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CLIMATE IMPACT ON BANGLADESH

# Future of 19m children at risk

Unicef report says child marriage, child labour on the rise due to environmental disasters

AFP, Dhaka

Environmental disasters linked to climate change are threatening the lives and futures of over 19 million children in Bangladesh, prompting many families to push their daughters into child marriages, Unicef said yesterday.

"Climate change is deepening the environmental threat faced by families in Bangladesh's poorest communities, leaving them unable to keep their children properly housed, fed, healthy and educated," the UN children's agency said in a report.

"In Bangladesh and around the world, climate change has the potential to reverse many of the gains that countries have achieved in child survival and development."

Around 12 million of the children most affected live in and around the powerful river systems which flow through Bangladesh and regularly burst their banks, the report said. Another 4.5 million children live in coastal areas regularly struck by powerful cyclones.

A further three million children live further inland, where farming communities suffer increasing periods of drought.

Bangladesh's flat topography, dense population and weak infrastructure have long made it vulnerable to extreme weather events, but experts say that these have become more frequent in recent years as global temperatures have risen.

In 2007, a powerful cyclone killed nearly 4000 people and affected hundreds of thousands more. The most recent major flooding of the Brahmaputra River in 2017 inundated at least 480 community health clinics and damaged some 50,000 tube wells, essential for meeting communities' safe water needs.

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A wall has been built on the bank of the Chhengerkhal river in Sylhet's Gowainghat to make an enclosure for stone crushing and a terminal for loading ships. Influential traders have engaged in grabbing the river bank in Shalutikor area, raising questions from locals about the role of the authorities. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO:  
SHEIKH NASIR

9 KHULNA JUTE MILLS  
250 sued over  
attack on cops

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Khulna

Khulna Metropolitan Police has filed a case against 250 unnamed people over an attack on the law enforcers during a 72-hour strike of nine state-owned jute mills' workers in Khulna and Jashore.

Amrit Kumar Bagchi, sub-inspector of Daulatpur Police Station, filed the case with the station around 10:00pm on Thursday as four policemen were attacked inside Pabla Police Box in Khulna town's Natun Rasta area on the same day.

Workers from major mills including Crescent, Platinum, Khalishpur, Daulatpur, Star, Eastern and Alim Jute Mills had been engaged in protests to press home their nine-point demand. Their demands include clearing their arrears, gratuity and insurance payments of retired workers and regularising temporary workers.

Kazi Mostaq Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Daulatpur Police Station, said the protesters injured four traffic inspectors -- Abul Basher, Monir, Raatul and Raihan -- and vandalised all

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RAKHINE STATE  
UN concerned  
over escalation  
in conflict

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The UN Human Rights Office has voiced deep concern over escalating conflict between the Myanmar military and the rebel Arakan Army, which has displaced several thousand Rohingyas in Rakhine State in recent days.

"We are deeply disturbed by the intensification of the conflict in Rakhine State in recent weeks, and condemn what appear to be indiscriminate attacks and attacks directed at civilians by the Myanmar military and armed fighters in the context of the ongoing fighting with the ethnic Rakhine Arakan Army (AA)," said Ravina Shamdasani, spokesperson for the UN High

Commissioner for Human Rights, in Geneva.

In a press statement yesterday, she said the conflict between the Myanmar military, known as the Tatmadaw, and the Arakan Army has given rise to credible reports of the killing of civilians, burning of houses, arbitrary arrests, abductions, indiscriminate fire in civilian areas, and damage to cultural property.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

## NEW ZEALAND MOSQUE MASSACRE Shooter charged with 49 more murders

Court orders psychiatric test to  
determine his fitness for trial

REUTERS, Christchurch

Australian Brenton Tarrant yesterday appeared in a New Zealand court where the suspected white supremacist was charged with an additional 49 counts of murder at two mosques last month.

In an attack broadcast live on Facebook, a lone gunman armed with semi-automatic weapons targeted Muslims attending Friday prayers in Christchurch on March 15, killing 50 worshippers and wounding dozens of people.

Tarrant was charged with one murder the day after the attack and was remanded without a plea. In Christchurch's High Court, where he appeared by video link yesterday from a prison in Auckland, 39 extra attempted murder charges were filed along with 49 new murder charges.

