

## Himalayan

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Such newly formed glacial lakes can overflow causing flooding, and with it loss of life and damage downstream.

This is the first scientific team to visit the region after the devastating earthquake last April.

"A decade or so ago, there were individual ponds on the Khumbu glacier but in the past five years or so they have begun to get larger and join up," said Ann Rowan, who led the field study team from the universities of Sheffield and Leeds.

Dr Rowan's team has been studying the behaviour of debris-covered glaciers, focusing on Khumbu.

"Particularly, on the left hand side of the lower reaches of the glacier, there is a series of about seven or eight large ponds that are now starting to link and form a big chain," she told the BBC.

"There is water flowing from the upper part of the glacier through the series of these ponds and that is going to encourage them to join up."

"At present, the glacier appears to be disintegrating, and may form a few large and potentially hazardous lakes on the glacier surface."

Dr Rowan's team has studied satellite images of the Khumbu glacier dating back 15 years and has also conducted three ground surveys since 2009.

The scientists found that parts of the lower region of the debris-covered glacier have been shrinking because of loss of ice underneath. This has allowed the formation and expansion of water bodies.

The Dig Tsho glacial lake in the Khumbu valley burst in 1985, destroying a hydropower plant and other infrastructure downstream.

According to the United Nations Environment Programme (Unep), there have been at least 35 events of glacial lake outbursts in Nepal, Pakistan, Bhutan and China over the past century.

## Mother wants

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Shaheed Dr Milon Sangsad organised the programme at Milon Memorial Plaque near the TSC crossing at Dhaka University.

Dr Milon, the then joint secretary of Bangladesh Medical Association, was gunned down by armed men of the then autocrat HM Ershad near TSC in 1990 in an attempt to suppress the mass movement.

His death gave impetus to the anti-autocracy movement, eventually dethroning Ershad.

Selina Akter also criticised the government for keeping Ershad as its part without holding his trial.

"An autocrat was made a part of the state power instead of holding his trial. It was possible only in a country like ours," she said, adding that the trial of Ershad must be held to uphold democracy.

Selina Akter also requested the government to evaluate the sacrifice of her son for the country's movement for democracy.

Everyone should work together beyond partisan differences to establish true democracy and ensure the country's development, she added.

Prof M Anwar Hossain, former vice-chancellor of Jahangirnagar University, also demanded that the government must hold trial of Ershad and punish him for killing Dr Milon.

Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu, among others, also spoke at the programme.

Earlier, Bangladesh Medical Association held a discussion at Dr Milon Chattar of Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Besides, different sociocultural and political organisations as well as professional bodies placed floral wreaths on the grave of Milon on Dhaka Medical College campus and memorial plaque near TSC.

The Awami League, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Bangladesh Communist Party, Workers Party, Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote and family members of Milon paid tributes to Dr Milon by placing wreaths on the grave and at the memorial plaque in the morning.

## Abducted child

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places of the upazila and detained Fazle that night. But, Hafsa, a first grader at Girda Nazrul Islam Babu Primary School, was still traceless.

The next morning, her body was recovered beside a road in Girda. Police recovered it and sent it to Narayanganj General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Sajeda Begum, the victim's grandmother, said the kidnappers had threatened them that they would kill Hafsa if police were informed about the abduction.

Shell shocked, Hafsa's mother Lipi Akhtar demanded the killers be hanged.

Mohammad Shakhawat Hossain, officer-in-charge of Araihazar Police Station, said they arrested the alleged kidnapper using mobile technologies, and that a total of five to six people could be behind the crime.

"We are trying to arrest the killers," he said.

## Islam doesn't

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militancy and terrorism in Islam," said imam of Tejaon College Hostel Mosque while delivering a sermon.

Reading out a letter he received from Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station, the imam urged the worshippers to help police by providing them with information on those linked with militant and criminal activities.

He also called upon them to give police information about drug addicts living in their localities.

In his address, another imam at a mosque in Tejaon's Monipuripara echoed the same view while reading out a letter he got from the local police.

In the last couple of months, suspected militants carried out several attacks in and around the capital, killing at least five people, including two policemen, and injuring over hundred others.

## Shell-shocked

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The family members were searching for answers why he had to meet such a tragic end.

"Everybody in the village loved and respected my father. He was a simple man with no enemies," said Moazzem's son Shahajul Islam.

Roofed with corrugated iron sheets, the old and shabby house was evidence of the family's poverty. A small brick section of the house had patches of plaster falling off the walls.

Apart from the house, the family owns a piece of farmland of around 1.5 bigha.

