

Staff reporter

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has reiterated its commitment to help people in need in Bangladesh and ensure their safe access to healthcare during any crisis. "Every effort has to be made to ensure that first-responders and medical personnel can carry out their activities unhindered during political violence, and that those involved respect Red Cross and Red Crescent emblems," said Christine Cipolla, head of the ICRC delegation in Dhaka on Tuesday.

Together with the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS), the ICRC is working to help people in need, the ICRC said while sharing its operational updates in Bangladesh during January-June, 2014 period.

It mentioned that communal tensions, politically motivated violence and other disturbances affect the lives of ordinary Bangladeshis in parts of the country.

Ensuring that the wounded receive prompt and safe access to health care is a focus of joint efforts by the ICRC and BDRCS, it said.

The report mentioned that in the run-up to the 10th parliamentary elections, political and inter-communal violence was on the rise. General strikes (hartals) disrupted life in the country, resulting in casualties and the destruction of dwellings and shops.

BDRCS first-responders, supported by the ICRC, provided first aid to some 150 wounded people and referred 25 seriously injured people to hospitals.

To develop and improve the physical rehabilitation services in Bangladesh and to increase accessibility for the destitute physically disabled persons, the ICRC supports the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed in Dhaka and Chittagong.

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement continues to restore links between families in Bangladesh and relatives detained abroad.