

4,966 New cases in 24hrs



14,77,930 Total cases



25,627 Deaths



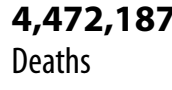
13,89,571 Recoveries



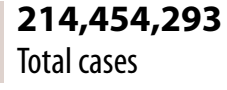
GLOBAL UPDATE



4,472,187 Deaths



214,454,293 Total cases



## GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE DAY

# Declare crimes against Rohingyas genocide

Rohingyas urge the world

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of Genocide Remembrance Day, the Rohingyas called on the governments across the globe, including the UK and US, to declare the crimes against the Rohingya community as genocide.

In a joint statement, on the fourth anniversary of the Rohingya influx, 10 Rohingya organisations called on the UN member states to impose targeted sanctions against the Myanmar military.

The statement also said that the UN was slow to show coordinated action to hold the propagators accountable for the crimes they committed on their land.

As the authorities did not allow any outdoor events, the Rohingyas held placards and spoke standing in front of their camps, mourning, remembering and calling for accountability of the crimes.

The statement said they back the efforts made in the International Court of Justice, and the international community's and the National Unity Government's commitment to international justice.

The organisations that signed the statement include Champions of Change, Education and Wisdom Development for Rohingya Women, Rohingya Refugee Committee, Rohingya Women Education Initiative, Rohingya Youth for Legal Action, Rohingya Youth Unity Team, Voice of Rohingya, Rohingya Student Union, Arakan Rohingya National Union, Rohingya Women Empowerment and Advocacy Network.

Some 750,000 Rohingyas fled genocidal attacks by the Myanmar military in the Rakhine state since August 25, 2017, and took shelter in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar.

Thousands of the Rohingyas were killed, women raped and their houses burnt.

Four years after the genocidal acts, the Myanmar military on February 1 this year overthrew the elected government in a coup and since then killed more than 1,000 men, women,

and children and imprisoned several thousand others for opposing the junta's rule.

"The junta that controls the country is the same military junta that led genocidal attacks against our people and now are committing human rights violations against the whole country," the statement said.

Rohingyas are still at grave risk in Rakhine where the military continues to confine thousands of Rohingya to internment camps.

They said they support the resistance including the Civil Disobedience Movement, the National Unity Government (NUG) and all people working for democracy and human rights against the military junta.

They called on the NUG to expand on its Rohingya policy and appoint a Rohingya minister and other Muslim leaders into the NUG, which was formed under the leadership of Aung San Suu Kyi's National Democratic League.

The NUG had issued a statement committing to issue Rohingya citizenship, fundamental rights and justice.

"Four years on, we will work to be able to return to our homeland as citizens, to build a country that ensures justice and rights for people regardless of race, religion, or ethnicity."

In a separate statement, the Arakan Rohingya Society for Peace and Human Rights thanked Bangladesh for sheltering the Rohingyas.

The statement signed by its Chairman Mohib Ullah said there have been delays in the implementation of four provisional measurements ordered by the ICJ in January last year.

It said both the NUG and the Burmese military government have been complicit in the genocide of the Rohingyas.

The NUG did not include any Rohingya scholars in its membership, however, he said.

The organisation demanded the UN and the international community to refuse to recognise the NUG as a democratic or representative body until it includes Rohingyas.

## Algeria cuts diplomatic ties with 'hostile' Morocco

AFP, Algiers

Algeria's Foreign Minister Ramtane Lamamra said Tuesday that his country has severed diplomatic relations with Morocco due to "hostile actions", following months of resurgent tensions between the North African rivals.

The countries have long accused one another of backing opposition movements as proxies, with Algeria's support for separatists in the disputed region of Western Sahara a particular

bone of contention for Morocco.

"Algeria has decided to cut diplomatic relations with the Kingdom of Morocco from today," Lamamra announced during a press conference.

"History has shown... Morocco has never stopped carrying out hostile actions against Algeria," he added.

In a statement later Tuesday, Morocco's foreign ministry said Algiers' move was "completely unjustified" but "expected given the logic of escalation seen in recent weeks".

## 3 cops arrested

FROM PAGE 1

Some were in uniform, said Abu Ali, a relative of the abductees.

They started looking for Lutfar, who was not home at that time. Later, they picked up his son Zahangir Alam, 28, and wife Jahura Akter, 50.

They also took away a motorcycle from the house, said Khalilur Rahman, another relative of the victims.

