

BANGLADESH
UPDATE

645
New cases in 24hrs

15,61,463
Total cases

27,654
Deaths

15,22,591
Recoveries

GLOBAL
UPDATE

4,853,527
Deaths

237,835,220
Total cases

RESTRICTIONS ON HILSA FISHING

Mobile court comes under attack

52 fishermen jailed for ignoring ban

STAR REPORT

A mobile court came under attack by freshmen yesterday in Barishal while conducting drives to enforce the government's ban on hilsa fishing.

In another development, mobile courts in Munshiganj and Shariatpur sentenced 52 fishermen to jail for different terms for catching the fish during the 22-day ban.

The government imposed the ban from October 4 on catching, selling, hoarding, and transporting hilsa to allow hilsa breeding.

In Barishal, a mobile court led by Mehendiganj upazila nirbahi officer went to the Gazaria river to enforce the ban yesterday morning.

"We found many fishermen continuing hilsa fishing defying the ban. Our presence made them furious," said UNO Shahadat Hossain Masud.

"When our speedboat reached Sikder Bari Ghat area, the fishermen hit our speedboat by another fishing boat around 10:00am," he added.

Our speedboat partially sank and two Ansar members were injured, said Masud, adding that even the shotgun of an Ansar member drowned in the river.

Another nearby boat rushed to spot and rescued the UNO and the Ansar members. Later, the fire service members started searching for the shotgun, the UNO said.

Contacted, Shafiqul Islam, officer-

in-charge of Mehendiganj Police Station, said the process of filing a case against the attackers was underway.

In Shariatpur, a mobile court led by Raffey Mohammad Chhrha, executive magistrate and assistant commissioner (land) of Zajira upazila, sent 28 fishermen to jail for 21 days each for catching hilsa in the Padma after raiding different points in the upazila yesterday morning.

The drive began around 5:00am and continued for over three hours, said Mahbubur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Zajira Police Station.

Some fishermen have kept fishing at night to dodge the eyes of law enforcers, said the OC.

"We formed the mobile court in coordination of the district administration, fisheries department, police and Rab. Then, we conducted drives at different points in Palerchar, Baburchar, Kunderchar and Chirachar areas," said the executive magistrate.

The mobile court also seized around 30,000 metres of banned current net, 20kg hilsa and a trawler, he added.

A mobile court in Munshiganj sent 23 fishermen to jail for 15 days each and another one for 10 days for hilsa fishing in the Padma.

Mahmud Ashik Kabir, assistant commissioner (land) and executive magistrate, led the mobile court in Louhajang upazila.

[Our Barishal, Shariatpur and Munshiganj correspondents contributed to this report.]

Journo pair share Nobel

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"They are representatives of all journalists who stand up for this ideal in a world in which democracy and freedom of the press face increasingly adverse conditions," she said.

Ressa, 58, said the prize shows that "nothing is possible without facts," referring to the links between democracy and freedom of expression.

"A world without facts means a world without truth and trust," the outspoken critic of Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte told a livestreamed interview with Rappler.

She told Norwegian TV2 the honour would give her and her colleagues "tremendous energy to continue the fight."

Muratov defended his half of the prize to his newspaper's six journalists and contributors killed since 2000, who include the prominent investigative journalist Anna Politkovskaya.

"I can't take credit for this. This is Novaya Gazeta's," he was cited by Russian news agency TASS as saying.

The newspaper on Thursday commemorated 15 years since Politkovskaya's killing.

The Kremlin congratulated Muratov, with President Vladimir Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov telling reporters: "He is talented. He is courageous."

Ressa and Rappler, which she co-founded in 2012 and still heads, have faced multiple criminal charges and investigations after publishing stories critical of Duterte's policies, including his bloody drug war.

The former CNN correspondent is on bail pending an appeal against a conviction last year in a cyber libel case, for which she faces up to six years in prison.

The chairwoman of the Norwegian Nobel Committee said Rappler has "focused critical attention on the Duterte regime's controversial, murderous anti-drug campaign."

"The number of deaths is so high that the campaign resembles a war waged against the country's own population," Reiss-Andersen added.

Ressa and Rappler have also documented how social media is being used to spread fake news, harass opponents and manipulate public discourse.

Time magazine named her a Person of the Year in 2018.

Muratov, 59, has defended freedom of speech in Russia for decades, under

increasingly challenging conditions.

In 1993, he was a founder of Novaya Gazeta, which has a "fundamentally critical attitude towards power" the committee said. He has been its editor-in-chief since 1995.

Novaya Gazeta's opponents have responded with harassment, threats, violence and murder.

"Despite the killings and threats, editor-in-chief Muratov has refused to abandon the newspaper's independent policy," Reiss-Andersen said.

"He has consistently defended the right of journalists to write anything they want about whatever they want, as long as they comply with the professional and ethical standards of journalism."

24 JOURNALISTS KILLED IN 2021
Free, independent and fact-based journalism helps protect against abuse of power, lies and war propaganda, Reiss-Andersen said.

According to the latest rankings by Reporters Without Borders (RSF), the situation for press freedom is "difficult or very serious" in 73 percent of the 180 countries it evaluated, and "good or satisfactory" in only 27 percent.

According to RSF, 24 journalists have been killed since the beginning of the year, and 350 others are imprisoned.

From the murder of Saudi reporter Jamal Khashoggi in 2018 to the shutting of the pro-democracy Apple Daily in Hong Kong earlier this year, attempts to stifle the media abound.

Against that background, media watchdogs had been tipped as contenders for the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize ahead of yesterday's announcement.

Last year, the honour went to the UN's humanitarian agency fighting famine, the World Food Programme.

The award's image has been hit hard over the past years as one of its previous laureates, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, became embroiled in a war.

Another, Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi, was accused of defending the massacre of members of the Rohingya minority.

The prize consists of a diploma, a gold medal and a cheque for 10 million kronor (980,000 euros, \$1.1 million).

The Nobel season wraps up on Monday with the announcement of the Economics Prize.

Tunnel of hope

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Karnaphuli, said, "We have completed the boring on Thursday afternoon. Now we are concentrating on the rest of the work."

The Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Tunnel is the first underwater tunnel in South Asia.

It is being constructed by China Communication Construction Company Ltd.

According to the monthly progress report of the project, the work on 5.35km of approach road, construction of road inside the tunnel, and installation of utility lines are yet to be completed.

Over 360 acres of land have been acquired for it and the process of acquiring another 20 acres is

underway, the report also said.

In November 2015, the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne) approved the much-hyped multi-lane road tunnel project involving Tk 8,446.64 crore. The cost later rose to Tk 10,374.42 crores.

The Exim Bank of China is giving Tk 5,913.19 crore at an interest rate of 2 percent, while the Bangladesh government is providing the rest.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a rally at Laldighi, Chattogram, spoke of constructing the tunnel before the 2008 national election.

The tunnel will play an important role in improving the Asian Highway Network, strengthening connectivity between Bangladesh and neighbouring countries.



Vehicles queue up at Daulatdia Ferry Ghat in Rajbari's Goalanda upazila yesterday. Hundreds of vehicles were seen stuck at ferry ghats on the Paturia-Daulatdia route throughout the day on the weekend as more people hit the road ahead of Durga Puja next week. Over 500 vehicles were waiting to board ferries at Daulatdia ghat around 12:30pm.

PHOTO: STAR

Blast kills 55

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trying to prevent gatherings in case another explosion is planned," he said.

Graphic images shared on social media, which could not immediately be verified, showed several bloodied bodies lying on the floor. Pictures showed plumes of smoke rising into the air over Kunduz.

A female teacher in Kunduz told AFP the blast happened near her house, and several of her neighbours were killed. "It was a very terrifying incident," she said.

"Many of our neighbours have been killed and wounded. A 16-year-old neighbour was killed. They couldn't find half of his body. Another neighbour who was 24 was killed as well."

Aminullah, an eyewitness whose brother was at the mosque, told AFP: "After I heard the explosion, I called my brother but he did not

pick up.

"I walked towards the mosque and found my brother wounded and faint. We immediately took him to the MSF hospital."

Kunduz's location makes it a key transit point for economic and trade exchanges with Tajikistan.

It was the scene of fierce battles as the Taliban fought their way back into power this year.

Often targeted by Sunni extremists who view them as heretics, Shia Muslims have suffered some of Afghanistan's most violent assaults, with rallies bombed, hospitals targeted and commuters ambushed.

Shias make up roughly 20 percent of the Afghan population. Many of them are Hazara, an ethnic group that has been heavily persecuted in Afghanistan for decades.

