



Liquid waste from factories and households are being discharged into this canal, locally known as Chakrabarti Khal at Ashulia, Savar. This canal connects with Savar's Bangshi river, contributing to the pollution of the river.

PHOTO: AKLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH

Bangladesh 6th

FROM PAGE 2

In Asia, Bangladesh ranks third after Myanmar, Philippines and is followed by Pakistan, Vietnam and Thailand, said the report.

Meanwhile, Central American country, Honduras has a long history of devastating natural calamities and remains most affected country in the world by extreme weather.

According to Global Climate Risk Index 2017 estimates, nearly 11,000 extreme weather events occurred between 1996 and 2015 which caused over 528,000 deaths worldwide, resulting in around \$3.08 trillion in associated financial loss.

Myanmar with a population of 53 million people is identified as the second most affected country in the last 20 years. It has seen a rise in temperature, increase in rainfall, storms, floods and most notably the devastating hurricanes like Nargis in which 2.4 million people were affected.

As a result of the significant degradation caused by over-exploitation of forest resources, soil, quarries and water resources, Haiti, the poorest country in the western hemisphere, is the third most vulnerable country affected by the climate change. Nicaragua with a population of 6 million has witnessed severe droughts and hurricanes like Mitch, one of the mostly deadly hurricanes of the modern times.

Philippines, located in the Western Pacific Ocean is at the fifth position on the risk index. The country has been particularly vulnerable to extreme weather and has suffered Violent storms like Typhoon Haiyan. The intensity of the tropical storms has increased over the years.

Increase in floods, rise in temperatures, heat waves and droughts portends the severe effects of the climate change in Pakistan, which is at seventh position on the risk index. Climate-

induced migration has already begun in Pakistan as the droughts, floods and sea intrusion have impacted the livelihood of the local communities.

Increased urbanisation and rapid economic development has taken its toll on the climate of Vietnam, a country prone to natural disasters. The country has seen an increased frequency of natural disasters causing huge human and property losses.

Guatemala, a country positioned in an earthquake and hurricane zone has already been seeing the drastic effects of climate change. The yields of staples have fallen dramatically due to the severe droughts storms.

Thailand with floods, hurricanes and critically low levels of water reservoirs has been disproportionately affected by the effects of the climate change.

Germanwatch has been actively promoting global equity and the preservation of livelihoods since 1991.

Tigers into semifinals

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this tournament is itself an achievement for us. It is also a reward for our continued effort towards improving our game. I think everyone has contributed to what we are today. The whole nation will be with us as they were in our desperate times and good times," the inspirational captain added in an impromptu press briefing.

He also said that they were not interested in who their semifinal opponents would be.

"An hour ago we were not sure whether we would be there [in the semifinals]. It can be any team and we are not thinking about that. Our focus for the next few days will be to prepare ourselves for the next game," said Mashrafe, whose team will head to Birmingham today.

Bangladesh had done their job on Friday by beating New Zealand and their fate hung in the balance yesterday. A win for Australia would have seen the Tigers fly home, but instead they will head to Edgbaston to play the Group B champions in the second semifinal on June 15 thanks to England's brilliant batting, powered by Ben Stokes's unbeaten century, after

Mark Wood and Adil Rashid's four-wicket hauls.

Bangladesh's opponents in that semifinal are yet to be determined, with an intense finish to Group B set up today and tomorrow. India will play South Africa today and, as the only two teams in that group with positive net run rates, the winner will likely go on to face the Tigers.

Pakistan and Sri Lanka will square up the following day, with the winner most likely advancing to the first semifinal on June 14 -- against England, who were the first team to qualify for the semis.

Back to yesterday's match, Stokes's career-best 102 not out and captain Eoin Morgan's 87 powered the home side, who remain unbeaten in the tournament with three wins out of three.

England collapsed to 35 for three chasing 278 for victory before left-handers Morgan and Stokes changed the course of the game with a fourth-wicket partnership of 159.

Stokes's third one-day international was his highest score at this level after the all-rounder had twice made 101.

When a second downpour ended the match with England 240 for four off 40.2 overs, the hosts were well ahead of the 205 they needed for a win under the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern method for rain-affected limited overs matches.

