



# Jailed Iranian rights activist wins Nobel Peace Prize

## UN urges Tehran to free Narges Mohammadi

REUTERS, Oslo

Iran's imprisoned women's rights advocate Narges Mohammadi won the Nobel Peace Prize yesterday in a rebuke to Tehran's theocratic leaders and boost for anti-government protesters.

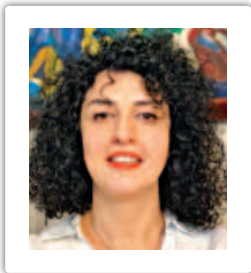
The award-making committee said the prize honoured those behind recent unprecedented demonstrations in Iran and called for the release of Mohammadi, 51, who has campaigned for three decades for women's rights and abolition of the death penalty.

"We hope to send the message to women all around the world that are living in conditions where they are systematically discriminated: 'have the courage, keep on going,'" Berit Reiss-Andersen, head of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, told Reuters.

"We want to give the prize to encourage Narges Mohammadi and the hundreds of thousands of people who have been crying for exactly 'Woman, Life, Freedom' in Iran," she added, referring to the protest movement's main slogan.

There was no immediate official reaction from Tehran,

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# US pre-polls assessment team flies in today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A six-member US pre-election assessment mission will arrive in Dhaka today on a six-day visit to determine whether to send a limited international election observation mission for the upcoming general election in Bangladesh.

During its stay in Dhaka, the US delegation will meet with election stakeholders, including the Election Commission, government officials, political party leaders, and civil society organisations, according to a statement of the International Republican Institute (IRI), a US non-profit organisation.

The team is also likely to hold a series of briefings and consultations with relevant international stakeholders and policymakers in Washington DC.

The delegation will

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The Charpara area of Mymensingh city is waterlogged yesterday after the previous day's torrential rain. The rain flooded many areas of the divisional city, bringing woes to the residents. The city experienced 378mm rain in a day.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

# CLIMATE DISASTERS

## 43m children displaced in 5 years till 2021

### Says UN, slams lack of attention paid to victims

AFP, United Nations

Weather disasters fuelled by climate change – from floods to droughts, storms to wildfires – sparked 43.1 million child displacements from 2016 to 2021, the UN Children's Fund warned Thursday, slamming the lack of attention paid to victims.

In a sweeping report on the issue, the United Nations agency detailed the heart-wrenching stories of some of the children affected, and co-author Laura Healy told AFP the data only revealed the "tip of the iceberg," with many more likely affected.

"We moved our belongings to the highway, where we lived for weeks," recounts Sudanese child Khalid Abdul Azim, whose flooded village was only accessible by boat.

In 2017, sisters Mia and Maia Bravo watched flames engulf their trailer in California from the back of the family minivan. "I was afraid, in shock," Maia says in the report. "I would stay up all night."

Statistics on internal displacements caused by climate disasters generally do not account for the age of the victims.

But Unicef worked with the non-governmental Internal Displacement Monitoring Center to unpick the data and reveal the hidden toll on children.

From 2016 to 2021, four types of climate

disasters (floods, storms, droughts and wildfires) – the frequency of which has increased due to global warming – led to 43.1 million child displacements in 44 countries, the report says.

Ninety-five percent of those displacements were caused by floods and storms.

"It's the equivalent of about 20,000 child displacements every day," Healy told AFP, underscoring how the children affected are then at risk of suffering other traumas, such as being separated from their parents or falling victim to child traffickers.

The data reflect the number of displacements and not the number of children affected, as the same child could be uprooted more than once.

The figures do not allow for a distinction between those evacuated before a weather event, and those forced to leave in the wake of a disaster.

And, according to Healy, the number of displacements due to drought is "radically underreported," because they are less sudden and thus more difficult to quantify.

"This is just the tip of the iceberg based on the available data that we have," she said. "The reality is with the impacts of climate change, or better tracking of displacement when it comes to slow onset events, that the number of children who are uprooted from their homes is going to be much greater."

**Ninety-five percent of the displacements were caused by floods and storms.**

# Torrential rain triggers waterlogging in the capital

## More rain likely till tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Torrential downpours caused heavy waterlogging in parts of the capital yesterday, exacerbating the suffering of those who were already unfortunate enough to be out on the roads for work on a weekend.

