

BANGLADESH
UPDATE



2,497
New cases in 24hrs



15,22,302
Total cases



26,736
Deaths



14,64,594
Recoveries

GLOBAL
UPDATE



4,605,033
Deaths



223,077,521
Total cases

Take down the defamatory videos

HC tells BTRC on uploads regarding Japanese woman, her estranged husband

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission chairman to take steps to remove from online platforms defamatory videos about Japanese national Eriko Nakano and her estranged husband Bangladeshi-born US citizen Imran Sharif.

The couple have two daughters currently living in a Gulshan flat under HC directive.

The HC also ordered the Cyber Police Center under the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to immediately identify persons posting or uploading defamatory videos and take necessary legal action against them.

The court issued these orders while hearing two separate petitions filed by Eriko and Imran.

The HC asked Imran to remove the closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras from the interior of the residence where Eriko lives with their daughters.

CCTV cameras will remain operational in the outer areas of the residence for security reasons, the bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman said.

On January 18 this year, Imran submitted a divorce notice to a Japanese court, but did not appear before that court on the scheduled date of hearing, Eriko said in her petition.

On January 21, he picked up his daughters from their school in Tokyo and came to Bangladesh on February 21, Eriko's petition said.

Eriko, 46, a doctor based in Tokyo, came to Bangladesh on July 18 this

year and filed a writ petition with the HC seeking a directive on Imran, 58, to hand over the children to her custody. She feared that Imran, who now lives in Mohammadia Housing Society under Adabor Police Station in Dhaka or in a Gulshan house, may flee Bangladesh with her daughters.

In the petition, Eriko said she and Imran got married on July 11, 2008, in Japan following Japanese and Muslim customs.

On August 31, the HC bench directed authorities concerned to immediately shift the two children to a residence in Gulshan from the victim support centre.

The court permitted Eriko to spend nights with her daughters exclusively on September 9, 11, 13 and 15 at the Gulshan flat.

Imran, meanwhile, can stay with the daughters on other nights at the Gulshan residence, in the presence of Eriko.

In his petition, Imran appealed for the sole custody of his daughters.

The court fixed September 16 for passing further orders on the issue.

Lawyers Mohammad Shishir Manir and Fawzia Karim Firoze placed arguments for Eriko and Imran respectively while Deputy Attorney General Bepul Bagmar represented the state during the virtual hearing.

The HC bench also ordered the deputy director concerned of Directorate of Social Welfare to supervise the issues involved with the children and also asked the commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police and CID to ensure their security.

Both parents will equally bear the expenses of the residence, their living and relevant issues, the HC said in the order.

HC censures two judges, IO

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officer explains the reasons in this regard," the HC bench of Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam and Justice KM Zahid Sarwar Kajol said in the full text.

Earlier on September 2, the bench sought explanations from two lower court judges -- metropolitan magistrates Devobrata Biswas and Atikul Islam -- who placed Pori Moni on extended remand in the same case. They have been ordered to submit their explanations before the HC in 10 days.

The HC also summoned IO Golam Mostafa to appear before it at 11:00am on September 15 with relevant documents to explain why he sought the second and third remand of Pori Moni, who was granted bail and released from jail on September 1.

The bench issued the orders following a petition filed by rights organisation Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) to question the repeated remands that allowed the police to interrogate Pori Moni in custody.

"Presumably, the accused may be required to be interrogated in the interest of investigation for the purpose of a fair and transparent trial, but the record shows that the IO of the case made remand prayers to the metropolitan magistrates for the second and third time basing on which the court concerned was pleased to grant remand by its order on August 10 and 19 respectively, which pricks our judicial consensus [about] how the magistrates concerned were so satisfied to allow prayers for remands a couple of times," the order said.

The bench said metropolitan magistrates Devobrata Biswas and Atikul Islam should appear in person before this court if their explanations about granting remand are not satisfactory.

"We found from the records that initially, the accused person [Pori Moni] was taken on remand for four days, which is of course a considerable time to extract any information and materials, if any, but furtherance of requiring the next remand period, the IO could not show substantial and sufficient materials as found from the records before us," the order read.

It added that the manner of the arrest by the law enforcement agency concerned is contrary to the guidelines set by the apex court.

"It is a settled proposition of law that citizens' rights cannot be hampered without following the relevant law. Similarly, every citizen should be respectful to the law of the land. One should not be convicted through any unusual course like trolling on personal life and the liberty of a citizen by any means before coming to any verdict from any appropriate court of law of the land," the judges observed in the order, adding that the law has to be regarded as the foundation of a civilised society.

The HC further said it is suffice to say that article 35(5) of our constitution contemplates that no person shall be subjected to torture and cruel or inhuman or degrading treatment.

Contacted, ASK's lawyer ZI Khan Panna recently told The Daily Star that according to the SC's directives, an accused should be interrogated at the jail gate if it is necessary.

The accused person's health must be examined by a registered doctor before and after interrogation and his or her lawyers and relatives must be allowed to be present during the interrogation, but the lower court concerned and police have not followed the directives while placing Pori Moni on remand, he added.

