

AL govt

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Adviser Fouzul Kabir Khan emphasised the need for a fresh approach to railway development, including plans to enhance passenger services and address staff shortages.

"New strategies will be adopted to improve services and rethink the overall development of the railway sector," he said.

Following his inspection, the adviser held discussions with officials and employees of the locomotive workshop. Senior officials from the Ministry of Railways, including the secretary, were present during the visit.

Later, the adviser visited another railway workshop in Saidpur in the afternoon.



Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-05 12-45 3-45 5-21 7-00
JAMAAT 5-40 1-15 4-00 5-24 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Every morning, sellers cycle from nearby villages to Khulna city, carrying puffed rice (muri) to sell at Tk 80 per kg. Each seller manages to sell 60-80 kg daily, visiting various areas. The photo was taken on the Khulna City Bypass Road in the Aranghata area yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Women activists feel

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"When male leaders were arrested, women stepped up to lead and continued until August 5. But after that, I was completely sidelined. Attempts were made to portray men as the heroes of the movement, and I began experiencing an identity crisis," she said.

"Women leaders were harassed on social media, and those in power took no action. This further marginalised the women who participated in the movement," she added.

Nazifa Jannat, a student of East West University and coordinator during the movement, said, "It is deeply unfortunate that we are now compelled to assert that we, too, were part of the movement."

"People are asking, 'Where are the women now?' This question should be directed at the political parties that, despite their capacity, failed to include women," she said, calling on the media to raise such questions.

She emphasised the importance of increasing women's representation in positions of power.

"Women should not have to demand recognition for their roles; it is the state's responsibility to acknowledge them. We protested against discrimination in the past, and we did so to eradicate all forms of inequity," she said.

Dr Worthy Jukhrif, who provided medical aid alongside Dr Hritisha Aktar Mitheen to over 100 injured persons during the uprising, said, "We believe women should be equally represented in every sector of the state, including the Reform Commission, to eliminate all forms of discrimination."

Jannatul Ferdous Nitu, a second year student at Barishal Government College, said, "No female students were included in the advisory council. Even though one woman was named spokesperson for the main committee, she has been noticeably absent in press releases and other activities," she said.

Samia Akhter Jannat, a tenth grade student who was injured multiple times during the movement, said not only are women's contributions

Climate change

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He warned that infected individuals, not the mosquitoes themselves, primarily spread the virus to new areas. "Aedes mosquitoes can be infected from a dengue patient one day prior to fever symptoms appearing and up to the day of recovery," he explained.

Manzur emphasised preventing patient movement and using mosquito nets to curtail transmission. He also called for targeted anti-mosquito drives around patients' homes when case numbers are low.

Prof Kabirul Bashar, an entomologist at Jahangirnagar University, stressed that climate change is altering Aedes mosquitoes' behaviour.

"Rain patterns have shifted, with rain now observed even in late October and November. This, combined with changing humidity levels, has led to year-round mosquito breeding," he said.

"Climate change also changes the pattern of humidity in weather, which has changed the adaptation pattern of Aedes mosquitoes and also changed the behaviour of Aedes mosquitoes. This is why the seasonal dynamics of Aedes mosquitoes have changed," he added.

Aedes mosquitoes, once limited to summer, are now active throughout the year, he said, adding that their biting habits have also changed, with bites occurring not just in the morning and evening but also at night.

These behavioural changes are happening due to climate change, he said.

Prof Bashar added that factors like water storage during winter and unplanned urbanisation exacerbate the problem, providing breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

Shot, shackled, blinded

FROM PAGE 3

packed with over 100 men. The room had a terrible smell; a tiny washroom in one corner. Filth covered the floor, and there was barely room to sit, let alone move.

When food was finally served, Rahat looked down at the plate of rice and watery lentils. "It was inedible," he said.

After biometric registration, Rahat was taken to a separate building, fourth floor, cell-3 was his "home" for the next few days. Arman was with him.

It was a tiny room with only a small window through which daylight barely seeped in. Three people were already in that cell before.

There were no pillows, so they had to use water bottles as one instead.

A dirty, smelly blanket served as their mattress. The washroom, without any doors, was right beside them. Five dirty plates cluttered the corner.

The food served was bread and pumpkins, often rotten.

Meanwhile, Rahat's eye condition deteriorated. When taken to the jail hospital, the doctors said he needed to be shifted to a hospital outside as soon as possible.

Most detainees inside similar cells were student protesters, Rahat said.

SHACKLES REMOVED

On August 1, a decision was made to transfer Rahat, Arman, and Rashidul to the National Eye Institute.

Once admitted to the eye hospital, doctors informed Rahat that as too much time had already passed, it would be difficult to retrieve the pellets from his eye.

That night, after police in plainclothes visited them, the three were shackled at the hospital. When some nurses and medical staff protested,

they were met with threats.

On August 2, Rahat was granted bail as part of the government's decision to release all detained underaged students. The shackles were finally removed.

After 13 days in detention, Rahat was at last allowed to see his parents. "My mother had to be hospitalised after I was held," Rahat said. "She has diabetes and hypertension. To this day, I haven't told her I can't see anything through my right eye. I tell her my condition is improving."

DESPERATE FOR SIGHT

Since August 5, Rahat has moved from one hospital to another, holding onto the hope that he might regain his vision. But so far, the only response he received was -- "We are sorry."