World Cup champions Australia had to win this match to join already-qualified England in the semi-finals of a tournament featuring the world's leading eight ODI teams after no result washouts in their previous two Group A fixtures.

But this defeat saw Bangladesh, who beat New Zealand by five wickets in Cardiff on Friday, into the last four instead.

Earlier, Mark Wood and Adil Rashid took four wickets apiece as Australia were held to 277 for nine after losing the toss.

Durham fast bowler Wood returned ODI best figures of four for 33 in his maximum 10 overs, while leg-spinner Rashid's return of four for 41 was his best against a Test nation at this level.

Travis Head's unbeaten 71 kept Australia in the game after earlier fifties from opener Aaron Finch (68) and captain Steve Smith (56).

Qatar jobs left in the lurch

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Fakhrul Basher Masum, who worked as an engineer for around two decades in Saudi Arabia, said there were many Saudi companies working in Qatar and Qatari companies in other Gulf countries.

Operations of these companies, where Bangladeshis work, would surely be hampered due to the crisis, he added.

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Bahrain, Yemen and the Maldives on June 5 severed relations with Qatar, accusing Doha of supporting extremism, including groups backed by Iran. This is the biggest diplomatic crisis to hit the region in years.

The states closed their air space, sea and border transports with Qatar, which relies heavily on imports from its neighbours.

Air travel between Qatar and Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Yemen has stopped, resulting in the cancellation of at least 50 daily flights, reported The National from Abu Dhabi on June 7.

The Gulf neighbours of Qatar also banned their citizens from travelling to Qatar and ordered Qatari citizens in their countries to leave within 14 days on June 5. These measures have already affected Qatar's stock exchange and currency. There has been panic buys amid fears of food shortages.

Mohammad Sabuj, a Bangladeshi working in Doha, said food prices have shot up since June 5 and that they were facing a difficult time.

"One kilogram of potato, onion or green chilli that was only 2 to 3 Qatari Riyals is now 10 to 14. Prices of all food items have gone up and availability is poor," he told this correspondent on Thursday.

Sabuj said in 2013, when he first went to Qatar, a litre of fuel was 0.45 QR but now it is 0.80 to 0.85 QR. Living cost has gone up in Qatar in the recent years and there were many jobless Bangladeshis or those not getting paid for work.

The crisis would affect Bangladeshi workers more as they pay Tk 4-5 lakh to go to Qatar for low-wage jobs, he added.

Serajul Islam, first secretary (labour) of Bangladesh embassy in Qatar, told The Daily Star over phone that the embassy has urged Bangladeshis not to panic.

"Qatar has stock of food. Besides, it is buying food from alternative sources," he told this correspondent. "The wage of Bangladeshis also dropped. If someone's monthly wage was equivalent to Tk 30,000, it came down to Tk 20,000 to Tk 25,000," he told this correspondent by phone.

Prof Tasneem Siddiqui, chair of Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit, said migrants face the brunt of any economic or political conflict. Bangladesh needs to carefully watch developments in the Gulf and be ready to address challenges arising from it.

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Bangladeshis in the Gulf would face problems.

The Gulf recruits over 70 percent of Bangladesh's nearly 90 lakh migrant workers. Sixty percent of the \$15 billion remittance Bangladesh receives a year come from the Gulf region.

Economic slowdown would lead to layoffs, and the migrants would bear the brunt, he added.

Hanif Mia, a Bangladeshi migrant in Riyadh of Saudi Arabia, said though Saudi Arabia late last year lifted a seven-year ban on recruiting more workers from Bangladesh, many of those going there were actually without jobs.

There were also cases of low pays and non-payment by companies due to economic slowdown and drop in oil prices, which went down to around \$50 a barrel recently from over \$100 in 2008-09.

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"If there is a war, it will naturally affect the labour market. There is no war there now," he said.

'Robber' killed in 'gunfight' with Rab

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

An alleged robber was killed during a 'gunfight' with Rapid Action Battalion and police in Hadda khal area of Sundarbans yesterday noon.

The dead man, Rabiul, 30, was the gang leader of Rabiul bahani according to Rab-6. He hailed from Burigoalini village under Munshiganj upazila of Satkhira district.

