

জন ও নিরাপদে টেমিটিয়াস পাঠান
প্রিয়জনকে প্রয়োজনে...

যেকোনো শাখা থেকে রেমিটিয়াস গ্রহণ করলেই
পাবেন সরকার নির্ধারিত ২.৫% প্রমোদনা

সাথে আদে ও আদে নিশ্চিত আকর্ষণীয় পুরস্কার

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Be cautious
of ‘Hasina’s
traps’: Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

B N P
Secretary
General
Mirza
Fakhrul
Islam
Alamgir

has urged everyone to be cautious of what he called “Sheikh Hasina’s traps,” blaming the country’s instability and unrest on the former prime minister’s “fascist regime.”

“We must proceed with caution. To sustain our achievements, we must advance gradually. Darkness cannot be overcome by more darkness; it requires light. We must move forward by kindling that light,” he said.

He made the remarks while talking to journalists after arriving at Dhaka airport from the United States yesterday.

He said the students and people of Bangladesh had

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Activists protested the recent attacks and harassment against female footballers in the country, at a programme at the capital’s Shahbagh yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
Government mulls
reducing bachelor’s
course to 3 years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government is planning to reduce the duration of the four-year bachelor’s course under the National University to three years, said Prof M Aminul Islam, special assistant to the education adviser.

Speaking at an event at the International Mother Language Institute in Dhaka yesterday, marking International Education Day, Prof Aminul Islam said the revised three-year bachelor’s programme would include an additional year of extensive technical education.

“In the remaining one year, students will receive specialised training in technical subjects. Upon completion, they will be awarded two certificates – one for a bachelor’s degree and the other for a widely recognised diploma,” he said.

Prof Aminul explained that this initiative would allow students to achieve a bachelor’s qualification while enhancing their employment prospects. “This will be an innovative and extraordinary decision,” he added.

The professor said there is a stigma surrounding diplomas and technical education, which many view as inferior or embarrassing. “We are planning an initiative in the near future to break this mindset,” he said.

He also highlighted significant gaps in resources within the education system.

Only 18 per cent of the required teachers are available, and despite the inclusion of practical and theoretical

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Female worker
migration in
steady decline
since 2023

Shows BMET data

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The migration of Bangladeshi female workers abroad has been declining over the past two years since 2023.

The decline has been caused primarily by reduced recruitment by Saudi Arabia, the largest overseas job market for Bangladeshi migrant workers.

According to the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET), 1,05,466 female workers migrated abroad for jobs in 2022, with 70,279 of them going to Saudi Arabia.

In 2023, women’s migration dropped by 28 percent to 76,108, including 50,254 to Saudi Arabia. The decline continued last year, falling by another 19.64 percent to 61,158, with 40,315 going to the kingdom.

BMET statistics also revealed that Jordan was the second-highest destination for Bangladeshi female workers last year, receiving 13,772 migrants, followed by Qatar (2,331), the United Kingdom (1,483), and the United Arab Emirates (1,036).

In recent years, Saudi employers have shifted their focus to hiring female foreign workers from other countries, including several African nations, said Ali Haider Chowdhury, secretary

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TO STREAMLINE RECRUITMENT
Reform commission proposes
separate PSC for health

AHMED DEEPTO

The Public Administration Reform Commission has proposed renaming the BCS (Health) cadre as the Bangladesh Health Service, alongside the establishment of a separate Public Service Commission (Health) to oversee recruitment, promotions, and related activities.

The commission, in its report submitted to Chief Adviser Dr Muhammad Yunus on February 5, suggested reforms aimed at streamlining healthcare services and enhancing efficiency. Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury, chairman of the commission, presented the report with 23 recommendations, categorised into one long-term, 18 mid-term, and four short-term measures.

KEY PROPOSALS FOR REFORM

Among the short-term plans, the creation of a separate PSC for health was emphasised, with a focus on renaming services to reflect their specific characteristics, moving away from the existing BCS cadre system.

To improve governance, the commission recommended strengthening in-person supervision and introducing digital attendance tracking. Disciplinary actions would be enforced for unauthorised absences.

The commission also suggested prioritising initiatives to uphold the dignity of both government and private

hospitals, alongside the full automation of hospital operations. Daily admission numbers for each department should be displayed on information boards to ensure transparency.

