



Fragile phase for Rohingya aid: UNHCR

UNB, Dhaka

The Rohingya response has entered a fragile phase, marked by declining funding and worsening camp conditions, said the UNHCR yesterday.

Sustained international engagement and funding remain critical to bolster Bangladesh's response, to ensure that the Rohingyas and their host communities are not abandoned, and for Rohingyas to live in safety and dignity until their voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return to Myanmar, said the UN refugee agency.

UN and its humanitarian partners called for renewed international support as they presented the 2026 update of the Joint Response Plan (JRP) for the Rohingya humanitarian crisis.

The hyper-prioritised plan appeals for \$710.5 million to reach up to 15.6 lakh people, including refugees and the Bangladeshi host communities.

The appeal -- a 26 percent reduction from the 2025 JRP -- covers only the minimum needed to sustain lifesaving assistance.

Midway through the year, generous

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

The Buriganga is choking on waste and polluted waters, endangering public health and aquatic life. During Eid-ul-Azha, improper disposal of sacrificial waste, and other organic materials worsened the already poor quality of river water.

No safe haven for criminals in Jungle Salimpur

Home minister says



STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed has said that Jungle Salimpur in Sitakunda will no longer remain a “sanctuary” for criminal groups, as authorities prepare to intensify operations.

Speaking after a visit to the much-discussed site in Chattogram yesterday, he said the government would firmly establish its authority and take action against those involved in criminal activities.

He added that planned operations had been partially disrupted after information was allegedly leaked, allowing suspected criminals to become alert in advance.

“We could not achieve our target as planned because, for one reason or

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Feud within family, gambling clash leave trail of deaths

9 killed, two bodies recovered in two days

STAR REPORT

At least nine people were killed due to previous enmity and the bodies of two others were recovered in five districts over the last two days.

One of the incidents was the murder of 28-year-old Amena and her one-and-a-half-year-old son Aswad allegedly by one of their relatives following a family dispute in Manikganj's Daulatpur upazila.

Quoting locals, police said there was a longstanding family dispute between Yusuf Molla, 35, and his elder brother Salam Molla, 40, who is Amena's husband.

On Saturday night, Salam was at his shop. Taking the chance, Yusuf allegedly attacked Amena and her child with a sharp weapon in their residence at around 10:00pm, said Swapan Kumar Sarkar, the officer in-charge of Daulatpur Police Station.

He later attacked Salam while he was returning home after closing his shop. Salam was admitted to the local health complex.

In a separate incident in Manikganj Sadar upazila, a youth was hacked to death by unidentified miscreants early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Md Sajib, 28, of Utar Putail village.

The incident took place around 1:15am over previous enmity, said Ikram Hossain, the OC of Manikganj Sadar Police Station.

Over at Khulna, police recovered the bodies of a woman and two children from a house in the city on Saturday evening.

The deceased were identified as Fatema Begum, 60, Shamim Bepari, 13, and Mostakim Bepari, 4.

The bodies were recovered around 6:00pm from a house in the Darul Aman area, said Md Rafiqul Islam, the OC of Sonadanga Police Station.

According to preliminary findings, Fatema's second husband might have killed them, he said.

In Noakhali, miscreants allegedly beat a young man to death with iron rods on Saturday night.

The victim, Jobayer Hossain alias Rakib, 24, was a resident of Sharifpur union under Begumganj upazila.

Quoting family members, police said a dispute had reportedly arisen three or four days earlier between the son of Rakib's cousin and a local shopkeeper.

On Saturday night at around 9:30pm, Rakib and his younger brother, Rimon, were heading home from the market when a group of assailants allegedly attacked them.

Rakib suffered severe injuries after being struck on the head and other parts of his body with iron rods, police said.

He was taken to the hospital, where doctors declared him dead, said Md Shamsuzzaman, the OC of Begumganj Model Police Station.

In another incident in Noakhali Sadar upazila, businessman Md Kamal Uddin, 48, died while trying to intervene in a clash between two groups over a dispute related to a gambling den.

Shriram Chandra Bhattacharya, inspector (operations) of Sudharam Model Police Station, said Kamal's nephew Farhad was first assaulted over a gambling-related dispute at Dadpur area at around 10:00pm on Saturday night.

