

BANGLADESH UPDATE



339

New cases in 24hrs



15,65,827

Total cases



27,778

Deaths



15,28,371

Recoveries

GLOBAL UPDATE



4,917,084

Deaths



241,630,312

Total cases

AL to hold nationwide 'harmony rallies' today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League yesterday announced that it will hold 'harmony rallies' and bring out peace processions across the country today against the recent communal violence.

AL and its associated bodies will arrange the protests at all districts, cities and upazilas, said a press release from the party last night.

As part of the programme, the central AL will bring out a procession from the party's central office on Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital at 11:00am.

Besides, party leaders will visit

various areas which came under communal attacks recently.

AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader announced the programme after an emergency meeting at the party president's political office in Dhanmondi last evening.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, also president of the AL, joined the meeting virtually.

During the meeting, the prime minister asked all leaders and activists of the party to resist communal forces. She also called up the people of the country to maintain communal harmony at any cost, said the release.

We demand answer from admin

FROM PAGE 1

the recent Durga Puja celebrations.

The demonstrators demanded highest punishment of the attackers.

The spate of atrocities on the Hindus started on October 13 in Cumilla after word spread that the "Holy Quran was demeaned".

Subsequently, in phases, the violence spread to other districts including Chandpur, Noakhali, Kishoreganj, Chattogram, Feni and Rangpur.

Attacks were launched on at least 70 Hindu temples across the country, reported BBC Bangla quoting Bangladesh Hindu-Buddha Christian Oikya Parishad.

At least six people have died as a result of the violence, BBC added.

In Dhaka, several thousand people blocked the Shahbagh intersection for around three hours since 11:45am yesterday.

They carried placards and chanted different anti-communal slogans.

Joydeep Datta, a Dhaka University student of linguistics department, placed a seven-point demand in the protest programme.

The demands include highest punishment of the attackers, renovation of the affected temples, establishing a separate ministry or commission for the minorities and compensation for the looted shops and houses of Hindus.

A five-member representative of the protesters went to the Prime Minister's Office to place a memorandum with the demands.

Around 2:30pm, the protesters withdrew their blockade setting a 24-hour ultimatum to fulfil their demands.

"If the government doesn't fulfil the demands, we will block the Shahbagh intersection again and continue our protest," said Joydeep.

"We want exemplary punishment for those involved in these attacks," demanded Prof Mihir Lal Saha, provost of DU's Jagannath Hall, during the protest.

In a separate programme yesterday evening, the Progressive Student Alliance staged a demonstration in front of the National Museum and demanded punishment of the attackers, ensuring safety of minorities and resignation of the home minister for "his failure to provide security to minorities".

Separately, Chhatra Odhikar Parishad brought out a torch procession from TSC to the Central Shaheed Minar in the evening, voicing similar demands.

In Chattogram, different organisations staged protest programmes demanding arrest and exemplary punishment of the attackers. Chattogram Mahanagar Puja Uddjan Parishad formed a human chain in front of Chattogram Press Club.

"If the attacks are not stopped, we would be compelled to declare tougher programmes," said Ashish Bhattacharjee, president of the parishad's city unit.

Chattogramer Sarbasthorer Nagarik Samaj organised a protest rally at Cheragi intersection in the afternoon, where eminent academicians, poets and other dignitaries spoke.

In Cumilla, a 20-member delegation of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) yesterday visited puja mandaps of Nanua Dighir Par area, which came under attack on October 13.

In Tangail, several hundred people of the Hindu community formed a human chain and staged demonstration in front of the Tangail Press Club and Shaheed Minar in the morning.

At Rajshahi University, several hundred students and teachers formed a human chain at the university's Paris Road.

In Munshiganj, a human chain and protest rally was held in front of International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) temple at noon.

In Narayanganj, hundreds of people under the banner of ISKCON and Sree Sree Radhagovinda Temple brought out processions and marched through different streets.

