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## Govt to create a database for returnee migrants

### 30 'welfare centres' launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Expatriates' Welfare Minister Imran Ahmad yesterday said the ministry aims to create a comprehensive database for the betterment of returnee migrants.

Around 2,000 returning expatriates would be the beneficiaries of this project titled "Recovery and Advancement of Informal Sector Employment (Raise): Reintegration of Returnee Migrants".

The minister also emphasised the importance of maintaining the integrity of data generated from the project while expressing concerns about potential data breaches, urging officials to ensure proper data protection measures.

"Integrity of the data is most important. We collect data and then if it gets hacked, this will make no sense," the minister said, addressing a programme marking the opening of 30 "welfare centres" as part of the project.

The minister also called upon other implementing partners to protect data of the returnee migrants.

Wage Earners' Welfare Board (WEWB) organised the programme at Bangabandhu Wage Earners' Centre at the capital's Barua.

Addressing the programme as chief guest, the minister said returnee reintegration is a complex issue and that his ministry has taken various initiatives to ensure well being of returnee migrant workers.

An initiative to establish a hospital and diagnostic centre for migrant workers and their families has been

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A rickshaw-puller holds a saline bag while Sumon, a dengue patient, waits for his sister who went to buy some coconut for him on their way back home from a hospital. Sumon, who had been ill for a week, tested dengue positive three days ago. As per doctor's advice, he was being treated at home. Yesterday, he went to the hospital for check-up. The photo was taken in Moghbazar's Nayatola area. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



## PM opens 50 more model mosques

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday opened 50 more newly-constructed model mosques and Islamic cultural centres across the country.

A total of 250 mosques have so far been built as part of the government's move to construct 564 district and upazila-level model mosques at a cost of Tk 9,435 crore.

In the fifth phase of the project, the PM opened the 50 mosques through a virtual inaugural ceremony from the Gono Bhaban.

Earlier, she unveiled 50 mosques each in the first

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## 'EC capable to conduct free, fair polls'

### Says Election Monitoring Forum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two international election experts yesterday expressed their confidence in the Election Commission's ability to conduct a free and fair national polls.

The experts, part of Election Monitoring Forum's delegation, said this following a meeting with the chief election commissioner and other commissioners at the EC office.

Following the meeting, Nick Powell, a political editor representing EU Reporter, a Brussels-based European multimedia news platform, praised the Election Commission's dedication and diligence in their work.

He also expressed optimism that they will ensure a transparent electoral process.

Terry L Isley, a US political analyst and representative of the international observer team, echoed this sentiment, stating their confidence in the EC's

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## Doctor, nurse shortage affecting ICU care

Speakers tell event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An acute shortage of doctors, nurses, and other health workers, specially trained for handling critical patients, has been badly affecting the quality of service in intensive care units across the country, said speakers at a workshop yesterday.

They made the remarks at "Stakeholder Consultation Workshop on Situational Analysis of Critical Care Health Workforce in Bangladesh", organised by public health and informatics department of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University at their premises.

Despite this shortage, the absence of an organogram in the government health service has left many such doctors unassigned to the ICUs, the speakers added.

To overcome the situation effectively, stakeholders unanimously stressed the urgency of creating more critical care medicine specialists, anesthesiologists, and other health workers.

Prof Md Atiqul Haque, dean of Faculty of Medicine at BSMMU, shared his experience on his visit to the ICUs and HDUs at different medical colleges and district hospitals.

"What we have seen is

**Due to the shortage of anesthesiologists, surgeons, and gynaecologists in many district-level hospitals [often] cannot perform surgeries. Many hospitals have ICUs but they do not have proper oxygen supplies. Such hospitals should be shut down.**

PROF SHARFUDDIN AHMED  
Vice Chancellor of BSMMU

**Covid-19 has shown our vulnerability in the critical care arrangement. Although the problem cannot be solved overnight, we should have an action plan considering future health emergencies.**

PROF MD ATIQUUL HAQUE  
Dean of medicine faculty at BSMMU

frustrating. There is an acute shortage of qualified doctors, including anesthesiologists, everywhere. Besides, many ICUs and HDUs were below standard."

He called for urgent action from policymakers to overcome the challenges.

