

'INCLUSIVE GOVT' IN AFGHANISTAN

Taliban say caretaker government will include leaders from all ethnicities and tribal backgrounds in the country
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Your Right to Know

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The dressing room environment is very good at the moment. We are 15 to 20 people here but everyone wants the 11 playing in the field to do well.
NURUL HASAN, BANGLADESH WICKETKEEPER



"We will not forgive. We will not forget. We will hunt you down and make you pay."
US PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN
ON KABUL AIRPORT BLASTS



"This incident underscores the volatility of the situation on the ground in Afghanistan but also strengthens our resolve as we continue to deliver urgent assistance across the country in support of the Afghan people."
UN CHIEF ANTONIO GUTERRES

High-value fish stock depletes

Experts for action to stop overfishing

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

The stock of some high-value sea fish species has depleted over the last three decades due to excessive fishing that also damages the ecosystem of the marine environment, threatening survival of other aquatic lives.

The depletion trend of some fish populations, including shrimp, pomfret, croaker and Indian Salmon, is so alarming that experts call for urgent protective measures.

"The overall shrimp biomass trend has been consistently downward over the last 30 years and somewhat depleted due to overfishing," said a government report, titled Marine Fisheries Survey Reports and Stock Assessment.

The report was published in 2019, after a three-year (2016-2019) survey by the Department of Fisheries (DoF).

The report recommended immediate

government interventions before fish like shrimp, pomfret and Indian Salmon face "commercial extinction".

Two years on, the relevant ministries and departments are yet to formulate the rules needed to stop overfishing and rebuild the stock of endangered fish species.

Kh Mahbubul Haque, additional director general of DoF, said the coronavirus pandemic had slowed down their work.

THE DEPLETION Though the overall shrimp production has risen due to inland shrimp farming, the total catch of marine shrimp has dropped by about 10,000 tonnes in a decade, according to the statistical yearbooks of the DoF.

In 2009-10, the total catch of marine shrimp was 52,592 tonnes. It dropped to 42,816 tonnes in 2019-20.



TIGER SHRIMP



SILVER POMFRET SIGNIFICANTLY DEPLETED



CATFISHES SIGNIFICANTLY DEPLETED

Marine Shrimp catch declines from **57,660** tonnes in 2011-12 to **42,816** tonnes in 2019-20



INDIAN SALMON SEVERELY DEPLETED



HARINA SHRIMP SIGNIFICANTLY DEPLETED

KEY POINTS

- Marine shrimp catch drops due to overfishing
- Catch of pomfret sees a nearly five-fold decline
- With a 44-fold drop, Indian Salmon seems worst victim of overfishing
- Experts for quick action to save high-value fish species, ecosystem

Govt report recommended immediate interventions before fish like shrimp, pomfret and Indian Salmon face "commercial extinction". But the relevant ministries and departments are yet to formulate the rules needed to stop overfishing and rebuild the stock of endangered fish species.



Locals looking for missing people after a boat capsized in Laishka Beel in Bijoy Nagar, Brahmanbaria, yesterday evening. At least 21 people died and about 50 others went missing after the boat sank.

PHOTO: MASUK HRIDYO

2 judges get death threats from 'militant groups'

STAR REPORT

Two judges in Joypurhat and Tangail have received death threats from "militant groups".

They received threatening letters through the post on Thursday.

Rustam Ali, judge of Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal in Joypurhat, received a two-page letter at his residence.

Police and court office sources said the senders of the letter claimed that they are "the Taliban" and the group will take control of Bangladesh like Afghanistan soon.

"You are a judge, but people are not getting fair justice," said the letter.

It also asked "judges and lawyers to wear Taliban

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21 die as boat sinks in B'baria

It was hit by 2 cargo vessels; about 50 missing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

At least 21 people drowned and around 50 others went missing as a boat capsized in Laishka Beel in Brahmanbaria yesterday evening.

Firefighters and locals were looking for the missing people well past midnight.

Witnesses said more than 100 people were on board when the boat left Champaknagar area for Brahmanbaria town around 5:30pm.

As the boat reached Dewdona area, it collided with a small dinghy and the boatman lost its control. The boat was then hit by two sand-carrying vessels coming from the opposite direction and capsized, said survivors and witnesses.

