

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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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, Kusiyara 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 Kusiyara 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

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

Several low-lying areas and major roads in Moulvibazar's Barlekhia, 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

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, SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

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.

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 SEE PAGE 8 COL 6

 গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার অধিনায়কের কার্যালয় র্যাপিড একাশন ব্যাটালিয়ন-৭ পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম দরপত্র আহবান বিজ্ঞপ্তি	
<p>এতদ্বারা ২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থ বৎসরে (জুন/২৫ হতে জুন/২৬ পর্যন্ত) চট্টগ্রাম র্যাপিড একাশন ব্যাটালিয়ন-৭ এর স্বার্যর্থ বিভিন্ন মালামাল সরবরাহ/পরিবহন ভাড়া/পোর্টেজ সেলাই এবং নিম্নতে নিপিলাই-২০০৮ অনুযায়ী যোগায়োগ সম্পর্ক এবং দেশের কেন্দ্র আয়োগ নন এবং বাবসাহী/প্রচৰকারী/সরবরাহকারী/চিকিৎসাকারী প্রতিটাকে নিম্ন দূরত শীর্ষেরেখের খামে প্রতিযোগীভাবে উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।</p>	
১। মুগ্ধলায়/বিড়াল	১। দুর্বল মুগ্ধলায় (পুলিশ বিড়াল)।
২। সংহা	২। র্যাপিড একাশন ব্যাটালিয়ন (স্যার)।
৩। দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারী প্রধান	৩। অধিনায়ক, স্যার-৭, পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম।
৪। দরপত্র জামানত (ফ্রেন্ট যোগ)	৪। ক। ৩২৫১১৬-পদার্থ ভাড়া ও পরিবহন ভাড়া - ১,০০,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা। খ। ৩২৫১১০-চিকিৎসা ও পুরো স্বাস্থ্য সরবরাহ-৮০,০০০/- (সাত হাজার) টাকা। গ। ৩২৫১১০-চিকিৎসা সরবরাহ-৬০,০০০/- (সাত হাজার) টাকা। ঘ। ৩২৫১০১০-কলিপ্টার সামাজী সরবরাহ-২০,০০০/- (বিশ হাজার) টাকা। ঙ। ৩২৫১০১০-অন্যান্য মনিহার সরবরাহ-৯০,০০০/- (নবাই হাজার) টাকা। চ। ৩২৫১০১০-মেট্রিয়াল স্বচ্ছ চুচ্ছা স্বাস্থ্য সরবরাহ-২,২০,০০০/- (সুই লক বিশ হাজার) টাকা। ছ। ৩২৫১০১০-চিকিৎসা সেলাই-১০,০০০/- (চিকিৎসা নিম্নের দ্বারা)। জ। ৩২৫১০১০-মোরিয়াল সেলাই-৭,০০০/- (সুতের হাজার) টাকা। ঘ। ৩২৫১০১০-কলিপ্টার মেরামত-১২,০০০/- (বার হাজার) টাকা। ঙ। ৩২৫১০১০-অন্যান্য মনিহার সরবরাহ-২২,০০০/- (বার হাজার) টাকা। চ। ৩২৫১০১০-জলয়াল মেরামত-২২,০০০/- (বার হাজার) টাকা। ঘ। ৪১১২১০-কলিপ্টার সরবরাহ-৬৬,০০০/- (চেয়েটি হাজার) টাকা। ঞ। ৪১১২১০-অস্বাস্থাপ্রদ সরবরাহ-৬৬,০০০/- (চেয়েটি হাজার) টাকা।
৫। দরপত্রের বিষয়/কাজের নাম ও সিডিউলের মূল্য (ঝর্ফের যোগ)	৫। ক। ৩২১১০৬-খাতে পদার্থ ভাড়া ও পরিবহন ভাড়া-৭৫০/- (সাতশত পদার্থ) টাকা। খ। ৩২১১০৬-চিকিৎসা ও পুরো স্বাস্থ্য সরবরাহ-৭৫০/- (সাতশত পদার্থ) টাকা। গ। ৩২১১০৬-চিকিৎসা সরবরাহ-৭৫০/- (সাতশত পদার্থ) টাকা। ঘ। ৩২১১০৬-চিকিৎসা সরবরাহ-৭৫০/- (সাতশত পদার্থ) টাকা। ঞ। ৩২১১০৬-চিকিৎসা সরবরাহ-৭৫০/- (সাতশত পদার্থ) টাকা। চ। ৩২১১০৬-চিকিৎসা সরবরাহ-৭৫০/- (সাতশত পদার্থ) টাকা। ঘ। ৩২১১০৬-চিকিৎসা সরবরাহ-৭৫০/- (সাতশত পদার্থ) টাকা। ঞ। ৩২১১০৬-চিকিৎসা সরবরাহ-৭৫০/- (সাতশত পদার্থ) টাক