

Complex

FROM PAGE 3

"If every recruitment letter has to be attested separately, it takes a lot of time. If we revert to the previous process, sending workers will be much easier," he added.

Former BAIRA joint secretary Fakhrul Islam said for a long time, demand letters for up to 24 workers required only attestation from the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET), not the embassy.

"The embassy cannot verify all recruitment requests. This sudden rule change has resulted in a decline in worker deployment. If this rule remains, the number of workers sent abroad will decrease further," he said.

BAIRA members explained that 85 percent of workers travelling from Bangladesh to Saudi Arabia are recruited through small-scale demand letters, typically for one to 24 workers.

Due to the attestation requirement, visa processing has been disrupted, they said.

On February 5, BAIRA members staged a human chain in front of the expatriates welfare ministry to demand the reinstatement of the previous attestation process.

Later, they submitted a memorandum to the ministry, alleging that a Malaysian citizen and his Bangladeshi associate extorted Tk 1,07,000 from each worker through illegal means.

They demanded strict legal action against them to prevent the formation of any new syndicate.

According to BMET sources, in September last year, 44,229 workers travelled to Saudi Arabia. The number surged to 83,582 in October and remained steady for three months.

In January, it slightly decreased to 76,618. However, in February, the number of workers sent to Saudi Arabia dropped to 44,258.

JS, constituent assembly polls

FROM PAGE 3

Bangladesh and Islam negatively on the global stage. The government must take a firm stance against terrorism and extremism, and we must also reinforce this position through social and political platforms," Nahid added.

He urged all political parties to unite in support of democracy and national harmony while opposing corruption and "Mujibism".

The dangers facing Bangladesh have not yet subsided. Anti-Bangladesh forces are still conspiring.

"Military and civilian bureaucracies, mafia business groups, and foreign powers could exploit disunity among politicians and mass uprising forces," he said.

Nahid also demanded swift and visible trials against "fascists". "Through this justice, we aim to

politically address the Awami League's actions," he said.

He stressed that the National Consensus Commission must expedite the implementation of the July Charter. He added that the interim government could quickly implement recommendations from public administration and the police through ordinances.

NCP Member Secretary Akther Hossen urged all political parties to unite in demanding the trial of Sheikh Hasina and the Awami League, accusing them of genocide and mass killings.

Hasnat Abdullah, NCP's chief organiser for the southern region, called for unity to ensure a democratic transition.

The iftar event was attended by BNP standing committee member Salahuddin Ahmed, Joint

happen if food rations are cut further and nutrition treatment services stop," said Rana Flowers, Unicef representative in Bangladesh.

At the beginning of 2025, Unicef estimated that 14,200 children in the camps would suffer from severe acute malnutrition this year.

Declining food rations, poor diets, and limited access to safe water and healthcare could push this number even higher. Children with severe

malnutrition are 11 times more likely to die than their well-nourished peers without timely treatment, the statement also said.

"These families cannot safely return home, and they have no legal right to work, so sustained humanitarian support is not optional -- it is essential," Flowers said.

"Unicef is committed to delivering for these children, but without guaranteed funding, critical services will be at risk," she warned.

Malnutrition reaches alarming

FROM PAGE 3

worsened sanitation and led to severe diarrhoea, cholera, and dengue outbreaks. Additionally, intermittent food ration cuts over the past two years and a growing influx of families fleeing violence have worsened conditions.

For now, we can provide the services that Rohingya mothers seek and the sick children need, but as needs rise and funding declines, families are terrified of what will

happen if food rations are cut further and nutrition treatment services stop," said Rana Flowers, Unicef representative in Bangladesh.

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Focus on public issues

FROM PAGE 3

and proposals regarding the control of prices for essential goods, the market system, and the production system, there should also be debates among political parties on how to ensure primary healthcare for people.

"Why aren't we talking about these issues? Isn't reform necessary to

change the market system, boost production, and improve the healthcare and education systems?" he questioned.

The BNP leader said as political parties are meant to serve people, they should also focus on critical issues related to public's interests.

Tarique said political parties should present plans on how they will keep

commodity prices within the purchasing power of the common people.

He said reform is also essential for overhauling the country's education system.

"If we fail to establish a proper education system for future generations, how can we possibly move this country forward?" Tarique also said.

Ensure

FROM PAGE 3

Secretary General Shahid Uddin Chowdhury Annie, Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman, Nagarik Oikya President Mahmudur Rahman Manna, Revolutionary Workers Party General Secretary Saiful Haque, AB Party leader Asaduzzaman Fuad, Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis and Hefajat-e-Islam leader Mamunul Haque, Bangladesh Labour Party Chairman Mostafizur Rahman Iran, and Islami Andolan Bangladesh Presidium Member Ashraf Ali Akon.

Poet, writer, and thinker Farhad Mazhar, The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam, Kaler Kantho Editor Hasan Hafiz, Supreme Court Bar Association President Mahbub Uddin Khokon, and leaders of various student organisations also attended.

