

Climate crisis affects women, children more

Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women and children are more affected by environmental disasters in Bangladesh, said speakers at a discussion yesterday.

They also said Dhaka's rapid and unplanned urbanisation has degraded the environment, causing pollution and excessive heat that severely threatens women's and children's health, resulting in a rise in pregnancy complications and infant mortality.

The event titled "Endangered Environment Fading Dhaka: Transition Thoughts" was organised by Bangladesh Mahila Parishad at the capitals' Segunbagicha.

Dr Nabanita Islam, associate professor and head of architecture department at University of Asia Pacific, said climate change is one of the major environmental challenges at present. Women and girls are the direct and indirect victims of environmental disasters and climate change.

She emphasised on speedy implementation of climate action plans, coordination between government policy makers and implementing agencies, ensuring women's participation in climate action plans, removing air polluting transport, stopping indiscriminate tree felling and waste management of brick kilns and factories.

Dr Fauzia Moslem, president of Mahila Parishad, said Dhaka's environment is in a very fragile state, creating adverse effects on the health of women and children. In this situation, steps must be taken to deal with the environmental disaster of Dhaka. Advocate Masuda Rehana Begum, joint general secretary of Mahila Parishad, also spoke.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Speedy implementation of climate action plans
- Coordination between govt policy makers, implementing agencies
- Ensuring women's participation in climate action plans



PHOTO: STAR

Flood damages 200km of roads in Sylhet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Since May 27, Sylhet has faced severe flooding due to relentless rain, wreaking havoc on its transportation infrastructure. Estimates indicate that road damages across the district have already reached Tk 200 crore, a figure expected to rise.

In Gowainghat upazila, Mohammad Manik Mia from Baurbagh described how the flooding submerged most of the roads, leaving behind large potholes that disrupt traffic and raise concerns about accidents.

Commuters now face higher fares

when using CNG-run vehicles due to the poor road conditions.

Raihan Ahmed, a CNG-run vehicle driver, highlighted the challenge of navigating the pothole-ridden roads, which often results in vehicle damage. The situation has strained his livelihood, with repair costs outweighing his income from fares.

The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) and Roads and Highways Department (RHD) reported that 12 out of 13 upazilas in Sylhet have been affected by flood.

The situation is improving, but the conditions were severe in Gowainghat,

Zakiganj, Jaintapur, Companiganj, and Kanaighat upazilas. Many roads in these areas were closed for several days due to damage.

According to LGED, approximately 160km of roads in Sylhet have been damaged, costing around Tk 118.70 crore. The RHD reported that 40km of roads have been damaged, incurring a loss of Tk 84 crore.

Affected roads include the Shari-Gowainghat, Darbast-Kanaighat, Companyganj-Chatak, Fenchuganj-Manikona, and the Sylhet-Tamabil roads in Jaintapur.

KM Faruq Hossain, executive engineer of LGED Sylhet, said the full extent of the damage will not be known until the water recedes completely. So far, approximately 160km of roads under LGED's jurisdiction have been damaged, causing a loss of Tk 118.7 crore.

Amir Hossain, executive engineer of RHD in Sylhet, said 40km of roads have been damaged, causing a loss of Tk 84 crore. Temporary repairs have been made to the most damaged roads to allow vehicular movement. Permanent repairs will take time and require further inspection and allocation of funds.

Private company filling up part of Belai beel



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A company named Banglamark has been filling up a part of Belai beel with sand, allegedly without any permission, in Nalshada village under Kaliganj upazila of Gazipur.

Visiting the area recently, this correspondent saw that the company was filling up a 12-bigha fenced portion of the waterbody that encompasses a vast area on both sides of the Tongi-Kaliganj road.

According to the upazila administration and related sources, the High Court had issued a status quo order on January 27, 2019 to protect the government waterbody and adjacent agricultural land in Kaliganj.

And yet, various companies have long been filling up portions of the natural water reservoir and constructing structures there, locals alleged.

Previously, several mobile court drives were carried out against illegal structures built encroaching the waterbody, and the accused were fined and ordered to stop sand filling.

"I lodged a complaint against Banglamark on March 21 for filling up the low-lying agricultural land and the waterbody in Nalshada village. In response, the UNO and assistant commissioner in the upazila only visited the site but took no action in this regard yet," said Benazir Sarkar, a resident of Shimulia Sarkar Bari village in the upazila.

"Banglamark's sand filling activities are going on at night in presence of a supervisor," he alleged.

Contacted, Kazi Nahid, the supervisor, claimed that the company's owner Rafiqul Islam owns the portion of the waterbody.

He also claimed that another real estate company has been spreading misinformation against Banglamark after failing to purchase the same property.

SM Imam Razi, UNO and executive magistrate of Kaliganj upazila, said Banglamark has been fined several times for filling up Belai beel. "If they still continue sand filling, we will file a case against them," he said.

Measures underway to make BR profitable

Railways minister tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Railways Minister Zillul Hakim yesterday told parliament that work is underway to procure 420 broad gauge wagons, 54 metre-gauge passenger carriages, 46 broad-gauge and 50 metre-gauge locomotives, and 290 broad-gauge (bogie container flat track) wagons.

The procurement will ensure comfortable travel for train passengers and increase revenue through transporting goods through railway, he said.

