



DHAKA TUESDAY APRIL 22, 2025

REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXXV No. 94

BAISHAKH 9, 1432 BS

www.thedailystar.net

SHAWWAL 23, 1446 HUIRI

16 PAGES PLUS LIFE STYLE : Tk 15.00

Announce nat'l minimum wage for all workers

Labour Reform Commission asks govt in its report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Labour Reform Commission has recommended that the government ensure legal protection and recognition of all workers in both formal and informal sectors, as well as migrant workers and self-employed individuals under a labour law.

In its report submitted to Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday, the commission also proposed establishing national minimum wages that guarantee a dignified living standard. It also suggested that both the national and sectoral wages be revised every three years, taking inflation and living costs into account.

To expand labour rights to organise, the commission

- Relax requirements for forming trade unions
- Dismiss protest-related cases against workers
- Ensure universal application of labour laws at EPZs
- Form anti-sexual harassment policy at all institutions
- Ensure migrant workers' safety and rights

advocated for easing the requirements for forming trade unions and implementing a participatory, transparent, and accountable framework for collective bargaining. It also recommended establishment of a permanent labour commission to safeguard workers' rights.

For improved access to justice, the commission suggested increasing the number of labour courts to ensure fair and swift resolution of the cases, and proposed review or withdrawal of protest-related cases filed against workers and trade union leaders over the years.

Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam said Prof Yunus has already instructed the reform commission to submit a list of tasks that can be implemented in a short time.

"We expect that these recommendations will be discussed in the cabinet in the future. From there, an actionable plan or strategy will be developed," he told a press conference at the Foreign Service Academy in Dhaka yesterday.

After receiving the report earlier in the day, Yunus advised the Labour Reform Commission to brief the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Residents stand close to the crumbling riverbank next to the Char Dakatia Government Primary School in Dewanganj upazila of Jamalpur. Severe and unexpected erosion has devastated three upazilas in the district -- Dewanganj, Islampur, and Madarganj -- with hundreds of homes and vast farmland swallowed by the Jamuna. With the erosion situation getting worse, the school now also faces the threat of being devoured by the river. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SAHIDUL ISLAM NIRAB

Tk 2.26 lakh crore lost to tax evasion in FY23

Estimates CPD, recommends bringing comprehensive reforms to tax policy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh lost an estimated Tk 226,236 crore in potential revenue to tax evasion and avoidance in the 2022-23 fiscal year, largely due to rampant corruption and a weak but complex system, according to a study by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

The sum, if recovered, could fund the construction of about seven metro rail lines, each costing as much as the revised budget for Metro Rail Line-6 from Uttara to Kamalapur, which now stands at Tk 33,472 crore.

"Had the NBR managed to plug the Tk 2.26 lakh crore lost annually to tax evasion, it could have come significantly closer to meeting its revenue targets," CPD Research Director Khondaker Golam Moazzem said at the unveiling of the report at its Dhaka office

FACTORS BEHIND TAX EVASION

Widespread corruption

Weak enforcement

Complex legal framework

High tax rates

yesterday.

"We've been talking about digitalisation for years, but what's missing is the will to act, both from the tax administration and the business community," he added.

Corporate tax evasion alone accounted for roughly half of the total loss -- about Tk 113,118 crore -- according to the study, which reveals a concerning trend of rising

tax evasion since 2011. The estimated loss was Tk 96,503 crore in 2012 and surged to Tk 133,673 crore by 2015.

CPD, in partnership with Christian Aid in Bangladesh, unveiled the findings of the study at a media briefing session titled "Corporate Income Tax Reform for Graduating Bangladesh: The Justice Perspective".

Alongside corruption, the CPD identified a

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



Tributes pour in as Pope Francis dies

STAR REPORT

Pope Francis died yesterday, aged 88, prompting mourning across the world for the energetic reformer who inspired devotion from Catholics but riled traditionalists during a 12-year papacy.

Mourners gathered, many in tears, in St Peter's Square, where just a day earlier the frail-looking pontiff had greeted worshippers on Easter Sunday, having recently left hospital following a 38-day battle with double pneumonia.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 5



Brothers take the body of a four-year-old child for funeral. The child was killed in an Israeli strike at a site of a tent camp for displaced Palestinians in Gaza City yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Bangladeshis worry amid US immigration crackdown

31 already deported; officials say more could be sent back

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

The United States has deported at least 31 Bangladeshis after President Donald Trump took a tough immigration policy.

Since February, the Trump administration has intensified efforts to deport undocumented immigrants.

Over the past one and a half months, Bangladeshis have been deported by commercial and chartered flights. Most of them had lost their immigration cases.

