



With the mercury continuing to rise, Saddam, one of the resident tigers at Mirpur zoo, decides to take a dip in the waters of his enclosure yesterday afternoon. Being almost submerged, he kept on scanning the many onlookers who visited the spot. These big felines are a huge attraction for visitors, as their majestic presence puts many in awe.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## No plan to raise age limit Says state minister on entering govt service

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Public Administration, Farhad Hossain, told parliament yesterday that the government has no plan to raise the age limit for entering government service.

Explaining the much talked about issue, he said raising the age limit for entering government services would make the recruitment test more competitive and create frustrations among those below 30 years of age.

The state minister said this in reply to a query from Awami League MP Habibe Millat from Sirajganj-2.

With Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair, the House went into sitting around 11:05am and the question answer session was tabled.

## GRAFT CASE GK Shamim's mother denied bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday rejected a bail petition of GK Shamim's mother Ayesha Akhter in a Tk 297 crore corruption case.

The bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Kazi Md Ejarul Haque Akondo passed the rejection order after Ayesha's lawyer ABM Altaf Hossain said her client will not run the petition.

Lawyer Altaf Hossain told The Daily Star that the bail petition of Ayesha was not prepared properly. A fresh petition will be moved before the trial court now, he said, adding that the 85-year-old is now in jail.

The Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case on October 21, 2019 against Ayesha on charge of amassing wealth worth Tk 297 crore beyond known source of income.

PRAYER TIMING		APRIL 6			
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN 4:29	12:45	4:45	6:20	7:45	
JAMAT 4:39	1:15	5:00	6:30	8:15	
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION					
SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING					
RAMADAN	APRIL	SEHRI	IFTAR		
4	6		6:20		
5	7	4:23	6:21		
6	8	4:22	6:21		

## BANGLADESH'S GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION 218PC RISE IN 27YRS

Says global report; 77pc of country's energy  
reliant on fossil fuels

**Electricity generation in Bangladesh is heavily dependent on fossil fuels, with 79 percent of electricity generated from natural gas. While the rollout of renewables has increased over time, with the addition of solar power, the much more prevalent use of natural gas has resulted in the share of renewables in the overall mix decreasing by approximately 8.6 percent between 2014 and 2019**

MOSTAFA YOUSUF

Bangladesh has seen a sharp rise in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions over the last 27 years, as the country depends largely on fossil fuels for energy, says a report of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Working Group III.

The rise is a staggering 218 percent over the period, according to the report.

This is a grim picture of the narrowing window to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The report, published yesterday, shed light on Bangladesh's reliance on coal, gas and oil, which still make up 77 percent of the country's energy mix.

Electricity generation in Bangladesh is heavily dependent on fossil fuels, with 79 percent of electricity generated from natural gas, reads the report, prepared by the world's leading climate scientists.

While the rollout of renewables has increased over time, with the addition of solar power, the much more prevalent use of natural gas has resulted in the share of

renewables in the overall mix decreasing by approximately 8.6 percent between 2014 and 2019, it said. The report, however, said the window to limit the rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius has not closed yet.

Globally, human-induced GHG emissions reached 59 billion tonnes in 2019, the highest level since 1990, primarily driven by fossil fuels. About 34 percent of human emissions are from the energy sector; 24 percent from industries; 22 percent from agriculture, forestry and land use; 15 percent from transport; and six percent from buildings, the report said.

AKM Saiful Islam, professor of Institute of Water and Flood Management at Bangladesh University of Engineering Technology (Buet), said a more rapid, deep and immediate reduction of global GHG by 43 percent by 2030, and methane reduction by 34 percent by the aforesaid timeframe would be able to stabilise global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius by the end of this century.

The report finds that the world's richest countries are overwhelmingly the highest emitters of GHG. The countries that

emit the least continue to be the most vulnerable to impacts of climate change.

In 2019, the least developed countries are estimated to have produced just 3.3 percent of global GHG emissions.

Referring to the Paris Agreement, the report says since the agreement, climate change has topped the agenda of politicians and the media, but it is still far from gaining the level of attention and action the crisis demands.

The Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), announced prior to COP26, would likely lead to 1.5 degrees Celsius increase during the 21st century. With no increased ambitions after 2030, the world might even see global temperatures rise by 2.8 degrees Celsius by 2100, the report warns.

The report emphasised on investment in renewable energy, saying that net-zero government and corporate pledges are booming, but a stronger emphasis on rapid, near-term action is needed. The scale of the task is vast and transformative, but it is possible, with technological options already available.

## Govt to set up medicine plant in Manikganj

Tk 1,905cr project okayed  
to expand production

AT A GLANCE
New plant to be 18 times larger than current one in Tejgaon
Plant to reduce private companies' dominance in market
31.5 acres of land to be acquired
60pc cost to be met by loans, rest from equity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To reduce private companies' dominance in the pharmaceutical sector and increase export, the government has decided to expand state-owned pharmaceutical Essential Drugs Company Limited (EDCL) by setting up a modern plant in Manikganj.

Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) approved the "Essential Drugs Company Limited, Manikganj Plant Establishment" project yesterday, with an estimated cost of Tk 1,905.26 crore.

The existing capacity of the EDCL could not meet the demand for medicine in the country as the plant in Tejgaon is situated only on 1.75 acres of land. The proposed one in Manikganj will be 18 times larger than the current one.

The approval came from the Ecneec meeting

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## A new dimension in the judiciary First HC bench consisting of 2 female judges formed

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

For the first time in the history of the country's judiciary, two female judges are conducting a division bench of the High Court in order to deliver justice to the people.

The chief justice's move in constituting the benches has brought a new dimension to the judiciary and enhanced the dignity and image of the nation before the world, according to some Supreme Court lawyers.

The two judges are – Justice Kashefa Hussain and Justice Fatema Najib – whose bench is assigned to deal with the writ petitions, which are considered one of the most important cases as their contents are involved with the interest of the state and people.



Kashefa Hussain

Fatema Najib

Deputy Attorney General Noor ur Sadik told The Daily Star that the HC bench of the two women judges is hearing the writ petitions with utmost sincerity and competence and in a very professional manner, which is very encouraging and inspiring.

He said the bench led by Justice Kashefa Hussain started hearing the petitions on April 3 when both the Appellate and HC Divisions of the SC reopened after annual vacation.

Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique on March 31 constituted a total of 50 benches for the HC with its 78 judges, including Justice Kashefa Hussain and Justice Fatema Najib.

Justice Nazmun Ara Sultana, the first female judge of the Appellate and HC Divisions and the

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PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

As far as the eyes can see, vehicles remain stuck on the road next to Dhaka Cantonment's Jahangir Gate. Since the beginning of Ramadan, the city has been facing a worsened state of traffic throughout the day. This photo was taken around 11:00am in Mohakhali area yesterday.