At Chittagong University, an associate professor of the Department of Geography and Environment department, Md Atikur Rahman staged a solo protest for one hour from 10:00am in front of the Joy Bangla sculpture.

In Lalmonirhat, several thousand people staged a demonstration and brought out a protest procession in the town. ISKCON organised the programme.

[Our correspondents from different districts contributed to the report]



Hindus of a village in Rangpur break down in tears after religious zealots torched their houses and looted cash and valuables. Losing their homes in the attacks, 66 families in Boro Karimpur village of the district's Pirganj upazila are now living under the open sky. The perpetrators also vandalised two shops and two temples in the area.

PHOTO: COLLECTED/ KONGKON KARMAKER



When fear is all they feel

FROM PAGE 1

Angry mobs poured inflammable fuel on the huts and rickety shacks of the Hindu fishermen and set them on fire. Houses were torn down. Whatever valuables the poor families had in their shacks were either looted or burnt, terrified locals told this correspondent.

The zealots were after ensuring "punishment" for the Facebook post made, according to locals, by an 18-year-old man.

The families, many with newborns and toddlers, stood in nearby cropland and farms and watched the fires light up the night sky. Some fled the area.

The mobs continued the rampage for almost five hours, leaving 25 huts burnt to the ground, and 45 others damaged, administration officials said. Most of the victims are still living under the open sky.

Meanwhile, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal yesterday said perpetrators of the attacks have been identified and some of them arrested, reports BSS.

They will face tough punishment, the minister added.

Around 9:30pm yesterday, a team of police from Rangpur arrested a man in Joypurhat on charges of making the Facebook post, said Muhammad Kamruzzaman, assistant superintendent of police in Rangpur.

Police have accused him of hurting religious sentiment in a case filed under the Digital Security Act. Locals said the accused was 18 years old.

Forty-two suspects were arrested in another case filed over the attacks on the villages, he added.

At the ruined village yesterday, Subarta Chandra Sarker, who was

standing in front of what was his home a day ago, asked, "They tore down my entire house and looted all the valuables. What have I done?"

Sarker said he kept Tk 52,000 in cash at his home and it was looted.

About 180 fishermen and their families lived in Boro Karimpur village.

According to locals, tensions started rising in the afternoon after word spread that a Hindu person demeaned Islam on Facebook.

The angry mobs started gathering near Hatibandha village in the evening. To quell the tension, about 5-10 policemen arrived. Sadek Hossain, chairman of Ramnathpur union parishad, also came to the spot and tried to calm the mob.

The police cordoned off the young man's house to avert any attack.

The zealots were demanding that the man be handed to them. While the policemen and the chairman were trying to appease them, the man and his family members managed to flee the area.

But the situation got out of hand between 7:00pm and 8:00pm when loudspeakers at three mosques in Hatibandha, Boterhat and Karimpur were used to urge people to get into the act, locals said.

"They attacked the village after 8:30pm," said Monindra Chandra Sarker of Boro Karimpur.

"There were thousands of them. Many of them wielded sticks and sharp weapons. We hid at a nearby paddy field when they were vandalising our house and looting valuables," said Monindra, adding that attackers took away his cow and a goat.

Administration officials said the

zealots vandalised at least 70 shanties.

Twenty-five of them were burnt to ashes. Two shops and two temples were also set on fire. Valuables were stolen from every house. Eighteen cows, eight goats, two electric rickshaws, two motorcycles, and Tk 5 lakh in cash were stolen.

During a visit yesterday, this correspondent found a puja mandap, Radha Gobinda Temple and Monosha Temple burnt.

Some victims said valuable documents of their land ownership, national ID cards, books and certificates of the students were also burnt.

Additional police forces from Rangpur, Ghoraghat, Gaibandha and Mithapukur were brought to the spot and they took control of the situation around 3:30am.

Police fired rubber bullets and used teargas shells to disperse the attackers, most of whom were young, witnesses said.

