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Dhaka city's temperature rose 6° Celsius in 10yrs

Study cites urban heat island effect as reason

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

When the world is fighting to contain the increase in global temperature to under 1.5 degrees Celsius, Dhaka city's temperature has increased by nearly six degrees due to the urban heat island effect in just 10 years, finds a study.

The urban heat island phenomenon is a condition when urban areas experience higher temperatures than their surrounding rural areas due to human activities such as transportation, industrialisation, construction, and heavy concentration of heat-absorbing materials.

The yet-to-be-published study, titled "A Case Study of the Temporal Evaluation of the Urban Heat Island (UHI) Effect: Impacts on Water Availability and Air Quality of Dhaka City", said, "The temperature rise in UHI in Dhaka city is nearly 6°C, which is a cause for concern. The increase in temperature can adversely affect the environment, public health, and urban infrastructure."

Prof AKM Saiful Islam at the Institute of Water and Flood Management of BUET said wetlands and open space in Dhaka have diminished alarmingly while various infrastructure was built in the capital resulting in the urban heat island.

"We need to have vegetation and water bodies more to absorb the heat in the capital. Otherwise, it will continue to rise," he said.

Population density, lack of greenery, uneven building

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TOO HOT FOR THE COLD BLOODED

An oriental garden lizard takes a sip of water from a drying puddle on the road in Jalma area of Khulna's Batiaghata upazila recently. Lizards are ectothermic, or "cold blooded", animals, which means they rely on the environment around them to regulate their body temperature, unlike mammals who can produce heat internally to stabilise their temperature. Without sweat glands or metabolic control, lizards can heat up very quickly if they find themselves out in the sun for too long, in which case they prefer to find shade or a burrow to hide in. The absence of these options can turn deadly for them. In a world where climate conditions are gradually getting tougher, it is safe to say that reptiles such as lizards find themselves in an increasingly vulnerable position.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

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UPAZILA POLLS AL chief warns MPs about fielding family members

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked ministers and AL MPs not to exert their influence during the upcoming Upazila parishad elections.

She issued the strict order at a meeting of the Awami League Parliamentary Party at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

"Those who disobeyed the party instructions and fielded their family members and relatives in the upazila elections will have to stay with their families in the future. They will not get people's vote," an AL MP present at the meeting quoted Hasina as saying.

The meeting was held with Hasina in the chair.

In her introductory speech, she instructed the party leaders to assist the administration in making the election free, fair and impartial.

Allegations pile up against founder of charity

Milton Samadder sued for human trafficking, assault, fraudulence; he's remanded for 3 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Charity founder Milton Samadder, who has millions of followers on social media, has been accused in three new cases of human trafficking, battery, and fraudulence.

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Milton, founder of Child and Old Age Care, on a three-day remand in a fraud case filed by the Detective Branch of police.

"The allegations against Milton are appalling. If these are true, he has committed heinous crimes," DB chief Harun Or Rashid told reporters after Milton was arrested on Wednesday night.



At the capital's Dakkhin Paikpara, three people who live next to Milton's homeless shelter, told this correspondent that they frequently heard desperate screams from the shelter.

Momtaz Begum, a resident of the area, said she talked to Milton after noticing employees of the shelter hit homeless people with canes. But nothing changed.

A local named Bablu Hawlader said he took a 65-year-old homeless woman to the shelter on January 9, 2022.

"When I went to visit her after a couple of months, some men in the presence of Milton threw the receipt of the woman's admission to my face and threatened me. I didn't want any trouble and just left," Bablu said.

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'Order must prevail'

Says Biden as US police clear UCLA protest encampment, arrest defiant pro-Palestinian demonstrators



AFP, Washington

US President Joe Biden yesterday broke his virtual silence on the nationwide Gaza campus protests, saying the United States was not authoritarian but insisting "order must prevail."

In a televised address from the White House, Biden added that there was "no place" for anti-Semitism on university campuses, which have been roiled by pro-Palestinian demonstrations amid Israel's offensive in Gaza.

The 81-year-old Democrat -- whose reelection bid in November faces a challenge from voters opposed to the war -- said there had to be a balance

between the right to peaceful protest and the need to prevent violence.

"We are not an authoritarian nation where we silence people or squash dissent," Biden said from the podium in the Roosevelt Room of the White House.