Palguni Tripura, a member of the Bangladesh Adiavasi Forum, stressed the need for inclusive access to public toilets, particularly for indigenous and gender diverse individuals.

She highlighted severe water shortages in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and the lack of toilets in schools and colleges.

If these issues remain unaddressed, girls will continue facing risks of harassment and assault while travelling," she warned.

Shireen Pervin Hug, chief of the Women's Affairs Reform Commission, urged speakers to submit recommendations for improving WASH facilities, as their final report is set for release next week.

Shamim Ara Shammi, program manager of BRAC's Ultra-Poor Graduation Program, and Mostafizur Rahman, national program officer at the Embassy of Sweden, were also present, among others.

China supports

FROM PAGE 3

2024 survey showing that 99 percent of respondents support China-Bangladesh friendly relations.

Positive perceptions of China rose to 66.7 percent in 2024 from 60.1 percent in 2022, he said.

Referring to the data, Yao Wen said Bangladeshi view Chinese investment and bilateral cooperation positively, boosting China's confidence in strengthening strategic partnership between the countries.

On the Rohingya crisis, Yao Wen said China mediated, but efforts stalled due to Myanmar's worsening security situation. Then Prof Imtiaz Ahmed said China should initiate a development plan for Rakhine State to create conditions for the repatriation.

DU Prof Dr Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir said China's poverty reduction model could be a case study for Bangladesh.

Retired Prof Amena Mohsin and independent researcher Syed Shahanzaw Mohsin also spoke at the event.

Retired teacher, son assaulted

FROM PAGE 5

He noted that children in urban slums have inadequate water and sanitation, leading to a 30 percent higher health risk than rural children.

Poor sanitation triggers a cycle -- diseases like diarrhoea worsen malnutrition, leading to stunted growth, cognitive delays, and hindered education, ultimately affecting economic prospects and the nation's future potential, he added.

"Challenges related to WASH conditions include stress and sexual harassment, with young girls being particularly vulnerable," he said.

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claim," she said.

"Recently, Section 144 was imposed over the disputed portion of our land. However, Nayon has been trying to prevent us from using the rest of our properties. He also demanded Tk 5 lakh from my husband and son with a spade," she said.

"I am now living amid fear that Nayon may launch an attack again," Mira added.

Asked, Nayon claimed his father had purchased the 61.5 decimals of land from Nani Gopal.

"As Shambhu was trying to sell trees from the disputed land, I protested him. This led to an altercation and a fight between us," he added.

He refuted allegations of demanding Tk 5 lakh from Shambhu and assaulting Nani Gopal.

Nayon's younger brother, Al Amin Ferdous Shimul, however, said their father late Gazi Hafizur Rahman never told them anything about buying the 61.5 decimals of Nani Gopal's land.

"If my father had bought more than the 15 decimals of land, he would have told us about it," he said.

Rubel Gazi, a member of local Samudaykathi union, said he was unsure if Nayon's claim of the land was true.

Contacted, Boni Amin, officer in-charge of Nesarabad Police Station, said they are trying to arrest Nayon in a case filed by Nani Gopal Sarkar for assaulting him and his son.

Nayon is also accused in several criminal cases, the OC added.

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Wanted

1. Principal

Candidate should have educational qualification and experience as per BM&DC rules. Preference will be given to candidates with working experience.

2. Professor

(Department of Obs. & Gynaec/Medicine/Biochemistry/Anatomy/Physiology/Pharmacology/ Paediatrics/Cardiology/Ophthalmology/Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation/Neuro Medicine /Skin & V.D/ Thoracic Surgery/Respiratory Medicine/Paediatric Surgery/Radiology & Imaging). Candidate should have educational qualification and experience as per BM&DC rules. Preference will be given to candidates with working experience.

3. Associate Professor

(Department of Paediatrics/Medicine/Paed. Haema & Oncology/Anatomy/Physiology/ Biochemistry/Community Medicine/Critical Care Medicine/ Gastroenterology & Hepatology / General Surgery /Haematology /Neonatology /Neurosurgery /Obs. & Gynaec/Medical Education Unit / Neuro Medicine/ Skin & V.D/ Thoracic Surgery /Respiratory Medicine / Radiology & Imaging// Ophthalmology/ENT/Microbiology/Pathology/Neonatology/Nephrology/General Surgery/ Oncology).

Candidate should have educational qualification and experience as per BM&DC rules. Preference will be given to candidates with working experience.

4. Assistant Professor

(Department of Anatomy/Cardiology/Child Neurology/Laboratory Medicine / Medicine /Paediatrics /Paediatric Surgery/Paediatric Critical Care/ Physiology / Obs. & Gynaec / Forensic Medicine/Biochemistry/Neuro Medicine/ Psychiatry /Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation /Ophthalmology/ Skin