According to ophthalmologists, who examined Rahat's case, with optic nerve damage, restoring his sight would be exceedingly difficult.

He has knocked on many doors, seeking help from student leaders and authorities for potential treatment abroad.

In response, a medical board reviewed his case. They, too, concluded that restoring vision would be a challenge.

Still, Rahat refuses to give up.

"I can't see through one eye. I have to walk with a stick. Almost every day, I suffer from an unbearable headache. Frequent fevers is something I have accepted by now. My body still aches from all the torture."

"I had big dreams. I still haven't given up on them. But how can I achieve them if I am blind. I want everyone's help," Rahat said.

This newspaper contacted Rahat's father and Arman. They provided similar versions of the events.

Arman was hit by 30

12yrs on, justice

FROM PAGE 3

perpetrators have not been brought to justice, compensation laws have not been updated, and workers' wages still lack dignity.

They also pointed out the absence of effective rehabilitation efforts for the injured workers.

Samina Luthfa, an associate professor of Dhaka University; Kallol Mustafa, an activist and writer; Barrister Jyotirmoy Barua, a Supreme Court lawyer; and Taslima Akhter, president of Bangladesh Garment Sramik Sanghati, spoke among others.

The book compiled a variety of works, such as poems, songs, essays, plays, and other writings protesting the impunity that has persisted over the last 12 years.

Contributors to the collection include Anu Muhammad, Faruk Wasif, Arup Rahi, Udisa Islam, Kafil Ahmed, Sakhawat Tipu, and others.

Call for data autonomy to ensure transparency



STAR REPORT

A discussion titled "Data Integrity for Development: Ensuring Transparency and Accountability in Bangladesh" was held in Dhaka on November 21, said a press release.

Organised by UNDP's SIPS project and Prothom Alo, with support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and research input from the Centre on Budget and Policy (CBP), University of Dhaka, the event focused on key issues surrounding data governance.

Dr Selim Raihan delivered the keynote, highlighting concerns about government control over Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) data.

He emphasised the need to ensure BBS's autonomy, prevent data manipulation, restructure its organogram, and recruit skilled statisticians.

Participants included representatives from civil society, academia, the private and public sectors, and UNDP.

Discussions addressed the impact of data manipulation on policy, the need for an autonomous National Statistical Office, and establishing an independent data commission.

The dialogue also explored the media's role in fostering transparency, strategies for improving data collection methodologies, and building public trust in BBS. Experts proposed actionable steps to enhance data governance and reinforce accountability, underscoring the critical role of reliable statistics in national development.

Khasi people now

FROM PAGE 5

around Tk 2 lakh to organise. Instead of the usual grand celebration, the Khasi people will observe the day with smaller, domestic programmes, Pohthmi confirmed on that day.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Pohthmi explained that the community's primary source of income -- betel leaf cultivation -- is currently facing a severe downturn. "Farmers are not receiving fair prices for their betel leaves, which has led to widespread financial hardship," he said.

So, we have decided to cancel the celebrations, he said.

Yesterday, he said the government assurance has cleared the way for the celebrations.

Like every year, the Khasi punjien field in the Magurjhara area of Moulyibazar's Kamalganj upazila will be colourfully decorated as part of the event, he added.

Traditionally held on November 23, the festival is a significant cultural event for the Khasi people, marking the end of the old year and welcoming the new one.

Every year, people from around 73 Khasi villages across Sylhet division celebrate this festival, while tourists from home and abroad also participate in it.

The event features traditional attire, folk dances, songs, and communal activities like fishing, sports, and cultural performances, aimed at strengthening social ties. A fair also takes place, with stalls offering clothes, betel leaves, and handicrafts made from bamboo and cane.

Saju Marchiang, a spokesperson of the council, said Seng Kut Snem is a festival of the indigenous Khasi faith and culture observed to mark the Seng Khasi Movement.

"Sixteen young men formed an organisation called the Khasi Young Men's Association on November 23, 1899, to preserve and safeguard 'Niam Trai Niam Tre', the indigenous way of life, after continued assault on it during the British rule.

The first anniversary of the association was celebrated as 'Seng Kut Snem', and since then it has been celebrated every year to commemorate the movement and the awakening of the Khasi community as a whole," he said.

During the event, the elders impart oratory lessons on the traditional faith, beliefs, and customs of the community as bestowed by the ancestors. The event also represents the cultural and social bond within the Khasi community, he added.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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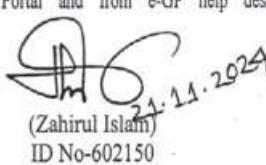
Date: 21/11/2024

e-Tender Notice (OTM)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal in Bangladesh (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following work mentioned in the table below:-

SL No.	Tender ID & Package No.	Name of Works	Tender Document last selling Date and Time	Tender Closing & Opening Date and Time
01	103989, eGp-31/OTM/LRD/PMP/Major-Road/2024-2025	Periodic Maintenance Programme (PMP) Rigid Pavement, Strengthening & DBS wearing Course at Ch. 89/400m (Border Bazar) to Ch. 107/895m (Lakshmpur Bus Terminal) of Cumilla-Lalmi-Chandpur-Lakshmpur-Begumganj Road (R-140) under Lakshmpur Road Division during the year 2024-2025.	22-Dec-2024 16:00	23-Dec-2024 12:30

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).


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Road Division, Lakshmpur.

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NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH