



## Must be strong enough to thwart external enemies: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said Bangladesh must attain capabilities to protect the country from external enemies even though it is against war.

The premier said this while addressing a programme to induct two maritime patrol aircraft (MPA-8322 and MPA-8327) into Bangladesh Navy.

Navy organised the event at Naval Aviation Hanger at Patenga in Chattogram. The PM joined it through video conference from her official residence Gono

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Despite multiple awareness messages written on the Badamtoli and Jurain bridges that go over the Buriganga river, plastic factories surrounding the area prove that they are not getting the message as they still keep dumping waste on the river side. Due to a lack of monitoring from the authorities concerned, these factory owners keep getting away with polluting Dhaka's lifeline. This photo was taken in Telghat area in Keraniganj yesterday. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## JP threatens to boycott JS Demands GM Quader made leader of opposition

RASHIDUL HASAN

Jatiya Party has decided to boycott parliament until Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury takes a decision on making JP Chairman GM Quader the leader of the opposition, dropping Raushan Ershad from the post.

JP Parliamentary Party (JPPP) yesterday at a meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban came up with the decision as the Speaker is yet to take any decision in this regard, said meeting sources.

A four-member delegation led by JP Secretary General Mujibul Haque Chunnun went to the Speaker's office after yesterday's parliament sitting and informed her about the decision.

JP also issued a press statement in this regard yesterday night.

JPPP on September 1 at a meeting decided to remove Raushan from the post and make GM Quader the opposition leader in parliament.

After that meeting, a letter signed by Opposition Chief Whip Mashhur Rahman Ranga was submitted to the Speaker in this regard.

Quader -- also the younger brother of JP founding president HM Ershad -- is currently the deputy leader of the opposition.

Ranga, on September 20, wrote another letter to the Speaker urging her to withdraw the previous letter submitted on September 1.

On August 31, JP chief patron Raushan -- widow of Ershad -- convened the party's 10th council which was scheduled on November 26, triggering fresh conflict between Raushan and Quader.

Emerging from yesterday's meeting, Chunnun told reporters that they sent a letter to Speaker for taking actions in this regard. However, two months have passed and no decision has been taken yet, he said.

"We have been waiting for the Speaker to come up

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**We sent a letter to Speaker for taking actions in this regard. However, two months have passed and no decision has been taken yet.**

MUJIBUL HAQUE CHUNNU  
JP Secretary General

## What good is Universal Salt Iodisation strategy?

20pc of children under five suffer from iodine deficiency, finds survey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 20 percent of the surveyed children aged under five years, suffer from iodine deficiency, finds the National Micronutrient Survey 2019-20.

This is the first ever revelation on the country's iodine status, and it has raised questions on the efficacy of the government's Universal Salt Iodisation strategy, said experts, urging to explore the reasons for deficiency.

The nationally representative second micronutrient survey also revealed that an alarming 70 percent of non-pregnant and non-lactating women have vitamin D deficiencies in addition to their deficiencies in other micronutrients in different percentages.

The survey was carried out by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics in 250 upazilas from every district, to understand the status of vitamin A, Vitamin D, Zinc, Ferritin, Urinary Iodine and Anemia among children (5 to 59 months) and non-pregnant and non-lactating (NPNL) women of reproductive age (15-49 years).

The findings were shared at an event in Dhaka, organised by the National Nutrition Services (NNS) of the Institute of Public Health Nutrition (IPHN) under the health directorate, in partnership with International Centre for Diarrheal Disease and Research, Bangladesh.

"Our study findings provide another direction for policymakers to design the next-generation nutrition

programmes in the 5th health sector programme in Bangladesh," said Dr Aliya Naheed, scientist of the Health Systems and Population Studies Division at icddr,b, also the survey's principal investigator.

The findings suggest that children under five years of age, and non-pregnant and non-lactating women in the country still significantly lack micronutrients.

Among the under-5 children, 31 percent had zinc deficiency, 20 percent had iodine deficiency, and 15 percent had iron deficiency.

vitamin A deficiency.

Compared to findings from the 2011-12 survey, the micronutrient deficiency status among this group showed improvement in three indicators (vitamin A, zinc, iodine). It worsened in three indicators (serum iron, Folate). The status remained unchanged in case of vitamin B12.

Additionally, 21 percent of the surveyed children and 29 percent of the surveyed non-pregnant and non-lactating women had mild to severe anaemia.

Dr Mustafizur Rahman, director

**I am confident that the results of the survey will help prepare a strategy for combating food and nutrition insecurity and identifying appropriate interventions.**

DR TAHMEED AHMED  
Executive Director at icddr,b

**Our study findings provide another direction for policymakers to design the next-generation nutrition programmes in the 5th health sector programme in Bangladesh.**

DR ALIYA NAHEED  
Principal Investigator of Survey

In the case of vitamins, 22 percent had vitamin D deficiency, and 7 percent of children had moderate vitamin A deficiency.

