

BANGLADESH
UPDATE



1,555
New cases in 24hrs



15,44,238
Total cases



27,251
Deaths



15,03,106
Recoveries

GLOBAL
UPDATE



4,709,217
Deaths



229,554,220
Total cases

Strictly implement Paris accord

Hasina asks global leaders at UN Headquarters

STAR REPORT

Renewing her call for strict implementation of the Paris Agreement, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has asked global leaders to take stronger steps urgently to address the planetary emergency of climate change.

She also placed six-point proposal before the global leaders as the COP-26 is just a few months away, reports UNB.

The PM was addressing a closed-door leaders' meeting on Climate Change, arranged for a small group of heads of state and governments, at the UN Headquarters yesterday.

The proposal includes strict implementation of the Paris Agreement to keep the global temperature rise below 1.5 degrees Celsius, realisation of annual \$100 billion climate fund from the developed countries, 50 percent of this fund should go to adaptation and resilience, especially to climate vulnerable countries.

The other proposals are: Forging new financial mechanisms and transfer of green technology to developing countries, addressing loss-and-damage issue, and displacement of large-scale population due to climate change and capacity building of CVF countries to tackle the double jeopardy of pandemic and disaster, particularly with the increased frequency of climate-induced disasters.

"Finally, we need a 'whole-of-the-world' approach to leave a sustainable future for our next generations," she said.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and UN Secretary-General António Guterres convened the meeting.

Hasina said climate vulnerable countries contribute the least to the



global green house gas emissions. "Yet, they are the worst victims of the impacts of climate change."

She mentioned that the recent IPCC report has provided a grim picture about their future. "If the global temperature goes above 1.5 degrees Celsius, they'll face permanent damages."

"The international community has a special responsibility to support these countries in their adaptation and mitigation efforts," the premier said.

Hasina said despite being a climate vulnerable country with resource constraints, Bangladesh has emerged as a global pioneer on adaptation and resilience.

She said Bangladesh has adopted the "Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan" focusing on green growth, resilient infrastructure and renewable energy.

"We're on our journey from climate vulnerability to climate resilience to climate prosperity [VRP]," the PM added.

Earlier, Hasina reached the USA to attend the 76th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

Bangladesh Ambassador to USA M Shahidul Islam and Bangladesh Permanent Representative to United Nations (UN) Ambassador Rabab Fatima received the premier at the airport around 5:40pm Sunday local time, Prime Minister's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim told BSS.

Foreign Minister Abdul Momen and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam, among others, are accompanying the prime minister.

Hasina will stay in New York until September 24 as part of an official visit to attend the UNGA and a number of high-level events there, reports BSS.

This is her first foreign tour after her Italy visit in February 2020.



Garbage dumped by locals near a bridge in Kamrangirchar area of Dhaka. Some of the waste hangs by the barbwires of a fencing put up to prevent people from falling into a nearby ditch. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO:
AMRAN HOSSAIN

Three killed as violence

FROM PAGE 1

Election Commission Secretary Humayun Kabir Khandakar in a press briefing said apart from some "untoward" incidents, yesterday's polls across the country were held in a peaceful manner.

"It is painful that two people died in clashes and that chase and counter chase took place. Other than these, the election was peaceful," he claimed.

Election Commission data shows that in 160 union parishads, 45 chairman candidates had already been elected uncontested. Out of the 45, 38 were in Bagherhat.

Three mayor candidates of nine municipalities, which went to polls yesterday, were also elected unopposed.

Voting in 204 unions were held on June 21 during the first part of the first phase of the UP polls, when 28 chairman candidates were elected unopposed. At least three people were killed and dozens others injured in violence that day.

POLLS VIOLENCE

Abul Kalam, 35, was killed and five others were injured in a gunfight between supporters of two chairman candidates in Kutubjam union of Maheshkhali, said Cox's Bazar Additional Superintendent of Police Rafiqul Islam.

The gun battle was fought by supporters of AL chairman candidate Sheikh Kamal and party rebel Mosharrar Hossain Khokon at Government Kutubjan Primary School around 9:00am, about an hour after the polls opened, police said.

The deceased was a supporter of Mosharrar, who is the incumbent chairman of the union, locals said.

Voting at two centres was suspended following the incident.

