

# Rise in 'extreme rainfall' behind flash floods in Sylhet

Study points to climate change

DWOHA CHOWDHURY

A recent research paper has identified single day extreme rainfall events as the primary cause of recurring flash floods and waterlogging in the Sylhet region. The study found that climate change has significantly increased the frequency of these heavy monsoon rains in Bangladesh and northeast India.

Officials from the Bangladesh Meteorological Department and Bangladesh Water Development Board have observed this pattern in recent years. For example, on June 17, 2022, a flash flood submerged almost all of Sylhet and Sunamganj districts, triggered by a record rainfall in Cherrapunji, India, which is located just uphill from Sylhet.

On May 29, 634mm of rain in Cherrapunji caused another flash flood, submerging five upazilas in Sylhet the next day. More recently, a flash flood was triggered on Friday after 349mm of rain fell in Cherrapunji over 24 hours.

In Sylhet city, two recent waterlogging incidents were caused by extreme rainfall over a short period. On June 9, 220mm of rain fell within three hours, causing severe waterlogging. On June 13, 186mm of rainfall in six hours submerged many parts of the city.

The research, conducted by scientists from NASA Goddard Space Flight Centre, North Carolina State University, the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, and Jahangirnagar University, was published in the Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society in February.

The study analysed extreme rainfall events,

defined as 150mm or more in a day, from 1950 to 2021.

It found that while overall monsoon rainfall is decreasing, single-day extreme rainfall is increasing. These extreme rain events have become four times more common due to climate change.

Dipak Ranjan Das, executive engineer of BWDB in Sylhet, said, "Single-day extreme rainfall in Meghalaya, located right uphill from the region, is responsible for the recurring flash flood situation. The river system here cannot handle that much water in a short period."

A flood hazard mapping of the Surma River basin in Sylhet city by researchers from Shahjalal University of Science and Technology calculated the maximum peak discharge through the Surma river at Sylhet city as 321.35 cubic metres per second, indicating the river's limited capacity to manage excessive rainwater.

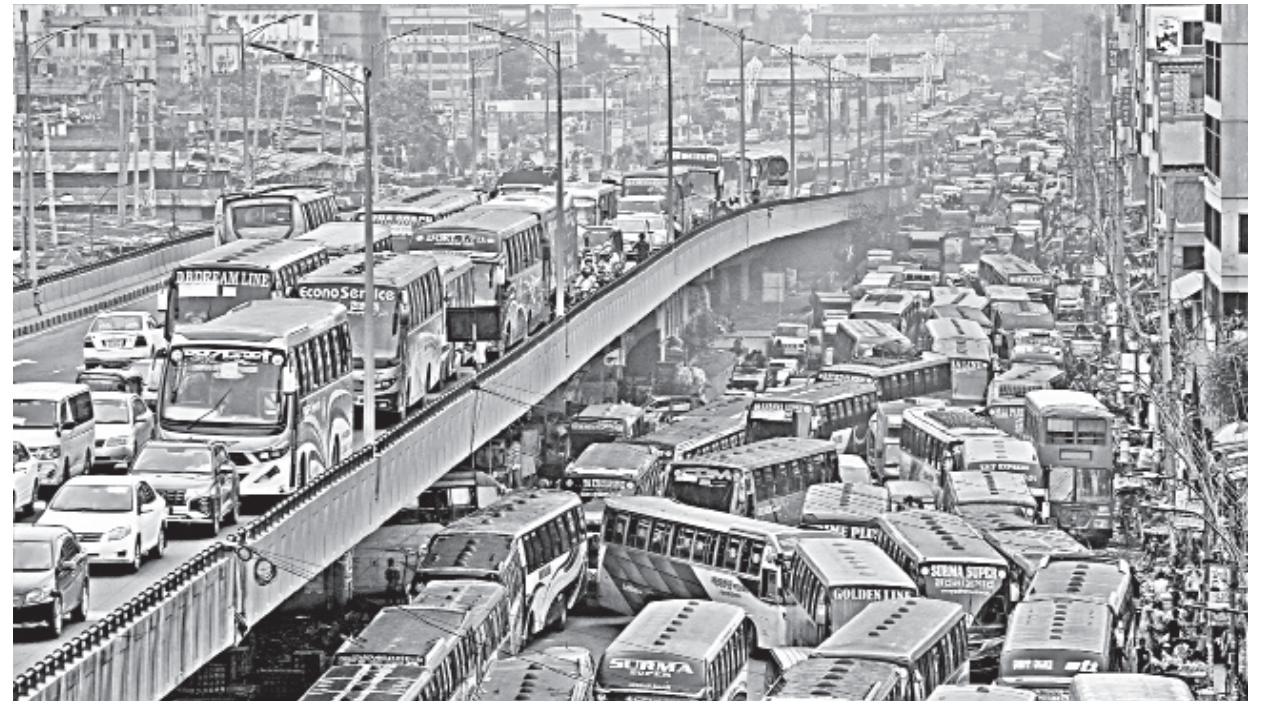
Prof AKM Saiful Islam of the Institute of Water and Flood Management at Bangladesh University of Engineering Technology said, "Haors (wetlands) and rivers are crucial for holding and discharging rainwater from upstream. However, ongoing development projects like road construction are disrupting these haors, prolonging the flood situation."

