

Poly bags banned in superstores from today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The banning of polythene and polypropylene shopping bags will be enforced across all superstores in the country starting today.

Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan made an announcement in this regard during a meeting with stakeholders at the Bangladesh Secretariat on September 9.

The ban on plastic bags, which has been in place since 2002, now be strictly enforced, said an environment ministry official.

Syeda Rizwana Hasan will visit some super shops in the Dhanmondi area to monitor enforced activities today, states a press release of the ministry sent yesterday.



Violence against women jumps by 27pc in September Says report of Mahila Parishad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Violence against women and children saw a significant rise in September, with reported cases rising by almost 27 percent compared to August, said a report by Bangladesh Mahila Parishad.

The total number of victims increased from 147 to 186. A total of 72 girls under the age of 18, alongside 114 adult women, encountered different forms of violence. The numbers were 51 and 96, respectively, in the previous month.

The report, "Statistics of Violence Against Women and Girl Children: September 2024," was made public yesterday. It was formed based on reports published in 16 daily newspapers from September.

As per the report, incidents of rape increased from eight to 13, with three of these resulting in the killing of the victim.

Gang rape cases also rose, affecting 11 individuals – five girls and six women – up from seven cases in the previous month.

Additionally, five girls and nine women took their own lives in September, compared to four girls and seven women in August.

Overall, 49 were killed for various reasons, which is 19 more than August. The report also said the number of mysterious murders also doubled, rising from 12 to 27 cases. While no attempted child marriages were reported, one child marriage did occur. Meanwhile, dowry-related violence claimed a woman's life.

KESHAVPUR UPAZILA OF JASHORE

40,000 people of 104 villages waterlogged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

At least 40,000 residents of 104 villages have been suffering due to flooding and waterlogging since Thursday in Jashore's Keshavpur upazila.

Incessant rains in past few days caused Thangakhali canal to swell and breach the Madhyakul sluiceway, inundating the villages on Thursday.

The situation has yet to improve since then.

Locals as well as students under the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement on Thursday afternoon formed a human chain at Trimohoni Intersection of Keshavpur town demanding authorities concerned to take urgent steps in this regard.

Amid the flash flood, people in different affected areas are trapped in their homes while facing a shortage of food and drinking water under floodwater.

"All 11 villages of my union have been inundated by floodwater. Byasdanga village has been cut off



from the rest of the upazila due to flooding," said Alauddin, chairman of Keshavpur Sadar union parishad.

"Residents in my area are living in inhumane condition. Waterborne diseases are spreading fast as there is an acute shortage of pure water to drink," said Mohammad Palash of Bhogati Nonadanga area.

"A total 104 villages in 11 unions under the upazila have been flooded, affecting around 40,000 people.

Many villagers have taken shelter in three schools in the upazila," said Niaz Mohammad Faisal, office assistant at Keshavpur upazila implementation officer's office.

Confirming the matter, Mosharraf Hossain, executive officer of Keshavpur Municipality, said floodwater inundated numerous areas under the nine wards of the municipality, causing sufferings to residents.

Hold local govt polls before nat'l election

Says GM Quader STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyo Party Chairman GM Quader yesterday demanded that the interim government hold local government polls before holding the national election.

"If a local government election is held before the national election, we will be able to know how much reform has taken place and whether the election will be free and fair," Quader said while speaking at a programme at his office at the city's Banani.

Jatiya Jubo Sanghati organised the programme.

GM Quader said whoever comes to power should not turn into a monster.

He also said his party has confidence in the interim government.

The JP chairman said despite having good elections in 1996, 2001, and 2008, the country did not get a good government.

He emphasised that it's not just about fair elections but also about having a fair governance system. He also said the constitution needs to be amended to create a people-centred and accountable government.

He said after the country was freed from autocracy, a certain group started spreading propaganda against JP. GM Quader also said JP was forced to participate in the last national election due to pressure created by Awami League.



44 deaths in mob violence

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involved in these incidents. In a separate issue, MSF reported that, for the first time in Bangladesh, a shrine was attacked following a public announcement. In several locations, multiple shrine structures were demolished using bulldozers, acts which deeply offended religious sentiments.

In districts such as Dhaka, Sirajganj, Gazipur, Noakhali, Sylhet, Cumilla, Chattogram, Narayanganj, and Shariatpur, 12 incidents of attacks, vandalism, looting, and arson at shrines were reported.

These attacks left one person dead and 43 others injured. However, shrine authorities claim that over 50 such incidents, large and small, have occurred nationwide, according to the MSF. MSF stressed that shrines should not be seen merely as religious sites, but as integral parts of cultural heritage. The organisation called on the interim government to take permanent measures to protect these sites. Despite the political

changes, extrajudicial killings and incidents of gunfights have continued, MSF said, raising further concerns. In September, three indigenous citizens were killed by army gunfire, MSF said.

The report also highlighted deaths due to torture during law enforcement operations. In September, three people died as a result of such torture during joint operations, with two others critically injured.

MSF called for impartial investigations into all such deaths. Tonmoy said Monsur was directly involved with the killing. Monsur told the court that he went abroad in May this year. He was implicated in the case just for harassing him. So, he appealed to the court to cancel the remand prayer and grant him bail.

On September 14, Abbas Ali, a former member of JCD central committee, filed the murder case with Paltan Model Police Station against 704 people, including Awami League's top leaders, several police officials, and 12,000 unnamed people.

Monsur was once a vice president of Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducus). He was elected as lawmaker in 1996 from Awami League. During political change over in 2007-08, differences surfaced between him and his party as he sought reform in the party.

In the 2018 general election, he contested from Moulvibazar-2 as a candidate of the BNP-led Jatiya Oikya Front and won the seat.

Ex-MP Sultan

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Need national consensus

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should be reformed, accommodating the desire of the student-people mass uprising.

We have to think about how to reform the state to move forward, he said.

Nazmul Ahsan Kalimullah, chairman of Janipop; Zonayed Saki, chief coordinator of Ganosamhati Andolon; Md Sharif Alam, director of BCGD; and Katie Croake, chief of party at Counterpart International, also spoke at the event, among others.

India returns 20,000

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An Indian government source said most applicants travel for business and that urgent requests are being considered.

With the Durga Puja festival approaching, there has been an increase in visa applications. Concerns have been raised that restrictions on travel could negatively impact markets in Kolkata as many Bangladeshi nationals typically visit West Bengal during this time.

Since Bangladesh lacks diplomatic missions for several countries, including some in Europe, many nationals seek to obtain visas from India.

Transfer probe

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Maasranga, and his wife, Meherun Runi, a senior reporter at ATN Bangla, were killed in their rented flat in West Rajabazar on February 11, 2012, while their five-year-old son, Mahir Sarowar Megh, was at home.

Runi's brother, Nawsher Alam Roman, filed a murder case with the Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station without naming any suspects. After initial investigations by police and detectives, Rab took over the case on April 18, 2012.

On September 9 this year, a Dhaka court instructed Rab to submit the probe report by October 15, marking yet another extension in a long line of delays. Previous court sessions have shown dissatisfaction with Rab's handling of the investigation and its failure to identify the murderer's motive or apprehend the perpetrators.

Nawsher has voiced frustration over Rab's investigative methods, saying they have subjected him and his nephew to mental distress.

He appealed to journalists for any documents that could help shed light on the case.

Save the Children INVITATION TO SUBMIT EOI. Save the Children International (SCI) Bangladesh country office is hereby inviting Expression of Interest (EOI) from the experienced INGO/NGO/CBO/SHGs for the SR selection of the PWID Intervention under the Global Fund project.

Save the Children Invitation for Tender. Save the Children International (SCI) is hereby inviting for tender from interested experienced bona fide vendor for providing Construction Material for its offices and other locations in Bangladesh.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Ministry of Defence Survey of Bangladesh Surveyor General's Office. e-Tender Notice No. 2/2024-25. This is an online Tender, Where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

Transfer probe (continued text from page 3)

KHULNA SHIPYARD LIMITED BANGLADESH NAVY, KHULNA. INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE. Procuring Entity Name: Khulna Shipyard Limited, Bangladesh Navy, Khulna.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার. তত্ত্বাবধায়ক এর কার্যালয়. ২৫০ শয্যা জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, ফেনী. Email: feni@hospi.dghs.gov.bd. তারিখঃ ৩০/০৯/২০২৪ইং

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি. ২৫০ শয্যা জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, ফেনী এর জন্য ২০২৪-২০২৫ইং অর্থ বছরের পথ্য সরবরাহ, লিনেন যৌতকরণ এবং ট্রেসনারী ও মসোদারী মালামাল সরবরাহের নিমিত্তে বাংলাদেশের স্থায়ী বাসিন্দা ও সক্রিয় বিধেয় প্রকৃত সরবরাহকারী/প্রকৃত সহায়/টিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হইতে নিম্নোক্ত শর্ত বাসেপক্ষে সীলমোহরকৃত নামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইবে।