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STUDY ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Flooding may rise by 36pc

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Flooding in Bangladesh is predicted to increase by up to 36 percent in the future if the global emission continues to rise.

According to a report published yesterday by Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment and Centre for Climate Change Economics, peak river flows in the country could surge by 36 percent between 2070-2099 if the global emission continues.

Even if the emission level remains low, floods will increase by 16 percent during this time compared to 1971-2000.

Currently, floods submerge up to 20-25 percent of Bangladesh every year and extreme floods, when they happen, submerge 55-60 percent of the country.

Citing the disaster management ministry, the report says the 2022 flood in Bangladesh is estimated to have cost US\$1.0 billion and affected 7.3 million people.

The report says over half of the country's population is exposed to high flood risks.

"Climate change is exacerbating this risk and causing damage with an increasingly high financial and humanitarian cost," the report mentions.

According to the report, erratic rainfall patterns, intensifying flash floods, rising sea levels, and hastening glacial melting are all contributing to the crisis. The situation demands an urgent and comprehensive response on a global scale, says the study.

It also mentioned that without greater adaptation action and resilience-building, the humanitarian and economic costs of flooding in Bangladesh, which are already high, are expected to increase further.

Between 1971 and 2014, 78 floods claimed over 41,783 lives and inflicted economic damages totaling \$12.2 billion. The 2022 flood is estimated to have cost \$1 billion and affected 7.3 million people, the report adds.

It says a low-carbon pathway is crucial for Bangladesh to tackle future flood crises.

Referring to the recent flood in Bandarban, the study says Bangladesh is "under siege by water" - floods have reduced the population's ability to cope, triggering a cascade of setbacks that have long-lasting implications for their well-being and prosperity.

Prof Dr. A.K.M. Saiful Islam, director, Institute of Water and Flood Management (IWFM) of BUET, said recent events such as the devastating floods in Bandarban and Sylhet serve as stark reminders of the urgency of the situation.

"The vulnerable state of our nation demands immediate action," he added.

Bangladesh contributes just 0.25% of global greenhouse gas emissions, but its plight underscores the need for collective climate action, says the report.

The agriculture and energy sectors are responsible for most of the country's emissions, contributing 44% and 39% respectively and are estimated to peak in 2040.

The report recommends that a low-carbon pathway is crucial for Bangladesh to tackle future flood crises.

Strengthening early warning systems for flood preparedness, improving understanding of vulnerabilities

Floods submerge 20-25pc of Bangladesh every year; up to 60pc submerge in extreme cases

In 2022, floods caused damage worth \$1 billion and affected 7.3m people

Between 1971 and 2014, 78 floods claimed over 41,783 lives

Bangladesh responsible for 0.25% of global emissions



Five trees were felled under the supervision of Public Works Department officials near Shaheed Shahabuddin Road at Agargaon yesterday. If the locals and activists had not intervened, they would have cut down 54 more trees in the area.

PHOTO: MOSTAFA YOUSUF

Felling trees for housing project

Locals, activists unite against PWD's initiative

MOSTAFA YOUSUF

The Public Works Department (PWD) cut down trees yesterday to make space for a housing block for parliament officials and staff near Shahid Shahabuddin Road in the capital's Agargaon without authorisation from relevant authorities.

They chopped down five trees out of 59 in the morning and paused the work when locals and environmental activists started protesting.

Aged around 30 years, the trees are home to a variety of birds, said locals.

Ahsan Rony, a local and the founder of Green Savers, a green movement platform, told The Daily Star that he saw PWD hired workers cutting trees yesterday morning. When they questioned them, they replied that trees were being felled for a housing block.

Mohammad Azaz, chairman at River and Delta Research Centre, who is also a local, told The Daily Star that they rushed

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BNP instigating militant groups

Says Obaidul Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League general secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday alleged that BNP is instigating militant groups ahead of the upcoming national election.

"Today, when the country is progressing on the path of development and peace under the leadership of Bangabandhu's daughter Sheikh Hasina, BNP is inciting militant groups ahead of the upcoming parliamentary elections. Mirza Fakhrul's speech reflected that provocation," he said in a statement sent to the media.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir on Tuesday alleged that the government was staging a "drama" by conducting anti-militant drives to get the attention of the Western world and India.

Obaidul Quader said Fakhrul's statement is an utter mockery with the countrymen.

"The people of the country are ashamed to see the lies that the secretary general of BNP," the statement quoted Quader as saying.

Obaidul Quader said, "To them, efforts to suppress militants will seem like a drama - this is normal. Because, the network of militant organisations is being operated with the help of the BNP."

The AL General Secretary also said that Bangladesh had become a sanctuary of terrorism and militancy during the BNP rule. The whole country was shaken by the terrible violence of the notorious militant leaders Shaikh Abdur Rahman and Siddiqui Rahman Bangla Bhai.

In the statement, Obaidul Quader said that military dictator Zia planted the tree of communal politics and militancy in Bangladesh, while Zia

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Tsunami needed to oust AL

Says Fakhrul, accuses it of amending constitution for their own interests

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said the country needs a tsunami to get rid of the ruling party.

He also accused the ruling Awami League of amending the constitution to serve its own interests

"...Which constitution? The constitution is for the Awami League. They have prepared it in such a way that it only serves the interest of their party and party members. You cannot ask any questions (about the constitution), and they (AL-led govt) say it cannot be changed," Fakhrul said.

He came up with the remarks while attending a discussion titled "Civil Constitutional and Human Rights Protection" at Dhaka Reports Unity, organised by Nur-led Gono Odhikar Parishad yesterday.

"The constitution is for the people. They (AL-led govt) have destroyed this constitution."

He also said that one of the problems of the AL is that they think they are the owner of the country. "To get out of the situation, we need a big shake-up... Without a big tsunami, the stone on our shoulders cannot be removed," he said.

Referring to a BBS report on GDP growth and per capita income, Fakhrul said, "These are based on lies. Whatever their ministers tell them to show, they show it in their reports."

Meanwhile, BNP standing committee member Abdul Moeen Khan, in another programme, has said that the Awami League has wiped out democracy from the country.

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BTI Pesticide Ctg customs sues Marshal Agrovet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chattogram Customs filed a case yesterday charging five people of importing BTI pesticide for DNCC by forging documents and using false paperwork.

M Nasiruddin Ahmed and Mohammad Alauddin, the executive director and managing director of Marshal Agrovet Chemical Industries Limited, the company which imported the pesticide, were the main accused in the case.

Besides, officials of a local C&F agent Tivoli Enterprise, which delivered the insecticide from the port to Marshal's office in Dhaka, were also accused.

BTI is used to eliminate larvae of Aedes mosquitoes, carriers of dengue virus.

Marshal did not import BTI pesticide from Singapore as it had claimed. Instead, it imported the product from a Chinese company called Shandong Ganon Agrochemical, according to customs documents.

However, tender documents clearly state that the BTI must be imported from the US, EU countries, Singapore, India, and Malaysia.

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FAKE NOTES

Four of a gang arrested in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rab on Tuesday night arrested four members of a gang, including their ringleader, for creating and selling counterfeit notes. They also seized approximately Tk 50 lakh in fake currency.

A team of Rab-10 arrested them from Demra, Khilgaon and Shabujbagh areas, Rab's Legal and Media wing Director Commander Khandaker Al Moin told a press briefing yesterday.

The arrestees are - Aminul Haque alias Dulal, 43, the mastermind of the gang; Abdur Razzak alias Didar, 30, Sujun Ali, 40, and Sakibul Hasan, 21.

According to Rab, the gang would sell fake notes worth Tk 1 lakh for Tk 20,000-25,000. They have been making fake notes for about a year and selling those in different parts of the country, including fish markets, launch ghats, and bus terminals.



Rickshaws take up almost one third of this section of Green Road in Dhaka, restricting the movement of both pedestrians and vehicles in the area. This type of illegal parking is a common scene in some of the smaller roads in the city. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

INFORMAL SECTOR

Formulate legal framework for workers: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There must be a legal framework in place for workers in the informal sector to provide workplace safety, maternity leave, and a fixed work hour, speakers told a seminar yesterday.

They were speaking in a seminar titled "Ensuring Social Protection for The Women Workers Engaged in Informal Sector in Bangladesh" organised by Karmajibi Nari and Nari Sramik Kanta at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

Women leader and lawmaker Shirin Akther said a dignified life must be ensured for the workers in the informal sector. No matter whose profession is what, everyone's dignity must be upheld, she noted.

Stating the importance of the International Labour Organization convention, she said, several of its terms have yet to be ratified by Bangladesh. The country must fully ratify the convention as well as check how much of the existing law is being followed.

"A bill was placed in the parliament about passing a law for informal sector workers. That bill did not progress much. A parliament session will be held soon. We will discuss it there", she added.

Echoing the same, Abdul Kader, deputy secretary (labour wing) of Ministry of Labour and Employment said the number of informal workers, particularly the women, increased in rural areas.

Rajekuzzaman Ratan, president of Samajtantrik

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