

Empower women thru skills, not just loans: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Significant strides have been made in women's empowerment through microcredit, but there is no room for complacency as much remains to be done, said speakers at an event yesterday.

They noted that many women do not personally control the loans taken out in their names, as husbands or other family members often manage the funds. This highlights the need for support beyond credit -- such as grants and community-based skills development.

Experts suggested exploring alternative funding sources -- including global climate funds, corporate social responsibility (CSR) budgets, and zakat -- to ease repayment burdens, especially for families vulnerable to climate change.

The discussion, titled "Climate Resilience and Women's Socio-Economic

Many women do not control the loans taken out in their names, as husbands or others often manage the funds. This highlights the need for support beyond credit like grants and skills development.

Empowerment and Inclusion," was organised by Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) and Prothom Alo, supported by Christian Aid, at Prothom Alo's office in Karwan Bazar, Dhaka.

Hossain Zillur Rahman, former adviser to a caretaker government and executive chairman of the Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC), said microcredit has empowered many women, but challenges remain.

Rahman proposed combining loans with grants for disadvantaged groups, funded through climate initiatives, CSR, and zakat. He also stressed community-level skills training.

Prof Mohammad Helal Uddin, executive vice chairman of Microcredit Regulatory Authority, shared survey findings from 68 women borrowers outside Dhaka. Only 11 used the loans themselves, while 17 said they would do so if given another chance.

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A woman from Narail, a blind man and his 11-year-old niece from Shariatpur, all of whom require urgent eye care, were turned away from the National Institute of Ophthalmology and Hospital in Dhaka yesterday, as all services remained suspended for the sixth consecutive day. Doctors and nurses began a work abstention citing security concerns following an alleged attack on hospital staffers by a group of injured July uprising victims -- who are being treated in the hospital -- and a tripartite clash involving some patients and their attendants on Wednesday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

HRSS MONTHLY REPORT

Attacks on journos, mob violence surge in May

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Attacks on journalists and incidents of mob violence increased in May compared to the previous month, while repression of women and children remained at an alarming level, according to the monthly report of Human Rights Support Society (HRSS).

In its report released yesterday, HRSS expressed concern over mob beatings, attacks on journalists, assaults on accused individuals inside court premises, and rising tensions

along the Bangladesh-India border, including reports of Indian Border Security Force personnel pushing people back into Bangladesh.

91 journos harassed, assaulted
26 incidents of mob violence
136 women, girls faced abuse
60 incidents of political violence
16 incidents of labour abuse

Based on its own findings and reports published by various media outlets, the

HRSS stated that at least 91 journalists were subjected to harassment, intimidation, or violence in 31 incidents in May -- significantly higher than April's figure of 38.

Of these, 33 journalists were physically assaulted, seven received threats, and three were arrested. Additionally, 48 journalists were accused in seven cases filed last month.

Mob violence also increased in May, with 26 incidents resulting in the deaths of 10 people and injuries to 25 others, according to the report.

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Prof Anowara gets bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to Prof SM Anowara Begum, a freedom fighter and retired political science teacher at Jagannath University (JnU), in an attempted murder case.

The case was filed over an attack on protesters during the anti-discrimination student movement on July 19 last year. According to the case, she is 69 years old.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Minhajur Rahman passed the order



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Ishraque's mayoral oath uncertain as DSCC term expires

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The tenure of the Dhaka South City Corporation council has officially ended, triggering fresh uncertainty over BNP leader Ishraque Hossain's potential swearing-in as mayor.

According to the Local Government (City Corporation) Act 2009, a mayor's five-year term begins from the date of the corporation's first general meeting. Based on that, the current DSCC council's term ended on Monday, marking five years since the inaugural session held on June 2, 2020, under the chairmanship of then-mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh.

Legal experts say this means Ishraque no longer has the legal grounds to be sworn in as mayor. However, Ishraque's legal counsel argues that until a new election is held, he is entitled to assume office and carry out mayoral duties.

Section 49(l) of the Act specifies that mayors and councillors serve a five-year term starting from the date of the first meeting of the corporation. Section 16 adds that if the mayor's position becomes vacant mid-term, a new mayor must be elected within 90 days, who would then serve the remainder of the original term.

Given the expiry of the DSCC's five-year term,

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Another major reshuffle in judiciary
Govt transfers, promotes 265 lower court judges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 265 lower court judges has been transferred and promoted as part of a reshuffle in the judiciary.

They include 30 district judges, 38 additional district judges, 35 joint district judges, and 162 senior assistant judges.

Among them, 13 senior assistant judges have been promoted to the posts of joint district judges.

The law ministry issued seven notifications to this effect yesterday.

It said the transfers and promotions of lower court judges were done in consultation with the Supreme Court.

On September 7 last year, the government had transferred and promoted as many as 244 lower court judges.

Low-lying areas flooded in Sylhet
Waterlogging, landslides in Ctg, Bandarban

STAR REPORT

Vast stretches of low-lying areas in Sylhet and Moulvibazar districts have been inundated as the Surma, Kushiara and Manu rivers are overflowing following torrential rains over the past few days.

Downpour has also disrupted livelihoods in Chattogram and Bandarban districts, causing waterlogging in urban areas and triggering landslides along hilly terrains.

In Sylhet's Zakiganj, the Kushiara swelled to 186 centimetres above the danger level in the Amolshid area due to onrush of upstream water from India's Assam, breaching embankments at several points and submerging vast areas across

multiple unions.

Parts of Kanaighat upazila were also submerged, with the Surma river flowing 89cm above the danger level in the Kanaighat area.



