WB's Refugee Policy Review Framework

Not based on 'one-size-fits-all'

The World Bank's Refugee Policy Review Framework, which has been sent to the government for opinion, speaks of sustainable solutions to the protracted refugee situation and social inclusion, but it is not Bangladesh specific and maintains "no one-sizefits-all" principle.

"There is a strong consensus that refugee-related policies have to be tailored to each hosting country's situation, and in particular to the specifics of the forced displacement situation and to the political and socioeconomic constraints the hosting country may be facing," according to

The Daily Star has a copy of it.

The WB is preparing the framework for 14 countries, including Bangladesh, for improving effectiveness of the grants for the refugees and host communities under its International Development Assistance window.

This framework is significant for Bangladesh as it shelters some one million Rohingyas.

Since 2018, the global lender is supporting Bangladesh with \$590 million grant financing to address the needs of Rohingyas until their safe and voluntary return to Myanmar, and to minimise the impact on the host communities.

"The World Bank's support aims complement humanitarian interventions by focusing on the medium-term socioeconomic dimensions of displacement for both refugees and their hosts," says the

"It is part of a broader international effort to encourage the adoption of sound government policies for the management of forced displacement situations, which underpins the 2018 Global Compact on Refugees (GCR)," it added.

The issue came to the fore recently when Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen told media that the government "rejects" the WB proposal of social integration of the Rohingyas in Bangladesh.

The framework was sent to the Economic Relations Division (ERD) early last month. The ERD then sent it to some of the line ministries, including foreign ministry, for opinions. Once the opinions are collated, it will be sent to the World Bank for incorporation, said a finance ministry official.

Mustafa Kamal said he was not aware of the issue. The WB makes recommendations on issues and if it is considerable, the government will do it, he told reporters after a meeting of cabinet committee on economic affairs yesterday.

According to the proposed RPRF, which was prepared in cooperation with the UN Refugee Agency, World Bank Group has taken a proactive role in an international effort to shift the support to refugee-hosting countries from humanitarian aid mainly to a more comprehensive package, including development assistance.

"Refugees need economic opportunities to avoid falling into poverty or dependency. But they can face severe legal restrictions on their right to work or to move freely," it said, adding that it supports policies that enhance freedom of movement and the right to work as it reduces aid dependency, enable normal dignified life and encourage productive

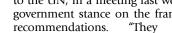
participation in local economies. It also speaks of helping create economic opportunities where there are large numbers of refugees, invest in education and skills that are in demand in the labour market. The focus should be on primary and secondary education as well as on opportunities for higher education and skills development.

The framework also seeks to guarantee refugee rights, notably a legal or administrative status, and promote social inclusion.

"This is important to ensure that all refugees, irrespective of their age, race, ethnicity, religion, nationality, country of origin, political opinions, indigenous status, disability, sexual orientation, membership in a particular social group, or other characteristics benefit equally from services and socioeconomic opportunities," it said.

Foreign Minister Momen said Bangladesh is not a signatory to the UN Convention on Refugees and is not obliged to follow the recommendations, though he said the nearly one million Rohingyas can have education in Myanmar language and curriculum.

He added that he communicated to the UN, in a meeting last week, the government stance on the framework recommendations. "They agreed for making change," he told this



correspondent.

Special drive hits a major snag

centres would assist the government in completing the registration before

the start of the vaccination drive. "Six hundred people of each union will be vaccinated every day during the mass campaign," Prof Shamsul Haque, line director of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), told The

Daily Star. The registration will be done at digital centres in unions and it will begin before Saturday. Vaccine recipients would be taken to the centres with the help of representatives

from local government bodies. "The meeting has decided that the registration will be done prior to the vaccination. Those without National Identification [NID] cards can get them with the help of the upazila election office," said SM Tariqul Islam, deputy

commissioner of Gazipur. Muhammad Adbul Latif, deputy commissioner of Manikganj, said it was decided that only those completing the registration would get the doses on the first day of the campaign on Saturday. "Those who don't have NID cards will

also get the shots using different ways. He said 39,200 people are likely to be vaccinated on Saturday in his district, but the number could change on the second and other days of the six-day campaign.

Officials from the government's ICT division said they were working on the registration process that included onspot registration. "People will be able to complete on-spot registrations and get the shot immediately," said an ICT division official.

Besides, the meeting decided that government representatives would also hand tokens to specific people in their areas and those with the tokens would be jabbed on specific days, said the official, adding, "This decision was made so that there is no chaos in the vaccination centres.

Bangladesh recorded 13,09,910 Covid cases and 21,638 deaths as of yesterday. Over 79 percent of those who died were aged over 50.

