

Dhaka looks to start repatriation this year with 1,000 Rohingyas

Says foreign secretary

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen yesterday said the government wants to begin repatriation of Rohingyas to their place of origin this year, initially with around 1,000 of the refugees.

"We have given [Myanmar authorities] a list of over 3,000. We need to make sure that families are not separated," he told reporters at the foreign ministry.

The secretary said the Myanmar authorities will get three months if they start preparations from September to begin the repatriation.

He said a Bangladesh delegation will be visiting Myanmar next month while a team from Myanmar will be here to talk to Rohingyas as part of confidence-building measures.

The foreign ministry on Friday said that further delay to commence safe, voluntary and sustainable repatriation and shortage of humanitarian support may put the entire region at risk.

UP member lands in jail for torturing man

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

A Cumilla court yesterday sent a union parishad (UP) member to jail for torturing a man on theft allegations.

Jahirul Islam, a member of Bhaukshar union in Barura upazila, is also a local Swchasebak League activists.

Md Firoz, officer-in-charge of Barura Police Station, said the UP member was detained on Saturday around 8:00pm.

Later, he was arrested in a case filed by the victim Abdul Hannan, 32, against Jahirul and seven others, he added.

During the case hearing yesterday, Senior Judicial Magistrate SM Alauddin rejected the defendant's prayer for bail.

Earlier, a video went viral in which Jahirul was seen beating Hannan, who was hanging by his feet in the union's Chottapukuria village.

According to locals, there were prior complaints against Hannan for stealing autorickshaw parts.

On Saturday, locals apprehended Hannan and hung him by his feet on an allegation of stealing from a local garage. At that time, Jahirul was present and was seen beating Hannan.



PHOTO: HOSPICE BANGLADESH

HOSPICE, PALLIATIVE CARE

Why you should care

RBR

Our loved ones, either in their final days or suffering from incurable diseases like cancer, kidney or liver failure, dementia, stroke, and other terminal ones, need hospice and palliative care.

Hospice is comfort care for those who have no option of being cured, or the family has chosen not to pursue treatment because the side-effects outweigh the benefits, while palliative care is comfort care, with or without the intention of being cured.

Unfortunately, there are only few such places that offer both hospice and palliative care in Dhaka. In fact, many of us are not even aware that such care systems exist that can make the final days of our loved ones more comforting.

"Palliative care could transition to hospice care if the doctors project the person is likely to die within six months," says Dr Shahinur Kabir, founder and consultant of Hospice Bangladesh.

Hospice Bangladesh opened its in-patient hospital at Dhanmondi old road 27 in 2022.

However, Shahinur has been working in Palliative care since his medical officer days at the oncology department in government hospitals he worked at after his MBBS.

There, he witnessed the sufferings of both the patients and their families, and wanted to work in this field of medical care. Since 2013, he has been giving home based and tele-palliative care.

"After I came back from Singapore, where I getting further education on palliative treatment, I started my own venture with only four nurses and two oxygen cylinders in a room of my house. My objective was to give care to patients who opted to pass away at home amidst family," he said.

Hospice Bangladesh's services include Care@ centre, where patients at their advanced end-of-life stage are given care according to their complex requirements. Their Care@Home service is for patients confined to their homes and require medical and nursing attention for palliative, hospice, elder, and transitional care.

Meanwhile, "Tele-Hospice" is a mobile app that allows one to easily manage all elements of their health and well-being. Besides, they also have diagnostic and

pharmacy support.

They also have tele hospice service for remote patient monitoring for those living outside Dhaka, and also for patients who cannot avail nursing support.

"In majority case of incurable diseases, besides the intense physical suffering, there is the social, economic, and psychological aspect of the problem to be considered. We manage the symptom and try to make death peaceful. But to give this service, we need society to be aware

wanted to help the middle-class to ease financial burden with our tele-care service, where the family member cares for the patients but are in consultation with us. For poverty-stricken communities, who cannot afford such care, Hospice Palliative Care Foundation is a charity project of Hospice Bangladesh. Its aim is to give care services to poor people with cancer or life-limiting conditions throughout Bangladesh," Kabir said, adding that in Rayer bazar slums, they have doctors and nurses who visit patients above 60 and provide medicines and food.

We all fear death – we don't want to suffer a painful one either – for our loved ones or ourselves. Places like Hospice Bangladesh want to make us aware of such end-of-life care.

In our society, such care can be expensive, but Dr Shahinur Kabir believes that if the government subsidises the logistical expenses, then grieving families can benefit.

There is scope to work on palliative and hospice care in Dhaka. We all have elderly parents and we are obligated to keep them happy and give them a comfortable end-of-life.



of the need for such care and inform the general populous. We need doctors to refer such patients to us.

"The definition of quality life differ class wise. We

FREEDOM FIGHTER FARUK MURDER SC orders court to finish trial in 6 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday directed the lower court concerned to finish the trial proceedings of Tangail's freedom fighter Faruk Ahmed murder case in six months.

The apex court also upheld a High Court order that on July 19 rejected the bail petition of former mayor Shahidur Rahman Khan Mukti, an accused in the case.

A five-member bench of the Appellate Division led by Justice Obaidul Hassan passed the order after dismissing an appeal filed by Mukti challenging the HC order rejecting his bail.

The bullet-hit body of Faruk was found near his College Para home in Tangail town on January 18, 2013. After three days, his wife Nahar Ahmed filed the murder case with Tangail Model Police Station accusing unidentified people.

Man hacks ex-wife to death, suspect held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A woman who was stabbed to death by her former husband at Chunarughat upazila of Habiganj late Saturday night.

Police and locals said Sujan Mia and his ex-wife Akalima Khatun, 32, bumped into each other and had a heated exchange of words over her remarriage.

At one stage of the arguments Sujan hacked Akalima with a sharp weapon. The blows severed Akalima's left hand and almost severed her left leg from the ankle.

She was first taken to Chunarughat Upazila Health Complex where doctors advised she be taken to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

Akalima died on the way around at 11:00pm.

The body has been sent to Habiganj 250-bed district hospital for autopsy, said Rasheedul Haque, officer-in-charge (OC) of Chunarughat Police Station.

Sujan has been detained.

4.3 lakh yaba pills seized

UNB, Dhaka

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh yesterday recovered 4.3 lakh yaba pills during a drive in Teknaf upazila, Cox's Bazar.

The contraband narcotics were being smuggled to Bangladesh from Myanmar through Alugoda Majhekathi border in the early hours, said a BGB press release yesterday.

Tipped off, a patrol team of BGB-2 under Nazirpara BOP conducted a drive in the area around 1:30am and challenged six people.

Sensing the presence of the law enforcers, the suspected smugglers jumped into the Naf river leaving behind four bags and fled to Myanmar.

Later, the BGB recovered the pills from the bags. "Efforts are on to identify the smugglers," said the release.

Father, daughter die in Ctg landslide Heavy rain, urban sprawl to blame

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daughter Bibi Jannat, said Nurul Alam, police camp in charge of Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

It was by sheer luck that Sharifa and her other daughter, 11-year Bibi Kulsum, survived the landslide. However, both of them sustained injuries.

Visiting Sharifa's house, this correspondent found that more than a hundred families are still living precariously on the slope.

Residents alleged that Abdul Khalek, an employee of Bangladesh Railway (BR) engineering department, built the houses by cutting the hill where the landslide occurred.

Mohammed Farid, a BR staff who lived in the colony, told The Daily Star that Khalek destroyed the hill and built houses on it and rented those to low-income people.

Abidur Rahman, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) of Chattogram, said, "We suspended Khalek for cutting a hill and building structures on railway land illegally."

"We have formed a three-member committee headed by the divisional engineer to investigate the landslide incident in the railway colony. The committee has been asked to

submit the inquiry report within seven working days. Besides, we have already started operations to evict illegal structures from the colony," the DRM added.

Abdul Khalek could not be reached as of filing this report, despite repeated attempts.

Meanwhile, vehicular movement on Mohalchhari-Guimara road remains suspended since yesterday morning due to another landslide incident in Guimara upazila of Khagrachhari.

Ajoy Tripura, a resident of Guimara, said, "Many vehicles were stranded in the area due to landslides on the road."

Rajib Chowdhury, upazila nirbahi officer of Guimara, said, "A portion of the hill collapsed and snapped road communication. However, Mohalchhari-Guimara road will be reopened soon as we have already started soil removal work."

(Our Rangamati correspondent Laltanin Pangkhua contributed to this report)

director (DAD) of Chattogram Fire Service and Civil Defence.

However, two of them were declared dead when taken to the hospital, he added.

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"We have to concentrate on long-term, sustainable solutions, including forestation. The government should sit with experts to find a way to address these types of natural disasters," he said.

AKM Jahangir, Sadar upazila chairman of Bandarban, told the Daily Star that unplanned urbanisation blocking the hilly streams and the plundering of trees from hills are two of the major reasons behind the severe flood in the district. Navigability of the rivers is being lost as mud washes away from the hills and deposits on the river bed due to the plundering of

trees, he said.

