



Police seize about 20 maunds of Jatka (hilsa fry) from the Toll Plaza area of Patuakhali town yesterday morning when the fish was being transported. PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Earth could become hotter than thought: study

AFP, Washington

Global warming could make the planet far hotter than currently projected because today's scientific models do not correctly account for the influence of clouds, researchers said this week.

The study in the journal *Science* was led by researchers at Yale University and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

When climate scientists look ahead to how much the planet's surface temperature may warm up in response to a doubling of carbon dioxide -- a byproduct of fossil fuel burning -- they typically predict a rise of between 2.1 and 4.7 degrees Celsius (3.75 to 8.5 degrees Fahrenheit).

But these models overestimate the ability of clouds to reflect back sunlight, and counteract warming in Earth's atmosphere, researchers said.

"We found that the climate sensitivity increased from four degrees Celsius in the default model to five to 5.3 degrees Celsius in versions that were modified to bring liquid and ice amounts into closer agreement with observations," said lead author Ivy Tan, a researcher at Yale University.

The problem is most models assume there is more ice in clouds than there actually is.

Icier clouds would gain more liquid in a warming environment, and more liquid in clouds would mean less global warming.

Brutality

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Ferdous Hossain, officer-in-charge of Keraniganj Model Police Station, told this newspaper last night.

Talking to The Daily Star at Burn Unit of the DMCH, Rahima said her daughter, before her death, had told her in details how her husband provoked her to commit suicide.

Soon after their marriage seven months ago, Hasan started pressuring Shilpi for Tk 2 lakh in dowry, she said.

"Before the marriage, Hasan and his mother had told us that he was an established tailor by profession. But later, we came to know that he actually had no job and had another wife before Shilpi.

"Soon, he started pressuring my daughter for dowry. After huge efforts, I gave him Tk 50,000. But after a few days, he again asked for dowry -- Tk 2 lakh this time. It was not possible for me to manage so much money," said Rahima, who works as a cleaner at a kitchen market in Gazipur.

Around three months back, he left Shilpi, about two months pregnant then, with Rahima and would visit her occasionally.

"Hasan last came to our house on Thursday and beat her up. On Friday morning, he told my daughter, 'Give me the dowry I want or kill yourself.' He even gave her Tk 20 to buy kerosene so that she could use it to set herself afire," Rahima said, citing her daughter.

"When I returned home around 10:45am from work, I saw Shilpi running around the house with flames all over her body. We then doused the fire and rushed her to the hospital [DMCH]," she added.

The body was handed over to the family after an autopsy.

AL to announce

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responsibilities to party central leaders Faruk Khan and Abdur Razzak to prepare two lists for two committees of Dhaka city, and after consulting with city leaders they submitted two draft committees in December 2015.

BNP injecting fresh blood

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announcement at the party's Nayapalton central office.

He, however, did not name the organising secretary for Sylhet. The post fell vacant after M Ilias Ali went missing in April 2012.

Young and dedicated leaders were given priorities while choosing leaders for the new executive committee, said party insiders.

The BNP for the first time also promoted two female leaders to organising secretaries.

Bilkis Shirin was the general secretary of Barisal BNP (south). Sama Obaed was a member in the previous committee.

On March 30, former BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir was made party's secretary general, while Rizvi Ahmed, who served as joint secretary general, was promoted to senior joint secretary general. Mizanur Rahman Sinha was appointed treasurer.

The announcement came 11 days after its central council on March 19.

At the council, Khaleda Zia was re-elected chairperson and her son Tarique Rahman senior vice-chairman.

Party councillors also empowered Khaleda to form its national standing committee, BNP's highest policy-making body, as well as the executive committee.

At yesterday's briefing, Rizvi said the names of new leaders of the executive committee would be announced as per the decision of the party chief.

Talking to The Daily Star last night, several BNP leaders said many were "lobbing hard" for posts of the standing and executive committees.

Due to the internal conflicts among party leaders, Khaleda was reportedly facing difficulties in picking over 750 leaders for the committees.

She was "facing troubles" also because the party charter, passed at the council, stipulates that a leader cannot hold more than a single post.

Currently, 60 to 70 BNP central leaders are holding multiple posts.

However, the charter also gives the party chief the authority to allow anyone to be in more than one position.

