

World should learn from Bangladesh

Priyanka Chopra says as she calls on PM, reminds global community of its responsibility towards Rohingya kids

STAR REPORT

Unicef Goodwill Ambassador and Bollywood actor Priyanka Chopra yesterday said the world should learn from Bangladesh how to stand beside the distressed humanity.

She appreciated Bangladesh, particularly Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, for taking the burden of giving shelter to more than one million displaced Rohingyas, who fled persecution in Rakhine State of Myanmar.

The Bollywood star spoke of the appreciation as she called on the prime minister at the Gono Bhaban in the afternoon, UNB reports.

PM's Additional Press Secretary Nazrul Islam said Priyanka shared some of her experiences of visiting the Rohingya camps in Ukha, especially the sufferings of children, with Hasina. Hasina's sister Sheikh Rehana and other family members were present.

Mentioning the hazardous situation of the children in the camps, Priyanka, on behalf of the Unicef, called upon the international community to extend all-out support to the Rohingyas.

She told the PM that she was concerned about the possibility of a "generation loss" of a particular ethnicity as a large number of children have no access to education and are passing days roaming around.

"The children might go astray and even become extremists if they're deprived of the opportunity of having education," she said.

Hasina said her government has given shelter to the Rohingyas solely on humanitarian grounds as the people of Bangladesh had experienced the same situation in 1971.

The PM recalled her refugee life abroad after the killing of her parents

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4



Unicef Goodwill Ambassador and Bollywood star Priyanka Chopra calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Gono Bhaban yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Neuer

FROM PAGE 1

Bayern Munich keeper Neuer has not played since breaking a bone in his foot back in September that required surgery, putting his chances of making the finals in doubt. However, he participated in a goalkeeping drill during the first day of Germany's pre-World Cup training camp on Thursday.

"He trained a week at Bayern, here he is training fully and can also deal with the intensity level," Loew told reporters.

"We will see from day-to-day. If he has the feeling that he is at 100 percent then he can be there in Russia. Should there be any problems we would need to discuss it. But as things stand now he has no problems whatsoever and things look good."

Loew is also expecting to have Jerome Boateng back in the squad later this week as the central defender has recovered from a groin injury suffered last month.

"Everything is going according to plan and by next week I expect him to be taking part in training," said the 58-year-old coach, who this month extended his contract to 2022.

The Germans are preparing for the fourth time in Eppan, high in the Italian Alps, with Loew praising the conditions for his players as they get ready for their title defence.

"We have the best conditions here, proximity to the pitch, a good hotel, the pitch is in a very good state, short travel times, so everything to have a good preparation."

Germany will remain in Italy until June 5, a day after the deadline for the final squad announcement. Loew has taken 27 players to the training camp with four facing the cut.

The Germans, who will travel to play a warm-up match away to Austria in Klagenfurt on June 2 before returning to Italy and then going home to face Saudi Arabia in Leverkusen six days later, are in Group F with Sweden, South Korea and Mexico.

Trump

FROM PAGE 20

announcement came a day after North Korea hardened its rhetoric by attacking Vice President Mike Pence as "ignorant and stupid."

"Sadly, based on the tremendous anger and open hostility displayed in your most recent statement, I feel it is inappropriate, at this time, to have this long-planned meeting," read Trump's letter, released by the White House.

"The world, and North Korea in particular, has lost a great opportunity for lasting peace and great prosperity and wealth. This missed opportunity is a truly sad moment in history," he said.

The US leader brandished the threat of America's nuclear might in his letter, writing: "You talk about your nuclear capabilities, but ours are so massive and powerful that I pray to God they will never have to be used."

But his letter also appeared to leave the door open to a future meeting with Kim, stressing he had been "very much looking forward" to the event -- on which he had pinned great hopes, openly entertaining the notion it could earn him him a Nobel Peace Prize.

"We greatly appreciate your time, patience, and effort with respect to our recent negotiations and discussions," he told Kim.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he was "deeply concerned" by news of the cancellation.

"I urge the parties to continue their dialogue to find a path to a peaceful and verifiable denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula," he added while presenting a new disarmament agenda in Switzerland.

No escape from errant owners

FROM PAGE 1

He died the next day at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) due to excessive bleeding.

During the raid, all the patients complained that they had been lured by brokers to the hospital from National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (Nitor).

