



Highlights



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS

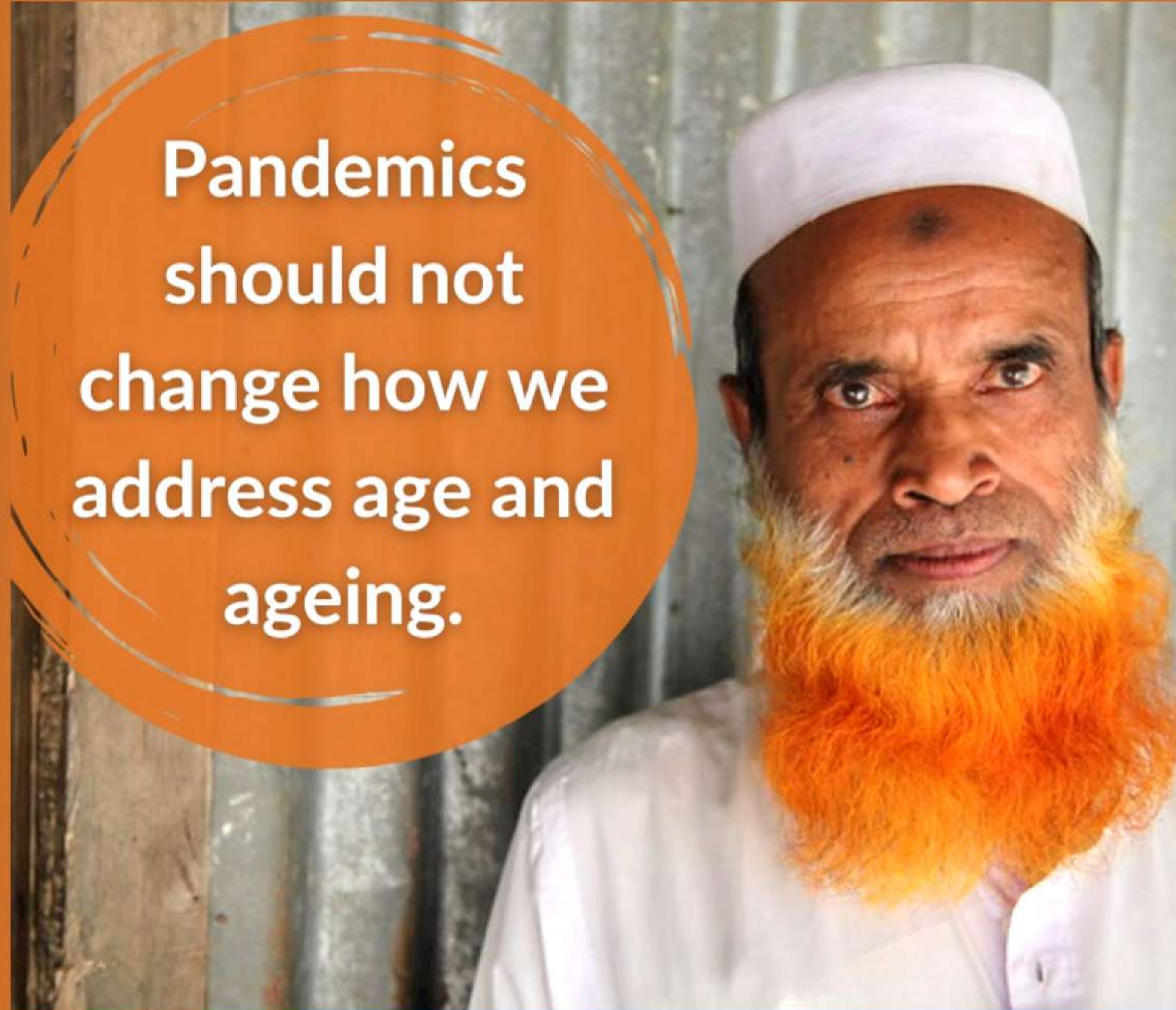
On 1 October, we celebrated International Day of Older Persons.