HEALTH PROTECTION LAW

A proposed health protection law seeks to balance the interests of doctors, healthcare providers, and patients. The report calls for a high-level task force to deliberate on

the law, as detailed in Chapter Thirteen, titled “Special Recommendations for the Reform of Bangladesh Health Service.”

This chapter also highlights the need for workforce development, reforms in health management, and findings from surveys on the healthcare sector.

LONG-TERM AND STRUCTURAL REFORMS

The sole long-term proposal prioritises establishing specialised healthcare institutions outside Dhaka to decentralise services. Rationalising the number of medical colleges and students based on resources, population, and geography was also recommended.

The commission called for improving the quality of existing medical colleges and addressing teacher shortages in medical education. It further proposed separating healthcare services and medical education into two distinct divisions under separate management structures.

ADDRESSING RURAL HEALTHCARE GAPS

The report noted that the absence of guidelines for government doctors pursuing higher education complicates retaining them in rural areas. Introducing a digital e-logbook system for fair deputation policies, postings, and promotions based on rural service tenure was recommended.

Strategic workforce planning, policy reforms, and technological solutions

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- OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS
- » Rename BCS (Health) cadre to Bangladesh Health Service
 - » Track Doctors’ Attendance Digitally
 - » Automate Hospital Services
 - » Formulate Health Protection Law
 - » Build Specialised Hospitals Outside Dhaka
 - » Rationalise Medical Colleges
 - » Address Teacher Shortages
 - » Ensure Fair Postings of Doctors in Rural Areas
 - » Remove Hospital Middlemen

MATS students
demonstrate
at Shahbagh

20 injured as police disperse
protesters charging batons

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Medical Assistant Trainee Students (MATS) staged a sit-in at Shahbagh yesterday for over five hours with four-point demands, including recruitment to vacant 10th-grade positions and the creation of more employment opportunities.

Later, around 4:45pm, police dispersed them with baton charges and sound grenades as they reached in front of Shikkha Bhavan while attempting to march towards the Secretariat.

At least 20 students were injured, eyewitnesses said.

At the time of the incident, a five-member MATS delegation was in a meeting at the Secretariat.

Mid Faruk, in charge (inspector) of the police camp at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said several injured students were brought to the hospital and were receiving treatment in the emergency department. So far, 20 have been admitted.

The students’ other demands include abolishing the Health Professionals Board and forming a new regulatory body named the Medical Education Board of Bangladesh, ensuring higher education opportunities in clinical subjects aligned with the MATS curriculum, and renaming MATS to Medical Institute.

Earlier in the day, around 11:00am, nearly 300 students gathered in front of the National

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DHANMONDI-32

Basement space was
for elevator shaft
Finds fire service after draining water

STAR REPORT

Fire service officials yesterday drained water from the basement of a building adjacent to the demolished residence of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Dhanmondi-32, addressing speculation about the existence of secret detention centres, commonly referred to as Aynaghar.

They confirmed that the space was intended for an elevator in the basement.

“A fire engine began pumping water from the area around 10:00am, but no items or hidden structures were found after drainage,” Mizanur Rahman, station officer of Mohammadpur Fire Station, told The Daily Star.

“The space, about five feet deep, is designated for an elevator in basement-2. It had partially filled with rainwater due to the absence of a roof in that area,” he said.

The building’s basement layout was

typical of many others.

The site continued to attract large crowds as curious onlookers gathered around the demolished building, eager to glimpse the area speculated to be “Aynaghar”.



Forty-year-old Moina Begum, a house help, travelled from Ashulia to Dhanmondi-32 around 10:00am and waited for hours, hoping to witness the unearthing of the supposed detention site.

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ICT issues
arrest
warrants
against 7

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal yesterday issued arrest warrants against seven persons over allegations of their involvement in crimes against humanity.

A bench led by Justice Md Golam Mortuza Majumder passed the order after a petition was filed in this connection earlier in the day.

However, the prosecution did not disclose the names and identities of individuals against whom the arrest warrants were issued.

The ICT so far issued arrest warrants against 115 individuals in 18 cases filed for crime against humanity, genocide and enforced

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