

BANGLADESH
UPDATE



2,430
New cases in 24hrs



15,14,456
Total cases



26,563
Deaths



14,51,063
Recoveries

GLOBAL
UPDATE



4,579,667
Deaths



221,411,171
Total cases

Flood situation improves in north

It worsens in districts around Dhaka

STAR REPORT

The flood situation has improved in the northern region of the country as the water level in the rivers started receding there, but districts surrounding Dhaka reported the opposite.

Thirteen districts were flooded yesterday as water of eight rivers -- the Dharla, the Brahmaputra, the Jamuna, the Turag, the Kaliganga, the Padma, the Atrai and the Dhaleshwari -- was flowing above the danger level.

At Chilmari point in Kurigram, the water lever of the Jumuna has receded to 17cm above the danger level at 9:00am yesterday, from 44cm on Saturday. At the same time, water was flowing 44cm above the danger level in the Dharla River Bridge point in Kurigram Sadar upazila.

At Teesta Barrage point in Lalmonirhat's Hatibandha, the water was flowing 23cm below the danger level yesterday morning and it was 2cm above on Saturday morning.

Around 120,000 people in Kurigram are still affected by the flood and the majority of them are struggling for food and fresh drinking water.

Sabiha Bewa, 58, a flood victim at Hatiya village of Ulipur upazila, said she along with her eight-member family have been living with the floodwaters for the last ten days. "We got only 10kg rice as government relief."

According to the Water Development Board (WDB), Bogura and Gaibandha, the water of the Jamuna has started receding since last Saturday.

According to the district relief and rehabilitation office in Bogura, around 66,000 people remained marooned but the district administration only distributed 170 tonnes of rice, and

Tk 200,000 and 1,000 packets of dry foods.

Sufia Khatun, 40, of the Manik Diar Char, said, "Now we are almost starving but did not receive any relief materials from anyone."

Kamrul Hasan, 45, of the same char under the Chaluabari union, said they were facing double blow as their houses were flooded while river erosion was devouring their land.

In Gaibandha, there are 85,975 people marooned by the flood in four upazila but the district administration distributed only 100 tonnes of rice, Tk 200,000 and 1,500 packets of dry foods.

The water level of the Jamuna is stable in the last 24 hours while the Padma and all the internal rivers of Manikganj district are increasing.

Manikganj Water Development Board's gauge reader Faruk Hossain said, "The water of the Jamuna was flowing 40cm above the danger mark at Aricha in Manikganj at 3:00pm today [yesterday] as it is stable in last 24 hours from 3:00pm on Friday."

"The Kaliganga was flowing 24cm above the danger mark at Tora point as 14cm increased in the last 24 hours while the Dhaleshwari was flowing 13cm below the danger mark at Jagir point though it has increased by 10cm in the last 24 hours."

The water of other rivers including the Padma is also increasing by 7cm to 8cm in a day, he added.

At Bhagyakul point in Munshiganj, the water level of the Padma was 22cm above the danger line yesterday.

Ranendra Shankar Chakraborty, executive engineer of District Water Development Board, said waterlogging was created in several low-lying areas of Louhajanj and Tongibari due to rising water level of the tributary river.

"The district has already been marked as a flood-affected area."

MAJOR DREAMLINER MAINTENANCE WORK Biman does it at home, saves Tk 5 crore

STAR REPORT

For the first time in the country's history, Biman Bangladesh Airlines has earned the capabilities to carry out C-check, a major maintenance work of the state-of-the-art Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner aircraft, in the country with its management.

"It will save around \$6 lakh [over Tk 5 crore] for Biman for each of the aircraft," State Minister for Civil Aviation M Mahbub Ali said while speaking at a function held at Biman Bangladesh Airlines headquarter Balaka in the capital.

The programme was organised to mark the successful completion of the C-check of Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner and the awarding the pilots and cabin crews of Biman who has operated flights to repatriate stranded Bangladeshis from Wuhan, China at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic.

