

BANGLADESH UPDATE

385
New cases in 24hrs

15,79,710
Total cases

28,031
Deaths

15,44,417
Recoveries

GLOBAL UPDATE

5,325,075
Deaths

270,600,064
Total cases

A loss not entirely personal

FROM PAGE 1
As things were changing fast during the initial days of the Liberation War, Hasan, the father of five, sent his eldest son Swapan and one daughter Saki to his in-laws' house in Kakina village of the district.

At the same time, the assistant teacher of Railway Children Park School fixed April 19 for moving with the rest of the family members to a faraway place in Mogolhat, a bordering area where his ancestral home is located.

As the day started, the family completed their breakfast and began to prepare for leaving. Around the same time arrived a "daima" -- a traditional midwife -- to see the family's newborn, Nazneen Sathi, whom she helped come to the world.

Selima, also a teacher of Lalmonirhat Girls High School, known by all as Boro Apa, was giving food and gifts to the midwife for her service. Sathi was lying quietly on a bed while her two siblings, Kusum and Mousum, were playing.

Hasan was plucking jackfruit leaves and feeding his goats in the yard.

Right at the moment, a group of Biharis stormed into the house wielding locally made weapons. Divided into two groups, one got hold of Hasan while the other surrounded Selima. The midwife ran away in no time.

"Come with us. Major Saheb has asked for you," one of the armed men asked Hasan.

Soon they took him out and started walking along the playground adjacent to the house. His three-and-a-half-year-old son Mousum was crying out "Abba", and his wife was looking out the window -- shaken with untold fear.

When Hasan reached the other end of the field with the men, he put out a prayer cap from his pocket and wore it. Then he turned back.

"His facial expression gave a hint that he was being taken away forever -- my mother told us. He never returned," Sathi, now a writer and cultural activist, said in an interview with The Daily Star.

She grew up hearing from her mother and other family members about the events unfolding after her father's abduction on April 19, 1971.

"My introduction to my father is through his photographs, some of his handwritten letters and bits and pieces of memories of people I know. They told me that my father was a good human being and a politically conscious person with high integrity," she said.

Hasan is believed to be the first victim of the Pakistan army's plan to round up and kill intellectuals in Lalmonirhat. But to conclude on this, further research on the district's war history is needed, she added.

Though the Pakistan military campaign to wipe out Bangalee intelligentsia continued throughout the nine-month of the war, the final act took place on December 14, now observed as Martyred Intellectuals Day.

Sensing imminent defeat, the Pakistan army along with local collaborators orchestrated a plan to destroy the future of the new country. They picked up scores of brightest and illustrious citizens, and tortured and killed them brutally.

Hasan became the target at the beginning of the war. And the reason was simple: he encouraged people, including his students, to take part in the war, which made the non-Bangalees furious, according to the family members.

He was not engaged in politics directly but had contacts with all the progressive politicians in the town. He would listen to news on the radio regularly and discuss the situation with the locals.

Born in 1928 in Fenua of Laksham, Hasan had his education from McWilliam Higher Secondary School in Alipurduar of India as his father took him and his another son there for better education.

After completing his matriculation there, he came back and did his intermediate and BA from Carmichael College in Rangpur. He got married in 1955.

Hasan taught at a school in Patgram before joining as the revenue collection officer (RCO) at Kurigram's Bhurangamari where he worked for seven years. He came back to Lalmonirhat in 1963-64 and began teaching at Children Park School.

As the war broke out, the marauding army entered Lalmonirhat in April and carried out atrocities with the help of non-Bangalees.

STRUGGLE AFTER THE FATEFUL DAY
As Hasan was picked up on the morning of April 19, Selima got out of the home with her three children, holding eight-day-old Sathi, draped in a cloth, close to her chest.

She ran to the next-door neighbour known as Kazi Shaheb (a marriage registrar). Upon hearing the news, he could anticipate what was going to happen.

Right then, they saw a group of Biharis taking away their neighbour, Rokan Uddin, a railway official, along with them.

Without wasting time, Kazi Saheb got his family members ready to leave the place, taking Salma's family along. But before they could start, the group of Biharis turned up at the house.

"Come here, Kazi Saheb. You have to go with us," said one in the group.

