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"This step which was taken is worthless and we do not recognise it."
TURKISH PRESIDENT ERDOGAN SAYS AFTER US HOUSE RECOGNISES 'ARMENIAN GENOCIDE' (PAGE 12)



"Very sad to even think about playing without you on the field. Hoping that you comeback soon like a champ."
BANGLADESH WICKETKEEPER-BATSMAN MUSHFIQUR RAHIM ABOUT SHAKIB AL HASAN



"We could have taken steps regarding onion crisis much earlier. However, we have not done that. This is our mistake."
AGRICULTURE MINISTER ABDUR RAZZAQUE AT A PRESS BRIEFING (PAGE 16)

CLIMATE CHANGE FALLOUT IN BANGLADESH

42m people to be hit by 2050

Study shows sea level rise to affect 3 times more people globally than previously thought

| VULNERABLE POPULATION IN 6 ASIAN COUNTRIES | | | | | |
|--|-------|-------|---------|-----------|----------|
| BANGLADESH | CHINA | INDIA | VIETNAM | INDONESIA | THAILAND |
| 42m | 93m | 36m | 31m | 23m | 12m |

PINAKI ROY

A new research shows coastal flooding will hit nearly 42 million people in Bangladesh by 2050, meaning that the situation is likely to be worse than what was feared earlier.

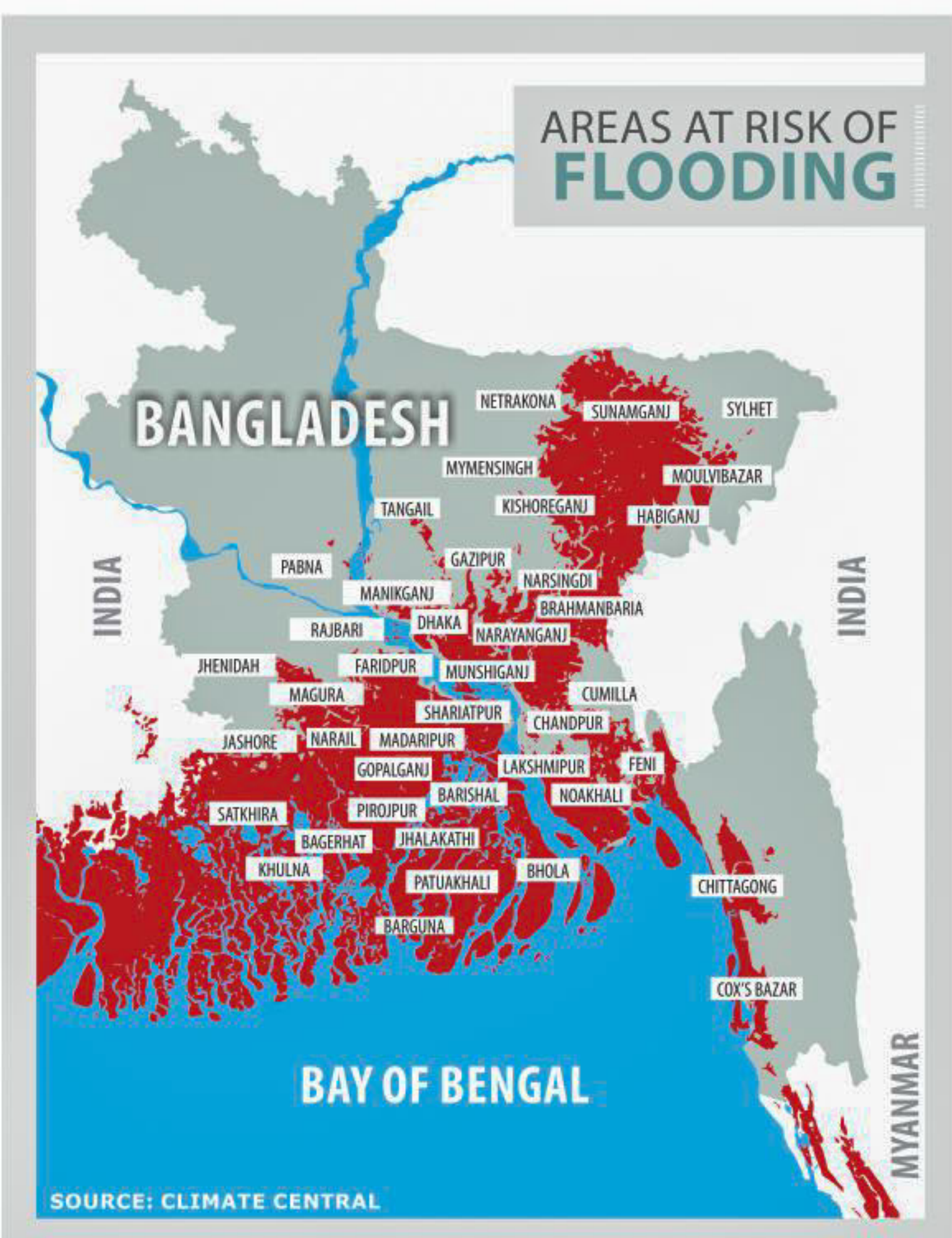
The number of victims could reach 57 million by the end of this century, according to the study conducted by US-based non-profit research group Climate Central and published in British scientific journal Nature on Tuesday.

A previous projection by the group had said the flooding would affect around 5 million Bangladeshis living in coastal areas by the mid-century. Some other studies, however, said the number could be 20 to 30 million.

The new study says researchers have developed a more accurate way of estimating the effects of sea level rise over large areas, and found that nearly 300m people across the world will be vulnerable by 2050 to flooding made worse by climate change.

Globally, more than three times more people are at risk from rising sea levels than previously believed, the researchers suggest.

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Parents of 11-year-old Rubel who was killed in the explosion break down in tears at Suhrawardy hospital yesterday. They lost another son to drowning last year. Inset, families of the victims wait outside the morgue.

PHOTO: STAR

Six kids killed in cylinder blast

Used for inflating balloons, it explodes in the capital's Rupnagar, 20 injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The colourful balloons attracted children from the shanties of the slum across the street.

About 12 of them holding Tk 5 or Tk 10 notes waited eagerly as a man inflated the balloons using a gas cylinder.

But everything changed in a blink when the cylinder exploded with a loud bang.

Six children died and at least 20 others, mostly children, were seriously injured in the blast on road 11 in the capital's Rupnagar around 3:30pm yesterday, said Abul Kalam Azad, officer-in-charge of Rupnagar Police Station.

Police and grieving family members could identify the mutilated bodies of Rubel, 11, Ria Moni, 7, Farzana, 6, Ramzan, 10, and Nupur, 7. Officials are yet to identify a boy aged about 8.

"I just heard a loud bang. Then I saw children lying in pools of blood. Some of them were groaning in pain," said Sharif Mahmud, who was at a nearby shop.

Hossain, a roadside vendor of snacks, told The Daily

Star that the explosion happened several minutes after the balloon seller arrived there and started inflating his balloons.

"Smoke engulfed the area for a minute after the blast," he said.

Police arrested balloon seller Abu Sayeed last night at National Institute of Traumatology & Orthopaedic Rehabilitation, said OC Azad.

He lost part of his left arm and sustained injuries to his stomach, the officer said, adding that they were filing a case against him.

Police and firefighters reached the scene soon afterwards and took the injured to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital.

Doctors at DMCH said the condition of at least five of the children were critical.

A pall of gloom descended on the hospitals where families searched for their children.

"My son's body has been split in half," Rubel's father Nur Hossain, a rickshaw puller, said as he broke down at

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Myanmar out to mislead int'l community

Says foreign ministry

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh yesterday accused Myanmar of remaining engaged in a "persistent campaign" to mislead the international community to avoid its obligations for "sustained repatriation" and reintegration of the Rohingyas.

Dhaka also rejected "baseless accusations, falsification, and misrepresentation of facts" by Nay Pyi Taw, and urged it to stop concocted campaign and concentrate on the fulfillment of its obligations.

"Myanmar must act decisively to address the real causes that are preventing the displaced Rohingya from going back voluntarily," said the Bangladesh foreign ministry.

The ministry said it was a "matter of utter dismay" to witness such tenacious campaign with fabricated information, misrepresentation of facts, unsubstantiated claims and undue accusations on part of Myanmar to mislead the international community.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Talks on for purchase of advanced arms from US

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh is in talks to buy advanced weapons from the US as part of broader efforts to modernise the country's military equipment, reported the Nikkei Asian Review on Tuesday.

Bangladesh has shown interest in purchasing two Apache helicopters and unspecified missile systems, said a US official. He could not, however, say what the total cost of the purchase would be, according to the report.

"We desire to support the Bangladesh Military Forces Goal 2030, as Bangladesh seeks to modernise its military equipment," the US Embassy in Dhaka told Japan's financial newspaper in a statement.

The report says Bangladesh believes modernisation was essential to address the changing geopolitical environment.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5



Quadruple parking and garbage leave little room for traffic on the newly widened stretch of Dhaka-Demra road at Bhanga Press in Jatrabari. The photo was taken on Sunday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

FROZEN BANK ACCOUNTS

ACC seeks info from central bank

Files case against Kalabagan KC president for 'illegal wealth'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has sought bank statements and transaction records of the accounts frozen recently by the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) during the ongoing anti-corruption drive.

The commission has so far filed nine cases against some former ruling Awami League leaders, businessmen and their relatives. In the cases, the anti-graft body took BFIU's information into consideration.

There is speculation that BFIU has frozen bank accounts of politicians whose names have come up in probes. Bank accounts of some businessmen and government officials have also been frozen.

In a letter, ACC Director General Sayeed Mahub Khan yesterday sought information of frozen bank accounts from general manager of BFIU under Bangladesh Bank, said Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya, ACC public relations officer.

The letter said the ACC was enquiring into irregularities, corruption, misappropriation of government money, and amassing of illegal wealth, and filing cases over the matter.

"It is learnt from media reports that BFIU has frozen bank accounts of over 400 people and organisations after the anti-graft drive began," the letter reads.

For the sake of conducting the ongoing enquiry and cases properly, it is necessary to analyse frozen bank accounts' statements and transaction records, the anti-graft body said.

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