Abdul Wahab Bhuiyan, divisional commissioner of Rangpur; Devdas Bhattacharyya, DIG of Rangpur range police, arrived at the village yesterday morning and urged the villagers not to panic. Officials handed out food, 100 bundles of corrugated tins and clothes among the villagers.

The mayhem in Rangpur was the latest in a series of attacks targeting Hindu communities, starting in Cumilla on 13 October and gradually spreading to 10 districts.

In different districts, around 450 individuals were detained in at least 71 cases filed over the violence and attack on temples and houses of Hindu people, said a press release from the Police Headquarters last night.

BCL FACTIONAL CLASHES Chittagong Univ expels 12 students

A CORRESPONDENT, CU

Chittagong University has temporarily expelled 12 students over some recent clashes on the campus between two Bangladesh Chhatra League factions.

The 12 are involved in BCL politics, said sources.

The declaration came late on Sunday night after a meeting of the university's board of residence, health and disciplinary committee.

CU Proctor Robiul Hasan Bhuiyan confirmed this to The Daily Star yesterday.

"We have made the decision after analysing information provided by police and CCTV footage of clashes," he said.

Robiul said the decision came into force yesterday.

The expelled students are known as members of CU BCL factions known as "Sixty-nine" and "CFC".

Among the expelled students are: Akib Javed of statistics department, Khaled Masud of law, Saiful Islam of Bangla, Md Naim of Institute of Modern Language, Junayed Hossain Joy of history, Forhad of economics, Ohiduzzaman Sarkar of public administration, Ariful Islam of sociology, Touhid Islam of Arabic, Tanzil Islam of computer science and engineering department. They have been expelled for 6 months each.

Besides, Mirza Kabir Sadaf of law department and Ashrafal Alam Naim of chemistry have been expelled for one year each.

On Friday, members of "Choose Friends with Care" (CFC) beat up Shihab Arman, a member of "Sixty-nine" group, said campus sources.

Later, the two groups clashed and chased each other on the campus several times in the last few days.

The two BCL factions are known as supporters of two Chattogram Awami League leaders -- a deputy minister and a former city mayor.

UNRC calls for end to attack

FROM PAGE 1

be ensured amid ongoing violence.

Its South Asia campaigner, Saad Hammadi, said, "Reports of a spate of attacks by angry mobs against members of the Hindu community, their homes, temples and Puja pandals during the country's biggest Hindu festival are symptomatic of the growing anti-minority sentiment in the country."

Such repeated attacks against individuals, communal violence, and destruction of the homes and places of worship of minorities in Bangladesh over the years show that the state has failed in its duty to protect minorities, he also said.

"Targeting religious sensitivities to stoke communal tension is a serious human rights violation and requires immediate and decisive action from the government to address the situation of minorities in the country."

"We urge the authorities to take urgent steps to protect the members of the minority community against such attacks and ensure access to justice and effective remedies for victims. The authorities must promptly, thoroughly, impartially and transparently investigate the incidents and bring those suspected to be responsible for the violence and vandalism to account through fair trials."

Do-or-die for Tigers

FROM PAGE 1

Apart from the opening slots, Bangladesh will also need to work on their overall batting approach, which was too defensive, thanks to playing on slow and low Mirpur surfaces ahead of the mega event.

The pitch at the Al Amerat Stadium has been sporting so far and the relatively small ground needs to be utilised by the batters and the percentage of dot balls needs to be minimised if the batters want to come up with a positive intent.

Shakib Al Hasan and Mushfiqur Rahim struggled during their re-building job as both batsmen faced too many deliveries in the middle overs, making things even tougher for Mahmudullah for the late launch while chasing a rather modest target of 141 runs.

Hosts Oman, on the other hand, will certainly be a lot more confident after their comprehensive 10-wicket win over Papua New Guinea in a 130-run chase. Needless to say that the challenge for Oman, too, will be tougher when they take on the Tigers who will be desperate to remain in the hunt for the super 12 stage.