It did not take long for Selima to get a sense of the danger lurking. She left immediately, thus starting an odyssey for the unknown. Two other women and their children joined her.

She decided to go to Hasan's ancestral home in Mogolhat and began walking. On her way, she saw houses engulfed in flames with people running for safety. She paced up.

Then, at one point, they were intercepted by a team of Pakistan military. The soldiers asked them where they were headed but let them go since there were no youths with them. After walking for the entire day, Selima finally reached Mogolhat.

"Imagine how a woman who had given birth to a child just eight days ago made such a long journey. She walked for around 17-18 miles that day," said Sathi.

After staying at in-law's home for a few days, Selima's brothers-in-law sent



Nazneen Sathi



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them to another remote place named Gandhamara, northwest of Mogolhat, by an animal-drawn cart.

She spent a few weeks there and went to her father's home in Kakina where she came to know that the Biharis had burned their Masterpara home to ashes.

After some days, Selima later began searching for her husband with the help of her father and brothers, shuttling from one place to another with his photograph. She went to Rangpur cantonment with her father, but Hasan was nowhere to be found.

Then in July, she came back to Lalmonirhat town. Wearing a veil, she even visited several homes belonging to the Biharis, but did not get any clue. She, however, saw arms stacked up in those houses.

"Some people said my father was perhaps detained somewhere else and would be freed after the dust settled down. My mother waited nine months and after the liberation, my father did not return," Sathi went on.

When Selima finally came back to Lalmonirhat town in 1972, she came to know from one of her neighbours that the Biharis killed him behind Lalmonirhat Boys School on that very day he was taken away.

"My father used to tell my mother that he would not let his children endure the struggle that he had done all his life. But everything changed after April 19 when my father was snatched away from us forever," added Sathi, now a resident of the capital's Adabor.

Selima passed away in 2000.

"My mother waged another war all by herself after the end of the war. In fact, similar are the stories of the families of other martyred intellectuals and freedom fighters."

"As Martyred Intellectuals Day comes every year, I visit intellectuals' graveyards and memorials to pay respect to the illustrious sons of the soil," she said in a voice filled with emotion and pride.

"We do not have our father's grave but it feels like his grave is all over Bangladesh. Is not the entire country a graveyard of martyrs?"



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

From left, Lawmaker Aroma Dutta, Ambassador of Switzerland Nathalie Chuard, Ambassador of Sweden Alexandra Berg von Linde, British High Commissioner in Dhaka Robert Chatterton Dickson, Prime Minister's International Affairs Adviser Dr Gowher Rizvi, Campaign for Popular Education Executive Director Rasheda K Chowdhury, NGO Affairs Bureau DG KM Tariquul Islam, Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) Executive Director Shaheen Anam, First Secretary of the Canadian Embassy to Bangladesh Maegan Andolfetto and Brac Chairperson Hossain Zillur Rahman pose for a photo at an event organised by MJF at the capital's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre yesterday, marking the International Human Rights Day.

Make guideline for booster dose

FROM PAGE 1
Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam while briefing journalists at the secretariat after the meeting.

He said Health Minister Zahid Maleque and the representatives of National Technical Advisory Committee on Covid-19 also attended the meeting.

"The technical committee and the health minister were instructed so that they remain ready for whether the booster dose would be given free or on payment and place a guideline following discussions," the secretary said.

In a separate press briefing following the cabinet meeting, Health Minister Maleque said his ministry was taking preparation to administer booster dose of Covid-19 vaccines.

"We have planned to give a booster dose to the people aged 60 years and

above, [and] frontline workers. We have to bring some updates to the Surokha app. We hope we could start our work [giving booster dose] this month," he said.

A booster dose is the third dose of Covid-19 vaccines which many rich countries have been offering to its citizens.

The health minister added that their priority is to job those who have not received any dose yet.

Starting from February 7 this year, only 24.75 percent of the population has received full dose of different Covid-19 vaccines till yesterday.

Despite this, Maleque told journalists, "We have a stock of around four crore jabs of Covid-19 vaccines. There will be no shortage of vaccines."

On Thursday, two members of Bangladesh Women Cricket team

tested positive for Omicron variant, the first Omicron cases in the country.

As of yesterday, Omicron which poses a "very high" global risk, according to the World Health Organisation, has been detected in 60 countries.

Besides, the cabinet cleared the draft speech of President Md Abdul Hamid to be delivered in the first session of parliament in the new year of 2022, reports UNB, quoting the cabinet secretary.

The meeting also approved the draft amendment to the ratified agreement to be signed between Bangladesh and the Maldives for the avoidance of double taxation and prevention of tax evasion.

The PM will visit the Maldives on December 22 and 23 when a trade agreement is likely to be inked, the secretary added.

US sanctions on Benazir, 6 others shocking

FROM PAGE 1
Signed by BPSA President Monirul Islam, an additional inspector general of the Special Branch of Police, and Secretary Md Asaduzzaman, a deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, the statement says the sanctions were imposed without proper scrutiny.

Every member of Bangladesh police is shocked and embarrassed by such a sudden unilateral decision taken by the US government.

The police have been working tirelessly to ensure overall security of the country's people, suppress terrorism, protect human rights and establish the rule of law under the leadership of Benazir Ahmed, reads the statement.

Bangladesh has always had cordial and friendly ties with the US, one of its development partners. Apart from the government level, the relations at the institutional and individual levels are also good.

Bangladesh police and related agencies of the US are working together to curb various types of crimes, including global terrorism, transnational crimes and cybercrimes.

In addition to exchange of experiences, the US government has been providing various forms of assistance, including training the members of Bangladesh police to enhance their skills and capabilities, said the BPSA.

It strongly believes that an anti-

Bangladesh clique, which seeks to disrupt development, embarrass the country internationally, and hamper the friendly cooperation between the two countries, is providing false and fabricated information with the help of international lobbyist groups.

BPSA also believes the clique has influenced the US government to take such a decision by hiding the "real situation".

The association hoped that the US government would reconsider its decision after evaluating the actual data and situation regarding the role of Bangladesh police in upholding the rule of law, protecting human rights, observing international protocols and conventions, and maintaining law and order.

Human rights

FROM PAGE 1
work in Bangladesh. This includes media freedom, LGBTQ rights and equality to education," the British high commissioner said.

Ambassador of Sweden Alexandra Berg von Linde said her country is on a drive to uphold democracy across the world. She mentioned access to justice, accountable institutions, inclusiveness, diversity and tolerance as the markers of equal human rights for all.

"It is important to show that we must act now," she said.

Ambassador of Switzerland Nathalie Chuard said her country supports Bangladesh's endeavours in strengthening institutions like those giving legal aid, as well as those upholding minority rights and human rights.

Prime Minister's International Affairs Adviser Dr Gowher Rizvi said, "We haven't been able to achieve all human rights and we need help from all, especially for mobilising public opinion."

"We have to work more with minority rights, the anti-discrimination act needs to be passed, and the minority commission needs to be set up."

He then said, "However, when you go to different countries, please talk about the achievements of Bangladesh as well. We have many shortcomings, but we have achievements too."

First Secretary of the Canadian Embassy to Bangladesh Maegan Andolfetto said promoting respect and human rights is at the heart of Canada's engagement internationally.

Hossain Zillur Rahman, chairperson of Brac and executive director of Power and Participation Research Centre, said the impact of social structures on human rights, in addition to state structures, is important.

"The middle-income dream cannot be an economic dream. Dignity is also important. Beyond law, beyond social structures is the reality of daily human lives," said Rahman.

Prominent education expert Rasheda K Chowdhury, also the executive director of Campaign for Popular Education, spoke about the effect of the pandemic on girls and underage marriage. "Around 2 lakh students did not show up for the school-ending exams this year in spite of registering for them and that 70 percent of those absent were girls," she said.

"We need to provide stipends to girls who were married off to get them to return to school," she said, urging the government to take steps in this regard.

MP Aroma Dutta and KM Tariquul Islam, director general of NGO Affairs Bureau, among others, spoke at the event, chaired by Shaheen Anam, executive director of MJF.

It's unhealthy

FROM PAGE 1
the court and heard lawyers before making the observation, the public prosecutor said.

"It [filing different cases on same issue accusing same persons] is an unhealthy tactic which should not be entertained," the judge observed.

