

2018 HENLEY PASSPORT INDEX

Bangladesh drops seven notches

RASHIDUL HASAN

The value of Bangladeshi passport has dropped down further as it now ranks 97th with a visa-free access to 38 countries, according to the latest rankings in the 2018 Henley Passport Index.

In 2017, Bangladesh ranked 90th. The index was released in February 13 by Henley & Partners, a citizenship and planning

THE LEAST FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT		
Rank	Country	No. of countries accessible
1	Afghanistan	24
2	Iraq	27
3	Syria	28
4	Pakistan	30
5	Somalia	32
6	Yemen	35
7	Libya, Nepal	36
8	Eritrea	37
9	Bangladesh, Kosovo, Iran, Lebanon	38
10	South Sudan, Ethiopia, Palestinian Territory	39

TOP RANKING COUNTRIES IN SOUTH ASIA		
Rank	Country	No. of countries accessible
1	Maldives with another country	83
2	India with 3 other countries	56
3	Bhutan with five other countries	52
4	Sri Lanka with another country	42
5	Bangladesh with 3 other countries	38
6	Nepal with another country	36
7	Pakistan	30
8	Afghanistan	24

firm. For the rankings, it takes into account how many countries can be visited without applying for a visa.

The ranking is based on an exclusive data from the International Air Transport Association, which maintains the world's largest database of travel information.

The latest index was based on 199 countries. Apart from Bangladesh, Lebanon, Iran and Kosovo also ranked 97th.

Singaporean and Japanese passport holders

have more reasons to cheer as the latest rankings show that the two countries have jointly secured the top position with citizens of both the Asian nations now enjoying a visa-free access to a record 180 destinations, making their passports the most powerful ones in the world. The two countries have knocked Germany off the top spot as the world's most powerful passport as per the Henley Passport Index.

German passport holders now enjoy a visa-free access to 179 countries followed by France, Italy, Spain, Denmark, Finland, Sweden and South Korea with a visa-free access to 178 countries.

Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Pakistan sit at the bottom of the list for the second year in a row, allowing a visa-free access to 30 or fewer countries. With a visa-free access to 24 countries, Afghan passport ranks 105th, the lowest position.

Singapore's and Japan's rise in the rankings comes after Uzbekistan lifted visa requirements for citizens of both the countries recently.

Apart from Japan, Singapore and South Korea, there is no other Asian country among the top ten nations. With a visa-free access to 169 countries, Malaysia ranks 11th globally along with Liechtenstein.

On the other hand, partly as a result of its recent visa-waiver agreement with the UAE, China has shown the most growth in its region compared to last year. China moved up 11 places. It now ranks 74th with a visa-free access to 64 countries.

The UK has dropped down to the 4th place. The country's citizens still enjoy a visa-free access to 177 destinations.

