

Twice as many men use cellphone than women

Says study by ActionAid and Sanem

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eighty percent of male youth in rural and urban areas have their own mobile phones, whereas only 40 percent of the female youth do so. On the other hand, only six percent of households have access to computers and less than four percent of women have ever used a computer.

The findings were revealed at a webinar titled “Gender and Youth Inclusiveness in Technology in Bangladesh,” which was jointly organised by South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (Sanem) and ActionAid Bangladesh. The paper was presented by Mahtab Uddin, research economist of Sanem. Prof Selim Raihan and Sakil Ahmmed were co-authors for this paper.

He pointed out that in case of access to computers, Bangladesh lags behind other South Asian countries. Fifty percent urban households have computers while the ratio falls to 30 percent in rural areas, while only 10 percent of women have ever used the

internet.

He also said that 24 percent of the females from the poorest income decile own mobile phones, while the rate is 73 percent for the richest income decile. On the other hand 72 percent of male youths from households in the poorest income decile own a mobile phone compared to the 92 percent in the top income decile.

“It is evident that the male-female gap is 44 percentage points in the poorest income decile and 19 percentage points in the richest income decile,” said Mahtab Uddin.

Chief guest of the program, Deputy Minister of Education Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury said that gender discrimination in technology is often a result of patriarchal and conservative culture.

“When women use technology they often have to face stigma and digital harassment, without a change in [people’s] mentality it would be difficult to overcome this discrimination,” he said. Acknowledging the growing spread of fundamentalist, misogynistic and anti-Liberation War ideas

online, he called on all to work together to overcome the stigmas and uphold social values and tolerance.

Anir Chowdhury, policy adviser of a2i, shared findings from a2i’s research and explained that despite efforts from the government to spread education through digital platforms, it has been difficult to include certain demographics such as low-income groups, women, persons with disabilities, displaced people and people in remote areas.

The webinar was chaired by ActionAid Country Director Farah Kabir and moderated by Research Director of Sanem, Prof Sayema Haque Bidisha. Special remarks were delivered by Prof Selim Raihan, Executive Director of Sanem. Joint Secretary (technical) of Education Ministry Ayatul Islam; Deputy Secretary of Youth and Sports Ministry Md Sayed Ali, and Senior Vice President of Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS) Farhana Rahman were also present.



Insistent rain in the last few days has put road communication at Postogola’s Rajabari Mor under severe strain, with massive potholes turning into dangerous puddles.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Law enforcers’

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Nirapotta Jote. She stressed that women should step out of the attitude of accepting violence in the pandemic, and there should be a massive campaign that establishes violence against women as a serious offence. “It can’t be a normal incident that someone is beating his wife just because he is hungry or has things to worry about,” she said.

Shehla Pervin, additional inspector general of police and joint secretary of Bangladesh Police Women Network said since many women are not being able to reach police stations for making a complaint amid the pandemic, they can seek help using the helpline 999.

“Besides, there are also apps like BD Police Helpline and Hello CT, through which the women can send audio and video messages to ask for help,” she said.

Shehla also urged victims of violence to not settle the cases out of court.

Speaking as chief guest, lawmaker Meher Afroze Chumki, also president of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, said if a strong committee can be formed in

every upazila, consisting of representatives of organisations working for women’s rights, ministry officials, representatives of union parishad (female UP members and vice-chairperson), women can get support from them, without the hassle of going to multiple agencies or organisations.

“They can also contact over phone and the members will visit their homes,” she added.

Md Shawkat Hossain, additional district and sessions judge at a Shariatpur court, stressed on increasing the budget and logistical support of the judiciary in order to ensure proper justice and speedy trial. He also suggested that police should keep a database of the sexual offender like other developed countries, as history says child molesters do this type of crime repeatedly.

MB Akhter, co-chair at WE Can; Afroza Mahal, Dhaka and country portfolio manager at Plan International Bangladesh; Nasimun Ara Haque Minu, president, Centre for Women Journalists and survivors of violence spoke at the event as well.

Zinat Ara Haque, executive coordinator of We Can, moderated the webinar.

Bazar Bandhu supports flood victims

CITY DESK

Bazar Bandhu, a micro-merchant project run by ekShop and Synesis IT, has raised fund and relief for distribution among flood victims, says a press release.

On August 19, Bazar Bandhu distributed food and health protection items to flood-hit people in Tangail and Sirajganj. It also conducted health camps for them. Bloodman, Manabseva and Kandari also participated in the activities.