"Waterbodies and canals in city areas are being filled up, causing waterlogging due to excessive rainfall. Hillcutting and tree felling are major reasons behind the filled-up waterbodies and canals," he added.

"As single-day rainfall events are increasing, we must act now to protect waterbodies. Otherwise, we will suffer more intensely in the future," he warned.



PHOTO: STAR



Tailback as far as eyes can see on and beneath Mayor Mohammad Hanif Flyover yesterday afternoon. With Eid only a day away, many buses were seen entering and leaving the capital.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons (BCPS)

67, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sarani, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.

BCPS No. 355/2024/29458

Date: 11-06-2024

Schedule for FCPS Part-I, FCPS (Final), Preliminary FCPS, FCPS Mid-Term and MCPS written examinations to be held in July, 2024.

### FCPS (Final), Preliminary FCPS and MCPS Examinations.

Subject	Paper	Date & Day	Time	Venue
All Subjects	Paper - I	01.07.2024 (Monday)	9.00 A.M. to 12.00 Noon	BCPS, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.
	Paper - II	02.07.2024 (Tuesday)		

### FCPS Mid-Term Examination

Subject	Paper	Date & Day	Time	Venue
1. Anaesthesiology	Paper - I	01.07.2024 (Monday)	9.00 A.M. to 10.40 A.M.	BCPS, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.
2. Conservative Dentistry & Endodontics				
3. Dermatology & Venereology	Paper - II	02.07.2024 (Tuesday)	9.00 A.M. to 12.00 Noon	
4. Haematology				
5. Medicine & Allied				
6. Obstetrics & Gynaecology & Allied				
7. Ophthalmology & Allied				
8. Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery				
9. Orthodontics & Dentofacial Orthopedics				
10. Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery				
11. Paediatrics & Allied				
12. Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation				
13. Prostodontics				
14. Psychiatry & Allied				
15. Radiology & Imaging				
16. Radiotherapy				
17. Surgery & Allied				

### FCPS Part-I Examination

Subject	Date & Day	Time	Venue
Medicine & Allied	03.07.2024 (Wednesday)	9.00 A.M. to 01.00 P.M.	BCPS, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.
1. Anaesthesiology	04.07.2024 (Thursday)	9.00 A.M. to 01.00 P.M.	BCPS, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.
2. Anatomy			
3. Biochemistry			
4. Dental Surgery (Conservative Dentistry & Endodontics, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Orthodontics & Dentofacial Orthopedics and Prostodontics)			
5. Family Medicine			
6. Forensic Medicine			
7. Microbiology			
8. Obstetrics & Gynaecology & Allied			
9. Ophthalmology & Allied			
10. Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery	06.07.2024 (Saturday)	9.00 A.M. to 01.00 P.M.	BCPS, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.
11. Pharmacology			
12. Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation			
13. Physiology			
14. Psychiatry & Allied			
15. Community Medicine			
16. Dermatology & Venereology			
17. Haematology			
18. Paediatrics & Allied			
19. Pathology			
20. Radiology & Imaging			
21. Radiotherapy			
22. Surgery & Allied			
23. Transfusion Medicine			

Program for OSCE, IOE, Oral, Clinical & Practical examinations for FCPS (Final), Preliminary FCPS, FCPS Mid-Term and MCPS examinations will be notified on the notice board and website of BCPS well in advance.

The list of the examinees and the name of the venue of the OSCE, IOE, Oral, Clinical & Practical examinations will be notified on the notice board and website of BCPS on the day before examination (after 8.30pm).

The Admit Card for FCPS (Final), Preliminary FCPS, FCPS Mid-Term and MCPS examinations will be available through online only from 20 June 2024 to 02 July 2024 (till completion of the written examination) and for the FCPS Part-I examination will be available through online from 20 June 2024 to 06 July 2024 (till completion of the FCPS Part-I examination). Please visit BCPS website (exams.bcps.edu.bd) and login password protected profile and print admit card. Please contact examination department by 27 June, 2024 if there is any problem related to download of the admit card. **Admit Card of July 2024 session is a prerequisite for entering the examination hall.**

- > No Admit Card will be issued after the deadline.
- > No Admit Card will be printed and distributed from BCPS campus.

