

LARGEST ONLINE BRANCH NETWORK Sharia'h based Islamic Banking through 500 Branches & 152 Sub Branches ESTABLISHED IN 1959	LARGEST PRIVATE COMMERCIAL BANK  পূবালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড PUBALI BANK LIMITED 64 YEARS IN BANKING	FIRST BANGLAEE BANK Take your remittance Smile with your gift Excellence in Remittance Service
---	--	---



A mother's love shines bright in a busy Dhaka street. She shields her baby from the scorching sun, providing a comforting shade with a file she holds. The baby rests peacefully, secure in the knowledge that a mother's presence will always keep her safe and loved. This photo was taken in Lalmatia yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

First hajj flight with 419 pilgrims today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first hajj flight, carrying 419 pilgrims, is scheduled to leave Dhaka today.

"A Biman Bangladesh Airlines will operate the first hajj flight from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to Jeddah at 3:20am," said Biman's spokesperson Tahera Khondaker.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Friday inaugurated the Hajj Programme 2023 (1444 Hijri) at the Hajji Office in the capital's Ashkona area.

This year, a total of 1,22,221 pilgrims from Bangladesh are going to perform the hajj. The number of hajj pilgrims from Bangladesh was 57,585 last year due to Covid-19 restriction.

Before the Covid-19 pandemic, 1,27,198 pilgrims from Bangladesh performed hajj in 2019.

This year, due to high cost of hajj package, around 5,000 hajj quota is remaining vacant.

Biman is scheduled to send around 61,000 pilgrims while Saudi Arabia and Flynas will send the rest of the hajjis to the Kingdom.

Saudia and Flynas are also scheduled to start hajj operation from May 25, officials of the two airlines said.

The hajj is expected to be held on June 27 depending on the sighting of the moon.

'Allocate Tk 4,550cr for migrant welfare'

CPD suggests govt on pre-budget discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) yesterday proposed that the government allocate a budget of Tk 4,550 crore to ensure the welfare and rights of migrant workers.

This budget can be implemented by different ministries under a "multilayer project" with expenditure divided for pre-departure, destination country, and reintegration stages, CPD Research Director Khondaker Golam Moazzem said while unveiling the proposal during a "Pre-Budget Dialogue for the FY 2023-2024 on Migrants' Welfare".

Bangladesh Parliamentarians' Caucus on Migration and Development, with support from Warbe Development Foundation, organised the dialogue at Parliament Members' Club inside the Jatiya Sangsad premises in the capital.

Moazzem's proposal is based on a study jointly undertaken by CPD, the Caucus and Warbe.

He said during the 2022 fiscal, a migrant worker sent around Tk 2.10 lakh in remittance, while the government spent only Tk 780 per migrant worker.

"There is a big mismatch between the challenges faced by migrant workers and the budgetary allocation provided to address them," he said during his presentation.

"If it is not possible to include the proposal in the upcoming national budget, a discussion based on this could be started for its inclusion in the next national budget," said Moazzem.

He also mentioned that in FY 2023, the allocation for the expatriates' welfare ministry was Tk 990 crore or 0.14 percent of the total budget. Meanwhile, the implementation of the allocated budget at the ministerial level remained less than 70 percent on average.

Moazzem stressed enhancing the budget spending capacity of the ministry.

According to his budget proposal, Moazzem said Tk 2,150 crore could be allocated to address challenges at the pre-departure stage, which include expenditure for upscaling skills and providing airfare, which can help

BUDGET ALLOCATION PROPOSAL

Tk 2,150cr at pre-departure stage

- Expenditure for upscaling skills
- Providing airfare to reduce migrant cost

Tk 1,700cr in destination countries

- Expenditure for building shelter homes for female workers
- Low-cost or free remittance services

Tk 700cr for reintegration

- Creating employment opportunities
- Campaigns to address various social stigmas



reduce the migrant cost.

For addressing challenges in the destination countries, he proposed that there could be an allocation of Tk 1,700 crore, including the expenditure for building shelter houses for female migrants and providing low-cost or free remittance services.