The High Court judge overseeing the appearance ordered Tarrant to undergo a mental assessment to determine whether he was fit to stand trial. He was not required to submit a plea.

Tarrant, 28, was then remanded to custody until June 14.

High Court Judge Cameron Mander said whether Tarrant would be required to enter a plea at his next appearance depended on his mental health assessment and "any other developments".

Legal experts said two mental health experts would likely assess Tarrant,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

Vote BJP,  
allies out  
of power

Over 600 theatre  
artists urge citizens  
ahead of LS polls

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
New Delhi

Over 600 theatre personalites of India, including Naseeruddin Shah, Girish Karnad, Usha Ganguli and Amol Palekar, have signed a letter urging the people to "vote BJP and its allies" out of power, alleging that the idea of India and its constitution are "under threat."

The letter, issued on Thursday evening in 12 languages on the Artist Unite India website, said the upcoming Lok Sabha elections are the "most critical in the history" of India.

"Today, the very idea of India is under threat. Today, song, dance, laughter is under threat. Today, our beloved Constitution is under threat," the letter said.

The government has "suffocated" the institutions where argument, debate and dissent were nurtured, the letter alleged, adding "a democracy must empower its weakest, its most marginalised. A

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Four-legged whale  
fossil found in Peru



AFP, Washington

Paleontologists have found a well-preserved fossil of a four-legged amphibian ancestor of whales, a discovery that sheds new light on the mammals' transition from land to the ocean.

The ancestors of whales and dolphins walked on Earth about 50 million years ago in the regions that now comprise India and Pakistan.

Paleontologists have previously found partial fossils of the species in North America that were 41.2 million years old suggesting that by this time, the cetaceans had lost the ability to carry their own weight and walk the Earth.

The new specimen, described in a study published Thursday in the journal Current Biology, is 42.6 million years old and provides fresh information on the evolution of cetaceans.

The fossil was found about 0.6 miles (one kilometer) inland from Peru's Pacific coast, at Playa Media Luna.

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Quader out  
of hospital  
in S'pore

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader, who is now in Singapore for treatment, was released from Mount Elizabeth Hospital yesterday.

Quader, also the road transport and bridges minister, was discharged from the hospital around 3:00pm (local time), said the ministry sources, quoting Prof Abu Nasar Rizvi of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), who is accompanying the minister in Singapore.

After getting the clearance from the hospital, Quader was taken to a rented house there for some days for his follow-up treatment, the sources added.

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PRAYER TIMING APRIL 6

Fazr Zohr Asr Magrib Esha

AZAN 4-40 12-45 4-35 6-21 7-45

JAMAAT 5-15 1-15 5-00 6-24 8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



People walk on railway tracks, oblivious to the train signalled to proceed by a lineman, inset. Such carelessness acts are not only a nuisance to the railway employees but also very risky. The photo was taken near Tejgaon station in the capital recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



বিজিএমইএ নির্বাচন ২০১৯-২০২১  
"Made in Bangladesh with Pride"

বিজিএমইএ কমপ্লেক্স: ২৩/১, পাহাড়পথ লিংক রোড, কারওয়ান বাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৫

সম্মানিত সদস্যদের জন্য জরুরী বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিজিএমইএ'র সম্মানিত সদস্যদের সদয় অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, আজ ০৬ এপ্রিল ২০১৯ (শনিবার) বিজিএমইএ নির্বাচন ২০১৯-২০২১ অনুষ্ঠিত হচ্ছে। এ উপলক্ষ্যে আজ সকাল ৮টা থেকে বিকাল ৪টা পর্যন্ত কারওয়ান বাজারস্থ বিজিএমইএ ঢাকা কার্যালয় ও চট্টগ্রাম আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয় কেন্দ্রে বিরতিহীনভাবে একযোগে ভোট গ্রহণ চলবে।

বিজিএমইএ'র সম্মানিত ভোটারদেরকে নির্দিষ্ট সময়ের মধ্যে স্ব কেন্দ্রে উপস্থিত হয়ে ভোট প্রদানের জন্য বিনোদন জানানো যাচ্ছে।

সচিব, নির্বাচন বোর্ড