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Antarctica ice melts may hit Bangladesh hardest: Minister

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Bangladesh will be the world's worst victim if the ice-sheets of Antarctica start melting due to global warming, Environment Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud said at a seminar yesterday.

If the industrialised nations do not reduce pumping carbon into the atmosphere immediately, many island states will plunge under seawater by the end of this century, he said.

According to an UN study, the minister said, global temperature might shoot up to 4 degree Celsius due to existing carbon emission rate, eventually raising sea level as high as 16 feet.

Dr Hasan Mahmud, who presented videos and photographs at the seminar, taken during his recent visit to Antarctica, said ice melting was very bad news for the world.

Brac University arranged the seminar, "Climate Change and Glacier Melting: Sharing Experience of Antarctica" where the minister spoke as chief guest.

Dr Ainun Nishat, vice chancellor of the university, was present as a special guest, while Dr Zainab F Ali, the director (student affairs), chaired the session.