During COVID-19, the virus is not the only thing threatening the elderly.

We must all do our part to aid and empower elders during this difficult time.

Pandemics should not change how we address age and ageing.

More info:



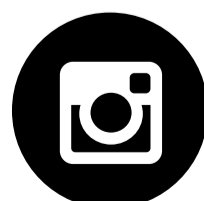
MEETING WITH THE ADDITIONAL SECRETARY OF THE ECONOMIC RELATIONS DIVISION (ERD)

In the beginning of the month, UNFPA Representative Dr. Asa Torkelsson met for the first time in person with the new Additional Secretary of the ERD, Dr. Nahid Rashid.

Dr. Torkelsson updated the Additional Secretary about UNFPA's programmes in Bangladesh, thanked her for ERD's support to UNFPA in Bangladesh and requested ERD for the extension of CPAP and TAPP.



More info:



LAUNCH OF UNFPA-UNICEF REPORT ON CHILD MARRIAGE

More info:



On 7 October, UNFPA participated in the virtual launch of - UNICEF's and UNFPA's joint report on the progress of ending child marriage in Bangladesh.

State Minister of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Fazilatun Nessa Indira attended the launch as a chief guest of honor.



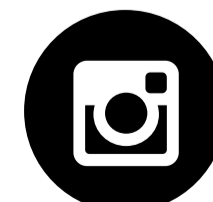
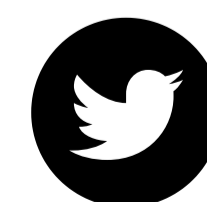
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL



On **11 October**, we celebrated International Day of the Girl, the theme of which this year was ***"My Voice, Our Equal Future"***.

We marked the day on social media by giving adolescent girls the opportunity to voice out their concerns and dreams to inspire us all to fight for a more equal future for women and girls.

More info:



LAUNCH OF PLAN INTERNATIONAL'S "GIRLS RIGHTS AND EQUALITY MOVEMENT"