"But neither are we a lawless country," added Biden. "We're a civil society, and order must prevail."

The US president also said the protests could not be allowed to disrupt classes and graduations for thousands of students at campuses across the United States.

Biden's remarks come as hundreds

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Schools to resume classes on Sunday

Secondary edn institutions to open tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Academic activities at all secondary-level educational institutions and primary schools that were closed due to the ongoing heatwave will resume tomorrow and on Sunday respectively.

Education ministry's Public Relations Officer MA Khair and a top official of the primary and mass education ministry yesterday confirmed The Daily Star of the development.

Khair, however, said secondary educational institutions in some districts may remain closed depending on weather conditions. "The names of the districts will be disclosed at a press release."

Mahubur Rahman, PRO of the primary and mass education ministry, said, "We will announce our official decision on Saturday."

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NEUTRALITY IN POLLS

Presiding officer to be changed if any candidate complains: EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Election Commissioner Md Alamgir yesterday said presiding officers of polling centres in the upcoming upazila elections will be changed if any candidate makes allegations about their neutrality.

If there is any complaint against a presiding officer of his or her impartiality, the commission will replace them without needing proof for those, Alamgir told reporters at his EC office in the capital.

None raises allegation against anyone without a reason, he added.

Alamgir said to replace a presiding officer, they will first try to appoint someone from the panel of presiding officers. If the qualified one is not found in the panel, a presiding officer will be picked from the nearest upazila or the district.

Talking about the election atmosphere, Alamgir said a festive mood exists in the upazilas where elections will be held, according to intelligence reports, and there is no security threat centering the polls.

Since the election will be conducted in several phases, it will be possible for the commission to deploy an adequate number of law enforcers during the polls. In fact, the number of law enforcers for ensuring law and order will be more than that of the last general election.

As parties can nominate their candidates or their members can independently contest the upazila polls, the parties make decisions according to their charters, Alamgir said.

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UPAZILA POLLS 10 hurt as police open fire on feuding groups

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

At least 10 people, including four police personnel, were injured when supporters of two upazila chairman candidates clashed in Pabna's Sujanager upazila yesterday evening.

Locals said supporters of upazila chairman candidate Abdul Wahab were crossing Kalirmore where those of his contender Shahinuzzaman Shahin, also the incumbent chairman, were standing.

Md Jalal Uddin, officer-in-charge of Sujanager Police Station, said the two groups at one stage got locked in a clash. Hearing this, police rushed to the spot and tried to pacify the groups. Somebody attacked police personnel forcing them to open fire, the OC said.

Police fired bullets to bring the situation under control, the OC said, adding that four police personnel were injured.

They also detained three people from the spot.

Those who sustained shotgun pellets are Badsha Pramanik, 40, Matin Sheikh, 50, and Abdul Awal, 35. They were undergoing treatment at Sujanager Upazila Health Complex. Awal is the

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An indigenous woman collecting as much groundwater as she can from a 5-6ft deep hole dug up in soft soil on the Chimbuk hill in Getsimoni Para near Bandarban's Chimbuk-Nilgiri-Thanchi road. Amid the ongoing heatwave and an acute water crisis, the villagers living along the road have been facing unbound suffering. The photo was taken recently.

CAPTION: MONG SING HAI MARMA

Four of a family among 5 killed in road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Five people, including four members of a family, were killed when a car collided head-on with a truck coming from the opposite direction in Habiganj's Madhabpur upazila early yesterday.

The incident occurred in the Haritola area of the Dhaka-Sylhet highway around 1:30am.

The deceased have been identified as Md Jamal, 40; his wife Kamrunnahar, 35; his son Ananta, 11; and his brother Enamul, 35.

They were residents of Dhaka's Savar, where Jamal and Enamul worked at a readymade garments factory. Their village home is in Bowalia of Patuakhali's Golachipa.

The fifth victim was car driver Harun Bepari, 34, from Barishal's Bakerganj.

Rakibul Islam, officer-in-charge of Madhabpur Police Station, confirmed the details of the accident to The Daily Star.

He said the four family members were returning to Savar from Sylhet after paying a visit to the Shrine of Hazrat Shah Jalal (R).

On their way back, the car collided with a truck coming from the opposite direction in the Haritola area of the Dhaka-Sylhet highway around 1:30am. The car plunges into a roadside ditch and all five victims died on the spot, the OC added.