Among the non-pregnant and non-lactating women, 43 percent had zinc deficiency, percent had iodine deficiency, 29 percent had folate deficiency, and 14 percent had iron deficiency.

Around 70 percent of women lacked vitamin D, while 20 percent had vitamin B12 deficiency, and only 7 percent of women had mild

of DGHS and line director of NNS, said this national estimate of micronutrient deficiency would direct the implementation plan of micronutrient supplementation programmes for children, non-pregnant and non-lactating women.

Dr Tahmeed Ahmed, executive director at icddr,b, said, "I am confident that the results of the survey will help prepare a strategy for combating food and nutrition insecurity and identifying appropriate interventions."

## Help us pass 1971 genocide resolution Researchers urge Bangladeshi community in US

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Genocide researchers and activists have called for the members of the Bangladeshi community across the US to engage with their legislators to have the genocide resolution on Bangladesh's Liberation War passed.

The call was made at a press conference organised by the Human Rights Congress for Bangladeshi Minorities (HRCBM) at the National Press Club in Washington DC on Saturday.

Speakers discussed the importance and implications of the bipartisan House Resolution "H.Res.1430 Recognizing the Bangladesh Genocide of 1971" that was introduced before the US Congress by the Congressmen Steve Chabot and Ro Khanna on October 14.

SM Alam, consul general of Bangladesh in Florida, appreciated the Congressmen for introducing the resolution and requested the members of the Bangladeshi diaspora to engage with other legislators to support the bill.

Columbia University lecturer and Genral Secretary (USA) of Bangladeshi Hindu Buddhist & Christian Unity Council, Dr Dwijen Bhattacharjya said introducing the resolution at the US Congress would encourage other nations to recognise the Bangladesh genocide of 1971.

In her opening remarks, HRCBM's executive director Priya Saha detailed how the Pakistani armed forces conducted one of the worst genocides in history over a period of nine months in 1971.

Journalist and freedom fighter Saleem Samad

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## 'Jamaat seeking a new garb?'

80 political parties apply for EC registration

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

A total of 80 political parties has applied for registration with the Election Commission, many with "bizarre and unusual names".

Bangladesh Development Party, which, many believe, is Jamaat in disguise, was one of the parties seeking the registration. Besides, Amar Bangladesh Party, founded by former leaders of Jamaat, also applied for registration as a political party.

Election Commission Deputy Secretary Abdul Halim Khan said they would review all 80 applications.

"We will send our recommendation to the Election Commission for their approval soon," he told The Daily Star yesterday evening, last day of submission of application.

If a political party cannot fulfill conditions, it will not be registered, said Election Commissioner Md Alamgir while talking to reporters.

"We will form committees, they will review the information and documents provided by the parties in the light of all the issues including our constitution and RPO," he said as reporters drew his attention that some Jamaat leaders have applied for registration under different names.

Jamaat's registration as a political party was announced illegal by the High Court in 2013. Following the verdict, the EC in October 2018 cancelled its registration.

Alamgir hoped that the registration process would be completed by May 2023.

**BIZARRE NAMES**  
Several EC officials said this year they have received applications from political parties that

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## A great loss for the nation Says PM about Sajeda Chowdhury; condolence motion placed at JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the death of Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury is a great loss not only for Awami League but also for the nation.

The PM said this in a discussion over a condolence motion placed in the parliament to express grief at the demise of two sitting lawmakers -- Deputy Leader of the House Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury and Sheikh Anee Rahman -- as well as some noted personalities including Queen Elizabeth II and

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## METRO RAIL BRTC to provide shuttle services for passengers

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The metro rail authorities will sign an agreement with BRTC on Wednesday to provide shuttle bus services to metro rail passengers as the country's first metro rail service is going to be in operation partially from December, with 10 sets of trains.

State-run Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) will provide the services from both ends -- Uttara and Agargaon -- to some particular destinations, which will be amended later, said officials.

DMTCL and BRTC will sign a contract on Wednesday to provide the bus services, ABM Amin Ullah Nuri, secretary of Road Transport and Highway Division told The Daily Star last night.

Transport experts, however, feared that partial operation of metro rail may intensify traffic congestion at the Agargaon point and the lack of planning might harm metro rail ridership.

Maj Md Moktaruzzaman, BTRC general manager, said they have already received a draft copy of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) from DMTCL.

"We will provide the shuttle services within our capacity, keeping the existing BRTC routes intact," he told this correspondent.

He also said the number of buses and the routes will be fixed upon internal consultation with the DMTCL authorities.



While zebra crossings are usually known to assist pedestrians to get across safely, it seems the capital's Agargaon area has a different utility for them -- to be used as a parking spot, that too for government vehicles. Lack of intervention from the authorities has also led vendors to open up a makeshift shop right beside it. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

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**PRAYER TIMING**  
OCTOBER 31

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:50	12:45	4:00	5:32	7:15
JAMAAT 5:25	1:15	4:15	5:35	7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION