

LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY HIT BY EXTREME TEMPERATURES

Dhaka loses \$6b a year

ZYMA ISLAM

Dhaka is losing \$6 billion worth of labour productivity each year due to heat stress from extreme temperatures, said a study published yesterday.

This amounts up to 8 percent of the annual labour output in Dhaka, said the study published by the Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center, a joint initiative of The Rockefeller Foundation and philanthropist Adrienne Arsht.

The study compared 12 cities across the globe and found that in Dhaka heat impairs labour productivity more than any other city.

The other cities studied include New Delhi, Athens, Buenos Aires, Freetown, London, Los Angeles, Miami, Monterrey, Santiago and Sydney.

The study titled "Hot Cities, Chilled Economies: Impacts of Extreme Heat on Global Cities" said unless measures were taken to reduce global warming, the loss will rise to 10 percent by 2050.

This is the highest share of losses of any city in this study, it added. "While others such as Abu Dhabi and Bangkok are more exposed to heat stress, Dhaka is unusually vulnerable to its effects, due to its labour-intensive economy and low rate of active cooling," said the report.

"Despite the already high temperatures and humidity of between 60 and 80 percent in Dhaka, climate change is set to make things substantially worse."

Because of the unchecked warming, sectors such as manufacturing loses \$1.5 billion while logistics loses \$1.8 billion yearly.

The report states that in Dhaka, for the 10 hottest days of a typical year, the apparent temperature (considering both heat and humidity) is hotter than the human body.

- Productivity loss due to heat is 8pc of Dhaka's output
- Dhaka's economic losses due to heat more than New Delhi, Miami, Santiago
- garments, manufacturing, construction, transport, logistics, retail trade most affected
- Hotspots in Dhaka more than 10 Degree Celsius hotter than surrounding countryside

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Devotees in front of an idol of Goddess Durga at Cheragi Pahar Puja pandal in Chattogram as the biggest festival of the Hindu community began yesterday with the celebration of Maha Shashti.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

SANCTIONS ON RAB We do not need reform Says new DG

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Just two days after US Ambassador Peter Haas called for Rab's reform in order for the sanctions to be lifted, its newly appointed Director General M Khurshid Hossain yesterday said the force does not need any reform.

"We are not doing anything for which we need to reform Rab. We are doing our job according to

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Back to yaba biz after weathering the storm

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN, back from Teknaf

Shah Azam, 28, a yaba godfather of Teknaf, surrendered to police on February 16, 2019, promising to leave the drug business and never engage in the trade again. He was sent to jail at the time and released in November 2020.

But only six months after his release, he broke the "promise". On May 23 last year, he along with three of his associates was arrested by Teknaf police with 10,000 yaba pills.

Interestingly, just a month after being



arrested, Azam managed to secure bail and is now moving freely using his father Jamal Hossain's influence.

Jamal is also a yaba trader and a member of Hnila Union Parishad in Teknaf.

Both father and son surrendered to police on the same day along with 100 other top yaba traders and dealers in 2019 in presence of the home minister and the then inspector general of police.

Sources said they have all got out of jail by the end of 2020 and many of them have gone back to narcotics trade.

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Toab Khan no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Veteran journalist Toab Khan passed away at a city hospital yesterday.

He was 87.

Khan, who was suffering from old-age related diseases, breathed his last around 12:40pm, Sharifuzzaman Pintu, executive editor of Dainik Bangla, told The Daily Star.

The Ekushey Padak-winning journalist is survived by his wife, a daughter, and a host of relatives.

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Rejoinder, our reply

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation has sent in a rejoinder to a report titled "State coffers robbed of Tk 4,697cr by Petrobangla, BPC" published in The Daily Star on September 19.

In the rejoinder, the BPC said it found the report malicious with the intention of harming the reputation of the state-owned organisation.

"It is to be noted that except in the heading and the first paragraph of the report there is no information about BPC. Actually this report is

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SWITZERLAND BASED MULTINATIONAL COMPANY SIKA BANGLADESH LIMITED STARTS ITS JOURNEY AT MEGHNA INDUSTRIAL ECONOMIC ZONE (MIEZ)

Sika Bangladesh Ltd., a global construction chemical manufacturer of Switzerland, organizes its factory ground breaking ceremony at Meghna Industrial Economic Zone (MIEZ), Sonargaon, Narayanganj on September 29, 2022. Honorable Executive Chairman (Senior Secretary) of Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA) Mr. Shaikh Yusuf Harun was present in the ceremony as chief guest. Honorable Ambassador, Embassy of Switzerland in Dhaka Ms. Nathalie Chuard, and Director of Meghna Group of Industries (MGI) Ms. Tanjima Binthe Mostafa, were present as special guests at the ground breaking ceremony. BEZA Executive Member (Additional Secretary)- Administration & Finance Mr. Abdul Azim Chowdhury, Country Head/GM of Sika Bangladesh Ltd., Mr. Sanjiban Roy Nandi and Area Manager South Asia-Head of TM Concrete of Sika Asia Pacific Management Pte. Ltd., Ms. Yumi Kan were also present.