"I was on the bank of the waterbody when I heard a loud noise and saw the cargo vessels hit a boat full of people. The boat sank within moments," said Nurul Amin, a local resident.

"Some passengers were trying to swim ashore," he told this newspaper last night.

One of the survivors, Anwar Hossain, who was travelling with his family, was seen in tears on the bank of the waterbody around 8:15pm.

"I had to see my two children drown. I could not save them," he cried. Soon after the accident, hundreds of villagers thronged the spot and kept searching for the missing people. Many were desperately looking for their loved ones.

The deputy commissioner of the district visited the area later and announced that Tk 20,000 would be given to each family of the deceased.

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STRANDED IN AFGHANISTAN Evacuation of 15 Bangladeshis still uncertain

160 Afghan students of AUW also wait for flight

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The evacuation of 15 Bangladeshis from Afghanistan remained uncertain till yesterday as the chartered flight that was supposed to carry them home on Thursday got cancelled following the blast at Kabul airport.

Eight telecom engineers and three BRAC International officials are among the 15 who have been stranded in strife-torn Afghanistan.

The US arranged the chartered flight for flying to Bangladesh 160 Afghan students who are studying at the Asian University for Women (AUW) in Chattogram.

They had gone to Afghanistan on leave but got stranded there as the Taliban seized control of that country.

Mashfee Binte Shams, secretary (east) at the foreign ministry, told The Daily Star yesterday that Thursday's flight was cancelled and it was yet to be rescheduled.

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Biman pilot suffers heart attack in flight

Emergency landing at Nagpur airport, India

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Biman flight from Muscat to Dhaka had to make an emergency landing at an Indian airport yesterday after the pilot in command suffered a heart attack in the cockpit.

The Boeing 737-800 had 124 passengers.

The plane landed safely at Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport in Nagpur of Maharashtra around 10:40am (local time), Abu Saleh Mustafa Kamal, Biman managing director and CEO, told The Daily Star.

The flight BG-022 was scheduled to land at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport around 11:30am (Bangladesh time).

Biman in a press release said Capt Nowshad Ataul Qayyum suddenly fell sick while the aircraft was over Raipur in India.

In a WhatsApp message, Group Captain Touhid-ul Ahsan, executive director of Shahjalal airport, said after Capt Nowshad suffered the heart attack, the co-pilot took over and landed the plane safely.

Capt Nowshad was admitted to the emergency department of Hope Hospital in Nagpur, said the press release.

The pilot was improving and the country manager at Biman's Delhi office was sent to Nagpur to provide necessary assistance to passengers and crew.

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Fifty-year-old Jamil Hossain sharpens a pair of scissors at his small shop in old Dhaka's Churihatta. On weekdays, he sharpens about 100 pairs of scissors he gets from the numerous sweatshops in the area. Apart from running his family, he pays for the education of his two college-going son and daughter from the earnings at his shop.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

KABUL AIRPORT CARNAGE US on alert for more attacks

Says next few days most dangerous; Biden vows to hunt down culprits; death toll hovers around 100

AGENCIES

US forces helping to evacuate Afghans desperate to flee Taliban rule were on alert for more attacks yesterday after an Islamic State suicide bombing killed around 100 people, including 13 US service members, just outside Kabul airport.

The White House said the next few days of an evacuation operation that has taken more than 100,000 people out of the country in the past two weeks were likely to be the most dangerous.

Reuters yesterday put the death toll at 92, while AFP said 85 people have died in the attack. Some US media including the New York Times and CNN cited local health officials as saying as many as 170 people had died in the attack.

The blast targeted US forces, but hit hardest the mass of people who had converged on the airport in a desperate bid to escape the Taliban's feared hardline rule.

Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said the United States believed there are still "specific, credible" threats against the airport.

"We certainly are prepared and would expect future attempts," Kirby told reporters in Washington. "We're monitoring these threats, very, very specifically, virtually in real time."

US and allied forces are racing to complete evacuations of their citizens and vulnerable Afghans and to withdraw from Afghanistan by an Aug 31 deadline set by President Joe Biden.

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