Another Tk 700 crore could be allocated for the reintegration of the returnee migrants such as creating

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

TREE FELLING

Protesters to lay siege to Nagar Bhaban today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Protesters against tree felling on Satmasjid Road are set to lay siege to the DSCC Nagar Bhaban today.

Various social, cultural, environmental, student and youth organisations have jointly called for this programme at a press conference in front of Abahani field yesterday.

Amirul Rajiv, coordinator of the Satmasjid Road Tree Protection Movement, made the announcement.

He said the programme will commence in front of Doyel Chattar at 10:30am. The platform also raised four demands, which include: ceasing of tree felling on Satmasjid Road and replacing the felled trees with native species; halting the new project aimed at planting flower trees with public funds in place of the felled bigger trees; safeguarding the city's trees and greenery by implementing specific policies for both trees and city dwellers; and prioritising nature-based planning in urban development.

Chief Executive of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association Syeda Rizwana Hasan, CEO of Brotee Sharmeen Murshid and Vice President of Udichi Jamsheed Anwar Tapan, were present at the press conference.

WORKERS IN INFORMAL SECTORS

Workplace safety still eludes them

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite improvements in workplace safety status in the RMG sector following the Rana Plaza tragedy in 2013, workers in many informal sectors still work in a risky and unhealthy environment, speakers at an event said yesterday.

A collaborative approach is needed to address this issue, they said at the "Future Generation Summit on Occupational Safety and Health for All" at Krishibid Institution Auditorium in the capital.

Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO) organised the summit in association with International Labour Organization, Canada and Netherlands, according to a press release.

"There are numerous laws guaranteeing a safe work environment for workers...the proper implementation of these laws, however, still has not been achieved," Sheikh Merina Sultana, chairman of Bangladesh Labour Court, said while addressing the event.

There are numerous laws guaranteeing a safe work environment for workers... the proper implementation of these laws, however, still has not been achieved.

SHEIKH MERINA SULTANA
Chairperson, Bangladesh Labour Court

The laws are not implemented since both workers and owners lack proper knowledge on the issue, she added.

Speaking as chief guest, Md Azharul Islam Khan, director general of the Department of Youth Development, highlighted the importance of workplace safety for sustainable development.

"We no longer want any accident from which we can get lessons. We have to ensure workplace safety through raising awareness," he said.

Niran Ramzuthan, programme manager of ILO Bangladesh, said workers -- aged 15 to 22 years

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

PRAYER TIMING
MAY 21

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-05	12-45	5-00	6-40	8-00
JAMMAT 4-40	1-15	5-15	6-45	8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

There is a big mismatch between the challenges faced by migrant workers and the budgetary allocation provided to address them.

CPD Research Director Khondaker Golam Moazzem

Advertisement

৪০তম বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভা

উত্তরা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড

Uttara Bank conducted its 40th Annual General Meeting on 18-05-2023 (Thursday). The Founder & Executive Chairman of Aftab Group and Chairman of Uttara Bank Mr. Azharul Islam presided over the Meeting. The Chairman & Managing Director of Aftab Group and Vice-Chairman of Uttara Bank Mr. Iftekharul Islam was also present. The Managing Director & CEO of Uttara Bank Mr. Mohammed Rabiul Hossain and other Directors also attended the meeting. Uttara Bank Declared 28% (14% stock and 14% cash) dividend for the year-2022 which is the highest among the scheduled Banks of the Country.

52 more get hospitalised with dengue

UNB, Dhaka

Fifty-two people were hospitalised with dengue in 24 hours till yesterday.

Of the new patients, 51 were admitted to hospitals in Dhaka. According to the DGHS, 162 dengue patients are now being treated at hospitals.

So far, the DGHS has recorded 1,414 dengue cases, 1,240 recoveries, and 12 deaths this year.

Inauguration of Relocated KISHOREGANJ BRANCH

Trust Bank Limited

Kishoreganj Branch
596, Haji Akkas Market (1st floor)
Boro Bazar, Kishoreganj Sadar,
Kishoreganj. Contact +880 01755583726

Trust Bank
A Bank for Financial Inclusion
www.tbibd.com TrustBankLtdBD