



**ROHINGYA LEADERS HAPPY WITH FACILITIES IN BHASHAN CHAR**  
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# The Daily Star

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**BANGLADESH UPDATE**

**1,892**  
New cases in 24hrs

**3,29,251**  
Total cases

**4,552**  
Deaths

**2,27,809**  
Recoveries

**GLOBAL UPDATE**

**898,006**  
Deaths

**27,562,435**  
Total cases

PLAN TO REOPEN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

## Health guidelines finalised for kids

Masks mandatory for all; Only two students to sit on each bench; schools to have handwashing arrangements

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Only two will be allowed to sit on each bench at classrooms after the reopening of primary schools, and everyone in those institutions -- students, teachers and other staffers -- will have to wear masks.

All schools will also have to ensure arrangements for hand washing and measuring body temperature.

Although it is not yet certain when schools, closed due to the coronavirus pandemic, will reopen, the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education has finalised a plan for the reopening, incorporating these provisions following the Covid-19 health guidelines.

The ministry yesterday asked the authorities concerned, including Directorate of Primary Education, deputy commissioners and primary education officers, to make necessary preparations in this regard, said relevant officials.

They also said the government will reopen the educational institutions when the pandemic eases.

"We have finalised the reopening plan and directed the relevant authorities to make preparations in line with the plan,"



primary and mass education ministry's Additional Secretary Alamgir Muhammad Mansurul Alam told The Daily Star.

The ministry also asked officials concerned to prepare drafts of posters and leaflets to educate students about the health rules. Those will be presented before senior officials of the ministry for approval.

Mansurul said they would also launch a campaign highlighting the health rules through the media. "We will go for the campaign only after the government takes a final decision on the reopening."

According to the plan, school authorities can hold classes shift-wise and on alternative days to ensure physical distancing among students.

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Firefighters battle flames at Kewatkhal Power Grid Station in Mymensingh city yesterday. Officials suspect a short circuit at the station set off the blaze that forced the authorities to stop power supply to all four districts in Mymensingh division for several hours since 1:00pm. Power supply to the districts was restored in phases since around 5:30pm.

PHOTO: STAR



## Bangladesh unique in vulnerability, resilience

Says PM launching Global Centre on Adaptation regional office

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said Bangladesh is a unique example of climate vulnerability and resilience.

She said people here time and again have shown their resilience against natural or man-made disasters. Yet, a lot of things need to be changed, the PM added.

"I think other countries in the region also have similar experiences and some good practices on adaptive measures. I believe together we can safeguard and build a better future for all of us."

Hasina was addressing a programme

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## A brother's quest for justice may end today

A Dhaka court to deliver verdict on first ever case filed under Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Today is likely to be the culmination of a long and strenuous battle for justice.

Imtiaz Hossain Rocky has waged a six-and-a-half-year struggle to see justice for his elder brother, Ishtiaq Hossain Jonny, who was tortured to death allegedly by a police team.

His quest for justice has not only been rocky, but fraught with danger all through. There were threats, intimidation and even monetary temptation, but Rocky chose not to give up the fight.

With fingers crossed, he is waiting for today's judgment to be delivered by a Dhaka court in the case, the first ever filed under the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act, 2013. Today's verdict will also be the first under this Act.

"I hope I get justice," Rocky told The Daily Star.

For their mother Khursheda Begum, the last six and a half years have been spent in seemingly unending agony.

"I hope those who are involved in torturing my beloved son to death will be given the highest punishment," she said.

"If they are not punished, the life of my only surviving son may be in danger. I have lost one son and live each day in the fear that the accused may cause harm to my other son. I am always scared when my son goes out," she said in a choked voice.

"At times, the accused police officials have intimidated me and the key witnesses by hiring local goons and using politically influential people so

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### PREVENTION OF TORTURE AND CUSTODIAL DEATH ACT ENACTED IN OCTOBER, 2013

The act applies for all law enforcement agencies including police and Rab

Case under the act is to be filed with lower court concerned

Investigation of a case should be completed in 90 days

Maximum punishment for torture is 5 years' imprisonment and a Tk 25,000 fine

Maximum punishment for custodial death is life imprisonment and a Tk 100,000 fine

Convict to compensate family members of the affected/victims with Tk 200,000

## Law there, but victims afraid to file cases

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Although the government enacted a law to prevent torture and death in custody of different law enforcement agencies seven years ago, not many cases have been filed under the act.

