

জন ও নিরাপদে রেমিট্যান্স পাঠান
প্রিয়জনের প্রয়োজনে...

যেকোনো শাখা থেকে রেমিট্যান্স গ্রহণ করলেই
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Interim govt a continuation of AL regime

Prof Anu Muhammad criticises refusal to cancel controversial power deals

UNB, Dhaka

The interim government appears to be a continuation of the previous Awami League administration as it refuses to cancel controversial deals signed under the Speedy Increase of Power and Energy Supply (Special Provision) Act 2010, said Prof Anu Muhammad yesterday.

The leader of the National Committee to Protect Oil Gas, Mineral Resources and Power-Port was speaking at a seminar at DRU on coal-fired power plants.

He said the government upheld past agreements despite repealing the Special Act. "This shows the government stance remains unchanged," he said.

He also criticised the recent long-term LNG import contract with a US company, signed without any tender, questioning how such a deal could be justified.

Though the government claims it is a non-binding agreement, he warned that lobbyists would push for its implementation.

The seminar, titled "Coal-fired Power Plants -- What is the Experience?" was organised by Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (BAPA).

Presenting on the state and future of

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Migration drops by 27pc

Political, economic instability to blame, reveals Ami Probashi's 2024 report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh experienced a significant decline in overseas migration last year, primarily due to changes in the political and economic landscape.

The total number of migrant workers dropped to 10,09,146 in 2024, marking a 27.4 percent decrease from 13,90,811 in 2023, according to the Annual Report 2024 by Ami Probashi, a digital platform supporting migrant workers.

The report was launched yesterday at an event held at a city hotel.

The decline was attributed to political and subsequent economic instabilities in July 2024, which likely contributed to the slowdown in migration.

Uncertainty over job security and future opportunities also discouraged many potential workers from seeking employment abroad.

A notable decline in migration numbers was observed between May and September 2024, with 54,725 migrants going abroad in June, 71,080 in July, 52,818 in August, and 64,157 in September.

However, the numbers surged to 104,811 in October, maintaining a steady rate from October to December.

Meanwhile, despite the overall decline, female participation in Bureau of Manpower, Employment, and Training (BMET) registration nearly doubled compared to the previous year.

Female registration increased from 2.78 percent in 2023 to 4.79 percent in 2024.

"For females, Jordan seems to be a very popular destination for work, as over 13,000 female migrants travelled to the country last year, particularly for

employment in the garment sector," said M Tanvir Siddique, group head of innovation at Bangla Trac Group.

Saudi Arabia remained the top destination for Bangladeshi migrants, accounting for 62.17 percent of the total migration, with approximately 627,000 workers departing for the kingdom.

This continued preference is driven by a high demand for both skilled and unskilled labour, particularly in infrastructure development.

In contrast, Malaysia, the second-

Bangladeshi women in pursuing employment overseas. With the right training and support, we can ensure a stronger, more skilled workforce abroad," said Tarique E Haque, founder and managing director of Ami Probashi.

Last year, 798,276 individuals registered with BMET, an increase from 660,088 in 2023. While men continue to dominate the overseas labour force, the rise in female participation highlights a growing acceptance of women in skilled and semi-skilled professions abroad.



► Saudi Arabia remains top destination

► Migration to Malaysia declines due to stricter policies

► Jordan emerges as key destination for female RMG workers

► Female BMET registrations nearly doubles

largest destination, saw a decline in migration numbers, with only 93,000 workers moving there in 2024. The drop is attributed to changes in Malaysia's foreign labour policies.

Additionally, General Training Enrolment, a key indicator of skilled workforce preparation, fell sharply, decreasing from 236,270 enrolments in 2023 to 112,166 in 2024, pointing to shifting trends in job preparedness and overseas employment demand.

"The rise in female BMET registration shows a growing confidence of

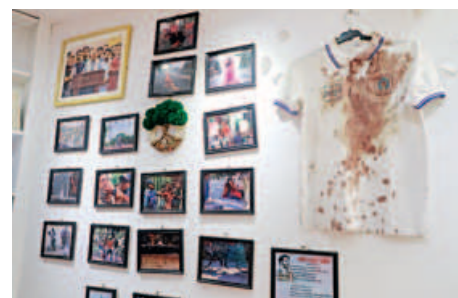
The report also highlights a changing preference among female workers, with more women enrolling in tech-related training courses such as computer operation, graphics design, and AutoCAD drafting, rather than traditional domestic work.