"Covid-19 has shown our vulnerability in the critical care arrangement. Although the problem cannot be solved overnight, we should have an action plan considering future health emergencies," added Atiqul.

Speaking as chief guest, BSMMU Vice Chancellor Prof Sharfuiddin Ahmed said, "Due to the shortage of anesthesiologists, surgeons, and gynaecologists in many district-level hospitals [often] cannot perform surgeries."

He also said there are many hospitals that have ICUs but do not have proper oxygen supplies. "If so, such hospitals should be shut down," he asserted.

He also stressed the need for strengthening the healthcare sector.

Officials from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Directorate General of Medical Education, World Health Organization and other institutions attended the event.

## Polls schedule not before Oct: CEC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibul Awal yesterday said the schedule for the 12th national election would not be declared before October.

Talking to reporters at the EC Secretariat in Agargaon, Habibul also said the next parliamentary polls will be held in the last week of December this year, or in the first week of January 2024.

"There are no discussions among the commissioners regarding the election schedule so far... there is also no decision on the matter", he said.

"I can estimate that [announcement of election schedule] will be announced at the end of October or it could be early November. Normally the election schedule is announced 50 to 60 days ahead of polling day," he added.

According to the constitution, national election must be held

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## NATIONALISATION DEMAND Teachers want to meet PM, warn of hunger strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Protesting secondary school teachers, who have been on a sit-in protest in front of Jatiya Press Club for the last 20 days for nationalisation of their institutions, yesterday threatened to go on a hunger strike from August 1 if their demand of meeting the prime minister is not met before that.

Sheikh Kawsar Ahmed, general secretary of Bangladesh Teachers' Association, said, "We have



PHOTO: STAR

no other demand but meeting the PM. We believe that as soon as we can meet her, all our demands will be met," he added.

Thousands of teachers have been on a sit-in protest since July 11. They already have two meetings -- one with Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education and another with Education Minister Dipu Moni -- to resolve the matter.

Dipu Moni, in a meeting with the teachers,

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## Honouring a stellar woman

bti, Star award Ridy Sheikh in 'culture' category

STAR REPORT

To recognise the special contributions of emerging, young and promising women from different walks of life, bti and The Daily Star honoured globally-acclaimed dancer and influencer Ridy Sheikh at an event on July 29.

The event -- Stellar Women Awards -- was held at bti Celebration Point, Gulshan-2 in Dhaka.

This initiative will award 12 women in 12 categories.

Previously, promising women from the "development", "technology", "architecture" and "education" sectors have been awarded with

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Acclaimed dancer and influencer Ridy Sheikh being presented the "Stellar Women" award by Editor of Star Lifestyle Mehrin Mubdi Chowdhury and bti CEO Nalaka Hettiarachchi at an event yesterday. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## AL to submit audit report to EC today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League will submit its annual audit report to the Election Commission today.

The ruling party informed this to the media through a press release, signed by AL Office Secretary Biplob Bauria, yesterday.

According to Representation of the People Order, which sets the rules and regulations for elections in the country, political parties must submit their audit reports by July 31 of the previous year's transactions and all financial dealings. Mentionable, BNP submitted its annual report to the Election Commission yesterday.

Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, senior joint general secretary of the party, handed over its annual financial report of 2022 to EC Secretary Jahangir Alam at the latter's office in Agargaon yesterday.

## BNP's earnings increase seven-fold

Rizvi submits last year's financial report to EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP's income last year increased by seven folds while its expenditures doubled compared to 2021, the party's annual financial report shows.

Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, senior joint general secretary of the party, handed over its annual financial report of 2022 to EC Secretary Jahangir Alam at the latter's office in Agargaon yesterday.

According to the report, BNP earned Tk 5,92,04,632 and spent Tk 3,88,33,803. It has a surplus of Tk 2.03 crore.

Rizvi said the party earned the money from different sources, including fees from its national executive committee members, donation of different persons and through Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR).

The money was spent on different purposes, including publishing leaflets, posters, advertisements, distribution of reliefs among flood victims, providing financial support to families of deceased party workers, helping injured party activists, and others.

According to the party's 2021 financial statement given to the EC, the party earned Tk 84,12,444 from different sources that year, including monthly fees from members, FDR, nomination form sales and donations, while it spent Tk 1,98,47,171 for different purposes, including paying salaries and bonuses to employees, maintaining office

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