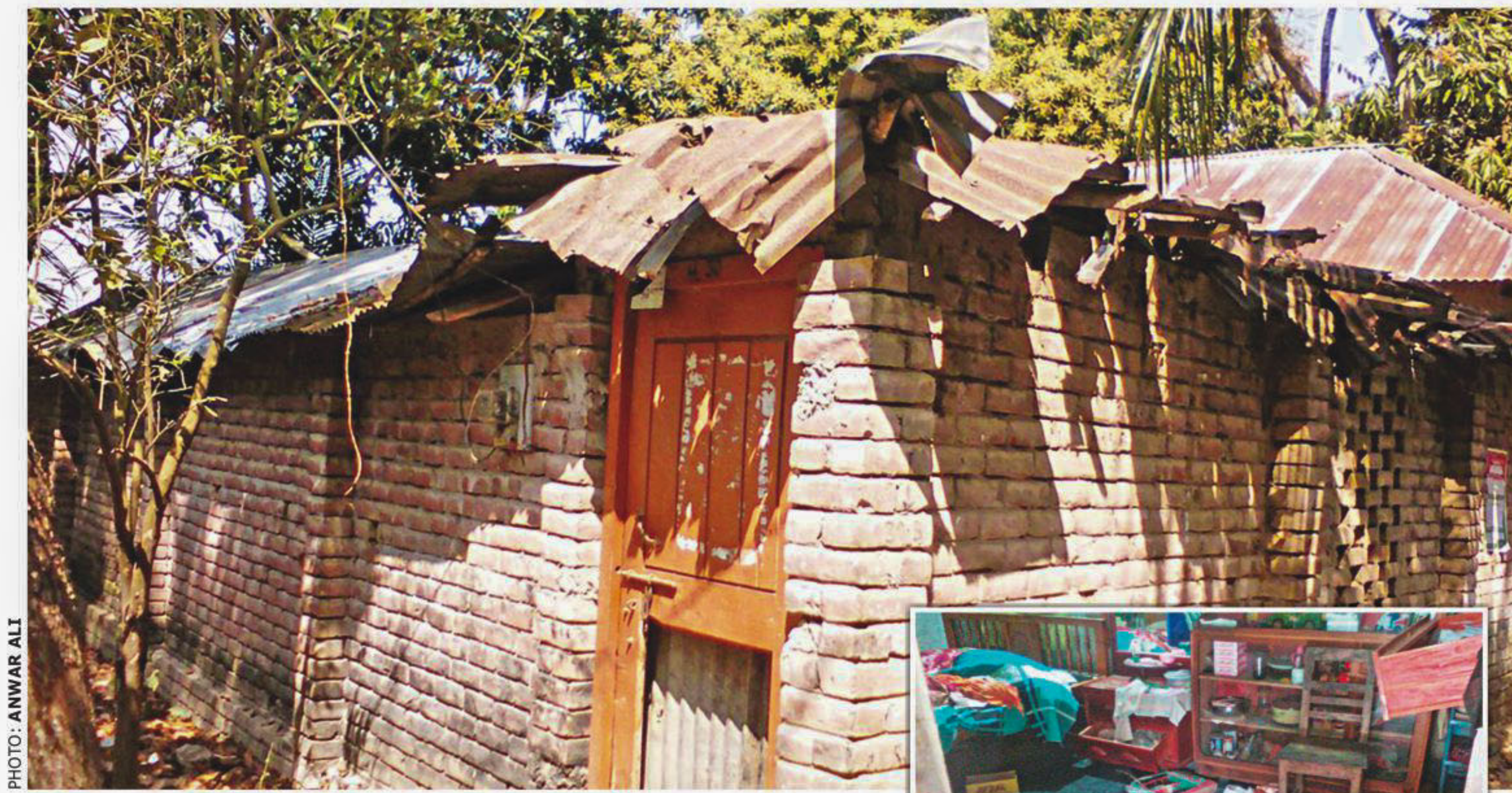
The US continues to hold the 5th place, offering its passport holders access to 176 destinations.

The UAE climbed up to 27th place after gaining entry to China and Ireland earlier this year. It now provides its citizens with a visa-free access to 140 destinations worldwide.

Asked, former ambassador Rashed Ahmed said the value of a country's passport depends on various factors such as its image abroad, corruption, democracy, militancy, terrorism and law and order situation.

Bangladesh's position centring the above issues is not satisfactory, he said.

The former diplomat also said Bangladesh's quality of diplomacy has deteriorated. The country has also failed to highlight its achievements abroad, he added.



The partially damaged house of school teacher Gulbar Rahman in Nurpur area of Taherpur in Rajshahi's Bagmara. A group of youths led by Soheli Rana, Jubo League president of Ward 7 in Taherpur municipality, allegedly vandalised the house on Saturday night as the teacher had rebuked Soheli's younger brother for stalking his students. Inset, a ransacked room inside the house.

Dare not stop a stalker!

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

The night was like any other. Being a teacher, he was reviewing students' scripts while having a chat with his wife and their five-year-old daughter. His eldest daughter, a ninth grader, was preparing her lesson in the other room.

Everything was fine until a band of criminals changed it all.

On Saturday, around 9:00pm, the thugs equipped with sticks and sharp weapons suddenly started vandalising the tin-roofed house of Gulbar Rahman, an assistant headteacher of Jamgram High School in Nurpur area of Taherpur municipality in Rajshahi's Bagmara upazila.

Gulbar alleged that Soheli Rana, Jubo League president of Ward 7 of the municipality, led the attack as he had rebuked Soheli's younger brother, Sihab Ali Sobuj, for stalking his students.

He said he had done what he was supposed to do -- coming forward to safeguard his students. But least he imagined that he would have to pay a

price for that in such an unpleasant way.

On that night, the attackers were not just vandalising his house, at the same time they were hurling abuse at Gulbar and his family.