Over 700 female workers migrated as skilled professionals last year.

The report shows that Dhaka division sent the highest number of migrants abroad last year, totalling 2.64 lakh, followed by Chattogram with 2.31 lakh,

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Echoes of July: a book fair painted in revolution



DIPAN NANDY

This year's Amar Ekushey Boi Mela has been adorned with the colours of revolution. The fair is decorated in red, black, and white -- the colors symbolising rebellion, mourning, and hope. The visual landscape of the fair encapsulates the memories of the July uprising.

A special arch has been erected at the main gate of Bangla Academy for the book fair. On one side, there is an image of Mir Mughdo holding bottles of water, while the other features an image of Abu Sayed standing resolutely.

At the top, the central theme of the book fair has been inscribed -- "July Gono-Obhutthan: Natun Bangladesh Binirman".

Several students were seen taking pictures at this arch yesterday afternoon. Some stood still, gazing at it in contemplation.

One such student, Mohiuddin Ahmed said, "Those times [July Movement] were terrible. A man has been martyred for a movement against an autocratic government. I'm taking pictures as a tribute to them."

Md Alam echoed the same.

Posters showing iconic moments from the uprising were also featured, showing -- Golam Nafiz hanging off the side of a rickshaw with a flag tied to his head; the memorable day when students

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A student covers his face with his schoolbag while running past a pile of burning trash in Mohammadpur recently. The fire contributes to air pollution and harms both the environment and human health. The photo was taken near the Physical Institute Field.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

DETAILED AREA PLAN

Investigate past modifications

Demand speakers at a citizen dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Planning experts have urged the interim government to investigate past modifications to the Detailed Area Plan (DAP) and urban planning policies, alleging influence by vested interests.

They called for a white paper on the matter at a citizen dialogue yesterday.

The dialogue, titled "Public Interest, Liveability, and Environmental Concerns in the Revision of Detailed Area Plan (DAP) and Building Construction Rules," was organised by Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP) at the BIP Conference Hall.

"Authorities responsible for revising Dhaka's DAP and building regulations, including RAJUK and the Ministry of Housing and Public Works, should be scrutinised. Also, officials found serving vested groups must face legal action," said speakers.

Experts emphasised that urban planning must reflect socio-economic realities, cultural aspects, and community needs. Public participation should be ensured in drafting laws, regulations, and development policies.

They demanded the identification and prosecution of corrupt officials, housing developers, industrialists, politicians, bureaucrats, and professionals involved in

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It's flawed and discriminatory

Says REHAB, issues 15-day ultimatum for amendment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh (REHAB) has given the government a 15-day ultimatum to amend the Detailed Area Plan (DAP) 2022 and building regulations.

"Landowners in Dhaka and other major cities have been outraged since the discriminatory and flawed DAP was published," said REHAB President Md Wahiduzzaman at a press conference held at the CIRDAP auditorium in the capital yesterday.

"We have engaged in continuous discussions with government authorities, submitted proposals, and received assurances of revisions. Yet, no effective measures have been taken," he said.

The DAP (2022-2035) aims to improve the quality of life in Dhaka by promoting sustainable growth and structured land use.

However, REHAB alleged that the government disregarded the Dhaka Metropolitan Building Construction Rules-2008 and unfairly repealed the Master Plan-2010 by removing the floor area ratio (FAR).

The new DAP introduces a differentiated FAR based on an area's character, road conditions, and

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The Daily Star
STELLAR WOMEN SEASON 2

CALL FOR REGISTRATIONS / NOMINATIONS

The Stellar Women initiative aims to recognise twelve (12) extraordinary women throughout the year (From September '24 to August '25) for playing a remarkable role in their distinguished fields. Their work must have made positive contributions towards the development of society & the nation.

Inviting nominations/ registrations in the following categories:

Architect (Residential & Commercial) (28 th February '25)	Art & Culture (31 st March '25)	Engineering (Construction, Structure, Water Resource & MEP) (30 th April '24)
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For Queries
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Register/ Nominate via:
www.btistellarwomen.thedailystar.net

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