

‘Take action against those who incite hatred’

22 women professionals urge govt to stand firm on women’s rights reforms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-two female professionals have demanded that the government investigate and take appropriate legal action against those who incite hatred and issue threats against the Women’s Affairs Reform Commission.

In a joint statement issued yesterday, they said the state must publicly reaffirm that reforms regarding women’s rights issues will continue, even in the face of extremist threats.

They also emphasised the need for both social and legal action against derogatory remarks about women.

The statement said it is natural and expected for the Women’s Affairs Reform Commission to come up with women-friendly proposals.

“There is no reason to think that all proposals from the commission will be equally accepted by all. Debate and discussion on contested proposals are essential for the democratic development of Bangladesh,” it said.

“But we are observing that whenever it comes to establishing women’s rights, a group rises against it without any divine knowledge. Will they face difficulties if

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People gather in front of the BNP’s central office in Nayapaltan to take part in the party’s Labour Day rally on Thursday. Key BNP policymakers addressed the event where thousands joined from factories in Dhaka, Narayanganj, Gazipur, Narsingdi, Tangail, Manikganj, and Munshiganj.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Ensure safety and dignity for women workers

Seven organisations urge govt

RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Equality in wages, promotions, leave policies
- » Safe resting rooms, hygienic toilets, maternity benefits
- » Daycare centres at workplaces
- » Special cell under labour ministry
- » Safety, rights training for women migrants
- » Women support desks at all missions abroad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Marking International Labour Day, seven organisations working on women’s rights yesterday urged the government to ensure protection and dignity for women workers.

In a media release, the organisations stated that although women’s contribution to national economic development is recognised, they continue to face violence and discrimination in workplace environments.

They called for urgent and visible action from the government in this regard.

The organisations are Nari Unnayan Shakti, Young Women for Development Rights and Climate, Bangladeshi Ovhibashi Mohila Sramik Association, Forum for Culture and Human Development, Association of Voluntary Actions for Society, and Love Thy Neighbour.

They highlighted that both domestic and migrant women workers continue to face sexual harassment, insecurity, and labour discrimination on a regular basis,

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LABOUR RIGHTS Star journo wins DIFE’s best reporting award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mohammad Jamil Khan, head of the crime desk at The Daily Star, won the best reporting award in print media category in a competition held by the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments (DIFE) for his report on labour rights.

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus presented the award at an event held on Thursday at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Centre, marking the historic May Day and National Occupational Health and Safety Day 2025.

Jamil secured first place in the print media category, while Kutub Uddin Mohammad Jasim of The Business Standard and Munira Munni of The Financial Express won second and third places respectively.

The award was introduced by DIFE to recognise excellence in labour reporting.

Labour and Employment Secretary AHM Shafiquzzaman chaired the event, while Labour and Employment Adviser Brig Gen (ret’d) Dr M Sakawat Hussain, Labour Reform Commission Chairman

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Rain sparks fresh fear of dengue surge

Cases rise; preventive steps still lacking, say experts

HELEMUL ALAM

As the rainy season begins to set in, the risk of a surge in dengue cases is rising rapidly, with authorities yet to take adequate preventive measures across the country.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), 20 people have died from dengue so far this year, while 2,586 others have been hospitalised as of Friday morning.

Of the deaths, 10 occurred in January, three in February, and seven in April. In terms of hospitalisations, 1,161 cases were reported in January, 374 in February, 336 in March, 701 in April, and 39 till the second day of May.

The Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) has forecast rain or thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and temporary gusty winds in parts of Chattogram, Mymensingh, Sylhet, Rangpur, Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna, and Barishal divisions in the next 24 hours starting from 9:00am yesterday.

Entomologist Prof Kabirul Bashar of Jahangirnagar University expressed concern over the results of their ongoing surveys, noting a sharp rise in the Breteau Index (BI), a measure of Aedes mosquito density.

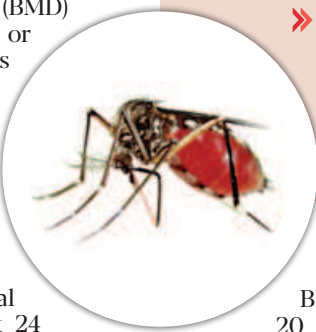
“This year, we’re already seeing BI values over 10 in April, compared to less than 10 on average last

DENGUE DEATHS and HOSPITALISATIONS 2025 (AS OF MAY 2)

Month	Deaths	Hospitalisations
Jan	10	1,161
Feb	3	374
Mar	0	336
Apr	7	701
May (2nd)	0	39
TOTAL	20	2,586

RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Nationwide mosquito control drives
- » Daily vector surveillance
- » Specialised dengue response unit
- » Public awareness through campaigns
- » Coordination among city corporations, health depts



year. If this trend continues, the BI could exceed 20 in June, which is alarming,” he said.

