



Another \$1b budget support expected this year

ADB leading the climate-centric co-financing arrangement

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Bangladesh is expecting another \$1 billion in budget support towards the end of the year in a financing arrangement led by the Asian Development Bank.

Of the \$1 billion, the Manila-based lender would be providing \$400 million; Japan International Cooperation Agency, the China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and other donors would be providing the rest.

The funding is to support the country's efforts towards climate change mitigation and/or adaptation and low-carbon development, following in the leads of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, which earlier provided \$500 million and \$1.4 billion respectively.

"A low-lying, densely populated country with a high poverty rate, Bangladesh is particularly vulnerable to the impact of climate change," the ADB said in a project document.

Bangladesh is also a country highly vulnerable to climate risk, ranked seventh on the Global Climate Risk Index 2021, it said.

Subsequently, the Manila-based lender has taken the initiative to support Bangladesh's climate risk mitigation and adaptation (including renewable energy, energy efficiency and green transportation sector).

For Bangladesh, the \$1 billion would go some way towards propping up its strained dollar stockpile, which stood at \$23.2 billion as of August 23, according to data from the central bank.

Last week, the ADB team met with officials of the finance ministry and the ministry of environment, forest and climate change to work out the conditions for the funding, The Daily Star has learnt from officials involved with the proceedings.

One of the conditions pertains to arresting pollution of the water bodies.

An enforcement guideline must be drafted for the polluters complete with an environment court and penalty for pollution.

Similarly, a multisectoral action plan must be drafted to control air pollution.

The government will also have to come up with a green energy policy.

"Rapid economic development has significantly increased power consumption and greenhouse gas emission (GHG) in Bangladesh. The carbon dioxide (CO2) emission per capita has grown from 0.2 tons in 2000 to 0.64 tons in 2020," the ADB said.

In 2021, 60.2 percent of the country's power generation came from liquified natural gas, 22.5 percent from heavy fuel oil and 6.2 percent from coal.

Besides increased CO2 emissions and other pollutions, high reliance on imported fossil fuels drains public and private resources and exposes the country to energy security issues, the ADB said.

Renewable energy accounts for 3 percent of power generation, far short of the government target of 10 percent.

Bangladesh has committed to the implementation of the Paris Agreement under the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), setting an ambitious goal of a 6.73 percent reduction in GHG emissions by 2030 (15.12 percent conditional reduction in GHG emissions with support from the international community) versus the business-as-usual scenario.

To achieve these targets, sizeable investments will be required, with the appropriate policy, and regulatory and institutional support, the ADB said.

The state-owned enterprises will also have to adopt a climate-related policy and the government will have to come up with a solid action plan for implementation of its Delta Plan 2100.

The General Economic Division will have a Delta wing and will monitor whether environment-friendly projects are being onboarded by the ministries and divisions.

The local government division will also have a cell for environmental risk identification and mitigation.



Shop owners and vegetable vendors of a market struggling to work in almost knee-deep water in Chattogram's Chawk Bazar, as the city's low-lying areas have been waterlogged yet again due to overnight rain. The photo was taken yesterday morning.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

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DENGUE OUTBREAK August cases surpass all of 2022

Experts blame city corporations' 'casual approach'; 11 more die



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With four days shy of the month-end, August has seen a higher number of dengue cases than all of last year.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services, 2,327 new dengue cases were reported yesterday, taking the month's tally of recorded cases to 62,679.

The number of dengue cases throughout last year was 62,382.

Adding to that, the number of fatalities in August so far – 297 – also surpassed that of last year's – 281.

Meanwhile, the number of dengue deaths from January till yesterday stands at 548, while the number of patients rose

to 1,14,511.

Experts meanwhile reiterate that necessary measures should be taken to kill Aedes mosquitoes and bring the situation under control.

They blame the casual approach of the authorities concerned for the rise in the numbers of cases and deaths this year.

Entomologist GM Saifur Rahman said, "The city corporations' casual approach early in the season contributed to increased breeding of the Aedes population – carrier of the dengue virus.

"When the Aedes population declined after October last year, no initiative was taken to contain the rest, for which it has

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Parts of port city go under water again

Heavy rain forces authorities to delay HSC exams by an hour

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chattogram

Waterlogging caused by overnight downpour has disrupted the lives of residents in Chattogram and forced the authorities to delay the HSC exams by an hour yesterday.

The exams started at 11:00am, instead of 10:00am, so that students commuting through flooded streets do not miss the tests, officials said.

The Met office recorded 118 mm of rain in 24 hours till 9:00am yesterday, officials said.

HSC student Gazi Tasnim Hasan Muhi said she left her home in Halishahar Shyamoli around 7:45am to reach his exam centre 9km away.

"Many students were waiting for vehicles in knee-deep water. But there was nothing on the road," she said.

After she waited for an hour to find transport, her father arranged a vehicle to take her to the examination centre.

At Kapasgola City Corporation School and College, there was waist-high water in the exam halls on the ground floor. Over 700 students from six colleges were scheduled to sit for examinations there.

Principal Nur Banu Chowdhury said three students were absent yesterday.

The ground floors of most buildings were inundated in the Muradpur, Bahaddarhat, Badurtola, Kapasgola, Sholashahar, Probortok, Agrabad, Halishahar, Chawk Bazar, Chaktai, and Khatunganj areas and on KB Aman Ali Road and DC Road.

RECURRING WATERLOGGING

Waterlogging is a perennial problem in the port city. The Chattogram Development Authority has been implementing a project worth Tk 5,617 crore to address waterlogging since 2017.

Lt Col Shah Ali, the project director, told reporters on May 2 that physical work made 76.26 percent progress.

Experts say the project is not benefitting the city dwellers yet.



Liton-less Tigers land in Colombo

SPORTS REPORTER

With the aim of making a mark as a team at the global stage, Bangladesh national cricket team reached Sri Lanka yesterday to take part in the Asia Cup.

The Tigers will begin their campaign against Sri Lanka on Thursday, a day after the tournament kicks off, before heading to Pakistan for their second and final Group B match against Afghanistan on September 3.

There was some bad news, though, for the men in red and green, who had to leave behind opening batter Liton Das due to high fever.

Although Liton tested negative for dengue, there are concerns whether he will be able to recover from

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Ten-year-old Sajedur's mother keeps checking her son's temperature with a thermometer to make sure his condition is not getting worse. He was admitted to Mugda Medical College Hospital after being diagnosed with dengue 10 days ago. However, a few days in, the child contracted typhoid as well. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

FLOOD IN NORTH

1 lakh people affected in four districts

Teesta likely to see its water level fall from tomorrow

STAR REPORT

The water level in the Teesta may begin to fall tomorrow while the swelling Jamuna may cause floods in vast areas of Sirajganj, officials said.

Floods caused by the Teesta are currently affecting almost 1 lakh people in Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Nilphamari and Rangpur districts, they added.

This is the fourth time the Teesta has flooded villages on its banks this year.

If the Teesta water does not recede in a day or two, Aman paddy cultivated near the banks in the districts may get damaged, said Biplab Kumar Mohanta, deputy director at the Department of Agricultural Extension in Kurigram.

Rahmat Ullah, 70, of Gobardhan area of Aditmari in Lalmonirhat, yesterday said he and his family members have only eaten pulled rice, molasses and bread since Friday night, when part of his house and his kitchen got inundated, making it impossible to cook.

Another farmer named Nabir Hossain, 65, of Rajahar upazila of Kurigram, said he left his flooded home on Saturday and took shelter in a hut made of plastic sheet on an embankment.

Administration officials said they were distributing

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