Khondokar Rafiqul Islam, commanding officer of Rab-6, told The Daily Star that after receiving information a Rab team went to patrol the Sundarbans with the help of local police at around 1:00 pm. Sensing the presence of law enforcers Rabiul opened fire on them and law enforcers fired back in retaliation.

At one stage of the fire exchange, law enforcers found Rabiul's dead body.

The Rab team said it recovered one single barrel foreign gun, one 22 bore foreign Air Rifle, one local pipe gun, 27 ammo of short gun, 15 bullets of 22 bore ammo, one Hasua and 5 rounds of empty cartridges from the spot.

Long dogged

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On his father's 4 katha land in Turag. His family started living in three rooms and three others were used by one of his sisters. The rest of the rooms were rented out to tenants.

Rehana's relatives said Mostafa used to collect rents of around Tk 25,000 a month and could hardly spend Tk 5,000 to meet his family expenses as he had to pay the utility bills and give the rest of the amount to his sisters.

But things worsened when his sisters started pressing him to vacate the house for failing to repay them some loans.

Talking to reporters at the Dhaka Medical College (DMC) on Friday, Mostafa said two influential men, who had taken Tk 50 lakh from him to invest in business, might have been behind the deaths of his family members as the two were not repaying the money and threatening him not to ask for the money.

He, however, didn't disclose the two names.

Rehana's brother Shamsur Rahman filed a murder case with Turag police Station on Friday, accusing Mostafa and his sister Kohinur.

He said his sister's in-laws might have killed the four to take possession of the house. Instead of helping the mother of three children to overcome the financial crisis, the in-laws put mental pressure on her, Shamsur alleged.

Rehana, eighth among her six sisters and four brothers, used to collect around Tk 4,000 a month from her brother and sisters to support her family.

Mostafa was aware of the incidents, but he never took any step, Shamsur told The Daily Star.

Despite repeated attempts, this correspondent could not reach Rehana's in-laws for comment.

Shafiqur Rahman, inspector (investigation) of Turag Police Station, said Mostafa's sister during interrogation admitted that they were not in good terms with Rehana. She, however, refuted the allegation of putting mental pressure on her sister-in-law.

Bidhan Tripura, deputy commissioner (Uttara Division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said they were not terming the incident "suicide" as the doctor who conducted autopsies has an observation about Rehana's death.

"We will wait for the autopsy report. In the mean time, we will look into the land dispute, financial crisis and business issues," he added.

Autopsies were carried out on the four bodies at the DMC on Friday. Morgue sources at the hospital said the three children were strangled. The reason for their mother's death would be ascertained after examining some tissues of her body. The test results would be available after around a month.

The four were buried at a graveyard in Kamarpara of Turag on Friday night.

Where does the money flow?

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establish a separate pension office".

From July 1, a government pensioner will receive gratuity of half of his pension and the remaining half will be disbursed in monthly pensions over the rest of his life.

Earlier, there was no annual increment, but pensioners would get a 5 percent annual increment as per the new pay scale, Muhith added.

Apart from pension benefits, allocations for a few social safety programmes have been increased in the proposed budget.

With the next general election little over a year away, the government plans to bring more people under the safety net that would make up 13.54 percent of the total budget and 2.44 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP).

The government introduced in fiscal 2016-17 a programme to provide the ultra poor with rice at Tk 10 kg through Palli Rationing Card. It now plans to increase the expenditure for the purpose to Tk 2,600 crore from Tk. 2,021 crore.

There is another plan to replace Food for Work (FFW) programme with Money for Work (MFW) with an allocation of Tk 14,050 crore.

In the upcoming financial year, the government is going to introduce a new programme titled "Income Generating Activities of Women at Upazila-level" that would cost Tk. 86 crore.

Besides, the numbers of beneficiaries and allowances have been increased for the safety programmes for the elderly, widows, handicapped and lactating mothers.

In Old Age Allowance programme, some 31.50 lakh people receive Tk 500 each a month. The government is set to increase the number of beneficiaries to 35 lakh and raise the allowance to Tk 600 in the next fiscal.

