

চুক্তি এ রিপোর্ট প্রমিটেড পাঠান
প্রিমিয়ার প্রযোজনে...

যেকোনো শাখা থেকে রোমটিয়াল গ্রহণ করলেই
পাবেন সরকার নির্ধারিত ২.৫% প্রয়োদন।

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Π

HEALTH SECTOR ACC seeks work order details for Salman's entities

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The Anti-Corruption Commission has requested information from health authorities regarding any work orders issued over the past 16 years to entities owned by Salman F Rahman, a former adviser to the prime minister on private industry and investment.

It sought the information "for proper investigation" into various allegations against Salman, including misappropriation and money laundering, during the tenure of the Awami League government.

Although the ACC sent a letter to the health ministry on March 16 requesting the information by March 25, the Directorate General of Health Services -- the principal agency under the ministry -- only forwarded the request to its subordinate bodies yesterday.

Last month, the ACC launched an investigation into an alleged Tk 22,000 crore corruption scheme involving Salman and former health minister Zahid Maleque over the procurement of Covid-19 vaccines.

DGHS instructed them to provide information within two days, according to a letter sent by Mohammad Nasir Uddin, its acting director (administration).

Last month, ACC launched an investigation into an alleged Tk 22,000 crore corruption scheme involving Salman and former health minister Zahid Maleque over the procurement of Covid-19 vaccines.

According to the complaint, a syndicate led by Salman, who is also the vice chairman of Beximco Group, misappropriated Tk 22,000 crore over vaccine procurement.

On March 19, Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd issued a rejoinder to various media outlets, including The Daily Star, rejecting the allegations as "misleading and baseless".

Salman, a former AL lawmaker, was arrested following the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government amid a student-led uprising related to a murder case. He is currently in jail and facing multiple cases linked to the uprising.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Two women carry pitchers of water back to their homes near the Kewachhara tea garden in Sylhet. The families of tea workers have been suffering due to an acute shortage of safe drinking water as the water in the tube well contains excessive levels of iron. Thus, female workers have no choice but to travel half-a-kilometre and collect water from a stream or spring.

STATE REFORM PROCESS Commission plans national survey

Expects consensus on reforms by mid-July

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Consensus Commission (NCC), tasked with spearheading state reforms, will soon launch a nationwide survey and a website to ensure the voices of citizens from all walks of life are heard in the reform process.

"We will soon open an online platform to

Political parties represent the people. But there are many outside these parties whose voices matter too. We want to bring them into the process

Prof Ali Riaz

collect opinions from citizens beyond political parties. Alongside this, we will conduct a broader survey to gather views from all segments of society," said Prof Ali Riaz, vice-chairman of the commission, during a meeting with the AB Party at the National Parliament yesterday.

He said building a

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

EID HOLIDAY

11 days, 257
road crashes,
249 lives lost

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On an average, 22 people were killed each day during the Eid-ul-Fitr vacation across the country, Road Safety Foundation (RSF) said in a report yesterday.

The nonprofit volunteer organisation, which analysed different media reports and also collected accident data from various sources, said 249 people including 41 women and 59 children were killed in 257 road accidents between March 26 and April 5.

The report highlighted that during

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Hilsa haul hits seven-year low

Experts point at climate change,
overfishing and navigability issues

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barishal

Hilsa production in the country fell to its lowest in seven years in the 2023-24 season, according to data from the Department of Fisheries.

Experts have attributed the decline to erratic weather conditions, overfishing, navigability issues, and the growing impacts of climate change.

According to the Barishal Divisional Fisheries Office, hilsa production stood at 5.29 lakh tonnes -- around 42,000 tonnes less than the previous year.

In recent years, hilsa yields had shown a consistent upward trend: 5.71 lakh tonnes in 2022-23, 5.66 lakh tonnes in 2021-22, 5.65 lakh tonnes in 2020-21, 5.50 lakh tonnes in 2019-20, and 5.32 lakh tonnes in 2018-19.