Fazlul Karim Sayedi, chairman of Chakaria upazila, said some influential persons developed prawn enclosures blocking a main canal which had a major role in draining out flood water.

However, Nabi Hossain Chowdhury, chairman of Shaharbel union of Chakaria, said five out of seven sluice gates in his area were clogged by waste and denied that prawn cultivation had anything to do with it.

Dr AKM Saiful Islam, professor at the Institute of Water and Flood management of Bangladesh

University of Engineering and Technology said only 20 percent of waste gets collected and the rest of it ends up in the rivers, canals and drains, clogging the water flow. This contributes to flooding.

Referring to unplanned urbanisation, Arup Chakrabarty, executive engineer of WDB in Bandarban, said one of the causes of prolonged inundation is construction of some new roads and buildings that hinder water from flowing out.

This recent floods claimed 59 lives: 22 in Cox's Bazar, 20 in Chattogram, 10 in Bandarban and 7 in Rangamati.

Toddler goes missing while playing

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response of the authorities concerned city dwellers alleged.

Contacted, SM Nazer Hossain, central vice president of the Consumers Association of Bangladesh, said Sunday's incident is another example of the sheer mismanagement of Chattogram City Corporation (CCC), adding, "The CCC officials have given assurance of taking preventive measures but the steps taken have been inadequate."

According to the city corporation, there are 57 (161km) canals and 765km of drains in the city.

In 2021, it conducted a survey to identify risky drains, canals and footpaths.

After the survey, 5,527 risky spots were identified but the work to secure those spots have been lackluster, sources within the CCC said.

Contacted, CCC Chief Engineer Rafiqul Islam said the work for installing slabs on open drains and retaining walls by the canals was going on.

"Slabs have already been installed on 30,000 square feet of open drains, while retaining walls have been built by 18,000 square feet of risky canals so far."

However, while visiting different

areas in the city, including Chawk Bazar, Chatteshwari Road, Rahattar Pool and KB Aman Ali Road, the drains and canals were found open and unprotected.

Contacted, CCC Mayor Rezaul Karim Chowdhury said he was informed about the baby going missing. "I have instructed the CCC officials to join the rescue operation."

He added they were trying to cover all the open drains in the city, but "it is a time-consuming task".

1 lakh people

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dry food and drinking water among the people.

The Teesta was flowing 30 centimetres above the danger level in the Kaunia area of Rangpur yesterday morning, according to the Water Development Board (WDB).

As a result, neighbourhoods in the low-lying areas of Rajarhat, Ulipur and Chilmari upazilas have gone under water.

Meanwhile, the rising level of water in the Jamuna is a major concern for the people in Sirajganj, WDB officials said.

The water in the Jamuna had risen by 17cm in a day, said Ranajit Kumar, a sub-divisional engineer at the WDB in Sirajganj, yesterday.

August cases surpass all of 2022

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started spreading again. Also, we didn't try to detect the virus-spreading mosquitoes at the beginning of this year."

Entomologist Kabirul Bashar, a professor at Jahangirnagar University, said the impact of climate change has also made Bangladesh dengue-prone throughout the year.

As rising numbers of dengue patients strain hospitals across the country, a government survey in Gazipur and Narayanganj has found numerous Aedes breeding grounds.

The DGHS survey found Aedes larvae in 150 houses of the 1,050 surveyed in Gazipur and 95 of the 705 in Narayanganj.

Between July 23 and 28, the researchers visited 41 out of the 57

wards in Gazipur city, and from July 30 to August 3, they visited all 27 wards in Narayanganj city.

Mohammad Khalilur Rahman, former chief entomologist at the DHGS who led the survey, said the density of Aedes in the two cities is high and the continuous rain will create more Aedes breeding grounds.

"Due to a scarcity of running water in both the cities, residents tend to store water in buckets or large pots. These containers often become the ideal breeding places for Aedes mosquitoes."

According to Kabirul Bashar, the measures taken to control Aedes outside the capital have been scanty.

"The government as well as the residents of those cities haven't paid enough attention to controlling Aedes

compared to in Dhaka."

Entomologist Saifur said the absence of proper surveillance in district towns has been a major failure this year.

"The government must have effective surveillance to identify dengue hotspots. This will enable local government departments, community organisations and educational institutions to conduct targeted interventions."

He added that city corporation officials and the residents share the responsibility to curb mosquito infestation by creating awareness, cleaning houses, and eliminating potential breeding grounds.

At least 11 more people died from dengue and 2,327 people infected by the disease were hospitalised in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.