Experts attribute the reason to lack of comprehensive campaign to make people aware of the law and fearing of the victims or their family members that the law enforcers would harm them.

The first-ever verdict in a case filed under the act is going to be delivered today.

The Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act-2013 was formulated as part of the country's commitment to the Committee Against Torture, a UN body of which Bangladesh is a signatory, to prohibit torture or cruel, inhuman, degrading punishment or treatment to anyone in law enforcers' custody and punish the perpetrators.

Law Minister Anisul Haque also highlighted the act as an effective edition to the existing laws in combating torture in custody while presenting a report to the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT) in July-August 2019, Bangladesh's first-ever since its ratification in 1998.

Experts and right activists said the spirit of the prevention of torture and custodial death law is undoubtedly good, but its implementation is not satisfactory as cases have

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## Mosque Tragedy 8 survivors still in critical condition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eight victims of the Narayanganj mosque fire were still fighting for life at the intensive care unit of Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery yesterday.

"The condition of the eight is critical. They all have inhalation burns ranging from 35 percent to 93 percent," Dr Partha Sankar Paul, resident surgeon at the burn institute, told reporters yesterday.

One of the eight injured was shifted to the ICU from the post-operative ward yesterday morning, the physician added.

The death toll from Friday's fire at Pashchim Talla Baitus Salam Mosque reached 28 yesterday after another victim died at the burn institute. The deceased is Abdul Hannan, 50.

The eight now

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## ROHINGYA KILLINGS 2 Myanmar soldiers taken to the Hague

REUTERS

Two Myanmar soldiers have been taken to The Hague after confessing to murdering minority Rohingya Muslims during a 2017 crackdown, two news organisations and a rights group reported yesterday.

The two men admitted to killing dozens of villagers in northern Rakhine state and burying them in mass graves, according to the New York Times, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and the non-profit Fortify Rights, citing statements the men made on videos filmed in Myanmar this year.

Reuters has not seen the videos cited by the news organisations. The New York Times said it could not independently confirm that the two soldiers committed the crimes to which they confessed.

Myanmar government and military spokesmen did not answer calls seeking comment.

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Workers hired by Titas Gas company dig out a gas pipeline at the main entrance to Pashchim Talla Baitus Salam Mosque in Narayanganj yesterday. The company is carrying out the digging work as part of its investigation into the Friday's fire incident that led to the deaths of 28 people.

PHOTO: SANAD SAHA

## Tk 22.5cr loan taken out thru fake contract

BDBL officials involved in granting it to Dhaka Trading, finds ACC probe

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

It's another glaring example of collusion between bank officials and a businessman who took Tk 22.5 crore loan from the state-run Bangladesh Development Bank Limited (BDBL) through a fake contract.

Tipu Sultan, the owner of Dhaka Trading, even changed his father's name and gave false information in the documents, yet the bank officials sanctioned the loan back in 2012, according to the findings of officials of the Anti-Corruption Commission.

On June 11 last year, the ACC filed a case against Tipu, ex-BDBL General Manager Syed Nurur Rahman Kadri, Assistant General Manager Dewan Mohammad Ishak and ex-principal officer Dinesh Chandra Saha for misappropriating Tk 25.5 crore from the bank.

The matter is under investigation, and Tipu is now on bail. Earlier in February 2016, the ACC had sued Tipu and four others, including general manager of Janata Bank Limited, for swindling more than Tk 250 crore through fake documents.

According to the website of Dhaka Trading, it is a joint exporter based in Khulna.

Seeking anonymity, a BDBL official said Tipu opened a loan account with the BDBL against a Trust Receipt (LTR) account of Dhaka Trading on April 03, 2012.

Bank officials were supposed to collect the updated income tax certificate against the LTR account, but they didn't.

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