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PROGRESS



Bangladesh to seek fund for combating climate change

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will demand to make the "Loss and Damage" fund operational, along with funds to implement the country's National Action Plan on climate change in order to combat damages of global warming at this year's UN climate conference – the biggest climate-related event in the world – that kicks off in Dubai today.

World to reckon with future of fossil fuels at COP28 climate summit

Delegates from almost 200 countries will join the COP 28 (Conference of Parties) to make decisions on how to tame the global temperature and cap the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

Scientists have said crossing the 1.5-degree Celsius threshold risks unleashing far more severe climate change effects on people, wildlife and ecosystems.

On the other hand, the United Arab Emirates, amid widespread criticism, is allegedly planning to promote its oil and gas

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Pratapnagar's climate woes never end

Cyclones, erosion leave hundreds of people homeless; no relief since Amphan in 2020

PINAKI ROY

Upon reaching the Harishkhali village in Pratapnagar union, an area on the forefront of climate impacts in the country, the first thing noticed was a red flag, hoisted by the launch terminal, fluttering against the southern breeze.

It was around the middle of November.

After spotting some villagers nearby, this correspondent asked why the flag was there.

"It is a cautionary signal for another cyclone forming over the Bay," said an elderly man who introduced himself as Musa Sarder.

Due to the union's location, where it is surrounded by two rivers, effects of climate change, especially erosion, are frequently felt there. The vulnerability of the locals increase tenfold when there is a cyclone.

"Whenever there is a cyclone forecast, the union parishad office hoists this red flag and directs people to move to the shelters through loudspeakers."

Musa was speaking about the recent Cyclone Midhili, which at the time was just forming over the Bay.

When a cyclone hits the area, every single family living there is affected. So any cautionary signal causes panic among all, Musa continued.

"In 2007, Sidr hit and then Aila destroyed everything in 2009. In 2020, Amphan came and destroyed the embankments, eroded lands. I don't know what will happen this time [with Midhili]."

Adding to Musa, other villages said they are yet to recover from the damages caused by Amphan.

"The embankment was finally repaired last year. However, homes and lands had also been washed away and a large canal that runs through the whole village was created," Musa said.

He took this correspondent to Hawlader Para where the canal was created by Amphan's storm surge.

Stopping at the local union chairman's office, which fell on the way, The Daily Star spoke to union parishad Chairman Abu Daud Dhali

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After storm surges of Cyclone Amphan hit Pratapnagar union in Satkhira's Assasuni upazila in 2020 and washed away homes, a mosque and more, a large canal was created that runs through the Harishkhali village, further worsening the sufferings of the villagers.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

EC cannot intervene in political disputes

Says CEC after meeting EU delegation

STAR REPORT

Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibul Awal yesterday said the EC doesn't have the scope to engage itself in any disputes or differences in the political arena.

"We told the EU delegation that if there is any difference of opinion in the political arena, we can't interfere in it. We can't engage," he told reporters after a meeting with a European Union delegation at the EC office

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BUSINESS

Banks appreciate taka further

Bankers decided to cut purchase and selling rates of US dollars by another Tk 0.25 per dollar from next week.

Banks will buy each dollar at Tk 109.75 from remitters and exporters and sell each at Tk 110.25 to importers from December 3, as per the latest decision of Bafeda and ABB.

STORY ON BI

Report on hostage deaths overshadows talks

Hamas says baby, family members killed in Israeli bombardment

REUTERS, Gaza

Last-minute negotiations between Israel and Hamas to extend the Gaza truce were overshadowed yesterday by an unconfirmed claim by Hamas that a 10-month-old baby Israeli hostage and his family had been killed.

Shortly before the final release

of women and children hostages scheduled under the truce, the military wing of Hamas said the youngest hostage, baby Kfir Bibas, had been killed in an earlier Israeli bombing, along with his four-year-old brother Ariel and their mother.

The children's father is in Hamas captivity.

Israel said it was checking

the claim, which was potentially explosive, as the family were among the highest-profile civilian hostages yet to be freed.

Reuters could not independently confirm the Hamas statement. Relatives had issued a special appeal for the family's freedom after the children and

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Bangladesh players are all smiles as after removing New Zealand opener Devon Conway early in the innings during the second day of the first Test at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium yesterday. Left-arm spinner Taijul Islam was the star of the show for the hosts as his four wickets restricted the Kiwis to 266 for eight at stumps, still 44 runs shy of the hosts' first-innings total.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Indian official directed Sikh separatist's killing

Says US Justice Dept

REUTERS, New York

An Indian government official directed an unsuccessful plot to assassinate a Sikh separatist on US soil, the US Justice Department said yesterday, in announcing charges against a man accused of orchestrating the attempted murder.

Federal prosecutors in Manhattan said Nikhil Gupta, 52, worked with the Indian government employee, whose responsibilities included security and intelligence, on the plot to assassinate a New York City resident who advocated for a Sikh sovereign state in northern India.

Prosecutors did not name the Indian official or the target. Gupta was arrested by Czech authorities in June and is awaiting extradition. He could not be reached for comment.

"The defendant conspired from India to assassinate, right here in New York City, a US citizen of Indian origin who has publicly advocated for the establishment of a sovereign state for Sikhs," Damian Williams, the top federal prosecutor in Manhattan, said in a statement.

BNP accuses govt, AL of repression

Rizvi alleges AL men attacking homes, businesses of BNP activists; hartal today

STAR REPORT

Homes and businesses of BNP leaders and activists are being vandalised or captured by AL leaders and activists, alleged BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday.

"Our leaders and activists are going through a tough time," he said during a virtual press briefing yesterday evening.

The government and the Awami League are oppressing BNP leaders and activists across the country, he said.

Law enforcers are detaining BNP activists on the instructions of the government, Rizvi alleged.

The BNP has called a hartal today from 6:00 am, when its one-day blockade ends.

Six vehicles, including four buses, were torched in Dhaka, Gazipur, Bagerhat, and Sirajganj over the last two days, according to the Fire Service and Civil Defence.

At the briefing, Rizvi claimed that law enforcers arrested over 17,100 leaders and activists in 458 cases across the country since October 28.

He also claimed that 365 BNP leaders and activists were detained and 14 cases were filed against 1,530 named and many unidentified activists in the 24 hours preceding yesterday evening.

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Undergraduate Admission SPRING 2024 SEMESTER NOW OPEN

IUB
Independent University, Bangladesh

Application Deadline:

Wednesday, December 6, 2023, 03:00 pm

Admission Test:

Saturday, December 9, 2023, 10:30 am

Venue:

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Classes Commence on:

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■ English Literature

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■ Database Management Systems ■ Computer Networks

■ Web Engineering ■ Cloud Computing ■ Big Data Analytics

■ Data Science ■ Machine Learning ■ Artificial Intelligence

■ Data Mining ■ Data Visualization ■ Data Engineering

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