



Take steps to cultivate reading habits PM directs authorities

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday directed authorities to take initiatives to cultivate reading habits among students nationwide.

The directive came at a meeting at the Secretariat with Bishwo Shahitto Kendro and ministers of education, primary and mass education, and cultural affairs. It was decided that the government would work jointly with the organisation to expand reading programmes across the country.

The meeting, attended by Bishwo Shahitto Kendro

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DMP to install 11,000 CCTV cameras Mohammadpur alone to get 700

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police is planning to install around 11,000 CCTV cameras across the capital, including about 700 in Mohammadpur, to strengthen surveillance and curb crime.

The initiative will also introduce data-driven policing and expand digital services to improve



monitoring and help identify suspects more quickly, said DMP Acting Commissioner Md Sarwar while inaugurating the Basila Police Outpost in Mohammadpur.

An "Open House Day" was held on the occasion, where residents raised concerns and shared suggestions with police.

Sarwar said there is a plan to set up a new police station in Basila within the next year. Residents and businesses will also be encouraged to install cameras at homes, shops and institutions to support investigations.

Police are introducing an app-based system to store information on hotel and restaurant owners, managers and tenants.

He said coordinated drives are underway to

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Victims' families and labour leaders from several organisations light candles at a memorial in front of Rana Plaza yesterday to commemorate those killed in the 2013 tragedy.

PHOTO: AKLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH

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2013 RANA PLAZA TRAGEDY

Survivors still battling for survival

Lack of compensation, rehabilitation worsens their plight; rights groups slam govt, factory owners

AKLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH

Even 13 years after the Rana Plaza collapse, injured workers are living in inhumane conditions due to a lack of compensation, rehabilitation, and proper medical treatment.

On April 24, 2013, the 10-storey Rana Plaza building collapsed, killing 1,136 workers and injuring over 2,000.

More than a decade on, families of the deceased and those injured continue to suffer, as many have not received adequate compensation. At the same time, those responsible for the collapse have yet to be properly punished.

“Due to a lack of money, I cannot buy necessary medicine. I have not received any compensation. I do not even dream of living anymore. If I had received compensation, my life might have been different.”

Taslima, 55
A survivor

Nilufa Yasmin, a sewing operator on the seventh floor, survived but was left seriously injured and unable to return to work.

“I have not been able to return to my normal life after suffering spinal and head injuries. I have received only a nominal grant. None of our demands has been met,” she told The Daily Star.

“My husband, a daily wage labourer, is now also ill and unable to work. We are a family of six. I have taken loans to support my children's education. If the government provides jobs for my son and daughter, I will not ask for anything more.”

Masuda, 31, who also worked on the seventh floor, sustained severe injuries to her spine, head, and legs.

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13 years on, justice yet to be served

Failure to produce witnesses delaying proceedings



EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

Thirteen years after the collapse of Rana Plaza, justice remains elusive as trials in two cases continue to stall due to the prosecution's failure to produce witnesses.

At least 1,136 people, mostly garment workers, were killed and over 2,500 were injured when the nine-storey building collapsed in Savar on April 24, 2013 – the deadliest garment sector disaster in history.

Court records show that 145 of 594 witnesses have testified so far in the murder case against 41 accused, including building owner Sohel Rana, since the trial began in 2016.

However, proceedings in a separate case over building code violations have yet to begin.

On March 30 this year, the Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court-8 of Dhaka issued non-bailable warrants against 50 witnesses and set April 30 for recording statements.

The court also expressed dissatisfaction over the prosecution's repeated failure to produce witnesses

despite multiple summonses and warrants issued over a long time. It questioned why these orders were not executed and why the police failed to submit reports.

“Due to the absence of important witnesses, the trial is being prolonged, and justice is also being delayed,” the court said, directing police to ensure the witnesses' presence on the next date.

“If the police authorities fail to produce the witnesses on the scheduled date and the case remains unproven as a result, the responsibility shall lie with the police department,” the court warned.

According to the prosecution, till September 28 last year, 96 witnesses testified before the Dhaka District and Sessions Judge's Court after it framed charges against the 41 accused in the murder case on July 18, 2016.

The case was later transferred to Court-8, which has since recorded statements of 49 more witnesses after receiving the case records on October 12 last year.

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Govt eyes scaling up of childcare, support services

Minister says move aims to boost women's workforce participation, create jobs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government plans to expand childcare and caregiving services across the country to support working families, address the needs of vulnerable groups, and create new employment opportunities, said Abu Zafar Md Zahid Hossain, minister for women and children affairs and social welfare.

He made the announcement yesterday at the National Care Conclave 2026, jointly organised by ILO, UN Women, and the Asian Development Bank, in coordination with the Ministries of Women and Children Affairs, Labour and Employment, and Social Welfare, at a city hotel.

The minister said daycare centres are already operating within ministry premises and in different parts of Dhaka with funding from both development and revenue budgets, and the government now plans to scale up these services.

“Very soon, we will expand beyond Dhaka to divisional headquarters and gradually to most districts,” he said.

“Within 180 days, we aim to cover some divisional headquarters and Dhaka, including facilities in hospitals and other institutions, to ensure accessible childcare for working parents.”

He added that the government is also working to strengthen support systems for persons with disabilities and the elderly.

No more duty-free car facility for MPs Draft of amended act gets cabinet nod

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to end the duty-free car facility for members of parliament, as part of efforts to cut costs and review privileges amid current economic conditions.

The decision was taken at the cabinet meeting held last night, which was chaired by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman.

The draft of the Members of Parliament (Remuneration and Allowances) (Amendment) Act, 2026, was given final approval at the meeting to abolish the existing duty-free car benefit for MPs.

The remuneration and allowances of MPs are

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‘Exposing children to measles outbreak a rights violation’ MJF urges immediate, coordinated action

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Manusher Jonno Foundation has expressed deep concern over the ongoing measles outbreak, calling it a serious public health crisis and urging immediate, coordinated action.

In a statement issued yesterday, the organisation said the outbreak poses a direct threat to children's rights to health and life.

Citing the Directorate General of Health Services, MJF said 28,334 suspected measles cases have been reported since March 15, of which 4,059 were confirmed.

Stressing the severity of the situation, it added that 39 deaths from confirmed measles and 194 from suspected measles were reported during the same period.

While noting that a nationwide vaccination campaign targeting around 1.8 crore children aged between six months and under five years began on April 20, MJF expressed concern over shortages of testing kits and a prolonged suspension in vaccine imports.

The organisation also referred to the prime

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2026

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২৯ এপ্রিল - ২ মে

ইন্টারন্যাশনাল কনভেনশন সিটি
বসুন্ধরা (আইসিসিবি)

ACROSS

- A general term for an individual item of clothing.
- The primary method used to create sweaters, socks, or T-shirts.
- Another formal word for clothing or attire.
- Substances used in factories for washing, bleaching, or processing.
- Items like zippers, buttons, and labels used to finish a garment.
- Cloth produced by weaving or knitting textile fibers together.
- Bangladesh is one of the world's leading exporters of this material.
- The process of adding color to hair, yarn, or finished fabric.

DOWN

- The nation where you are currently located.
- Durable trousers, often made of denim, worn worldwide.
- The specific machines used for weaving thread into cloth.
- The mechanical equipment required to keep a factory running.

ANSWER



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