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Remain alert against 1975

FROM PAGE 1

58th birthday of Sheikh Russel.

She joined the event, held at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, through videoconferencing from the Gono Bhaban.

Hasina said Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had enacted a law in 1974 to ensure security of the children. "How unfortunate it was that his children had to die at the hands of killers?"

She said the killers brutally murdered Russel on August 15, 1975 after killing his father, mother, brothers, and uncle as he wanted to go to his mother.

"Why was the baby killed? What was his crime? What was the crime of others? Was liberating the country a crime?" the PM questioned.

She said her government has been trying to ensure that no such incidents occur in future.

Describing the children as "the future", Hasina said, "I want everyone to perform their duties accordingly to give the children security, love and a beautiful and meaningful life."

She called upon the children to pay attention to studies as nothing is as worthy as education.

"I just want to say to the children that do your studies giving attention to it because education is the most valuable asset which will never be lost, stolen or snatched away."

She urged the guardians to encourage their children to study and take part in sports, cultural programmes and other extracurricular activities.

Recalling the mayhem after the October 2001 general elections, Hasina also the Awami League president, said the BNP-Jamaat alliance had committed genocide like the one carried out by Pakistan occupation forces during the Liberation War in 1971.

The alliance killed and tortured many AL leaders and activists and even didn't spare children, she said.

The premier said the AL government has been trying relentlessly to give the people an improved life by ensuring every fundamental right, turning Bangladesh into a developed and prosperous country as envisioned by the Father of the Nation.

She greeted the winners of various competitions and distributed "Sheikh Russel Gold Medal" among 10 children in five categories -- education, sports, science and technology, fine arts-literature-culture, and children with special needs -- for their outstanding contribution to the respective fields.

Besides, laptops were distributed among 4,000 freelancers under the Learning and Earning Development Projects (LEDP) for their outstanding performance.

State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak presided over the function, organised by Sheikh Russel Jatiya Shishu-Kishore Parishad.

Hasina unveiled the cover of two books -- "Sheikh Russel Jhore Jawa Phul" and "Sheikh Russel Deepta Joyullas, Adommo Attabishaws".

Sheikh Russel was born on October 18, 1964 at the historic Bangabandhu Bhaban on Dhanmondi road-32 in the capital.

Abul Khair Carrier Limited

13, Dilkusha C/A
Dhaka

Tender Notice

1) Application of tender are invited from the bona-fide Local/International Salvaging firms for the salvage and removal of wreck of M.V.TITU-51 with the following terms and conditions:

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| a) Invitation of Tender (Ref. No.) | : AKCL/Tender/2021/02 dated 18th October 2021 |
| b) Scope of Work | : Salvage and removal of wreck of M.V.TITU-51 to entire satisfaction of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority and require a certificate of completion of works issued by BIWTA to the owner. |
| c) Location of Sunk | : At position 22° 53' 32N Latitude and 090° 39' 21E Longitude, at Shewra Becon, Mahandigonj, Barisal |
| d) Start of sale of Tender Schedule | : October 20, 2021 at 10.00 hrs |
| e) Last date of selling tender form | : November 03, 2021 at 12.00 hrs. |
| f) Date of dropping and opening tender | : November 04, 2021 at 12.00 hrs. |
| g) Currency | : Local (BDT) |
| h) Price of tender form | : BDT. 5,000.00 (Non refundable) |

2) Tender forms are available at Abul Khair Carrier Limited 13, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka or Abul Khair Group, D.T.Road, Pahartali, Chattogram.

3) Name of contact persons: Manager, River Transport Department, Abul Khair Carrier Limited 13, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka or Abul Khair Group, D.T.Road, Pahartali, Chattogram.

4) Tender Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without any reason thereof.

Manager
River Transport Department
Abul Khair Carrier Limited
13, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka
or
Abul Khair Group
D.T.Road, Pahartali
Chattogram