

US to take steps to deepen ties with Bangladesh

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US will continue to take steps to deepen its ties with Bangladesh.

"There are a number of steps that we have and will continue to take when it comes to deepening our partnership with Bangladesh," said Principal Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel during a regular briefing at the US Department of State in Washington on Monday.

"We have the opportunity to also engage with non-government actors as well, which we believe is also key and critical to deepening this relationship also," he said.



Two monkeys huddle together amid the winter chills in Sylhet city yesterday. The ongoing cold wave has also left animals suffering.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Historic Mass Upsurge Day

BSS, Dhaka

The historic Mass Upsurge Day will be observed today to commemorate the 1969 movement for autonomy of the then East Pakistan -- a movement that eventually led to the 1971 Liberation War and emergence of Bangladesh.

On this day in 1969, Matiur Rahman Mallik, a ninth grader of Nabakumar Institution, and Rustam Ali, a rickshaw-puller, were killed in police firing on demonstrators in Dhaka as the Pakistani rulers tried to suppress the uprising.

The killings sparked protests that eventually saw the fall of the regime of General Ayub Khan.

Marking the day, President Mohammed Shahabuddin and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages.

Abdur finds success in pearl farming

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Verities of fish swimming in a number of large tanks, with oysters lying in the bottom -- this was what this correspondent saw at the rooftop of Abdur Rahman's house in Ektarpur village under Jashore's Abhaynagar upazila.

A second year student of Nawapara Government College, Abdur, 24, has been involved in pearl farming for the last couple of years.

Alongside his venture, Abdur has been providing training on pearl farming to youths.

Abdur comes from a poor family. His father, a rice mill worker, used to be the lone earner. During the pandemic in 2021, the family was going through a tough

time. It was when Abdur realised he had to do something.

Watching YouTube videos and visiting some commercial pearl farms, he reared some oysters in the family pond. Once it was successful, he started his initiative with 500 oysters in a tank on the roof of his house. At present, Abdur is rearing around 6,000 oysters, and selling cultured pearls worth around Tk 30,000 monthly.

"I supply pearls to several reputed companies, and provide training to unemployed youths. So far, I have invested about Tk 1 lakh, and have been selling pearls worth Tk 30,000 every month," he said.

Ripon Kumar Ghosh, senior fisheries officer, said, "We will provide Abdur technical support."



The boat of hope

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Tk 60 lakh, funded by a charity, said Fazlul Karim, the project's coordinator.

The boat included computers and televisions, run by solar power and an in-built generator. There were two teachers appointed to run the school from 10:00am to 5:00pm daily, he added.

Then the project expired in December 2023. Now the children feel their only shot

at getting education has been lost.

"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," said Ayub Khan, one of the two teachers.

After the floating school project ended, the children's education has

been in limbo, he added.

WHAT THE CHILDREN SAY

At least 50 students of the school, including Razia, Mim, Chakhina, Sayem, Shahida, Deen Islam, Rahman, Khukamani, Shefali, Morzina, Amena, were left in tears when the school left the bank of Bura Gouranga river after it was closed.

"We never got the light education. Thanks to

the floating school, we got some opportunities to learn. But now that the school has left, that opportunity is lost," said Razia, a student. Her peers echoed her.

Lipi Begum, a parent, said, "We want education opportunities for our children."

THERE'S HOPE Duke Ibn Amin, director (communications) of Jago Nari, said, "We have plans

for alternative measures for the children of the school."

Md Bayezid, Rangabali education officer, said, "The district education committee took a decision two months back to build a public primary school in ghat area of Char Montaz for children from Manta community. The decision has been sent to the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education for approval."

Barir Naam

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Dipa's journey, portrayed by Siddiqua, against the backdrop of a small town in Bangladesh and an English village. Set in 1990s, the film sees Dipa grapple with the aftermath of a failed marriage, societal taboos, and the weight of family honour.

