

CLIMATE HAZARDS IN BANGLADESH

Displacement of 16m by 2050

Suggest RMMRU findings on internal migration

At least 16 million people will be displaced from their ancestral homes internally in Bangladesh by 2050 due to climate change induced catastrophes like flood, storm surges, riverbank erosion, and sea level rise, according to a new research.

The findings came from an analysis of the data of the 2011 and 2001 population censuses.

Some two to five million will migrate due to riverbank erosion, three to six million for flooding, and five to seven million for coastal surges, said Prof Tasneem Siddiqui, founder chair, Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) of Dhaka University.

Presenting the results at the DU senate building, she said climate change induced hazards would cause dislocation of around 16 to 26 million people.

RMMRU and the Sussex Centre for Migration Research of Sussex University jointly conducted the research between April 2012 and January this year.

During the period, they also surveyed 1,500 households of migrants and non-migrants of three districts--Chapainawabganj, Satkhira and Munshiganj--from where people migrated and of three other areas--the capital city Dhaka, Khulna, and Keraniganj--destinations of those migrants.

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Sludge coming with drainage water has filled one corner of the capital's Gulshan-Banani Lake at the mouth of a sewer. While authorities seem to be turning a blind eye to this eyesore, nursery owners have been quick to take over the small ground, using it for storing young plants up for sale. The photo was taken from the southern side of the bridge on Kemal Ataturk Avenue recently.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

CASES AGAINST BNP MEN

Charge framing hearing deferred till June 8

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday deferred till June 8 the hearing of charge framing against BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, Moudud Ahmed and 39 other party leaders and activists in three cases filed over creating violence.

The cases were filed with Paltan and Shahjahanpur police stations on the charges of "torching vehicles, assaulting police and preventing them from discharging their duties" during the opposition's agitation on March 2 and 6 last year.

Metropolitan Magistrate Tareq Mainul Islam Bhuiyan passed the order after lawyers of Moudud and several other BNP leaders submitted separate petitions seeking adjournment of the hearing.

During the yesterday's hearing, among the leaders Fakhru, Shahiduddin Chowdhury Annee,

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MONEY LAUNDERING CASE

HC seeks report on Mosharraf's health

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday sought for a medical report of detained BNP leader Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain to decide about granting bail in a money laundering case.

After hearing a bail petition filed by the accused on April 28 on health ground, The HC bench of Justice Naima Haider and Justice Zafar Ahmed asked the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University authorities to submit a report by May 12.

On February 6, the Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case with Ramna Police Station on charge of siphoning off over Tk 9.53 crore to the United Kingdom.

Recently, two HC benches denied bail to the BNP leader in the same case, ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star.

Bangladeshis suffer heart attacks sooner

Says Cambridge study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshis are suffering from heart attacks 10 years earlier than typical sufferers in the west, says the preliminary findings of a Cambridge study.

"The average age of Bangladeshis who suffer heart attacks is 52, with approximately forty percent of the cases involving people below the age of 50," said Rajiv Chowdhury, principal investigator of the study.

Toxic heavy metals such as arsenic, copper and lead in fish and rice may be increasing the risk of heart attacks, the study suggests.

Along with the English university, Dhaka-based health research institution ICDDR,B and the Bangladesh National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases are conducting the ongoing study.

Rajiv Chowdhury, senior scientist at Cambridge University, presented the findings at a seminar titled "Bangladesh at Risk of Acute Vascular Events" in

ICDDR,B auditorium in the capital yesterday.

The study, which began in 2011, will continue for another couple of years. So far 4,000 cases of heart attacks have been analysed under the study.

In addition to the toxins, the generally popular cooking pattern of frying fish, use of excess oil and prolonged cooking may neutralise the protective properties of fish, he added.

Rajiv said 80 percent of the heart attack cases recorded were tobacco users. In addition to traditional causes of heart attacks, the survey has identified risk factors that are unique to the country.

For example, only four percent of the patients were obese while the rest were lean.

Eminent cardiologist National Prof Brig (retd) Abdul Malik; Prof Abdulla Al Shafi Majumder, director of NICVD, and Dr Emanuele Di Angelantonio, senior scientist at the University of Cambridge, also spoke at the event.

ENGLISH-LANGUAGE MEDIA

HC allows ads in English, Bangla

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday allowed the print and electronic media which use English for communication to publish advertisements both in English and Bangla language.

Earlier on February 17, the court directed the government to take necessary measures in a month to ensure the use of Bangla in all advertisements of the electronic and print media and also on the nameplates of vehicle registration, signboards and billboards across the country.

During hearing of a writ petition yesterday, the HC modified the order, while Deputy Attorney General Biswojit Roy brought the issue to its notice. The court also extended the time till May 15 for the government to submit a report in compliance with the February 17 order. The court will seek explanation from the secretaries concerned if the order is not implemented timely, DAG Biswojit told The Daily Star.

Supreme Court lawyer Eunus Ali Akond filed the petition as public interest litigation on February 16, seeking an order on the government to issue a circular asking the officials concerned to use Bangla as official language.

Maj Gen Mominur new envoy to Bahrain

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to appoint Maj Gen K M Mominur Rahman as the new ambassador of Bangladesh to Bahrain.

Mominur was commissioned in Bangladesh Army in 1980, says a foreign ministry press release.

Prior to joining the ministry on deputation, he served in various capacities, including executive chairman of BEPZA,

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Participants at a roundtable on "Land Digitalisation: Prospect for Land Equality in Bangladesh" organised by Manusher Jonno Foundation, Uttaran, and CARE at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday. Shamsur Rahman Sherif, the land minister, and Abdul Mannan, director general of the Directorate of Land Records and Survey, attended the discussion as the chief guest and special guest respectively.



