

## New govt pay scale to be finalised soon Says NPC chairman

UNB, Dhaka

The new pay scale will be finalised ahead of the scheduled six-month timeframe, said National Pay Commission Chairman Zakir Ahmed Khan yesterday.

Zakir Ahmed, also former finance secretary and chairman of the Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), informed this to Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus during a meeting with a National Pay Commission (NPC) delegation at the state guest house Jamuna.

He said although inflation and GDP have risen significantly over the last decade, salaries have not increased proportionately.

The commission is not only working on timely salary revisions but also preparing a separate salary structure for specialised jobs. This includes structures that take into account income tax payments,

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People from all walks of life paid their last respects to Farida Parveen by placing wreaths on her coffin at the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka yesterday. The 'Queen of Lalon Geeti' passed away on Saturday at the age of 70, leaving behind a legacy that transcends generations and is deeply rooted in the rich soil of Bangladeshi folk music. Her body reached Kushtia around 8:30pm and she was laid to rest in her parents' grave at the municipal graveyard following a namaz-e-janaza after the Esha prayers.

PHOTO: STAR

## TYPHOID VACCINE 90 lakh children registered so far

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 90 lakh children have so far been registered as the government prepares to launch its first-ever typhoid vaccination campaign on October 12.

The health authorities have set a target of bringing 4.9 crore children aged between nine months and 15 years under the Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI).

Online registration for the vaccine began on August 1. To register, one must visit <https://vaxepi.gov.bd> and provide the 17-digit birth registration number. The registration for vaccination is currently ongoing.

The guardians need to have their children registered for the vaccine.

After registration, a digital vaccination card will be issued, which has to be presented at the designated centre to receive the vaccine.

Children without a birth registration certificate can be registered directly at vaccination centres.

According to officials, the campaign will be conducted in all educational institutions during the first 10 working days from October 12, followed by the next eight working days

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## Children left alone at home vulnerable offline, online

Speakers urge stronger steps to protect children of working parents from harm

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday called for stronger government and private sector initiatives to protect children left at home by their working parents from harm in both the physical world and cyberspace.

They said while such children are vulnerable to various forms of physical violence, they are also highly at risk online due to lack of knowledge, especially during the daytime in the absence of their parents.

Terre des Hommes Netherlands, with support from Breaking the Silence (BTS) and Village Education Resource Centre, organised the discussion at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

At the event, Terre des Hommes Country Manager in Bangladesh Nazrul Islam said although the government has enacted several laws and undertaken various policies, child protection is still "largely neglected" in the country.

He stressed that stakeholders must come forward and demonstrate responsibility to improve the situation, since legislation alone is not sufficient.

Zahidul Islam, director (programme and planning) at Breaking the Silence, said many RMG factories have daycare facilities but those are inadequate compared to the number of

working parents.

"This inadequacy could harm the parents' dedication in providing quality service and subsequently impact the sector negatively," said Zahidul, who moderated the discussion.

INCIDIN Bangladesh Executive Director AKM Masud Ali said there are parents who leave their

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Strengthen child protection mechanisms
- Ensure sufficient daycare facilities in RMG factories
- Involve trade unions, civic groups, industries in protection efforts
- Raise awareness among parents, children
- Provide counselling for child victims of virtual harm
- Make effective use of "109" helpline

children back home in rural areas for months while they seek fortune in cities like Dhaka. Strengthening protection mechanisms for such left-behind children is also crucial, he said.

A tripartite initiative involving government infrastructures, the economic strength of the industry sector, and civic platforms

could provide sustainability to child protection mechanisms in Bangladesh, he added, emphasising the need to involve trade union groups in the process.

SM Taifur Rahman, deputy director at Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, said just like the physical world, children should also be made aware of keeping distance from unknown individuals in cyberspace.

"Virtual harm could be as severe as physical harm," he said, stressing the need for generating awareness among parents about online safety and ensuring counselling and motivation for victims.

