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Our dream is to produce capable cadets. We want female leadership and women's empowerment. Fifty percent of this country is women; excluding them while planning development would be wrong. That's why women must be trained and empowered with proper skills.

WAKER-UZ-ZAMAN
Chief of Army Staff General at the opening session of a three-day first reunion of former cadets at Joypurhat Girls' Cadet College

‘Reinstate 170 workers’

Bangladesh High Commission in Malaysia writes to Mediceram

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh High Commission in Malaysia has formally written to Mediceram, requesting the company to reinstate more than 170 migrants dismissed on October 31 and to thoroughly review the workers' allegations.

The high commission made the statement on its Facebook page yesterday, two days after Ansell Limited – the Australia-based buying company – announced it had suspended its relationship with Mediceram, a small Malaysian supplier of ceramic formers.

Mediceram terminated 177 Bangladeshi workers on October 31 after they protested the non-renewal of work visas for more than 90 migrants.

In early November, Malaysian authorities deported 16 of the workers after Mediceram allegedly forced them to the airport.

Upon returning home, the workers formed human chains in Dhaka and Cumilla and submitted a letter to Expatriates' Welfare Adviser Prof Asif Nazrul, seeking justice over the forced deportation.

Each migrant had spent between Tk 4,50,000 and Tk 6,00,000 to migrate to Malaysia. Many received irregular and low wages, and several had their work permits left unrenewed.

The high commission said it contacted the company's chairman and the workers after receiving the termination notices, offering cooperation to resolve the issue peacefully. It held several rounds of discussions with both sides.

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Fishermen mend their nets inside the Sundarbans. After obtaining permits from the Forest Department, they live in temporary shelters in Dublar Char for six months to catch fish and earn their livelihood. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

The Jurain area under DSCC has long been facing a myriad of issues – from dilapidated roads and alleyways to persistent waterlogging and a high rate of dengue infections – while authorities concerned turn a blind eye to the problems.

Jurain turns into dengue hotspot

Waterlogging, poor drainage worsen outbreak

HELEMUL ALAM

Eleven-year-old Mrinmoyee Hridita of Jurain recently recovered from dengue after week-long treatment at a city hospital. Her family considers it a stroke of luck, as this was her third dengue infection in two years.

"We took her to Dhaka Community Hospital when her condition began to deteriorate after three days of fever. She stayed there for seven days," said her father, Mizanur Rahman.

At least 326 dengue patients have died as of yesterday, while 82,606 others have been hospitalised across the country this year. Of them, 156 deaths and 11,894 cases are from DSCC areas.

"My daughter has been infected with dengue a total of six times between 2018 and 2025, including twice in 2024 alone. This time her life was in danger. In 2023, she suffered from both dengue and typhoid," said Mizan, a resident of Purba Jurain.

He said all five members of their family have suffered multiple infections of dengue, chikungunya, and other mosquito-borne diseases in recent years.

"There are no clear statistics on dengue cases in Jurain this year. People are afraid to speak. However, I have been informed by hospitals and pharmacies that the situation is worse," he said.

Mizan pointed to Purba Jurain Government Primary

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TITAS GAS KHAL ROAD IN PURBA JURAIN

Battered road turns commute a daily hassle

HELEMUL ALAM

Residents of Dhaka's Purba Jurain continue to suffer as the Titas Gas Khal Road remains in a battered state, forcing many to walk instead of taking rickshaws.

Last Monday, Josna Begum, who

Grocery shop owner Abdur Rahman said the road has been in a dilapidated condition for the past five years.

"Recently, two women were seriously injured when their rickshaw overturned. Such incidents regularly happen as the damaged road gives



lives in the Mistir Dokan area, was seen carefully making her way along the damaged road. "It is better to walk than to take a rickshaw on this damaged road. I have a spinal injury, the jerks cause unbearable pain," she said.

way to numerous potholes. Apart from battery-run rickshaws, no other vehicles even enter the area due to the road's present condition," he said.

Echoing him, resident Mohammad Sumon said waterlogging persists for

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A girl moves cautiously along a road in Dhaka's Purba Jurain area. Despite repeated complaints by residents, many roads there remain in a dilapidated condition.

PHOTO: STAR

Ahead of ICT verdict, Hasina denies all accountability

The deposed PM talks to BBC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina has denied committing crimes against humanity during the July 2024 deadly crackdown, days before the International Crimes Tribunal-1 delivers its verdict in a major case against her and two top aides on November 17.

In her first BBC interview since fleeing Bangladesh on August 5 last year, Hasina dismissed the trial in absentia as a "farce" run by a "kangaroo court" controlled by political rivals. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty.

Hasina stands accused of orchestrating hundreds of killings – 1,400 deaths according to UN estimates – during mass protests against her autocratic rule. She is also accused of personally ordering security forces to fire on protesters in the weeks before she fled.

In an email to the BBC, she said she "categorically" denied the allegations. "I'm not denying that the situation got out of control, nor that many lives were lost needlessly. But I never issued any order to fire on unarmed civilians," she said.

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Murder case filed over killing of judge's son

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A case was filed yesterday in connection with the attack on the residence of a judge that left his son dead and his wife injured in Rajshahi.

Rajshahi Metropolitan and Sessions Judge Mohammad Abdur Rahman filed the case with Rajpara Police Station, naming Limon Miah, 35, of Bhabiganj in Gaibandha, as the sole accused.

On Thursday, the judge's son, Tawshif Rahman Sumon, 16, was killed and his wife, Tasmin Nahar Lusi, 44, was injured in the attack.

According to the case statement, Judge Abdur Rahman left his flat around 8:45am on Thursday to attend court.

"While doing my office work around 3:42pm, my gunman and driver informed me that my

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DU teacher sent to jail over sexual harassment

DU CORRESPONDENT

Police have detained Prof Ershad Halim of Dhaka University's Chemistry Department following multiple allegations of sexual harassment made by male students.

He was produced before a court yesterday morning.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Mahbub Alam sent him to jail, said a sub-inspector working at the court.

Halim was detained from his Shewrapara residence around 11:00pm on Thursday, said Mirpur Model Police Station Officer-in-Charge Sajjad Rumon.

"He was arrested after a student filed a case accusing him of sexually harassing male students," said the OC.

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‘Disability inclusion must move beyond box-ticking’

Says ILO specialist in interview with Star

NILIMA JAHAN

Bangladesh has made notable legal progress for persons with disabilities, ratifying the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and adopting strong domestic laws and action plans.

However, implementation remains weak, particularly for women with disabilities. They experience higher illiteracy, limited education, and very low participation in vocational training (0.13%) and formal employment (3.13%).

Their overall labour force participation is just 11.34%, with 93% excluded from employment versus 59% of men, according to National Survey of Persons with Disabilities 2021.



In this regard, Jürgen Menze, disability inclusion specialist at the ILO, shared his insights in an interview with The Daily Star.

Menze coordinates the ILO Global Business and Disability Network, which links more than 40 multinational

Laws are good on paper, but what's happening with implementation? Everybody has to push. We have to hold the government accountable for what they ratified.

Jürgen Menze

enterprises and national networks to promote employment for persons with disabilities in the private sector.

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