

IMPLEMENTING NAT'L ADAPTATION PLAN

PM seeks int'l support

AGENCIES

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the international partners to support the efforts of Bangladesh to implement its National Adaptation Plan (NAP) for 2023-2050.

"We need \$230 billion for implementing our National Adaptation Plan from both domestic and international resources. Bangladesh continues to seek a 50-50 allocation for adaptation and mitigation from international climate financing," she said.

The PM was addressing the inaugural ceremony of a global hub on Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) at Foreign Service Academy through a virtual platform from the Gono Bhaban.

She opened Global Hub on LLA to reinforce Bangladesh's global leadership on LLA, building on the momentum gained during COP27.

The Global Centre on Adaptation (GCA) launched the hub, responding to Hasina's call for sharing the experiences of Bangladesh and other countries on improving climate resilience of vulnerable communities, reports UNB.

Hasina said the National Adaptation Plan will complement the work being carried out under Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 and Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan.

"I invite our international partners from the public and private sectors to join us in this effort in the spirit of the Paris

Agreement."

The PM further said Bangladesh now spends 6-7 percent of the GDP for climate adaptation. Bangladesh has so far implemented 800 projects for both climate adaptation and mitigation under a Climate Change Trust Fund set up with its own resources in 2009.

She called upon all major carbon emitting countries to further enhance the scope of their contributions, reports BSS.



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PRIME MINISTER SHEIKH HASINA

"We must all redouble our efforts to keep the global warming limited to 1.5° Centigrade," she added.

Hasina said her government will extend all possible support to the global hub. "We are pleased to have this as yet another offering from Bangladesh for the climate vulnerable people around the world."

The hub will identify LLA best practices and scale them via investments and

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BNP leaders and activists in a meeting at the party's Nayapaltan office yesterday afternoon. The office reopened after four days, as all the barricades were removed from the road in front of the office after the party's Dhaka rally on Saturday. The office had remained locked since Wednesday's clash between BNP men and police, which left one dead and at least 50 injured. Since then, law enforcers didn't allow anyone to enter the office.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

The family behind 'GAME GHAR'

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Libya's "game ghar", an establishment where migrants are tortured and extorted, is operated by the father, wife and sister-in-law of a transnational trafficking syndicate. They were coordinating the activities on the Bangladesh end, like trapping migrants and collecting ransom money from the victims' families.

As the ringleader, Sharif Hosen managed to take away his second wife Sumona Sumi to Libya, following a drive by law enforcers. His father Anwar Hosain has now taken over the syndicate activities in Bangladesh.

From around 40 agents of the syndicate in Bangladesh, Anwar has recently collected around Tk 70 lakh and then disappeared.

The human trafficking wing of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit disclosed the findings to this correspondent recently, following the arrest of Sharif's sister-in-law Taznahar Rikta.

Rikta, also a member of the syndicate, has given a confessional statement before court on December 6.

Seven members of the syndicate have been arrested so far.

"We are now conducting a drive to trace Anwar and other agents of the syndicate's hideout," ADC Tohidul Islam of the CTTC unit, told this correspondent.

The syndicate members used to trap people by promising to send them to Europe – mainly from Madaripur, Shariatpur, Cumilla, Lakshmipur, and Noakhali.

Syndicate members used to charge each person around Tk 9.5 lakh. Besides, they collect another hefty payment as ransom after the migrants reach Libya.

The group confines them to a place called "game ghar", and tortures them until the ransom is paid, said, investigators.

"They still have several dozens of people confined there. We are getting complaints from different districts of the country often," said ADC Tohidul, citing investigation findings.

In the confession, Rikta said in December last year, she got married to Sharif's brother-in-law Abdur Rahman.

A month later, Rahman went to Italy and she started living alone in her in-law's house.

Her sister-in-law Sumi, who fled away from Bangladesh to Libya last month, used to receive different fortune seekers' passports and sent them to Libya to her husband Sharif, said Rikta in the confession.

Once the migrants reached Libya, they used to torture them,

There still have several dozens of people confined there. We are getting complaints from different districts of the country often.

ADC TOHIDUL ISLAM OF CTTC UNIT

capture videos, and then used to show those clips to their families and then demand ransom for the release, said court sources quoting Rikta.

"We have got some names of those who were responsible for collecting the ransom – Kamal, Sohel, Kohinur – from Rikta's statement and we are now verifying their role," said ADC Tohidul.

Investigators also found out that Sharif's first wife Halima Begum was also involved in the activities. Halima was living with him in Libya.

"After Sumi reached Libya last month, the couple killed Halima out of a suspected internal conflict. The death was

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Little progress in containing AMR

Lack of doctors, facilities and awareness making things more difficult

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is becoming a major hurdle in controlling infectious diseases, and the steps taken so far to combat this health crisis have proved to be inadequate.

AMR occurs when germs like bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites change over time and no longer respond to medicines. This makes infections harder to treat and increases the risk of a disease spreading rapidly, ultimately leading to severe illnesses and even death.

Because of AMR, antibiotics and other antimicrobial drugs become ineffective for treating both humans and animals in general.

"We are yet to make any big leap [to resolve the problem], because all factors responsible for this health crisis are still there despite all efforts," said Prof Zakir Hossain Habib, who has been leading the laboratory-based AMR surveillance activity in 11 hospitals nationwide.

According to experts, indiscriminate use of antimicrobials, poor medicine quality, and inappropriate antimicrobial waste management are the main factors behind the proliferation of germs that have AMR.

Government studies have found that important and widely used antibiotics have lost half their effectiveness due to their increasingly irrational use.

In 2019, the High Court directed authorities to take steps to reign in over-the-counter sale of antibiotics. In response, the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) said it has incorporated a provision in the proposed drug act to penalise pharmacies for selling antibiotics without a prescription from a registered doctor.

As per DGDA's decision, sales of antibiotics have started in red packages from November 30.

The act, however, has not been passed in parliament yet.

The preventive steps, so far, have been limited to discussions on preparing national plans and policies by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), with no field-level activities. DGHS has no budgetary allocation to contain AMR.

A 15-point to-do list made at a meeting in the health ministry on October 4 highlighted that

all the plans to control AMR have been waiting to be implemented for three years.

On November 13, the "National Technical Committee on AMR Containment", led by DGHS, had a meeting with no new agenda.

The only notable decision was about forwarding the "National AMR Strategy and Action Plan 2022-26" to the National AMR Steering Committee in the ministry – that too after about 10 months since the technical committee approved the document.

According to DGHS officials, the delay for implementation was because the approved plan did not have the budgetary proposal for executing the tasks. The 2022-2026 plan now has a proposal for allocating around Tk 900 crore, according to DGHS officials.

If the quality of medicines is not ensured and medicine wastes are not managed properly, only stopping irrational use will not be fruitful in containing AMR.

MEHEDI HASAN

Technical officer, US Pharmacopeial Convention, Bangladesh

NOT ENOUGH DOCTORS

The proposed drug act has a provision of fining Tk 20,000 for selling antibiotics and antimicrobials without receiving a prescription from a Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council (BMDC) registered doctor.

However, due to a massive shortage of doctors, the majority of the population go to quacks or the nearest drug store for healthcare advice, experts said.

There are around 1,04,644 registered doctors, according to the recently published Human Resources for Health datasheet of 2022. Of them, around 25,000 work at public hospitals, according to DGHS.

A 2011 study in Cox's Bazar found that 67 percent of patients in Chakaria upazila went to quacks for their first line of care.

The survey calculated that 250 registered

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Aspirants for top BCL posts 'active' to resist BNP

SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

Leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) have become unusually active in Dhaka to please the higher-ups of the ruling Awami League ahead of the selection of top BCL leaders before December 24.

Centring BNP's divisional rally in Dhaka on Saturday, BCL men guarded different entry points to the Dhaka University campus, beat up Jatiya Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists, handed them over to police and staged massive showdowns.

They started taking positions on the DU campus and in Gulistan, Bangabandhu Avenue, and Shabbagh areas from Thursday.

On December 6, while addressing the 30th council of BCL, AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader said the partial committees of central, DU and Dhaka city [north and south] units will be announced before the AL national council slated for December 24.

Although JCD is not banned by the university authorities, BCL leaders alleged that JCD men were trying to create an unstable situation ahead of the national election.

On Saturday, Riazul Islam, president of DU's Sir AF Rahman Hall unit of BCL, checked the mobile phones of five people suspecting them as JCD men at the Nilkhet intersection area and beat them before handing them over to police.

Riazul also submitted his nomination application for DU BCL unit.

Some leaders and activists of the hall units took position and remained alert at different points, as instructed by the immediate past General Secretary of the DU unit Saddam Hussain.

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7 Bangladeshis receive Balipara Foundation Award

Prof Monirul Khan honoured with Latifur Rahman Naturenomics Award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Balipara Foundation – an Assam-based organisation in India working for conservation and sustainable livelihood – recognised seven Bangladeshis for their outstanding conservation feat by awarding them Balipara Foundation Award.

Another eight received the same award from the South Asian region, including Bhutan and Nepal.

The award was accorded on the first day of the 10th Eastern Himalayan Naturenomics Forum, organised by Balipara Foundation at the auditorium of Independent University, Bangladesh yesterday.



Monirul H Khan, professor of Zoology at Jahangirnagar University, received the Late Latifur Rahman Naturenomics Award in memoriam of Latifur Rahman, founder chairman of Transcom Group, one of the leading figureheads behind ethical business in Bangladesh.

The rest of the awardees include Syeda Rizwana Hasan in the category of Green Legal Award and Mahfuz Ahmed Russel in the category of Rural Futures Rewild Award.

The Bangladesh Lifetime Award went to Golam Mainuddin for founding the largest private-

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Dengue death toll **266**

Total number of patients **60,298**

1,060 still undergoing treatment

Number of recovered patients **58,972**

220 more hospitalised yesterday

SOURCE: DGHS

PRAYER TIMING

DECEMBER 12

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5:15	12:45	3:45	5:19	7:00
JAMAT 5:50	1:15	4:00	5:22	7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Workers cleaning Martyred Intellectuals Memorial in the capital's Mirpur yesterday, ahead of the Martyred Intellectuals Day to be observed on December 14. On the day, people from all walks of life visit the memorial to mourn and pay respect to the intellectuals killed by the Pakistan occupation army at the fag end of the 1971 Liberation War.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

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