They were mostly farmers, auto-rickshaw drivers and fishermen from outside Dhaka.

After admission, the hospital authorities began demanding more money from them.

Meanwhile, upon Rab's request, Labaid Specialised Hospital admitted Sumaiya and treated her for two weeks before sending her to Nitor.

Licence documents obtained by The Daily Star show Crescent's owner Abul Hossain was also one of the three owners of Macca Madina General Hospital, another facility where gross violations were found during a drive on November 29 last year.

Patients in Macca had also been enticed to come from Nitor, with promises of prompt treatment with no hassle and at a lower cost. The brokers told them that it was a branch of Nitor.

One of two other owners of Macca was Abul's brother Nur Nabi, who used to oversee the operations of Crescent.

LAWSTOO LENIENT

When The Daily Star reached out to Nur Nabi by phone, he rejected the findings uncovered during the raid.

"Like other private hospitals, we have marketing teams [in Macca and Crescent]. It is up to them to get patients from the DMCH [Dhaka Medical College Hospital] or somewhere else."

Asked why any punitive action had not been taken against Crescent, Dewan Md Mehedi Hasan, medical officer of the DGHS, said the authority could only issue a show-cause notice or cancel the licence under the medical practice and private clinic and laboratories (regulation) ordinance, 1982.

Following a show-cause notice after inspection, hospital authorities usually give explanations with promises to take corrective measures. An inspection is conducted only after the filing of an appeal to issue or renew a licence.

"The visit takes place at a date set earlier. They [hospitals and clinics] try to keep everything as they should in compliance with the act at least for

that day," Mehedi said.

The day Crescent was raided had been fixed for the inspection of New Modern General Hospital at Agargaon as it was awaiting permission to start operations.

At New Modern General Hospital, another anomaly came to light: it hired nurses from Dhaka Shishu Hospital for the day to pass the inspection. Finally, its application was rejected by inspectors.

EASY TO GET A LICENCE

A similar example was National Health Care General Hospital, which was set up in place of one Baby Care and General Hospital.

The Baby Care hospital was shut after the authorities found it had provided some services without permission and specialised doctors and nurses.

Nur Nabi, whose Macca Madina hospital licence was cancelled for carrying out blood transfusions illegally, among other irregularities, got a licence to open the National Health hospital in November 2017.

He gave an undertaking to the authorities that he would not make provisions for neonatal intensive care services at the National Health hospital, which had been linked to mis-

management at Baby Care.

This shows that people could get a new licence even after they break rules at will, as the 1982 law does not impose any restriction on that.

Under the law, a registered medical practitioner or the owner of a laboratory faces a fine of up to Tk 5,000. In case of a private clinic, the owner may face up to six months in jail or a fine of maximum Tk 5,000 or both.

The licence fees are also negligible -- only Tk 5,000 for a hospital and Tk 1,000 for a laboratory -- regardless of their capacity, Mehedi said, referring to a government order issued in 1987.

The government has recently made a move to amend the act, said Kazi Jahangir Hossain, director of hospital services management, DGHS, on May 17. A draft bill has already been approved for amendment by the health ministry.

Businessmen in their hunt for quick profit from health services take advantage of the existing scope for opening hospitals or laboratories, according to Rab and DGHS. If a hospital is shut down, the authority receives an application seeking permission for a new hospital with a different name a month or so later. In most cases, the owners are the same or

connected to each other.

In this regard, the authority is bound by another government order to issue a licence within three months if an application is complete with TIN, VAT and a clearance from the narcotics control department and the number of doctors and nurses is proportionate to the number of beds, Mehedi said.

Applicants sometimes lobby hard to get the papers, as in the case of Macca Madina. The hospital's managing director Abul Hossain filed an application in January for licence renewal with recommendations from three ministers and the state minister for the health and family welfare ministry. The DG health finally turned it down on April 3.

The hospital's owner, Nur Nabi said he had not yet received the notice.

Asked about the illegal practices by owners of private hospitals and laboratories, Jahangir said an online registration and renewal mechanism would be launched after the Eid vacation.

Once the new system replaces the old one, the record-keeping would become streamlined and all information of applicants will be available and accessible digitally, he added.

'Shootouts' not ending

FROM PAGE 1

in Fenil and Comilla and one each in Narayanganj, Brahmanbaria and Jhenidah.