In October 2017, an IS suicide attacker struck a Shia mosque as worshippers gathered for evening

prayers in the west of Kabul, killing 56 people and wounding 55 including women and children.

And in May this year, a series of bombings outside a school in the capital killed at least 85 people -- mostly young girls. More than 300 were wounded in this attack on the Hazara community.

The United Nations in Afghanistan said it was "deeply concerned by reports of very high casualties" in yesterday's attack, calling it a "part of a disturbing pattern of violence".

UN refugee chief Filippo Grandi told reporters in Geneva the blast was "the symptom that the implosion (of Afghanistan) may also translate into renewed insecurity."

This, he said, means "more people killed, more terrorist attacks, more instability. And that is also something that we should all be worried about".



Afghan men carry the body of a victim to an ambulance after a bomb attack at a mosque in Kunduz, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Trump tries to block testimony on January 6 uprising: media

AFP, Washington

Former president Donald Trump has told four former senior aides not to comply with a congressional probe into the January 6 attack on Congress, US media reported Thursday.

Politico and The Washington Post both reported that ex-advisors Mark Meadows, Kash Patel, Dan Scavino and Steve Bannon were told not to cooperate with the formal House investigation into the riot by Trump supporters, which critics have labelled an outright insurrection.

The reports came hours after the release of a damning Senate report detailing Trump's efforts to subvert the Justice Department and overturn his November election loss to Joe Biden.

Trump's lawyers argued in a letter to

the four that his communications and records are protected from disclosure by executive privilege and attorney-client privilege.

The Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack has called the four ex-advisors, and other people involved in the unrest, to help it piece together the ties between Trump's White House and the hundreds of Trump backers who forced their way into the Congress, halting a joint session meant to confirm Biden as president.

At the time Meadows was White House chief of staff; Scavino handled social media for Trump; Bannon was a former political strategist who remained active in Republican operations; and Patel was a White House national security advisor whom Trump named to a senior Pentagon

job following his election loss.

The four were ordered by the January 6 committee to hand over documents and appear for interviews with investigators next week.

Legal experts have raised doubts that Trump can claim executive privilege over his actions in his final weeks in office to prevent his aides from talking.

But the issue has not been tested much in courts and the White House has said it would waive privilege on Trump's records to an extent in order to help with the probe.

And Trump's defiance could force the committee into legal fights that could stretch out the investigation.

"The former president is still trying to stonewall subpoenas," said committee member Adam Schiff in a tweeted statement.

No party ticket for rebels

Warns Quader

BSS, Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader has said those who contested elections defying the party's command will not be nominated for any polls, both now and in future.

"Punitive actions will also be taken against those who will send or have sent names of aspirant candidates to the centre for polls by committing irregularities," he said at a press briefing at his official residence in the capital yesterday.

Quader, also road transport and bridges minister, said AL men who become rebel candidates this time will not get any post or party nominations in future.

About BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir's comment that plans were underway to turn Bangladesh into a "subservient" state, he said people know it very well which party wants to see the country as a "subservient" state.

Those who frequently lodge complaints with foreigners, wait at the closed door of foreign embassies with flowers and sweets, want foreign interventions in the country's internal issues, want to see Bangladesh as a "subservient" state, he added.

Refuting the BNP's allegation that the government wants to enforce a one-party governing system, Quader said BNP has representatives in parliament.

"Then how can it be a one-party rule?" he questioned.

UK recognises

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home or where they are staying and should undergo a Day 2 and Day 8 Covid test.

On September 17, Bangladesh was removed from the UK government's travel red list, which came into effect at 4:00am on September 22.

Meanwhile, Bahrain has decided to remove Bangladesh from red list countries starting from October 10, said the foreign minister.

He said every day hundreds of Bangladeshis who returned from Bahrain ask when Bahrain would open up. "Today we have good news."

Univ teacher

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and fled, said the OC.

The injured teacher was later taken to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital and then to a hospital in Dhaka.

UN warns of consequences if Afghanistan aid delayed

AFP, Geneva

Only a third of the funds urgently sought for Afghanistan by the United Nations have been disbursed, the UN refugees chief said yesterday, warning of a potential humanitarian catastrophe.

Filippo Grandi urged donor nations to honour their financial pledges swiftly, saying: "can you please concretely pledge support where it is immediately necessary".