Sources at the Special Branch (SB)

of police and the immigration desk at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka confirmed the deportations to The Daily Star.

"We have so far received 31 Bangladeshi nationals deported from the US at different times. Most recently, five arrived on a chartered flight two days ago," said Golam Rasul, additional inspector general and the SB chief.

According to officials, the deportations followed a series of meetings between US embassy representatives in Dhaka and officials from the home ministry of

Bangladesh.

Home ministry sources said a meeting was held on February 23, where Khuda Baksh Chowdhury, special assistant to the chief adviser on home affairs, represented Bangladesh, and Megan Bouldin, deputy chief of mission at the US embassy, represented the American side.

A subsequent meeting on March 5 at the home ministry discussed logistical preparations to receive the deported Bangladeshis.

"The number of deported

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

Tap into youth potential for sustainable future

Says Yunus at ESCAP session



UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus has called for enhanced regional cooperation to tackle climate and urban challenges and urged nations to tap into their youth's potential and innovations to shape a sustainable future.

Speaking at the 81st session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) yesterday, Yunus highlighted Bangladesh's commitment to inclusive and climate-resilient urban development, emphasising the country's reform journey.

At the inaugural session, Nobel Laureate Prof Yunus addressed the participants through a video message.

He also highlighted his "Three Zeros" -- zero wealth concentration, zero unemployment and zero net carbon emissions.

The 81st session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6




সোনালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি

বিশ্বস্ত ও স্মার্ট

ATM ও Card সেবা সাময়িক বন্ধ সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সোনালী ব্যাংক পিএলসির **Payment System Upgradation** এর জন্য **২১ হতে ২৭ এপ্রিল ২০২৫** তারিখ পর্যন্ত ব্যাংকের **ATM, Debit/Credit Card, VISA, NPSB, Bangla QR Merchant** সহ কার্ড সংক্রান্ত সকল ধরনের লেনদেন বন্ধ থাকবে। সাময়িক এ অসুবিধার জন্য আমরা আন্তরিকভাবে দুঃখিত। তবে ব্যাংকের অন্যান্য স্বাভাবিক লেনদেন ও কার্যক্রম অব্যাহত থাকবে।



পণ্যের হালাল পরীক্ষণ সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিসএসটিআই

❖ এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বিশ্বব্যাপী বাংলাদেশী হালাল পণ্য প্রসার কার্যকর পদক্ষেপের অংশ হিসেবে বিএসটিআইতে হালাল পণ্য পরীক্ষণের জন্য অত্যধিক যত্নপাতি সম্বলিত একটি আন্তর্জাতিক মানের ন্যাশনাল হালাল ল্যাবরেটরি স্থাপন করা হয়েছে। এই ল্যাবরেটরিতে হালাল পণ্য নিশ্চিত করার নিমিত্ত Porcine Detection Via DNA Analysis, Alcohol Content (Ethanol and Methanol), Pesticide Residue (Aldrin and Dieldrin), Heavy Metals (Arsenic), Lead and Cadmium, Microbiological Parameter (Total Plate Count, Yeast and Mold Count, Total Coliform, Fecal Coliform, Escherichia Coli (E.coli) and Salmonella) ইত্যাদি প্যারামিটার পরীক্ষণের জন্য অত্যধিক যত্ন যেনে: Real Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR), Gas-Chromatograph (GC), Gas Chromatograph-Mass Spectrometer (GC-MS), Inductively Coupled Plasma-Optical Emission Spectrometer (ICP-OES) ব্যবহার করা হচ্ছে।

❖ পণ্যের বিশ্বস্ততার বিষয়ে ক্রেতা-ভোক্তার আস্থা বৃদ্ধি, মধ্যপ্রাচ্যসহ আন্তর্জাতিক বাজারে রপ্তানির সুযোগ বৃদ্ধি, পণ্যের মান ও নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিত করে ব্যবসায়িক প্রসার ও সুনাম বৃদ্ধিতে হালাল সদন অন্যতম গুরুত্বপূর্ণ নিয়ামক হিসেবে ভূমিকা পালন করে থাকে।

❖ বিএসটিআইতে স্থাপিত ন্যাশনাল হালাল ল্যাবরেটরি হতে পণ্য পরীক্ষণপূর্বক হালাল সার্টিফিকেট গ্রহণ করার জন্য পণ্য উৎপাদনকারী/রপ্তানিকারী/আমদানিকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে অনুরোধ করা হলো।

এস এম বেদৌস আলম
মহাপরিচালক (মড-১)