The special vaccination drive is taken mainly to vaccinate the elderly people, said officials.

The country has so far vaccinated around 1.40 crore people. And only around 44 lakh of them got both the first and second shots.

According to the World Health Organization, at least 80 percent of the population has to be inoculated to contain the spread of coronavirus.

Currently, China's Sinopharm vaccine doses are being administered in rural areas and district towns while the Moderna vaccine in city corporation areas.

Mass inoculation against Covid-19 had remained suspended for over two months due to a shortage of doses. Bangladesh suspended administering the first dose of the vaccine on April 26. Registration of people for vaccination was suspended nine days

government administering the first dose on June 19 on a limited scale and then gradually expanded it.

All hope lost for 24 families

because the families would not have been able to process such burnt bodies. They won't be able to unwrap the bodies, and during burial, the head

As thoughtful as that was, it is also a grim reminder of the kind of death that they faced.

Mostafizur Rahman, the joint inspector general of the health the Department department at of Inspection of Factories and Establishments, said they have been able to identify 38 of the injured workers, of whom two are still hospitalised.

The coffins were handed over from the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue. Sajeeb Group, which owned the Hashem foods factory, funded ambulances for the families to carry the

dead back to their village homes. As every coffin was wheeled into the ambulances, officials of Sajeeb Group

ran after the bodies with cans of air fresheners. They were spraying the air around and giving the families air fresheners for use in the journey ahead. But perhaps stench is a subjective

Ripon's mother definitely did not seem to notice the stench as she launched herself at the coffin of her son

'My son was in class-11 . I was a garments worker and his father went missing when he was little. When he finished class 10, he told me I need not work anymore and that

Since the college was closed, he joined the factory five months back, she

The dead were given Tk 25,000 for funeral costs by the Narayanganj district

A total of 51 died in the fire incident at the factory in Narayanganj on July 8. Three died after jumping off the sixstorey factory.



Actor Pori Moni being escorted by members of Rapid Action Battalion from her Banani residence last night. She was detained after Rab conducted a raid at her residence and found narcotics and foreign liquor.

Pori Moni held after Rab raids her home

"Please help me... I don't know [what's going on]. Will you [police, journalists] come after I am dead? I might just die from a heart attack or a stroke. This is nothing but torture," she said on the live video.

The live stream went on until around 4:30pm, when she, accompanied by a relative, opened the door to a team of Rab officers.

The 31-minute live stream ended after the law enforcers entered her flat and requested her to stop it. A Rab-1 official said the raid by

members of Rab Headquarters began around 4:00pm. Meanwhile, curious onlookers and journalists formed such a crowd in front of the building where she lives that residents of the neighbourhood

spread Covid-19. At 8:10pm, Rab officials came out of the building with the actress and took her to the Rab Headquarters in

had to use megaphones urging people

to maintain social distance so as not to

The raid comes three days after police arrested models Faria Mahbub Piasha and Moriom Akter Mou with liquor and yaba pills.

Rab officials yesterday also detained two individuals associated with Piasha. One of them is a businessman.

Officials said the detained individuals were in a gang that used to organise parties attended by models at flats in Gulshan, Banani and Baridhara areas where people used to take drugs. The suspects then took photos of the well-off participants of the parties and blackmailed them later into paying heftv sums.

Rab officials did not say whether Pori Moni was part of the gang.

Also last night, Rab detained movie producer and actor Nazrul Islam Raz, chairman of Raaz Multimedia, along with two others, in another raid on his house on Road-7, Banani, from 8:00pm to 10:30pm.

Rab sources said the officers

sex toys from the house. The detainees were taken to Rab Headquarters. Raz was the producer of the first film

Moin said Rab raided Raz's house after receiving information about his

In a separate incident, Gulshan's

Pori Moni, whose real name is Shamsun Nahar Smriti, joined the movie industry in 2015. She played the lead female role in over 20 movies.

featuring Pori Moni. Rab spokesperson Khandaker Al

wrongdoings from Mishu Hasan, an associate of model Piasha. Earlier on June 9, Pori Moni filed a case with Savar Police Station accusing

Nasir U Mahmud, Tuhin Siddique Omi and three others of attempted rape and murder at Dhaka Boat Club.

All Community Club President KM Alamgir Iqbal on June 16 told reporters: "She [Pori Moni] came to the club late on June 7. At the time, Pori Moni broke 15 glasses, nine ashtrays and some plates.

Forbes magazine last year named her recovered liquor, stimulating drugs and among the 100 Digital Stars from Asia.