Apart from Khaleda, Tarique, who has been in London since 2008, is a "key figure" in the selection process, added the leaders. None of them wished to be named.

A senior BNP leader said it might take several weeks to finalise the names of all the executive committee members.

However, party sources said the names of the standing committee members were likely to be declared within a week.

'Blame me'

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Cameron said: "I was obviously very angry about what people were saying about my dad. I loved my dad, I miss him every day.

"He was a wonderful father and I'm very proud of everything he did. But I mustn't let that cloud the picture. The facts are these: I bought shares in a unit trust, shares that are like any other sorts of shares and I paid taxes on them in exactly the same way.

"I sold those shares. In fact, I sold all the shares that I owned, on becoming prime minister."

Cameron continued: "Later on I will be publishing the information that goes into my tax return, not just for this year but the years gone past because I want to be completely open and transparent about these things.

"I will be the first prime minister, the first leader of a major political party, to do that and I think it is the right thing to do."

PANAMA PAPERS

Revelations about Cameron's financial affairs followed a leak of 11 million documents this month held by Panamanian law firm Mossack Fonseca.

The documents, known collectively as the Panama Papers, revealed that Mr Cameron's late father Ian had been a client of Mossack Fonseca when establishing a fund for investors.

A group of protesters calling on Cameron to "close tax loopholes or resign" rallied outside Downing Street before moving on to demonstrate outside the venue where the Conservative forum was held.

A BBC reporter at the scene said they were chanting slogans criticising tax avoidance.

The organiser of the Downing Street protest, journalist Abi Wilkinson, told BBC Radio 5 live the week's revelations raised questions about Mr Cameron's commitment to tackling tax avoidance.

"But the thing that really made us think we had to get out and protest was the news that, in 2013 when the EU were trying to crack down on offshoring and tax avoidance, he stepped in and actually weakened what they were trying to do."

Commons leader Chris Grayling, who is on the opposite side to Mr Cameron in the debate over Britain's EU membership, said those accusing Cameron of misleading the public were making a "mountain out of a mole hill".

Man rescued

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Police said he was later arrested on suspicion of possessing methamphetamine. Witnesses told reporters he was acting erratically.

"He couldn't go any direction, on a sheer ledge, with his feet dangling 80ft (25m) off the ground," Morro Bay fire Capt Todd Gailey said.

Climbing on Morro Rock is officially banned, though some people ignore the warnings. There have been several fatal falls over the years.

CID poised

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of several persons, including Monirul Islam, chief executive officer of Comilla Cantonment Board, where Tonu's father Yaar Hossain works.

Also yesterday, a forensic expert preferring anonymity said even after a "negative autopsy", which fails to reveal the cause of death, investigators can unearth the murder mystery.

In many cases, investigators have arrested the killers even months after the burial of the murdered persons and even without autopsies, he told this correspondent.

The first autopsy failed to ascertain the cause of Tonu's death. It also did not find any sign of rape though police suspected it after she was found dead.

The body was exhumed following a court order, and a three-member board conducted the second autopsy on March 30. The report is yet to be prepared.

Banshkhali

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that environmental experts would be brought into the area. They will ask for locals' opinions," said Abu Ahmed.

Contacted, Liton said as per the direction of the higher authorities of the government, he went to the area and talked to locals and wanted 15 days' time from them.

"We have ensured the villagers to bring environmental experts in the area to talk to them," Liton said, adding that the experts would sit with them, hear their problems and know their views.

"I think through this discussion, a positive result would come," he added.

Meanwhile, BNP Vice-Chairman Abdullah Al Noman yesterday visited the union. He urged the government to form a judicial enquiry team led by a Supreme Court judge to probe the incident by arranging a mass hearing.

Calling upon the government to compensate the families of the deceased and the victims, the BNP leader said the government should withdraw the cases lodged against Liakot and others.

"We favour development but we cannot allow any project that goes against people's interest," he said.

A team of lawyers led by Chittagong District Bar Association President Kafil Uddin also visited the area yesterday.

"Electricity is for the people. Then why the people are being killed for electricity," Kafil said. He also urged the government not to take any steps that can harass the innocent locals.

On April 4, four people were killed and 30 others injured in a clash between law enforcers and locals in Gondamara union in Banshkhali upazila of Chittagong over installation of a coal-based power plant.