Around 11.50 lakh women currently receive Tk 500 each a month under the "Allowances for the Widow, Deserted and Destitute Women" programme. The government plans to increase the amount to Tk 600 and the number of beneficiaries to 12.65 lakh.

A recently released study of the

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics shows that divorced, widowed and deserted women account for 10 percent of the total women population in the country now, up by 1.5 percent from 2013.

The government also proposed increasing the number of beneficiaries under the "Maternity Allowance Programme for the Poor" from five lakh to six lakh and raising the allowance from Tk 500 a month to Tk 700 in the next fiscal year.

All life-saving

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health services for the people and has been working to meet this challenge, he added.

Bangladesh Pharmacy Council organised the discussion which was moderated by news director of satellite TV channel 71 Syed Ishtiaque Reza.

Former governor of Bangladesh Bank Farashuddin, BSMU Vice-chancellor Prof Dr Quamrul Hasan Khan, former vice-chancellor of BSMU Prof Dr Pran Gopal Dutta, former president of Bangladesh Medical Association Prof Rashid-e-Mahbub, former dean of Dhaka University Pharmacy Faculty ABM Faruk, economist Dr Ahmed Al Kabir, vice president of Aushad Shilpa

Samity M Mosadeque Hossain and its former general secretary Dr Momenul Haque also took part in the discussion.

Mars rover

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miles away — will promote Nasa's "summer of Mars" to teach young people about its efforts to land humans on Earth's neighbouring world.

The concept vehicle will never cruise the dunes of Mars but Nasa believes "one or more of its elements could make its way into a rover astronaut will drive on the red planet".

The space agency's next robotic rover is due to touch down in 2020, to "search for signs of past microbial life and collect core samples for a potentially future return to Earth".

Deaths, retirement

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year when Justice Mirza Hussain Haider, Justice Md Nizamul Huq and Justice Mohammad Bazlur Rahman were sworn in.

The total had reached 11 on July 9, 2009 when the president brought in four new judges for the disposal of some important cases, including that over the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution

In the HC, services of eight out of nine judges were regularised by President Abdul Hamid in February this year, two years past their joining as additional judges. One Farid Ahmed Shibli was left out.

The highest number of judges here was 100, recorded in June 2012 following the appointment of six new additional judges.

An SC source said in the last 10 months, Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha has twice asked the government to appoint at least 10 judges to the HC.

With at least 387 of 1,655 approved posts of lower court judges vacant, he had asked for doubling the total there.

"I advised the government to appoint eight additional judges to the High Court in August 2016 after a long discussion with the law minister," he told the National Judicial Conference 2016 in the capital's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre on December 24.

"On mutual consent, a recommendation was sent to the government for appointing the judges, but the process was yet to see the light of day in four months," he said.

With four judges ill at that time, he said to have faced difficulties in con-

stituting HC benches and apprehended more following the retirements.

He said it was impossible for the lower court judges to dispose of the cases, as new ones were being filed every day.

"For this relevant reason, appointments should be made quickly in the vacant posts of lower court judges. Recruitment of lower court judges is delayed as the law ministry does not give requisition to that end on time," he said.

A close call

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track one of Bonarpara rail station when the Korotoa intercity express train coming from the opposite direction entered the same track. This happened because the point man failed to fix the appropriate track.

As the inbound train entered the same track where the other train was standing, the loco master of Korotoa intercity pulled emergency brakes to stop it and came to a standstill just a little away from the Dolan Champa express averting a head on collision.

At least 20 passengers of Korotoa express train meanwhile jumped off fearing a head on collision and were injured when they jumped off the running train.

"I was to get off at Bonarpara station so I was standing near the door. On hearing the hue and cry I witnessed many passengers jumping out of the running train," said Moyna Begum, a passenger.

Rail authority suspended the on duty assistant station master Ataur Rahman and point man Nur Mohammed for negligence in duties, he added.



PHOTO: ZAHANGIR SHAH

Fifteen-year-old schoolgirl Smrity Akter was tortured allegedly by her step-grandmother and step-uncle as she refused to agree to under-age marriage. She is currently undergoing treatment at Manikganj Sadar Hospital. Story on page 13.