At one point, they finally entered the house after breaking the door, said Gulbar, adding that his wife had then locked him and his younger daughter in the bedroom so the attackers could not harm them.

Soon, several other criminals made their way inside and ransacked a room and other valuables.

"As they could not find me, they started beating my wife and eldest daughter and harassed them," alleged the teacher. "I can't tell you everything that happened..." he could not finish his sentence.

The attackers also tried to break the door of the bedroom. "I heard an attacker even telling someone to shoot me through a hole in a window," he said.

"Locked inside, I called the police for help," said Gulbar, adding, "Police responded quickly".

The attackers had already left the house before the police reached the scene, said Nasim Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Bagmara Police Station.

The tormented family was finally freed.

Following the attack, Gulbar filed a case with Bagmara Police Station on Sunday accusing Soheli, his brother Sobuj and 16 others.

Police on Monday arrested three persons. They are Bangladesh Chhatra League activist Nazmul Haque, 22, Jubo League activist Afzal Hossain, 30, and Awami League activist Afiz Uddin, 52 -- all from Nurpur village. They were sent to jail custody, said police.

Gulbar said two female students of his school -- one of class VI and the other of class IX -- earlier complained to him that Sobuj had been stalking them for long.

In the last month, Sobuj entered into female common room of Jamgram High School and took photographs of the girls on his mobile phone. Sobuj even attempted to sexually

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Disregarding public safety and violating traffic rules, bus drivers often engage in drag races on the streets of Dhaka. Two such buses yesterday rubbed against each other on Topkhana Road across Jatiya Press Club around noon, causing a tailback in the area. No injury was reported. The two buses later went about their business without any action by law enforcers.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAHMAN

New Chinese envoy to present credentials today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Newly appointed Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Zhang Zuo will present his credentials to President Abdul Hamid at Bangabhaban today.

Zhang Zuo replaced ambassador Ma Mingqiang, who left Dhaka in December late last year without paying a farewell call on the president, prime minister and foreign minister.

Foreign ministry officials consider it "departure from normal diplomatic courtesy".

Chinese embassy sources said the newly appointed Chinese ambassador arrived in Dhaka on February 12.

SC verdict on Morshed Khan's

FROM PAGE 4

letter to the ACC asking if they should reopen the accounts as there were no legal bars, the ACC lawyer said.

The accounts were subsequently opened as no evidence of money laundering was found against the three accused.

The ACC then submitted two petitions to a Dhaka court to revive the case and seek permission to reinvestigate the case.

The Dhaka court on June 2, 2016

rejected the petitions and on June 5, 2016 the commission moved the revision petition before the HC challenging the lower court orders.

The HC on June 5, 2016 asked the authorities concerned to freeze the bank accounts of Morshed, his wife and their son with the Hong Kong bank and also asked them to restrain from transferring 16 million Hong Kong dollars from the bank till further orders, he added.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Pirojpur PWD Division
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Memo No. 25.36.7900.115.1.8.16-301 Dated: 05/03/2018

e-Tender Notice

(Tender No. prj/pwd/dpp-07/2017-18/sro and 08/2017-18/sro/mothbaria)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following works:

SI No.	Tender ID	Package No.	Name of works	Tender last selling date & time	Tender last closing date & time	Tender last opening date & time
01	157895	prj/pwd/dpp-07/2017-2018/sro	Construction of Indurkhani (Zianagar) SRO including Main Bldg Internal W/S and elect Ext W/S and elect UWS Compound drain Comp road site dev site office furniture etc. at Pirojpur	28 Mar 2018 17:00pm	29 Mar 2018 15:30pm	29 Mar 2018 15:30pm
02	157905	prj/pwd/dpp-08/2017-2018/sro/mothbaria	Construction of Mathbaria SRO including Main Bldg Internal W/S and elect Ext W/S and elect UWR comp drain comp road site dev site office furniture etc. at Pirojpur	28 Mar 2018 17:00pm	29 Mar 2018 16:00pm	29 Mar 2018 16:00pm

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. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches up to 29/03/2018 at 14:30pm (ID-157895) and 29/03/2018 at 15:00pm (ID-157905). Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Shafiqul Islam
Executive Engineer
PWD Division, Pirojpur

HOLI FESTIVAL IN SHANKHARIBAZAR Relationship dispute behind youth's killing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested five people in Dhaka on Monday night over the killing of a college student during Holi festival in Shankharibazar on Thursday.

A romantic relationship is behind the killing, said Mohammad Ibrahim Khan, deputy commissioner of Lalbagh Division Police.

The arrestees are Riaz Alam alias Farhan, Fahim Ahmed alias Abro, Yeasin Ali, Al Amin alias Farabi Khan and Liza Akter alias Maisha Alam.

Ronok Rahman Akon, an HSC candidate from Azimpur New Paltan Line School and College, was stabbed death after his friends took him to Shankharibazar to celebrate Holi festival, police said.

Briefing reporters at DMP media centre yesterday, DC Ibrahim said Ronok had a relationship with Maisha. Recently, he broke up with Maisha and built a relationship with another girl. Another youth, who used to like the girl, plotted the killing. He used Maisha to take Ronok to Shankharibazar, said DC Ibrahim.

2 killed in Sylhet clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Two persons, including a Sramik League leader and a Shechchabok League Leader, were killed in a clash in Dakshin Surma upazila of Sylhet yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Mashuk Mia, 50, senior vice president of Sylhet sadar upazila unit Sramik League, and Babul Mia, 30, general secretary of Baraikandi union unit Shechchabok League.

The clash ensued between the locals of two villages under Boroikandi union after an altercation between Gous Mia, president of the union Awami League unit, and Abdul Latif Mia, Telikhal union parishad chairman of Companyganj, police said. The duo died at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital following injuries sustained in the clash, said Khairul Fazal, officer-in-charge of Dakshin Surma Police Station.

22 others were injured in the clash and are undergoing treatment at the hospital.

বাংলাদেশ বিজ্ঞান ও শিল্প গবেষণা পরিষদ
(বিসিএসআইআর)
Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR)

জীবনের জন্য বিজ্ঞান

শেখ হাসিনার দর্শন, সব মানুষের উন্নয়ন

নং: ৩৯.৩০৭.০৭৮.০০.০০২.৭৪৪.২০১৫/৬১৫ তারিখ: ০৫/০৩/২০১৮

বিসিএসআইআর রিসার্চ ফেলো নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ বিজ্ঞান ও শিল্প গবেষণা পরিষদের নিম্নবর্ণিত ফেলোশিপের জন্য বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিম্নে থেকে নির্ধারিত ছকে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্র: নং	ফেলোশিপের নাম	সংখ্যা	বিষয়	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা	আবেদনকারীর বয়সসীমা	মাসিক ভাতা (টাকা)
১	ড. কুদরাত-ই-খুদা উত্তরাল ফেলোশিপ	২	রসায়ন/ফার্মেসী/প্রাণ রসায়ন/বোটানী	পিএইচডি ডিগ্রির জন্য নিবন্ধনকৃত (শিক্ষা জীবনে কোন পর্যায়ের তৃতীয় শ্রেণি/সমমানের গ্রেড পয়েন্ট প্রাপ্ত প্রার্থীগণ গ্রহণযোগ্য বিবেচিত হবেন না)।	অনুর্ধ্ব ৪০ (চল্লিশ) বছর	২৫,০০০/-
২	প্রফেসর মফিজ উদ্দিন আহমেদ স্মৃতি ফেলোশিপ	৩	রসায়ন/ফার্মেসী/ফলিত রসায়ন	মাস্টার্স ডিগ্রি (বিসিসি গ্রেপ) (শিক্ষা জীবনে কোন পর্যায়ের তৃতীয় শ্রেণি/সমমানের গ্রেড পয়েন্ট প্রাপ্ত প্রার্থীগণ গ্রহণযোগ্য বিবেচিত হবেন না)।	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩২ (বত্রিশ) বছর	২০,০০০/-
৩	ড. আব্দুল্লাহ আল-মুন্সির স্মৃতি ফেলোশিপ	৩	রসায়ন/ফলিত রসায়ন	মাস্টার্স ডিগ্রি (বিসিসি গ্রেপ) (শিক্ষা জীবনে কোন পর্যায়ের তৃতীয় শ্রেণি/সমমানের গ্রেড পয়েন্ট প্রাপ্ত প্রার্থীগণ গ্রহণযোগ্য বিবেচিত হবেন না)।	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩২ (বত্রিশ) বছর	২০,০০০/-