The petitioner has no "locus standi" (right or capacity to file the case), he said in his order.

Only the victim has the right to file a case seeking remedy, it added.

Meanwhile, Judge Mohammad Ash Sams Joglul Hossain of Dhaka Cyber Tribunal yesterday dismissed the DSA case filed against Murad and Nahid as there was no cogent ground to proceed with it.

In his order, the judge said the alleged post over which the case was filed was not against the complainant and did not harm the complainant.

Pro-BNP lawyer Omar Faruk Faruqui, former general secretary of Dhaka Bar Association, filed the case on Sunday. The judge also recorded statements of the complainant yesterday.

Five more cases were filed against the duo by five pro-BNP lawyers with cyber tribunals in Chattogram, Sylhet, Khulna, Barisal and Mymensingh in the last two days, bringing the same allegations.

In Chattogram, Badrul Anwar, president of Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum Chattogram unit, filed the complaint on Sunday, while advocate Tanvir Akther Khan of Sylhet District Bar Association filed the case in Sylhet the same day.

The courts also set December 15 to decide whether to take cognisance of the cases.

In Khulna, advocate Mollah Golam Mowla filed another case, also on Sunday. The hearing of the case was scheduled for today.

Advocates Abul Kalam Azad and Rezaul Karim Chowdhury yesterday filed cases in Barisal and Mymensingh. According to the statements of the DSA cases, the accused -- Murad and Nahid -- used "profoundly vulgar, misogynistic, and derogatory language" against Khaleda Zia, BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman and his daughter Zaima Rahman during a Facebook Live and disseminated false information.

In the cases, the complainants brought similar allegations against the accused under Sections 25/29/31/35 of the DSA.

HC WON'T WEIGH IN ON MURAD'S JS MEMBERSHIP
The High Court yesterday refused to pass any order on a writ petition challenging the legality of Murad Hassan's parliamentary membership, observing that it was the responsibility of the Jatiya Sangsad Speaker.

Any aggrieved person can appeal to the JS Speaker challenging Murad's JS membership, and the writ petition is premature at this stage, the HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman said.

The bench said there will be a hearing on the petition later.

Supreme Court lawyer Md Eunus Ali Akond submitted the petition as a public interest litigation to the HC on December 8, a day after Murad resigned as the state minister.

The prime minister asked Murad to step down following a wave of criticism for his remarks.

Lawyer Eunus said in the petition that Murad violated his oath as a JS member by making the remarks and prayed to the HC to pass necessary directives for conducting a judicial inquiry into his obscene comments.

Invitation To Bid:
Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Laboratory Equipment under Flaming Fund Grant

Tender Ref. icddr,b/SCM/OTM/2021/55 Date : Dec 13, 2021

icddr,b with support from Flaming Fund Grant, is undertaking a capacity building initiative to support 12 selected Laboratories in Bangladesh on molecular genetics in Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) particularly focusing on theoretical biology domain such as, genomics, proteomics, meta-genomics based analysis of micro-biomes. The ITB document contains all the necessary information for interested Offerors. With the most proficient bidder, icddr,b will sign a Supply & Service Agreement for currently established scope.

Interested participants can download the ITB Documents from the below web address: <http://www.icddr.org/work-with-us/tender-notices>

Offerors shall submit their offers through email to tender@icddr.org. Offers must be received no later than **27th Dec 2021, 12:30 PM**. Please note, the bid opening session will not be conducted as a Public Opening.

icddr,b reserves the right to accept or reject all/part proposals without assigning any reason whatsoever. This ITB invitation will also form a part of the contract and will be binding upon the tenderer.

Senior Manager, Procurement
Email: supplychain@icddr.org

ইব্রাহিম কার্ডিয়াক হসপিটাল এন্ড রিসার্চ ইনস্টিটিউট
১২২, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ, শাহাবাগ, ঢাকা-১০০০
ISO 9001: 2008 QMS Certified Hospital

