



Textile mills abandoned for 31 years

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Jamal Uddin Hossain no more

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India's hubris

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Prioritise mental health at work

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AGE LIMIT FOR GOVT JOB ENTRY 35yrs for men, 37 for women

Suggests govt committee; advisory council to decide on it soon

BAHARAM KHAN

A government committee has recommended raising the maximum age for applying for public service jobs to 35 years for men and 37 years for women.

The five member committee, which was formed to review the feasibility of extending the age limit, submitted its report to the Chief Adviser's Office last week.

Yesterday, a highly placed source with knowledge of the matter confirmed the recommendations to The Daily Star.

According to the source, the committee recommended 37 as the age limit for women because women often face interruptions in their education or careers due to factors such as marriage and childbearing.

The review committee's proposal will be placed before the Advisory Council for the final nod, which sources said was very likely.

"It will be unprecedented in the history of public service if the recommendations are approved," said a top official, wishing not to be named.

When asked about the committee's recommendations,



Silt accumulated near the Sholmari river sluice gate being removed by excavators. The river acts as the only means of water drainage for hundreds of villages in Khulna's Dumuria upazila. With so much silt near the gate, the villages have been facing intense waterlogging since the beginning of the monsoon. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Build a nation protecting rights of everyone

Prof Yunus urges people while visiting Dhakeshwari temple

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday said people should aim to build a Bangladesh where no one's right is infringed upon.

"We must remind ourselves that it is our failure that we are having to rely on the army, police, and Rab to celebrate a festival. This is not normal. We accept this failure for this time," he said while visiting the capital's Dhakeshwari temple.

"What will we do with a society like this? Do we want a society like this? We don't."

"We are ensuring with assistance from law enforcement agencies that you can celebrate puja. I hope we will never have to do this again. We all will work together to reach that goal."

Bangladesh must be a country where everyone's rights are guaranteed. "If anyone infringes on those rights, they

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➤ Panel considered pandemic, economic downturn, Ukraine war

➤ Many couldn't complete studies due to harassment during AL's tenure

➤ Report analysed legal, administrative barriers to raising limit

➤ Possible impact on labour market, economy also considered

People want a party helmed by the youth

Say student coordinators after nationwide discussions

ASHIK ABDULLAH APU

Forming an alternative political force and ensuring transparency in government work were the two issues that figured most prominently in the district-level views-exchange meetings organised by the Anti-Discrimination Students Movement.

Among the other issues discussed were protecting the spirit of the July-August mass-uprising and avoiding divisions between the political parties that were involved in the uprising -- all to prevent a potential return of the "fascist forces" -- at least three organisers told this newspaper.

The coordinators and co-coordinators of the movement visited 44 districts, including Munshiganj, Chattogram, Rangamati, Sylhet, Barishal, Khulna, Rajshahi and Dhaka between September 8 and 18.

Then after a brief pause, the platform resumed discussions on October 9, starting with the students of Tejgaon College.

Students and people from all other walks of life attended the meetings and highlighted their expectations regarding state reforms.

Drawing on the takeaways from these discussions, the platform is now preparing a report.



The coordinators of the Anti-Discrimination Students Movement, the platform that spearheaded the student-people mass uprising that ousted the Awami League government on August 5, will discuss and finalise their next course of action after the report is completed.

Speaking to this newspaper, they said the issue of extortion came up at all the meetings. They were also advised to form an alternative political force with leaders of the movement at the helm.

Sarjis Alam, one of the key coordinators of the movement, said, "We've seen power being alternated between two major political parties who ruled the country for so long. Neither has been able to gain the trust of the people. At

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Last 15 years a show of absolute power

Says Prof Rehman Sobhan at webinar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The head of government has always enjoyed "absolute power" which corrupts an individual, Prof Rehman Sobhan told a webinar last night.

"When you are in power for 15 years, that is a demonstration of absolute power. And the power centred upon one person," said the chairman of Centre for Policy Dialogue.

The most powerful institution has been the prime minister's secretariat, and ministers became subordinates to the PM, reducing the authority of parliament, he told the discussion organised by the Samaj Gobeshona Kendra.

Regarding the reforms that the interim government will make, Rehman, a former caretaker government adviser, said as political parties to be elected in the next polls will be the implementer of the reforms, the parties should reach a consensus about the changes.

Prof Rounaq Jahan, distinguished fellow of CPD, said the speculations that rewriting the constitution might cause controversies are logical.

The issue can even delay the reaching of a consensus by the parties, she said. A proportional representation election system can prevent rulers from becoming autocratic. "But we have yet to see commitments from the BNP and Awami League about the system."

Prof Nazrul Islam of Asian Growth Research Institute said most countries, including nearly 70 percent of the developed ones, have proportional representation.

In such a system, the president will be elected by the MPs with at least two-thirds majority and no individual will be the prime minister for more than two times.

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Journo hacked to death in Mymensingh

18-year-old 'drug peddler' sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

An 18-year-old was sent to jail for hacking a journalist to death in Shambhuganj Bazar - Majhipara area in Mymensingh city yesterday.



Swapon Bhadra

The deceased was identified as Swapon Bhadra, 65, resident of Majhipara and correspondent of local daily Dainik Swajan.

He was suddenly attacked when he was walking near his home around 11:30am, Md Saiful Islam, officer-in-charge and inspector (investigation) of Kotwali Police Station, quoted locals as saying.

Swapon, who was from Tarakanda upazila's Kakni area, was also the vice president of the Tarakanda Press Club, reports our local correspondent.

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A relatively empty Dhaka city yesterday late morning due to the extended Durga Puja holidays coupled with the weekend. Thousands left the capital to celebrate the festival with their families outside Dhaka. The photo was taken in the Farmgate area.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX 2024 Bangladesh slips 3 notches to 84

Level of hunger deteriorated from last year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh was ranked 84 out of 127 countries in this year's Global Hunger Index (GHI), down three notches from last year, indicating a deteriorating food security situation.

A GHI score is calculated on a 100-point scale reflecting the severity of hunger, where 0 is the best possible score (no hunger) and 100 is the worst.

This year, Bangladesh scored 19.4, up from 19 last year. Each country's GHI score is classified by severity: low to extremely alarming. Bangladesh's score indicates a "moderate" level of hunger.

While Bangladesh, Mozambique, Nepal, Somalia and Togo have reduced their scores by more than five points compared with their 2016 GHI scores bucking the global trend, hunger remains a serious concern, according to the global report, which was released yesterday.

In 2016, Bangladesh scored 24.7. The level of hunger is "too high" in Bangladesh, said the peer-reviewed annual report, jointly published by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe, designed to comprehensively measure and track hunger at the global, regional and country levels.

The aim of the GHI is to trigger action to reduce hunger around the world.

The latest index shows 11.9 percent of the total population of Bangladesh is undernourished while 2.9 percent of the children die before reaching their fifth birthday.

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