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Bangladesh-Bangabandhu Room opened at FAO HQ

UNB, Rome

The Bangladesh-Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Room was inaugurated on Monday at the headquarters of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who is now in Rome to attend the UN Food Systems Summit+2 Stocktaking Moment (UNFSS+2), inaugurated the room. FAO Director-General QU Dongyu was present at the event.

The establishment of the room marks the celebration of the 100th birth anniversary of Bangabandhu.

The prime minister said that her country is delighted to have a little piece of Bangladesh inside the FAO Headquarters.

She said Bangladesh became a member of FAO in 1973 under the guidance of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

This room also stands for the 50 years of excellent partnership between Bangladesh and FAO, she added.

The newly furnished room shows an image of Bangabandhu, depicted in a paddy field by one of Bangladesh's farmers. This artistic work was done during the "Mujib Year" - Bangabandhu's birth centenary observed in 2020-21.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a meeting with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni at the latter's office in Rome yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Italian PM for legal migration of workers

UNB, Rome

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni yesterday stressed the need for migration of Bangladeshi workers in legal ways.

She said this at a bilateral meeting with Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. "Bangladeshi workers are doing very well here. They have enough credibility. I don't want illegal workers," she was quoted as saying by Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen.

On her arrival at Palazzo Chigi, the Italian PM's office, Hasina was received by Meloni.

Issues including undocumented Bangladeshi expatriates, bilateral trade and business came up during the discussion.

The Italian side said they don't want illegal Bangladeshis to stay there as locals don't want it. "They opened the door for Bangladesh to send manpower in legal ways," said Momen.

Hasina said both documented and undocumented Bangladeshis are working for the welfare of the two countries. But, she said, Bangladesh discourages illegal migration.

Noting that her government is developing 100 economic zones and 39 hi-tech parks in Bangladesh, Hasina asked Italy to invest there.

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DHAKA-N'GANJ RAIL ROUTE

Operation resumes Aug 1, but won't be smooth before 2026

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Although rail services between Dhaka and Narayanganj will resume on August 1 after eight months of suspension for construction works, it would take three more years to have smooth and enhanced rail service on this route.

Unilateral cancellation of contract by a Chinese contractor midway of work and changes in work scope eight years after the initiation of the project will cause the long delay to have double line facilities on this route, officials said.

The cost of Dhaka-Narayanganj Double Lining project has already risen to Tk 658.34 crore from Tk 378.65 crore and the deadline got extended to June 2026 from June 2017, they said.

Before suspension of services, railway used to operate nine pairs of trains - eight pairs of local and one of Demu - between Dhaka and Narayanganj daily and several thousand people avail themselves of the services.

Passengers could reach Narayanganj from Dhaka within 45 minutes at a fare of Tk 15. On the other hand, it takes almost an hour to reach Narayanganj by bus at Tk 55 fare.

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Submit list of railway land grabbers in 30 days: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday sought a list of people who have illegally grabbed lands of Bangladesh Railway across the country.

The court ordered the authorities concerned of the government to prepare the list and to submit it in 30 days.

At the same time, it issued a rule asking the authorities to explain in two weeks why their inaction to free the lands from illegal occupation should not be declared illegal and they should not be ordered to evict the occupiers.

The bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Khizir Hayat Lizu

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DENGUE OUTBREAK

Pregnant women more vulnerable

Two expecting mothers die at city hospitals

HELEMUL ALAM

As a deadly dengue outbreak tightens its grip across the country, an escalating number of lives are being claimed each day.

Meanwhile, there lies a group at an even greater risk - pregnant women.

These expectant mothers face an alarming vulnerability, as the disease threatens not only their lives but also the lives of their unborn children.

Yesterday, two pregnant government officials fell victim to the dengue outbreak in Dhaka. SM Nazia Sultana, a senior assistant secretary of the commerce ministry, and Kanta Biswas, an assistant director of the Public Account Department of Bangladesh Bank, both passed away while undergoing treatment at separate city hospitals, confirmed family members and colleagues.

Both women were eight months pregnant.

Nazia got into public service following the 30th BCS while Kanta was appointed in the Bangladesh Bank as an assistant director in 2019.

According to doctors, infants (below one year), pregnant women, obese and elderly people (above 65-year of age) are the high-risk groups.

These dengue patients will have to remain under constant observation of doctors, said HM Nazmul Ahsan,



Infants (below one year), pregnant women, obese and elderly people (above 65-year of age) are high-risk groups

They will have to remain under constant observation of doctors

After being diagnosed, a pregnant patient must have to be admitted to a hospital immediately, as they need extra care

associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital.

He said after being diagnosed with dengue, a pregnant patient must be admitted to a hospital immediately, as they need extra care.

"There are two parts in blood pressures - systolic and diastolic. In the case of pregnant women,

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YUNUS CASE

SC issues status quo on proceedings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday issued status quo till August 3 on the proceedings of a case filed against Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus and three other top officials of Grameen Telecom on charge of labour law violation.

Justice M Enayetur Rahim, chamber judge of the Appellate Division of the SC, passed the order following a petition filed by the state seeking stay on a High Court rule that questioned the labour court order framing charges against Yunus and three others.

The apex court chamber judge also sent the state's petition to its full bench for hearing.

Yunus is the chairman of Grameen Telecom while the other accused Ashraful Hasan is the managing director and Nur Jahan Begum and Mohammad Shahjahan are directors.

On September 9 of 2021, SM Arifuzzaman, a labour inspector (general), filed the case. The labour court on October 12, 2021 granted bail to Yunus and other accused in the case.

CHT Peace Accord, an empty promise Speakers tell rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League government has been farcing with the indigenous communities by not fully implementing the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord, said speakers at a rally yesterday.

The rally, arranged by student and youth organisations, marked the 25th anniversary of the treaty and voiced demands for its swift implementation.

Alik Mree, president of Adivasi Chhatra Sangram Parishad, criticised the AL government's repeated promises to implement the accord made before the 2008, 2014, and 2018 national elections.

When the treaty was signed, indigenous communities believed that their two-decade-long movement had come to an end. However, it is deeply disheartening that even after 25 years, only 25 out of 72 clauses have been fully implemented.

ALIK MREE
President of Adivasi Chhatra Sangram Parishad

"When the treaty was signed, indigenous communities believed that their two-decade-long movement had come to an end. However, it's deeply disheartening that even after 25 years, only 25 out of 72 clauses have been fully implemented," he said.

Accusing the government of using the treaty as a facade to deceive the indigenous people, Mree also alleged the ruling party of suppressing the indigenous people in the CHT and seizing their ancestral lands in the name of development projects like eco-parks, resorts, restaurants, and hotels.

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Law enforcers intercept a procession of Gono Odhikar Parishad at Bangla Motor intersection around noon yesterday when the party was heading towards the Election Commission office demanding that their party get EC registration.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

'Register us in seven days or we'll besiege your office'

Gono Odhikar Parishad issues ultimatum to EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gono Odhikar Parishad leaders yesterday issued an ultimatum to the Election Commission, demanding that their party be registered in the next seven days.

They warned of besieging the EC office if their demands were not met during this period.

A letter outlining their demands was submitted yesterday to the EC's office in the capital's Agargaon.

"If our demands are not met, we will not start the march from the party

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SCHOOL FEEDING Bangladesh inks deal with WFP

UNB, Rome

Bangladesh has signed an agreement with the World Food Programme (WFP) for expanding and improving school feeding programme for the country's primary school students.

The agreement was inked at an event attended by Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen.

Bangladesh government introduced a school feeding programme in 2010 and now some 23 lakh students of 15,000 primary schools in 104 upazilas are getting free meals.

Under the new agreement, the programme will be expanded to more than 150 upazilas, raising the number of beneficiaries to 37 lakh students.

Thanks to the programme, the dropout rate has declined by 7.5 percent and the enrolment rate increased by 14 percent in the primary schools, said Momen.

Moreover, Bangladesh has become the 85th member of the School Meals Coalition at an event on Monday.