



People buying subsidised rice and flour from a dealer at Mugda in the capital as the operation of Open Market Sale began yesterday. PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Hasina to seek global

FROM PAGE 16
22 security personnel and 16 media personnel.

LGRD Minister Khandker Mosharruf Hossain, Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali, PM's ICT Affairs Adviser Sajeeb Ahmed Wazed and State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Meher Afroze are accompanying the PM.

Bangladesh Ambassador in the US Mohammad Ziauddin and Bangladesh Permanent Representative to the UN Masud Bin Momen received the prime minister at JFK International Airport in New York yesterday afternoon.

From the airport, she was taken to Hotel Grand Hyatt in New York where she would stay during her tour till September 21.

As part of her programme schedule, the PM would attend a high-level meeting today on "UN Reforms" to be hosted by US President Donald Trump.

She would also attend another high-level meeting on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse at the UN Headquarters (UNHQ) and the high-level follow-up meeting of Global Deal for Decent Work and Inclusive Growth at Convene Conference Centre.

The prime minister along with other heads of state and government is set to join the official lunch tomorrow to be hosted by UN Secretary General António Guterres.

The lunch would be followed by a high-level roundtable of the UN secretary general's high-level panel on Women's Economic Empowerment for Leaving No One Behind, and another high-level meeting on "Pact for Environment" to be hosted by French president.

In the afternoon tomorrow, Hasina would join the crucial OIC Contact Group meeting on Rohingya minorities at the UNHQ. The PM would seek strong support from the OIC and its member countries for helping the Rohingyas.

Hasina would also take part in a reception for the Commonwealth heads of state and government to be hosted by British Prime Minister Theresa May and Prime Minister of Malta Joseph Muscat, current Commonwealth chair-in-office, later tomorrow.

She would also join a welcome reception of US President Donald Trump in the evening at Palace Hotel on Madison Avenue.

Later, the PM would attend a reception to be hosted by the Bangladesh community at New York Marriott Marquis at 8:30pm.

On September 20, Hasina is set to attend the signing ceremony of the Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons at the UNHQ. Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali would sign the treaty on behalf of Bangladesh.

She is scheduled to hold a bilateral meeting with Kersti Kaljulaid, president of Estonia, at the UNHQ at 9:30am.

The PM would attend a side event titled "SDG Implementation, Financing and Monitoring: Sharing Innovations through South-South and Triangular Cooperation" to be organised by Bangladesh in partnership with UNDP and UN Office for South-South Cooperation at the UNHQ.

Hasina would also attend the opening segment of a high-level side event titled "Creating a Policy Vision for SDG Finance: Facilitating Private Sector Investment in the SDGs" to be organised by Bangladesh and Canada

in partnership with UNDP at the UNHQ.

She is scheduled to attend a luncheon roundtable meeting to be arranged by Business Council for International Understanding. Later, Hasina would hold a bilateral meeting with Queen Maxima of the Netherlands, the UN secretary general's special advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development.

Hasina would also attend a high-level open debate on UN peacekeeping issues to be organised by Ethiopian delegation in its capacity as the president of UN Security Council for September 2017 at Security Council Chamber of the UNHQ.

She is scheduled to hold a meeting with secretary general of IOM and give an interview to Sadanand Dhume of Wall Street Journal.

On September 21, President of IBM Virginia Marie Rometty is going to meet Hasina before a bilateral meeting with Hashim Thaci, president of Kosovo, at her hotel.

Later, she would join the Fourth Meeting of the High-level Panel on Water at the UN head office. She would also meet Prof Claus Schwab, executive chairman of World Economic Forum.

Later, the PM would hold a bilateral meeting with her Nepalese counterpart Sher Bahadur Deuba.

She would brief the press on her UN visit in the evening on September 21 at the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh in New York.

Hasina would leave New York for Virginia by road on September 22. After staying in Virginia for a week, she is scheduled to fly for home on September 29 and return home on October 2 via London.

Transport

FROM PAGE 16
drugs were being taken to Kushtia in a bus from Chuadanga on Friday. A team of plainclothes Rab men took position at Kushtia Central Bus Terminal.

After arriving at the terminal, bus driver Sohail Rana, conductor Thantu Mia and helper Sagar Ali were waiting for somebody to hand over the heroin.