শূন্য ফেলোশিপের সংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি পেতে পারে।

নিয়োগের নিয়মাবলি:
প্রাথমিকভাবে এক বৎসরের জন্য সকল ফেলোশিপ প্রদান করা হবে। গবেষণার সম্ভাব্যজনক অগ্রগতি সম্পর্কে পরিষদ কর্তৃক গঠিত এডহক কমিটি মুদ্রাণ সুপারিশ এবং বোর্ড অনুমোদনের শর্তে বৎসর ভিত্তিক নবায়নের মাধ্যমে ফেলোশিপের মেয়াদ বর্ধিত হতে পারে। সাধারণভাবে ফেলোশিপের মেট মেয়াদ কখনও ৪ বৎসরের অধিক হবে না। ফেলোদের নির্ধারিত হারে ভাতা/আনুভোক্তিক প্রদান করা হবে। আবেদনপত্রের নির্ধারিত ফরম বিসিএসআইআর সচিবালয় হতে অথবা বিসিএসআইআর-এর ওয়েবসাইট (www.bcsir.gov.bd) থেকে ডাউনলোড করে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। ফেলোদের গবেষণাকর্ম বিসিএসআইআর-এর বিভিন্ন গবেষণাগারে সম্পাদন করতে হবে এবং গবেষণা প্রস্তাব বিসিএসআইআর-এর লক্ষ্য ও উদ্দেশ্যের সাথে সংগতিপূর্ণ ও বিসিএসআইআর-এর নির্ধারিত ছকে গবেষণা প্রস্তাব, গবেষণা তত্ত্বাবধায়কের স্বাক্ষরসহ জমা দিতে হবে। প্রফেসর মফিজ উদ্দিন আহমেদ স্মৃতি ফেলোশিপ এবং ড. আব্দুল্লাহ-আল-মুন্সির স্মৃতি ফেলোশিপের জন্য আত্মীয় কোন প্রার্থী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে এমএস/উচ্চতর ডিগ্রিতে অধ্যয়নরত থাকলে তাকে সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ বিভাগীয় প্রধান এবং গবেষণা তত্ত্বাবধায়কের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে। আবেদনপত্রের সাথে সদ্য তোলা ২ (দুই) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি (সত্যায়িত), শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সত্যায়িত সন্দপত্র ও বিভিন্ন পরীক্ষার নম্বরপত্রের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি, জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের অথবা জন্ম নিবন্ধন কার্ডের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি এবং সচিব, বাংলাদেশ বিজ্ঞান ও শিল্প গবেষণা পরিষদ, ঢাকা এর অনুকূলে ৩০০/- (তিনশত) টাকার পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট সংযুক্ত করতে হবে। আবেদনপত্র ব্যক্তিগতভাবে অথবা ডাকযোগে সচিব, বাংলাদেশ বিজ্ঞান ও শিল্প গবেষণা পরিষদ, ড. কুদরাত-ই-খুদা সড়ক, ধানমন্ডি, ঢাকা-১২০৫ এই ঠিকানায় আগামী ২৫.০৩.২০১৮ তারিখের মধ্যে পৌছাতে হবে। আবেদনকারী কোন প্রতিষ্ঠানে কর্মরত থাকলে তাকে যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে এবং ফেলো নির্বাচিত হলে "বিসিএসআইআর-এর গবেষণা প্রতিষ্ঠানে সার্বকলিক ও পূর্ণ মেয়াদে কাজের জন্য কর্মস্থল থেকে অবমুক্ত কর্তে আপত্তি নেই" এই মর্মে প্রতিষ্ঠান প্রধানের প্রত্যয়নপত্রসহ আবেদন করতে হবে। বিসিএসআইআর-এর কোন ফেলোশিপ চাকরি হিসেবে গণ্য হবে না এবং ফেলোশিপের অধীনে কর্মরত থাকলে কোন ফেলোকে কোন প্রকার ছুটি প্রদান করার সুযোগ নেই। একই গবেষণা কাজের জন্য অন্য কোন ফেলোশিপ গ্রহণ করে থাকলে আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নেই। প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্যের জন্য নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তরে যোগাযোগ করা যাবে।

মোঃ খলিলুর রহমান
সচিব
বিসিএসআইআর

জিডি-৬২৮