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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

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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.

PHOTO: MOSTAFA YOUSUF

Now, trees
cut for govt
housing
projectLocals, activists
unite against
PWD's move

MOSTAFA YOUSUF

Workers under supervision of the Public Works Department (PWD) officials yesterday cut down trees 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 project zone in the morning and stopped their work only after facing protests from locals and environmental activists.

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

Ahsan Rony, a local and the founder of Green

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WB to provide
\$100m to
control dengue

Says health minister

UNB, Dhaka

Health Minister Zahid Maleque yesterday said the World Bank (WB) will provide Bangladesh with \$100 million to control the mosquito-borne disease dengue that killed more than 500 people this year.

He made the announcement while briefing journalists after a meeting with the World Bank representatives at the Secretariat in Dhaka.

The minister said, "Dengue should be brought under control. The World Bank will provide \$100 million to control dengue. They will provide this fund to the Ministry of Local Government to control mosquitoes."

Moreover, an amount of \$700 million will be given for Rohingyas and the host community for the use of infrastructures and services, he said adding

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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, "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 leader also said Bangladesh had become a sanctuary of militancy during the BNP rule.

"The journey of radical-communal politics began in this country under the patronisation of BNP. The seeds of communal politics were planted by Ziaur Rahman, while it spread with a strong base during the reign of his wife Khaleda Zia," he said.

Tsunami needed
to oust AL

Says Mirza Fakhrul

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.

"The constitution is for the Awami League. They have amended it in such a way that it only serves the interest of their party ... 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 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."

BTI PESTICIDE
Ctg customs
sues Marshal
Agrovat

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 Agrovat 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

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US-Bangladesh
defence
dialogue kicks
off in DhakaDIPLOMATIC
CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka and Washington discussed defence cooperation on global and regional issues as the two sides began the two-day US-Bangladesh bilateral defence dialogue in Dhaka yesterday.

They also discussed cooperation in the areas of defence technology and equipment, disaster management, UN peacekeeping, training, joint exercise, deployment and workshops, according to a statement of the Inter Services Public Relations Directorate (ISPR).

Brig Gen Husain Muhammad Masihur Rahman, director general of the Operations and Plan Directorate at the Armed Forces Division, is leading the Bangladesh side, while Brig Gen Thomas J James, director of strategic planning and policy of the US Indo-Pacific Command, is leading the US side.

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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 Samik Kanta at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

Women leader and lawmaker Shirin Akhter 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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