World wary of Taliban govt

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advice to the Taliban from world powers for an inclusive government, backing up its pledges of a more conciliatory approach that upholds human rights, if it sought peace and development.

Voicing concern about the Taliban government's composition, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said he saw little reason for optimism about conditions in Afghanistan.

"The announcement of a transitional government without the participation of other groups, and yesterday's [Tuesday] violence against demonstrators and journalists in Kabul, are not signals that give cause for optimism," he said.

The US said it was concerned about the "affiliations and track records" of some of the people named by

the Taliban to fill top posts in new government.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken was looking to build a united front with nations shaken by the Afghanistan withdrawal as he consulted allies and heard stories from refugees at an air base in Germany yesterday.

A spokesman for Prime Minister Boris Johnson said Britain would have wanted to see a "diverse" leadership team in Afghanistan, but that is not what London has seen.

"We will continue to judge the Taliban on their actions ... We would want to see, in any situation, a diverse group in leadership which seeks to address the pledges that the Taliban themselves have set out and that's not what we have seen," the spokesman said yesterday.



PHOTO: RABUL HASAN

With sandbags, residents of Gowaldubi village in Chapainawabganj stand on the edge of an area before which acres of land stretched out not too long ago. Over the last three weeks erosion caused by strong currents of the Padma has devoured hundreds of bighas of land and homestead in the area. The photo was taken yesterday.

Govt wants hassle-free system for people

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upazila level afresh. "Those which are still left need to be done quickly through taking up projects."

She said the government has taken initiatives to construct 139 upazila land offices and construction of 129 of them have been completed.

To provide services to the people, the government is implementing a project to construct 1,498 land offices at the union level and construction of 995 of those have been completed, the premier added.

She said the aim of the government is to build the country as a developed and prosperous one by 2041.

To make the land management system developed and world-class one, the government has taken up three projects to digitise it, she said.

The projects are: Land management automation project, strengthening capacity of the Land Record and

Survey Department project and Plot and Mouja-based National Digital Land Survey project.

"On completion of the projects, there'll be an epoch-making change in the land management system and a complete digitisation of the overall management will be possible," the PM said.

She said people had been suffering for years trying to avail themselves of land-related services, leading to various social problems.

But the Awami League government, coming to power in 2009, took measures to digitise land management as part of its election manifesto and Vision-2021 to build digital Bangladesh, the premier said.

Hasina hoped that the projects inaugurated yesterday would play a very important role in building developed and prosperous digital Bangladesh and ensuring desired

land-related services for the citizens.

With the digitised and reformed the land management system, land owners would be able to avail of various services from home online, she added.

Describing her government's success in digitalising the land management, she said the UN recognised the Ministry of Land with "United Nations Public Service Award 2020" for implementing the e-mutation system.

Hasina said her government has been working to develop every sector, including land, with a farsighted plan and responsibility towards people.

Land Minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury, and Land Secretary Mustafizur Rahman also spoke at the programme.

A documentary on the land reforms of the country was screened at the programme.

Work to start next month

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within this month.

Once built, the 24-kilometre expressway will connect Hazrat Shahjahal International Airport with Abdullahpur, Ashulia, Baipail and Dhaka Export Processing Zone (DEPZ) on the Nabinagar-Chandra highway. Vehicles will have to pay toll, said project officials.

It will allow people from 30 districts to enter and exit the capital quickly and easily. It is also expected to boost the country's gross domestic product by 0.21 percent, shows project documents.

Another expressway -- Dhaka Elevated Expressway -- is being constructed to link the airport to the Dhaka-Chattogram highway at Kutubkhali point. The revised schedule for opening the 20km expressway -- Airport-Banani-Moghbar-Kamalapur-Sayedabad-Jatrabari-Kutubkhali -- is June 2023.

Once both elevated expressways are operational, people from the country's northern, western and south-western regions will be able to avoid the capital's perennial traffic jam as they will go from one side of the city to another without having to travel on the existing city streets.

Trucks and Lorries, which are now barred from entering the city during the day to curb traffic jams, will also use them.

The work of the 24km Dhaka-Ashulia expressway was set to start four years ago following the project's approval by the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec). The work was scheduled to be completed by June next year.

The physical work, however, could not begin as the Chinese authorities delayed in approving the loan.

Now, the project authorities want to complete the work within four years.

THE PROJECT

The government had initially decided to implement the project under Public Private Partnership and the Cabinet Committee on Economic

Affairs okayed it in July 2011.

At that time, the proposed length of the expressway was decided to be 34km and the project cost \$2 billion.

But changes were made in both the design and the mode of funding, said sources aware of the matter.

The government then decided to implement the project under a government-to-government (G2G) agreement with China.

This project then became among 27 projects for which China assured of providing a loan of \$20 billion as per a memorandum of understanding signed during Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Dhaka in October 2016.

