



Cleaning glasses of the capital's high-rises has always been a hazardous job, which includes climbing up and hanging on to a ladder made of bamboo and rope. While the skilled workers have become quite adept at it, the process, devoid of safety measures of any kind, remains extremely risky. The photo was taken from the capital's Dhanmondi yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

REDUCING MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE

Incorporate private caregivers to reach SDG: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To reach the SDG target by 2030, private caregivers should be incorporated in the healthcare system, said speakers at a programme yesterday.

They said despite having no payment and infrastructural facilities, private caregivers are providing antenatal and postnatal care, carrying out vitamin A campaigns, and facilitating family planning and vaccination among other services.

Care Bangladesh and Community Health Worker Initiative jointly organised the roundtable “Changing perspective of CSBA in Bangladesh through role shifting to community-skilled pregnancy attendant: opportunities and challenges”, at Medical Research Council.

“Of the 26 lakh annual births in the country, 53 percent deliveries were conducted at homes, only three percent by skilled people,” said Dr Halida Hanum, reproductive health epidemiologist of Johns Hopkins University in Maryland, USA, who conducted the roundtable.

“Besides, most community clinics in the country remain unused. Those could be utilised as infrastructural support for CSBAs,” she said.

Community Skilled Birth Attendants (CSBA) are private caregivers working under Care Bangladesh. Dr Halida said if over 14,000 community clinics are used for maternity support, 120 deliveries can be carried

out every year. “But we need a national strategy to raise funds, by engaging local representatives.”

Care Bangladesh initiated a “skilled-health entrepreneurship” model in Sunamganj and Netrakona in 2003, and trained 300 health-service providers, who conducted over 47,000 deliveries in the last six years.

Mentioning the data, icddr,b assistant scientist Bidhan Sarker, in a presentation, said

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there should be a private-public partnership process to ensure robust services in community clinics 24/7.

Prof Syed Modasser Ali, president of Community Clinic Health Support Trust, said they have some limitations, but they will try to incorporate the trained workforce.

Despite significant and steady progress in the last two decades, Bangladesh's maternal mortality ratio stands at 196 for every lakh. The SDG target is 70 by 2030.

Climate-smart projects THE SMART WAY FORWARD

Say experts on infrastructural development

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

All infrastructural projects in Bangladesh should be climate-smart as the country aims to achieve the goals committed to the UN in reducing carbon emission, said officials and development experts yesterday.

Bangladesh committed to reducing 21.85 percent carbon emission by 2030 and support global initiatives to limit global warming to 1.5-2 degree-Celsius at the pre-industrial level.

Major areas of the infrastructure projects should focus on renewable energy, transport and waste management. Authorities need to see how eco-friendly transports, including rail and waterways, can be better utilised, they said.

The speakers observed that all the ministries, private sector, civil society organisations need to have plans and design projects that have climate components aimed at improving efficiency.

The observations came at a seminar titled “Scope of climate-smart Public-Private Partnership in Bangladesh and COP-26 Discussion”, organised by the Public-Private Partnership Authority (PPPA) in partnership with the UNDP at a city hotel.

State Minister for Public Administration Farhad Hossain said Bangladesh is becoming an industrial hub and the industries can play a major role by installing effluent treatment plants and adopting energy-efficient technologies.

Solar power, wind power, hydropower, electric cars – all options of renewable energy need to be explored, he said.

Mostafa Kamal, secretary of the environment ministry, said introducing electric cars, satellite towns and reducing traffic congestions are some of the most important areas where more investments would be required to reduce greenhouse gas

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Focusing on renewable energy, waste management
- Utilising eco-friendly transports
- Installing effluent treatment plants
- Adopting energy-efficient technologies
- Designing small, medium-scale climate-resilient projects

emissions.

The PPPA as a coordinating body needs to have specific models of partnership, which are sustainable and beneficial for all stakeholders, he said.

UNDP Resident Representative Sudipto Mukherjee said it is not always right to think of mega-projects but also climate-resilient projects of small and medium-scale involving large sections of the population.

Bangladesh faces frequent cyclones and floods and it is important to see how the damages to these disasters, especially to the infrastructure, can be further reduced, he said.