Moazzem took up the muezzin's job at the mosque when it was set up five years ago. He received Tk 1,000 a month and some donations from the mosque committee.

His wife Komela Begum is a homemaker. Moazzem married off his daughter Sajeda Khatun who lives with her husband and two children in a nearby village.

His son Shahajul is a farm worker and also works at a local brickfield.

Yet the family had been happy as they had good relations with everybody.

"I don't know what our fault is. I want justice for the murder of my father," said Shahajul.

Neighbours said they were stunned as they never saw such violence in the area before.

"We want the government nab the killers and give them exemplary punishment," said one of the neighbours.

## Don't 'play with fire'

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But Moscow responded coolly, saying Turkey has yet to apologise for shooting down the jet on the Syrian border.

Turkey says the Su-24 warplane strayed into its airspace and ignored repeated warnings but Russia insisted it did not cross from Syria.

It is thought to be the first downing of a Russian plane by a Nato member in more than half a century.

One of the pilots was shot dead in Syria after parachuting out of the burning plane while the second was found safe and sound, but one Russian soldier was killed in a rescue operation.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Turkey had "crossed the line of what is acceptable" and warned the incident could severely undermine both its national and regional interests.

Moscow has ruled out any military response, but has pledged broad measures targeting entire sectors of the Turkish economy including tourism, agriculture and possibly key energy projects.

Lavrov said Turkish nationals would require visas from January 1, after Putin this week warned citizens not to travel to Turkey -- a hugely popular destination for Russians.

Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev on Thursday gave ministers two days to work out a plan to curb cooperation with Turkish companies after Russia said it would tighten checks on food imports over alleged safety standard violations.

Moscow has also hinted the reprisals could hit two major projects with Turkey -- a planned gas pipeline and a nuclear power plant.

The two countries have built trade ties in recent years and Russia is already energy-poor Turkey's biggest oil and gas supplier.

But they are on opposing sides in

Detectives have arrested at least seven Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) leaders and activists suspecting their involvement in the attacks.

The law enforcement agencies believe that militancy cannot be dealt with only by arresting militants. Rather, the problem needs to be addressed through involving people and giving right explanations of religion.

There had already been a request for imams to deliver speech on religious harmony and against terrorist and militant activities, said Muntasir Islam, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

The imams were again asked to do so after the attack on a Shia mosque in Bogra, he added.

## In Kenya, pope slams rich elite over 'dreadful injustice' to poor

AFP, Nairobi

Pope Francis lashed out at wealthy minorities who hoard resources at the expense of the poor as he visited a crowded Nairobi slum yesterday, wrapping up the first leg of a three month tour.

The 78-year-old pontiff was given a rapturous welcome as he arrived in Kangemi, which is home to more than 100,000 people who live in shacks without sewerage, including 20,000 who belong to the local Catholic parish.

"These are wounds inflicted by minorities who cling to power and wealth, who selfishly squander while a growing majority is forced to flee to abandoned, filthy and rundown peripheries," he told crowds in the slum on the outskirts of the Kenyan capital.

Wild singing and ululating erupted as Francis arrived in Kangemi, his popemobile weaving through a sea of tin-roofed homes in one of the most anticipated parts of his three-day visit to Kenya.

"I am here because I want you to know that I am not indifferent to your joys and hopes, your troubles and your sorrows," Francis told the packed congregation at the Church of St Joseph the Worker, denouncing the "dreadful injustice of urban exclusion".

The Brasilia Declaration on road safety recognises that the majority of these deaths and injuries are predictable and avoidable. It says some countries have made progress in road safety improvement, but much remains to be done to save lives from road traffic disasters.

Erdogan, whose ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) won a landslide election victory earlier this month, said Turkey did not "deliberately" shoot down the plane.

He dismissed Putin's criticism of the incident as "unacceptable", noting that Russian planes had twice violated Turkish air space in October.

He also attacked the Kremlin's policy in Syria after it launched air strikes in September, saying it was backing the "murderer" Assad and not targeting IS jihadists.

Erdogan has already accused Putin of snubbing a phone call after the incident, but has refused to bow to Russian demands for an apology.

The heightened rhetoric came after Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu had sought to ease the tensions and appealed for the world to unite against IS, in an editorial published in The Times newspaper.

"While the measures to defend our territory will remain in place, Turkey will work with Russia and our allies to not travel to Turkey -- a hugely popular destination for Russians.

But the Kremlin said Western powers were not ready to line up with Russia to fight the IS group.

"At the moment, unfortunately, our partners are not ready to work within the format of a single coalition," Peskov told reporters.

His comments came a day after Putin and French President Francois Hollande agreed to coordinate strikes against IS, although differences remained over the future of Assad.

But they are on opposing sides in

connected to militant and terrorist organisations.

"Some of these groups have an anti-Western outlook. Further attacks are likely, including against Western interests," the ministry noted.

As of late September 2015, Australian officials in Bangladesh have been advised to avoid travel at night and limit their movements in public places including bars, hotels, locations and events frequented by foreigners, and large gatherings. Officials have also been advised to travel only by vehicle in Dhaka, read the advisory.

"We are trying to arrest the killers," he said.

Australia to withdraw

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political situation. Pay close attention to your personal security at all times. Monitor the media and other sources about possible security risks.

"There is reliable information to suggest that militants may be planning to target Australian and Western interests in Bangladesh," the notice added.

Bangladesh, said the Australian foreign ministry, has experienced a number of terrorist incidents in the past and security agencies in Bangladesh continue to arrest people

## Ensuring

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the deaths caused by traffic accidents by 2020. According to WHO estimation, road crashes annually claim 1.25 million lives, 90 percent of them in low and middle-income countries.

As per the declaration, priority will be given on the safety of pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists, who share half of the total victims in road traffic crashes worldwide.

Some 32 percent of the fatalities occur in Bangladesh involve pedestrians. With the number of motorcycles rising fast [currently about 1.1 million], the number of fatalities of motorcyclists is likely to increase in near future, many predict.

Recognising the fact that motorcyclists being the most vulnerable victims worldwide the Brasilia Declaration has adopted developing and implementing legislation and comprehensive policies on the use of motorcycles -- including education and training, licensing of the driver, vehicle registration, work conditions, use of helmets and personal protective equipment.

The South East Asian Region (SEAR) has a grim picture of motorcycle crashes and casualties with nearly 10 percent more than that of the global 25 percent such deaths.

The representatives from SEAR have agreed to work together to curb all types of road accidents and save lives. There was no representative from Bangladesh in the SEAR group.

"Deaths and injuries in traffic are also matters of social fairness, given that poor and vulnerable people are also vulnerable road users, most often [pedestrians, cyclists, drivers of two and / or three-wheeled motor vehicles and passengers of unsafe public transportation]," states the declaration.

To protect those users, one of the commitments made by the countries is to establish and implement safe and appropriate speed limits along with suitable safety measures. The measures include road signalling, radars with cameras and other speed restricting mechanisms, particularly near schools and residential areas, in order to increase the safety of all road users.

The targets of reducing deaths and injuries caused by traffic accidents worldwide by half by 2020 and increasing from 15 percent to 50 percent the percentage of countries with comprehensive legislation on five key risk factors -- not wearing seatbelts, helmets and protective devices for children, combination of alcohol and driving, and exceeding the speed limit -- were reaffirmed in the declaration.

The Brasilia Declaration on road safety recognises that the majority of these deaths and injuries are predictable and avoidable. It says some countries have made progress in road safety improvement, but much remains to be done to save lives from road traffic disasters.

Asaduzzaman Noor stressed the

## Support for tough

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The findings will make sober reading for global political leaders, who will gather in Paris next week for the start of the United Nations climate conference, known as COP21.

It's being billed as the best opportunity in six years to achieve a significant advance on tackling rising temperatures.

In 2009, in Copenhagen, the leaders failed to deliver a strong outcome despite widespread public expectation that a deal was needed.

The BBC asked the GlobeScan research group what their long-term polling suggested about public opinion on climate negotiations

Around 1,000 people in each of 20 countries were questioned about their attitudes. The survey was carried out in January and February of 2015.

The number rating climate change as a very serious issue in richer countries declined significantly from 2009, while support for strong action at the Paris conference has only grown in three of the 20 countries polled.

Canada, France, Spain and the UK are the only four with majorities in favour of their governments taking a leading role.

All told an average of 42% of those polled want their government to play a leadership role in setting ambitious targets, while another 41% want their government to take a more moderate approach and support gradual action.

"The public are less concerned about climate change, and when you put that in the context of the climate

conference in Paris, the findings show less support for an ambitious and binding agreement at a global level than there was ahead of COP15 in Copenhagen," said Lionel Bellier, from GlobeScan.

"It's not an abrupt change of views, the trend seems to be now towards a softer approach."

Public support has also declined in developing countries including China and Indonesia. The pollsters believe that global economic recession has played a significant role in changing people's perspectives on rising temperatures.

"When we look at the broad range of environmental issues, they all have gone down in terms of concern, in all countries, since 2009, at the same time you see that concerns about the economy have risen, and what's capturing the agenda