In another incident, Abu Halim, 40, was killed and three others were injured in police firing when supporters of AL candidate Abul Kalam tried to "capture" the Pilittaka Government Primary School centre in Sadar Borogup union in Kutubdia upazila, locals said.

Halim was the general secretary of AL Boroghup union unit, confirmed

Aurangzed Matubbar, president of Kutubdia upazila AL.

However, Md Omar Faruque, officer-in-charge of Kutubdia Police Station, said the victim died after supporters of the two chairman aspirants engaged in a clash.

Meanwhile, Rejaul Hasan, health officer of Kutubdia upazila, said some 40 people took treatment at hospitals following clashes in different unions of the upazila.

Another gunfight took place between supporters of two member candidates at Ali Asiya High School centre in Whykong union of Teknaf upazila around noon.

Polling at Unchirang Primary School and Lambasia Emdadia Madrasa centres was suspended after supporters of a member candidate stuffed ballots in the box.

In Chattogram's Sandwip upazila, several crude bombs exploded during a chase and counter chase between supporters of AL chairman candidate Mohammad Naushad and AL rebel Saiful Islam in Amanuallh union.

On information, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control, said Officer-in-Charge Basir Uddin of Sandwip Police Station.

In Mongla upazila of Bagerhat, Fatema Begum, 70, died in pre-election violence on Sunday night. The violence broke out as supporters of two member candidates of a ward of Chandpai union engaged in a clash, said locals.

Supporters of Matiar Rahman Moral and supporters of rival candidate Shafiqul Islam clashed around 10:00pm, they said.

Mongla Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Mohammad Monirul Islam confirmed the death. "The cause of Fatema's death was yet to be known, police were investigating the matter," he said.

Clashes were also reported in Morelganj and Sharanekhola upazilas of Bagerhat.

Two independent candidates Mohammad Abdul Awal of Shubhdia union parishad in the district's Fakirhat upazila and Masud Rana Lalon of

Dhophakhali union parishad in Kachua upazila boycotted the election.

In Barakpur union of Khulna's Dighalia upazila, there were clashes between supporters of two chairman candidates. Crude bomb blasts and exchange of fire were reported. The incident took place in front of Barakpur Uttarpara Government Primary School around 11:30am yesterday during the voting. Voting was temporarily stopped after the incident.

All the injured are supporters of independent candidate Sheikh Anshar Uddin.

OC of Dighalia Police Station Ahsan Ullah Chowdhury said the situation had turned "slightly heated", but they brought it under control.

In Noakhali, six election officials -- four at Jahajmara union and two at Char Ishwar union -- were detained as they were caught stamping seal on ballot papers.

The detained were assistant presiding officers Mahbubur Rahman and Belayet Hossain at Hatiya Model High School centre in Char Ishwar union, assistant presiding officers Afzar Ahmed, Siddik Ullah, polling officers Munni Begum and Farzana Akter at Hajee Mozammel Haq Government Primary School centre in Jahajmara union.

Hatiya Election Officer Jakir Hossain said the detainees were in police custody and a decision on them would be taken as per the order of the Election Commission.

Two Awami League candidates and three party rebel candidates in five UPs in Hatia upazila boycotted the election just before the voting opened in the morning.

The candidates included Zia Ali Mubarak Kallol, AL-nominated candidate of Hatiyar Burir Char Union ATM Sirajul Islam, AL candidate of Jahajmara Union Nurul Islam, AL rebel in Sonadia Union Mehraj Uddin, reports our Noakhali correspondent.

Meanwhile, Prof Pran Gopal Datta, former vice-chancellor of BSMMU, was announced elected unopposed in Cumilla-7 by-polls by Returning Officer and Regional Election Officer Dulal Talukder yesterday morning.

E-orange CEO, 2 ex-owners held

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The CEO of e-commerce site E-orange and two former owners of the company were recorded as arrested yesterday in a case filed over the embezzlement of around Tk 76.41 lakh.

This would be the third case in which E-orange CEO Aman Ullah Chowdhury and former owners Masukur Rahman and his wife Sonia Mehjabin have been arrested.

Aman has been in jail since August 18, a day after Masukur and his wife Sonia were sent to jail in connection with a different case filed over the embezzlement of around Tk 1,100 crore.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Rajesh Chowdhury passed the latest order after Sub-inspector Zakir Hossain of Gulshan Police Station sought permission to show them as arrested in the case, court sources said.

The case was filed on August 31 by a consumer named Ishtiaque Hossain Titu.

He accused suspended police inspector Sheikh Sohel Rana, known to be a patron of E-orange, his wife Naznin Nahar Bithi, and eight others of misappropriating Tk 76,41,102.

Sohel was caught by the Indian Border Security Force on September 3 while fleeing Bangladesh.

Creeping through the pandemic

FROM PAGE 1

year and July this year. The students' family members took them elsewhere and arranged their marriages.

"The guardians do not want to give us any information about the name of the marriage registers and where the marriages took place," he told The Daily Star.

Phulbari Upazila Secondary Education Officer Abdul Hai said he received a letter from the school authorities on the child marriages. He said they were working to collect information from all 73 educational institutions, including schools, colleges and madrasas, in the upazila about their students.

"Teachers have been instructed to raise awareness about child marriage by exchanging views with parents," he added.

Nasima Khatun, an 8th grader at Baravita Girls High School, said her parents had planned to marry her off

last year, but she opposed it. She said she came to know about the marriages of her classmates only after returning to the school.

Meher Ali, 48, guardian of a student from Baravita village, said he married off his ninth grader daughter as he had a "good marriage proposal" for her.

"The more a girl is educated, the more dowry it takes. That's why people from villages marry off their underage daughters," he said.

Phulbari Upazila Nirbahi Officer Sumon Das said he heard about the child marriages of 85 students of Baravita Girls High School.

"Child marriage has now become a disease in our society," he said.

The UNO said they have started working on how to prevent child marriage. Besides, work is underway to bring absentee students back to educational institutions, he added.

Adopt policies that work in Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 1

In the case of cybercrime, Facebook should collaborate from the point of responsibility to identify, bring charges and punish criminals.

The court recommended Facebook remove the option of opening multiple IDs anonymously in the name of the same person as that raises a cybersecurity risk.

There needs to be a security system too so that no one can download without permission photos and videos of women and children posted on Facebook.

The court also called for prompt action in detecting and removing content that might offend one's religious values.

It also requested Facebook to play a more effective role in preventing cyberbullying.

The observation came while the tribunal judge Ziaur Rahman was delivering a verdict against the accused Akter Hossain, 45, of Shingra of Natore district yesterday.

The tribunal convicted Hossain under section 57 of the Information and Communication Technology Act of 2006 for publishing fake, obscene and defamatory information and photographs of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on September 2, 2015.

The day after Hossain had posted the photo on Facebook, one Mokhesur Rahman filed a case with Singra police station against him.

On March 8, 2016, the police pressed the charges against Hossain. Two months later, the court transferred the case to the cyber tribunal.

The court heard out five of the nine prosecution witnesses and studied the pieces of evidence and came to the conclusion that the accusations against Hossain were proved beyond doubt.

Subsequently, Hossain was given seven years of rigorous imprisonment and fined Tk 1 lakh. If he fails to pay the fine, he would have to serve three more months of jail time, she said.

Krishak League leader shot dead in home

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A leader of Bangladesh Krishak League was shot dead in his house in Chakaria upazila of Cox's Bazar early yesterday.

The victim, Sarwar Kamal, 38, was the general secretary of Krishak League's Fasiakhali union unit, said Anisul Haque Chowdhury, senior vice-president of the organisation's district chapter.

On information, police recovered Sarwar's body from his residence around 3:00am, officer-in-charge of Chakaria Police Station Shaker Mohammad Zubaer said, adding that police were looking into the matter.

Mohammad Mohiuddin, member of ward-9 of the local Krishak League, said he went to Sarwar's house after getting a phone call from him.

Once there, he found Sarwar's bullet-hit body, Mohiuddin said.

Sarwar's wife was not at home during the incident, he added.

Question

FROM PAGE 1

the labs at the airport will start upon approval from the UAE authorities, he told journalists at the airport.

Earlier on Saturday, the CAAB chairman said Covid-19 testing at HSHA will begin within three to four days.

Several thousand Bangladeshi expatriates, including migrant workers and professionals, who got stuck at home amid the pandemic, have been demanding RT-PCR labs at international airports since the Gulf country last month withdrew ban on passenger flights from Bangladesh.

