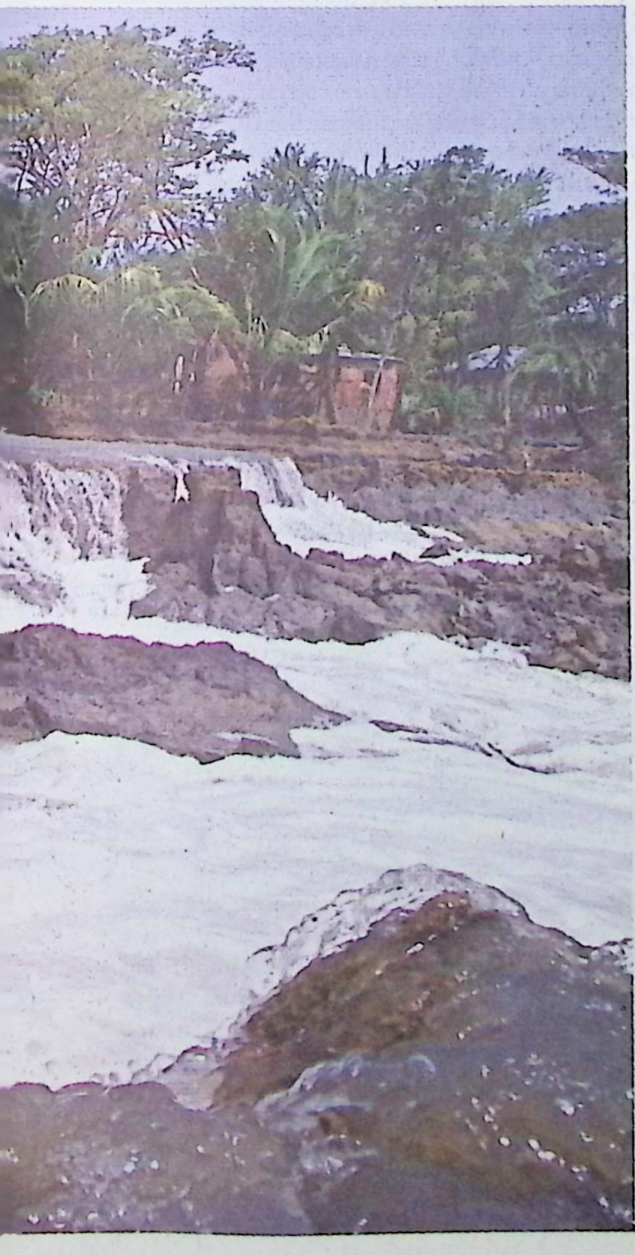
IN the last month, over 100 fishers were feared missing as 10 fishing trawlers did not return to the coast, while 7,000 trawlers were kept near the coast for safety. This was because of the rough weather influenced by a depression in the Bay of Bengal.

Unfortunately, fishers go missing quite regularly due to frequent depressions in the Bay of Bengal. Moreover, because of increased storms due to climate change, coastal fishers cannot go fishing for many days, hence they lose their traditional livelihoods.

Dr Ahsan Uddin Ahmed, an eminent climate scientist, states in one of his research studies that the increasing Sea Surface Temperature (SST) fulfils one of the major preconditions for the formation of an increasing number of depressions and low- pressure systems in the Bay of Bengal. He found that the increased frequency of rough sea conditions caused by depressions is actually a consequence of climatic change. The fourth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) also supports Dr Ahmed's arguments that climate change is now evident from observations of increases in global average air and ocean temperatures.



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Therefore, scientific evidence suggests that increased SST as a result of climate change has caused loss of lives and livelihoods of coastal fishers of Bangladesh. The law has failed to protect the very fundamental right to life and livelihood of this community. Past and current global emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) originated in developed countries, but least developed countries like Bangladesh feel the impact of climate change disproportionately more. Against this backdrop, the Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods (CSRL), an alliance of local and national organisations, has appealed to the government of Bangladesh to start legal proceedings, in the context of climate justice, against industrialised countries for the losses caused in the recent storm. Even though this appeal might seem quite cynical, it has a strong basis.

Reducing atmospheric pollution is a state responsibility under international law, which solicits for countries to be accountable for activities in their territory and to be duty-bound to prevent, reduce and control the risk of environmental harm to other states. The global community, as the co-trustee of the atmosphere, is responsible for preventing atmospheric pollution, while national governments are responsible primarily as the trustees. However, in terms of historical and current pollution and proportional contribution to climate change, industrialised countries must take the entire responsibility. That's what climate justice speaks for.

The notion of climate justice put forward a challenge for the global legal community to protect the rights violated by atmospheric pollution. In response to the question of what, how and where an appropriate legal remedy can be sought by the climate vulnerable community, this article will explore the legal avenues with due scientific references. To lodge a legal claim to an appropriate dispute settlement forum, it intends to investigate the facts of climate change, centred on coastal fishers of Bangladesh, and to provide required analysis on substantive and procedural mechanisms to ascertain a credible legal option.