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Islamist parties looking to usher in women voters

Observers say move signals restructuring of right-leaning groups

MAMUNUR RASHID

Islami Andolan Bangladesh, Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis and Khelafat Majlis are moving to expand their reach among female voters and have already begun work to set up party-backed, independent platforms for women and female students.

Leaders of the Islamist parties say the initiatives aim to strengthen bases among female students, spread Islamic value-based political messaging, and develop women leaders.

According to political observers, the move reflects a restructuring of Islamist parties, influenced by the importance of female voters and rising political awareness among young women.

In the 13th parliamentary election, Jamaat-e-Islami successfully mobilised its central, associate and professional wings; women's division; and party-affiliated student organisation. Analysts said the outreach helped increase Jamaat's visibility among female voters and students.

Islami Andolan contested the election under the “hand fan” symbol. The party was initially part of a Jamaat-led II-party alliance but withdrew before the polls. It secured 2.70 percent of the vote and won one seat.

Founded in 1987 under Charmonai Pir, Islami Andolan did not have a formal women's wing for a long time. The party formed a 34-member women's unit on International Women's Day last year.

On the proposed female student wing,

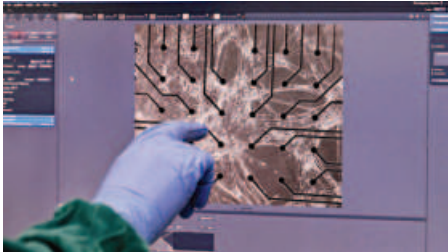
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The hanging bridge in Rangamati drew heavy crowds yesterday, as tourist spots across the hill district remained abuzz on the last day of the Eid-ul-Azha holidays.

PHOTO: RIKORS CHAKMA

Researchers teach brain cells to play ‘Doom’



AFP, Melbourne

Australian researchers have trained lab-grown brain cells on a silicon computer chip to play the nineties shooter game “Doom” and say they are just scratching the surface of what the neurons could be capable of doing.

It's the science-fiction work of biotech boffins at Cortical Labs, who researched and developed the technology that harnesses the workings of the brain's networking system.

Each so-called “biological computer” contains around 200,000 living human brain cells, grown from stem cells that were harvested from blood donations.

STORIES YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

Govt turns to foreign loans to plug deficit

The government is moving away from its reliance on domestic funds to cover next year's budget deficit, turning to foreign loans to free up resources for the private sector and contain inflation. The deficit is projected at Tk 2,35,000 crore -- amounting to 3.4 percent of GDP.

Eid is where home is

While families back home celebrate with the remittances sent from abroad, millions of Bangladeshi migrant workers spend their Eid inside cramped Middle Eastern dormitories. Overshadowed by geopolitical conflict and financial strain, their festive season is a quiet sacrifice, proving that for those building futures from afar, there is truly no Eid away from home.

Govt plans big for edn; execution doubts remain

Marking its first 100 days, the BNP government has rolled out an ambitious 12-point education agenda -- promising classroom digitalisation, mandatory sports, and a massive budget hike. Experts warn that turning these promises into reality will require stricter structural accountability.

Govt gunning for 6.5% growth next year

Despite three consecutive years of declining economic growth, the government is setting its sights on an ambitious 6.5 percent GDP target for the upcoming fiscal year. Backed by a massive Tk 3 lakh crore public investment plan, this goal stands in stark contrast to the conservative 4–5 percent growth forecast from global lenders.

BNP walks tightrope amid global shocks

Marking 100 days in office, the BNP government finds itself steering Bangladesh through an increasingly volatile global landscape. Confronted by regional instability, shifting Western alliances, and intense economic ripples, Dhaka is forced to walk a diplomatic tightrope.

Govt eyes \$51b reserves in FY27

In a bid to restore macroeconomic stability, the government has set an audacious target to scale up foreign exchange reserves to \$51 billion by FY27. Backed by expectations of a remittance boom and import curbs, the strategy is drawing intense skepticism from independent analysts.

Waiting for word from the sea

While the country moves past the Eid holiday season, a harrowing silence hangs over coastal villages. Following a devastating trawler disaster in the treacherous waters of the Andaman Sea, desperate families wait by their phones for some news of their missing loved ones.

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বিনম্র শ্রদ্ধা

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