



## UNDER-5 CHILDREN IN BANGLADESH Rate of stunting dropping fast

REAZ AHMAD

Unlike its South Asian neighbours India and Pakistan, Bangladesh is on course to meet the global targets for reducing stunting among children under five.

Though the rate of stunting -- low height for age -- is still high at 36 percent in Bangladesh, it is now dropping faster than in the past. The rate was 41 percent in 2011 and 51 percent in 2004.

According to the Global Nutrition Report (GNR) 2015, neither India nor Pakistan is on track for reducing stunting -- a major indicator of malnutrition. Stunting rate is over 40 percent in Pakistan and 39 percent in India.

The GNR is an independent annual assessment of the state of nutrition in the world. It monitors progress on nutrition in all its forms in terms of outcome and action for 193 countries.

The report is prepared by the Washington-based International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and overseen by a wide-ranging stakeholder

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### STUNTING IN BANGLADESH

2004  
**51%**

2011  
**41%**

2015  
**36%**



A dog squad of Border Guard Bangladesh inspecting Shah Amanat Int'l Airport in Chittagong yesterday as security measures were stepped up at airports and other key areas of the country following recent attacks on two foreigners and a Shia programme in the capital. Inset, a CCTV camera being installed in the port city's Subarna Residential Area. Story on page 16.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

## KILLING OF PUBLISHER UN for probe

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The United Nations has called on Bangladesh to "fully investigate" the recent killing of a publisher and bring the perpetrators to book.

"We would clearly condemn the killing of the publisher we saw in Bangladesh, and we would very much call on the government to fully investigate and bring the perpetrators to justice," said Stéphane Dujarric, spokesman for the UN secretary-general.

He made the comment in response to a question at the daily press briefing at the UN headquarters on Monday.

Earlier, UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh Robert D Watkins strongly condemned the brutal killing of

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## Truth be damned

The 'Other' is always the culprit

MAHFUZ ANAM



### COMMENTARY

The PM blames Khaleda, the BNP chief blames Hasina, the killers continue to kill, the victims' families live in fear, people remain confused and angry, friends of Bangladesh watch in disbelief and the smile of our enemies grow wider. So what more needs to happen to wake us up to the challenges we now face in our 'Sonar Bangla'?

Citizens are killed all over the world. It also appears easy, especially if they are targeted individually. It is also almost impossible to stop such incidents especially if it is carried out by a determined

group, driven by misconstrued belief, nurtured by internal misgovernance, and encouraged

by a global rise in extremism.

However, nobody is blaming Bangladesh or its government for such occurrences. In fact the whole world is willing to help to find the culprits.

What, however, everybody is criticizing, especially the public at large including the victims' families is the utter failure of investigations so far and the way the whole process is being vitiated by politicization. In a confusing atmosphere like this,

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## INJURED IN LALMATIA ATTACK At infection risk for unrestrained visits

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The recovery of the publisher and the two writers hacked brutally in the capital's Lalmatia four days ago may take time as they are at the risk of contracting infectious diseases due to unrestrained visits by journalists and politicians.

Doctors are concerned about it because infections, if developed into sepsis, may be fatal.

The trio -- Ahmedur Rashid Tutul, 43, Ranadipam Basu, 52, and Tareq Rahim, 32 -- bled excessively for almost an hour before being admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 3:30pm on Saturday, after

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## Fakhrul sent to jail again

Bail prayers in 3 arson cases rejected

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent BNP acting secretary general Mirza



Fakhrul Islam Alamgir to jail after he surrendered before it, seeking bail in three arson and vandalism cases.

With this, the BNP leader landed in prison for the seventh time during the present government.

Metropolitan Magistrate

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## ATTACKS ON PUBLISHERS DB takes over investigation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With no visible progress of the probe into Saturday's attacks on publishers and bloggers, which left one dead and three injured, Detective Branch of police was given the charge of the investigation yesterday.

DB south division would investigate the murder case filed with Shahbagh Police Station while the west division would look into the case filed with Mohammadpur Police Station, said Muntasirul Islam, deputy commissioner (media wing) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Razia Rahman, wife of publisher Faisal Arefin Dipan, filed a case with Shahbagh Police Station on Monday, around 47 hours after Dipan was killed in his Jagriti Prokashani office in Aziz Super Market.

Almost at the same time he was killed, three armed

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## Save free voice in Bangladesh

Avijit's widow urges int'l community

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rafida Ahmed Bonya, widow of slain secular writer Dr Avijit Roy, has urged the



Bonya

international community to immediately act to save the free voice in Bangladesh.

"I am pleading to the international community to pay attention before it gets completely out of control like some of the other countries," she told a

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**In memory of Late Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury**

On 04 November 2012, Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury, the then Chairman of United Commercial Bank Limited passed away. He was like a father figure to us, giving us guidance and nurturing us to become much more than we are. It is because of his prudent leadership that UCB has been able to progress further and be prosperous. We pray for eternal peace for the departed soul and convey our sincere compassion to the bereaved family.

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