Dr Mohammad Abu Kawsar Didar, a scientific officer at the riverine station of the Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute in Chandpur, said adverse weather last year prevented many fishermen from going out to sea or rivers, resulting in a reduced overall catch.

He also pointed to a navigability crisis along major hilsa migration routes such as the Meghna-Tetulia, Payra-Bishkhali, and Sundarbans regions.

Hilsa typically prefer water with a depth of over five metres,

but in many of these routes, depth has fallen to two or three metres, obstructing the natural migratory flow," he said.

Dr Didar said overfishing along these routes has worsened the situation. "There's a limit to how much hilsa can be harvested sustainably -- and we've crossed that threshold," he noted.



A worker sorting hilsa for transport at Port Road wholesale market in Barishal city yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

impossible," he said.

Fishermen say the dwindling catch is making it increasingly difficult for them to survive.

"We are struggling. The quantity of hilsa we caught last year wasn't enough to pay off our debts. It's been years

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

One killed in fire at furniture shop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was killed and 17 others, including women and children, suffered injuries or fell ill as a fire broke out at a furniture shop on Nazimuddin Road in Dhaka's Bangshal area early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Amin Uddin, 65, said police.

Md Faruk, in-charge of the DMCH police outpost, confirmed that Amin Uddin died while undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The fire originated in the shop on the ground floor of the five-storey building at around 4:10am. On information, seven firefighting units rushed to the spot and managed to douse the blaze after an hour's effort, said Md Shahjahan, duty officer at control room of Fire Service and Civil Defence.

The firefighters rescued 18 people from the building, of whom 12 were provided first aid on the spot, while six others were sent to DMCH and the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery, he added.

The cause of the fire could not be known immediately.

Woman dies as scarf gets entangled in motorbike wheel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman died in a road mishap in Dhaka's Gulshan area early yesterday.

The deceased, Farzana Akter Mim, 30, was on her way home when her scarf got entangled in the rear wheel of a motorcycle she was riding, causing her to fall, said her sister, Fahima Akter.

The incident occurred around midnight near the Gulshan-2 roundabout.

She was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in an unconscious state around 4:30am, where doctors declared her dead, said Inspector Md Faruk, in-charge of DMCH police outpost.

Hailing from Monoharganj upazila of Cumilla, Farzana lived in a rented flat in Badda's Natun Bazar area and worked at a beauty parlour in Gulshan.

Her body has been kept at the hospital morgue.

TK 1.38CR GRAFT Seven ex-officials of Sonali Bank jailed

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Eleven individuals, including seven former officials of Sonali Bank Limited, were sentenced to different terms of imprisonment in a case filed over the embezzlement of Tk 1.38 crore.

Of them, seven were sentenced to three years in jail while four were given 10 years' imprisonment in the case.

Judge Mohammad Zakaria Hossain of the Special Judge's Court 6 of Dhaka also fined them a total of Tk 1.38 crore, which they will have to pay proportionately.

The seven who were sentenced to three years in jail are Sonali Bank's former managing director Humayun Kabir, former deputy managing director Mainul Haque, former general managers Noni Gopal Nath and Mir Mohidur Rahman, former deputy general manager Sofiz Uddin Ahmed, former assistant general managers Saiful Hassan and Kamrul Hussain Khan.

The four who were sentenced to 10 years in jail are Khanjan Ali Sweaters' Chairman Tazul Islam Molla, Md Abdul Jalil Sheikh and Directors Mir Mohammad Shawkat Ali and Rafiqul Islam.

According to the prosecution, the accused misappropriated Tk 1.38 crore of Sonali Bank's then Hotel Sheraton branch through forgery.

Following the incident, ACC filed the case against the II with Ramna Police Station on January 1, 2013.

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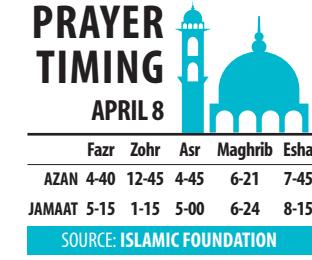
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SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION