

BANGLADESH
UPDATE



2,074
New cases in 24hrs



15,34,440
Total cases



27,007
Deaths



14,86,668
Recoveries

GLOBAL
UPDATE



46,56,489
Deaths



22,63,39,410
Total cases

Further improve probe quality

Says IGP as 3-day crime review meeting ends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspector General of Police Benazir Ahmed yesterday asked field-level police officials to further enhance the quality of the investigation into cases.

Mentioning that sometimes negligence is found in the supervision of the investigations, the IGP directed the field-level officers to be attentive to the probes and supervisions of cases.

The police chief made the directives in his closing remarks at the three-day crime review meeting at the Police Headquarters that was attended by superintendents of police in all districts, deputy inspector generals of all ranges and all metropolitan police commissioners.

Benazir warned that no police member would be spared if charges of corruption is proved.

“Under the clear direction of the prime minister, we are pledged bound to build a corruption-free police force for the welfare of the country and people,” he said.

No member of the police could have any connection with drugs, he said. “If anyone has any sort of association with drugs then he or she has to come out.”

He further said as a member of the

police none should be involved in any activity that harms the force, the country or the people.

Benazir also warned that no compromise would be made regarding maintaining the discipline of the force.

“If any police member breaks the discipline, exemplary actions have to be taken against him or her,” he said, adding that they were also trying their best to ensure the welfare of the members of the force.

He also asked the force members to refrain from inhumane behaviour with people. The IGP also said currently the number of cases has come down to half due to beat policing.

He asked to monitor social media regularly so that no citizen becomes a victim of cybercrime. He also asked for monitoring markets to check price hikes.

Benazir said the use of illegal weapons and illegal use of legal weapons must be stopped.

Mentioning about ongoing mega projects at different parts of Bangladesh where many foreign nationals are working, the IGP asked for ensuring their security.

On the first day of the meeting, the crime statistics of the January-March and April-June quarters were discussed.

Syria ‘bleak’ with violence upsurge, economic woes: UN

AFP, Geneva

The upsurge in violence in Syria, combined with its plummeting economy, is making life increasingly bleak for civilians, United Nations investigators said yesterday.

The UN Commission of Inquiry on Syria said war crimes were still

being committed and the increase in fighting was only adding to Syria’s woes and making it unsafe for refugees to return.

Syria’s war has killed an estimated 500,000 people and displaced millions since it started with the brutal suppression of anti-government protests in 2011.

PM reiterates

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of Jatiya Party lawmaker from the reserved seat for women Prof Masuda M Rashid Chowdhury yesterday, the PM said, “Two lawmakers passed away in the first two days of this parliament session and today [Monday] another parliamentarian died.”

Prof Masuda passed away early Monday while undergoing treatment at city’s Birdem hospital.

Hasina added, “All, including those who received vaccines, will have to follow the health guidelines properly, particularly during the period of the coronavirus pandemic.”

Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury moved the condolence motion to the 14th session of the 11th parliament. The motion was later adopted unanimously.

Yesterday’s session has been adjourned till 10:30am today after adoption of the obituary reference over the death of Prof Masuda to pay last respect to her as per the tradition.

Hasina said, “Masuda M Rashid Chowdhury could have contributed more to the society if she had been alive. Her death is a great loss to the society.”

2 judges say sorry

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Earlier on September 2, an HC bench ordered the two judges to send in their explanation within 10 days for taking the actor to police remand in three phases, which violates Supreme Court directives and guidelines.

An accused cannot be taken in police remand; he or she should be interrogated at the jail gate if necessary, according to the SC directives.

The accused person’s health must be examined by a registered doctor before and after interrogation and his or her lawyer and relatives must be allowed to be present during the interrogation.

But the lower court and police have not followed the apex court’s directives while placing Pori Moni on remand.

In the written explanation, the two said they had passed the order in good faith and in the presence of female police under the Supreme Court

directives.

The two lower court judges also prayed to the HC bench of Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam and Justice KM Zahid Sarwar Kajol to exonerate them from any proceedings, saying that they will remain more cautious during passing remand orders in future.

The HC bench is scheduled to hold a hearing on the matter today.

Golam Mostafa, the investigation officer (IO) of the case, has been asked to appear today 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.

On August 5, Pori Moni and her associate Ashrafur Islam Dipu were shown arrested in the case filed by the Rapid Action Battalion under the Narcotics Control Act.

Ban illegal news sites

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(BTRC) and Bangladesh Press Council have been asked to ban the portals in seven days after receiving the HC order.

The HC bench of Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Md Kamrul Hossain Mollah delivered the order while hearing a writ petition filed by Supreme Court lawyers Rasida Chowdhury Nilu and Zaren Rahman.

Rasida Chowdhury Nilu told The Daily Star that the HC bench ordered banning the operations of all unregistered online news portals except for 92 registered ones.

The unregistered news portals are harmful for the citizens of the country as they run defamatory reports assassinating character of people. They also publish similar comments and photographs, she said.

Following the same writ petition, the HC bench on August 16 issued a rule asking the respondents to explain why they should not be directed to formulate an ethical code of conduct for newspapers, form a broadcasting commission for the electronic media, and ban operation of all unregistered online news portals.

Information secretary, and chairpersons of BTRC and Bangladesh

Press Council were made respondents to the rule.

In the petition, lawyers Rasida Chowdhury Nilu and Zaren Rahman said the body of a 21-year-old college student was recovered from her rented flat on April 26 this year. Later, her family filed a case under section 360 of the Penal Code, 1860 for instigating or abetting suicide.

But some mainstream media organisations, particularly online news platforms, published the victim’s photograph without blurring it.

Some news portals posted numerous reports, suggesting that the victim was of “questionable character”, and due to the reports, the media have been flooded with comments that blame the victim.

BTRC and Bangladesh Press Council, however, have not taken any steps to stop their operation, said the petitioners.

They also stated in the petition that there are provisions under the Press Council Act, 1974 and National Broadcasting Policy, 2014 for formulating an ethical code of conduct and a broadcasting commission for the media, but those were not implemented.

Deputy Attorney General Nawroz MR Chowdhury represented the state during hearing of the petition yesterday.



A CNG-run auto-rickshaw being driven off the bridge on Dhaleshwari river in Tangail's Charabari area. The approach road to the bridge has been damaged by heavy rainfall, increasing risk of accidents for vehicles. The photo was taken on Monday.

PHOTO:
MIRZA SHAKIL

Jab registration only key

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registered for the vaccination. Of them, about 4.5 lakh students received the first dose and 90,000 got both doses, a top UGC official, who attended the meeting yesterday, told The Daily Star.

Some 1.31 lakh residential students of public universities have registered for the vaccine. Of them, 1.18 lakh took the first dose and 81,000 got both the shots.

About 90 to 95 percent of about 15,300 public university teachers have received both doses, said UGC officials.

Asked how all students would be vaccinated before October 15 given the current rate of registration, Prof Alamgir said the condition that all students need to be inoculated before that date was no longer in effect after the meeting.

“Now the universities can reopen after completing the registration of all their students before September 27 upon approval of their academic councils and syndicates,” he said.

“We don’t think vaccination of all students will be a challenge as health officials informed us that there are enough vaccines in their stock,” he added.

However, there have been frequent hiccups in the country’s regular mass inoculation campaigns mostly because of shortage of doses. About 4.14 crore people have registered and 2.03 crore of them are yet to get the first dose, according to data from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

At present, there are about 1.5

vaccine doses in government stock, the data shows.

THE MEETING

At the meeting, several VCs said many of their students could not register for not having NID cards.

An UGC member estimated that about 15 to 20 percent of all university students do not have the identification document.

Prof Alamgir said health officials at the meeting assured them that if universities provided them with lists containing names of such students, the students be allowed to do the registration using their birth certificates.

Sources said it was decided that UGC would open a web link within two days. Students without NID cards will have to register there and then the UGC would forward the lists to the health authorities.

After that, those students will be able to complete the registration using the government’s Surokkha app.

UGC acting secretary Ferdous Zaman said they would send a list of students to the health ministry soon through the education ministry.

At the meeting, there was also discussion on setting up vaccination booths at the medical centres of public universities to speed up the inoculation.

“After registration, students will be able to get vaccines at the university medical centres and the health directorate will give necessary technical support in this regard,” Ferdous said.

COMPLETE REGISTRATION: DIPU MONI

After yesterday’s meeting, Dipu Moni urged all university students to complete their registration by September 27.

“Students completing their registration will get the vaccine on a priority basis,” she said.

While talking to reporters after another meeting yesterday, the education minister said the government could not fix any reopening date for universities since they are autonomous bodies.

