

Brahmaputra water flow declines

Says report

BSS, Dhaka

Water flow of the Brahmaputra river declined by less than four percent during the last four decades, said a report of the independent think tank Strategic Foresight Group (SFG).

The group predicted that the catchment of the Brahmaputra would face depletion of almost 275 billion cubic metres (BCM) of annual renewable water in the next 20 years.

The per capita water availability is estimated to decline from 2150 cubic metres to 1860 in 2030 in China, from 1730 to 1240 in India, from 7320 to 5700 in Bangladesh and from 8500 to 5500 in Nepal, the report said.

The depletion would cause severe water scarcity in the basins of the Brahmaputra, Asia's one of the longest rivers covering Tibet, China, India and Bangladesh.

The study said due to increase in demand for economic development, China will experience an annual water deficit of 50 to 100 BCM in 2030, India 200 to 260 BCM while Nepal and Bangladesh will also see their water balance shrink.

The average annual contribution from

catchment of the Brahmaputra is about 537.24 BCM, which is 30 percent of the annual average availability of water in South Asia.

The SFG attributed the depletion to water diversion from upstream and hydroelectric power plants to generate electricity using water pressure of the river.

Noted water expert and vice-chancellor of Brac University Prof Ainun Nishat said the report calls for an innovative solution to prevent or at least mitigate the crisis.

He said reliable data are not available to them due to the absence of proper monitoring, lack of meteorological station and technological backwardness.

The situation is likely to be more serious if China withdraws water from upstream, he said, adding that Bangladesh should take immediate steps for regular monitoring of water flow of the Brahmaputra at Bahadurabad point for solution of the probable impact.

The report of the group said a China project to produce electricity with a total installed capacity of 510 MW at Zangmu of Autonomous Region might aggravate the situation.



Chief Minister of Assam Tarun Gogoi, Chief Minister of Tripura Manik Sarkar, Chief Minister of Meghalaya Mukul Sangma and Chief Minister of Mizoram Lal Thanhawla call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Gono Bhavan yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

Green Climate Fund meet in Geneva

BSS, Dhaka

A two-member Bangladesh team leaves for Geneva today to attend the Transitional Committee meeting on Green Climate Fund (GCF) there on Sunday.

The Geneva meeting will finalise the convergent issues, particularly legal status of the GCF governance and institutional arrangements, fund windows, access modalities, private sector leveraging and mobilisation and gender mainstreaming.

It will prepare operational specifications for the GCF for approval by the next UN Climate Conference to be held at Durban in South Africa this year December.

The Bangladesh team includes Prof Dr Ansarul Karim and Dr Aparup Chowdhury, joint secretary of the environment and forest ministry.

The GCF was established at the climate

summit at Cancun in Mexico in December 2010 under which industrialised countries committed to a goal of jointly mobilising \$100 billion per year by 2020.

The Cancun conference also constituted the 40-member transitional committee comprising 15 developed and 25 developing countries to prepare the modalities and operational procedure of the GCF.

Bangladesh is representing in the transition committee from the Least Developed Countries.

The GCF was created aiming at transparent, predictable and adequate provision of finance in the long term to ensure that poor and vulnerable countries like Bangladesh get adequate fund to build a sustainable future to face the impacts of climate change.

The mandate of the transitional committee is being worked out under four Work Streams.

Youth beaten dead by mob

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mob beat a youth to death on allegation of snatching a cell phone at Kaibarta Para of South Keraniganj, outskirts of the city, on Tuesday night, according to police.

The deceased, Babu alias Langra Babu, 20, was son of Hossain Ali of Khejurbagh of South Keraniganj, said Officer-in-Charge of South Keraniganj Police Station Abul Bashar.

Babu was a professional mugger and accused in several mugging cases filed with the police station, he claimed.

The OC said a gang of four snatchers attacked a person, whose identity could not be known, around 8:00pm in the area and tried to snatch his cell phone. Locals came forward as the victim shouted for help. The people managed to have caught only Babu and beat him dead on the spot. Police sent the body to Sir Salimullah Medical College for autopsy.

Babu's family members denied the allegation of his involvement with Tuesdays' snatching and claimed Babu to be a worker of a garment factory in Keraniganj. His aunt Saleha Begum filed a murder case with South Keraniganj Police Station in this connection.

Boy missing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Firoz Alam, a 13-year-old boy, went missing from East Madar Bari on Kamal Gate area around 6:30am yesterday.

He is the younger brother of Abdur Rahman, an office assistant of The Daily Star, Chittagong bureau office.

He was wearing an orange coloured T-shirt and a blue chequered lungi when he came out of his aunt's house to open their shop.

His permanent address is Ramapur village of Rupa Chara post office at Laksmipur upazila and district.

Anyone having information about him is requested to contact -- The Daily Star office, 67, Jamal Khan Road, Chittagong or can contact over cellphone number 01824003572 or at 031618618.

COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY Projects to be reviewed

BSS, Dhaka

The communications ministry yesterday decided to form a review committee to evaluate the ongoing development projects under the ministry to ensure transparency.

The decision came at a meeting in the communications ministry yesterday following several press reports criticizing the projects.

At the meeting, Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain directed the secretaries of rail, road and bridge divisions.

He asked the secretaries to involve high officials of the Economic Relations Division, Central Procurement and Technical Unit and finance ministry in the committee.

He said the proposed committee should review whether the projects are properly formulated, transparency and honesty are being maintained and project tenders are given properly.

The minister said several reports had been published recently in different newspapers, most of which are speculative and fabricated.

We had a wonderful vacation. hope you enjoyed yours too.

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