Zakiganj in Sylhet. PHOTO: COLLECTED

Along with low-lying areas, parts of Zakiganj and Kanaighat municipalities have also gone under water. Although the upazila

administrations have already prepared shelters, no one had moved in till yesterday afternoon.

Several low-lying areas and major roads in Moulvibazar's Barlekha, Kulaura, Sadar, Kamalganj and Juri upazilas were inundated, causing immense suffering to residents and commuters.

In Chattogram, 130mm of rainfall was recorded in 24 hours till yesterday morning, leading to waterlogging in several parts of the city. However, the water receded after the rain stopped later in the morning.

A man named Chsheinu Marma, 38, was injured in a landslide at Bazar Para in Thanchi upazila of Bandarban.

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ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED
395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area
Dhaka-1208

Ref.No. EDCL(KELP)/PUR/Fire Consultant/2025/209 Dated: 02.06.2025

APPOINTMENT OF AN EXPERT PROFESSIONAL FIRE CONSULTANT

Essential Drugs Company Limited, 100% share owned by the Government of the people's Republic of Bangladesh is interested to appoint an expert Fire Consultant for preparing Fire Safety Plan and Technical Specification, Design Drawing, BOQ, Tender Document & estimated cost etc for Fire Security System at KELP. Interested firms those Who are specialist (Enlisted from Fire Service Civil Defence) in this field having sufficient working back ground to prepare Fire safety Plan and design, Drawing, BOQ, Tender documents, cost estimation, work supervision etc (Details as per Tender Schedule)

Interested Consultancy firms are invited for submission of offer in two envelopes. The one envelope containing the all relevant papers (Company profile, Trade License, VAT Certificate, E-Tin certificate with current Income Tax payment confirmation certificate) reference completion certificate with Work Order of related project in last five years, Project in hand work orders (if any) and other related papers (if any) must be marked as the " TECHNICAL OFFER " The other envelope containing price offer (as per our tentative scope of works) must be marks as "FINANCIAL OFFER".

Interested firms may be requested to collect a schedule with scope of works from Procurement department of Essential Drugs Company Limited, Dhaka during office hours on all working days. (except Friday, Saturday and Govt. Holidays).

Interested firms may drop their competitive offer to the tender box kept in our Procurement department within 12.30PM at 26/06/2025.

A Pre-bid meeting will be held on 19.06.2025 to discuss different aspects of the propose Consultancy Services. EDCL authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

**General Manager (CC).
Procurement Deptt.
For: Managing Director**

(6" X 4)

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
অধিনায়কের কার্যালয়
র‍্যাপিড এ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন-৭
পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম
দরপত্র আহবান বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা ২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থ বৎসরে (জুলাই/২৫ হতে জুন/২৬ পর্যন্ত) চট্টগ্রামস্থ র‍্যাপিড এ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন-৭ এর ব্যবহারি বিভিন্ন মালামাল সরবরাহ/পরিবহন ভাড়া/পোষাক সেলাই এর নিমিত্তে পিপিআর-২০০৮ অনুযায়ী যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন এবং দেশের কোন আইন দ্বারা আযোগ্য নন এমন ব্যবসায়ী/ প্রকৃতকারী/ সরবরাহকারী/টিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে প্রতিযোগিতামূলক উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে :

১।	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	২।	সহায়
৩।	দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারী প্রধান	৪।	দরপত্র ক্রয়মানকৃত (ফেরত যোগ্য)
৫।	দরপত্রের বিষয়/কাজের নাম ও সিডিউলের মূল্য (অফেরত যোগ্য)	৬।	২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থ বৎসরে র‍্যাব এর বিভিন্ন কোডে বাজেট প্রাপ্তি সাপেক্ষে।
৭।	দরপত্রের সূত্র নং ও তারিখ	৮।	২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থ বৎসরে র‍্যাব এর বিভিন্ন কোডে বাজেট প্রাপ্তি সাপেক্ষে।
৯।	সিডিউল বিক্রির তারিখ ও সময়	১০।	০৩ জুন ২০২৫ তারিখ হতে ৩০ জুন ২০২৫ তারিখ (অফিস চলাকালীন সময়) পর্যন্ত।
১১।	দরপত্র জমা প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১২।	০৩ জুলাই ২০২৫ তারিখ ১২৩০ ঘটিকায় দরপত্র দাতা বা মনোনীত প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতাদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন)।
১৩।	দরপত্র প্রাপ্তি/দাখলের স্থান	১৪।	০৩ জুলাই ২০২৫ তারিখ ১২৩০ ঘটিকায় দরপত্র দাতা বা মনোনীত প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতাদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন)।
১৫।	দরপত্র দাখলের শর্ত	১৬।	০৩ জুলাই ২০২৫ তারিখ ১২৩০ ঘটিকায় দরপত্র দাতা বা মনোনীত প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতাদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন)।
১৭।	দরপত্র নাতার যোগ্যতা	১৮।	০৩ জুলাই ২০২৫ তারিখ ১২৩০ ঘটিকায় দরপত্র দাতা বা মনোনীত প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতাদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন)।
১৯।	বিশেষ নির্দেশাবলী	২০।	০৩ জুলাই ২০২৫ তারিখ ১২৩০ ঘটিকায় দরপত্র দাতা বা মনোনীত প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতাদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন)।

মোঃ হাফিজুর রহমান, পিএসপি
সে. কর্মকর্তা
পরিচালক
র‍্যাব-৭, পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম

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