Govt steps back after criticism press release sent by Sufi Abduallahil unvaccinated people above 18 drew a

"No such decision or proposal was given anywhere on behalf of the ministry.

Quoting Health Minister Zahid Malegue, who was present in person at the inter-ministerial meeting on Tuesday, the health ministry press release also said since the matter is related to the ministry and news was published without quotations from officials, people were getting confused.

"No such decision was made at yesterday's [Tuesday] meeting. The health minister has sought everyone's cooperation to get rid of any confusion after such news," read the press release.

Hours later, the liberation war affairs minister withdrew his statement.

"Liberation War Affairs Minister Mozammel Haque withdrawn the part of his statement that said anyone above 18 years will not be allowed on the streets unless they are vaccinated," said a

out for a duck after yet another poor

whipping the first two deliveries

he faced, both angled at his pads

through, mid-on and square-leg

respectively before Starc produced an

edge which the wicket-keeper could

not get his hands on. The ball ran

to the boundary in an eventful third

over that produced 12 runs and a

wicket. The excitement carried over to

the next over when Hazlewood sent

Naim's stumps flying, the left-hander

not knowing whether to go forward or

number four and chanced his luck in

an eventful knock. Living the charmed

life, most of his mistimed lofted

strokes fell short of fielders, who were

reeling from the heat and humidity in

better of Shakib in the seventh over,

getting a leg-before appeal to go his

way. But Shakib reversed the decision

with a review and the Tigers could not

have been faulted for feeling on top at

However, Andrew Tye banished

those feelings by picking up Shakib's

prized wicket with a skilled slower

delivery that saw Shakib play his drive

early and allowed the ball to slide

between bat and pad and onto the

the pressure mounted as the 10th over

approached and by the time a nervy

skipper Mahmudullah Riyad departed

to a four-ball duck, dragging a wide

Agar delivery outside the off stump

onto his stumps, it was Australia who

Afif got a scare very early when he

was given out leg-before off Mitchell

felt on top.

With Shakib gone for a 17-ball 26,

52 for two after eight overs.

Ashton Agar thought he got the

Mahedi Hasan was promoted to

Shakib looked fluent initially,

Maruf, senior information officer of the ministry On Tuesday, an inter-ministerial

meeting was held on the Covid-19 situation, lockdown and vaccination. The meeting was attended -- in person and virtually -- by 12 ministers and state ministers, the prime minister's principal secretary and cabinet secretary, 16 secretaries of different ministries, chiefs of law enforcement and intelligence agencies.

The liberation war affairs minister presided over the three-hour meeting, following which the ministers briefed journalists at the auditorium of the Among other things, Mozammel

made the declaration that no unvaccinated people above 18 would be allowed on the streets or on public transport.

journalists but did not say anything about Mozammel's comment. The apparent decision to bar

Later, the health minister briefed

huge backlash, with criticism pouring out on social media soon after the announcement. People found the move to punish

or bar unvaccinated people from joining work unrealistic and unjust as the health ministry is currently vaccinating only those aged 25 and They also pointed out that the

government itself had vaccinated a tiny fraction of the population thus Information Minister

Mahmud, at a separate programme at the Secretariat yesterday, said that the government had not taken any such

"Emphasis was given on wearing masks and following health guidelines. Discussion was also held to make policing more effective so that they can punish people for not wearing masks," a Press Information Department handout quotes the minister as saying.

The dead -- Julhu Mia, 50, and

fishermen, including Julhu and Shafiqul, went to fishing in a haor around 10:00pm on Tuesday. They were hit by lightning around 1:00am vesterday.

Locals rescued the victims and rushed them to the health complex where doctors declared the duo dead, said Shamsul Alam Siddique, OC of Nikli Police Station.

Three of the injured were released from the health complex after being given first aid and the two others were sent to Kishoreganj General Hospital

NUMBER OF DEATH DUE TO STRIKE OF LIGHTNING AT DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY

YEAR	NUMBER OF DEATHS
2021 till June	177
2020	247
2019	198
2018	359
2017	301
2016	205
2015	160
2014	170
2013	185
2012	201
2011	179
2010	123

has to face west, so we marked out the head," said a CID official.

and yanked open the lid.

he would take a job.'

magistrate's office.

Youngsters hold their nerve Marsh, but survived with a review as ball-tracking showed the ball pitched outside leg stump. The Tigers then lost their fifth wicket as Mahedi perished, stumped off Adam Zampa after a 24-

ball 23. Afif was in no mood for the Tigers to settle for second-best and a six off Tye, worked to deep mid-wicket that just about carried over the ropes, signaled that he wanted to maintain his natural flow and not let pressure get in the way.