Minister

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"helplessness" of the minister.

Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa) and Buriganga Riverkeeper jointly organised the discussion on "Disastrous Condition of Old Buriganga River due to Reckless Encroachment and its Future".

Although the minister left the programme venue after delivering his speech, rights activist Sultana Kamal reacted to his comment.

"The honorable minister said they have to take steps [to protect rivers] after much contemplation. In many cases, they feel helpless," she said.

Such "helplessness" of an influential government representative cannot be acceptable, said Sultana, also the vice president of Bapa.

Slum dwellers are evicted by "different means, including setting fire to their shanties or bulldozing those", but nothing is done against powerful people who grab land and rivers, she added.

Referring to a Tk 1,500 crore project taken up by the government to protect the urban area along the 8 kilometre stretch of the old Buriganga, she said the government should take up projects to save the entire river from grabbing.

The river's second channel stretching from Showari Ghat to Zainul Haque Sikder Women's Medical College Hospital near Basilla is known as old Buriganga.

The High Court in 2009 had ordered the district administrations concerned to demarcate rivers around the capital and set up boundary pillars on the river banks. But no such step was taken for the old Buriganga channel, said Sharif Jamil, founder of Buriganga Riverkeeper and joint secretary of Bapa.

He presented some pictures and satellite images showing the land grabbed by different housing and private companies, bus stops, bridges and mosques along the Buriganga.

"We wait for pollution to occur and then we take up projects worth Tk 1,500 crore to fix it," said Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association.

She blasted the government for not taking steps when green activists in 2012 brought the issue of encroachment on the old Buriganga to the government's notice.

Many laws are there to save rivers and water bodies from land grabbers, but "not a single person" has been penalised so far for river pollution and encroachment, she added.

Talking to The Daily Star, Rakibul Islam Talukder, additional chief engineer of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), said a survey was done by the district administrations concerned for river demarcation.

As the BIWTA raised some objections about the demarcation, the Directorate of Land Records and Survey was tasked with conducting a fresh survey on the demarcation of the second channel of the Buriganga, he added.

The fresh survey was launched about one and a half months ago.

Children helping children

FROM PAGE 16

The scope of DCI is wide; it takes a holistic approach to children's wellbeing. "DCI's main ideology is that, through education and skill development, children can break the cycle of poverty and we can also prevent child marriage and child labour. We don't only focus on education, because if a child and family are sick, do not have enough money for food it is not possible for them to get an education. We really aim to provide comprehensive care; education, health, community development, because poverty and illness are multifaceted issues and we have to address all of them to make progress," Asahi says.

Multi-faceted is an apt word to use about DCI's approach to solving the problems of Bangladesh's disadvantaged children. It is an organisation that runs completely on donor support, a large portion of whom are located all across USA. "It is spread mostly by word of mouth, which is really exciting. Every donor has their child or specific area of interest and they get updates several times a year.

Asahi grew up in the USA and has a life there, but she keeps coming back to Bangladesh, because through her work with DCI and her father, she has developed her deepest love for Bangladesh. "When I am here, I don't feel like I am visiting, I feel like I came home." Asahi has been volunteering in some shape or form for DCI since its inception in 2003 when she was only nine years old. "My dad wanted to instil the importance of working for others in me and also wanted me to connect to his roots in Bangladesh. Because of his guidance, I started volunteering. I did really small things like stamping and folding papers, etc.

"Then, meeting the kids when I came to work in the field, one of the things that amazed me was that the children I was working with, despite the adversity and hardships that they face every moment, were so positive and resilient. They had the same dreams as I did. When I asked them what they wanted to be, they wanted to be a pilot or an engineer or an artist. And the sad fact is that they had the talent and potential to do all those things, just lacked the opportunity because by fate they were born into poverty. I understood how privileged I am, and I understood I have obligation to do something. As I got older I got more and more involved with DCI activities and now I am the Programme Coordinator. In this role my job is to match our programme directions to the needs of those we are working for and the donor needs," Asahi said while detailing the genesis of her involvement with her father's passion project.

It seems that the seeds of her passion were sown by the similarities she noticed between herself and the beneficiaries of DCI who, though worlds apart in geographic and economic terms, were the same as her. Interestingly, it was this same realisation that lit her father Dr. Hoque's passion to serve the underprivileged. Dr. Hoque suffered from congenital cataracts, and by the age of five had undergone several surgeries to restore his eye sight.