City dwellers said the continuous rain that poured all day long waterlogged streets in Banglamotor, Karwan Bazar, Farmgate, Bijoy Sharani, Mirpur Road, and Shyamoli areas.

Bangladesh Meteorological Department recorded 80mm of rain in Dhaka in the last 24 hours till 6:00pm yesterday.

A private service holder said that with public buses already being scarce on a weekend night, regardless of rain, he had to wait at least 20 minutes before he could find a rickshaw because of the inclement weather.

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# Heavy rains leave parts of country in a mess

Many areas of Mymensingh, Rajshahi, Gazipur cities submerged; M'singh-Kishoreganj rail link suspended; 3 die as mud wall collapses in Gazipur

STAR REPORT

Downpours in parts of the country over the last three days have resulted in three deaths, suspension of rail communication, waterlogging in cities, and severe traffic jams.

In Gazipur, three people, including an eight-year-old child, died in separate incidents of mud wall collapse during heavy rain in Sadar and Kaliakair upazilas.

Mymensingh city experienced 378 millimetres of rain in 24 hours preceding 6:00am yesterday, the second highest recorded in the country since independence, said Bazlur Rashid, a meteorologist of the Bangladesh Meteorological Department.

Much of the divisional city was submerged.

Rail communication between Mymensingh and Kishoreganj has remained suspended since yesterday morning as rail tracks went underwater in Kannika area of Kishoreganj Sadar upazila due to incessant rain over the last two days, said AKM Aminul Haque, officer-in-charge of the Government Railway Police (GRP) Station in Kishoreganj.

**Some locals arranged boats for transport at Bornali intersection of Rajshahi city, while others were seen fishing on different streets.**

Two trains bound for Mymensingh from Chattogram and another bound for Chattogram from Mymensingh were stranded at Kishoreganj and Nandail railway stations, the OC said around 6:00pm yesterday.

**WATERLOGGING IN RAJSHAHI**

Many roads in Rajshahi city have been flooded since Wednesday. However, water started to recede in some areas yesterday.

According to the Met office, Rajshahi city experienced the highest rainfall in a single day in 10 years – 245.8mm in 24 hours till 1:00pm on Thursday.

Some locals arranged boats for transport at Bornali intersection, while others were seen fishing on different streets.

In the morning yesterday, drains were still overflowing in Bornali and Terokhadia areas, while the road in front of the divisional stadium was submerged.

Water entered more than a hundred houses in Terokhadia area.

"Water is yet to recede completely from our house," Taibur Rahman, a freedom fighter and

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# ROOPPUR PLANT

## 2nd shipment of uranium arrives

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A fresh shipment of nuclear fuel reached the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant in Pabna yesterday.

This is the second consignment of uranium to reach the country's first nuclear power plant within a week.

The transport of the radioactive fuel was conducted following all necessary security and safety measures, sources at the power plant said.

Rosatom, the nuclear energy corporation of Russia, is building the 2,400MW power plant, and its first unit, with a 1,200MW capacity, is set to be operational next year.

The first consignment reached last Friday and was officially handed over to the power plant in a ceremony on Thursday, which was joined virtually by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Russian President Vladimir Putin.



Holding three-year-old Audry Anthony Gomez, his father takes a walk in the corridor of Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College Hospital while the mother carries the drip stand. The parents say the boy who has been receiving treatment at the hospital for dengue for three days often wants to get out of bed.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

# Early man followed river route out of Africa 84,000yrs ago



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Early man left Africa for Eurasia 80,000 years ago along a "corridor" of rivers across the Sinai Peninsula through Jordan, according to new research.

Scientists from the University of Southampton working with colleagues from around the world say they have confirmed previous theories that the overland route was used by some of the first migrants from Asia.

The Homo sapiens followed the "well-watered corridor" of river channels which have since dried out in the regions that are now desert lands, according to the study published in the journal Science Advances.

The research included fieldwork in Jordan's rift valley which uncovered hand tools, known as flakes, on the edge of wadis – now-dry river channels which at the time were full of water.