সরবরাহকারী তালিকাভুক্তিকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ ডায়ালটিক সমিতির অন্যতম বিশেষায়িত হৃদরোগ চিকিৎসা সেবাদানকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান ইব্রাহিম কার্ডিয়াক হসপিটাল এন্ড রিসার্চ ইনস্টিটিউট এ নিম্নে বর্ণিত ক্যাটাগরী অনুসারে ঊষধ, ডিসপোজিবল সহ বিভিন্ন প্রয়োজনীয় সামগ্রী নিয়মিত সরবরাহ করার লক্ষ্যে তালিকাভুক্তির তারিখ হতে ডিসেম্বর '২০২৩' পর্যন্ত সময়কালের জন্য সরবরাহকারী/সেবাদানকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান তালিকাভুক্তির জন্য নির্ধারিত ফরমে প্রকৃত প্রস্তাবকারক/আমদানীকারক/সরবরাহকারী/সাধারণ ব্যবসায়ী/পাইকারী বিক্রেতা/এজেন্ট ও সেবাদানকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান এর নিকট হতে নিম্নে উল্লেখিত এক বা একাধিক ক্যাটাগরীতে তালিকাভুক্তির জন্য দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

শর্তাবলী সম্বলিত দরখাস্ত ফরমের মূল্য প্রতি ক্যাটাগরী বাবদ টাকা ১,০০০.০০ (এক হাজার) মাত্র (অফেরতযোগ্য) নগদ প্রদান সাপেক্ষে ইব্রাহিম কার্ডিয়াক হসপিটাল এর ক্যাশ কাউন্টার হতে আগামী ২৮/১২/২০২১খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত সকাল ১০.০০ হতে বিকাল ৪.০০টার মধ্যে সংগ্রহ এবং ৩০/১২/২০২১খ্রিঃ এর মধ্যে কার্যদিবস চলাকালীন সময় (বিকাল ৪.০০ ঘটিকা) এর মধ্যে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর কার্যালয়ে ৬ষ্ঠ তলায় রক্ষিত বাস্তব দাখিল করতে হবে।

কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন অথবা সকল সরবরাহকারী তালিকাভুক্তি আবেদন প্রত্যাহাযন করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

সরবরাহ সংশ্লিষ্ট ক্যাটাগরীসমূহঃ (১) ঊষধ (২) কার্ডিয়াক স্টেন্ট, ভালভ, পেসমেকার (৩) বিশেষ ও সাধারণ ডিসপোজিবল সামগ্রী (৪) ইলেক্ট্রো মেডিকেল/বায়োমেডিকেল যন্ত্রপাতি (৫) বৈদ্যুতিক যন্ত্রপাতি ও খুচরা যন্ত্রাংশ (৬) রাসায়নিক সামগ্রী, প্যাথলজিক্যাল রি-এজেন্ট ও ডিসপোজিবল (৭) সাধারণ যন্ত্র, যন্ত্রাংশ, বৈদ্যুতিক মালামাল ও স্যানিটারী সামগ্রী (৮) অফিস ইকুইপমেন্ট (৯) স্টেশনারী, কাপড় ও অন্যান্য সাধারণ সামগ্রী (১০) ফার্নিচার ও ফিল্ডার (১১) ছাপা ও ছাপা সংশ্লিষ্ট সামগ্রী।

নির্মাণ ও রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ সংশ্লিষ্ট ক্যাটাগরীসমূহঃ (১২) নির্মাণ (১৩) গ্রাফিং ও স্যানিটারী (১৪) বৈদ্যুতিক ও যান্ত্রিক (১৫) ইন্টেরিয়র ডেকোরেশন ও কাঠের কাজ (১৬) যানবাহন মেরামত ও রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ ও (১৭) ইলেক্ট্রো মেডিকেল, বায়ো মেডিকেল যন্ত্র ও যন্ত্রাংশ মেরামত ও রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ।

সেবা সংশ্লিষ্ট ক্যাটাগরীসমূহঃ (১৮) ইনসুরেন্স (১৯) ক্লিয়ারিং এন্ড ফ্রেইট ফরোয়ার্ডিং (২০) ক্লিনিং, ফার্মিগেশন, উইভো ক্লিনিং ও পেপ্ট ম্যানেজমেন্ট ও সংশ্লিষ্ট সেবা (২১) সিকিউরিটি সার্ভিস।

অধ্যাপক ডা. এম.এ. রশীদ
প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা ও
সিনিয়র কনসালটেন্ট, কার্ডিওলজি

ডি-১৮০