



SOUTH ASIA DISASTER NEWS

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WEEKLY SUMMARY

Afghanistan



Taliban kill seven Afghan civilians

Source :- Press TV,

Date :- 04 July 2010, Kabul



Afghan officials say the Taliban militants have killed at least seven civilians in an attack in the troubled southeastern parts of the war-torn country. Afghan provincial authorities said on Saturday (03/07/2010) that dozens more were reportedly abducted in Khost Province near the Pakistani border. Officials have yet to release the details of the incident. Targeted killings have surged in Afghanistan this year. The Taliban have regularly executed those accused of colluding with the government or US-led forces.

Bangladesh



Himalayan rivers to dry up within 20 yrs: report

Source :- IBN7Live,

Date :-29 June 2010, Singapore

Himalayan river basins in China, Bangladesh, India and Nepal will face massive water depletion within 20 years, leading to a decline in food and mass migration, a research group warned on Monday. Due to natural reasons like glacial melting, the four countries would lose almost 275 billion cubic metres of annual renewable water in the next two decades, more than the total amount of available water in Nepal at present, India-based Strategic Foresight Group said in a report. "What we are looking at here is a major catastrophe ... going to happen in 20, 25 years," the group's president, Sundeep Waslekar, told a seminar at the Singapore International Water Week.

Flood situation worsens: 70,000 marooned in Rangpur

Source :- The New Nation,

Date :- 30 June 2010, BSS, Rangpur

The overall flood situation deteriorated in greater Rangpur and adjoining areas in the Brahmaputra basin as the major rivers crossed their danger marks (DM) at several points during the past 24 hours till on Tuesday morning. The situation sharply deteriorated following continuous rises in the water levels of the major rivers due to huge onrush of hilly waters from the upper catchments and heavy rain falls in the upstream during the period, official said. The major rivers crossed their respective DM at Chilmari in Kurigram, Fulchhari in Gaibandha, Sariakandi in Bogra and Bahadurabad points and they were just touching the DM at some other points on Tuesday morning inundating vast low-lying areas. About 70,000 people of 150 low-lying char villages in seven upazilas in Kurigram, three upazilas of Gaibandha and Sariakandi upazila of Bogra and some other riverside upazilas of Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari and Sirajganj have been partially marooned so far.

Preparation is vital to curb the quake impact in city

Source :- The New Nation,

Date :- 30 June 2010, UNB, Dhaka

As earthquakes cannot be forecast, massive preparation must be taken immediately to reduce the impact and risk posed by any such disaster through increased knowledge and education for the masses. Bangladesh, especially its capital Dhaka, is one of the most highly vulnerable countries in terms of potential damage from an earthquake, and so measures to increase knowledge and education on how to mitigate the damage can be helpful in building a culture of safety at all levels.

Climate change threatens to slash Bangladesh rice crop, report warns

Source :- AlertNet,

Date :- 02 July 2010

Without adequate intervention, rice production in Bangladesh could see a dramatic decline by 2050 due to the impacts of climate change, even as population is projected to continue rising, researchers say. "Bangladesh faces formidable challenges to feed its population in the future," note the authors of a new report on adapting Bangladesh's agriculture to climate change.

And the problems may extend well beyond the densely populated, low-lying South Asian nation. "The present climatic variability is taking its toll in a lot in countries where temperatures are high," said M. Asaduzzaman, research director of the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies and one of the authors of the study, titled, "Investment in Agriculture for Higher Growth, Productivity and Adaptation to Climate Change".



Global warming and priorities of plant breeding

Source :- The Daily Star,

Date :- 03 July 2010

GLOBAL warming is an increase of average air temperature of the Earth's surface and oceans' temperature. The most important challenge for sustainable agriculture is climate uncertainty, more specifically global warming. According to Gallup Polls, over a third of the world's population is unaware of global warming, with people in developing countries less aware than those in

developed countries. Anticipated changes in global climate leading to more frequent extreme conditions will need adaptations of agricultural crops in order to sustain agricultural production

Bhutan



Monsoon rains disrupts normal life

Source: Kuensel Newspaper

Date: 28 June 2010

Heavy rain comes as a relief but with the usual disruption



Heavy rains washed away a portion of the Dagana-Sunkosh road at Phapharkhetey.