UAE-based expatriate Salahuddin, one of yesterday's demonstrators, told this newspaper that many of them were ready to fly to UAE.

"It's the question of our survival," he said, adding many of them have already booked air tickets and completed other necessary procedures but the only obstacle is the absence of RT-PCR labs at airports.

He urged the government to set up the test facilities without further delay.

UAE-based expatriate Mohiuddin Belal alleged the government's dillydally in setting up the testing facilities only augmented their sufferings.

He said when the government selected the seven institutions a few days ago, there was no mention of further requirement of UAE approval but such issue has emerged now.

The seven facilities are Stenz Healthcare (BD) Limited, Dhaka; CSBF Health Centre; AMZ Hospital Limited, Dhaka; Anwar Khan Modern Medical College Hospital, Dhaka; Zainul Haque Sikder Women's Medical College and Hospital (Pvt) Ltd, Dhaka; Gulshan Clinic Limited, Dhaka; and DMFR Molecular Lab and Diagnostic.

According to a letter issued by the expatriates' welfare ministry on September 15 says the seven healthcare facilities have been selected by the Directorate General of Health Services while CAAB has been tasked with allocating space for setting up the labs at the airport.

Evaly CEO

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arrested from his residence on Thursday along with his wife Shamima Nasrin, also the chairperson of Evaly.

The duo is in police custody on a three-day remand, which ended yesterday. They will be produced before a Dhaka court.

The arrest came in response to a case filed with the Gulshan police station by an aggrieved Evaly customer who had paid for an order amounting to Tk 3.1 lakh back in May but never received the goods.

Officials are still investigating the matter, and particularly if any amount was laundered.

Besides, a large sum of money was spent on promotion, Rassel had told investigators.

Md Asaduzzaman, deputy commissioner of Gulshan division of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), told The Daily Star that they have sought information about bank details and payment gateways to know the exact amount of Evaly's liabilities to customers.

Earlier, the Rapid Action Battalion, which made the arrests from the capital's Mohammadpur area, told media that the company's total liability was upwards of Tk 1,000 crore.

Investigators said they would look into the wealth and assets of the Evaly CEO, his wife and other members of their family at home and abroad.

Newton Das, assistant commissioner of DMP's Gulshan Zone, told The Daily Star that they interrogated Rassel and Nasrin separately. If needed, they would be taken to remand again.

In another development, Dhanmondi police have shown the duo arrested in a case filed by a seller over embezzlement of more than Tk 35 lakh. They then filed a prayer with a Dhaka court to place Rassel and Nasrin on a seven-day remand each.

Aminul Islam, inspector (investigation) of Gulshan Police Station, said although money laundering is not their concern of investigation, they are interrogating about it.

If they get any information, they would inform the matter to the Criminal Investigation Department of the police for further investigation, he said.

The inspector said they got a list of customers and merchants from Evaly's server and they would inform the matter to court.

identify all the usurious moneylenders across the country.

In the petition, he also requested the HC to issue a rule asking the respondents to show causes as to why the failure and inaction of the respondents to prevent informal moneylenders from lending money in the excessive interest rate should not be declared illegal.

Citing the petition, Suman told The Daily Star that high-interest informal moneylending businesses are going on at every village across the country in the name of co-operatives.

Many people also individually running such businesses even though they have no registration.

They provide loans on a high interest rate and collect weekly and monthly instalments, he said, adding that poor people are being hostage to the moneylenders and are becoming destitute.

A borrower reportedly has to give Tk 500 to Tk 1,000 as interest every week for a loan of Tk 10,000 and a moneylender collects Tk 2,000 to 2,500 per month against a loan of Tk 10,000, Suman said.

"Such moneylending business is running illegally before the local administrations in many places -- they need to be banned."

Lowest daily

FROM PAGE 1

On July 24 this year, the country recorded an all-time high positivity rate of 33 percent amid the spread of the more contagious Delta variant of the virus.

Since early August, the positivity rate has been declining steadily.

Meanwhile, 1,565 Covid patients have recovered in the 24-hour period, taking total recoveries to 15,03,106 -- more than 97 percent of all confirmed cases.

Of the deceased yesterday, 11 were male and 15 were female.