British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Robert C Dickson said the foreign direct investment is crucial for Bangladesh as it graduates by 2026. The PPPA can attract lots of investors provided that the investment climate is improved.

Prof Saleemul Huq, director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development; Danish Ambassador to Bangladesh Winnie Estrup Petersen; and Turkish Ambassador Mustafa Osman Turan, among others, spoke at the seminar chaired by PPPA CEO Sultana Afroz.

‘Their plight must be addressed’

Shahriar Alam on migrant workers in Lebanon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Foreign Affairs M Shahriar Alam yesterday said Bangladeshi migrant workers are facing inflation in Lebanon which needs to be addressed.

“Look at Lebanon... where the currency was devaluated like 50 times,” he said, addressing a workshop at a Dhaka hotel as chief guest.

This newspaper published separate reports on December 22 and March 20 last year on the economic hardship of thousands of Bangladeshi workers in Lebanon.

In his speech, Shahriar Alam said when the migrant workers in Lebanon convert their local earnings into dollar it's actually less compared to what they used to send back home. “I think we need to address the issue... We need to find a way to keep them [migrants] encouraged and interested to work,” he added.

Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit organised the workshop on “Impact of Migration on Transformation to Sustainability: Poverty and Local Development in Bangladesh”.

The state minister said the country needs to upskill and re-skill its migrant labour force, adding, Bangladeshi migrants are still one of the lowest paid in the world.

Chairing the session, economist Hossain Zillur Rahman said Bangladesh has benefited very much from migration and over time both incrementally and strategically made many policy innovations. Besides, Bangladesh has now globally a very respectable identity in terms of its engagement on migration issues, he said.

RMMRU Founding Chair Prof Tasneem Siddiqui and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation's Director of Cooperation Suzanne Muller also spoke.

Law alone cannot stop trafficking Says minister, calling for integrated approaches

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said human trafficking cannot be prevented by only enforcing laws.

“Integrated approaches are needed to combat this offence,” he said while speaking as chief guest at an event in Dhaka.

The USAID and Judicial Administration Training Institute jointly organised the meeting at a city hotel on the occasion of inaugurating a training programme on human trafficking, relevant national and international laws and ensuring justice for victims.

Twenty-three judges from Anti-Human Trafficking Offence Tribunals and Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunals attended the event.

The minister said the government is taking different steps to fight trafficking.

As part of the policy and steps, special importance is being given to quickly dispose of such cases, he added.

Special laws have been formulated and tribunals have been set up for this purpose and judges and prosecutors have been appointed.

Besides, a committee under the ministry of home affairs is working to this effect and a monitoring cell has been established at the Police Headquarters to collect and analyse the information on trafficking.



PRAYER
TIMING
JAN 13



	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
Azan	5:30	12:45	4:00	5:36	7:00
Jamaat	6:05	1:15	4:15	5:40	7:30
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION					

KASHIMPUR CENTRAL JAIL

Inmates using cellphones with guards' help: ACC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inmates are using cellphones, assisted by guards at Kashimpur Central Jail in Gazipur, finds Anti-Corruption Commission.

During a visit to the jail yesterday, an ACC team recovered a mobile phone from an inmate, confirmed ACC Public Relations Office.

ACC Deputy Director Salam Ali Molla led the team, which also found that “the jail authorities don't have their own doctors and nurses. Only one doctor is carrying out duties on deputation.”

“Health guidelines are not being followed properly although the hospital has high risk of Covid infection,” said an ACC official.

Food is cooked in a very unhygienic kitchen and distributed through a card system. Extra money is collected during the card issuance process, he said.

The jail authorities told the ACC team that they will take necessary steps regarding the matter.

On January 5, the jail authorities seized a cellphone from Nur Hossain, a death-row convict in the Narayanganj 7-murder case. Following this, they formed a three-member probe committee.



Around one lakh people live in Mirpur's Diabari area, who need to go to Savar's Kaundia by crossing the Turag river every day in search of a living. Most often, these people are seen getting on a boat to get to the other side. This is a particularly risky and inconvenient endeavour, which is why the residents have been demanding a bridge over the river for quite some time now. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

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We are trying to turn Dhaka into a planned city, but PPP projects and project-based work of different service-providing organisations are barrier to developing a planned city.

DSCC Mayor
Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh