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Heatwave cost Bangladesh \$21b last year

Rise in heatwave days reducing labour capacity, shows Lancet Countdown report

ASIFUR RAHMAN

Heat exposure had severe economic consequences for Bangladesh last year, leading to an estimated income loss of \$21 billion due to reduced labour capacity, according to the latest Lancet Countdown report.

The previous year, the figure stood at \$19 billion. Agricultural workers were particularly affected, experiencing 63.5 percent of the potential hours lost and 54 percent of the associated income losses, said the 2024 report titled "Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change: Facing Record-breaking Threats from Delayed Action".

The study released on Tuesday said nearly 26.5 billion potential labour hours were lost due to heat exposure in 2023.

Individuals faced moderate or higher heat stress risks for approximately 2,800 hours a year from 2014 to 2023, which is equivalent to one-third of the year during light outdoor activities, it added.

Exposure to high temperatures threatens people's lives, health, and wellbeing, leading to death and heat-related disease, and increasing healthcare demand during heatwave episodes, the report said.

People above 65, socio economically deprived

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Influential people have cut hills to make plots in Kathal Bagan area of Chattogram city's Paschim Khulshi, contributing to environmental degradation and raising the risk of landslides. The photo was taken on Wednesday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN



Masud Ali Khan (1929-2024)

A thespian's final bow

MAHIYA TABASSUM

Masud Ali Khan, a towering figure in Bangladeshi performing arts, passed away yesterday at his home in the capital's Green Road, leaving behind a remarkable legacy that spans over seven decades of unparalleled artistic brilliance.

He was 95. A founding member of Drama Circle, Bangladesh's pioneering theatre group, Khan was more than just an actor-- he was a cultural icon who traversed stage, screen, television, and radio, captivating audiences with his extraordinary talent and profound depth of performance.

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Only elected govt can make proper changes Says Fakhrul asking for polls at the soonest

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said their party wants the election to be held quickly as only an elected government can make visible changes to the country.

Speaking at a discussion, the BNP leader also said conspirators will get the opportunity to render the mass uprising futile and destabilise the country if the election is delayed.

"Why do we want an early election? We want it quickly because we think that without an elected government, no one else can represent the people and utilise them," he explained.

He also mentioned that the government has taken steps for various reforms. "These reform proposals need to be taken to parliament and passed there through debate. The public representatives must accept these reform

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Harris, Trump accuse each other of fomenting division



REUTERS, Green Bay

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump and his Democratic rival Kamala Harris accused each other of deepening the discord of a deeply polarised nation as the US presidential campaign entered its final week on Wednesday.

The Republican former president donned an orange reflective safety vest and climbed into the passenger seat of a garbage truck in Green Bay, Wisconsin, to call attention to a Tuesday comment by Democratic President Joe Biden that he said revealed the disdain Democratic leaders feel towards Trump's supporters.

Taking questions as he sat in the truck on Wednesday, Trump said Biden "should be ashamed of himself" and that Harris was guilty by association. Trump supporters "are not garbage," the former president said.

Trump, however, distanced himself from the comedian at his Madison Square Garden rally on Sunday, Tony Hinchcliffe, who triggered this week's political firestorm by saying Puerto Rico is "a floating island of garbage."

"I don't know who he is...I know nothing about him," said Trump, adding, "I love Puerto Rico and Puerto Rico loves me."

Trump slams 'attacks on minorities' in Bangladesh

STAR REPORT

Former president Donald Trump took to X yesterday to wish the Hindus a happy Diwali during which he condemned "violence against minorities in Bangladesh".

He said, "I strongly condemn the barbaric violence against Hindus, Christians, and other minorities who are getting attacked and looted by mobs in Bangladesh, which remains in a total state of chaos."

"It would have never happened on my watch. Kamala and Joe have ignored Hindus across the world and in America. They have been a disaster from Israel to Ukraine to our own Southern Border, but we will Make America Strong Again and bring back Peace through Strength!"