With Nurul Hasan Sohan providing steady hands at the other end, the duo picked up 13 runs off a Starc over to close the gap and Afif brought on his full range of strokes to steer Bangladesh to a five-wicket victory with eight deliveries to spare.

Earlier, Bangladesh pacers Mustafizur Rahman and Shoriful Islam proved crucial as Australia made a far better start with the bat in the second T20I after winning the toss. Mahedi once again removed Alex Carey in the third over after he made a run-a-ball 11.

Mustafizur was at it again with his cutters, castling Josh Phillipe in the sixth over before Moises Henriques and Marsh put on a 57-run stand. The duo paved the way for a big score before the former departed in the next over to Shakib, missing the line of the delivery while playing a slog sweep.

Due to Mustafizur and Shoriful's good work, Australia went from 88 for two to just 121 for seven after 20 overs

Marsh had been cool and calculative once again during a 42ball 45 but with the visitors looking to accelerate, Shoriful played a pivotal role in stemming the run flow. An angled length delivery saw Marsh swing his bat trying to go over midwicket but a faint edge through to the wicketkeeper saw him depart and only three runs would come off that over. Fizz got the better of both Matthew

Wade and Ashton Turner in the 18th over, with the former missing his ill-conceived reverse sweep and seeing his leg-stump cartwheeling. A cutter off the next delivery bounced surprisingly and caught Agar high on his bat as the ball looped over to Nurul for an easy catch. Shoriful then bagged his second wicket, removing Ashton Turner and finished with 2 for 27 in four overs. Mustafizur, despite giving away 11 runs in his final over, finished as the pick of the bunch with three for 23 runs.

US extends Iraq's sanction waiver for four months

AFP, Baghdad

The US has granted Iraq a four-month extension to a sanctions waiver allowing it to import Iranian gas, an Iraqi official told AFP yesterday.

Iraq buys gas and electricity from neighbouring Iran to supply about a third of its power sector, which has been worn down by years of conflict and poor maintenance, and is unable to meet the needs of the country's 40 million population.

The US blacklisted Iran's energy industry in late 2018 as it ramped up sanctions, but granted Baghdad a series of temporary waivers, hoping that Iraq would wean itself off Iranian

The last exemption period ended last month, and the new waiver took effect last week, the official told AFP on condition of anonymity.

Steps not taken

June 28 with experts so that we can make a concrete plan, but due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we could not hold it. We will arrange it soon."

Farmers, fishermen and others who have to work in open spaces, especially on haors, usually become victims of lightning strikes.

Experts said worldwide temperatures are increasing, which is one of the main reasons for increased incidents of lightning in Bangladesh. Other reasons include the lack

coconut trees in rural areas, especially on roadsides, and the lack of arresters in buildings in urban areas, they said, In December 2016, the government had taken the initiative to plant 38 lakh palm trees. However, as the

of palm trees, betel nut trees, and

trees died due to a lack of care and maintenance, the initiative came to no fruition. According to disaster management and relief statistics, 2,328 people were killed in the last 10 years till 2020, of which highest 359 people were killed

in 2018. Meanwhile, data from Save The Society and Thunderstorm Awareness Forum (SSTF) said 177 people were killed in lightning strikes till June this

"We are going for a new method as the palm trees take a lot of time to mature," Enamur said.

Md Munir Hossain, research fellow and engineer of Institution Of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh, said worldwide temperatures are increasing and if it increases one degree Celsius in the world, the impact is felt at a degree or two higher. And the frequency of lightning incidents also then increases by eight to 10 percent in every square km area.

Around 10 haors - in Sunamganj, Habiganj, Kishoreganj, Netrakona, Sylhet, Chapainawabganj, Chattogram, Naogaon, Dinajpur and Sirajganj - are considered the top 10 areas with risk of lightning.

Munir said that every year, two or three days before and after a cyclone are the riskiest times in terms of lightning. "The government will have to

identify those days as "lightning days" and will have to instruct people not to go onto fields during that time unless t is an emergency." The Met office can detect it

(lightning) a day before and should make people aware of it, he added. "Through early warning systems, we can reduce 70 percent of the

Kabirul Bashar, president of the STF, said the government needs to plant palm, betel and coconut trees on the roadsides in rural areas to protect people from lightning strikes.

"The government will have to set up lightning arresters on top of every building in urban areas and this should be made mandatory for every building. The National Building Code and Rajuk also should make it mandatory before approving the construction of a building."

Lightning kills 19

Shafiqul Islam, 35, -- were residents of Shahormul village in the same upazila. Quoting locals, police said seven

for better treatment, the OC added.