Prof Bashar emphasised the urgent need for the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives (LGRD) to issue directives to its departments to control the spread of Aedes mosquitoes.

“Breeding source management and larvae control should be the top priorities now. Both the authorities and city residents

must ensure there is no stagnant water in containers, construction sites, or other areas,” he added.

Entomologist GM Saifur Rahman echoed similar concerns, warning that continued rain and thunderstorms in the coming months will further heighten dengue risks.

“Comprehensive and timely interventions are critical. Unfortunately, we haven’t seen sufficient action yet,” he said.

Rahman urged the government to establish dedicated mosquito

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‘Govt didn’t have any journo fired’

Says CA’s press secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The government had no involvement in the dismissal of any journalists, said the Chief Adviser’s Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam yesterday.

Referring to the recent termination of three journalists, Shafiqul Alam said, “What is happening in the media is not driven by the government. The government hasn’t instructed anyone to fire or replace anyone.”

He added, “Over the past 15 years, journalists have said things which, in any other country, would have led to the shutdown of those media outlets after such a revolution. But the government didn’t do that.”

Speaking at the Chattogram Press Club, Shafiqul Alam said, “Thousands of people are speaking every day, even spreading falsehoods, yet the government has not shut down a single voice.”

He claimed that journalists in Bangladesh are currently enjoying the highest level of freedom of speech in the country’s history.

“Many speak irresponsibly; some even post fake news on Facebook. Still, we haven’t blocked a single account, though we had enough reason to do so. But we didn’t, because we believe in freedom of expression,” he said.

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Veggie prices go up in Dhaka markets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prices of most vegetables, except for potatoes, have increased by Tk 5 to Tk 10 per kilogramme over the past week in the capital’s kitchen markets.

A kilogramme of green papaya was sold at Tk 80 yesterday, up from Tk 70 a week earlier.

Eggplants, pointed gourds, spiny gourds, okra, bulbous roots, long beans, and ridge gourds were selling for Tk 70 to Tk 120 per kg, showing an increase of about Tk 10 per kg.

The price of tomatoes also rose by Tk 10 per kg within a week. Meanwhile, onion prices reached Tk 55 to Tk 60 per kg, up from Tk 40 to Tk 45 about a couple of weeks ago.

However, potato prices remained unchanged, with five to six kilogrammes being sold at Tk 100 in different kitchen markets yesterday.

Jamal Hossain, a vegetable seller at Karwan Bazar kitchen market, yesterday said prices of many vegetables have risen by Tk 5 to Tk 10 per kilogram compared to last week.

Irfan Hossain Nayeem, a private jobholder, visited the Ibrahimpur kitchen market in Kafrul yesterday to buy vegetables.

Speaking to this correspondent, Irfan said he could not find any vegetable item priced below Tk 80 per kg, except for potatoes and tomatoes.

“Even though the prices of vegetables were low during Ramadan and the entire winter season, they have increased now,” he added.

Nayeem said he had to buy fewer vegetables due to the high prices.

Mid Ismail Hossain, a vendor who sells vegetables from a rickshaw van in East Shewrapara, said prices have been increasing over the last seven to eight days.

He said he buys vegetables from the Mirpur-1 wholesale market and sells them at retail in Shewrapara.

“Now, as prices go up, many of my regular customers even try to bargain, as they are

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One killed, two injured in Banani road accident

STAR REPORT

A man was killed and two others were injured after a car hit a rickshaw van on the Airport Road in Dhaka’s Banani area around midnight yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Hanif, 45, a van passenger, confirmed Jane Alam, duty officer of Banani Police Station.

The incident took place near the Maasranga Television office around 12:30am, he said.

The injured were first taken to Kurmitola General Hospital and later transferred to the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (NITOR), the police officer said.

According to the duty officer, the car driver sped up after hitting the rickshaw van.

Following the accident, a Facebook user shared a video claiming that a black Toyota was responsible for hitting the three victims and fleeing the scene.

Police are investigating the incident to find out the reason behind the accident.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Guests at the inaugural ceremony of the BSRM School of Engineering at BRAC University’s Merul Badda campus on April 30.

Redefining engineering education

BRAC University, BSRM inaugurate BSRM School of Engineering

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BRAC University and the BSRM Group of Companies inaugurated the BSRM School of Engineering through a ceremony at the university’s Merul Badda campus on April 30, alongside its theme “Shaping Tomorrow: Innovation for Sustainability”, official logo, and website.

This first-of-a-kind collaboration between academia and industry is aimed at redefining engineering education in Bangladesh. The collaboration is set to embed innovation, ethics, and societal responsibility at its very core, preparing a new generation of engineers to build a future that is inclusive, sustainable, and humane.

Such academia-industry partnerships are

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