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CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

‘Bangladesh needs \$5b every year’

Speakers stress stronger global commitment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh needs to spend US\$5 billion every year on climate change adaptation, said speakers at an event yesterday.

Being one of the 10 most affected countries by climate change, the country lost US\$ 228.38 million during 1995–2014 due to incidents caused by it, according to Global Climate Risk Index 2017.

According to World Bank, the country needs to spend the aforementioned amount to combat climate change. However, it can allot US\$1 billion due to a severe fund scarcity.

Between 2023 and 2050, it needs US\$230 billion to enhance the adaptation capacity of its vulnerable population.

Stronger global commitment is necessary to support projects aimed at mitigating the adverse impact of climate change, stressed speakers while addressing the closing ceremony of the

Climate change is a global challenge and international cooperation and partnership is essential to mitigate its distressing impacts.

MA MANNAN
Planning Minister

Improved Coordination of International Climate Finance Project, held at a city hotel.

The project, funded by German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and jointly implemented by Economic Relations Division (ERD), Ministry of Finance, and GIZ Bangladesh, aimed at mobilising climate finance resources on international and national levels.

This project facilitated training for numerous government officials, people’s representatives, bankers, and academicians on climate finance topics, including project reviewing, prioritising, pitching, matchmaking and proposal development.

ERD also launched an interactive website to facilitate connections between climate change project developers and potential funders at the event.

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Following Saturday’s violence and Sunday’s hartal, the BNP office in Nayapaltan remains cordoned off. Law enforcers are treating the area as a crime scene. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

VIOLENCE OVER RALLIES, HARTAL

7,417 sued, 426 held in two days

STAR REPORT

In connection with the recent violence during rallies and hartal, more than 7,417 people have been sued, and 426 have been arrested in at least 52 cases across 10 districts in the last two days.

Of them, over 1,600 are named, and the rest remain unnamed, according to the police.

In Dhaka, more than 6,500 people have been sued in 37 cases on Sunday and Monday. Of them, 1,544 are named. Additionally, 256 people were arrested on Sunday in the capital, said a statement from Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

In Patuakhali, at least 80 BNP supporters have been sued for vandalism at the Rangabali union Awami League office and an explosion on Sunday. Of them, 20 are named.

The case was filed by the union AL president, Abul Hossain Abu, with Rangabali Police Station yesterday. Four BNP supporters were arrested and sent to jail.

In Sylhet, 69 named BNP Jamaat supporters and over 500 unnamed individuals have been sued in five cases filed with four police stations related to violence during Sunday’s hartal.

In Tangail, police arrested at least 16 BNP supporters from Sunday night to yesterday, and they were detained in connection with various criminal cases.

In Noakhali, around 121 BNP Jamaat supporters were arrested in the last two days. Five BNP supporters were

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CURBING DENGUE MENACE

Govt shifting blame on people for its failure

Says TIB; claims the issue didn’t get political, admin attention

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government failed to effectively control Aedes mosquitoes, instead they are shifting blame on the country’s people and imposing unethical fines on households, said Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh, at a press conference yesterday.

He said this while unveiling a study report at its office. TIB conducted the study on the dengue outbreak from September 25 to October 25.

Iftekharuzzaman said it is unfortunate that the dengue issue did not get both the political and administrative importance it deserved.

He mentioned that despite clear signs of increasing cases this year, the government lacked a well defined strategy for mosquito control and often took sporadic

organisations responsible for these tasks displayed a lacklustre performance and, in some instances, avoided taking responsibility altogether.

He emphasised the importance of involving experts with relevant knowledge in this field, pointing out that there were no efforts to engage such professionals.

Bangladesh ranked third worldwide in the number of dengue cases, but it held the top position for the highest death rate until October 22 this year, the study finds.

The total number of dengue cases this year till October 22 is 25,69,746 in Brazil, 2,57,089 in Peru, 2,40,097 in Bangladesh, 1,50,140 in Mexico, 1,40,246 in Bolivia, 1,23,093 in Argentina, 1,03,002 in Nicaragua and 94,198 in India.

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At least 8 dengue patients died while 1,708 were hospitalised in the last 24 hours in Bangladesh till yesterday.

and superficial actions.

He said the WHO’s specific guidelines and strategies for conducting mosquito-control activities were not adhered to. He also observed that government

Two Canadian cops testify in Niko graft case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Two officials of Royal Canadian Mounted Police yesterday narrated before a Dhaka court how some people, including a former Bangladeshi minister received bribes from Niko, a Canadian Oil and Gas Exploration Company, to award a gas exploration and extraction deal to the company.

The witnesses were earlier summoned, asking them to appear before it yesterday in connection with the Niko graft case filed against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and seven others.

The two officials are Kelvin Duggan and Lloyd Schoepp, said ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan.

Judge Sheikh Hafizur Rahman of the Special Judge’s Court-9 of Dhaka recorded their statements at the makeshift court set up inside the Dhaka Central Jail in Keraniganj.

The witnesses, however, did not involve Khaleda Zia with the incident. So, her lawyers declined to cross-examine the witnesses.

In his deposition, Lloyd Schoepp, member of International Anti-Corruption Unit in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, said their investigation team came to know that a report was published in June 2005 regarding a vehicle provided to AKM Mosharraf Hossain, the then state minister for energy, Niko Resources [Bangladesh] Limited.

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Who will lead BNP’s blockade?

Asks Quader; says Oct 28 was a victory for government

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A w a m i League general secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday wanted to know who will lead the BNP’s blockade as most of the party leaders are either in prison or hiding.

“They have announced a three-day blockade. What is the meaning of this blockade? ... Fakhrul [BNP secretary general] is in jail, the rest are in hiding. Who will lead the blockade?” he said after a joint meeting at the party’s central office at Bangabandhu Avenue.

He said they [BNP] called their final movement on October 28. “The day had passed... but we are still here.”

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A man gets on a double-decker bus in Asadgate area en route to his home in Mirpur, tying his bike to the back of the vehicle. He said he usually rides the bike to his destination to save money but got tired after a hard day’s work. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Will resist if BNP tries to foil polls

Say leaders of 14-party alliance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League-led alliance yesterday vowed to resist BNP if the party tries to foil the national polls, slated for early January.

They also urged the opposition to participate in the election shunning the path of movement.

The 14-party alliance yesterday held a rally at AL headquarters on Bangabandhu Avenue protesting BNP’s attack on police, journalists, chief justice’s residence and torching police boxes and ambulances on Saturday.

Addressing the rally, 14-party coordinator and veteran AL leader Amir Hossain Amu said they will not spare BNP as the constitution, democratic process and judiciary of the country came under attack by them.

Amu, who presided over the rally, said the election will be held in accordance with the constitutional provisions and the 14-party alliance will participate in the election unitedly.

“We will face it accordingly if anyone tries to foil the election,” he added.

Addressing the rally, Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon alleged BNP wanted to create an anarchic situation centring its Saturday’s rally. “But BNP fled after its grand rally was foiled,” he added.

Menon alleged the United States was unleashing violence against the people of Palestine and it wants to do the same in Bangladesh. But, the US will not be allowed to do so in the country, he said.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) President Hasanul Haque Inu alleged US Ambassador Peter Haas is violating

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