"We will also protect Hindu Americans against the anti-religion agenda

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Hamas rejects short-term Gaza truce

Says a senior official of the group; 30 Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes

AFP, Palestinian territories

A senior Hamas official said yesterday that the group rejects any proposal for a temporary halt to more than a year of fighting in Gaza and insists on a lasting ceasefire.

"The idea of a temporary pause in the war, only to resume aggression later, is something we have already expressed our position on. Hamas supports a permanent end to the war, not a temporary one," Taher al-Nunu, a senior leader of the movement, told AFP.

Mediators seeking to broker a Gaza ceasefire are expected to propose a truce of "less than a month" to Hamas, a source with knowledge of the talks told AFP on Wednesday.

- Israeli strike hits Kamal Adwan Hospital
- MSF surgeon detained by Israel in hospital raid
- Death toll in enclave rises to 43,204

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ROBBERY SUSPECTS Mob beats 2 brothers to death

UNB, Chapainawabganj

A mob beat two brothers to death in Chapainawabganj's Bholahat upazila on Wednesday night, suspecting them to be robbers.

The victims were Jahangir Hossain, 25, and Yakub Ali, 22, of Bholahat's Durgapur area.

The incident happened in the Chhoto Jambaria area, said Shahinur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Bholahat Police Station.

The OC said some people fell victim to a robbery while travelling on a rickshaw-van near Kalamugra area around 8:30pm. The suspects reportedly took away money and gold jewellery from the passengers. Hearing their shouts, locals chased the suspects.

The locals caught and beat them up indiscriminately, leaving the two dead on the spot, the OC added.

No change in status of 7 DU-affiliated colleges

Separate unit to be set up to look after them

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The seven DU-affiliated government colleges will have a dedicated unit to look after them, while still maintaining their affiliations with the university.

It will be formed within the ambit of Dhaka University and will have a separate registrar and other officials who will oversee the seven colleges, Shafiqul Alam, press secretary to the chief adviser, said at a press conference at the Foreign Service Academy yesterday.

"There will be a designated place in DU to conduct the administrative works [for the seven colleges]."

He said the decision was made at a meeting between protesting students and Education Adviser Wahiduddin Mahmud and Youth and Sports Adviser Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuiyan.

Shafiqul hoped the protests will end following the decision.

Students of the seven colleges -- Dhaka College, Eden Mohila College, Government Shaheed Suhrawardy College, Kabi Nazrul Government College, Begum Badrunnesa Government

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'PAKHIR GRAM'

The Ashurhat village in Jhenaidah's Shailkupa upazila has become a haven for Asian Openbill Storks, locally known as Shamuk Bhanga or Shyamkhol. It all began when the birds first took shelter there in 2007 -- their number was in double digits then. Now, the village boasts housing over 25,000 storks. They can be seen resting in the canopies of large trees near the three water bodies of the village. The locals make the place habitable enough to ensure the birds' presence around them. They have also been successful in protecting the birds from hunters and have now named their village "Pakhir Gram" (the village of birds). In this photo, the storks can be seen returning to their treetop homes after a day of foraging.

PHOTO: MONJUR MORSHED

Tigers humiliated SA sweep series 2-0

SAMSUL AREFIN KHAN

from Chattogram

It seems the Bangladesh national cricket team is on a mission to break all sorts of records in Tests, well, at least the ignominious ones. They hit a new low yesterday when they conceded an innings and 273-run defeat to South Africa in the second and final Test to suffer a 2-0 clean-sweep in Chattogram.

Their performance in the match was nothing short of shambolic and the defeat, which is their second worst ever in Tests behind an innings and 310-run loss to the West Indies in Dhaka in 2002, leaves a giant question mark over their growth as a Test-playing nation over the last 24 years.

The fact that Bangladesh lost the series to South Africa, a side that has not won a Test series in the sub-continent in a decade, only heightens those doubts.

On a batting paradise at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium, where the Proteas scored a colossal 575-6d with three of their batters notching up their maiden Test tons, Bangladesh batters should have thrived.

But the host batters seemed to be hell-bent on not scoring runs in the match as the Tigers went on to lose 16 wickets in just one day to suffer a humiliating defeat.

Bangladesh's batting in both innings

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