Roisul Islam, project manager at the Multisectoral Programme of the Women and Children Affairs Ministry, said they receive about 6,000 phone calls on average per day on the "109" helpline service, mostly concerning domestic violence, sexual harassment, and violence against children.

He said officials document the complaints and take action based on the merit of the problems by involving local administration until those are resolved.

Abdul Hamid Mia, director (administration and finance) at the Department of Social Services, and Roksana Sultana, general secretary of Breaking the Silence, also spoke at the discussion.

## Covid vaccine 'Bangavax' gets US patent

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's Globe Biotech Limited has received a US patent for its Covid-19 vaccine, Bangavax, officials of the company said yesterday.

This is the first US patent obtained in Bangladesh's pharmaceutical sector, they said at a press conference at the company's office in Dhaka's Tejgaon industrial area.

Kakon Nag, chief executive officer of Globe Biotech Ltd, disclosed the information at the press conference.

In a press release, the company said Globe Biotech Ltd, a subsidiary of Globe Pharmaceutical Group of Companies Limited, began research during the pandemic on the development of Covid-19 detection kits, vaccines and medicines to meet national needs, under the overall supervision of Dr Kakon Nag and Dr Nazneen Sultana.

The Covid-19 mRNA vaccine developed through this research received approval for clinical trials from the Bangladesh Medical Research Council and the Directorate General of Drug Administration.

The World Health Organization included the mRNA vaccine developed

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## JU HALL UNION 34 elected JCD candidates undecided on taking office

JU CORRESPONDENT

Despite boycotting the Jahangirnagar University Central Students' Union (Jucusu) election, the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD)-backed panel secured 34 posts across 21 hall union councils.

Each hall council has 15 posts, making a total of 315 positions. JCD fielded partial panels in 11 male halls but none in the 10 female halls.

The panel won the highest number of seats, 10, at Bishwakabi Rabindranath Tagore Hall, including the vice-president, general secretary, and assistant general secretary posts.

It also secured eight posts in Shaheed Salam Barkat Hall, four each in Maulana Bhashani Hall and Male Hall No. 21, two each in Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam Hall, Tajuddin Ahmad Hall and Male Hall No. 10, and one each in Kamal Uddin Hall and Shaheed Rafik Jabbar Hall.

Jahir Uddin Mohammad Babor, convener of JCD's JU unit, told The Daily Star, "Even after boycotting the election midway, JCD candidates won a good number of posts in the hall unions. We will consult our central committee to decide whether our candidates will take office. Their decision will be final."

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## CU gears up for student union polls after 35yrs

SM MAHFUJ AHMED

Chittagong University is abuzz with excitement as student organisations are preparing for the long-awaited Chittagong University Central Students' Union (Cucusu) and hall union elections scheduled for October 12.

The campus has taken on a festive look as nomination form distribution started yesterday.

The disused student union building is being renovated as organisations negotiate alliances and campaign activities gain momentum.

Alongside several platforms, including July uprising leaders, a number of independents are also contesting.

Many among the electorate -- with 27,634 eligible voters -- say they want candidates to safeguard the rights of general students rather than serve partisan interests.

Journalism student Roxy said candidates must truly serve students' interests, adding, "I will vote for whoever proves most sincere."

The likely modes of participation this year include single-party panels, independent panels, coalition panels, and individuals.

Independent and coalition slates are attracting the most attention, as both unaffiliated students and organisations are in talks to field joint panels.

The CU unit of Chhatra Odhikar Parishad has already announced it will run independently under the panel name "Cucusu for Rapid Change".

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**সরকারি  
সব শিক্ষা উপবৃত্তির টাকা  
সহজেই নিন  
বকেট-এ**

নিরাপদে নিশ্চিত্তে ঘরে বসে উপবৃত্তির টাকা  
পাওয়ার জন্য আজই নিজ নিজ শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানে  
আপনার **বকেট** নাম্বারটি নিবন্ধন করুন।