“We hope that the academic councils and syndicates of the universities will make a final decision keeping in mind the state of student’s vaccination and the infection rate,” she said.

The government on August 26 decided that students of all public and private universities will be inoculated against Covid-19 by September and the universities could start in-person classes in phases from October 15.

But on September 5 a discussion on reopening the universities surfaced again. That day, Education Minister Dipu Moni announced in-person classes in schools and colleges would resume in phases on September 12 and universities could reopen ahead of the scheduled date upon approval from their academic councils and syndicates.

The universities were closed on March 17 last year to curb the spread of Covid-19.

About 1.5 lakh students of medical, dental colleges and other health institutions went back to the classroom on Monday after taking both doses of the Covid vaccine.

Couriers in use to smuggle out forex

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“And this was the beginning,” Ahsan said.

By that time, some cartons of the consignment had already passed through the scanner machine.

Hasan Ali, a cargo supervisor of Best Kargo Kare, who came with the consignment for formalities, was interrogated and handed over to customs officials along with the currencies for the next step of action.

Hossain Mohammad Ershad, assistant revenue officer of Dhaka Customs House, filed a case with the Airport Police Station yesterday.

In the first information report, the custom mentioned that the Star Express line in their declaration gave the names of 23 individuals as senders of the goods.

Ershad brought a complaint against

all the 23 and Ali.

The Daily Star tried to communicate with the Star Express Line but all the phone numbers were found invalid. Even the company website does not contain any valid information and is full of spam links.

Rubel Albert, customer manager at Network International Courier Service, the receiver of the consignment in Singapore, told The Daily Star that they receive consignments from Star Express Line regularly.

He declined to give details of the contents of the consignments to the correspondent. He recommended communicating with Network International Courier Service through the law enforcement agencies for details.

Probed about the repeated incidents of narcotics and goods smuggling via cargo, Ahsan said

custom officials are assigned to check the cargo consignment before they are sent to the scanner at the HSIA for final checking.

“I think they [custom officials] should examine and check the contents of the cargo meticulously,” he added.

Customs officials generally check only 2-5 percent of the cargo consignments meant for export on a random basis, said a high official of Dhaka Custom House on condition of anonymity.

“We sent several letters to the respective authorities of the government so that one official of Dhaka Custom House can remain present during the security check at the airport. But the airport authorities are not paying heed to our appeal,” he said.

13.3 million at risk of displacement by 2050

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1.6 percent of the total population).

“This reflects the region’s high vulnerability to climate change impacts, particularly in coastal and deltaic areas facing sea-level rise and storm surges,” reads the report.

In the first Groundswell report, Bangladesh was projected to account for a third of the internal climate migrants in South Asia by 2050 in the pessimistic reference scenario, due to its growing population and high vulnerability to climate change.

Model results showed that in all scenarios, urban and coastal areas could see dampened growth as climate out-migration hotspots, as sea-levels rise, augmented by storm surges, would make them less liveable.

The report also said both flooding and crop failure increased migration by women, who have less secure access to land.

Migration from rural to urban areas has led to shifts in traditional gender roles and, in some contexts, to more empowerment and opportunities for women in their communities and households.

“At the same time, migrants, especially women, can be at risk of exploitation, including sexual exploitation, human trafficking, and violations of their rights. Climate risks can also make it more difficult for women to migrate, due to

structural issues.”

The report added that people may be unable to leave at-risk areas due to pandemic-related mobility restrictions. For example, evacuation plans in response to Cyclone Amphan, which affected Eastern India and Bangladesh in May 2020, were complicated due to the need to follow strict precautions to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

The report acknowledged Bangladesh’s Perspective Plan 2021–2041, saying that the factors in climate change as a driver of future for people living in the most vulnerable areas.

It also acknowledges the need for both incremental and transformational approaches to build resilience to climate change in key sectors, especially agriculture.

The Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100, adopted in September 2018, lays out a comprehensive strategy for managing risks, including those from climate change, in deltaic regions. The has also adopted a strategy to develop secondary cities and towns and make them hubs of innovation, providing new economic, education, and employment opportunities.

Juergen Voegele, the World Bank’s vice-president for sustainable development, said the data gives a “global estimate” of the scale of potential migration.

Without decisive action, there could

be “hotspots” of climate migration that “will emerge as soon as within the next decade and intensify by 2050, as people leave places that can no longer sustain them and go to areas that offer opportunity,” Voegele was quoted as saying in a report of AFP.

Citing WB, the AFP in its report said that researchers in 2018 released a report on the impact of climate change on migration in South Asia, Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa, and projected that 143 million people in those regions could be forced to move by 2050.

Breaking the data down by region, internal migrants due to climate change could hit 86 million in sub-Saharan Africa by 2050, 49 million in East Asia and the Pacific, 40 million in South Asia, 19 million in North Africa, 17 million in Latin America and five million in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, according to the WB report.

The updated estimate represents about three percent of the projected population of the regions covered.

“It’s important to note that this projection is not cast in stone,” Voegele said.

“If countries start now to reduce greenhouse gases, close development gaps, restore vital ecosystems and help people adapt, internal climate migration could be reduced by up to 80 percent -- to 44 million people by 2050.”

GOVT SERVICES

No plan to raise age limit now

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The authorities have no plan to increase the age limit for entering government services at the moment, said Farhad Hossain, state minister for public administration, yesterday.

He made the statement while responding to a question from BNP lawmaker Mosharraf Hossain at the parliament.

At present the age limit for entering a government job is 30 years; 32 for freedom fighters’ offspring.

Although there was a significant session jam at educational institutions, including universities, in the past, there’s no considerable session jam now, the state minister said.

Students generally sit for SSC at the age of 16 and HSC at 18, and they graduate at 23-24. Jobseekers get six to seven years to apply for government jobs after graduation, as the age limit for entering civil service is 30 years at present, he said.

“Moreover, we don’t count the extra time from applying for a job to joining, which is required for almost 2-3 years,” he said.

Jobseekers in the country have long been demanding to raise the age limit for entering government jobs to 35 years.

Farhad Hossain said they raised the age limit of retirement to 59 from 57 which decreased the number of vacant posts in government jobs. If they raise the age limit for entering in this circumstance, the number of jobseekers will increase at a massive rate.

“That would bring more competition among the jobseekers and create frustration among under-30 jobseekers, that’s why we have no plan to raise the age limit,” he added.

Responding to a question from the government-leaning MP Ali Azam, the state minister said Bangladesh Public Service Commission had recommended recruiting 35,603 cadres since 2010. In this period, PSC recommended 5,143 first-class non-cadre employees and 5,743 second-class employees.

The question-answer was tabled by Speaker Shirin Sharmin Choudhury.

In August, the public administration ministry proposed to the prime minister to relax the age limit by 21 months due to prolonged academic life caused by Covid-19 restrictions.

The Daily Star could not reach the minister over the phone as it was switched off.

Three madrasa girls missing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Three residential students of a madrasa in Jamalpur’s Islampur upazila have remained missing for the last two days.

The victims are Mim Akter, 9, Surya Bhanu, 10, and Monira Khatun, 11, all second graders of Darul Taqwa Mahila Qawmi Madrasa.

Police suspended all activities at the madrasa for an indefinite period and asked all 60 residential students of the institution to return home.

Mazedur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Islampur Police Station, said the girls went missing after saying their Fajr prayers on Sunday.

As the girls could not be traced, Mohammad Asaduzzaman, headmaster of the madrasa, lodged a general diary with the police station on Monday afternoon.

Police later detained the 48-year-old headmaster and three other teachers -- Rabeya Akter, 24, Shokria Akhter, 25, and Elias Hossain, 45 -- for quizzing yesterday morning, he added.

According to the police official, the law enforcers are conducting rescue drives to find the girls within the shortest possible time.

Tough talks begin to form new Norway govt

AFP, Oslo

A day after winning Norway’s general election, left-wing parties yesterday kicked off what are expected to be weeks of tough negotiations to form a government replacing the centre-right in power for eight years.

The Labour Party and its leader Jonas Gahr Store, in all likelihood the next prime minister, and his two preferred allies, the Centre and Socialist Left, won an absolute majority with 89 of 169 seats in parliament, according to preliminary election results.

Outgoing Conservative Prime Minister Erna Solberg acknowledged late Monday that her centre-right coalition had been defeated.

“In the next few days, I will invite the leaders of all the parties who want a new government to talks,” Store, who campaigned against social inequalities, said in his victory speech late Monday.

In addition to the Centre and Socialist Left, Store said he plans to meet with two other members of the current opposition, the Greens and the communist Red Party, who won three and eight seats respectively, according to the preliminary results.

The negotiations present numerous challenges.