

কর্মজীবনের শেষে অবসরকালীন আর্থিক নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিত করতে

সিনিয়র সিটিজেন পূবালী ডিপোজিট স্কিম (এসসিপিডিএস)

✓ ৫৯ বছর বা তার বেশি বয়সের যেকোনো বাংলাদেশি নাগরিক এই ডিপোজিট স্কিমে হিসাব খুলতে পারবেন

✓ আকর্ষণীয় সুদহার

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## Workplace safety still a far cry

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday called upon the authorities concerned to include workers' security-related provisions and trade union rights in labour laws to ensure workplace safety.

Solidarity Center Bangladesh organised the roundtable titled "Creating a Path Forward for Health, Safety, and Trade Union Rights in the RMG Sector and Beyond", marking the 11th anniversary of the Rana Plaza Tragedy, at a Dhaka hotel.

"Still today, thousands of workers in the ready-made garment sector, and also in a wide range of other sectors, do not have access to safe and healthy workplaces," said Monika Hartsel, deputy country programme director of Solidarity Center Bangladesh.

"Trade leaders and workers, who stand up for their rights on the job, are often subjected to violence and harassment. The past years were a painful reminder that the industry is not safe yet," she added.

Addressing as the chief guest, former lawmaker Shirin Akhter said everybody has to work to quickly resolve the cases related to the Rana Plaza tragedy.

"The victims should be identified and rehabilitated, and the reasons behind the incident should be unravelled to ensure that it does not happen again in the future," she added.

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PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

While these running buses halt temporarily to pick up passengers, a man slides through the small gap left between them to get to the other side of the road. In situations like these, accidents may occur at any second. The photo was taken in the Paltan area yesterday.

Environmental issues to be included in textbooks

Says Saber

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Minister Saber Hossain Chowdhury yesterday said his ministry has initiated the inclusion of issues related to environmental conservation and climate change mitigation in the curriculum for students from class 3 to 8.

"The ministry is undertaking such initiatives to instill awareness in children from a young age," he said.

The minister made these remarks while speaking as the chief guest at the National Seminar on "Citizen Roadmap to Advance Sustainable Urbanisation and Environmental Protection", organised by Counterpart International with funding of USAID, held at a hotel in the capital.

Saber said everyone must be more mindful of plastic

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'A milestone in women empowerment'

MJF lauds govt initiative to assess economic value of women's unpaid care work

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) congratulated the parliamentary standing committee on Ministry of Women and Children Affairs for its recommendation to assess the economic value of women's unpaid care work.

During a meeting on April 23, the committee emphasised the need to quantify economic contribution of women's unpaid care and domestic work.

In April last year, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina directed the authorities concerned to include women's household work in the calculation of GDP.

MJF has been at the forefront of advocating for the inclusion of

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## Scorching sun, stifling homes

Plight of slum dwellers amid ongoing heatwave

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and SAJJAD HOSSAIN

As the scorching summer sun beats down on Korail slum, the tin shed houses feel like stifling ovens. Inside one such residence we met Asma Akhter. She wiped sweat from her forehead, her clothes all damp.

"It feels like the house is always on fire -- just touching the walls burns your hand."

Entering the kitchen feels like stepping into hell, she said. The heat from the cooking stove coupled with hot air makes it insufferable.

"My whole body feels like it's burning," she sighed. The relentless heat had taken its toll -- she has been suffering from fever and headache for a week now.

Asma's story is similar to the plight of countless slum dwellers during this brutal heatwave.

Cramped conditions inside the tin shed homes further exacerbates their misery. Asma, her husband, their two children, and a cousin, all have been sharing a single room for nearly five years.

"There's barely any space," she

It feels like the house is always on fire -- just touching the walls burns your hand. Entering the kitchen feels like stepping into hell. My whole body feels like it's burning.

ASMA AKHTER  
Resident of Korail slum

Representatives and government agencies are indifferent towards slum people as they are perceived as temporary settlers. The authorities should work to aid slum dwellers during this heatwave.

ADIL MOHAMMAD KHAN  
President of Bangladesh Institute of Planners

said. "We all have to sleep on one bed, and even the single fan we have fails to cool the entire room. The children sleep closest to it, but none of us get a good night's rest."

Fatima Akhter, another Korail resident, echoed her.

"Because of the lack of sleep at night, my husband cannot work properly as a day labourer. After working for 3-4 hours, he gets sick," she said.

Jamal Hossain, a rickshaw puller, said there is no open space or trees inside the slum to take

respite from the scorching heat.

The Daily Star correspondents visited six slums in the capital -- Korail, Sattola in Mohakhali, alongside Dhamal Court, Abuler Goli, Benaroshi Polli, and Culvert in Mirpur.

During the visit to the Korail slum, they saw that most people were resting on the streets. Many women who cannot afford to buy water have to walk long distances in search of it.

Slum dwellers claimed they

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Security deployment to be highest ever in UZ polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going to deploy a large number of law enforcers at each polling station for the upcoming upazila elections, to be held in phases from May 8.

A team of 17 to 18 law enforcers including four police and three Ansar members will be deployed at each polling station, which is the highest ever, to avoid any unwanted situations.

Besides, a magistrate will be there for each union, and anybody can lodge a complaint by dialing 999.

Executive magistrate will be assigned for five days -- two days before and after the poll and the polling day.

The decision was taken at a meeting of law and order centring the upcoming upazila elections with Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan in the chair.

The upazila polls are slated to be held between May 8 and June 5.

For the first phase, a total of 1,588 candidates will

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TK 70.82CR GRAFT CASE Charges pressed against PK Halder

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Anti Corruption Commission yesterday pressed charges against 23 people including former managing director of NRB Global Bank Proshanta Kumar Halder, known as PK Halder, in a case filed over embezzling Tk 70.82 crore from International Leasing and Financial Services Limited (ILFSL).

ACC Deputy Director Gulshan Anwar Pradhan

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Verdict in Sohel Chy murder case May 9

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday set May 9 for the delivery of the verdict in Sohel Chowdhury murder case.

Judge Arunav Chakravarty of the Speedy Trial Tribunal 2 of Dhaka fixed the date after closing arguments.

During the trial, 10 prosecution witnesses testified before the court.

During yesterday's hearing, Ashish Rai Choudhury, Tariq Sayeed Mamun, Adnan Siddiqui, Faruque Abbasi and Sanzidul Islam Emon were present at the tribunal among the accused.

Four other accused -- Aziz Mohammad Bhai, Afakul Islam, Selim Khan and Harun-Or-Rashid alias Leather Liton -- are now absconding.

On December 18, 1998, actor Sohel was shot dead by some unidentified criminals at Trumps Club in Abedin Tower on road 18 at Banani.



Amid the sweltering heat, a man drives his motorcycle with one hand while holding an umbrella over his child with the other. Though as a guardian he is trying to protect the child from the sun, such action could lead to an accident and do much more damage. The photo was taken in the Dhanmondi area yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

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