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Global solidarity needed to face challenges

PM tells UN roundtable about crises caused by Ukraine war

UNB, New York

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called for strong political commitment and global solidarity to face the challenges caused by the Ukraine war and other overlapping crises.

"No single country can tackle these challenges alone. At this moment, what we need the most is strong political commitment and global solidarity," she said.

The PM was delivering a statement at a roundtable convened by UN Secretary-General António Guterres with the GCRG (Global Crisis Response Group) Champions in New York on Wednesday.

Hasina said the ripple effects of the Ukraine war and other overlapping crises have left deep scars in societies and economies, especially in developing countries.

"This has added many new challenges to our Covid recovery efforts, and SDGs implementation process," she said.

The premier thanked the UN secretary-general for mobilising the UN system to respond to the crises. In this regard, she commended the work of the GCRG steering committee.

Talking about Bangladesh, Hasina said her government has taken concrete fiscal and monetary measures to ensure macro-economic stability and control inflation.

"Our social safety-net programmes have been expanded

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DINAJPUR BOARD

SSC questions on 2 more subjects leaked

STAR REPORT

The question papers of two more SSC subjects -- biology and higher mathematics -- under the Dinajpur education board were also leaked, board officials admitted yesterday.

The board yesterday scrapped the questions prepared for the biology and higher mathematics exams, but did not postpone the exams as they have enough time to set new questions within the scheduled dates.

On Wednesday, it postponed the Secondary School Certificate exams on four subjects -- mathematics, physics, agriculture studies and chemistry -- after question papers for English exams were leaked at a centre in Kurigram's Bhurungamari upazila.

"We came to know that question papers of biology and higher maths were also leaked and so we have scrapped the questions of these papers."

"We, however, did not postpone the exams, as we will be able to prepare new questions by September 25, while the date fixed for the biology exam is September 28, and the one for higher maths is October 1," Prof Kamrul Islam, chairman of the board, told The Daily Star.

He said they were not certain about the leaks of these two question papers until yesterday.

Meanwhile, the board announced new dates for the four exams that were postponed on Wednesday.

The mathematics exam will be on October 10, agricultural studies on October 11, chemistry on October 13 and physics on October 15. All exams will begin at 11:00am and last two hours.

Earlier, the maths exam was scheduled for September

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WOMAN'S DEATH IN POLICE CUSTODY

Death toll from Iran protests rises to 17

Online services cut amid fears of more violence; US sanctions morality police

AGENCIES

The official death toll from Iran's wave of popular unrest shot up yesterday to at least 17 as popular anger has flared over the death in custody of the young Kurdish woman Mahsa Amini.

However, the Oslo-based non-government group Iran Human Rights said at least 31 civilians had been killed in a crackdown by the Iranian security forces in six nights of violence.

The Kurdish woman Amini, 22, died last week after she had been arrested by the Islamic republic's feared morality police for allegedly wearing a hijab headscarf in an "improper" way, sparking widespread outrage.

"Death to the dictator" and "Woman, life, freedom", protesters could be heard shouting in video footage shared online, during the biggest wave of protests to rock the country in almost three years.

Among those killed in clashes have been police and militia officers, state TV reported, while overseas-based human rights groups reported many more deaths, which could not be independently verified.



Security forces have fired at crowds with birdshot and metal pellets, and also deployed water cannon, according to Amnesty International and other human rights groups.

There were fears violence could escalate further after Iranian authorities restricted internet access and blocked messaging apps including WhatsApp and Instagram, as they have done before past crackdowns.

"People in Iran are being cut off from online apps and services," Instagram chief Adam Mosseri tweeted, adding that "we hope their right to be online

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UKHIYA CAMP

Rohingya volunteer hacked to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Cox's Bazar

A day after a Rohingya man was shot dead, another was hacked to death in a camp in Cox's Bazar Ukhya early yesterday.

The victim was Mohammad Ershad, 22, of I-Block of Kutupalong Extended-4 Rohingya camp, said Sheikh Mohammad Ali, officer-in-charge of Ukhya Police Station.

Criminals attacked Ershad, a volunteer, when he and some others were guarding the extension of camp-4, said the OC, adding that they hacked him indiscriminately and left the place.

On information, Armed Police Battalion members took Ershad to a hospital, where doctors declared him dead, the police official said.

"The body was sent to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital morgue for an autopsy," he added.

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Neptune's delicate rings captured in new Webb image

AFP, Paris

The James Webb Space Telescope has turned its gaze away from the deep universe towards our home Solar System, capturing an image of a luminous Neptune and its delicate, dusty rings in detail not seen in decades, says Nasa.

The last time astronomers had such a clear view of the farthest planet from the Sun was when Nasa's Voyager 2 became the first and only space probe to fly past the ice giant for just a few hours in 1989.

Now Webb's unprecedented infrared imaging capabilities has provided a new glimpse into Neptune's atmosphere, said Mark McCaughrean, a senior advisor for science and exploration at the European Space Agency, on Wednesday.

The telescope "takes all that glare and background away" so that "we can start to tease out the atmospheric composition" of the planet, McCaughrean, who has worked on the Webb project for more than 20 years, told AFP.

Neptune appears as deep blue in previous images taken by the Hubble Space Telescope due

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New chiefs of police, Rab take charge Sept 30



Abdullah Al Mamun

M Khurshid Hossain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday appointed Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun, director general of Rapid Action Battalion, as the new Inspector General of Police.

He will replace incumbent police chief Benazir Ahmed, who is going to retire on September 30.

In a home ministry circular yesterday, the government also made M Khurshid Hossain, additional IGP, the new Rab DG.

The appointments will be effective from September 30, read the circular.

There was a discussion in and outside the police whether the tenure of IGP Benazir will be extended until the next general elections under contract.

Over alleged violations of human rights, the US imposed sanctions on Rab and its seven current and former officials,

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FIGGIN' AROUND ... An Irrawaddy squirrel spotted munching on a small-leaved fig in Sylhet city's Munshipara area. The little rodent is native to Bangladesh, China, India, Myanmar and Nepal and gets its name as those in Myanmar can mostly be found living in forested areas west of the Irrawaddy river. A species of tree squirrels, it prefers living in a number of types of forests. However, like most arboreal animals, the Irrawaddy squirrel is threatened by habitat loss as mindless felling of trees and deforestation is an ongoing issue. Once a common sight, squirrel numbers have been falling drastically and you now have to be lucky to spot one!

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

CLASH IN MUNSHIGANJ Injured Jubo Dal man dies Over 1,700 sued; BNP man's factory 'torched'

A CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Jubo Dal activist Shahidul Islam Shaon, 27, who was injured during a clash between BNP men and police in Munshiganj on Wednesday, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital last night.

Shaon was on life support since 11:00pm Wednesday night. He had injuries in his head, said his younger brother Sohag.

Sohag left behind a wife and a one-year-old son, Sohag told The Daily Star.

Meanwhile, over 1,700 people have been sued in two cases filed over Wednesday's violence that also left at least 50 hurt.

Mohammad Mainuddin, sub-inspector of Munshiganj Sadar Police Station, filed a case accusing 313 named and 1,200 unnamed people of "attacking cops on duty and attempting to rob their firearms".

Abdul Malek, leader of Sramik League, a pro-Awami League workers body, lodged the other case accusing 52 named and 200 unnamed of being involved in

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