

AK Enamul  
Haque new  
DG of BIDS  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof AK  
Enamul  
Haque  
has been  
appointed  
as the  
director general of the  
Bangladesh Institute of  
Development Studies (BIDS)  
on March 20.

He succeeded Binayak Sen. Prior to joining BIDS, Enamul Haque was the deputy vice chancellor of UCSI University Bangladesh Branch campus.

He is an environmental economist with extensive experience in teaching and research within the field of climate change, agriculture, and urban issues in developing countries with a focus on South Asia in general and Bangladesh in particular.



## New party 'Jonotar Dol'

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fascism or give space to any form of injustice."

The party promises equal rights and opportunities for all citizens, regardless of ethnicity, religion, or profession.

If elected to power, the party will also enforce a uniform education system for all, grounded in teaching ethics. In

They will also

addition, the party will enforce mandatory military training for younger generations.

Their foreign policy strategy will be to establish friendly relations with true allies and ensure diplomatic relations with neighbouring countries, reflecting equality and mutual benefit.

A network of workers from 74 NGOs attended the programme and pledged their support to the party.

## Govt halts new admissions

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necessary arrangements to complete the education of currently enrolled students, after which primary schools will only offer education up to class five.

"The chief adviser has given policy approval for this decision. Our primary schools lacked sufficient infrastructure

and manpower, which resulted in the poor implementation of lower secondary education," he added.

Since 2013, the government approved the introduction of lower secondary classes in government primary schools on a trial basis. In 2016, it even announced plans

to extend primary education up to class eight, but the initiative was never fully implemented.

In May 2024, the then Awami League government decided to expand primary education up to class eight and make it free of cost.

## Md Akikur Rahman passes away

CITY DESK



Md Akikur Rahman, sponsor director and a member of the executive committee of the board of directors of Southeast Bank PLC, died yesterday. He was 80.

Akikur Rahman was born on February 15, 1945, at Sunarpura in Nabarun, Sylhet, said a press release.

He had been associated with Southeast Bank since its inception as a sponsor director. He also served as the vice chairman of the bank from 2023 to 2024. He was the chairman of RAR Investment Limited and the Dorking Muslim Community Association, UK.

## 61pc of child-related indicators

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understanding these issues, he added.

Birth registration, a key indicator under Goal 17, also remains far below target. Nationwide, only 40 percent of children under five are registered, with even lower rates in urban areas (32.5 percent). However, informal settlements show higher registration rates of around 75 percent, highlighting stark disparities in access to this essential service, he added.

"While there may have been some progress in certain areas, the available data reveals significant challenges. These include data gaps concerning trends in health indicators, policy limitations, and weak implementation, all of which impact the well-being and development of children in Bangladesh," he added.

He further emphasised that the absence of an integrated, costed plan for children hampers effective resource allocation.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad Advocacy Director Jana Goswami presented findings on women's rights indicators, stating that legal advancements have not led to substantial real-world progress.

While the High Court's 2023 ruling, which allowed students to register using only their mother's name, was a positive step, she pointed out that women continue to face discrimination in marriage, divorce, inheritance, and adoption laws.

Goswami called for the implementation of a Uniform Family Code to ensure equal rights for all women, regardless of

deeply impacting children -- gender parity, child marriage, and gender-based violence.

She also said while women's labour force participation has increased to 43.5 percent, wage inequality persists, and the Bangladesh Labor Act (2018) does not yet meet ILO standards.

In politics, while 21 percent of the country's parliamentary seats were held by women in 2024, Goswami explained that the majority of these positions were nominated rather than directly elected.

Additionally, political parties have failed to meet the 2020 mandate requiring one-third female representation in party committees, a pledge that remains unfulfilled.

Goswami also pointed out that gender-responsive budgeting has expanded from four ministries to 44. However, she cautioned that without proper monitoring and evaluation, the actual impact on improving women's lives remains unclear.

The speakers also called for simplifying the birth registration process, incorporating the rights of Dalit women and children, addressing the needs of children of sex workers, and focusing on the struggles faced by hijras and the gender-diverse population.

## Several local polls

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the existing regulations and the commission's reform proposals. If the commission decides to cancel all of them, then they will be cancelled."

Regarding the management of polling stations, the EC said, "Today, we discussed various details related to polling station management. There are still aspects that need further review."

Speaking on the court's verdict regarding the public notice for the registration of new political parties, the EC said, "We have learned from the media that a writ petition has been filed on this matter. However, we have not yet received any official documents. Once the court issues a ruling, we will understand the content of the petition and determine the necessary steps to take."

## State must move

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accountability, saying those in leadership during the Awami League's tenure must be held responsible.

He highlighted the UN's recommendation that no members of the army, DGFI, Rab, police, Ansar, or BGB involved in the 2024 violence should be deployed in UN peacekeeping missions.

The UN report also emphasises the need for an independent civil society and media, particularly focusing on environmental issues. It proposes urgent

reforms in five key areas: accountability and justice, security forces, civil rights and democracy, political systems, and economic governance.

Shamsul Huda, executive director of ALRD; Tamanna Haq Riti, coordinator of Ain o Salish Kendra; Md Borkot Ali, director of BLAST; Rowshan Ara, member of Naripokkho; and Zakir Hossain, chief executive of Nagorik Uddyog, were among those present at the event.

## Man to die

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her home around 6:00am on October 1, 2017. When she did not return after a long time, her family began searching for her. At one point, Rafiqul called them and informed them that the child was in his custody. When they arrived at the location, they found her dead.

Rafiqul later admitted to killing the girl after raping

her, citing previous enmity as the motive.

Following the filing

of a case, police arrested

Rafiqul, who later

confessed to his crimes

before a magistrate.

The tribunal framed charges against him on

May 15, 2019.

Rafiqul later admitted to killing the girl after raping

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