"After that, even though he wasn't blind, he was seriously visually impaired, so his doctors, his teachers and even his parents thought that he shouldn't go to school. But he really wanted to learn and get an education. However at school he faced many hardships; his nickname was 'kana' and other children would take away his glasses as a joke," Asahi related about her father's challenges. One would have thought that such childhood traumas would embitter a young person and he would avoid any subjects that related to his condition, but it was a testament to his mental strength, and perhaps an indicator of his future philanthropic efforts, that he went the other way.

"He was very determined; he got his MBBS and finished his PhD. But he was always, even when he was having such hard times, saying 'I am so fortunate'. He was fortunate to not be blind, to have been born into a family that could afford treatment. Throughout his education he was doing small projects, like giving mothers seeds so they can grow vegetable garden for source of vitamins, supporting education of children of his village. And finally, through this life-long dream of helping the children in his country, he created DCI."

Small wonder then that Asahi has been inspired by her father, who even with failing eyesight remains now as passionate about the welfare of children in Bangladesh as he was when DCI first started 13 years ago.

True to the philosophy that formed the launching pad for the organisation, one of DCI's main aims is to create a tradition of philanthropy and global responsibility in future citizens -- the children of today. According to their website www.distressedchildren.org -- worth a visit if one is interested in this worthy cause -- "DCI also seeks to connect American youth to less fortunate children of other countries, educating them about the challenges facing children worldwide, developing their intellectual capacity, and inspiring them to take leadership in humanitarian causes; in this way we hope to nurture responsible and compassionate world citizens and future leaders."

The prime example of this is Asahi. "Volunteering has been in an integral part of my life and has been very empowering. Even when I was nine, I felt like I was accomplishing something. It opened me up to what I am capable of as a person, both personally and professionally. I know that if more people in Bangladesh got involved and more youths/young adults did volunteer work, took responsibility of the people around them, together we can make a huge difference. DCI, unlike other organisations is run on volunteer support. A lot of the work we are doing and the changes we are making are through kids like me. Children helping children."

Asahi comes from a tradition of philanthropy -- her grandfather Dr. Shamsul Haque founded Rights and Sights, which is a partner organisation of DCI along with Diabetic Association of Bangladesh (DAB), BRAC, TMSS, Islamia Eye Hospital, MA Ispahani Institute of Ophthalmology, BIRDEM and ATN Bangla Television. But she has also bucked a trend because, contrary to popular perception about expatriate Bangladeshis, she has not forgotten about her roots and strives, with inspiration and guidance from her father, to improve the state of her countrymen from a far-away land. Asahi serves as an example for other Bangladeshis around the world, an example that those of us at home will do well to follow.

Shasha Denims

SHASHA DENIMS LIMITED

Head Office, House # 23, Road # 129, Gulshan - 1, Dhaka.
Tel: +88-02-9850548, 9854679 Fax: +88-02-9851698
Mail: info@shashabd.com; Website: www.shashadenim.com

Price Sensitive Information

This is for kind information of all concerned that the Board of Directors of Shasha Denims Limited in its Board Meeting held on April 09, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. at its head office has taken the decision on the following issues:

Dividend Recommended for the year ended on 31 December 2015	15% Final Cash Dividend (i.e. total 25% Cash Dividend inclusive of 10% Interim Cash Dividend which has already been paid).		
Record Date of the 19 th AGM	May 03, 2016, Tuesday		
Date and time of the 19 th AGM	June 02, 2016, Thursday, at 10 a.m		
Venue of the AGM	Trust Millonayaton 545 Old Airport Road, Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka.		
The performance highlights for the year ended December 31, 2015:			
	2015	2014	
Consolidated Earnings Per Share	(2014 restated)	5.07	1.59
Consolidated Net Operating Cash Flow per share	(2014 restated)	4.81	1.71
Consolidated Net Assets Value Per share	(2014 restated)	42.35	25.28

Shareholders, whose names would appear in the Register of Members of the Company on the Record Date, shall be entitled to the Dividend and attend the AGM

By order of the Board
Sd/-
Aslam Ahmed Khan FCA
Company Secretary

April 9, 2016