




With no safety harness to protect them from a tragic fall, two workers were seen dangling from a ten-storied building while giving it a fresh cover of paint. Keeping the need for survival in mind, it seems as though these workers have accepted the high level of risk that comes with this work, even if it threatens their life. However, it's their employer's responsibility to provide them with safety gears so that they can work in a risk-free manner. This photo was taken yesterday from Shiddheswari.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

'It's required for peace, stability'

Says Shajahan Khan on extrajudicial killing



SHAJAHAN KHAN
Former shipping minister & lawmaker

“Extrajudicial killings are an important tool used by law enforcement agencies to maintain peace and stability in society, and deter criminals.**”**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speaking at a webinar about extrajudicial killing, former shipping minister and lawmaker Shajahan Khan yesterday said extrajudicial killing is an important tool used by law enforcement agencies to maintain peace and stability in society, and deter criminals.

Mentioning that such killings are not acceptable, Shajahan, also a presidium member of ruling Awami League, nevertheless asked participants of the event to understand the context of extra-judicial killings.

"When a hijacker kills our sister and mother, do we really get to try them? Do they get capital punishment or life-term for their crime? [No.] they manage to get released in the absence of witnesses and evidence," he said.

Blaming the judicial system for its failure to ensure justice, Shajahan said there are instances when even people celebrated these unlawful killings of notorious criminals. The webinar, titled "Extrajudicial Killings: Dysfunctional Democracy and Questionable Rule of Law", was organised by Centre for Governance Studies (CCS).

Denying the allegation that extrajudicial killings are not investigated and perpetrators are not brought to justice, he claimed that justice is meted out when cases are filed against such incidents.

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Not a child-friendly 'formula'

'Aggressive' formula milk marketing undermines breastfeeding progress, reveals WHO, Unicef report

NILIMA JAHAN

Last month, when 22-year-old Mitu Dhar was struggling to make her newborn stop crying at a private hospital in Dhaka, as she couldn't produce enough milk for him, her family members got desperate to get some artificial milk for the baby.

Soon after, they took a suggestion from a nurse at the hospital, who recommended her a specific formula brand, which eventually helped them to pacify the baby.

That was how Mitu and her family got depended on formula milk for the baby and took it as a prescription item. Mitu, during her entire pregnancy, yearned to breastfeed her child.

A new report titled, "How marketing of formula milk influences our decisions on infant feeding", jointly prepared by the World Health Organization (WHO) and Unicef, shows that progress on breastfeeding in Bangladesh was undermined by aggressive formula milk marketing.

In many cases, healthcare providers are influenced by aggressive marketing tactics and they view breast-milk as inadequate, as a result of which, nearly 60 percent of mothers in Bangladesh have been recommended a formula milk product by a health professional.

Interviews were conducted with parents, pregnant women and health workers in eight countries, including Bangladesh, to prepare the report. It also shows that despite 98 percent of pregnant women expressing a strong desire to breastfeed, only 65 percent go on to do so exclusively after giving birth.

It also mentioned that many health professionals – including paediatricians, nurses, dieticians and hospital administrators – are targeted by

- 98% expecting mothers want to breastfeed
- 65% do so exclusively after giving birth

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Counselling, support for breastfeeding mothers
- Awareness and motivational campaign
- Media engagement to stop unethical practices
- Banning sponsorship from companies

formula milk brand representatives – with a range of incentives, including, funding for research, commissions from sales, ambassadorial roles, merchandise, gifts and all-expenses-paid promotional trips. Nearly 60 percent of mothers in Bangladesh have been recommended a formula milk product by a health professional.

"The overwhelming majority of women in Bangladesh want to breastfeed, yet they often do not receive the support they need. This can only be overcome when mothers are given information based on science, not profits," said Veera Mendonca, deputy representative of Unicef Bangladesh.

The report also mentioned that breastfeeding within the first hour of birth, followed by exclusive breastfeeding for six months and continued breastfeeding for up to two years or beyond, offers a powerful line of defence against all forms of child malnutrition, including wasting and obesity.

"Yet globally, only 44 percent of babies aged less than 6 months are exclusively breastfed. Global breastfeeding rates have increased very little in the past two decades, while sales of formula milk have more than doubled in roughly the same time," the study highlighted.