C-check is a long-term, complex and high-tech check to make the aircraft airworthy after detailed inspection by unveiling the aircraft's various infrastructure.

This maintenance check is much extensive, requiring a majority of the aircraft's components to be inspected. C-check is usually carried out in a hangar at a maintenance base.

Mahbub Ali said in the past Biman

had to spend lots of foreign currency to complete a C-check in different countries.

From now on, the successful completion of C-check in the country will save an estimated \$6 lakh per aircraft.

The C-check of Boeing-787-8 Dreamliner has to be completed every three years.

Following this, Biman started the first C-check of a Dreamliner "Akashveena" on August 17 which was successfully completed within 10 days.

The C-check of another Dreamliner will be completed this year and four more Dreamliner in the next year which will save \$ 3-4 million.

Mahbub Ali said very few airlines in the world have the capability to C-check modern aircraft like the Dreamliner.

Earlier, Biman carried out a C-check of its aircraft through foreign MRO (Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul Organisation) in Germany, Italy or Singapore.

"Completing of Dreamliner's C-check with its own manpower and management is a shining example of increasing Biman's capacity," he said.

Chairman of the Board of Directors, Biman, Sajjadul Hasan; Secretary, Civil Aviation Ministry, Mokammel Hossain, among others also addressed the programme.

Poor batting approach costs

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although Bangladesh still hold a slender 2-1 lead in the five-match series.

Interestingly, all four of Bangladesh's lowest T20I totals have been recorded against New Zealand. The Tigers lowest-ever total of 70 all out came against New Zealand in a T20 World Cup encounter in Kolkata in 2016. Bangladesh were also bundled out for 76 in a T20I earlier this year in Auckland and recorded 78 in 2010 in Hamilton against the Kiwis.

The outcome stood in stark contrast to the way the Tigers had started their chase, with openers Mohammad Naim and Liton Das striking pacer Jacob Duffy and spinners Ajaz Patel and Cole McConchie for five boundaries as Bangladesh moved to 23 for no loss in just 2.3 overs, seemingly set to seal the series with a third win.

That did not happen and instead it took only eight deliveries for the Tigers to go from 23 for no loss to 25 for three. While Liton got carried away and was trapped in front while in search for his fourth boundary, Mahedi Hasan and Shakib Al Hasan threw their wickets away by trying to force unnecessary shots.

Both Mahedi and Shakib were removed by Patel in the same over but Shakib's dismissal was the more disappointing one.

The experienced all-rounder, facing just his third delivery after Bangladesh had lost two quick wickets, made a horrible error in judgment as he danced down the track to hit Patel over long-on but could only give an easy catch to McConchie.

Patel once again inflicted a double-blow when he had skipper Mahmudullah Riyad and Afif Hossain removed in successive deliveries in the 10th over, leaving Bangladesh reeling at 43 for six. The left-arm spinner ended with career-best T20 figures of four for 16 in his four overs.

Bangladesh never looked comfortable in the chase and even though Mushfiqur Rahim stuck around till the end, his unbeaten 37-ball 20, without any boundaries, was every bit as unflattering as the other batsmen who displayed no sense of responsibility.

Bangladesh eventually fell short and the game made its way into the history books for being the first-ever T20I between two Test-playing nations that did not feature a single six.

Earlier, New Zealand were also reduced to a precarious 62 for five in 10.5 overs, but an unbeaten 66-run sixth-wicket stand between Tom Blundell and Henry Nicholls pulled the Kiwis out of from the slump and helped them post a fighting total.



Villagers dismantling their homes and moving from Baghutia area in Chauhali, Sirajganj, before the Jamuna washes them away. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Bringing back Banani cop from India

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According to officials at Bangladesh Police Headquarters, Rana described to Indian law enforcers how he made his way from Dhaka to India. He boarded a bus from Dhaka to Lalmonirhat's Patgram on Thursday and crossed the border around 12:30am, by paying a Bangladeshi broker.

He said he entered India without a passport with the help of an Indian border guard. He had planned to go to Europe from Nepal.

At the time of his detention, BSF seized a foreign passport, four credit and debit cards of Thailand, a credit card of England, two mobile phones, and foreign currency from his possession.

E-orange recently made headlines for reportedly embezzling crores of taka by not delivering products bought by its customers.

Since the filing of the case, Rana had been denying allegations of his involvement with e-orange. There are allegations against him of withdrawing Tk 2.5 crore from the company at different times.

His sister and brother-in-law used to run the company. Both are in jail now.

Meanwhile, Inspector General of Police Benazir Ahmed yesterday said they would investigate how the inspector fled the country and whether there was negligence of any quarter in this regard.

Benazir was responding to questions from reporters at the Police Headquarters yesterday afternoon after the inauguration of a training programme for all members of the Bangladesh Police.

The IGP said, "It is clear that he has left the country illegally. I spoke to the DMP commissioner this [yesterday] morning about how inspector Sohel Rana left the country and whether anyone has been negligent [in their duty]. We will look into these issues."

"We have a prisoner transfer agreement with India. So, bringing back Sohel Rana will not be a problem. Since he is accused in a case in India, he must be brought back to Bangladesh once the process is over."

Regular classes not for all now

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should be maintained properly.

Dipu Moni urged all guardians to send their children to schools, but at the same time make sure that their children do not attend if they are sick.

Her announcement comes at a time when life in the country has gradually been returning to normal following a Covid-19 surge earlier in the year, and as calls for reopening educational institutions from guardians and educationists have been getting louder.

The UN Children's Fund had also called upon the government to end the school closures and resume in-person learning as soon as possible for children's well-being and future prospects.

In the face of mounting pressure, the government had made several attempts to reopen schools, but were thwarted due to fresh waves of infections.

Dipu Moni said universities, which are scheduled to reopen in mid-October, can bring forward the resumption of academic activities if they want and that the final decision in this regard would rest with respective universities.

She said there would be another meeting in this regard within a week.

The government on August 26 decided that all students of public and private universities would be vaccinated by the end of September and in-person classes at the universities would begin on October 15.

Health Minister Zahid Maleque on September 2 said in-person academic activities of first-, second-, and fifth-year students of medical colleges would start from September 13.

Educational institutions were closed across the country on March 17 last year to curb the spread of Covid-19. The closure led to cancellation of classes and examinations, throwing the academic lives of more than four crore students of around 1.5 lakh educational institutions in disarray.

To recoup the academic loss, the government launched TV educational programmes on the state-run Sangsad channel for secondary and primary students.

Later, it asked all schools, colleges, and universities to introduce online classes. Assignments were also handed out to secondary-level students.

While many schools in cities and urban areas quickly adapted to online education, it was a much tougher ask for students in rural areas as they lacked the necessary devices and access to the internet.

Dipu Moni yesterday said the government will monitor the Covid-19 situation closely after reopening and if it finds that reopening has caused a spike in Covid infections in any area, they would take the decision to close down the school or schools in that locality.

The minister said teachers should be vigilant about whether any student, especially those of classes 1-4, are facing difficulties wearing masks. "All kinds of physical activities and games would take place under the supervision of teachers and there will be no assembly at schools until the situation improves," she said.

Classes of each grade will take place in two or three rooms.

As in-person classes are resuming after so long, authorities will deduct daily class hours to three or four hours from the usual eight hours, she added.

The education minister said SSC and its equivalent examinations will take place in the second week of November and the HSC and its equivalent tests in the first week of December. She said the government would vaccinate all students aged 12 and above in phases, based on availability of vaccines, and the health ministry is taking necessary measures in this regard.

Agriculture Minister Muhammad Abdur Razzaque, Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives (LGRD) Minister Md Tajul Islam, Primary and Mass Education State Minister Zakir Hossen, Youth and Sports State Minister Zahid Ahsan Russel, Deputy Education Minister Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury, Cabinet Secretary Khander Anwarul Islam and the top brass of several ministries attended the meeting at the Secretariat.