At its core, the film tries to shine a light on narratives that honour the strength of women navigating societal expectations.

The cast, led by Aanon Siddiqua, also features notable performances from Lutfur Rahman George, Iresh Zaker, Kazi Ruma, Kamrunnahar Munni, Mugdhoti Morshed Wriddhi, Amirul Haque Chowdhury, Naila Azad, Arif Islam, Naimur Rahman Apon, and Jayanto Chattopadhyay.

"Barir Naam Shahana" is a production by Komola Collective in collaboration with Goopy Bagha Productions Limited. Executive producers Faisal Gazi and Krishnendu Chattopadhyay, alongside co-producers Abbas Nokhasteh (Openvizor), Arifur Rahman, and Bijon Intiaz (Goopy Bagha Productions Limited), have played instrumental roles in bringing the film to life.

Harassment of Yunus

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motivated judicial abuses, they said.

"Moreover, the repeated and sustained harassment of Yunus mirrors what many Bangladeshi civil society members also face in an increasingly restrictive environment," they said.

Durbin led the effort in the US Congress to award Yunus the Congressional Gold Medal in 2013, recognising his pioneering contributions to the fight against global poverty.

The letter said the US values its longstanding relationship with Bangladesh, which includes close bilateral and multilateral coordination

on numerous common interests.

"Ending the harassment of Professor Yunus, and others exercising their freedom of speech to criticise the government, will help continue this important relationship."

When asked about the letter sent by US Senators, Foreign Minister Hasan Mahmud yesterday said what the US Senators want is to dictate the court.

"With due respect, I want to say that the government is not a party to the case against Prof Yunus, who faces punishment. We cannot intervene in the court proceedings," he said.

Enact specific law

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"According to Section 294 of our Penal Code, anyone who, in a public place, commits an indecent act or utters obscene songs or words to the annoyance of others, may face imprisonment for up to three months, a fine, or both. The word 'sexual harassment' is not mentioned here," she said.

"The Women & Children Repression Prevention Act-

2000 expanded the scope of punishment for the accused, but limitations exist regarding physical contact with female body parts," she further added.

She urged for continuing discussions with the government for specific legislation to combat sexual harassment and gender-based violence.

Abu Ahmed Faizul Kabir, senior coordinator of Agnee, moderated the event.

Discussion

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Mahfuz Anam will attend the discussion as guests.

Prof Mustak Ahmed, chairman of Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, will preside over the discussion. Journalist, writer, and researcher Dr Kajal Rashid Shaheen will present the keynote paper.

Faruque Wasif, planning editor of the Daily Samakal; and Prof Tanvir Ahmed of Department of Mass Communication and Journalism at RU will attend as speakers.

Abul Mansur Ahmad (September 3, 1898-March 18, 1979) commenced his tenure at the Kolkata-based weekly "Sultan" in 1923.

Later, he served as the editor of Nabajug, Krishak, and Ittehad newspapers.

67pc lawmakers

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HSC degree, and five are self-educated.

Meanwhile, 63 percent of MPs are over 60 years old.

Zahid Faruk of Barishal-5, Benojir Ahmed of Dhaka-20, Tipu Munshi of Rangpur-4, Sheikh Afil Uddin of Jossore-1, and Abul Hassan Mahmud Ali of Dinajpur-4 are the MPs whose income grew the most in the past five years. Their earnings surged by percentages ranging from 1,188 to 3,610.

Top five MPs whose assets have increased in the last five years are -- Abul Kalam Md Ahsanul Haq Chowdhury of Rangpur-2, Zahid Faruk of Barishal-5, Anisul Haque of Brahmanbaria-4, Shariful Islam Jinnah of Bagura-2, and Choto Monir

of Tangail-2.

Except for Shariful, who is a Jatiyo Party-nominated lawmaker, the remaining eight MPs are from the ruling Awami League.

It was a one-sided election where the ruling party and opposition shared seats internally, claimed Shujan.

Shujan said an actual contest took place in only 58 constituencies where there was presence of strong independent candidates.

PRAYER TIMING
JANUARY 24

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5:30	12:45	4:15	5:43	7:15
JAMAAT 6:05	1:15	4:30	5:47	7:45

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Women must be aware

FROM PAGE 3 community, and participate equally in the country's progress."

Reed J Aeschliman, USAID's mission director, said, "USAID will continue to work with all of our partners to improve transparency and accountability through empowering marginalised women. We also hope this new initiative will motivate citizens to contribute to protecting critical democratic processes."

Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno

Foundation, said women's status in Bangladesh is limited by culture, which keeps them in the background. It will be possible to empower women to reach their full potential by eliminating the gap in information access, she said.

Though raising awareness is a big challenge in Bangladesh, the government, civil society, and information commission must collaborate to educate people about their right to information, she added.

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8.2 kathas land with multi storied building. Expected price per katha @ Tk: 7 crore (Negotiable). Only Genuine buyers or their authorised representatives are requested to contact: Mobile: 01711-53 58 72

Invitation for Expression of Interest

Coastal Development Partnership invites Expression of Interest from the consulting firms/individuals for evaluation of its project titled "Strengthening People's Action on Climate Risk Reduction and Energy Efficiency (SPACE)".

The project is being implemented in 14 rural villages and 6 slum areas in five districts. The duration of the project is 42 Months started in August 2020 and will end in February 2024. Total approved budget for the project is 64,279,960.00 BDT. The project is supported by German based organization Bread for the World. Interested consulting firm/individual must demonstrate the following:

- Sound and proven experience in similar assignments;
- Consultant/ team must have significant knowledge and understanding about the climate change, exposure, climate vulnerability, hazard, risk,
- Experience in conducting qualitative and quantitative survey.
- Appropriate team of experts on resilience, climate risk assessment, community driven development, low carbon development.

The detailed Terms of Reference can be obtained from https://cdpbd.org/ToR_SPACE For any queries or clarification regarding the ToR, please email to: tipudcp@yahoo.com (Md. Atiqur Rahman Tipu, Chief Coordination Officer, Coastal Development Partnership). To submit your expression of interest please mail to: cdp@cdpbd.org. Proposals will be accepted in PDF format (signed scanned copy) by mentioning subject line "Evaluation of Strengthening People's Action on Climate Risk Reduction and Energy Efficiency (SPACE)" by February 4, 2024. Interested individual/firm must submit the Technical & Financial Proposal in two different PDF files. The financial proposal must include VAT and taxes.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Line Director
Upazila Health Care (UHC), DGHS
Sastho Bhaban (5th Floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212
Email: uhc@ld.dghs.gov.bd

IFT Ref No. UHC/Proc/Printing & Furniture/WB/2023-24/3144 Date: 23/01/2024

e-Tender Notice

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). For more details, please contact support desk contract numbers. eTender are invited in e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) by Dr. Md. Rizwanur Rahman, Line Director, Upazila Health Care Operational Plan (UHC OP), DGHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka for the Procurement of:

e-GP Tender ID	Name of goods	Tender/proposal publication date & time in e-GP System	Tender/proposal last selling date & time	Tender/proposal closing/opening date & time
939124	Procurement of Furniture and Fixture for Urban Health Facilities.	23-January 2024 22.00pm	06-February 2024 16.00pm	07-February 2024 14.00pm
937030	Procurement of Printed Material for Urban Health Facilities.	23-January 2024 22.00pm	06-February 2024 16.00pm	07-February 2024 14.30pm

e-Tender details can be downloaded on e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for pursuer.
e-Tender will be accepted only as stated in above list; accepted tenders will be opened online immediately as stated in above list.

Dr. Md. Rizwanur Rahman
Director & Line Director
Upazila Health Care Operational Plan (UHC OP)
DGHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka

GD-120