

কর্মজীবনের শেষে  
অবসরকালীন ভবিষ্যৎ আর্থিক নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিত করতে  
'সর্বজনীন পূবালী পেনশন স্কীম'  
আকর্ষণীয় সুদহার  
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দৈনিক স্থিতির উপর মাসিক চক্রবৃদ্ধি হারে প্রতি মাসে মুনাফা



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## 64pc women face violence in cyberspace

Speakers tell dialogue, urge for coordinated efforts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 64 out of every 100 women in Bangladesh encounter violence in cyberspace, resulting in severe mental health consequences for the majority of the victims, speakers told a policy dialogue yesterday.

The violence women face include receiving sexually suggestive comments and explicit pictures through online messaging platforms, they mentioned at the dialogue titled, "#Unite: Investing to secure the cyberspace for Women and Girls".

The United Nations Development Programme organised the discussion in association with The Daily Star, Australian AID, and ICT Division of the government at the capital's BICC.

The speakers also emphasised that adequate investment is necessary to safeguard women and girls in cyberspace

through public-private sectors' collaboration, aiming to bridge the ongoing gender digital divide, provide access to educational resources, and promote economic empowerment.

UNDP's gender team leader Sharmin Islam underscored the importance of individuals sharing their experiences of sexual violence and emphasised that this approach not only raises awareness but also plays a crucial role in identifying solutions to overcome this challenge.

Sonali Dayaratne, UNDP's deputy resident representative of Bangladesh, stressed that online violence not only impacts survivors' personal lives but also hinders their engagement in economic activities, politics, journalism, and activism, affecting broader societal and socio-economic development.

"Only 53 out of 190 countries have

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Visitors at an exhibition, titled "Dress is not consent. #No Excuse," showcasing the attire worn by survivors of sexual violence during their ordeals yesterday. The event, followed by a dialogue, was organised by the UNDP, in association with The Daily Star, Australian AID, and ICT Division at BICC in Dhaka.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Sanctions should be imposed on BNP

Says Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There is no logical reason for the US to impose sanctions on Bangladesh as the upcoming election will be free and fair, said Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday.

"We are relentlessly trying to put the country's electoral system and democracy on a solid footing. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has repeatedly said the election will be free and fair. So, we don't see any logical reason for imposing sanctions [by the US]," said Quader.

"Rather, sanctions

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## Press freedom vital for democracy

Speakers tell TIB event marking Anti-Corruption Day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Democracy and freedom of speech complement each other and to make development meaningful democracy has to be ensured, said speakers at an event yesterday.

They also said freedom of the press is imperative for democracy. They made the remarks at a discussion titled "Media, Freedom of Expression and Investigative Journalism: A Perspective on Bangladesh", organised by Transparency International Bangladesh at its Dhanmondi office marking International Anti-Corruption Day.

Speaking at the event, rights activist Sultana Kamal said the culture of impunity and growing lack of accountability are posing an alarming threat to the freedom of speech and expression.

Sultana, also chairperson of TIB's trustee board, said currently a large number of people are imprisoned without any trials, although there is no

space left in jail.

Despite the challenges, she urged journalists to remain honest and united to uphold their rights. "We cannot give up," she added.

TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said a country can never become developed and prosperous by suppressing dissenting opinions.

**A country can never become developed and prosperous by suppressing dissenting opinions.**

Iftekharuzzaman  
TIB executive director

make development meaningful," he added.

At the event, three journalists and a television programme were conferred awards for winning the TIB's "Anti-Corruption Investigative Journalism Award 2023".

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## Uphold morality, integrity in duties

President urges ACC officials

BSS, Dhaka

President Mohammed Shahabuddin yesterday

asked the Anti-Corruption Commission officials to discharge duties maintaining utmost moralities and integrity.

The president came up with remarks while addressing a gathering at the Shilpakala Academy, marking International Anti-Corruption Day.

The day is observed on December 9 every year to raise awareness against corruption, following the passage of the United Nations Convention

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## 'Release all arrested RMG workers, leaders'

37 citizens demand in joint statement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a joint statement issued yesterday, 37 Bangladeshi citizens demanded immediate release of the garment workers and their leaders who were arrested during their recent movement demanding higher wages.

They also demanded a thorough investigation into the deaths of four workers, including three killed by police and one in a fire, terming the government and factory owners responsible for the deaths.

Mentioning that the ready-made garment workers as the backbone of Bangladesh's economy, they said the workers are facing a difficult time in their long-standing struggle for higher wages.

Despite their contributions to the country's development, RMG workers are still considered as cheap labour, and have not seen any significant improvement in their lives, the statement said.

The statement further said that the workers took to the streets to demand a review of the wage board's decision to fix Tk 12,500 as minimum wage. However, instead of considering their

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The drainage work on Midford road in Old Dhaka has been continuing for over a month without any protective measures. As a result, pedestrians and vehicles, mostly rickshaws and motorbikes, are forced to use the muddy road amid risk. The photo was taken yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## AL nomination seeker loses Tk 50 lakh to fraudsters

DB arrests 3 impersonators posing as PMO officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police have arrested three fraudsters who used to masquerade as senior officials of the Prime Minister's Office to embezzle money from nomination aspirants of Awami League ahead of the national election.

One of the victims is Thakurgaon district AL general secretary Dipak Kumar Roy. He lost Tk 50 lakh to these fraudsters, Harun Or Rashid, a additional commissioner (detective branch) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said yesterday.

Dipak then filed a case with Shahbagh Police Station. The DB arrested three fraudsters in Dhaka and Thakurgaon in the last two days.

They are Nurul Hakim, 31, Hasanul Islam Jisan, 22, and Harun Or Rashid, 29. The three embezzled at least Tk 80 lakh from different persons, according to DB.

On September 3, Harun called Dipak over phone and claimed that he is a

deputy director of NSI and works at the PMO. He claimed that he is involved with AL's nomination process and has got several people nominated in the last elections.

The fraudster then made him talk to someone in a woman's voice, claiming to be the PM's daughter. He then demanded Tk 50 lakh to confirm his nomination.

Later, after the announcement of nomination on November 26, Dipak realised he was cheated.

Following his case, a team of DB (Cyber and Special Crime) arrested Harun from Thakurgaon.

Nurul and Jisan initially impersonated as Dhaka district social services deputy director and Savar upazila social services officer, obtaining mobile numbers of local political leaders.

After getting the phone numbers, they posed as officials from the PMO, demanding Tk 50 lakh from political leaders to confirm their nominations, said Junaed Alam Sarkar, additional deputy commissioner (Cyber and Special Crime) of DB.

**One of the victims is Thakurgaon district AL general secretary Dipak Kumar Roy. He lost Tk 50 lakh to these fraudsters, said police.**