

BANGLADESH  
UPDATE



289  
New cases in 24hrs



15,67,981  
Total cases



27,828  
Deaths



15,31,740  
Recoveries

GLOBAL  
UPDATE



4,966,932  
Deaths



244,585,102  
Total cases

ELIMINATING HUNGER, ILLITERACY

# South Asian nations should work together

PM tells new Pakistan envoy

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said South Asian nations should work together to eliminate hunger and illiteracy for the wellbeing of the people of this region.

She said this when newly appointed Pakistani High Commissioner to Bangladesh Imran Ahmed Siddiqui met her at the Gono Bhavan.

PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim briefed reporters after the meeting.

The premier said the cardinal principle of Bangladesh's foreign policy, enunciated by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, is "Friendship to all, malice to none".

During the meeting, the high commissioner said Pakistan wants to promote relations with Bangladesh. He presented an original copy of Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's message.

He also presented a photo album, the photo of the painting and video footage of Bangabandhu's visit to Pakistan as the prime minister of Bangladesh.



Bangabandhu attended the OIC Summit held in Lahore, Pakistan, on February 24, 1974.

The PM thanked the envoy for handing over the historic souvenir related to the memories of Bangabandhu.

She appreciated the publication of the calligraphy book in Bangla by Pakistan on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of Bangladesh's independence.

Ambassador-at-Large Mohammad Ziauddin and Principal Secretary Ahmad Kaikaus were present.

NOT PROVIDING NEW GAS LINKS

# HC questions legality of govt decision

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday issued a rule questioning why the government's decision to not provide new gas connections in residential areas should not be declared illegal.

It also asked why returning the money instead of giving connections and the government's inactivity to provide them should not be declared illegal.

The HC bench of Justices M Enayetullah and Md Mostafizur Rahman issued the rule during a hearing on a writ petition filed in this regard.

The bench asked the senior secretary of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry, Petrobangla chairman, managing directors of Titas, Kamaphuli and Bakhrabad Gas to reply to the rule within the next four weeks.

Lawyers Md Wazi Ullah, Azim Uddin Patwary and Afroza Sultana appeared for the petitioners at the hearing while Deputy Attorney General Bipul Bagmar appeared for the state.

On April 27, in the monthly coordination meeting of the Energy and Mineral Resources Division of the ministry, a decision was taken to return money, after cross-checking through demand notes, to those who had paid.

On October 4, Alamgir Nur, president of Chattogram Gas, Electricity and Water Consumer Unity, AKM Waliullah Haque, its secretary general, and consumer MD Nurul Alam filed a writ petition challenging the decision.

Wazi Ullah said, according to the law, the government is obligated to provide gas connections within a fixed amount of time if the money has been paid through a demand note.

"Even after the stipulated time had passed, the consumers didn't get a connection and instead, a decision was taken to return the money, which is illegal."

The HC in its rule yesterday also questioned why directions to give provide connections to the petitioners should not be given, he said.

# Cowering in fear, still

FROM PAGE 1

Noni Gopal Das said most of the villagers earn their livelihoods by fishing in the nearby Akhira river.

"Fishing is how most of the people feed their families. But now, even eight days since the attack, fishermen are too afraid to get out of home for work."

Sujan Chandra Das ran his own small shop until it was burned down by mobs on the night of the violence.

"All my valuables, including a recently bought refrigerator, were reduced to ashes. Nothing could be salvaged. I don't know when I will be able to restart my shop... I have reached a point where I get scared anytime I see a stranger."

Against this backdrop, the government and many non-government organisations have undertaken initiatives to provide relief and rehabilitate the affected families. Additional law enforcers have also been regularly patrolling the village to ensure security.

Meanwhile, Brac has taken up the task of providing mental health-related services to the villagers.

Speaking to The Daily Star on Thursday, Ashrafur Islam, manager of Rangpur Brac, said they identified 36 children of the Hindu community who were severely traumatised after the

brutal attack.

"Brac has taken up a month-long programme to help heal the children from mental shock. Besides, a female psychiatric team has already started working at the village."

A total of 25 such psychiatric teams are currently working there.

Nupur Jahan, a member of one of the teams, said the incident left villagers heavily disturbed, especially children and the elderly. Many children had to be gagged by their parents so that they wouldn't make noise while hiding during the attack, leaving them in a state of prolonged trauma.

"It would take time to get rid of the shock."

Suresh Kumar, officer-in-charge of Pirganj Police Station, said all kinds of steps are being taken to ensure the security of the Hindu community.

"Around 64 people involved in the violence, including the mastermind, have been arrested by law enforcers... I urge everyone not to panic."

On October 17, a large number of zealots attacked the Majhipara neighbourhood in Boro Karimpur village and carried out arson attacks, vandalism and looting in at least 21 house, two shops and a temple.

# 'Aide' to Cumilla mayor involved

FROM PAGE 1

The Daily Star that a team of police accompanied by Iqbal found the mace that the latter threw away when he placed the Quran at the puja mandap.

It was found in a bush just a few hundred yards from the puja mandap.

Iqbal told officers that he first threw it in water. "But it was floating. So, he took it back and tossed it into a nearby bush."

BNP, JAMAAT LEADERS ARRESTED IN NOAKHALI

A local Jamaat and a Swedhasebok Dal leader are among the 11 people police arrested yesterday over the arson attacks and vandalism in Noakhali on October 15.

They were arrested in an overnight raid in Chatkhill and Senbag upazilas.

Cases will be filed against them under the Digital Security Act for uploading videos and making posts on social media that instigated the mayhem.

Shahidul Islam, superintendent of police in Noakhali, told a press briefing that Harunur Rashid, 48, a Jamaat leader and former chairman of Bijibagh Union Parishad; Md Raihan, 38, assistant organising secretary of Noakhali Jubo Dal; and Foisal Bari Chowdhury, 45, joint convener of BNP in Purbo Charnotua Union Parishad were arrested.

Abdur Rahman, general secretary of Noakhali BNP, said the police are politically motivated. "Police are raiding the homes of BNP leaders and activists every night. Those arrested were not involved in the mayhem. We will call a press briefing soon."

Biplob Kumar Sarkar, superintendent of police in Rangpur, said Mamun has been a Shibir activist since 2012 and Faruk was an Imam of a mosque near Pirganj Bus Stand.

A total of 66 individuals have been arrested in the four cases, he said.

In another development, a case was filed with Teknaf Police Station over the attack on a kitchen near a Buddhist temple in Huyanok union of Teknaf.

Moholung Chakma, one of those injured in the attack, told The Daily Star that several girls of the Buddhist community were washing dishes at a tube-well on Sunday when some locals hurled indecent comments at them.

Some young men of the Buddhist community then went to the spot hearing the girls scream in fear, he said, adding that the young men engaged in an argument that led to a scuffle.

The young men who made the indecent comments later returned with many others and set the makeshift kitchen on fire, he added.

Bangladesh Hindu-Buddha- Oikya Parishad



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

The main thoroughfare near the U-loop in the capital's Rampura has remained dug this way for over a month, shrinking the road space and causing trouble for vehicles. Also, there is hardly any proper boundary marks for the large hole. A warning sign there read "work regarding 132KV underground cable line is going on".

# Under stress, in distress

FROM PAGE 1

The pay is a little low in other cities and towns where living cost is not as high as in the capital.

"I had joined the police force with a lot of excitement. Having worked for about 10 years, I now know it's not what I thought. We have to work too hard for too long," said Jibon.

At least two dozen low ranking police members gave similar accounts, but they declined to speak on the record about internal police matters.

Police officials and psychologists say such stressful workhour for a prolonged period, in some cases in life-threatening situation, may trigger trauma and depression, leading to unhappy professional, personal and family life.

TO A BREAKING POINT

Constables are the lowest tier cops, who make up about 65 percent of some 2 lakh-strong police force. They are recruited through a process sometimes marked by hard lobbying and allegations of improper financial dealings.

As members of a disciplinary force, however, they must stand ready for call of duty 24/7.

