantage of his simplicity, humanity and generosity. Mannan handed him over to the Al Badr force.

Talking to the news agency, against the backdrop of the start of war crimes trial and countrywide movement against the collaborators, Shyamoli said Maulana Abdul Mannan, one of the organisers of Al Badr Bahini, took shelter in their house in the disguise for six months during the War of Liberation. But it was he who had handed over Dr Alim to the Al Badr on December 15 in 1971.

Shyamoli said sensing the presence of the freedom fighters, clever Mannan fled away and got mixed with the crowd. Later,

he was caught by the freedom fighters twice, but he could save his live with clever maneuvering.

The body of Dr Alim, who had served and helped the freedom fighters and fought for the country throughout his life, was found at Rayer Bazar killing field on December 18. He was killed with bayonet blindfolded and tied-up hands beside Dr Fazle Rabbi.

"I could never get rid of a thought. What he was thinking, how he was feeling when the Al Badr men blind folded him, tied up his hands and piercing bayonets," said an emotion-choked Shyamoli.

She is yet to overcome the numbness of pain. She still feels the last minute agony felt by Dr Alim at Rayerbazar killing field. With tearful eyes, she wants to hear the pains inside Dr Alim's heart when the Al Badr men were taking preparations to kill him.

Shyamoli said the face of Dr Alim turned black when the Al Badr force pushing the door to take him away from home. The rear entrance of the house, which was the only way to flee, was shut by Mannan who was staying inside. Failing to flee through the door behind the building, Dr Alim could understand that he has given shelter to a betrayer, liar and fraud.

A former principal of Udayan School and Headmistress of Uddipan School, Shyamoli said "...we noticed that the Al Badr men are on guard at the gate of Mannan. People come to meet him every day. Army cars also came."

When asked about the matter, Mannan said, "I am Maulana Mannan, organiser of Al Badr. I have taken shelter at your place, as the freedom fighters would kill me."

By that time, Mannan had become a regular resident of the ground floor and used to pay rent to the owner of the house.

"Therefore, we could not tell him to go

away," Shyamoli said.

"Since then, we were in panic. But Mannan told Alim not to be afraid," Shyamoli said and added that Mannan had pledged to save Alim's life as he had given shelter to him.

"It was 4 o'clock in the afternoon on December 15. Alim, my mother and I were sitting on the balcony. There were sounds of bombings and firing by the allied force all around. They were invading the bases and camps of Pak army and Razakars. The whole country was waiting for surrender of the Pakistan force the next day. Suddenly we saw a microbus covered with clay to stand at Mannan's door. We did not take it seriously. A number of armed Al Badr men got down. They knocked at outdoor after 35 minutes. I told Alim that they are knocking at the door. Then Alim's face turned black," Shyamoli said.

She said she called Mannan through the backdoor through which Mannan used to flee when the freedom fighter visited the house. Mannan advised her not to worry-- "You go. I am here. Nothing to worry." Dr Alim tried to flee through the backdoor, but he couldn't as Mannan had shut it from inside and was staying in his room silently.

Shyamoli was married to Dr Alim Chowdhury on December 22 in 1965. Joined the Udayan School on February 15 in 1966. She was sacked from the job on July 1 in 2002 following recommendation of a probe committee led by Dhaka University Soil Science Prof Aminur Rahman Majumder arrested on Friday with Islamic books.

"If I had no job and I did not marry Hafiz (younger brother of Alim), perhaps I could not groom up my children." Dr Alim left behind his two daughters of two year and one year old in 1971," said Shyamoli.

## Stern action for power usurpers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Deputy Leader of the Jatiya Sangsad Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury said yesterday the constitution will be amended incorporating provisions for stern action against those who would take over state power unconstitutionally.

The acting president of the ruling Awami League said this when Resident Director of the Washington-based National Democratic Institute (NDI) Jacqueline Corcoran called on her at her Sangsad office.

Criticising the opposition for not joining parliament session, Sajeda said while loudly advocating democracy this party is resorting to "unconstitutional" activities by keeping off the House. She called upon BNP to return to parliament for the sake of healthy democratic practices in the country.

The NDI official urged Sajeda to take steps for setting up an all-party women parliamentarians club and a permanent training centre for the growth of women leadership.

In response, Sajeda said the present government will do everything for the development of women leadership, according to a press release from the deputy leader's office.

## Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg



Md Mahabub Ali, chairman of Bangladesh Shippers Council and former vice-president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), passed away due to a cardiac failure at a hospital in Singapore around 6:30pm yesterday at the age of 53, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, one son and two daughters.

He was the managing director of Valiant Group, vice-chairman of Habib Group and director of Diamond Cement. He was also director of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) and chairman of BGMEA standing committee on port affairs.

He will be buried at Miskin Shah Mazar graveyard in the port city after his namaz-e-jaanaza on Jamiatul Falah mosque premises after Maghrib prayers.

BGMEA, CCCI, Chittagong Development Authority (CDA), Chittagong Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CMCCI) and different organisations condole his death.

## Death anniversary

METRO DESK



Today is the fourth death anniversary of Emeritus Prof Dr M Nabi Alam Khan, a physician, says a press release.

He was a former professor and head of the department of cardiac surgery of NICVD and former professor of thoracic surgery of NIDCH.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

## Nazia Tazin Hoque

METRO DESK



Today is the 3rd death anniversary of Nazia Tazin Hoque, a first year student of Dhaka Central Women College, says a press release.

**DHAKA TODAY**

**Seminar**  
Doctors Association of Bangladesh (DAB) will organise a seminar. Venue: National Press Club, Time: 11:00am.

**Birth anniversary**  
Dakkin Asia Sahitya Sanskriti Parishad will arrange a birth anniversary programme of Nobel laureate Mother Teresa. Venue: National Press Club, Time: 5:00pm.

**Human chain**  
Tathya Odhikar Forum will form a human chain. Venue: National Press Club, Time: 11:00am.

**Discussion**  
Bangabandhu Sanskritik Jote will arrange a discussion. Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity, Time: 11:00am.

**Human chain**  
Assistance for Sum Dwellers (ASD) will form a human chain. Venue: Japan Garden City, Adabar, Time: 8:00am.

**Meeting**  
Jatiya Gonotantrik League will arrange a meeting. Venue: 21/1, Purana Pallan, Time: 4:15pm.

**Roundtable**  
National Youth Forum of Bangladesh will organise a roundtable. Venue: National Press Club, Time: 4:00pm.

**Workshop**  
Society for Peoples' Actions in Change and Equity will arrange a workshop. Venue: LGED auditorium, Time: 9:30am.

**Cultural programme**  
Vivekananda Shiksha O Sangskriti Parishad, Bangladesh will organise a cultural programme. Venue: R C Majumdar auditorium, Time: 5:00pm.