Bazar Bandhu is a micro-merchant based eCommerce project through which grocery stores can transform their limited products inventory into one million products with the help of eCommerce.

At present it is being operated in Sirajganj, Tangail, Jamalpur and Sherpur. In Covid-19 pandemic, health care products are being supplied to these districts through Bazar Bandhu. UNCDF and the European Union are providing support to the project.

Money down

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A woman said she heard from a rickshaw-puller that he got Tk 50,000. “While urinating on the sewer bank, the rickshaw-puller noticed money flowing in the drain,” she said. “I came here to see it with my own eyes after hearing it directly from him.”

Nibaran Chandra Barman, officer-in-charge of Boalia Police Station, said they have looked into the matter, but did not take any action as the area was out of their jurisdiction.

The railway police avoided the incident too. OC Shah Kamal of railway police said since the location of the sewer is outside the railway boundary, they took no action in spite of being informed of it.

Even though he is not certain, Road Transport Owners Group’s Matuil referred to an old incident and said the money might have something to do with it.

Three years ago, Bipul, an employee of the organisation, lost about Tk 2.5 lakh belonging to a bus owner. He kept the money inside his desk drawer at the group’s office, but later said he couldn’t find it.

Bipul is still repaying the lost money to the bus owner from his salary. The group has also given him a grant of Tk 1 lakh to complete the repayment. But whereabouts of the money remained unknown, he added.

“We think that the person who took the money hid it in the pile of paper. But our office was under CCTV camera network and no one dared to go there, get the money, and get out. When the papers were dumped in the drain, the money might have gone along with them,” said Matuil.

However, Matuil said the total money collected by locals would not be more than Tk 3,000.

Don’t share

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Asked whether sharing photo or videos of the project was causing any problem, he said, “Yes, this is causing some problems.”

Many people are posting on social media or uploading video on YouTube mixing some true and false information regarding the project, he said.

“We have asked our officials not to share photo or document on social media,” he said.

Construction of the Padma Bridge started in November 2014 to connect the country’s southwestern region with the capital through road and rail links.

The current deadline of the project is June 2021. The project cost rose to Tk 30,193 crore following several revisions of deadline.

The current deadline is going to be deferred further due to the Covid-19 pandemic and strong current in Padma, officials said. The overall progress of the project was around 80 percent till June this year.

Once opened, the 6.15km-long bridge will connect the capital with 21 southern districts. It is expected to boost the country’s gross domestic product by 1.2 percent.

APARTMENT FOR RENT
Size 2650 sq feet with one car parking, 4 Bed, 5 Bath, Marble floor with sophisticated interior decoration.
Address: House no 66, Road no 8/A Flat 2A, Dhanmondi, R/A, Dhaka.
Mob: 01711155034 or 01552308233
Provable time for rent : 01-10-2020

**Probashi Kallyan Bank**
Common Services Department
Head Office, Dhaka
Website: www.pkb.gov.bd

Invitation for Tender (Goods) Through e-GP
e-Tenders is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following goods as follows:

Tender ID/Reference No.	Name of supply	Date of last selling of document	Closing date & time
481711 PKB/CSD/FUR/2020-21/01	Manufacture, Supplying and Installation of Fire Proof Iron Safe	10-Sep-2020 16:00	13-Sep-2020 16:00

The interested bidders may visit the website www.eprocure.gov.bd to get the details of the tender. This is an online tender invitation, where only e-Tenders 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 Portal (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 e-GP registered bank branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@aprocure.gov.bd).

Mohammad Zainal Abedin
Assistant Vice President
E-mail: csd@pkb.gov.bd

GD-1306

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Divisional Forest Officer
Social Forest Division, Rajshahi

Invitation for Tenders
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Environment and Forest and Climate Change.
2	Agency	Bangladesh Forest Department.
3	Procuring entity name	Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forest Division, Rajshahi.
4	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.
5	Procuring entity district	Rajshahi.
6	Invitation for	Procurement of Physical Service of Contractual Staff.
7	Invitation Ref. No.	01/2020-21
8	Date	20/08/2020

KEY INFORMATION

9	Procurement method	Open Tender.
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FUNDING INFORMATION

10	Budget and source of funds	Revenue Fund (GOB).
11	Development partners (if applicable)	N/A.

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

12	Project/program code (if applicable)	N/A.
13	Project name (if applicable)	N/A.
14	Tender Package No.	01/2020-21
15	Tender package name	Procurement of non skilled contractual staff.
16	Tender publication date	23/08/2020
17	Tender last selling date	09/09/2020
18	Tender closing date and time	07/09/2020 12:00 Noon
19	Tender opening date and time	07/09/2020 1:00pm
20	Name & address of the office(s) - Selling tender document (principal) - Selling tender document (others)	Address Office in-charge, Poba S.F.N.T.C, Social Forest Division, Rajshahi. None.

