

কর্মজীবনের শেষে অবসরকালীন আর্থিক নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিত করতে

**পিপলস পূবালী পেনশন স্কীম**

✓ আকর্ষণীয় সুদহার  
(৬ মাসের এফডিআরের চেয়ে ১% বেশী হারে মুনাফা)  
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**পূবালী ব্যাংক অ্যাকাউন্ট খুলুন**

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## Many survivors stay silent fearing stigma

31pc people faced violence last year in climate-vulnerable areas, says study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 31 percent of people in the country's climate-vulnerable areas experienced physical, psychological, economic, or sexual violence in the past year, said a study.

However, only 15.6 percent of violence survivors lodged complaints, it added, highlighting a significant lack of awareness in this regard.

Manusher Jonno Foundation, in collaboration with Associates for Innovative Research and Development (AIR) Ltd, conducted the survey on 1,022 respondents from 28 unions under 14 districts in the country's coastal, char (shoal), haor (wetland), and hill regions in July-August last year.

The survey findings, as part of MJF's "Community-based Resilience, Women's Empowerment and Action (CREA)" project, were revealed at a virtual meeting yesterday.

Rural women often struggle to identify different types of violence, while many of them consider domestic violence a routine incident and avoid disclosing it, fearing stigma and judgement, said the study.

The survey said 17.1 percent farmers

changed their farming strategies due to climate change impacts, including using seeds for high-yield varieties of crops, natural fertilisers, and adjusting cropping time.

Speaking as the chief guest, Lubna Yasmine, joint secretary to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, said it is crucial to include women and adolescents in the development process as they are affected by climate change the most.

"In a climate-vulnerable country like Bangladesh, we need to prepare for tackling major climate change impacts," she said.

"However, the task is difficult due to various obstacles. If development organisations working on these issues at field level can identify the obstacles and report to us, it will be easier to take measures at the policy-making level," she added.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of MJF, said it is crucial to work on several factors to prevent violence against women.

"For example, implementation of laws and policies, empowerment of women, and recognition of their contribution are necessary. This is how the status and position of women could be improved," she added.



In observance of the Dhaka International Film Festival, a team of artistes led by eminent Indian actress Sharmila Tagore visited Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Gono Bhaban yesterday afternoon. Mamata Shankar, Swastika Mukherjee, Ahmed Muztaba Zamal and Sohini Ghosh were also present at the time.

PHOTO: PTD

## 16 get Bangla Academy award 2023

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sixteen personalities have been named as winners of the Bangla Academy Sahitya Puroshkar (literary award) 2023.

British-Bangladeshi storyteller Shamim Azad won the award for her contribution to poetry, said a press release yesterday.

Novelists Nuruddin Jahangir and Salma Bani shared the award for best fiction writers while Mrittika Chakma and Masud Pathik were recognised for their prowess as playwrights.

Tapankar Chakrabarty was awarded in children's literature category, and ornithologist Inam Al Haque was recognised in environment/science.

Tapan Bagchi and Suman Kumar Das won the SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

## Put water at the heart of climate action

Environment minister tells inaugural session of two-day int'l conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Newly appointed Environment Minister Saber Hossain Chowdhury yesterday identified water scarcity at the centre of the climate crisis, calling upon all to work together to mitigate it.

"Climate change presents an existential threat, especially affecting global water resources and ecosystems. It has diverse impacts on our life and there is no way to deny it," he said.

The minister made the remarks while addressing the inaugural session of the two-day ninth International Water Conference, titled "River, Water, and Climate Change: Creating Space for Resilience", organised by ActionAid Bangladesh at a city hotel.

"Water is central to sustainability. We must use it wisely to ensure its availability for future generations. It is a global responsibility, transcending national boundaries," Saber said.

He informed that his ministry is implementing a 100-day plan, including an extensive programme set to be unveiled today, to address climate change.

The first day of the conference covered

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QAZI KHOLIQUZZAMAN AHMAD

10 thematic areas, including understanding the nexus of climate change and the rights of rivers, climate change and rivers, risk and vulnerabilities, and development, inclusion, and resilience.

While presenting a keynote paper at the conference, Dhaka University Prof Imtiaz Mahmud called upon politicians to step forward in the fight against climate change.

"When we talk about climate, we should keep in mind politicians because they are the guiding agents."

He further mentioned that as a result of the detrimental effects of climate change, approximately USD 525 billion in losses has been projected across 55 vulnerable countries over the past two decades, with Bangladesh being among them.

Renowned economist Qazi Kholiuzzaman Ahmad, said, "We have 26 policies and laws concerning climate change or water management enacted by various ministries. But there are no coordinated efforts [to implement them]."

Speaking at the event, Nardia Simpson, SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## Youth rescued a month after abduction

5 abductors held, says DB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A private university student was rescued by Rab yesterday after getting abducted a month ago.

The development comes after a team of detective branch, Rab and Sunamganj Police arrested five kidnappers from Sunamganj and Dhaka districts.

The arrestees are Masud, Abdul Malek, Samidul, Manik Mia and Mubarak Hossain.

Masud was arrested on Tuesday from Gosaihat in Shariatpur. The others were arrested yesterday from the Tangar Haor area. Of them, Samidul is the driver of victim Kazi Hasibur Rahman Himel.

In a video statement, DB Chief Harun Or Rashid said the victim, along with his driver, left for Sherpur around 9:30am on December 26 for family business purposes.

Himel's mother Tahura Haque filed a general diary with Uttara West Police Station on the same day after she could not reach him over phone.

In the meantime, the kidnappers called from an Indian number and demanded Tk 2 crore SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Hasibur Rahman

## Ethics crucial for equality, rights

Speakers tell event; 10 teachers felicitated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at an event yesterday said a social movement is required to resurrect ethical practices and good virtues, as such norms are declining in society.

They emphasised upholding ethics in different professions, including medical service and teaching, for the country's progress.

Ethics Club Bangladesh (ECB) organised the event at a city hotel, where it felicitated 10 teachers with the "Role Model Teacher" award.

The teachers are Sanjida Khatun of Chhayanaut, artist Rafiqun Nabi, Prof Anupam Sen, Prof Syed Akram Hossain, Prof Kaiser Hamidul Haq, neurosurgeon Prof Kanak Kanti Barua, school teachers Nurul Mostafa SEE PAGE 4 COL 7



Eminent economist and essayist Prof Sanat Kumar Saha speaks at a discussion on "Relevance of Abul Mansur Ahmad's Journalism in 100 years" at Rajshahi University yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Abul Mansur Ahmad still relevant

Speakers tell RU discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Abul Mansur Ahmad's journalism is more relevant now as people are not getting right information due to political divisions among journalists, said speakers at a discussion yesterday.

The event titled "Relevance of Abul Mansur Ahmad's Journalism in 100 years" was held at Shaheed Sukhranjan Samadder Teacher-Student Cultural Centre auditorium on the Rajshahi University campus.

The Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at RU, along with Abul Mansur Ahmad Smriti Parishad, organised the discussion.

It was chaired by the department's chairman Prof Mustak Ahmad.

Presenting a keynote paper, Dr Kajal Rashid Shahin highlighted that Abul Mansur Ahmad developed his journalistic curiosity during his student days in Mymensingh.

He always wrote about changing the lot of the disadvantaged, he added.

Starting his journalism career in 1923 with the newspaper "Chholtan" in Kolkata, Abul Mansur Ahmad contributed to publications such as "Mohammadi", "The Musalman", "Khadem", "Krishak", and "Nobojug", said Dr Shahin.

The study on Abul Mansur Ahmad is still necessary when it comes to establishing freedom of speech and objectivity in journalism, he added.

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