More rain is expected in most parts of the country today, even as heavy and slightly heavy rainfall swept over several areas yesterday, causing landslides, and road blocks, swelling rivers and bringing construction work to a halt. The average rainfall recorded around the country at 9 am yesterday ranged from 52 mm to 214 mm, the meteorology department said. The Thimphu-Phuentsholing highway has been blocked at several places. About 300 vehicles plying to and from Phuentsholing were stranded at Tsimatsham and Gedu yesterday, until the blockade at Takti was temporarily cleared at 2.00 pm.

Nations only athletic track at the mercy of the river

Source: Kuensel Newspaper

Date: 02.07.2010

Perilously Close: The Nu 70M project literally hangs in the balance.



The country's first and only synthetic athletic track, which is being laid at the Yangchenphug school riverside ground in the capital, could end up in the Thimchu if an embankment wall is not built immediately. The heavy rains on June 27 that caused the river to swell has reduced the area between the ground on which the athletic track stands and the river to less than five metres, according to the general secretary of Bhutan amateur athletic federation (BAAF), Dorji Tenzin. Loose soil of the artificially expanded athletic ground kept sliding into the swelling Thimchu on the rainy afternoon of June 27



Incessant rains cause deterioration in flood situation in Assam

Source: newsonair

Date: 28 Jun 2010

In Assam, most of the rivers, including the Brahmaputra, are in spate following incessant rains in the catchments since last three days. According to a Central Water Commission report this morning, the River Brahmaputra is flowing above the danger level at Dibrugarh, Jorhat and Dhubri. The river Puthimari is flowing two meters beyond the danger mark. The rivers Dikhow, Desang, Jia Bharali, Pagladiya, Manas, Beki and Sonkosh are also maintaining rising trend above the danger mark. The rising waters of the Brahmaputra have inundated 20 villages in Majuli Island and a portion of the Kaziranga National Park.

International conference on "Global Carbon Budget and Climate Change"

Source: newsonair

Date: 28 Jun 2010

A two-day international conference on "Global Carbon Budget and Climate Change" will begin in Mumbai this morning. The conference is intended to discuss the critical question of "equity," a fundamental issue in climate change talks from the perspective of carbon budgets. The conference will be inaugurated by Union Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh. The Minister is also expected to closely participate in the discussions. The conference is being organised by Mumbai-based Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS) with support of the environment ministry.

Ten killed in A.P. accident

Source: The Hindu

28 June 2010

Ten persons were killed on the spot in a ghastly road accident near Patancheru in the early hours of Sunday when a Scorpio hit a lorry coming in the opposite direction headon. Police, after inspecting the accident scene, believe that the Scorpio driver could have lost control of the vehicle over a nap, swerved to the other side of the road and hit the lorry, killing all the 10 passengers in the vehicle. The impact of the accident was so severe that the police had a tough time extricating the bodies out of the vehicle.

Lightning kills 11, injures 7

Source: TNN

Date: 28 Jun 2010

YAVATMAL/CHANDRAPUR: Nine women were among 11 persons killed and seven injured as lightning struck at various places of Yavatmal and Chandrapur on Sunday. Among those killed, seven persons, including six women working in a farm in Wani- Maregaon belt of Yavatmal, were killed when lightning struck in the afternoon, three others sustained injuries. Yavatmal district collector Sanjay Deshmukh said that six women died on the spot while four others sustained burns. One of those injured died while he was being taken to a hospital.

Thundershowers in Kanpur kill at least 8 persons including a woman

Source: newsonair

Date: 29 Jun 29 2010

In Uttar Pradesh, at least 8 persons including a woman were killed and about 12 injured in Kanpur on Monday after thundershowers accompanied by squall lashed the entire district. Injured are admitted in different primary health centres and Ursala hospital. District administration has announced to provide financial assistance to the affected families. Quoting official sources, AIR Lucknow correspondent reports that three persons including a woman were killed in Kanpur town. Nearly 5 casualties are reported from different villages in Bilhaur area of the district.

Ten Assam districts under the grip of flood

Source: DD News

Date: 30 June, 2010



Flood ravage continues in as many ten districts of Assam as swelling waters of the rivers are submerging new areas. Large areas of Barpeta, Baksa, Kokrajhar,ongaigaon and Dhubri districts have been inundated following reported release of Kurichu dam water in neighbouring Bhutan. Vast areas of the Manas and Kaziranga National Parks and the Pabitora wildlife sanctuary have been submerged. The high speed flow of water breached two vital embankments of Beki and Mora Pagladiya rivers. Surface communication remained disrupted in the flood-hit districts. The State Government has instructed the district authorities to gear up relief and rescue measures among the flood-ravaged areas.

Rain claims 10 lives in U.P., Punjab

Source: The Hindu

Date: 30.06.2010

NEW DELHI: At least 10 people died in rain-related incidents in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab on Tuesday, even as the heat wave gripped the rest of north India, claiming one life in Rajasthan. Sudden rain, accompanied by winds of high velocity, led to several incidents of wall collapse in Kanpur district of Uttar Pradesh, killing seven persons and injuring 12. The winds also uprooted electricity poles and trees at Sadar and Billor, shutting down power supply. Three children of a family were buried alive at Tajpur in Punjab after an old building collapsed in the rain in the early hours. The temperature was near normal at most places in the region,

Alert declared against communicable diseases

Source: The Hindu

Date: 03 July 2009

MALAPPURAM: District Collector M.C. Mohandas has asked the people to be vigilant against communicable diseases, especially during the monsoon. He cautioned health workers to keep extra vigil to prevent the spread of any outbreaks. He was presiding over a meeting of a committee for control of

communicable diseases at the Collectorate here on Friday. Mr. Mohandas asked the health workers to ensure hygiene at all hostels, orphanages, lodgings, hotels and other public places in the district. The meeting asked the public to be vigilant against all kinds of fever. Self-treatment should be avoided, and a doctor's service should be sought even for an ordinary fever, said Mr. Mohandas.

Erosion, an extremely serious problem, says professor

Source: The Hindu

Date: 03 July 2009

'Human activities have aggravated the problem'

MANGALORE: All options need to be considered for dealing with sea erosion, which is caused by a number of factors, Deeptha Thattai, Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering at SRM University, Chennai, has said. Ms. Thattai, who has co-authored 'Feasibility Study of Coastal Erosion in Karnataka', was speaking at the release of the report here on Wednesday. The study was carried out under the aegis of the Kanara Chamber of Commerce and Industry for over three months. Stressing that sea erosion is a natural phenomenon, Ms. Thattai said that over the past 15 to 20 years the problem had become "extremely serious". During this period, Karnataka's coastline had receded by nearly 200 m, with severity of erosion increasing southwards from Honnavar in Uttara Kannada district.

Heavy rain lashes coastal Andhra, Telangana

Source: The Hindu

Date: 03 July 2009

Monsoon turns vigorous after a brief lull

Chief Minister reviews the situation with Disaster Management Commissioner T. Radha Collectors of vulnerable districts asked to be on vigil and shift people from low-lying areas

HYDERABAD: The South-west monsoon turned "vigorous" over the State on Friday under the influence of an 'upper air circulation' over the Bay, causing heavy/widespread rain over the coastal Andhra and Telangana regions. Revival of the monsoon after a brief lull comes as a relief to the government and people, as it will help in kharif operations and in reducing the power demand. Sircilla, in Karimnagar district, recorded a heavy rainfall of 130 mm during the 24-hour period ending 8.30 am Friday. There was 90 mm rainfall at Naryankhed, 80 mm at Koida and 70 mm each at Hyderabad, Madhira and Tiruvur. Many places in the regions received rain up to 60 mm each. As a result, tanks, streams and rivulets received sudden inflows. Low-lying areas in several places, including Hyderabad, were inundated.

