



PM announces prize money for champions

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will gift prize money to all the players of Bangladesh Women Football Team who clinched the title of SAFF Women's Championship.

The premier will also gift houses to those players who need it as she has already ordered the authorities concerned to collect information about the conditions of their homes.

Hasina, who is now in New York to attend the 77th United Nations General Assembly, will provide the prize money and houses after returning home, PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim told the news agency yesterday.

On Wednesday, the PM
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Gaps are usually placed at the junctions of bridges to ensure that damage doesn't occur, as bridges expand and contract due to vibrations. This section again is wrapped with rubber to ensure that vehicles can run smoothly. However, the rubber on the expansion joint of Demra's Sultana Kamal Bridge has completely come off. The rubber on other parts of the bridge has also eroded, signing caution to the authorities concerned to fix them, before it hampers the bridge's overall structural integrity. This photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

On their way back home

Undocumented Bangladeshi workers to return from Lebanon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over 230 undocumented Bangladeshi migrant workers have been in the pipeline to return home from crisis-hit Lebanon, under a voluntary repatriation programme of the Bangladesh Embassy in Beirut.

They are among the 700 workers who have registered their names under the programme since June this year, according to sources in the mission.

Abdullah Al Mamun, first secretary (labour welfare wing) of the Bangladesh mission in Beirut, yesterday said they are currently scrutinising documents of about 200 of the registered workers.

The voluntary repatriation programme is arranged for only undocumented workers, he added.

Besides, exit visas for 32 of the registered workers have been issued by the Lebanese authority recently. This group of workers have to return home by October 10 before their visas expire, the mission said in a notice issued on Tuesday.

The rest of the workers have returned home already, Abdullah said over the phone.

Amid Lebanon's economic crisis, at least 14,000 undocumented Bangladeshi migrant workers returned home in 2021, under different voluntary repatriation programmes by the Bangladesh mission.

According to an AP report published by Lebanese online media outlet Naharnet, Lebanon's crisis began in late 2019 after the government announced newly
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Justice elusive, violence not

Almost all sex workers fall victim to violence, finds study



PHOTO: STAR

Speakers at the event at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Almost all female sex workers in Dhaka become victims of physical violence by their clients at least once in their lives, found a recent study by Sex Workers Network of Bangladesh.

The study was conducted by interviewing 40 sex workers based in eight different areas of the capital, all of whom have been victims of violence.

Of them, 27 female sex workers were impregnated by their clients and 26 had to get an abortion.

The study also explored the negative impact the pandemic has had on the lives and livelihoods of sex workers, most of whom borrowed money with high interest to survive the period, which they are repaying till now.

Speaking at the programme, lawmaker Aroma Dutta said, "We have caused harm to sex workers by closing down the brothels."

"Now they are unprotected and more prone to physical violence outside," Dutta added.

"We should also think about the mental health of sex workers. Steps have been taken by many private and government organisations but more research is required on the matter," said Dr Lima Rahman of ActionAid Bangladesh.

"We will not be able to stop violence towards the sex workers until we make them aware of their rights," said Nurunnahar Begum, senior officer of ActionAid Bangladesh. "Their rights are ensured by the constitution as citizens of the country," she added.

At the event, speakers also said that making any recommendation based on a survey involving 40 female sex workers might be difficult but it is a good step forward.
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Women bear the brunt of climate change

Speakers tell event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The effects of climate change increase the social and economic vulnerabilities of Bangladeshi women by directly impacting their access to food, water, and income, found a national assessment.

Women suffer more than men because of long-standing social conventions and traditional gender norms, it found.

The study, titled "State of Gender Equality and Climate Change in Bangladesh", was jointly conducted by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), UN Women, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Prof Sharmin Neelormi of Jahangirnagar University's economics department presented the study findings at an event at a city hotel yesterday.

The study focused on the gendered impacts of climate change and the gender gaps in agriculture, water resource management, forestry and renewable energy sector.

It found that the involvement of women in agriculture remains systematically unrecognised and under-reported, resulting in lower wages and limited access to credit, agricultural extension services, technologies, and markets.

Besides, limited land ownership and rights of women and girls contribute to low decision-making power.

"Due to societal norms, systemic gender inequalities and reproductive obligations, women are disproportionately affected. For example, collecting and storing water and other labour-intensive care work in the household reduces their time and opportunity for economically productive work,

networking, skill development and community activities," the study mentioned.

