



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina cuts a cake at a programme, marking the 29th founding anniversary of Bangladesh Coast Guard, at BCG headquarters in the capital's Agargaon, yesterday. PHOTO: PMO

Coast Guard to be a three-dimensional force: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government will transform the Bangladesh Coast Guard into a three-dimensional force by inducing new technology and modern equipment.

"We have already given in-principle approval for the formation of an Aviation Wing with the purchase of 2 helicopters which will make the Coast Guard a three-dimensional force," she said.

The prime minister said this while addressing the 29th founding anniversary of the Bangladesh Coast Guard at the BCG headquarters at Agargaon in the city.

She said that the government has recently

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WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Analysis of gender budgets crucial

Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Monitoring the effectiveness of gender budgets across the government's all 44 ministries is necessary to address gender inequality, speakers said at a discussion yesterday.

It's also essential to boost the number of projects that cater to women's needs to effectively implement gender budgeting, they also said.

They made the remarks at the pre-budget discussion titled "Investing in Women Crucial to Ensure Gender Equality," organised by Bangladesh Mahila Parishad at its Anwara Begum Munira Khan Auditorium in the capital's Shegun Bagicha.

Presiding over the programme, Mahila Parishad President Fauzia Moslem said various initiatives are underway to enhance women empowerment.

"To ensure the sustainability of these

efforts, strategic budget analysis within the government is necessary," she said.

"Ensuring women's role in all policies, including financial, social, and education protection policies, has become an urgent necessity," she added.

Dr Monzur Hossain, BIDS research director, said economic empowerment and social capital play pivotal roles in advancing women empowerment.

"A significant number of women aged above 30 are engaged in unpaid work, necessitating targeted programmes with institutional initiatives from the government," he emphasised.

Khandaker Golam Moazzem, research director of CPD, emphasised the need to revise the definition of gender budgeting.

"While budget discussions cannot take place in parliament before formulation, there's an opportunity to

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Single authority should monitor constructions

Says home minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, in light of recent fire incidents, yesterday said a single authority should get all the responsibilities of construction of a building, including approval and monitoring.

He said a proposal is ready to set up an umbrella organisation so that a single authority can monitor and take steps regarding building construction-related issues.

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Rajuk shuts Regency's rooftop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) yesterday shut down the unapproved restaurant on the rooftop of Dhaka Regency Hotel & Resort in the capital's Khilkhet.

The court also fined the Regency authority Tk 5 lakh for running the unapproved rooftop restaurant, said Executive Magistrate of Rajuk Md Kamruzzaman, who led the drive.

"The rooftop restaurant of Regency had a kitchen, arrangements for parties, and seating for customers. However, none of these were approved," he mentioned.

Three more restaurants in the same area – White Hall, Khazana, and Mainland Restaurant – were also fined for irregularities during the drive.

The restaurants have been asked to present necessary documents to Rajuk for inspection, he added.



The family members of three victims, who died in the Bailey Road fire on February 29, visited the site of the tragedy yesterday. They demanded a fair investigation, alongside justice and punishment for those responsible for the incident. PHOTO: STAR

MILK, EGGS, MEAT, AND FISH

Essentials to be sold at affordable prices at 30 points in Dhaka

UNB, Dhaka

The Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock will set up 30 points in the capital to sell milk, eggs, meat, and fish at affordable prices throughout the month of Ramadan.

Under the programme, liquid milk will be sold at Tk 80 per litre, beef at Tk 600 per kg, mutton at Tk 900 per kg, dressed broiler at Tk 250 per kg, and eggs at Tk 9.17 per piece.

Fisheries and Livestock Minister Md Abdur Rahman said this at the conference room of the Department of Livestock Services yesterday.

The minister said the programme will be conducted from 25 places in the capital from the first to the 28th Ramadan. Besides, the products will be sold at five more points at

permanent markets in the city.

The 25 sale centres are: Natun Bazar (Badda), Korail slum (Banani), Khamarbari (Farmgate), Azimpur Matrisadan (Azimpur), Gabtoli, Diabari (Uttara), Japan Garden City (Mohammadpur), Shatfoot Road (Mirpur), Khilgaon (south of the rail crossing), beside the Secretariat (Abdul Gani Road), Segun Bagicha (kitchen market), Arambagh (Motijheel), Rampura, Kalshi (Mirpur), Jatrabari (at the mouth of Maniknagar Goli), Bosila (Mohammadpur), Hazaribagh (Shikshan), Lukas (Nakhalpara), Kamrangirchar, Mirpur 10, Kalyanpur (Jhilpara), Tejgaon, Old Dhaka (Bangabazar), and Kakrail.

