

কর্মজীবনের শেষে অবসরকালীন আর্থিক নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিত করতে

পিপলস পূবালী পেনশন স্কীম

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INTERNATIONAL DAY OF EDUCATION

The boat of hope
SAILS AWAY

Floating school project for Manta children comes to an end



Sunlight streams through a makeshift classroom, as curious young faces listen carefully to their teacher sitting in circles. Inset, parents waiting for their children in front of the floating school. Scenes like this can no longer be seen at the bank of Gouranga river in Patuakhali as the project bringing education to children of Manta community expired in December 2023.

PHOTO: STAR

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

A project, a promise of education, a chance to break free from the shackles of illiteracy.

Four years flew by, children of the Manta community dared to dream. Then on a chilly winter morning, it all came to an end, rather abruptly.

The children woke up that day and witnessed the boat, which had arrived at the riverbank with promise of education, departing the area, leaving them in tears.

WHO ARE THE MANTAS? Mantas are a small nomadic community who live in boats on the rivers and earn a livelihood by catching fish while travelling between shoals and islands and the coastal areas of Patuakhali district.

They never settle down on the mainland. If some dies within the community, the body is either



floated in river water, or buried by the river banks if locals do not object to it.

Children within the community also become involved in fishing following their parents from an early age. With access to education being a far cry, the entire community is largely illiterate.

THE FLOATING SCHOOL Jago Nari, a local non-government organisation, took a four-year project -- Education for Inclusion of Manta Community (EIMC) -- in 2019 to provide pre-primary education to 50 children from Manta community yearly in Char Montaz under Rangabali upazila of Patuakhali.

A floating school was set up



There are around 300 children in the community. Many of them received pre-primary education in the floating school, and some went on to join primary schools in close proximity to the river.

in a one-storey launch -- 75 feet by 18 feet in size -- at a cost of Tk 20 lakh. It remained anchored on the bank of Bura Gouranga river in the upazila where the children of Manta community would come and attend classes, while also being provided books, stationeries, and lifejackets.

The total cost of the project was

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Barir Naam
Shahana

A tale of women's trials, tribulations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshi-born British writer, playwright, theatre director, and actress, Leesa Gazi has made a name for herself on the international stage with her debut feature film, "Barir Naam Shahana" (A House Named Shahana).

The 22nd Dhaka International Film Festival saw the domestic screening of the film take place at National Museum's Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib hall, yesterday.

The film's director Leesa Gazi, lead actress Aanon Siddiqua, along with the ensemble cast, were present at the event.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Leesa Gazi, shared, "The film [Barir Naam Shahana] premiered last year at the Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival, earning the Gender Sensitivity Award. The film was also screened at different international film festivals, including BFI London Indian Film Festival, and Birmingham Indian Film Festival. Yet, nothing beats the fulfilment and joy I get from witnessing its premiere in my homeland."

The film's story follows

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Leesa Gazi, along with the cast and crew of "Barir Naam Shahana", at the screening of the film at Dhaka International Film Festival in the National Museum yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

67pc lawmakers are
businesspeople
Says Shujan report on current JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ninety percent of the 12th parliament's elected lawmakers hold assets exceeding Tk 1 crore, according to a report by Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik.

Of the 299 MPs in the current parliament, 269 have assets above Tk one crore, it said. A total of 193 MPs have assets worth over Tk 5 crore, while 200 lawmakers (67 percent) are businesspeople by profession, according to the data unveiled by Shujan at a virtual press conference.

"The number of lawmakers who have over Tk 1 crore of assets has been increasing gradually," said Dilip Kumar Sarkar, Shujan's central coordinator.

In terms of yearly income, 111 lawmakers earn over Tk 1 crore annually, while 51 lawmakers earn Tk 50 lakh per year.

Meanwhile, Shujan found that 230 MPs pay income taxes, and of them, 95 pay over Tk 10 lakh as income tax per year.

"In many cases, the declarations of assets and income of the lawmakers do not match their tax returns. Election Commission and other institutions concerned should look into it," said Shujan Secretary Badiul Alam Majumder.

Regarding educational qualifications, Shujan found that 136 have a master's degree, while 111 completed graduation, 37 have an

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Discussion on
Abul Mansur
Ahmad todaySTAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Rajshahi

A discussion will be held today to honour the milestone of 100 years since eminent litterateur, journalist, and politician Abul Mansur Ahmad's initiation into journalism.

