



## Govt mulling lifting GP's SIM sales ban

MAHMUDUL HASAN

Grameenphone is poised to get the ban on its SIM sales lifted as the telecom minister yesterday expressed satisfaction about the country's leading mobile operator's service quality.

"We have seen a lot of improvement in the situation [quality of services], so we are considering withdrawing the SIM sales ban," Post and Telecommunications Minister Mustafá Jabbar told The Daily Star yesterday.

Earlier on June 29, four days after the Padma bridge inauguration, the telecom regulator, on instruction from the posts and telecommunications division the previous day, banned Grameenphone's SIM sales until it "improves its quality of service including bringing down call drop rate".

The letter does not specify how Grameenphone failed in terms of quality

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



Stones of various shapes and sizes layer the landscape which rises to form hills on the horizon in Jafalong. The hill station in Sylhet, declared an ecologically critical area in 2015, is slowly returning to its former splendour as illegal stone extraction has stopped since 2020, when the government strictly enforced the ban. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Islami Bank takes emergency Tk 8,000cr from BB

AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

Islami Bank has started to avail a central bank facility that is only summoned during extraordinary circumstances, as the Shariah-based lender looked to dress up its balance sheet ahead of the year's end.

Called the "lender of the last resort", the facility allows banks to borrow from Bangladesh Bank at 8.75 percent interest. As a Shariah-based lender, it is not supposed to borrow by offering interest.

But so dire was the need for fund injection for the bank, which suffered a cash reserve ratio (CRR) shortfall of Tk 5,101 crore on December 28, that it went against its principles.

On December 29, the last working day before the year-end, Islami Bank took Tk 8,000 crore under the BB special arrangement at 8.75 percent interest, which is equivalent to the special repo rate, according to Md Mezbaul Haque, the central bank's spokesman.

The special repo rate is the rate at which cash-strapped banks take loans

from the central bank to ease their immediate liquidity crunch.

In exchange for the funds, Islami Bank presented a demand promissory note, which is a legal instrument in which the issuer guarantees to pay a specific sum of money at an agreed time.

A bank's demand promissory note is usually accepted by the BB when it does not have available bills and bonds to provide as collateral.

"The central bank is considered the lender of the last resort, which is why it

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

## No feud in JP now

Say its top leaders at event in presence of Raushan, Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the presence of Jatiya Party chairman and its chief patron, JP top leaders yesterday said there were no divisions between GM Quader and Raushan Ershad as the party was united under their leadership.

Leaders of the main opposition made the comments while addressing a programme marking JP's 37th founding anniversary in front of the party's central office in the capital's Kakrail.

JP chief patron Raushan, also leader of the opposition at parliament, spoke at the programme as the chief guest.

JP Chairman Quader refrained from speaking due to a top court's verdict.

On December 14, the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court upheld the lower court's judgement that barred Quader from performing his duties as the JP chairman.

Usually, JP Chairman Quader is present at such

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

## Comet last visible during the Ice Age to pass Earth

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A comet that last appeared in the night sky when Neanderthals still roamed the Earth is set to make a reappearance early this year.

The C/2022 E3 (ZTF) comet orbits the sun every 50,000 years and will pass within 26 million miles of Earth on February 1 this year, making it visible to the naked eye.

It is already visible using binoculars and

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5



Vehicles plying the Dhaka-Aricha highway at Hemayetpur, Savar, amid heavy fog around 8:00am yesterday. With the mercury dropping quite low around the turn of the year, heavy fog till midday has become a constant in the country.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## US envoy for strengthening ties with Dhaka

UNB, Dhaka

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Peter Haas has said he is looking forward to strengthening the Bangladesh-US partnership in the new year.



Peter Haas

"During my first year in your remarkable country, it's been an honour to meet with members of civil society, government officials, artists, politicians of all parties, and our vital partners that work to continue to strengthen the ties between the United States and Bangladesh," he said yesterday in a message shared by the US Embassy in Dhaka on its verified Facebook page.

"I am also thankful for the incredible hospitality and have enjoyed tasting new culinary flavours from Briyani to Mishti-Doi," the ambassador said.

"On behalf of the US embassy community, wishing everyone a peaceful, prosperous, and happy new year!"

## Several killed, hurt in blast near Kabul airfield

AFP, Kabul

An explosion at the entrance to a military airfield in the Afghan capital killed and wounded several people yesterday, an official told AFP.

The cause of the blast at the gate of the facility next to Kabul's international airport was unclear, interior ministry spokesman Abdul Nafy Takor said.

"A number of our compatriots have been martyred and wounded in the blast," Takor said, adding that authorities were investigating the incident.

A Kabul resident said late yesterday his brother, an air force officer, was killed in the blast.

"He had worked in the previous government too as an air force officer," Abdul Noor told AFP, referring to the ousted, Western-backed government of former president Ashraf Ghani.

"He and some of his colleagues were in a queue waiting to enter the military airfield when the blast occurred," Noor said, indicating the blast had caused more casualties.

Taliban officials including Takor did not offer any other details despite repeated requests for information.

The Islamist group claims to have improved security since storming back to power in August 2021 and often downplays casualty figures from such attacks.

Yet there have been scores of bomb blasts and other attacks, many claimed by the local chapter of the Islamic State group.

At least five Chinese nationals were wounded last month when gunmen stormed a hotel popular with Chinese business people in Kabul. That attack was claimed by Islamic State.

Two Russian embassy staff members were killed in a suicide

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

"আমরা স্বাবলম্বী হবে সকলে কর দেব"  
-মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনা

২০২১-২০২২ কর বছরে  
বাংলাদেশের অর্থনীতিতে অবদানের স্বীকৃতি স্বরূপ  
জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড কর্তৃক

**ট্যাক্স কার্ড সম্মাননা-২০২২**

প্রাপ্তিতে যমুনা ব্যাংক পরিবার গর্বিত



 <p><b>গোলাম দস্তগীর গাজী</b>, বীরপ্রতীক মাননীয় মন্ত্রী, স্বল্প ও পাট মন্ত্রণালয় গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার সাবেক চেয়ারম্যান, যমুনা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড ব্যবসায়ী ক্যাটাগোরিতে প্রথম</p>	 <p><b>ফজলুর রহমান</b> পরিচালক যমুনা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড চেয়ারম্যান, সিটি গ্রুপ সিনিয়র সিটিজেন ক্যাটাগোরিতে তৃতীয়</p>	
 <p><b>রবিন রাজন সাখাওয়াত</b> পরিচালক, যমুনা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক কম্পিউটার বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড তরুণ ক্যাটাগোরিতে পঞ্চম</p>	 <p><b>গাজী গোলাম মূর্তজা</b> পরিচালক যমুনা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক, গাজী গ্রুপ ব্যবসায়ী ক্যাটাগোরিতে পঞ্চম</p>	 <p><b>তাসমীন মাহমুদ</b> সাবেক পরিচালক যমুনা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড পরিচালক, কটন গ্রুপ মহিলা ক্যাটাগোরিতে চতুর্থ</p>

**JAMUNA BANK**