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We're confident about repaying IMF loan: PM

REUTERS, Dubai

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said she was confident that the country would be able to meet its commitments to the International Monetary Fund.

"The IMF only assists countries that can repay the loans they are taking. Bangladesh is in a position that yes, we took the loan as long as we need it, and yes I am very much sure that definitely we are able to use the loan for our progress and side by side we are able to pay it

In January, the IMF approved loans of \$4.7 billion to Bangladesh for immediate disbursement.

back," Hasina said at the Qatar Economic Forum, organised by Bloomberg.

In January, the IMF approved loans of \$4.7 billion to Bangladesh for immediate disbursement, considered a boost for Sheikh Hasina ahead of a general election early next year.

Amid a worsening economic crisis, Bangladesh has seen a sharp widening of its current account deficit, depreciation of the taka currency and a decline in its foreign exchange reserves.

Hasina also said Bangladesh would buy oil from Russia if the price was appealing.

4 DU students accuse BCL men of torture

DU CORRESPONDENT

Four students of Dhaka University's Masterda Surja Sen Hall alleged that they were tortured by some Chhatra League leaders on Tuesday at the dorm.

A complaint letter was submitted yesterday to the hall provost in this regard.


The complaint was filed by Alam Badsha and Lutfur Rahman, both Islamic Studies majors, Arabic major Ashikur Rahman and psychology major Al Amin.

The authorities formed a three-member committee to investigate the matter, said Surja Sen Hall Provost Prof Zakir Hossain Bhuiyan.

The accused are -- General Secretary of BCL's Surja Sen Hall Siam Rahman, Vice President Hamid Karzai,

PRAYER
TIMING

MAY 25



Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:05	12:45	5:00	6:40	8:00
JAMAAT 4:40	1:15	5:15	6:45	8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

‘Thyroid, as serious as diabetes’


Say experts, urge govt for mandatory screening countrywide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thyroid issues are as serious as diabetes because around five crore Bangladeshis have this easily treatable ailment, said doctors at a press conference yesterday.

Half of the people with this endocrine disorder, however, suffer unknowingly due to the lack of knowledge on the disease, they said at the event organised by Association of Clinical Endocrinologist and Diabetologist of Bangladesh (ACEDB) in Dhaka, marking World Thyroid Day 2023.

They also urged the government to introduce mandatory thyroid screening countrywide for every newborn within the first seven days of birth to end the disease.

**It is urgent to test thyroid hormone status before pregnancy. Because, a healthy mother means a healthy baby, and hence, a healthy nation.**

PROF MD FARID UDDIN
Founder chairman of
Endocrinology Dept, BSMMU

Thyroid disorder occurs when the human thyroid gland produces either excessive (hypothyroidism) or insufficient amounts (hyperthyroidism) of vital hormones. These conditions can affect individuals of all ages. Thyroid disorders can be present at birth or develop later in life, often emerging after menopause in women.

Thyroid diseases occur when the human thyroid gland produces either excessive (hypothyroidism) or insufficient amounts (hyperthyroidism) of vital hormones. These conditions can affect individuals of all ages, including men, women, infants, teenagers, and the elderly. Thyroid disorders can be present at birth or develop later in life, often emerging after menopause in women.

Thyroid disorders impact several aspects of health, including fatigue, weight fluctuations,

mood swings, sleep disturbances, affect heart rate, mood, energy levels, metabolism, bone health, pregnancy and brain function.

"We have to give importance to thyroid problem as its impact is almost as concerning as diabetes. It reduces human workability," said Prof Dr Md Ruhul Amin, endocrinologist and secretary general of ACEDB.

At the event, Dr AKM Aminul Islam, associate professor endocrinology department at Salimullah Medical College Hospital, presented a keynote on the disease.

He said the disease is 4-5 times more prevalent among women in Bangladesh and a mother's thyroid problem affects the newborn's physical and mental growth.

"Testing thyroid hormone status before pregnancy is a must. Everyone should also incorporate adequate iodine in their diet for the proper functioning of the thyroid gland," said Prof Dr Md Farid Uddin, founder chairman of Endocrinology (Diabetes and Hormone) Department at BSMMU.

Prof Dr Indrajit Prasad of DMCH, said one of the main reasons behind infertility is thyroid disorders.

Now Mustafizur gets one-year extension

Earlier, IGP and Rab DG got similar contract

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The tenure of Mustafizur Rahman, who was promoted to the post of senior secretary of the home ministry's Public Security Division just a day before his retirement, has been extended for a year on contract.

Ministry of Public Administration, undersigned by its Deputy Secretary Rafiqul Islam, issued a circular in this regard yesterday.

Senior secretary to Public Security Division and chiefs of Rab and Police, which fall under the jurisdiction of the division, are now appointed on contract. On May 23, the government extended M Khurshid Hossain's tenure as Rab director general for one year. On January 9, the tenure of IGP Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun was extended for one and a half years.

Govt approves MRT police unit for metro rail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has given its approval to form a dedicated Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) police unit to ensure comprehensive security measures for the metro rail system.

The development came 24 days after a stone-like object damaged a glass window of a running train.

On Sunday, the Public Security Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs issued a notification, which was published on the ministry's website yesterday.

The specialised unit, led by a deputy inspector general (DIG), will consist of 231 personnel responsible for overseeing the safe operation and management.

According to the notification, the unit will comprise three cadre posts and 228 non-cadre posts. Additionally, the Table of Organisation and Equipment includes a provision for 15 vehicles to support the MRT police in their duties.

The administrative posts are: one DIG, one superintendent of police, two inspectors, one unarmed inspector, one armed inspector, two unarmed sub-inspectors (SIs), two armed SIs, three unarmed assistant sub-inspectors (ASIs), four armed ASIs, five naiks, 10 constables, one computer operator, one accountant, one senior assistant and two office assistants/computer numismatists.

Railway to sell advance Eid tickets online in two slots

FROM DHAKA	Travel Date	Ticket Selling Date
	June 24	June 14
	June 25	June 15
	June 26	June 16
	June 27	June 17
	June 28	June 18
RETURN TO DHAKA	Travel Date	Ticket Selling Date
	June 22	June 2
	June 23	June 3
	June 24	June 4
	June 25	June 5
	June 26	June 6

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Railway will sell all advance tickets for intercity trains online ahead of the Eid-ul-Azha to reduce public suffering. BR will start selling tickets from June 14 at two different time slots to reduce the load on its server.

The West Zone will start selling tickets online at 8:00am while the East Zone will start at noon.

BR will introduce a new train on Dhaka-Chilahati route before the Eid and will operate total eight special trains during the Eid rush.

The decisions were taken at a preparatory meeting at Rail Bhaban in the capital ahead of Eid-ul-Azha with Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujon in the chair. The minister is expected to

Substandard materials supplied for 3rd plant

MD of Essential Drugs tells JS body

RASHIDUL HASAN

The goods and pieces of machinery supplied to construct the third plant of Essential Drugs Company Limited at Gopalganj were not up to standard, the managing director and CEO of EDCL told a parliamentary body yesterday.

Dr Ehsanul Kabir, managing director of EDCL, a state-owned pharmaceuticals company, in his report submitted before the meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on health ministry, said Fabtech Technology Ltd, the contractor of the project supplied the substandard materials.

The EDCL chief in the report said the ongoing project work was not completed even after five years. He highlighted the reasons behind the delay.

Dr Ehsanul Kabir said, for that reason, the implementation period has been extended up to December 2023 by Ecne, where there will be no increase in cost.

According to the work order, the contractor has supplied a machine with

less production capacity than required.

This issue was also discussed in the JS body's previous meeting.

According to the minutes of the previous meeting, Committee Chairman Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim said confusion has been created in the public mind as Fabtech did not supply the proper machine.

"It is not appropriate to accept the goods supplied outside the specification as mentioned in the work order and make payment," he added.

He is also in favour of sending the matter to Buet for examination, if necessary.

The committee chief also advised not to pay 40 percent of the dues with a bank guarantee until Fabtech Technology supplies a machine with a production capacity of 600 blisters.

Health Minister Zahid Maleque who is also a member of the committee directed to follow the advice.

The proposed EDCL third plant in Gopalganj will consist of a

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST
LIGHTNING STRIKES

The government has issued some precautionary measures to avoid deaths and injuries by lightning strikes. According to the Bangladesh Meteorological Department, lightning strikes kill 250 people on an average every year in the country.

MEASURES

- Stay indoors during thunderstorms, which typically last 30-35 minutes
- Wear rubber shoes if necessary for emergencies
- If caught in an open paddy field, sit on your toes, put fingers in your ears
- Seek shelter under concrete sheds or buildings, avoid rooftops or high places
- Keep children indoors; discourage outdoor play during thunderstorms
- Avoid areas with tall trees, electric poles, mobile towers
- Cease fishing in the sea or river during thunderstorms
- If inside a vehicle, avoid touching metal part
- Treat lightning strike victims like those injured by electric shock, provide CPR if necessary.
- Take lightning strike victims to hospital promptly

PHOTO: COLLECTED, TEXT: UNB