No plan drawn up yet

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member said, referring to issues like vaccine shortage and lack of scientific evidence in favour of such a move.

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) on August 20 announced that students as young as 18 could register for the vaccine. The minimum age requirement is 25 for others.

At yesterday's briefing, Shamsul said 1.93 lakh people were waiting for their shots after registering for vaccination.

"We believe that vaccinating these people is our number one priority. We are trying to increase the number

of vaccination centers and prepare human resources accordingly," he said.

SPECIAL CAMPAIGN FOR SECOND DOSE FROM TOMORROW

Shamsul said the mass vaccination campaign will be held from September 7-12.

"Those who got the first shot between August 7 and 12, will receive the second one from the same centres," Shamsul Alam said.

From August 7-12, around 34 lakh people got the first dose of the Sinopharm vaccine in a special campaign run through around 14,000 vaccination centres across the country. The campaign didn't continue

mostly because of shortage of vaccine doses.

The government currently has around 1.75 crore jabs in stock and is expecting another 12 crore doses to arrive by December.

70 DEAD, 2,430 NEW CASES

Officials yesterday reported 2,430 new cases of Covid-19 and 70 deaths from the disease, taking the total number of confirmed cases to 15,14,456 and the deaths to 25,563.

The new cases were detected after testing 25,163 individuals. The positivity rate was 9.66 percent.

Of the deceased, 40 were male and 30 female.

VIOLENCE IN BARISHAL

Court gives bail to two more accused

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

A Barishal court yesterday granted bail to two Awami League leaders, who had been undergoing treatment in Dhaka after suffering eye injuries in a shootout during a clash at the UNO office premises in Barishal city.

They are Moniruzzaman Monir, ward-23 president of Barishal city unit AL, and Mohammad Tanvir, former president of ward-16 unit BCL.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Masum Billah passed the order, said Khokon Chandra Das, general recording officer of the court.

Monir and Tanvir, who lost their eyesight, appeared before the court and prayed for bail. The court granted them bail, said Inspector Farid Uddin, investigation officer of the case lodged by the UNO.

Several people, including the two, were first admitted to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital and the two were later moved to National Ophthalmology Institute and Hospital in Dhaka.

On August 18, at least 50 people were injured when employees of Barishal City Corporation (BCC) and local AL men clashed with police and Ansar members over removal of banners from Barishal Sadar UNO's office premises.

Later, UNO Munibur Rahman and police filed two cases over the incident, naming BCC Mayor Serniabat Sadiq Abdullah as the prime accused for instigating the violence. Several hundred people were accused in the cases.

Twenty-three people, including Monir and Tanvir, were arrested. With yesterday's two, all the arrestees obtained bail.

On August 23, city AL leader Rafikul Islam Khokon and BCC revenue officer Babul Haldar filed a case against the UNO, two policemen and five Ansar members with the court.

The BCC and local AL leaders at a meeting later decided to settle the dispute.

Pull down

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spreading online. But it doesn't -- as if it enjoys them. don't do it as if they enjoy such videos. They want that we give directives on the BTRC on any issue. Why should we do so?"

The bench went on to cite the controversial Al Jazeera documentary titled 'All the Prime Minister's Men' to further its point.

The BTRC has the authority to stop such content from spreading on the online platforms, said Miah, the presiding judge of the HC bench.

Subsequently, the HC bench rejected the writ petition as it was not presented properly.

Besides, the petitioner has not served any legal notice to the BTRC to this effect before filing the petition. The HC asked the petitioner to move a fresh writ petition before it after serving a legal notice to the telecom regulator in this regard.

Ahmed told The Daily Star that she had sent a letter to the BTRC requesting it to take steps to remove and stop the further spread of defamatory content.

But the BTRC replied that it will do so only if the HC delivers a directive to this effect, she said, adding that the HC made the observation in response to the BTRC's reply.