### Instructions for Examinees

- Examinees are requested to report no later than 30 minutes before the scheduled time.
- Carrying mobile phones/laptops/tablets/watch/calculator/other electronic devices/bags/packets/water bottles/beverage cans/lighters/coins/metal objects other than keys by the examinees is prohibited. Carrying such materials shall be subject to expulsion from the examination.
- Examinees are not allowed to write anything on the admit card/instruction sheet or keep any other papers. These may lead to the cancellation of the paper.
- FCPS (Final) written qualified examinees have to submit an "Information Update Form" immediately after publication of the written result through a link (<https://ads.bcps.edu.bd/bcps-erp-exam-info-update>). It is mandatory to submit the form. If found, incorrect information and an incomplete form, the examination will be held up/legal action will be taken against the candidate.

  
Professor Md. Billal Alam  
Controller of Examination

GD- 1011

## DNC seizes 7,250 yaba tablets from courier service

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) yesterday seized 7,250 yaba tablets from a courier service office in Dhaka's Kakrail.

DNC officials discovered the pills inside a parcel around 2:15pm, said DNC Assistant Director (Dhaka Metro-North) Rahul Sen.

The drive was conducted on information that a yaba consignment from Teknaf arrived at Kakrail via courier service in four containers, he said. Rahul said the contraband drugs were hidden in different layers of flour, wheat, and rice powder inside the containers.

He further said the courier service company was supposed to send the package to Panchagarh via Dhaka.

No one was available at the phone number mentioned in the parcel, said the DNC official.

The authorities are investigating to identify those responsible for sending the yaba from Cox's Bazar. A general diary was filed with Paltan Police Station.

**PRAYER TIMING**  
JUNE 16

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-05	12-45	5-00	6-50	8-15
JAMAAT 4-40	1-15	5-15	6-55	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## Customers feel

FROM PAGE 3  
clove prices have soared by 13.68 percent to Tk 2,000 per kilogramme, as shown in TCB's daily market report.

Within a week, the price of both local and imported garlic has risen by Tk 10-20 per kilogramme.

Local garlic was sold at Tk 230 per kilogramme, and imported garlic at Tk 250 per kilogramme yesterday.

Ginger prices have also increased by Tk 40-60 per kilogramme, with imported ginger being sold at Tk 280-320 per kilogramme.

Talking to The Daily Star, wholesale traders said that the rise in spice prices is due to higher global market prices and an increase in the value of the dollar. As the dollar's value has risen, so have import costs.

Shamima Begum, a homemaker from Dhanmondi, said, "I am furious about the soaring prices of essential spices.

It's becoming impossible to manage our household budget. "How are we supposed to cook for our families during festivals when prices are this high?"

Farida Begum, a private company employee, said she was frustrated by the high prices of garlic, ginger, and coriander. "These are basic ingredients for everyday cooking, and now they're almost unaffordable ahead of Eid."

Rahman Ali, a private job employee, said prices increase around Eid every year. "But no one seems to understand our pain," he added.

Md Enayet Ullah, president of Bangladesh Wholesale Hot Spice Traders Association, said, "Due to reduced cardamom production in India and Guatemala, the price of the product has increased in those countries. The rise in the dollar's value is also the reason for higher cardamom prices in the domestic market."

## Cities plan quick

FROM PAGE 3  
KHULNA

The Khulna City Corporation has planned to complete the waste disposal within eight hours on Eid day, starting from 2:00pm.

A total of 850 workers, 76 trucks and other waste-carrying vehicles will be deployed to clean up wastes from 141 designated slaughtering spots in 31 wards under KCC, said Md Anisur Rahman, chief conservancy officer of KCC.

SYLHET  
The Sylhet City Corporation, facing an uphill task of

cleaning animal wastes amid waterlogging in different areas following the recent flash flood, has not declared any pre-planned time frame but expects to clean and dispose of all wastes by the next morning after Eid.

"A total of 1,200 regular cleaners and 400 contractual cleaners will be engaged in waste clean-up. Residents have been distributed 40,000 bio-degradable bags for waste collection," said Lt Col (ret'd) Mohammod Aklem Abden, chief waste management officer of SCC.

## Man held for killing wife

STAR REPORT

Rab has arrested a man on charges of killing his wife in Gazipur's Sreepur.

Abdul Samad, 50, was arrested by a Rab-1 team on Friday night from Dwaibari area of Sreepur, said Rab-1 Assistant Director Mahfuzur Rahman yesterday.

He said Abdul hit Farida Yasmin, 42, on the back of her head with a bamboo during a dispute at home.

She was declared dead at Sreepur Upazila Health Complex.

Farida's father Abdul Gani filed a case accusing Abdul with Sreepur Police Station that night.

During primary interrogation, Samad confessed to the crime.

The Rab official said Abdul was handed over to Sreepur Police Station in Gazipur.

## Risky but still

FROM PAGE 5

government wants to stop the launch business, we have nothing to say. We want to modernise our launches, but authorities are not permitting design modifications. We hope the government will support us."

Babu Lal Baidya, deputy director (Marine Safety and Traffic) of BIWTA's Narayanganj River Port, said, "Owners have applied for an extension of approval for these launches beyond June 30. If not extended, these launches will cease operations, and the route may close."