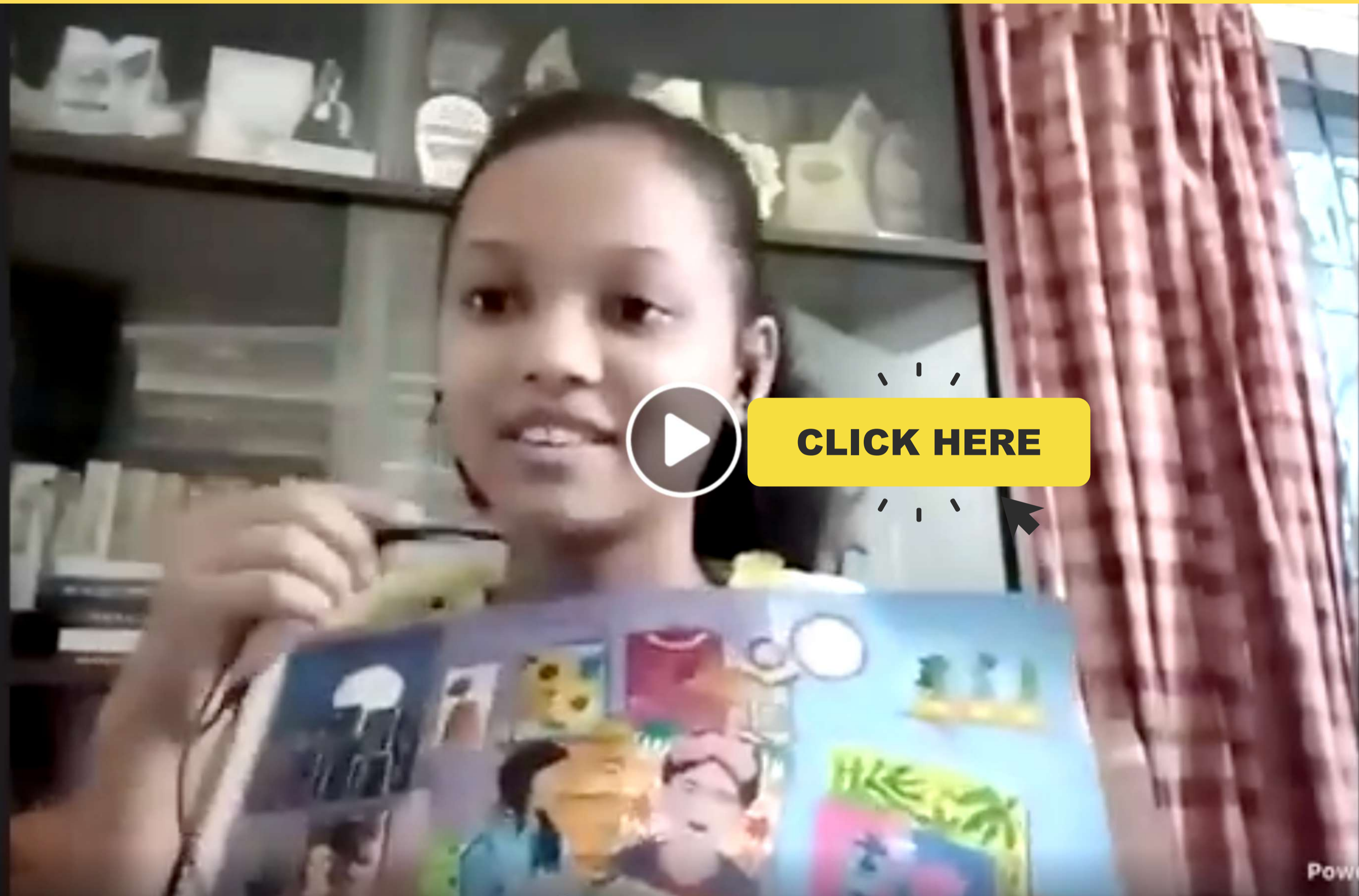
More info:  

On the eve of International Day of the Girl, our Representative Dr. Torkelsson attended the launch of Plan International's "Girls' Right and Equality Movement, where Plan announced its commitment to work for girls' rights and equality in Bangladesh for the next 10 years.

Youth from all over Bangladesh moderated and facilitated the event, which was also attended by the Director-General of the NGO Affairs Bureau of the Prime Minister's Office, Md. Rashadul Islam and Ambassador of Sweden to Bangladesh, Alexandra Berg von Linde.

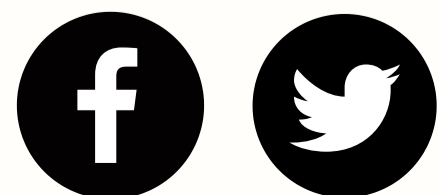


ART COMPETITION FOR INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL



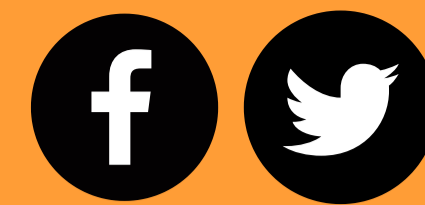
For International Day of the Girl, we also organized a art competition with a2i, where we asked girls in Bangladesh to paint their future. The winners were awarded in an online prize giving ceremony on 11 October.

More info:



"KONNAROTNO" PROGRAMME

More info:



We also virtually attended a regional meeting on a government programme called “Konnaratno”. The programme is currently empowering 1,700 rural girls in Panchagarh district by providing them bicycles and training them to become educators on matters related to reproductive health and child marriage in their communities.

The Speaker of Parliament, Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury and Member of Parliament, Mr. Md. Mazaharul Hoque Prodhan, delivered remarks at the meeting.