But sensing the law enforcers' presence, the trio headed for Chuadanga with the empty bus which was scheduled to return with passengers, the release added.

Then another Rab team stopped the bus at Bat Toil in Kushtia town around 2:30pm and recovered the heroin. The team arrested the three and also seized the bus.

Rab filed a case with Kushtia Model Police Station against the three and handed them over to police Friday night.

After the incident, the transport association demanded immediate release of the arrestees and the bus.

On Saturday, the three were produced before a Kushtia court that sent them to jail.

Contacted, Kushtia Transport Owners' Association President Asgor claimed that the three were not involved in the drug smuggling. "It may be someone else who was using the bus as safe transportation."

Maj Robiul Islam, company commander of Rab-12, said the arrestees admitted their involvement in the drug smuggling.

The trio each time used to get Tk 25,000-30,000 for carrying drug to drug traders, said the Rab official adding that they came to know some names of drug traders from the arrestees, and drives were going on to detain them.

Chaotic scene

FROM PAGE 2
because no relief was reaching Tajnimaar Khola makeshift camp where he had taken refuge. Murida Begum from the same camp said she could manage only one kg of rice in three days. It was the only food she had for herself and her four children.

Zaynal Mia, a member of Palong Union Parishad, said over four thousand families had taken shelter at Tajnimaar Khola camp since August 25.

But they were not getting what they need as the relief effort lacked coordination.

Mafiz Ullah, a 30-year-old Rohingya man from Marjalla village in Maungdum township, said he desperately needed a tent to shelter from the rain.

"I made my tent using polythene sheets. But it was torn and now my family members are in the open. I need a tent more than rice or biscuits," he said yesterday at Ghumdum Rubber plantation in Naikkhyangchhari, Bandarban.

Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, executive director of Coast Trust, said in some areas people are getting more relief while in others they are not getting what they need.

"There is nobody to assess their needs. So people are not getting what they need. It is essential for the government to understand their needs."

They just don't need rice and biscuits again and again, he added.

An official of Inter Sector Coordination Group, which is coordinating the relief effort of UN organisations, said it would take some more time to bring things in order.

An international aid worker, requesting anonymity, said, "Nobody predicted such a huge number of people within such a short period of time. And people are still coming every day. I think this chaotic situation will prevail for a month."

A total of 4.09 lakh Rohingyas arrived in Bangladesh till yesterday, estimates IOM.

The aid worker said they were negotiating with the government to get a permanent space for refugee camps. They were already constructing makeshift camps stretching from Kutupalong to Balukhali in around 2,000 acres of land.

"Once we construct the permanent camp, relief distribution will be systematic."

A district administration official said they were considering around 2,000 acres of land in Ukhiaghat Mauza for the camp.

3 storms rage in Atlantic Ocean

Hurricane warnings issued in Caribbean

CNN ONLINE

Three storms are spinning in the Atlantic, with one already a hurricane and another one strengthening and forecast to threaten areas battered by Hurricane Irma last week.

Tropical Storm Maria formed Saturday in the western Atlantic Ocean and is expected to be a hurricane by late today and a major hurricane by Wednesday, the National Hurricane Center says.

By yesterday morning, Maria was about 460 miles southeast of the Lesser Antilles. The storm is moving toward the Caribbean at 15 mph, according to the center.

The core of Maria was expected to hit the Leeward Islands in 48 to 72 hours, and then move toward Puerto Rico in four days then on toward eastern Hispaniola (Haiti and the Dominican Republic) in about five days.

Meanwhile, Hurricane Jose, a Category 1 storm, is spinning about 420 miles southeast of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina and 435 miles southwest of Bermuda.

Govt intervenes to stabilise market

FROM PAGE 1
earlier because of very low stock of rice in public granaries.

A section of rice millers allegedly hoarded rice and deliberately hiked prices after the country lost crops -- primarily estimated at 20 lakh tonnes -- to flashfloods in Haor areas and fungal attack in the last Boro season.

Government stock of rice rose to 3.4 lakh tonnes yesterday, thanks to some late imports from Vietnam. Another 1.2 lakh tonnes are on the way to Chittagong Port.

Meanwhile, a Myanmar delegation arrived in Dhaka yesterday for fixing modalities for Bangladesh's import of up to three lakh tonnes of rice.

On the first day of OMS operation yesterday, people found it difficult to locate the points of sales due to lack of publicity by the government.

Md Rubel Ahmed, an OMS dealer, told this newspaper that each of them got one tonne of rice and one tonne of coarse flour for daily sale. The prices are fixed at Tk 30 for rice and Tk 17 a kg for coarse flour. A consumer can buy up to five kg of each item.

Asked, Waziur Rahman, deputy director of food, said, "The OMS programme, meant for providing rice to common people at relatively low prices, started across the country in the morning."

A total of 806 OMS centres, including 179 in flood-affected areas, would sell rice across the country, mentioned the deputy director.

Another food official said 109 OMS centres are in operation in the capital.

However, our district correspondents reported that lack of publicity affected OMS operation in many parts of the country on the first day of OMS sale yesterday.

RAJSHAHI
The OMS rice sale failed to draw attention of buyers in the city due to absence of publicity.

M Moniruzzaman, Rajshahi regional controller of food, said the OMS operation began fully in Rajshahi city, Naogaon and Bogra, and partially in Joypurhat, Pabna and Natore.

He said the dealers in Rajshahi city began the sale in the afternoon, as it took them time to deposit money with banks and collect rice from government warehouses.

Kaiser Ali, food controller in Dinajpur, said the OMS rice sale began in Dinajpur and his office engaged 24

dealers in the task. Split in four groups, the dealers would sell six tonnes of rice every day.

The Daily Star correspondent in Dinajpur, however, didn't find any OMS outlet in Barabandar, Bahadurbazar, Gudribazar and Chehelgazi areas of the town.

THE CAPITAL
Mohammad Tareque, who was in charge of a truck carrying OMS items in city's Mugda, said they would operate from 9:00am to 5:00pm every day.

Tareque said the number of customers was less yesterday as many people were yet to know about the OMS sale.

Tofayel Alam, a class-IV employee of Geological Survey of Bangladesh, went there to buy coarse flour along with his wife.

The couple bought 10 kg coarse flour from the OMS truck.

"We are happy that we got it... This is enough to meet our need for a month," Tofayel said, adding that he had earlier bought flour for Tk 30 a kg from a shop.

Kabir Hossain, driver of a CNG-run three-wheeler in Dholaipara area, said he bought rice and flour from an OMS sale point for the first time as the price of coarse rice shot up to Tk 52 a kg in retail shops.

Abdul Awal Talukdar, owner of Mukta Rice Agency in Karwan Bazar, said the price of rice of various categories increased after the Eid.

He blamed a "syndicate" of millers for the price hike.

HOARDING ALERT
Yesterday afternoon, a large group of law enforcers led by Kushtia Additional Deputy Commissioner Habibur Rahman inspected Khwajanagar, one of the country's biggest rice milling and trade zone, to make sure that no trader can hoard rice.

Later, the ADC told the media that they carried out the inspection in the presence of millers and traders to ensure that rice is traded and supplied normally to all other parts of the country from Khwajanagar.

The move came just six days after another government team raided mills and warehouses owned by Bangladesh Rice Millers Association President Abdur Rashid in Kushtia and slapped a fine of Tk 50,000 for hoarding.

Rashid yesterday claimed that he owns one of the country's largest rice mills, and several thousand tonnes of

paddy and rice have to be kept in warehouse in any given season to keep the mill operational.

IMPORTS GET PRICEY
Bangladesh imported around seven lakh tonnes of rice in over two and a half months of the current fiscal year against only 1.33 lakh tonnes in the last fiscal year. Five lakh tonnes out of the seven lakh came through private importers.

Chitta Majumder, a rice importer, told this newspaper that imports from India got cheaper after duty cut by Bangladesh government. But the prices increased again after the Eid-ul-Azha as Indian exporters hiked prices to Tk 41-42 from Tk 37 a kg.

He said traders across the border increased the prices amid growing demand from Bangladeshi importers. Besides, there were delays in shipments for a few days before and after the Eid due to shortage of transport.

Recent rumours over India's slapping a ban on rice export also fuelled the price, Chitta added.

Appear on Oct 5

FROM PAGE 16
Ziaur Rahman of undermining the country's map and national flag.

After holding a hearing, the court ordered the officer-in-charge of Tejgaon Police Station to investigate the matter.

OC (Investigation) Moshir Rahman of the police station found the allegations to be true. He, however, dropped Zia's name from the case as he is dead.