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Jail super penalised

For letting Hallmark GM meet wife at Kashimpur Jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has penalised Ratna Roy, senior superintendent of Kashimpur Central Jail-1, after a probe found proof of her letting an inmate spend time with a visitor inside a prison officer's room.

The decision came after a leaked security camera footage showed a woman meeting inmate Tushar Ahmed, general manager of Hallmark Group, at the prison on January 6 last year.

As part of the punishment, the salary of Ratna, a seventh-grade officer, has been downgraded to the lowest scale. She will now get Tk 29,000, as opposed to Tk 40,840.

According to the order, signed by home ministry's security service division secretary Md Mokabbir Hossain on Sunday, Ratna's suspension order has been withdrawn with the minor punishment, after a ministry probe found her responsible for breaching Government Servants (Discipline And Appeal) Rules, 2018.

The home ministry probe report, submitted on February 10, found that Ratna tried to suppress facts during investigation by providing false and confusing information.

She breached prison rules, allowing Tushar to meet his wife at an office room, although such meetings were temporarily forbidden due to the pandemic.

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Still struggling for a decent life

Project to improve lives of underprivileged communities a let-down, finds study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Department of Social Services (DSS) had initiated a training programme in fiscal 2012-2013 in seven districts to improve living standards of Hijra, Bede and other underprivileged (Dalit) communities.

However, a recent study conducted by Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) revealed that the programme has failed to significantly impact income, expenses, number of days in employment, and working hours for the Hijra and Bede communities.

The programme targeted at the Dalit community, however, has been comparatively successful in providing participants with quality skills.

The findings of the study, titled "Evaluating the Impact of Development Programme for Improving the Living Standard of the Hijra, Bede and Underprivileged Community," was shared yesterday at the virtual BIDS fortnightly seminar.

The training programme was extended to 64 districts in 2015-16 fiscal.

In regards to the Hijra community, although 66.3 percent of participants each received seed money worth Tk 10,000 after training, to start a business or make use of their skills, only 20 percent used the money for a new profession. Around 40 percent used it in unproductive sectors, found the study, which was presented by BIDS researcher Dr Mohammad Harunur Rashid Bhuyan.

In addition, more than half of the participants (54.09 percent) from the Hijra community think that their monthly allowance, Tk 600, is not even sufficient for medical treatment.

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PRAYER
TIMING
FEB 24



	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
Azan	5:20	12:45	4:30	6:03	7:30
Jamaat	5:55	1:15	4:45	6:07	8:00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

DU decides to make 13 teacher posts vacant

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University (DU) authorities yesterday night took the decision to announce positions of 13 teachers, who went abroad to study but did not return, as vacant.

The decision was made at a meeting of the university syndicate, its highest decision making body.

"The syndicate has taken the decision to announce the positions as vacant," DU Vice Chancellor Prof M Akhtaruzzaman said after the meeting.

Authorities will be able

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He was society's conscience come alive: speakers

Syed Abul Maksud's first death anniversary observed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent columnist, researcher and writer Syed Abul Maksud was a manifestation of society's conscience. His untimely passing left a void, as he was needed to face the multi-dimensional crises of the country, speakers said in a programme marking his first death anniversary yesterday.

Syed Abul Maksud Smrity Sangsad organised the discussion, titled "Multidimensional Syed Abul Maksud", at Professor Muzaffar Ahmed Chowdhury Auditorium of Dhaka University.

Professor Emiretus Serajul Islam Choudhury chaired the event. Serajul said bravery was the main source of Syed Abul Maksud's passion.

"He lived an ideal life with honesty and dignity. He never thought about his family any more than he did about his society and country," he added.

Prominent writer Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam said Maksud used to write with a democratic mind, in favour of people.

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Books written by and on Bangabandhu have always been a popular attraction at the fair. But as the country celebrates his birth centenary and its golden jubilee of independence, people were seen to be drawn towards the books even more this year.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Spirit of Bangabandhu ever-present at Boi Mela

DIPAN NANDY

For the last three years, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman has been given special prominence at Amar Ekushey Boi Mela. With his birth centenary and the golden jubilee of Bangladesh's independence being celebrated across the country, a fraction of those sentiments have reached this year's book fair too.

In addition to the three books written by Bangabandhu himself, the fair grounds offer thousands more written about him by authors noted and new. Apart from this, Bangabandhu's image and words can also be found all across the fair. Publishers say books

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