The five selling points at permanent markets are Mirpur Shah Ali Bazar, Mohammadpur Krishi Market, Natun Bazar (100 feet), Kamalapur Bazar, and Kazi Alauddin Road (Anandabazar). Vans will reach each sale centre by 9:00am and selling will start from 10:00am, the minister said. Additionally, the Department of Fisheries has taken initiatives to sell fish at eight designated spots. The spots are Bangabandhu Square at Farmgate's Khamarbari, Mirpur-1 (Eidgah Ground); Segun Bagicha Bazar; and Merul Badda Bazar under Dhaka North City Corporation; and Mughdapara (Madinabagh Bazar); Jatrabari (Dayal Bharosa Market); Motijheel (Southeast Corner of Bangladesh Bank) and Palashi intersection under Dhaka South City Corporation. The fish sale will continue from 10:00am to 3:00pm, starting from March 11, and will continue for 15 days.



পূবালী ব্যাংক থেকে রেমিট্যান্স গ্রহণ স্বাভাৱিক দ্বিগুণ লাভ...

পূবালী ব্যাংক এর যে কোনো শাখা থেকে
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সরকার নির্ধারিত ২.৫% প্রণোদনার সাথে পাবেন
আরও ২.৫% পূবালী ব্যাংক প্রণোদনাসহ
মোট ৫% প্রণোদনা।

সাথে আরও আছে নিশ্চিত
আকর্ষণীয় পুরস্কার



'Our mornings begin in tears'

Family of Bailey Road fire victims demands justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The family members of a customs officer, his wife, and their three-year-old daughter – who died among 46 others in the Bailey Road fire on February 29 – have demanded a fair investigation, alongside justice and punishment for those responsible for the incident.

They also alleged that if the responsible state agencies had acted immediately after the fire, there would not have been so many casualties.

Shah Jalal Uddin, a customs officer; his wife, Meherunnesa Helali Mina; and their three-year-old daughter, Fahiruz Kashem Jamira – three members of a family from Haldipalong union in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar – died in the fire at Green Cozy Cottage mall.

Shah Jalal's father, Abul Kashem, his mother, Razia Begum, and his siblings, Shah Alam Shaju, Abul Hasnat, and Taslima Akhter, visited the accident site, as the whole family had come to Dhaka for Kashem's treatment.

While talking to The Daily Star, Shah Jalal's sister, Taslima, said they found from his call log that he had attempted to contact the national emergency number 999 four times but received no response.

"If the state agencies, including the police and Fire Service officials, had promptly acted following the fire, there might not have been so many casualties, and my brother, his wife, and his daughter would still be alive," she said.

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YUNUS' CONVICTION HC adjourns hearing on stay order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday adjourned hearing till March 14 on the rule that questioned the legality of the Labour Appellate Tribunal's order, which stayed the conviction and sentences of Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus and three other top officials of Grameen Telecom in a labour law violation case.

The bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Kazi Ebadoth also fixed March 14 for resuming further proceedings on the matter.

Following a criminal revision petition filed by Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments (DIFE), the HC on February 5 issued the rule asking the state to explain why Labour Appellate Tribunal's stay order should not be scrapped and also halted the stay order till disposal of the rule.

The HC said as the four accused – Yunus, chairman of Grameen Telecom, and its directors Ashrafur Hassan, Nurjahan Begum, and M Shahjahan – are on bail, their sentences will remain suspended until their appeals are disposed of.

Barrister Abdulla-Al Mamun appeared for Yunus and three others and Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan for DIFE.

Will form a cell for global recognition of 1971 genocide Says Hasan Mahmud

BSS, Dhaka

Foreign Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud yesterday said he would form a cell at the Foreign Ministry to make coordinated efforts to get global recognition of the genocide committed by Pakistani occupation forces during Bangladesh's liberation war in 1971.

"I will form a cell to coordinate with all, including the intellectuals who have been working on it [to get the genocide recognition]," he said.

He was addressing a seminar, "1971 Bangladesh Genocide: Seeking International Recognition & Reparation," held by Diplomatic Correspondent Association of Bangladesh at Jatiya Press Club.

Coordination is needed among the Prime Minister's Office, foreign and Liberation War affairs ministries and civil society members to advance efforts to get such recognition, he said.

The foreign minister said that Bangladesh's 71 genocide was yet to get global recognition as, after 1975, BNP had started doing politics with the anti-liberation quarter like Jamaat-e-Islami.