Mock drill in Kolkata airport

Source: Zee News

Date: 03 July 2009

Kolkata: Passengers were evacuated from the airport here as police and bomb disposal squad searched for an 'explosive' planted in the domestic terminal during a mock drill on Saturday to test the alertness of staff and securitymen. The security personnel were informed at 1.45 pm that a bomb had been planted somewhere in the domestic terminal of the N S C Bose International Airport, airport sources said. Following this airport police, CISF personnel, bomb disposal squad and sniffer dogs arrived and began searches as panicked passengers were evacuated from the terminal, they said. After about 15 minutes, the securitymen were informed by the authorities that it was a mock drill. However, flight schedules were not affected by the exercise.

200 houses damaged in Bidar

Source: The Hindu

Date: 04 July 2009

Bidar: There have been reports of widespread damage in Bidar district following heavy rain on Thursday and Friday. The district authorities said that nearly 200 houses had partially collapsed in the district. Two bulls were washed away in Manjra river in Nyamatabad in Bidar taluk. There were no reports of any casualties. The Hulsoor tank in Basavakalyan taluk breached, causing flooding in over 80 acres of land.

Maldives



Tsunami report identifies recovery aid failures in India and Sri Lanka

Source ; - Minivan News,

Date ; - 29 June 2010

'Lessons from Tsunami Recovery in Sri Lanka and India' (*Report Enclosed*) described as a 'large and wide-ranging study of post-tsunami recovery' by researchers from Monash and RMIT universities in Melbourne, Australia, has been released. The report identifies 'serious shortcomings in how international aid agencies dealt with local groups, leaving them poorly equipped to manage with long-term recovery efforts. The researchers say they're already seeing many of the mistakes repeated in the wake of more recent natural disasters, with worrying consequences', reports ABC Radio Australia.

President meets with WHO Director for Sustainable Development and Healthy Environments

Source ; - Miadhu News,

Date :- 02 July 2010

President Mohamed Nasheed has today met with World Health Organisation's Director, Sustainable Development and Healthy Environments Dr Maria Neira. At the meeting held at the President's Office this afternoon, discussions were focused on challenges faced by the Maldives in the areas of health, government health policies and areas of WHO assistance to the Maldives. Speaking at the meeting, President Nasheed said the Maldives has many issues that it needs to address in terms of public health. He said the government wanted to institutionalise public health issues such as vaccination in primary schools and make it part of the everyday life. He said while incidence communicable diseases were decreasing, number of people suffering from chronic non-communicable diseases was increasing in the Maldives due to lifestyle changes.

Nepal



Chitwan road cleared amid heavy rain

SOURCE: - THE HIMALAYAN TIMES, Chitwan

DATE: - 28th June 10

CHITWAN: Transportation which had been disrupted by the landslide triggered by the downpour along the Mugling-Narayangarh road section in Chitwan, since Sunday evening resumed on Monday morning. The traffic resumed after a team of police personnel from Mugling and a bulldozer of the Road Division

Office cleared the Highway at Kerabari, Kabilas-5. Chitwan has witnessed heavy torrential rains since last night. The downpour was continuing unabated at the time of filing this report.

Shankhuwasabha landslide: 56 families displaced, 12 houses swept away

SOURCE: - KANTIPUR NEWS, *Shankhuwasabha*

DATE: - 30th June 10

SHANKHUWASABHA - Some 280 people of 56 families were displaced as the rain-triggered landslide at Shikhuwakhola VDC's ward no. 4, 5 and 6 swept 12 houses in the district on Monday night. The displaced villagers are taking shelter in their fields. Following the landslide that has left some 44 more houses in the area vulnerable, the terrified locals fled their houses for safety last night. The landslide has also demolished the suspension bridge over Newa River connecting ward no. 4 and 5 of the VDC.