PHOTO: STAR

Road accidents kill 8

CITY DESK

Eight people were killed and 27 others injured in road accidents in Dhaka, Gazipur, Chittagong, Brahmanbaria, Bogra and Jhalakathi on Monday and yesterday.

Our staff correspondent reports, two day-labourers were killed as an electric poles-laden truck carrying them flipped on its side after its driver had lost control over the steering at Badda in the capital early yesterday, said police.

The deceased were Noor Alam, 35, and Abdul Motaleb, 55.

Our Gazipur correspondent reports, two people were killed and 12 others injured in a head-on collision between a covered van and a human hauler on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in the city yesterday morning, said police.

The deceased were identified as Gita Rani and five-month-old girl Jyoti.

Of the injured, three were taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital while the other nine to Gazipur Sadar Hospital.

Our staff correspondent from Chittagong reports, an elderly man died as an unknown vehicle hit him on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Sitakunda upazila early yesterday.

The man, aged around 60, could not be identified.

Our Brahmanbaria correspondent adds, a boy was killed as a bus hit him while he was crossing Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Rajabariakandi village in Sarail upazila in yesterday morning.

The deceased was Atik, 7, of the village.

Our Bogra correspondent adds, a man died and at least 15 others were injured as a bus fell into a roadside ditch after one of its tyres had punctured on Dhaka-Bogra highway at Bottola in Sherpur upazila Monday night.

The deceased was Golap Hossain, 48, son of late Afzal Hossain of Kalaihata village in Gabtoli upazila.

The injured were taken to local health complex and Bogra Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College and Hospital.

Our Jhalakathi correspondent adds, a man was killed died instantly when a human hauler carrying him skidded off Rajapur-Bandaria highway while it was overtaking a bus at Galua Bazar yesterday afternoon.

The victim was Sobahan Farajee, 50.

DHAKA TODAY

Study report launching

Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum will launch a study report on child abuse and exploitation; Venue: Motel Abakash, Mohakhali; Time: 3:00pm.

Discussion

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry will hold a discussion on implementation of Formalin Control Act; Venue: FBCCI conference room, Motijheel; Time: 10:30am.

Dialogue

Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad will hold a dialogue on action against poverty and inequality; Venue: Cirdap Auditorium; Time: 3:00pm.

Seminar

Four organisations, including Bangladesh Bank, will arrange a seminar on "Sustainable SME Development"; Venue: Cirdap International Conference Centre; Time: 9:00am.

Roundtable

Telecom Reporters' Network Bangladesh will arrange a roundtable discussion on telecom policy; Venue: Lakeshore Hotel; Time: 9:30am.

Tribunal-1 cautions lawyers about

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October 6 asked Mahub, also vice-chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council, to explain why contempt of court proceedings should not be initiated against him for such comments.

While giving a reply yesterday, defence counsel Tajul Islam said, "The opposition party regrets that his [Mahub's] speech was misinterpreted by the petitioner without understanding the role of the judiciary and judges... Judge is not a party in a case, and in no way he is connected to the case."

He also said Mahub meant "false witnesses" would be punished if it was found in the future investigation.

The tribunal chairman then asked whether it was possible after execution of a convict. "Is there any law?" he said. "Such a law may be formulated in the future," replied Tajul.

"How could he [Mahub] make such a comment on the assumption that such a law may be formulated in the future?" Justice Enayetur Rahim inquired, saying that from Mahub's comments it could be presumed that he tried to threaten the witnesses, an observation refuted by Tajul.

The counsel also said the comments in no way were made to degrade the tribunal, and prayed for dismissing the contempt petition.

The tribunal fixed May 8 for further hearing. Meanwhile, the investigation agency

yesterday submitted the probe report against war crimes suspect Abdul Jabbar, a former Jatiya Party lawmaker, to the prosecution.

TRIBUNAL-2

International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday heard the defence's closing arguments in the case against Jamaat-e-Islami leader Mir Quasem Ali for the first day.

Defence counsel Mizanul Islam argued over Dalim Hotel, the alleged Al-Badr headquarters in Chittagong, and five out of 14 charges facing the 61-year-old Jamaat central leader.

The charges include murders in Chittagong between November and December 16, 1971.

During his arguments, the defence counsel tried to prove that Dalim Hotel was not an Al-Badr camp but a place controlled by one Motiur Rahman alias "Motya Gunda" during war.

The hotel owner had filed a case against Motiur Rahman for occupying the hotel but it was never disposed of, Mizanul said.

According to the prosecution, as chief of Chittagong Al-Badr, Mir Quasem turned the hotel into the Al-Badr headquarters and a torture cell for pro-liberation people in June 1971.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Obaidul Hassan adjourned the case proceeding until today, when the defence will place further arguments.

BNP leader Aman gets

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hear the bail petition of Gayeshwar, a BNP standing committee member, in the case but he did not mention any reason for it.

Gayeshwar's lawyer Nitai Roy Chowdhury told The Daily Star that he

would move the bail petition before another HC bench.

Advocate Nitai and Deputy Attorney General Khurshidul Alam said they could not know why the Justice Zafar felt embarrassed to entertain Gayeshwar's bail petition.

US embassy to remain closed on May 1

CITY DESK

The US embassy in Dhaka including its Consular Section will remain closed on Thursday in observance of Labor Day, a national holiday of Bangladesh, says a press release.

The American Center with the Archer K Blood American Center Library and the EducationUSA Student Advising Center will also remain closed on the day.

However, emergency services for American citizens will be available.

Jamaat declares

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verdict any day as it completed trial proceedings on March 24.

The Supreme Court can any day set a date for delivering the verdict on Sayedee's appeals against his death penalty given by the ICT-1.

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