

Revised stent

allowed time before enforcing the new prices. Since the price cuts have been widely reported in the media, hospitals are facing pressure from patients to provide stents at the revised rates, he said. Therefore, the ministry has decided to implement the revised cost from October 1, he added. The expert committee is reviewing prices of other companies, but further reductions are expected to be smaller as the US companies' prices were the highest. Asked why prices remain higher in Bangladesh than in India despite the revision, Naveem Golder, another DGDA director, said India's larger demand and more competitive market - supported by eight local manufacturers - help lower prices.

Aviation stakeholders

FROM PAGE 4 chairman of TAS Aviation Services. He urged the government to consult with industry stakeholders before making any amendments, dismissing the perception that GSAs drive up ticket prices. "GSAs focus solely on airline promotion and marketing. Ticket sales and pricing are controlled entirely by the airlines," he added. Currently, GSA operations employ over 5,000 people directly, with another 15,000 indirectly dependent on the sector. Forum leaders warned that removing the GSA clause could lead to widespread job losses, as foreign airlines would likely appoint only a small number of local staff. Citing past experiences,

they noted that when foreign carriers such as Emirates, Qatar Airways, Saudia, Thai Airways, and Air India operated in Bangladesh without GSAs, the market saw allegations of corruption, mismanagement, and long ticket queues - especially affecting Bangladeshi expatriates. "The situation improved dramatically after GSAs became mandatory," Hoque said.

PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 13. Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha. AZAN 4-25 12-45 4-45 6-41 8-00. JAMAAT 5-00 1-15 5-00 6-44 8-30. SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Expedite

FROM PAGE 3 Mansur passed the order after SP Nazer appeared in compliance with its summons. The bench exempted him from future appearances, as his office had complied with the HC's directive, said Deputy Attorney General Mohammed Shafiqur Rahman. On July 22, the HC summoned the SP for failing to properly submit a compliance report on ensuring the victim's safety, during hearing of a writ petition filed by lawyer Mir AKM Nurun Naby. On June 29, the HC ordered the SP to ensure the victim's security and directed BTRC to remove all related photos, videos, and audio from social media within 24 hours.

45,000 polling centres, 2.8 lakh booths likely

FROM PAGE 1 A meeting on August 6 discussed preparations for forming a panel of polling officials and supervising their training. The minutes of the meeting, chaired by Election Commissioner Tahmida Ahmed, were issued by the EC Secretariat yesterday. Tahmida is the head of the committee on preparing the panel of polling officials and supervising their training for the 13th general election. A total of 8,86,790 polling officials will be required, according to the

EC's letter. Following the 2025 voter list update, the number of potential voters for the 13th election may reach 127,873,752, according to the letter. In the 12th general election, there were 119,689,289 voters, 42,148 polling centres, and 261,564 polling booths. The Electoral Training Institute in Dhaka will organise training for divisional commissioners, police commissioners, deputy inspectors general (DIGs), deputy commissioners, superintendents of police, returning officers,

magistrates, and other relevant administrative and law enforcement officials as well as executive and judicial magistrates and election officials before and after the announcement of the election schedule. Core and trainer training (ToT) programmes are usually launched three to three-and-a-half months before the schedule announcement. This time, the EC intends to begin the trainer training programme in September. A total of 3,600 officials will receive training under this programme. Regarding the election

preparation, EC Secretary Akhtar Ahmed said that as part of the trainer training programme, a small-scale session has been initiated for EC Secretariat officials. The required number of ToT sessions will then be completed in phases. Meanwhile, on August 7, Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin said the EC was preparing to announce the schedule in December so that the polls can be held in February next year as announced by Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus.

Reserve 150 seat

FROM PAGE 3 reserved seats, democratic practice will be further strengthened, and women's political participation will become broader and more meaningful," it added. The committee urged all political parties to reconsider the consensus commission's decision to keep 50 reserved seats through nomination until 2043. It also called on political leaders and the public to speak up for women's political empowerment, with the goal of building a democratic and equality-based state. Speaking on behalf of the committee, Dr

Fauzia Moslem, president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, said, "We hope, this time, the consensus commission will sit with representatives from the women's rights movement." "Political parties must play the most important role in the political empowerment of women. If they do not nominate women, it will be difficult to ensure women's political empowerment," she said. We want 150 reserved seats for two terms, and they must be filled through direct elections. Women are progressing in every field, but without these rights, true empowerment cannot be achieved," she added.

Consensus

FROM PAGE 3 Professor Ali Riaz, head of the Constitution Reform Commission, serves as the commission's vice president. Members of the other reform commissions are Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury, head of the Public Administration Reform Commission; Safar Raj Hossain, head of the Police Reform Commission; Badiul Alam Majumdar, head of the Election Reform Commission; Justice Emdadul Haque, head

of the Judicial Reform Commission; and Iftekharuzzaman, head of the Anti-Corruption Commission Reform Commission. The Commission is now preparing the final draft of the July Charter, reflecting the consensus reached during two phases of its talks with political parties. It has also resumed its third phase of talks to implement the charter. The law ministry is providing secretarial support to the commission.

'We will sleep in the car'

FROM PAGE 3 journey, I went to bed early and the next morning tried to contact him again. I still saw the car in the hospital basement on the GPS tracker," the car owner said. He later collected the phone numbers of Mizan. But Mizan could not be reached either. Dhaka Medical College morgue sources said viscera samples were collected from the bodies, and the report will determine the cause of death. Additional Deputy

Commissioner of Ramna Zone Mir Asaduzzaman said the investigation is underway, while Ramna Division Deputy Commissioner Masud Alam added that CCTV footage and other evidence are being collected. Meanwhile, Zakir's father, Md Abu Taher, said, "My son had no quarrel with anyone... I don't know who killed him." He added that there had been some disputes with a broker over sending his son abroad a few years ago.

Academic activities

FROM PAGE 3 span six years, including a one-year internship. They have long sought a law and council to match the structure and status of their education. Jubair Islam Mission, a fourth-year student, said the draft act has some controversial provisions, like allowing any UGC-approved university, including private ones, to confer their degrees, unlike MBBS and BDS degrees, which only public universities can award. He warned this could lead to fake doctors and "certificate business." He also said the draft is unclear on whether graduates can use the title "Doctor." Prof Rubina Yasmin, additional director general (medical education) at the DGME, said the students' demands are acknowledged, but enacting a law takes time. "They have halted academic activities and even the admission process. We have nothing to do now... They will have to face the consequences," she said.

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