Serious water woes' in 20 yrs

SOURCE: - KANTIPUR NEWS, *Kathmandu*

DATE: - 4th July 10



KATHMANDU, JUL 04 - Himalayan river basins in China, Bangladesh, India and Nepal will face massive water depletion in the next 20 years, leading to mass exodus and decline in food, according to a report.

During the Singapore International Water Week (SIWW) 2010 held from June 28 to July 2, a report published by Strategic Foresight Group of India stated that due to natural causes like glacial melting, the four countries including Nepal would lose almost 275 billion cubic meters of annual renewable water in the next two decades, more than the total amount of available

water in Nepal at present.

Themed "Sustainable Cities: Clean and Affordable Water", the SIWW focused on the need for efficiency and cost effective solutions to address water problems

Seven killed, two missing in Dhading landslide

SOURCE: - KANTIPUR NEWS, *Dhading*

DATE: - 5th July 10

Hundreds of houses in Syangja facing flood threat

DHADING, JUL 05 - Seven people have been killed and two others went missing in a landslide at Gumdi VDC-3 of Dhading district on Sunday. Of the killed, the dead body of Telmaya Gurung and Dilmaya Gurung has been found this morning

The whereabouts of missing Min Bahadur Gurung, Mailimaya Gurung, Tikamaya Gurung, Manmaya Gurung, and Somte Gurung is still unknown. The landslide took place at 1.30 at night burying four houses.

Rains damage millions of tons of wheat in Sindh

SOURCE: - DAWN NEWS, Karachi

DATE: - 28th June 10



KARACHI: A huge quantity of recently procured wheat has been damaged during recent rains in many parts of the province, while quality of the grain packed in polymer bags is eroding, causing financial loss to the government.

Heavy rains in the wake of recent cyclone, which hit coastal areas of Badin and Thatta districts, damaged millions of tons of wheat lying in the open.

Hyderabad blast toll rises to 18

SOURCE: - THE NEWS, Hyderabad

DATE: - 28th June 10

HYDERABAD: At least 18 people were killed and various others injured when a blast occurred in a truck in Halanaka area of Hyderabad, Geo News reported Monday. SP Investigation Muhammed Ali Baloch confirmed to the Geo News the killings of at least 18 people, adding at least 40 people were injured in the blast; of them 9 are in critical condition.

200 villages flooded in Muzaffargarh

SOURCE: - THE FRONTIER POST, Muzaffargarh

DATE: - 1st July 10

MUZAFFARGARH (INP): More than two hundred villages have come under water due to flooding in Indus River that washed away hundreds of livestock and destroyed standing crops over vast land. According to report of a private channel, flood in Indus River submerged villages on its embankments in the last four days. Kutcha houses in over 200 villages have collapsed and large numbers of people are stranded as they have no means to shift themselves and their animals to safer places.

Triple suicide attacks kill 40 at Data Darbar

SOURCE: - DAILY TIMES, Lahore

DATE: - 2nd July 10

- * 175 injured as three suicide bombers blow themselves up inside shrine
- * Death toll likely to rise
- * 10-15 kilogramme explosives, ball-bearings used in each bomb

LAHORE: Over 40 people were killed and another 175 injured when three suicide attackers blew themselves up inside the shrine of Lahore's patron saint Syed Ali Hajwairi popularly known as Data Gunj Bakhsh, late on Thursday night.

Sri Lanka



Over 15,000 dengue cases, 85 deaths up to May

SOURCE: - DAILY NEWS, Colombo

DATE: - 1st July 10

Over 15,000 dengue cases and 85 dengue related deaths have been reported during the first five months of this year, Health Ministry Senior Epidemiologist Dr. Sudath Peiris said.

Warning that with the inter-monsoonal rains dengue cases could raise, Dr. Peiris said school authorities should also set a better example by urging students to destroy mosquito breeding grounds.