

Health cadre exclusion proposal rejected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Civil Service Health Cadre Association yesterday rejected the Public Administration Reform Commission's reported recommendation to exclude the health cadre from the civil service structure.

At a press conference at Jatiya Press Club, it warned that such a decision, made without consulting health cadre representatives, could disrupt the healthcare management and services.

"We strongly reject this unilateral proposal," said Umme Tania Nasrin, secretary general of the association, representing 35,000 members.

"Drafting such recommendations without consultation demonstrates a lack of expertise in healthcare management."

Convener Mohammad Neamot Hossain criticised the reliance on non-medical officials in health sector policymaking. "Their regressive approach has failed to make healthcare scientific and modern. Instead, it has turned into a bureaucratic and interest-driven system benefiting ministers and officials, while failing to achieve its goals," he said.

The association alleged that excluding the health cadre would further weaken the healthcare sector's ability to serve public interests.

Meanwhile, Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury, head of the Public Administration Reform Commission, defended the proposal on December 17, calling the inclusion of education and health cadres in the civil service "irrational." He argued these are specialised sectors that should operate independently of the cadre structure.

The association urged the government to reconsider the proposal and ensure a collaborative approach to reform.



Farmers wait in line for hours to purchase fertiliser at a dealer's shop in Mostafi, Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila. The photo was taken recently. PHOTO: DILIP ROY

Fertiliser shortfall threatens crop yields in Lalmonirhat

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

A shortage of fertiliser allocation has left farmers in Lalmonirhat struggling to achieve their targeted crop production. They now fear that the expected yields will be disrupted as a result of the shortfall.

Farmers have urged the authorities to allocate fertiliser according to their actual requirements rather than arbitrarily.

According to officials from the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), the amounts of urea, TSP, and DAP fertiliser allocated in October, November, and December were significantly lower than the demand.

Speaking to The Daily Star, farmers expressed frustration, saying they are not receiving the necessary amounts of fertiliser. They are currently engaged in cultivating potatoes, maize, tobacco, and other vegetables, all of which rely heavily on fertiliser.

As such, they are deeply disappointed with the inadequate allocations by the DAE. Many fear that they will not be able to achieve the desired crop yields.

Abdul Quddus, 60, a farmer from Mostafi village in Lalmonirhat Sadar

Table with 4 columns: FERTILISER, MONTH, DEMAND (tonne), ALLOCATION (tonne). Rows include Urea, TSP, DAP, MOP for Oct, Nov, Dec months.

SOURCE: DAE

upazila, said he waited in line for about two hours at a fertiliser dealer's shop but received only three bags of fertiliser, despite needing eight.

Due to the fertiliser shortage, he is unable to prepare all his land for crop production, he added.

Quddus called on the government to allocate fertiliser based on actual demand and to ensure its availability to farmers.

Anwar Hossain, deputy assistant director at the Lalmonirhat BADC

fertiliser warehouse, told The Daily Star that fertiliser is being distributed to farmers through 85 BADC and 52 BCIC dealers in Lalmonirhat. However, distribution to dealers depends on the fertiliser allocation received from the government, he added.

Dr Saykhul Arifin, deputy director of the DAE in Lalmonirhat, said a letter has been sent to higher authorities requesting fertiliser

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DMP DRIVE 93 mugger suspects held in 24hrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) arrested 93 suspected muggers in 24 hours following anti-mugging operations across various areas of the capital.

The arrests were made during operations conducted from 8:00am yesterday to 8:00am today, said Talebur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner (Media) of DMP.

The crime divisions of DMP apprehended suspects in multiple areas, including Ramna (8), Motijheel (14), Lalbagh (26), Wari (10), Tejgaon (19), Mirpur (4), Uttara (8), and Gulshan (4). Legal proceedings are underway, Rahman confirmed.

Mohammadpur Police arrested four individuals - Al-Amin (25), Md Faisal Hossain (20), Md Robin Hossain (25), and Md Imon Hossain (20) - in connection with a mugging incident in Chandrima Model Town.

In a separate operation, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police apprehended four suspects near the Agargaon Flower Market, recovering three knives. Adabor Police also arrested five suspected muggers in a special operation on Sunday night.