LAUNCH OF THE ELIMINATION OF FISTULA PROGRAMME IN RAJSHAHI



More info:



This month marked an important milestone for the SRHR team, when the Elimination of Fistula programme was launched in Rajshahi division. Rajshahi is the fourth division the programme will cover and we hope our continued efforts with the national government will eventually lead to Bangladesh eliminating obstetric fistula by 2030.

Additionally, during a divisional workshop in Rangpur, the three-layer cloth mask developed by 12 fistula survivors was officially launched.

UN DAY 2020



We are pleased to celebrate UN Day together with our sister-agencies, and to continue advocating for zero maternal mortality, zero unmet need for family planning, and zero incidents of gender-based violence and harmful practices.

DR. ASA TORKESSON
UNFPA REPRESENTATIVE IN BANGLADESH

Note: Photo taken pre COVID-19



On 24 October, UNFPA celebrated the 75th anniversary of the United Nations.

The special UN Day was marked in Bangladesh with multiple exciting activities such as an online concert, an art exhibition and a debate competition.

Even during COVID-19, we are proud continue to provide lifesaving services to women and young people, together with our partners.

More info:



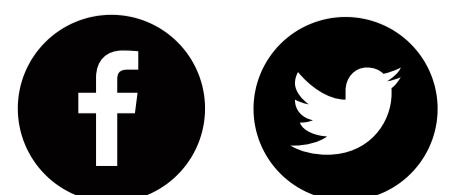
5TH NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE ON FAMILY PLANNING



On 16-17 October, UNFPA hosted Bangladesh's 5th National Youth Conference on Family Planning. Over 500 youth advocates from Bangladesh virtually participated in the conference and had the opportunity to discuss the importance of family planning and the challenges COVID-19 poses to it.

The Minister of Education, Dr. Dipu Moni and the Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Md. Ali Noor delivered remarks during the opening session of the conference.

More info:



MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

UN has been marking this October as Mental Health Awareness Month.

During COVID-19, it is more important than ever that we fight the stigma against mental health issues and support each other in the struggles we face.

Our team in Cox's Bazar exemplified this spirit this month by conducting a series of sessions on 'self-care and wellbeing'



World Mental Health Day



More info:



UNFPA BANGLADESH FEATURED ON "VOICES"



Our recent campaign to promote women leadership at UNFPA Bangladesh was heavily featured on UNFPA's internal magazine "Voices".

We should all feel fortunate for the opportunity to work with such talented and ambitious women every single day!

More info:

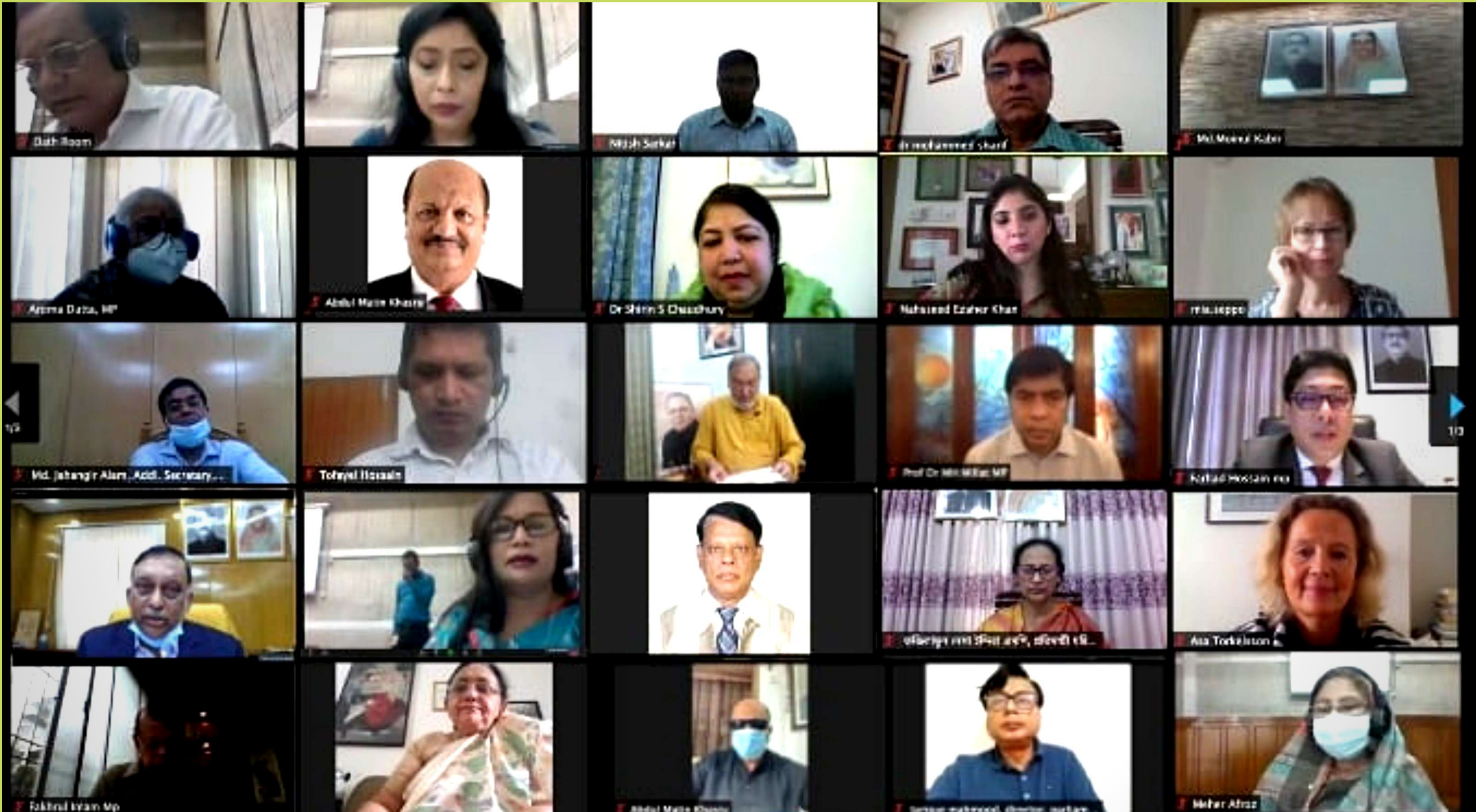


HIGH-LEVEL POLICY DIALOGUE ON CHILD MARRIAGE, GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND MATERNAL HEALTH IN EMERGENCIES



On October 8, we participated in a high-level policy dialogue to end child marriage, prevent gender-based violence and improve maternal health in the context of natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad, Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury; Minister of Home Affairs, Asaduzzaman Khan; State Minister of Women and Children Affairs, Fazilatun Nessa India; State Minister of Public Administration and many other important representatives of the government participated in the dialogue.



RAPE IN BANGLADESH



**ONE
RAPE
IS
ONE
TOO
MANY**

[#StandAgainstRape](#)



This month, heinous instances of rape mobilized the people of Bangladesh to the streets to demand a Bangladesh, where women can live safe lives free from violence.

UNFPA stands in solidarity with the protesters in their rightful struggle to end rape and ensure protection for survivors, but does not stand behind the government's decision to impose capital punishment for perpetrators.

We will continue our advocacy efforts with greater intensity to end rape in Bangladesh and work with the Government and its partners to provide support and healing for survivors.

More info:



WFP NOBEL PEACE PRIZE



Congratulations
WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME
ON RECEIVING THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE 2020
Our joint effort for Humanity shall continue...



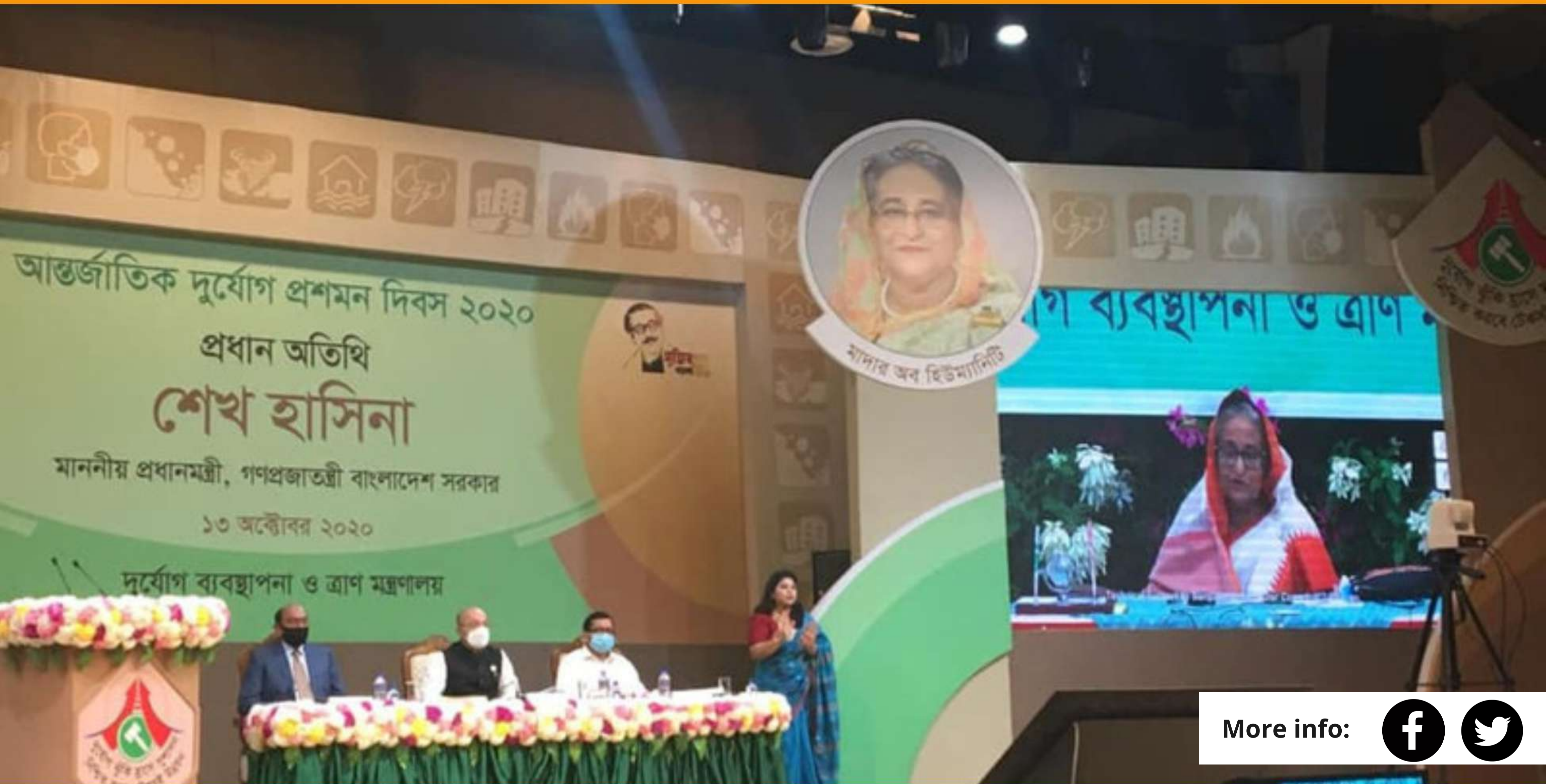
This month, our sister agency World Food Programme received the huge honor of being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

We are delighted to partner with WFP in several initiatives and look forward to continuing our joint efforts for the benefit of humanity in Bangladesh and around the world.

More info:



A HIGH-LEVEL NATIONAL EVENT MARKING INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DISASTER RISK REDUCTION



More info:



On International Disaster Risk Reduction Day, UNFPA attended a strategic high-level event organized by the Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief.

The Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, virtually graced the event and noted the importance of gender-responsive measures to battle climate change. The event also highlighted the importance of women volunteers in disaster response, which is a result of UNFPA and SIDA supported sensitization on gender-balanced measures.

MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY AND CEO OF PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP AUTHORITY OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

This month, Dr. Asa Torkelsson also had a meeting with the Secretary and CEO of Public Private Partnership Authority of the Prime Minister's Office, **Ms. Sultana Afroz.**

They discussed UNFPA's support to strengthen youth volunteerism in Bangladesh.



More info:



ORIENTATION TRAINING FOR THE NEW SRHR OFFICER OF DGHS



This month, UNFPA participated in an orientation training for the new SRHR Officer of DGHS, which was attended by the Additional Director General of DGHS, Meerjady Sabrina Flora

TRAINING SESSION FOR SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS OFFICERS



Between 1-8 October, UNFPA facilitated a series of training session for SRHR officers on combating fistula and improving maternal and perinatal death surveillance and response in Bangladesh.

HEALTH MINISTER'S ANNUAL NATIONAL AWARD CEREMONY



This month, we also attended the Health Minister's annual National Award Ceremony, where different actors of the health sector of Bangladesh were recognized for their efforts to improve public health.

A total of 43 awards were distributed to hospitals, health offices and community health services around the country. The event was organized by DHGS with the support of WHO and UKAid.

REGIONAL WEBINAR ON FAMILY PLANNING DURING COVID-19

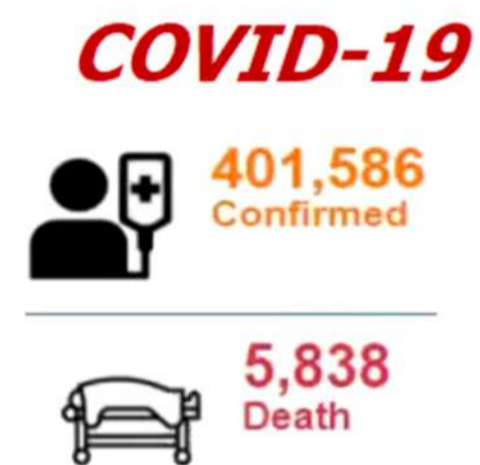


This month, UNFPA participated in a webinar, where **six UNFPA Country Offices** in the Asia Pacific region told about the innovative approaches they have taken to ensure people's access to family planning amidst the challenges posed by COVID-19.

During the meeting, **Hasan** delivered a presentation, where he explained about the telemedicine services, virtual trainings and advocacy campaigns we have conducted during the pandemic.

POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS 2021 IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID 19 PANDEMIC

- Official Name : The People's Republic Of Bangladesh
- Independence : 1971
- Area : 147,570 sq km
- Population : 166.5 million (Jul 2019)
- Population density : 1,125 (per sq km)
- Sex ratio : 100.2
- Literacy rate (7Y+) : 74.4
- Currency : Taka (1 US\$ = 85 Taka)
- Government : Parliamentary Form
- Climate : Sub-tropical
- Administrative units : 8 divisions, 64 districts, 492 sub-districts, and 4,554 unions



On 28 October, UNFPA Bangladesh participated in a regional webinar on the the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on census preparation.

The meeting gave country offices in the region a valuable opportunity to discuss how census data collection can be performed successfully despite the challenges at hand.

ROHINGYA CONFERENCE 2020

Sustaining Support for the Rohingya Refugee Response

A virtual conference on Thursday, 22 October 2020

This month was also important for our team in Cox's Bazar, as UNHCR hosted the Rohingya Conference 2020 with donors, to spotlight how the international community can take action.

UNFPA Regional Director, Bjorn Andersson, spoke at the conference, highlighting the importance of continuing lifesaving SRHR and GBV services to Rohingya women and young people, while working closely with authorities to support a voluntary return to conducive and safe conditions in Myanmar.



B a n g l a d e s h