Recognise women's household work: MJF

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) yesterday said the government must recognise women's domestic work to achieve gender equality (SDG 5).

In a statement, the rights group said recognition of women's economic and non-economic work in family and society will uphold their dignity. As a result, discrimination and violence against them will go down.

Welcoming the recently published "Time Use Survey" of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, MJF called upon the government to include the survey's outcome in the GDP.

The BBS survey, published on Monday, says women spend eight-fold more time than men doing domestic and care work.

According to "Time Use Survey 2021", men spend around 1.6 hours a day doing domestic and care work, while for women it is 11.7 hours, about half the day.

These kinds of work are not deemed as productive, and so, they remain unpaid and unrecognised, the report says.

In the statement, MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam said, "... If a country wants to undertake a further realistic labour and employment policy, women's non-economic work has to be evaluated in light of the labour market and economy."

A child is being fed a Vitamin A capsule at Moghbazar Community Hospital yesterday. The campaign to give children, aged between six months and five years, the capsules started nationwide on the day.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

'Uphold religious harmony'

Say 17 eminent citizens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a joint statement, 17 prominent citizens have called upon all to maintain harmony by upholding religious values and respecting all religions.

They said this following the protests against derogatory comments made by two leaders of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in India.

The statement said the comments have provoked strong reactions from Muslims and well-thinking people of the world, including the Indian subcontinent. The protests of ordinary Muslim devotees have been thwarted many times, and taking advantage of this situation, militant groups have resorted to various acts of violence.

"We never condone insulting any religion. Believing in religious harmony, Bangladesh... expects Muslims to reject insulting remarks about their beloved Prophet and treat all religions with respect," it said.

The signatories are Prof Anupam Sen; actors Syed Hasan Imam, Ramendu Majumdar and

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MEDIA EMPLOYEES BILL

JS committee to sit with stakeholders

RASHIDUL HASAN

The parliamentary standing committee on information ministry will sit with stakeholders before finalising the much debated "Mass Media Employees (Services Conditions) Bill 2022".

Hasanul Haq Inu, chairman of the parliamentary watchdog, told this to The Daily Star yesterday, after emerging from the committee's meeting at Jatiya Sangsad.

Information Minister Hasan Mahmud placed the bill in parliament on March 28. It was later sent to the committee for scrutiny.

Various journalist organisations and owners' associations as well as Transparency International Bangladesh have seriously opposed various sections of the proposed law.

Inu said, "Journalist leaders have already talked to me about the bill. But I have requested them to place their proposal before the committee in written form."

He said the committee would hold meetings with Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists, Dhaka Union of Journalists, Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh, Association of Television Channel Owners and newspaper employees' association.

He also said there may be a meeting with Dhaka Reporters Unity.

The Editors' Council (Sampadak Parishad) in a statement on April 19 said the space for independent media will shrink further if the bill is passed.

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'Lighthouse of our generation'

Say speakers on Sardar Fazlul Karim, marking his 8th death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Philosopher Sardar Fazlul Karim was a lighthouse of knowledge. His life experience made him a communist and he set an example by dedicating his entire life to the future generations, said speakers at a programme yesterday marking the eighth death anniversary of the academic.

The event was organised by Sardar Fazlul Karim Smirti Parishad at Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

"His extraordinary wisdom and fearlessness have inspired me and many others. His contributions to the country's politics and culture are unparallel," said Mujahidul Islam Selim, former CPB president.

> **His extraordinary wisdom and fearlessness have inspired me and many others. His contributions to the country's politics and culture are unparallel.**
>
> MUJAHIDUL ISLAM SELIM
> Former CPB president

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad's president Fauzia Moslem said he set an example by living a simple and down-to-earth life.

"Sardar Fazlul Karim is the lighthouse of our generation as a teacher and a philosopher," she added.

"He was the sole philosopher I have ever seen in my entire life," said Prof Kaberi Gayen of Dhaka University.

Deputy Director of National Academy for Educational Management Swapan Nag, Udichi President Badiur Rahman, playwright Kazi Tamanna, Anisur Rahman of Prothoma Publication and students of Dhaka and Jagannath universities also spoke at the event.

It was moderated by DU Prof Shantanu Majumder.

PRAYER TIMING JUNE 16

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
Azan	4-05	12-45	5-00	6-50	8-15
Jamaat	4-40	1-15	5-15	6-55	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

NEWS

Rain worsens

FROM PAGE 12

The Sarigowain river on the other hand was flowing 55cm above the danger level at Sarighat point in Sylhet's Jaintiapur upazila while the Someswari river at Netrokona's Kalmakanda point was flowing 39cm above the danger level.

According to the FFWC, 238mm of rainfall was recorded in Sylhet's Jaflong in the 24 hours till yesterday 9:00am while 225mm at Lalakhal in Sylhet and 120mm in Laurergarh in Sunamganj was recorded.

At the same time, 812mm of rainfall was recorded at Cherrapuji in India's Meghalaya and 170mm of rainfall in Dhubri of India's Assam.

The FFWC report also stated that the flood situation will worsen in Sylhet, Sunamganj and Netrokona districts in the next 24 hours till this morning.

Earlier on May 11, a flash flood was triggered in the districts affecting all 13 upazilas in Sylhet and 5 upazilas in Sunamganj.

Govt mulls fuel price hike

FROM PAGE 1

Earlier on Tuesday, Nasrul Hamid, state minister for power, energy and mineral resources, also hinted at a fuel price hike.

He told reporters that the BPC is making a loss of about Tk 100 crore every day due to the price hike of fuel in the international market.

"The fuel prices have increased abnormally in the international market ... We are working on a pricing model [for the domestic market] ...," he added.

According to a BPC official, the diesel price crossed $170 per barrel in the global market this week.

When the government raised the diesel price in November last year, transport owners observed nationwide strike for three days. The government gave in to their demand for raising transport fares, putting an extra burden on people.

At that time, the diesel price crossed $100 per barrel in the international market and crude oil was above $80 per barrel.

Then the crude oil price dropped for two consecutive months. But since February this year, the price started rising again and stood at $115-$120 a barrel yesterday, according to oilprice.com, an energy news site.

PURCHASE OF ESSENTIALS FROM LOCAL MARKET

Following the meeting ofthe Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase, Zillur Rahman Chowdhury, additional secretary of the Cabinet Division, said the government will buy lentils, sugar and edible oil from the local market to sell those to one crore families through "family cards" at low prices before the Eid-ul-Azha.

The committee approved a proposal for buying 13,500 tonnes of lentils (Tk 117 per kg), 15,000 tonnes of sugar (Tk 81 per kg), and 1.92 crore litres of soybean oil (Tk 201 per litre).

BLACK MONEY

Kamal said those who have plots of land or flats possess black money.

"Everyone who owns a plot of land, a house or a flat has black money. The government is responsible for this. Our system is responsible."

Explaining this, he said, "If you buy a piece of land, you will have to get it registered at a price lower than the purchase price. As the price of land has been fixed [by the authorities concerned] in every mouza, it cannot be registered at a higher price. Such a practice generates black money.

"The fact is that a flat which is registered at Tk 3 crore is actually worth Tk 10 crore. This additional amount turns into black money."

He, however, said he will not backtrack on his decision to allow legalising laundered money in the upcoming fiscal year despite growing criticism.

"I will do what I have said. You know about me. I won't leave it halfway."

He argued that the government faced criticism when it decided to give incentives to remitters. "But remittance earnings received a huge boost, thanks to the incentives. Similarly, the money that has been laundered out of the country will be brought back."

Lawmakers of both the ruling and opposition parties and economists criticised the finance minister for his budget proposal for legalising laundered money upon payment of 7 percent tax.

I now ask you

FROM PAGE 12

ask you [HC judges] to give me justice."

The bench then asked if she had any documents of the rape case with her. She placed them before the judges.

The bench then asked whether any panel lawyer from the Supreme Court Legal Aid Committee (SCLAC) was present in the courtroom to provide the girl with legal assistance.

A woman responded and said she was interested in representing the girl.

Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim handed over the papers to the SCLAC panel lawyer and asked her to take necessary steps.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Deputy Attorney General Sarwar Hossain Bappi said he will be enquiring the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal in Nilphamari regarding the rape case and the acquittal. "We will then take the next course of action."

The girl herself or the state can move an appeal before the HC challenging the trial court verdict, he said.

DAG Sarwar, however, could not share the details of the rape case.