The villagers and their relatives looked for them through the night, but failed to learn their whereabouts. The next day, Chirirbandar police was informed of the incident.

The family members also lodged a complaint with Rab-13 CPC-1 in Dinajpur, seeking help.

Meanwhile, the suspects phoned Md Kamruzzaman, a relative of the victims, and demanded Tk 15 lakh ransom. They also threatened the family members with dire consequences if the police were informed.

The suspects allegedly said the two kidnapped would be murdered if the ransom was not paid.

"They contacted me over phone several times and demanded the ransom soon after the kidnapping. Finally, the family members agreed to give them Tk 8 lakh ransom to get them freed," Kamruzzaman added.

Later, the kidnappers asked the family members to pay the ransom in Baserat area of Dinajpur Sadar upazila on Tuesday afternoon.

Meantime, police of Chirirbandar and Dinajpur Sadar made a plan to arrest the kidnappers with the help of villagers and relatives. As per the plan, they took positions in Baserat, along the Dinajpur-Rangpur highway, said locals.

When the criminals realised that police were following them, they drove the microbus fast towards Doshmile area but got stuck in traffic. The villagers were able to catch the car.

Later, police detained the three CID personnel and the microbus driver

and took them to Chirirbandar Police Station.

Three of the arrestees told Chirirbandar police that they were members of Rangpur CID. They were then taken to the Dinajpur SP office for further interrogation.

Hearing of the incident, top officials of Rangpur and Dinajpur CID went to the SP office.

Quoting the abductees, relatives said the abductors tortured them mercilessly and kept changing their locations.

Contacted, Subrata Sarkar, officer-in-charge of Chirirbandar Police Station, confirmed that the police rescued the victims after their abduction. But he refused to give any details of the people involved in the kidnapping.

Dinajpur SP Anwar Hossain also refrained from making any comments. However, Ataur Rahman, an additional special superintendent of Rangpur CID, said three members of his department, including an ASP, were caught by locals over abduction allegations in Dinajpur.

Sources in the CID office in Rangpur said the three members conducted an unauthorised raid in Chirirbandar upazila. They added that the three were on a 10-day leave from August 21.

Debdas Bhattacharya, DIG of Rangpur range, told this paper over phone yesterday that an untoward incident happened in Dinajpur. He added that action would be taken against those involved in the incident.

Yesterday, police arrested Fashiul Alam Palash and recovered the motorcycle taken from the victims' house from his home.

Victim Zahangir yesterday filed a case against 11 people, including the five arrestees.

Recording of statements of the victims was going on in court when this report was filed around 8:30pm.



Bangladesh Chief of Army Staff General SM Shafiuddin Ahmed standing alongside Chief of Turkish General Staff General Yasar Guler, centre, and Chief of Turkish Land Forces Commander General Musa Avsever, right, during his ongoing official visit to Turkey.

PHOTO: ISPR

## Army chief meets Turkish chiefs of land forces and general staff

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief of Army Staff of Bangladesh, General SM Shafiuddin Ahmed, has met with General Musa Avsever, chief of Turkish Land Forces and General Yasar Guler, chief of Turkish general staff, over the past two days during his ongoing official visit to Turkey.

During the meeting, the army chief discussed issues of mutual interest between Turkey and the Bangladesh army, said an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) press release.

The talks focused on possible areas of defence cooperation between the two countries, including training exchanges, the release said.

Apart from meeting several important officials of the Turkish army, Army chief Gen Shafiuddin had inspected the operation control room of Turkish Unmanned Aerial System (UAS), Army Aviation Headquarters, and Turkish Air Spaces Industry.

He also visited the graveyard and museum of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk in Ankara and paid homage at the memorial.

## Top-heavy 'discriminatory'

FROM PAGE 1

Ideally, the structure of a functional bureaucracy should look like a pyramid – heavy at the bottom, light at the top.

Experts and former bureaucrats said the present shape of the country's bureaucracy was not structurally sound. According to them, it hampers productivity and harmony among different tiers of officials.

Latest government "Statistics of Civil Officers and Staff-2020" released on June 15 show 490 officials hold joint secretary (Grade 3) post against 370 approved posts. Besides, against 135 posts, 165 officers hold Grade 4 (selection grade) – which falls between joint secretary and deputy secretary (Grade 5).