The three others were shot dead in Magura and Cox's Bazar over "internal feuds in their drugs rackets", law enforcers claimed. However, family members said unidentified men picked up the three on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The bullet-riddled body of one more alleged drug peddler was recovered in Satkhira, police said. The deceased's wife alleged that her husband was picked up by some unidentified men on Wednesday.

As the killing in "gunfights" has been going on amid criticism and concern from different quarters, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday defended the ongoing drive saying drug peddlers were being killed in "encounters" with law enforcers.

"We don't support extrajudicial killings, but drug peddlers have a syndicate. They have ties with terrorists and armed criminals. When police go to arrest them [drug peddlers], they fight them [police] with arms. Encounter takes place. You can't call it extrajudicial killing," he told journalists in the capital.

In Fenil, suspected drug traders Monir Hossain, 32, and Shah Miran Shamim, 30, were killed in a "gunfight" with police in Dakshin Jambura Road area in the district's Fulgazi upazila.

Police claimed to have recovered a firearm, 200 bottles of phensedyl and 700 yaba tablets from the spot.

Family members of both the deceased alleged that police demanded money for their release after they were picked up from their homes on Wednesday. Police, however, claimed the allegation was not true.

In Narayanganj, alleged drug peddler Selim was killed in a "shootout" with police in Maghmara area of Siddhirganj upazila early yesterday, said Abudus Sattar, officer-in-charge of Siddhirganj Police Station.

Selim, aged about 36, was accused in at least 17 cases filed with different police stations, he said, adding police recovered a firearm, five bottles of phensedyl and 1,500 yaba tablets from the spot.

In Brahmanbaria, a man, aged

about 40, was killed in another "gunfight" with police in Akhaura upazila's Bangaj Bailey Bridge area. The dead, Amir Kha, was from Chanpur village of the same upazila.

Amir was accused in at least 12 cases, including murder and drug cases, said OC Musharrif Hossain Tarafdar of Akhaura Police Station.

In Comilla, alleged drug traders Babul alias Lomba Babul of Chaudagram upazila and Razib of Sadar South upazila were killed in separate "gunfights".

Police said they took Babul to Amandganj area to recover firearms early yesterday, hours after he was picked up from Chaudagram municipality area on Wednesday night. The man was killed when a gunfight broke out between police and his cohorts.

According to law enforcers, Babul was accused in five cases.

Another "shootout" took place in Comilla's Goalmoth area that left Rajib killed.

In Jhenidah, an alleged drug trader, aged about 42 years, was killed in a "gunfight" with police near the electricity office in Kaliganj upazila around 11:00pm yesterday.

The dead, Shamim Sardar, was from Arpara village in the same upazila.

Mizanur Rahman, OC of Kaliganj Police Station, said police raided the electricity office area in Balidapara village on information that some drug traders were selling yaba tablets there.

Sensing the presence of law enforcers, criminals opened fire on police, forcing them to fire retaliatory shots.

A little while later, police found Shamim dead riddled with bullets. The other criminals managed to flee, said the OC.

Shamim's wife Shamsunnahar alleged that some plainclothes policemen had picked up her husband from his Bihari More shop around 5:00pm on Wednesday.

'GUNFIGHTS BETWEEN GANGS' In Magura, alleged drug traders Ayub Hussain, 48, and Mizanur Rahman Kaki, 44, were killed in a "gunfight" between two groups of drug peddlers in Parnanduali Housing Project area over distribution of money, claimed police.

Family members, however, said the two were picked up on Tuesday from their houses by some unidentified men.

Police later recovered their bullet-hit bodies from the spot. They also found 500 gram heroine and three bullets, said Md Sayruddin Ahammad, an assistant superintendent of police in Magura.

Mizanur was accused in 21 drug-related cases while Ayub in 18. They had been running illegal drug trades for long, the ASP added.

Ayub's daughter Rokhsana said her father quit drug trade about two years ago and stared working as an auto-rickshaw driver to maintain their family.

She alleged that some unidentified men picked up her father on Tuesday night. "They killed my father and cooked up the story of a gunfight."

Mizanur's elder brother Delwar Hosdain Delu said his brother, a farmer by profession, was a druggie, but he was not involved in drug trade. "My brother was picked up by some plainclothes men on Tuesday night."

Many influential drug traders were moving freely in the area, but they were not being brought to book, he alleged.

The ASP denied all the allegations.

Satkhira police claimed to have recovered the bullet-hit body of Abdul Aziz from Choubaria village in Kaliganj upazila around 6:00am yesterday.

Police said they recovered a revolver, a bullet and 48 bottles of phensedyl from near the body.

Aziz's wife Ayesha Khatun said a group unidentified men picked up her husband after iftar on Wednesday. She heard about his death yesterday morning.

The woman said her husband was involved in drug trade previously, but he returned to normal life off late.

In Rajshahi, police shot alleged drug dealer Aziza Begum as she tried to escape custody hours after she was arrested from the city's Tultulipara area around 9:30pm on Wednesday.

The incident happened when police were taking her to Kashiadanga Police Station in a van, said OC Rabiul Islam of the police station.

Aziza, a listed drug dealer, was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital with bullet injuries to her right leg, said law enforcers.

In Cox's Bazar, cops recovered the bullet-hit body of alleged yaba trader

Md Hasan from Uttaran residential area around 3:30am yesterday.

Farid Uddin Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Cox's Bazar Police Station, said 35-year-old Hasan was killed in a "gunfight" between two groups of yaba traders.

But Hasan's brother Shohor Mulluk said a group of plainclothes men picked up his brother from his house early on Tuesday.

The Rab began the anti-narcotics drive on May 4 while the police launched a nationwide 10-day special crackdown on drug dealers on May 18. Law enforcers arrested about 4,500 people from across the country until Wednesday.

Yesterday, the Rab picked up 25 people and its mobile courts handed jail sentences to 95 others across the country.

2.5 LAKH YABA PILLS SEIZED

Meanwhile, police recovered 2.5 lakh yaba tablets worth Tk 7.5 crore from a house in Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar on Wednesday night, reports UNB.

Tipped off, a team of police raided the home in Habirchhara Ghat area around 11:30pm and recovered the drugs, said Ranjit Kumar, OC of Teknaf Model Police Station.

A group of smugglers brought the drugs from Myanmar on a trawler and kept those in the house, he said.

ROHINGYA GROUPS

WELCOME DRIVE

Twenty-two Rohingya organisations have lauded the Bangladesh government for carrying out the anti-narcotics drive across the country.

In a statement yesterday, they called upon the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh to launch a war against drugs by taking a strong stance against the flow of yaba from Myanmar.

"Rohingya refugees currently stranded in the camps of Bangladesh are hereby requested to inform the Bangladeshi authorities on any suspicious activities linked to yaba smuggling. Rohingya elders, community leaders and religious scholars are also requested to educate the younger generation about the dangers of this narcotics that has destroyed countless families in Bangladesh and many countries of South East Asia," said the statement.

It said yaba smuggling has provided the Myanmar army with the resources

to carry out genocide against Rohingya Muslims and the ability to wage wars against other ethnic minorities.

Our correspondents in Jhenidah, Cox's Bazar, Comilla, Brahmanbaria, Narayanganj and two correspondents from Fenil and Satkhira contributed to this report.

Trudeau

FROM PAGE 20

Rohingyas to flee their homes in Rakhine and seek refuge in neighbouring Bangladesh, the release said.

Guided by the Feminist International Assistance Policy, the strategy puts emphasis on the needs of women and girls, and puts forward concrete and timely initiatives to promote human rights, gender equality, human dignity, and peace and security in the region.

The statement said Canada would lead on several initiatives, including those to improve living conditions of Rohingya refugees in camps and settlements; would support efforts to bring perpetrators of gross human rights violations to account, and to achieve a political solution to the plight of the Rohingya and other ethnic minorities in Myanmar; and would also help coordinate international efforts to address the crisis.

Justin Trudeau said Canada would not stand idle while hundreds of thousands of people suffer gross human rights violations.

"We share a global responsibility to respond to this crisis. We commend others who have acted in a compassionate and generous way, especially the government of Bangladesh and host communities in the region who continue to provide safe refuge to their neighbours in need."

We will continue to step up to protect human rights, and promote inclusion, respect for diversity, and security for all, while working towards sustainable peace and true reconciliation in Myanmar," he said.

Canada was one of the first countries to respond to the Rohingya crisis, and remains one of the top humanitarian donors. Since the beginning of last year, the country has provided \$45.9 million for aid partners to deliver life-saving and gender-responsive support for refugees, displaced people, and the host communities.