No conditions apply for sale, purchase or distribution of tender documents.

21	- Receiving tender document	Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forest Division, Shaibagan, Rajshahi and Deputy Commissioner's Office, Rajshahi.
	- Opening tender document	Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forest Division, Shaibagan, Rajshahi.

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

22	Eligibility of tenderer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Tenderers shall have the legal capacity to enter into the contract under the Applicable Law.Tenderers shall be enrolled in the relevant professional or trade organizations registered in Bangladesh.Tenderers shall have fulfilled its obligations to pay taxes under the provisions of laws and regulations of Bangladesh.			
23	Brief description of services	Procurement of non skilled contractual staff (Three Office Sahayok).			
24	Price of tender document (Tk)	500.00			
25	Package No.	Identification of package	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in weeks/months
	01/2020-21	Outsourcing of Office Sahayok	Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forest Division, Shaibagan, Rajshahi.	20,000.00 (twenty thousand) only	02 (two) weeks

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

26	Name of official inviting tender	Ahmed Niamur Rahman.
27	Designation of official inviting tender	Divisional Forest Officer.
28	Address of official inviting tender	Social Forest Division, Shaibagan, Rajshahi.
29	Contact details of official inviting tender	Ph: 0721-761677, Email: divisionalforesta@gmail.com

The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all the tenders or annul the tender proceedings.

Ahmed Niamur Rahman
Divisional Forest Officer
Social Forest Division, Rajshahi
Ph: 0721-761677
Email: divisionalforesta@gmail.com

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Not an

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development professional, theatre worker and rights activist Asif Munir; Sirajud Dahar Khan, executive director, Interaction; Shah-e-Mobin Jinnah, executive director, CDA, Dinaipur; development worker and researcher Navsheshwar Tripathi; development worker and researcher Pulak Raha; researcher and economist Nazmi Sabina; Gowhar Naem Wara, member secretary, Disaster Forum; and poet Farooq Wasif issued the statement.

Release

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and are now being detained in Kashimpur jail, allegedly for violation of Section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Most of them were previously arrested in the host countries for committing administrative infractions such as overstay of visa or work permit, or petty crimes, they said.

Thereafter, they all obtained state pardon in the host countries after serving at least two-thirds of their sentences, they added.

“If these 225 returned Bangladeshi migrant workers are being detained solely for ‘suspicious acts’ during their period of quarantine and ‘for tarnishing the image of the country’ for acts they committed in Qatar, Kuwait and Bahrain, and for which reason they were charged, imprisoned, and subsequently pardoned by those states, we... would like to appeal to the government of Bangladesh to immediately cause the release from imprisonment of these 225 returned Bangladeshi migrant workers for they have not committed any new crime,” they said in the statement.

The organisations said the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Guidance for Covid-19 highlights that states should urgently explore options for release and alternatives to detention to mitigate the risk of harm within places of detention.

Besides, as one of the country signatories to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Bangladesh government is duty bound to protect the human rights of migrant workers and members of their families, they further said.

Lawyers Beyond Borders is an international network of legal experts interested in advocating for the rights of migrant workers, brought together by Migrant Forum in Asia.

Mrinal Haque

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After his Namaz-e-Janaza took place at Gulshan Azad Mosque post-Asr prayers, he was buried at the Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals Graveyard. He left behind his wife, a daughter and a son, and a host of fans and well-wishers.

Born in Rajshahi on September 9, 1958, Mrinal Haque was best known for making murals on the streets of Dhaka. He immigrated to USA in 1995, and began his sculpting career there. He returned to the country in 2002, and settled here permanently.

The sculptor built the Balaka sculpture in Motijheel on his own initiative. The Golden Jubilee Tower, built on the golden jubilee of Rajshahi University in 2003, is one of his best works of art.

Besides, he has done a plethora of sculptures all over the country, including Ratnadwip in front of the Prime Minister’s office in Dhaka, Rajsik in front of Hotel Sheraton, Janani O Gorbato Bornomala at Paribagh, Kotwal at Eskaton and Mayur at Satrasta. He is also the creator of various other sculptures including Atolantike Boshoti at the Navy Headquarters, Arghyo at Science Laboratory, and more.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs KM Khalid, MP has expressed his condolences at the death of Mrinal Haque.

Tidal surge

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urge CCC to excavate the canal immediately. We also have a masterplan to renovate the place,” he added.

Contacted, Shamsuddoha, chief executive officer of CCC, said, “We are trying to resolve the issue. We will also review the masterplan submitted by the cremation centre committee to help mitigate the crisis.”

Mentionable, CDA (Chattogram Development Authority) has taken up a mega project to end this perennial crisis. The project to mitigate waterlogging included excavating 9.50-lakh cubic meters of mud from 36 canals, building 85km road on canal banks, constructing three flood water retaining areas, constructing five tidal regulators, building 42 silt traps, expanding 15.5km side drain and building 200 cross drain culverts, Lt Col Md Shah Ali, CDA project director, told The Daily Star.

By the end of this year, they will be able to complete construction of five tidal regulators also, which will help control tidal surge, he said.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Health Services Division
Health Economics Unit (HEU)
Gender, NGO & Stakeholder Participation (GNSP) Unit
14/2, Tophkhana Road (4th Floor), Dhaka-1000

Expression of Interest (EOI) for Selection of Consulting/Research Firm for Conducting Research/Study

1	Ministry/Division	MSD, MoHFW.
2	Agency	HEU.
3	Procuring entity name	HEU.
4	Procuring entity code	N/A.
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
6	Expression of Interest for Selection of	Consulting Firm/Research Organization.
7	EOI Ref. No.	45.05.0000.009.31.002.19
8	Date	24/08/2020

KEY INFORMATION

9	Procurement method	Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS).
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FUNDING INFORMATION

10	Budget and source of funds	Govt (Dev) Fund.
11	Development partner (if applicable)	N/A.

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

12	Project/programme code (if applicable)	
13	Project/programme name (if applicable)	Study on gender inequities and inequalities in prevailing nutritional disorders: policy implications for interventions.
14	EOI closing date and time	11/09/2020 & 12:00pm.

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT

15	Brief description of the assignment	Objectives: <ol style="list-style-type: none">To understand the scopes and utilisation of nutrition services across the hierarchy of Health Facilities.To identify the gender sensitive indicators and performance management in nutrition services.To explore the influence of gender inequality on optimizing access to nutrition services at Health Facilities.Identify and prioritize areas for future policy implication towards a more gender-responsive nutrition services.		
16	Experience, resource and delivery capacity required	The service provider shall be a Consulting Organization/Institution focused on the field of health care service and system having demonstrated expertise in evaluating programmes or undertaking research. The applicant organization/institution <ol style="list-style-type: none">Must be a registered Company.Must have Tax Identification Number, Business Identification Number and up-to-date Income Tax Certificate. (Submitted return), and not declared bankrupt/financially distressed by the Court. Academic background of the members of the team. <ol style="list-style-type: none">Team lead must have at least masters (PhD would be an advantage) in public health/nutrition/anthropology, with a focus on gender in health is desirable.At least 5 years of experience at national level in health systems research focusing on issues around nutrition, gender in health.Strong track record in qualitative assessments.Demonstrated experience of working with government, INGO, development partners especially in the area of health system strengthening.Previously engaged with the formulation process of national level policy/strategy document, evaluation of any national level health program.Publications of Team Leader on gender in nutrition, gender in health.Skills in facilitation of stakeholder engagement/workshops.		
17	Other details (if applicable)	N/A.		
18	Association with foreign firm is	Encouraging.		
19	Phrasing of Services	Ref. No.	Location	Indicative completion time (month/year)
	Not Phased			Indicative start date (month/year)
				October 2020
				May 2021

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

20	Name of official inviting EOI	Dr. Mohd. Shahad Hossain Mahmud.
21	Designation of official inviting EOI	Director General, Health Economics Unit and Line Director (Health Economics and Financing).
22	Address of official inviting EOI	Health Economics Unit, 14/2, Tophkhana Road (3rd Floor), Dhaka-1000.
23	Contact details of official inviting EOI	Telephone: 9566822, Fax No. 9562207, E-mail: mshahmud5212@yahoo.com
24	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all EOs.	

Director General
Health Economic Unit
&
Line Director (Health Economics and Financing OP)

GD-1306