In October 2017, the Ecneec gave the go-ahead to the project and the deadline was fixed for June 2022.

In August 2017, Bangladesh Bridge Authority signed a contract with China National Machinery Import and Export Corporation to implement the project.

But the project work could not begin as the loan application sent to the Chinese authorities in October 2018 remained pending.

Talking to journalists at Setu Bhaban on July 11 2019, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said he hoped that the construction work would begin in December that year, which did not happen.

WORK TO START NEXT MONTH

Sources said the Chinese EXIM Bank approved the loan in November last year and then both sides held negotiations on the draft loan agreement.

After the law ministry vetted the draft, it was sent to the Prime Minister's Office, which gave the green signal on September 2, the sources said.

Project Director Shahabuddin Khan said the uncertainty over the funding was over and that the contractor had already started some work, including fixing alignments and design of the expressway, in April this year.

Court accepts charges against journo Kajol

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Bonya, a member of the central committee of Jubo Mohila League, filed the case with Kamrangirchar Police Station.

On March 14 this year, Investigation Officer Mohammad Russell Mollah, also a sub-inspector of the Detective Branch of police, filed the charge sheet of the case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka.

Excluding this case, Awami League lawmaker (Magura-1) Saifuzzaman Shikhor and Jubo Mohila League's central committee member Usmin Ara Bally, also filed two cases with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar and Hazaribagh police

stations under the DSA on March 9 and 10 last year.

The charge sheets in the two cases were submitted to the court on April 8 and February 4.

On September 7, the tribunal accepted the charges against Kajol in a case filed with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station.

The case filed with Hazaribagh Police Station is also now pending with the same tribunal.

Journalist Kajol went missing on March 10 last year. The Border Guard Bangladesh found him roaming around the Benapole border area on May 3 and detained him.

Army chief returns home after India visit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief of Army Staff of Bangladesh General SM Shafiuddin Ahmed returned to Dhaka yesterday after his official visit to India.

During his visit, the army chief met Indian National Security Adviser Ajit Kumar Doval; Lt Gen Vinod G Khandare, military adviser to the Secretariat of the State Security Council in the Indian Prime Minister's Office; Defence Secretary Ajoy Kumar; Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat; Chief of the Army Staff of the Indian Army Manoj Mukund Naravane, and Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria.

The army chief inspected the 50th Indian Parachute Brigade 50 (Independent) in Agra, the Wargaming Development Centre, Defence Image Processing and Analysis Centre and the Indian National Defence College.

The Indian Parachute Brigade 50 (Independent) was the first to enter Dhaka through Tongi as a member of the allied forces during the Liberation War of 1971.

During his meeting with Lt Gen Vinod G Khandare, Shafiuddin discussed security issues.

On the last day of his visit, he paid homage to the National War Memorial where he looked at the inscribed names of those who sacrificed their lives for the allied forces in the 1971 Liberation War and paid tribute.

He was given a guard of honour when he reached the South Block.

Later, he met Chief of Indian Army Staff Manoj Mukund Naravane and Defence Secretary Ajoy Kumar.

The army chief called on Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria and Chief of Defense Staff General Bipin Rawat at their offices.

He later exchanged views with Indian National Security Adviser Ajit Kumar Doval at his office.

CORRECTION

In the photo and caption, provided by news agency AFP and published by The Daily Star on page 2 yesterday, the rank of the Bangladesh chief of army staff was incorrectly mentioned as "Lieutenant General". His rank is actually "General". We regret the error and apologise to our valued readers for any inconvenience it may have caused.

Vaccination centres' capacity limitation causing delays

Says DGHS about people getting texts late for Covid shots

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As the number of people who registered for Covid vaccine is much higher than the capacity of vaccination centres, people are receiving texts late, Nazmul Islam, spokesperson for the health directorate, said yesterday.

"We are trying to solve the issue, but the reality is a certain number of people can be inoculated daily in a centre. Otherwise, we have to make compromises with many things [including health safety]," Nazmul, also the line director (Disease Control) of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), said in an online briefing.

He said the DGHS is working to solve the issue as soon as possible.

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Tigers cruise

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Nasum registered his best bowling figure in T20Is, ending with four wickets at the cost of just 10 runs from four overs, two of which were maidens. Meanwhile, Mustafizur showed his class and took on the New Zealand lower order to finish with the figures of four for twelve from 3.3 overs.

Will Young top-scored with 46 off 48 balls while skipper Latham added 21 but none of the other New Zealand batsmen were able to reach double figures. Their 35-run third-wicket stand was the only notable performance from the Kiwis.

Nasum bowled brilliantly, starting off by removing Kiwi openers Rachin Ravindra and Finn Allen. The 26-year-old was on a hat-trick in the 12th over after he first bowled Henry Nicholls with a turning delivery coming into the left hander and followed it up with the wicket off Colin de Grandhomme, who gloved the ball to the keeper.

It was then Mustafizur magic in the latter stage of the innings as the left-arm pacer removed Tom Blundell and Cole McConchie in the same over.