Floods, droughts and salinity intrusion disrupt the food production system, disproportionately burdening women and girls with food insecurity, income loss, and health hazards, it found.

"Besides, these events force men to migrate to cities for employment opportunities, leaving female family members behind in a

Attending the event as chief guest, Dr Farhina Ahmed, secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, said, "To make sure that every development project is gender-responsive, we need to create a toolkit."

"There is a gap in perceiving the gender-responsive policies and plans into reality. Capacity development interventions are required to reduce these gaps," she said.

Nayoka Martinez Bäckström,

REASONS

- Social conventions
- Limited land ownership
- Unrecognised work
- Low decision-making power

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Gender-responsive framework
- Gender databases across regions
- Policy implementation
- Capacity development



relatively insecure social position and exposing them to gender-based violence."

The study recommended sensitising and building capacity among policymakers, government agencies and stakeholders, including women's rights organisations, developing research and evidence-based policy advocacy.

It also recommended developing a gender-responsive monitoring and evaluation framework and establishing gender databases across regions, livelihoods and communities of diverse experiences and practices.

first secretary, Environment & Climate Change, Embassy of Sweden, said Bangladesh has strong policies on climate change and gender equality. However, a gap remains in implementing these policies.

UN Women deputy country representative Diya Nanda; Mozaharul Alam, regional coordinator-Climate Change Programme UNEP; Raquibul Amin, country representative, IUCN, and Md Iqbal Hussain, national project director at Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, also attended the event.

18 cultural icons get Shilpakala Padak

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy awarded the "Shilpakala Padak 2019 and 2020" to 18 cultural personalities and two cultural organisations during an event at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy yesterday.

President Abdul Hamid joined the event virtually as chief guest, while State Minister of Cultural Affairs KM Khalid handed over the awards, on his behalf.

Each awardee received Tk 1 lakh, a gold medal and a certificate.

The awardees of 2019 are Mohammad Moniruzzaman
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Eighteen cultural icons and two cultural organisations were awarded the "Shilpakala Padak 2019 and 2020" at an event at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in the capital yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Gyantapash Abdur Razzaq Foundation launches new lecture series

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To bring writers face to face with readers, Gyantapash Abdur Razzaq Foundation is beginning a new lecture series, the inaugural session of which will be held on Saturday.

This lecture series aims to encourage critical thinking and create spaces for freedom of thought and speech, said a statement sent by the organisation yesterday.

The first reading circle will focus on Prof Mohammed Azam's "Shangskritik Rajneeti O Bangladesh" (Cultural Politics and Bangladesh).

Age limit relaxed for some govt jobs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has relaxed the age limit for the candidates of some of the government jobs.

According to a circular issued yesterday by the Ministry of Public Administration, if a candidate were 30 years on March 25, 2020, he or she will be eligible to apply for a government job that advertised till June 2023.

However, the new rule is not applicable for BCS, reads the circular signed by Ministry of Public Administration's Deputy Secretary Dr Faridur Rahman. The maximum age limit for government jobs for a general candidate is 30 years.

3 get 30 years' jail for gang rape

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka tribunal yesterday sentenced three people to 30 years' rigorous imprisonment in a case filed over gang rape of two girls in Dhaka's Kadamtali area in October 2020.

The convicts are Md Sohel Bepary, Md Rana Bepary and Md Akhter Ali.

Judge AM Julliker Hayet of Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-3 of Dhaka handed down the sentence in presence of the convicts. The tribunal acquitted Md Sajal as the charge brought against him was not proven.

According to the prosecution, on October 8, 2020, a group of miscreants led by Sohel entered the house of the victims and raped them.

Following the incident, a case was filed against the accused with Kadamtali Police Station.

'A shot at normalcy' Government to exempt surrendered Sundarbans robbers from charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is finally going to exempt robbers of the Sundarbans -- who surrendered to law enforcers a few years back -- from previously filed robbery charges.

"We have sent all the necessary documents to the law ministry and are hopeful that all the cases will be exempted within the next month," said Commander Khandaker Al Moin, director of the legal and media wing of Rapid Action Battalion.

However, cases filed over charges of rape, arson and murder will not be exempted, Moin told this
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