Tigers begin WI tour

FROM PAGE 12

sponsors was back in 2003 when Bangladesh played a two-match Test series in Australia.

Aside from the broadcasting issues, Bangladesh, as a Test side, have their own problems to mend as they begin the tough Windies tour on the back of four defeats in their last five Tests and a sudden shift in leadership just ahead of the series.

Following massive criticism for his extended lean patch in Tests, Mominul Haque stepped down from his role as Test captain just days ahead of the Windies tour, leading to Shakib's being reappointed for his third stint as Test skipper.

Moreover, with Mushfiqur Rahim opting out of the series to perform Hajj and the recent injury forcing middle-order batter Yasir Ali out of the Test series, it is certain that a stern test lies ahead for the Bangladesh top-order that has suffered horrible meltdowns in both innings during their recent Test series against at home against Sri Lanka.

Results of their latest visit in the Caribbean also do not bode well for the Tigers. They were thumped 2-0 -- with heavy defeats on both occasions -- in 2018 under the leadership of Shakib.

As things stand, Bangladesh will have their work cut out against a strong Windies side, buoyed by their recent Test series victory over England in March this year.

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e-Tender Notice

Memo No. 2194 Date: 14/06/2022

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

Sl. No.	ID, Reference No., Tender/Proposal Status	Name of works	Type, method	Publishing date closing date
1.	698527, PWD_Naoga/NSI/ OTM-01/2021-22	Construction of NSI District Office Building (A-type) at Naogaon (Sub-Head: Construction of Office Building 5-storied Building with 5-storied foundation including Civil, Sanitary & electrical works).	NCT, OTM	14-Jun-2022 14:30:00, 30-Jun-2022 11:00:00
2.	708416, PWD_Naoga/OTM-EM-04/2021-22	Yearly Operation, Servicing & maintenance of existing 1600 Kg 6 stops 02 Nos. Passengers Cum Bed lift of MACPUARSA (MP) Brand, at Naogaon District Hospital Building, Naogaon. FY 22-23 Eng.	NCT, OTM	13-Jun-2022 21:15:00, 29-Jun-2022 11:20:00

This is online tender, where e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP System Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

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

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal from e-GP help desk (helpdk@eprocure.gov.bd)/Contact Number (01762625528-31).

Md. Al Mamun Haque
Executive Engineer
PWD Division, Naogaon

GD-1238

Metro rail can save

FROM PAGE 12

meaning Tk 3,489.40 crore would be saved annually.

"The savings will play a positive role in the country's economic development and increase the GDP growth rate," he said.

Two Dhaka city corporation mayors, Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh and Atiqul Islam, among others, spoke at the programme, chaired by Road Transport and Highways Division Secretary ABM Amin Ullah Nuri.

MRT LINE-1

At a press conference following the seminar, Siddique said of the Tk 52,561.43 crore cost of MRT Line-1, the government will provide Tk 13,111 crore while Japan Tk 39,450 crore as soft loan. The deadline of the project is December 2026.

The authorities had planned to start physical work in December 2020 but deferred the start date twice with the last one being March 2021.

Khaleda now in cabin from CCU

FROM PAGE 12

in a cabin."

Zahid said all the CCU facilities of the hospital have been made available to the BNP chief in the cabin.

He added that doctors would keep her under close observation in the cabin and ensure her proper treatment. "The medical board will make decisions on the next course of her treatment based on her condition."

On Monday, Zahid said the medical board decided to keep Khaleda under close observation for a few more days.

He also said three blockages were found in the arteries of the BNP chief through a coronary angiogram test conducted on Saturday.

Zahid, also a BNP vice-chairman, said Khaleda suffered a heart attack due to 95 percent blockage in her left artery. "A stent has been placed there by removing the blockage."

About two other blockages, Zahid said doctors would take proper measures in this regard after observing her condition as she is suffering from chronic kidney and liver problems.

Khaleda was admitted to the hospital early Saturday after she fell ill.

The 76-year-old former prime minister has long been suffering from various ailments.

Govts' inaction

FROM PAGE 12

"Renewables are the peace plan of the 21st century," he said.

Schwarzenegger, who has long campaigned against environmental pollution, said the war in Ukraine was another reason to stop using fossil fuels.