In contrast, the rest six of the nine tiers face manpower shortages. The situation is most severe in Grade 6 (senior assistant secretary) and Grade 9 (assistant secretary). There are 886 senior assistant secretaries against 1,740 posts while there are 736 assistant secretaries against 1,314 posts.

Against this backdrop, the government has moved to promote another batch of joint secretaries to the post of additional secretary, according to a recent report by Bangla daily Samakal.

"This [such in-situ promotion] is not good for the administration. Promotion should be consistent with the sanctioned posts," said former cabinet secretary Ali Imam Majumder. According to experts, there are no specific guidelines for in-situ promotion, creating scope for "pick and choose" following intense lobbying and political leniency.

The taxpayers have to spend more for these officials, although they are getting the same service from them, they said.

A recent survey by Transparency International Bangladesh found that the current state of the civil bureaucracy creates a series of problems.

TIB Executive Director Iftekharrassaman said the top-heavy structure was "starkly opposite" compared with the organogram of any functional organisation.

"This organisational structure creates obstacles in promoting administrative skills and efficiency. It also creates hindrance to the promotion of the officials at the lower tiers and increases backlog in the decision-making process," he told The Daily Star.

WHY SUCH PROMOTION?

The term "in-situ" was not much popular in Bangladesh's civil administration before 2006. In the last 10 years, however, such promotions are all too common.

Officials from different non-admin cadre services said they had to wait for years for promotion due to unavailability of posts.

"But things are different in case of the administration cadre," one official said, requesting anonymity.

In an unprecedented move in November 2018, the government promoted 230 additional superintendents of police to the post of SP in-situ amid police demand for promotion.

Several police officials said that was the first – and since then the last – in situ promotion in police cadre.

According to one admin official, there are too few posts above deputy secretary, which makes the competition within the admin cadre intense. Also, promotion on the basis of batches has been a norm in recent years.

"This means, if the number of officials in a particular batch is high, the number of promotions also gets high. Hence the high number of supernumerary promotions," he said, wishing anonymity.

'ADVERSE IMPACT'

Before 2006, there was a practice of in-situ promotion anticipating future vacancy, but the number used to be very small, Ali Imam Majumder said recently.

Towards the end of its tenure, the

last BNP-led government promoted 200 to 300 officers to deputy secretary post. The promoted officials however did not get any new posting, he added.

The subsequent caretaker government found that many deputy secretary-level officers did not have any work although there was a dearth of assistant secretaries and senior assistant secretaries. A supernumerary promotion system was then introduced to make the deputy secretaries more productive. However, the caretaker administration had also decided to abolish such posts once the need was over.

After taking office in 2009, the Awami League-led government started giving "rampant promotion," which is inconsistent with the approved posts, the former cabinet secretary said.

He also cited examples of top-heavy admin structure in public universities and the police force.

He said, "Supernumerary promotions are going on in the police too." Besides, public universities, even though not part of civil service, have a top heavy structure, he added.

When asked about the impact of the admin cadre enjoying disproportionate benefits in terms of promotion, Iftekharrassaman said, "It puts an adverse impact on the inter-cadre relationship."

"Deprived officers [in other cadres] find it discriminatory. It affects their performance," he said recently.

On July 29, this paper asked KM Ali Azam, senior secretary of the public administration ministry, about the incredible number of in situ promotion in some grades. He said he needed to go through the data first, and asked this correspondent to call him on August 1.

Repeated attempts to reach him via phone and texts were unsuccessful.

The Daily Star yesterday tried to reach State Minister for Public Administration Farhad Hossain but he could not be contacted.

## Recovery plan needs \$90m

FROM PAGE 1

The position paper is based on review of various documents, reports and analyses of secondary data that was vetted by the education ministries and various stakeholders.

The Ministry of Primary and Mass Education and the Ministry of Education have developed a Covid-19 Response and Recovery Plan with an estimated budget of \$90 million (Tk 768 crore approximately).

The plan will first be supported by the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) accelerator funding for Covid-19 and will later be joined by other development partners, said the study.

Deputy Education Minister Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury told The Daily Star that the estimate they made was a primary one.

"Financing of recovery plan will not be a big problem. Development partners' financing will speed up the implementation, but even without that, the implementation will not remain stuck due to unavailability of funds," he said.

Quoting the study, a senior education ministry official said around \$20.7 million would be needed for TV, Radio, mobile and online content development and developing low-cost learning packages and distribution. Another \$36.6 million would be needed to arrange sanitisation in schools following health protocols for reopening, raising awareness on health and safety issues, and providing mental health support for students and teachers.

The study also said about \$10.5 million would be needed for student assessment upon return to school and teachers' training. Another \$4 million would be required to arrange supplementary learning materials and community-based activities.

The rest of the money will be needed for communication, technological solutions, integrating remote learning into regular education, upgrading remote learning platforms, and formulating policies.

The government had allocated Tk 71,951 crore to the education sector for the 2021-2022 fiscal – Tk 26,311 crore for primary and mass education ministry, Tk 36,486 crore for secondary and higher education division and Tk 9,154 crore for technical and madrasa education division.

The amount makes up 11.91 percent of the total outlay and 2.08 percent of the GDP.

The government has continued to keep its focus on education indicators with targeted policies, interventions and support programmes to improve both quality and quantity of education. However, a number of challenges still hover around the country's goal of attaining universal education. The concerns include inclusive and quality education at all levels, said the position paper.

The pandemic has distorted much of the education ecosystem and has had a multi-dimensional impact. A number of new vulnerabilities emerged, making the existing ones more acute.

In the wake of the pandemic, educational institutions have been closed since March 17, 2020, and that caused massive disruption in the education of 36.8 million students.

The impact of economic distress on education cannot be neglected. Covid-19 has increased the poverty rate of the country from 20.5 percent in the 2019-20 fiscal year to 29.5 percent in the 2020-21 fiscal year, according to BBS.

"Studies have shown that people have struggled to meet basic food expenses. An estimation made by SANEM [South Asian Network on Economic Modeling] states that before the pandemic, families of 24 percent students were below the poverty line, which could rise to 44 percent with three months of prolonged lockdown."

Not resuming education will also affect the situation of child marriage in the country. As per Unicef, Bangladesh has the highest rate of child marriage.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The position paper recommended,

introduction of two-three years' back-to-school campaigns, placing emphasis on drop-out-prone areas. Giving monetary incentives for coming back to school will also be instrumental. The interventions should be targeted and specific, like stipends or school feeding.

It also recommended increasing parental engagement for raising awareness on the importance of education and implications of child marriage and child labour. Redesigning the school feeding programme to mitigate the nutritional deficiencies children might have had during the closure of the schools was also recommended by the position paper.

It urged a focus on equity-based quality education programmes targeting areas that are still lagging behind and incentives for teachers serving at vulnerable areas. It will also be important to pay special attention in maintaining gender parity in education considering the changed context of the pandemic.

The paper proposed blending traditional and online learning methods. Schools should also offer the option for joining classes online for students who would prefer not to join in-person classes.

It also proposed investment of 4 percent of the GDP and 15 percent of the budget to resolve the existing vulnerabilities.

Deputy Education Minister Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury said the government has plans to reduce possible dropout rates as well as child marriage.

"It will be easier once the schools reopen. Many are predicting huge dropouts, but we have seen that around 93 percent of students are submitting assignments to their schools when they are given assignments as part of the government's efforts to continue education for secondary students."

"We will give due attention to the recommendations after reviewing it," he added.

## Naem Nizam's

FROM PAGE 1

that every resolution and activity of the organisation was always done on the basis of consensus, said a statement of the Parishad.

Earlier, Rezauddin Ahmad, editor of The Financial Herald, reported that following the Parishad's last resolution, his attempts to bring Naem Nizam to the meeting did not materialise.

The meeting was attended by Mahfuz Anam; Rezauddin Ahmad; Tasmima Hossain, editor of Ittefaq; Matiur Rahman, editor of Prothom Alo; Matiur Rahman Chowdhury, editor of Manabzamin; Shah Husain Imam, editor of Financial Express; Nurul Kabir, editor of New Age; Shyamal Dutta, editor of Bhorer Kagoj; AMM Bahauddin, editor of Daily Inqilab; Saiful Alam, editor of Jugantor; MA Malek, editor of Dainik Azadi; Md Mozammel Haque, editor of Karatoa; M Shamsur Rahman, editor of the Independent; Mustafiz Shafi, acting editor of Shamakal; Zafar Sobhan, editor of Dhaka Tribune; Dewan Hanif Mahmud; and Amit Habib, editor of Desh Rupantor.

Naem Nizam's resignation

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Hanif Mahmud