Moshir submitted the probe report to the court on February 25.

According to the case statement, Zia had taken over as the country's president after the killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with most of his family members on August 15, 1975. He also threatened Hasina and confined her after she arrived in the country from abroad on May 17, 1981.

Khaleda had formed a coalition government with Jamaat-e-Islami in 2001. She appointed ministers from the party and handed over the map and the national flag of independent Bangladesh to them even though they fought against the country during the Liberation War, the statement read.

Those activities were tantamount to undermining the country's map and national flag, it added.

Challenges ahead to reach

FROM PAGE 16
targets under a specific SDG goal, TIB Executive Director Iftekhazzaman said achieving Goal-16 was important to achieve the other goals.

And the four targets are directly related to combating graft and ensuring good governance, he said.

The report says illicit outflow of money from the country has increased gradually, as deposit of Bangladeshi citizens and organisations in Swiss banks has increased from Tk 4,627 crore in 2015 to Tk 5,560 crore in 2016.

However, the government and Bangladesh Bank have objections about the data, it says.

The TIB found that gaps in national and sectoral risk assessments, lack of accountability of state-owned commercial banks, and political-administrative liaison in committing corruption are among the challenges to achieve target 16.4.

In 2010, for example, only 10 money laundering cases saw verdicts. Trial proceedings of 10 more cases were concluded, while 222 such cases are now under trial.

Corruption is "hugely present" in the country despite having sufficient legal and institutional means in place to combat it. Also, the government's graft-fighting efforts were not up to the mark as only a few cases are investigated and even fewer cases end in conviction, it said.

Only recently, the government

intensified its efforts to fight graft.

Alongside legal limitations, the Anti-Corruption Commission has no strategic plan to combat graft, while wealth statements of public servants are not available for common people, which are key challenges to achieving target 16.5.

The TIB survey team took into consideration 15 major institutions including parliament, the executive and the judiciary mentioned in the NIS, focusing on current situation regarding their effective functioning, state of transparency and accountability practices.

Despite a number of positive initiatives, the Jatiya Sangsad has not been effective at an expected level, it said.

In the current House, the main opposition lacks the capacity and voice to play an expected role in ensuring accountability of the government and MPs have limited participation in law-making, is said.

The executive power is exercised by or under the authority of the prime minister, not by the cabinet while the judiciary suffers from a huge case backlog, the report noted.

The TIB found that the existing laws of the NIS institutions are more or less comprehensive and robust.

But some gaps and limitations have been identified, which might impede effective functioning and transparency of these institutions.

Over the last two years, efforts

have been made to ensure better access to information by the citizens.

For instance, in 2015, various agencies received 6,181 applications under the Right to Information Act. Information was provided against 5,940 applications, which is about 96 percent, it adds.

But regarding protection of fundamental freedoms, there are a number of issues to be worried about.

Despite continuous protests by various human rights organisations, extrajudicial killings, arbitrary or unlawful detentions, and forced disappearances by government security forces have continued.

The government continued to deny even the existence of any extrajudicial killing, the report said.

Replying to a query, TIB Chairperson Sultana Kamal said the country did not progress much in terms of reducing discrimination as culture of impunity was still prevailing in the society.

Test for UN

FROM PAGE 16
nearly quadrupled and he pointed to unprecedented weather events in recent weeks from Texas, Florida and the Caribbean to Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sierra Leone.

While Trump has announced that the United States will pull out of the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement, Macron will be hosting a meeting Tuesday to spur its implementation.

Government Printing Press

Department of Printing & Publication
(Ministry of Public Administration)
Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka-1208

No. 05.83.0000.010.07.003.17-18/1996

Date: 17.9.17

Urgent Notice

A pre-bid meeting will be held at 10.00am on 20-09-2017 at the room of Deputy Director, Government Printing Press, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208 for Procurement 02 unit Automatic 3 Fold Folding Machine and 01 unit Automatic Envelope Punching Machine under the International Tender No. 05.83.0000.010.07.003.17-18/1678, Date 06-08-2017 and amendment No. 05.83.0000.010.07.004.17-18/1920, Date 11-09-2017.

The persons concerned are requested to attend the meeting.

Md. Mojibar Rahman
Deputy Secretary
Deputy Director
Phone: 8870200 (Office)

GD-1900