Police reforms must be inclusive Speakers tell event

UNB, Dhaka

Reforms should be structural to establish a professional, people-centred, and inclusive police service in Bangladesh, said speakers at an event yesterday.

The national dialogue, titled "Towards Better Protection of Public Safety and Community Rights: Expectations on Bangladesh's Police and Public Services," was co-hosted by UNDP, in collaboration with UN Women, UNICEF, and UNFPA, and held in Dhaka yesterday.

Speaking at the dialogue, Deputy Inspector General of Police Quazi Zia Uddin said every crisis presents an opportunity to reimagine, reform, and rebuild trust.

"True reform begins when we prioritise service over control and trust over fear," he said.

We are committed to supporting an inclusive and consultative approach to police and justice reforms. Women, youth, and civil society must be at the centre of these structural changes to rebuild independent public institutions with integrity and public confidence.

SONALI DAYARATNE

Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Bangladesh

The dialogue concluded a series of consultations with stakeholders, communities, students, experts, and CSOs in Khulna, Chattogram, and Dhaka, calling for strengthening police community relationships, legislative and human resource reforms, equitable access to justice, accountability mechanisms, and leveraging technology to enhance transparency and efficiency.

Participants also called for the strengthening of resources, career management, and service conditions within the police force.

Sonali Dayaratne, Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP Bangladesh, said, "We are committed to supporting an inclusive and consultative approach to police and justice reforms. Women, youth, and civil society must be at the centre of these structural changes to rebuild independent public institutions with integrity and public confidence."

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গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
পাবনা মেডিকেল কলেজ, পাবনা।
ওয়েব : www.pmc.edu.bd.
আউট সোর্সিং পদ্ধতিতে সেবা প্রদানকারী সরবরাহের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি
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DHAKA-KHULNA Rail route via Padma Bridge opens new era of connectivity

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Passenger rail services on Dhaka-Khulna route via Padma Bridge are set to commence today.

Two new pairs of passenger trains - the Jahanabad Express and the Ruposhi Bangla Express - will officially open the door for passenger train services on the Dhaka-Jashore-Khulna-Benapole section via Padma Bridge.

The newly constructed railway route via Padma Bridge has shortened the distance between Dhaka and Khulna by 212 kilometres, reducing travel time to just four and a half hours - compared to the nine and a half hours currently required via the Jamuna Bridge.

According to Bangladesh Railway officials, the Jahanabad will depart from Khulna at 6:00am and arrive in Dhaka at 9:45am. The return journey from Dhaka will begin at 8:00pm, reaching Khulna at 11:40pm. The train will stop at Nowapara, Singia Junction, Lohagara, Kashiani junction, and Bhanga junction.

The newly constructed railway route via Padma Bridge has shortened the distance between Dhaka and Khulna by 212 kilometres, reducing travel time to just four and a half hours compared to the nine and a half hours currently required via the Jamuna Bridge.

Meanwhile, the Ruposhi Bangla will depart from Dhaka at 10:45am and reach Benapole in Jashore by 2:30pm. On its return, the train will leave Jashore at 3:30pm and arrive in Dhaka at 7:10pm. Key stops along this route include Jashore junction, Narail, Kashiani junction, and Bhanga junction.

Jahanabad on the Khulna-Dhaka-Khulna route and the Ruposhi Bangla on the Benapole-Dhaka-Benapole route will operate regularly with a one-day break. The weekly closure of the two trains is on Monday. There will be a total of 768 seats in 12 coaches on the two trains.

Masud Rana, station master at Khulna Railway Station, said currently, the Dhaka-Khulna route via Tangail-Iswardi takes approximately nine and a half hours, while the Dhaka-Benapole route via Rajbari

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Bangla Academy Dhaka-1000
Memo No. Cronis-1509/2024-768/2/BA Date: 22.12.2024
Invitation for e-Tender
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following works.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Bagerhat www.lged.gov.bd
e-Tender Notice (OTM) : 39/2024-2025
Memo No: 46.02.0100.000.07.038.24-6670 Date: 23-12-2024
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of stated below: