

Climate financing falling short

Experts concerned about debt trap

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Climate finance in Bangladesh is falling short, with growing concerns that it may push the country into a debt trap, experts said at a programme yesterday.

"Bangladesh's climate-related debt has significantly increased. In 2009, the country had zero per capita climate debt, but by 2022 this figure soared to \$79.61," said M Zakir Hossain Khan, founder and chief executive of Change Initiative.

He said Bangladesh's multilateral per capita climate debt (\$2.04) is three times higher than the average for other Least Developed Countries (LDCs) (\$0.85).

At a national dialogue organised by Change Initiative at the CIRDAP auditorium in the capital, Zakir presented findings from a research study.

He highlighted that only 30.74

percent of international climate funds pledged to LDCs have been disbursed, leaving these countries with inadequate resources to address urgent adaptation and mitigation needs.

If we damage our environment, destroy the Dhaleshwari and Buriganga rivers, and then complain about why foreign countries aren't providing funds for climate issues, that would be a double standard.

SYEDA RIZWANA HASAN
Environment Adviser

"There is a global imbalance in climate finance. More funds are being directed towards mitigation projects, often through loans, rather than adaptation efforts

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It's false and harassing

Rights orgs condemn case against ZI Khan Panna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several rights organisations yesterday condemned and expressed grave concern over the attempted murder case filed against Supreme Court senior lawyer ZI Khan Panna.

Ain o Salish Kendra, in a statement, called the case "false and harassing".

ASK suggested the case may have been triggered by dissatisfaction with Panna's recent remarks on rights and socio-political issues in the country.

The statement, signed by ASK's Senior Coordinator Abu Ahmed Farzul Kabir, said Panna has supported students' legitimate demands from the beginning of the movement, offering legal aid to detained student leaders.

"Given his active role in rights and social issues, it is reasonable to suspect that this case is an attempt at harassment, which is both unjust and condemnable," the statement said.

ASK further described Panna as a

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A group of HSC candidates, who failed or got poor results, stormed the Dhaka Education Board yesterday demanding cancellation of their results and reevaluation of their scores. The protesters claimed they were attacked when they entered the board office, with several students reportedly injured in the incident. Similar gatherings took place in front of education boards across the country as well.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



RECOMMENDATIONS

Launching targeted programmes

Awareness-raising initiatives for parents

Recreational environments to counter depression

Introducing counselling services in schools

Safeguard students' mental well-being

Speakers call for coordinated efforts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Recent student protests, public demonstrations, and natural disasters have raised concerns about the mental health of primary-level students, leading to increased anxiety and distress, which is affecting their behaviour.

To address the situation, experts called for a collective effort to safeguard students' mental well-being, at a

discussion titled "Improving the Mental Health of Primary-Level Students: Our Responsibilities," organised by the Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) and the BRAC Institute of Educational Development at the Krishibid Institute in Dhaka yesterday.

In a presentation, CAMPE said recent protests, violence, and flooding have severely impacted students' mental

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Shahriar Kabir on fresh remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Shahriar Kabir, former president of Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee, on a two-day remand in a case filed over the death of trader Rafiqul Islam in Jatrabari during the quota reform protests.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Haider Ali passed the order after police produced him before the court with a seven-day remand prayer, said a court staffer.

During yesterday's hearing, Shahriar Kabir told the court, "I was on remand earlier. I can't walk without a wheelchair. I have a problem with my feet."

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6 more die of dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least six dengue patients died and 1,298 were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning.



Of the deaths, one was in Chattogram and five in Dhaka city.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), with the new deaths and cases, the total number of deaths rose to 247 while total number of cases rose to 49,880, of which 28,668 are from outside Dhaka.

Currently, 3,943 dengue patients are undergoing treatment.

A total of 45,690 patients have been released from the hospitals across the country till yesterday.

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