The job responsibility includes controlling traffic, guarding VIPs and important establishments and checkpoints, accompanying senior officers during regular patrols and daring drives that sometimes lead to gunfights with criminals and, in some cases, doing household chores of senior officials.

Upon joining, a fresh recruit in Dhaka gets a monthly salary of Tk 14,900, plus a travel allowance of around Tk 2,000 when they have duty 8km away from their lodgings, police sources said.

In addition, unmarried constables get 12kg of rice, 10kg of flour, 2.5kg of lentils, 2kg of sugar and 2.5ltr of edible oil in monthly ration. The food support can increase up to three times, counting the household as a four-member family unit maximum – the couple and two children.

Some police members have bigger families, including their parents and siblings.

Of the cash payment, a certain portion is deducted at source as part of

savings for future and police welfare.

For the first 15 months, each constable has to contribute Tk 2,000 a month in investment in the Police Community Bank in addition to a one-off contribution of Tk 10,000 for the construction of a police shopping mall.

There are other monthly and yearly contributions meant for the police welfare fund.

Although these contributions have future benefits for police members and their families, some find it difficult to support their families on a day-to-day basis, especially those who prefer not to indulge in corrupt practices like some of their colleagues allegedly do.

"At best, I can send Tk 7,000 for my family after all those deductions and keeping my personal expenses," said a constable who joined last year.

In times of emergency, some rent their ration cards to their colleagues -- to foot a medical bill of a relative, for example. A four-member ration card can fetch up to Tk 1 lakh. The original card holder can use the card again upon full payment of his debt against the card.

A recent internal police inquiry found 45 of the 185 constables at the Public Order Management in Mirpur have rented their ration cards to their colleagues for Tk 1,500-4,000 a month, said a police official, preferring not to be named.

For all this financial strain, they cannot often enjoy leave when needed, causing friction with their families.

The Police Act 1861, which regulates the force, has no provision for weekly leave, although police members can take a day off to "rest" to recover from exhaustion.

LITTLE LEAVE

As public servants, they are entitled to all government holidays, but many of them cannot leave their station even during religious festivals.

"I need a break, but cannot get one. The work pressure is too heavy," said Jibon, who applied for a 10-day leave in late September and was still waiting for the approval in mid-October.

Earlier this year, Constable Mehedi Hasan of Dhaka and Sub-inspector Hasan Ali of Pabna waited for months for their leave applications to be

approved. Mehedi had been planning his wedding and Hasan had been preparing to sit for the BCS exam, their families said, although The Daily Star could not independently verify this.

They reportedly died by suicide in March and August respectively.

Police are investigating their deaths, along with 16 other reported suicide incidents in the police force in different parts of the country over the last three years.

On September 29, the Police Headquarters asked all unit chiefs to grant necessary leaves to "ensure welfare" of police members.

Former IGP Nurul Huda acknowledged that police members' job was very stressful. He suggested appointing psychologists in major police units to deal with their mental stress that stems from long workhours and tackling serious crimes that are often gory and traumatic.

Md Tawohidul Haque, assistant professor at the Institute of Social Welfare and Research at Dhaka University, said low ranking police officials face a twin pressure from workplace and their family.

"They do high-risk jobs round the clock, and are often reprimanded by their supervisors. They constantly worry about their future and have little scope to spend time with their families. When combined together, all these can lead to severe mental breakdown," said Tawohidul, who is doing research on the police force.

Muntasir Maruf, assistant professor of psychiatry at the National Institute of Mental Health, agrees. He suggested early detection of any sign of stress to prevent a total breakdown.

Kamruzzaman Rassel, assistant inspector general (media) of PHQ, said they started counselling their members to address the issue, saying they could not grant many leaves during the Covid-19 outbreak, as many police members contracted coronavirus and had additional duty to enforce the lockdown.

"During a crisis period, we cannot allow everyone to go on leave. But once the emergency is over, police members can take leave within the police rules," he said.

# Khaleda Zia

FROM PAGE 1

"All parameters of her health are good after the biopsy. She is stable now and in the surgical unit's ICU."

Zahid, also a vice chairman of the party, asked the nation to pray for her quick recovery.

Replying to a query, Zahid said, "Biopsy does not mean treatment; it is instead a part of the diagnostic process. The treatment will depend on the biopsy report."

Khaleda is 76 years old and has health complications, he said.

Regarding the lump, he said the size of the lump is nearly 1.2 centimetres. He, however, did not disclose the location of the lump citing privacy of the patient and medical ethics.

Dr Zahid said, "Scientifically it takes 72 hours to get the biopsy report. But in some cases, it may take 15-21 days in places like the USA. So, we have to wait for the result."

When asked about a report in a news outlet which said Khaleda's physical condition is critical, Dr Zahid said, "It is sad. Media should be responsible. They must ask the doctors or the concerned persons before writing anything."

Mirza Fakhrul said doctors have been repeatedly said Khaleda needs to go abroad for better treatment and her family members applied to the government accordingly.

"Like any ordinary citizen, a former premier has the right to get treatment abroad, but the government has not acknowledged it. She was not allowed to go outside for treatment."

He said, "She needs advanced treatment in an advanced centre. This is badly needed. We think there is no legal barrier as she is entitled to get bail. It is her right. Government should allow her immediately to go abroad."

Sharmila Rahman, widow of Khaleda Zia's younger son Arafat Rahman Koko, arrived from the UK on Sunday to see Khaleda. She went straight from the airport to Evercare Hospital.

Khaleda Zia was admitted to Evercare Hospital in the city on 12 October. Her temperature had started fluctuating a few days before that. Since her admission to hospital, she has undergone several tests.

Khaleda Zia has long been suffering from arthritis, diabetes, as well as dental and eye problems. In April this year she contracted the novel coronavirus. She recovered while under treatment at home, but as other health complications cropped up, she was admitted to Evercare Hospital on 27 April.

She was placed in the coronary care unit (CCU) and remained there for almost two months. She returned home on 19 June.

Khaleda Zia was sent to jail on February 8, 2018 in a corruption case. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, on 25 March last year she was given temporary release on certain conditions. The term of her release has been extended four times so far.

Khaleda Zia's family has appealed to the government for her to be sent abroad for medical treatment, but the government has not responded.

**(Original Publication Date: 11 October 2021)**

**Re-Invitation For International Tender (IFIT)**

**From All Countries**

**Construction of an Iconic Commercial Complex of approximately 60,000 sqm on a 2 acres of Land with State-of-the-Art Amenities & Facilities**

1	Procuring Entity Name	ISDB-BISEW
2	Invitation for	Procurement of Building Construction Works and Related Services
3	Invitation Ref. No.	ISDB-BISEW/Tender-IDB Bhaban-2/TP-01
4	Original Publication Date	11 October 2021

**KEY INFORMATION**

5	Procurement Method	One Stage Two Envelope Tendering Method (OSTETM) under Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)
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**FUNDING INFORMATION**

6	Source of Funds	ISDB-BISEW and Government of Bangladesh
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**PARTICULAR INFORMATION**

7	Project Name	Construction of IDB Bhaban-2 comprising of Multi-Storied Twin Tower and 4-Storied Multi-Purpose Business Center with common 3-Level Basement at Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
8	Tender Package No.	Tender-IDB Bhaban-2/TP-01
9	Tender Package Name	Construction of Multi-Storied Twin Tower and 4-Storied Multi-Purpose Business Center with common 3-Level Basement at Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
10	Last Date of Receiving Application from Tenderers for Issuing Tender Documents	14 November 2021 up to 5:00 PM
11	Last Date & Time of Tender Submission	20 January 2022 up to 12:00 Noon
12	Name and Address of the Office Selling Tender Documents	Office of the Chief Executive Officer, ISDB-BISEW, IDB Bhaban (4th Floor), E/8-A, Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh.

**Please visit [www.isdb-bisew.org/tender](http://www.isdb-bisew.org/tender) for details of the Tender Invitation.**



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