The discussion titled "Relevance of Abul Mansur Ahmad's Journalism in 100 years" will be held at Shaheed Sukhranjan Samadder Teacher-Student Cultural Centre auditorium on the Rajshahi University campus at 11:00am.

The Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, RU and Abul Mansur Ahmad Smrity Parishad, Dhaka jointly organised the event.

Eminent economist, essayist, and Bangabandhu Chair Prof Sanat Kumar Saha of Rajshahi University; and The Daily Star Editor and Publisher

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Harassment
of Yunus
must end
12 US senators
urge HasinaDIPLOMATIC
CORRESPONDENT

Twelve US Senators have written a letter to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina urging her to end what they said the persistent harassment of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus.

They called for ending the pattern of "abusing the justice system" to target critics of the government more broadly.

For more than a decade, Prof Yunus has faced more than 150 unsubstantiated cases brought against him in Bangladesh, the senators said in the letter on Monday.

Those who signed the letter include US Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin (D-IL) and US Senator Todd Young (R-IN), along with US Senators Tim Kaine (D-VA), Dan Sullivan (R-AK), Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Ed Markey (D-MA), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Peter Welch (D-VT), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Ron Wyden (D-OR), and Cory Booker (D-NJ).

The senators wrote that the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk and human rights organisations such as Amnesty International have noted irregularities in proceedings against Yunus, including the most recent six-month prison sentence for allegedly violating the country's labour laws.

These organisations argue that the speed and repeated use of criminal proceedings are indicative of politically

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Women must be
aware of their
right to info
Speakers tell event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Compared to men, women are less aware of the Right to Information Act and use it even less, which bars them from actively participating in the decision-making process, said speakers at a project launch event yesterday.

With access to information, women can easily take advantage of opportunities and make more effective decisions about land use and ownership, agricultural practices, private enterprise, and education, they said.

The Carter Center, Information Commission, and USAID jointly launched the project titled "Advancing Women's Right of Access to Information in Bangladesh" (AWRTI) at the commission's headquarters in the capital.

This project will be implemented in 10 districts till 2028 to unlock the potential of people, especially marginalised women, to fully utilise the RTI Act 2009.

Dr Abdul Malek, chief information commissioner, said, "Many women continue to face barriers to accessing critical information. The advancement of women's right to access information is a societal need. It is about developing a Bangladesh in which every woman has the tools she needs to shape her destiny, contribute to her

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Will address
confusion over
textbook content
Says education minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury yesterday said any confusion over the content in a new textbook will be addressed through the opinions of curriculum specialists. He said this while talking to reporters at his secretariat office.

The comments came in the wake of BRAC University terminating Asif Mahtab Utsha, an adjunct faculty member in the philosophy department, for criticising the inclusion of transgender issues in the class seven textbook.

About the issue, he said, "We will discuss the matter with BRAC University after talking to UGC."

Responding to journalists' queries, he said he will also engage with the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) about the issue. "If there is any confusion regarding the content, we will investigate the matter," he added.

"In our country, there is a tendency for certain groups to exploit religion to create anarchy and instability," he said.

The Daily Star

23 YEARS OF SALUTING THE NATION BUILDERS OF TOMORROW

The Daily Star
23rd O & A LEVEL AWARDS
PRESENTATION CEREMONY 2024

Announcement for O & A Level Private and School Candidates

Criteria
Students who appeared for the following sessions & qualify for the award criteria will be eligible for the gala event. The schools followed by Cambridge curriculum (October/November 2022 session, May/June 2023 session, October/November 2023 session) and Edexcel curriculum (October/November 2022 session, January 2023 session, May/June 2023 session, October/November 2023 session). Last date of registration is 31st January, 2024.

Cambridge
(6 A's or above for "O" level or IGCSE in one or two consecutive sessions)
(3 A's or above for "A" level in one or two consecutive sessions)

Edexcel
(Grading of "7" or above in 6 Subjects for IGCSE in one or two consecutive sessions)
(3 A's or above for IAL in one or two consecutive sessions)

Private Candidates
Private candidates are requested to submit their names at The Daily Star office to be recognized as awardees. Contact The Daily Star, 64-65 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215, till 31 January 2024, between 11:00 am and 4:30 pm (except on Fridays and Saturdays), with their original and a photocopy of the Statement of Results or Certificates and 2 (two) passport-size photos.
Please call this number at +8801786111100 or email at o.alevel.tds@gmail.com before heading to the specified address.

Note
→ School candidates are requested to contact their respective schools for registration.
→ If you know of any private candidate(s) or school(s) that may be unaware, please pass on the above information to them so that we may include them in this ceremony.