The minister also informed that his ministry has taken measures to add 40 new locomotives with Auxiliary Power Unit (APU), for the first time in Bangladesh, to reduce cost of fuel and maintenance.

Different measures were also taken including importing 20 metre-gauge locomotives and 150 metre-gauge coaches from South Korea to turn railways into a profitable venture, he said.

"Besides, procurement of 350 metre-gauge and 300 broad-gauge coaches, and 100 metre-gauge and 40 broad-gauge locomotives is under process," the minister said.

The ministry will take an investment project on construction of Bhangakata railway line if a development partner is determined, he also said.

Bangshi is DYING

Pollution, encroachment turn once-vibrant river into a narrow canal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

The once-vibrant Bangshi river in Jamalpur is slowly dying. Merchants once navigated its waters on large boats, but now, the three kilometre stretch of the river within Jamalpur municipality barely resembles a three-metre-wide canal before merging with the Brahmaputra.

Encroachment, pollution, and unchecked siltation have led to its decline.

In 2007, local authorities began demarcating the river's land and excavating it to reduce waterlogging. However, the river was soon filled with garbage dumped by residents.

"Whenever it rains, our houses flood with dirty water as the river can no longer drain it away. The bad odour from the river is a constant nuisance. The municipality should take urgent steps to clean the river," said Aminul Sheikh, a resident of Dayamayi area.

Other locals shared his concerns. "The river has become a canal over the years due to illegal land grabbing. Now it is filled with garbage and serves as a mosquito breeding ground. The municipality should clean up the waterbody and excavate," said Jahangir Selim, president of Jamalpur District Environment Protection Movement.

Mayor Mohammad Sanowar, however, put the onus on the locals for the river's plight.

"We repeatedly try to prevent residents from throwing waste into the water body. We need to conduct mass awareness drives in this regard," he said.



Terrible toilets

Hospital washrooms in appalling state, says icddr,b

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Only 68 percent of government hospitals have functional toilets, of which, only 33 percent are clean, as per a new study.

Meanwhile, for private hospitals, at least 92 percent are functional while 56 percent of the toilets are clean.

International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b) conducted the study in collaboration with University of Technology, Sydney and the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).



There was only one toilet for every 214 people in public hospitals and 94 for private ones

According to WaterAid, for institutional toilets in outpatient facilities, there should be one toilet for every 20-25 patients

The study evaluated 2,459 toilets in Dhaka's healthcare facilities

The study, which surveyed 12 government and private hospitals in Dhaka, was recently published in the journal PLOS ONE, according to a icddr,b press release issued yesterday.

The study found high user-to-toilet ratios in outpatient facilities in Dhaka hospitals.

There was only one toilet for every 214 people in public hospitals and 94 for private, significantly below the recommended standards set by WaterAid, the study shows.

According to WaterAid, for institutional toilets in outpatient facilities, there should be one toilet for every 20-25 patients.

The study evaluated 2,459 toilets in Dhaka's healthcare facilities to assess the availability, functionality, and cleanliness of toilets.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
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Memo: 5025/2
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of following works given below:

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Invitation Reference No.	Name of works	Tender closing date & time
1	997617	egg/bari/external/water/supply/RRF/23-24	External water supply work at RRF Police Lines Barishal under the project Construction of Barisal & Sylhet Armed Police Battalion (APBN) and Range Reserve Force (RRF) Police Lines	20/06/2024 12:00
2	997288	PWD/Bar/CO/Bungalow/2023-24	Remaining Work Commandant Officers Bungalow for APBN Barisal under the project Construction of Barisal & Sylhet Armed Police Battalion (APBN) and Range Reserve Force (RRF) Police Lines	20/06/2024 12:00
3	997289	PWD/Bar/Site/Cleaning/APBN/2023-24	Ancillary renovation work including with site cleaning & sanitary repair for APBN Barisal under the project Construction of Barisal & Sylhet Armed Police Battalion (APBN) and Range Reserve Force (RRF) Police Lines	20/06/2024 12:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (Email: helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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Memo No. 46.00.6900.002.34.027.16-234
Date: 10/06/2024

e-Tender Notice: 04/2023-2024

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement ZP Dinajpur as mentioned below.

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Last selling date & time	Closing date & time
1	990462 04/ZPN/23-24/W-01	25/06/2024-12.30pm	25/06/2024-13.00pm
2	990478 04/ZPN/23-24/W-02	25/06/2024-12.30pm	25/06/2024-13.00pm
3	990490 04/ZPN/23-24/W-03	25/06/2024-12.30pm	25/06/2024-13.00pm
4	990493 04/ZPN/23-24/W-04	25/06/2024-12.30pm	25/06/2024-13.00pm
5	990495 04/ZPN/23-24/W-05	25/06/2024-12.30pm	25/06/2024-13.00pm
6	990496 04/ZPN/23-24/W-06	25/06/2024-12.30pm	25/06/2024-13.00pm
7	990497 04/ZPN/23-24/W-07	25/06/2024-12.30pm	25/06/2024-13.00pm
8	992039 04/ZPN/23-24/W-08	25/06/2024-12.30pm	25/06/2024-13.00pm

1. This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal. No offline hard copies will be accepted.
2. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.
3. The fees or downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches up to 25-Jun-2024 Time: 12.30pm.
4. Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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