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## CLIMATE CHANGE

### Plant trees to save Bangladesh

Urges PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the people to plant trees to protect Bangladesh from the adverse impacts of climate change.

"I would like to urge all to save the environment because it is our duty to offset the impacts of climate change in Bangladesh," she said after planting three saplings on the Gono Bhaban premises to mark World Environment Day 2023.

She also inaugurated the Environment Fair-2023, National Tree Plantation Campaign and Tree Fair-2023.

The PM said they have been implementing the

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina plants a sapling on the Gono Bhaban premises yesterday, marking World Environment Day.

PHOTO: PID

### 1 dead, 101 more hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One more dengue patient died and 101 were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till yesterday.

With the new death, all in Dhaka, the total number of deaths in dengue rose to 17 this year, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

The total number of dengue cases this year rose to 2,477, of whom 696 are from outside Dhaka.

Some 392 dengue patients are still

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## Shun plastic, plant more trees

Speakers tell event marking World Environment Day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Due to the growing population and lack of arable land per capita, the country must preserve the environment and plant more trees to provide a healthy and secure living environment for future generations, said Information Minister Hasan Mahmud yesterday.

He was addressing an event organised by the environment ministry, marking World Environment Day, at Bangabandu International Conference Centre, as the chief guest.

He also called for coordinated efforts among all the stakeholders to protect the environment.

Environment Minister Shahab Uddin underscored the need to stop the use of plastic and polythene. "We have adopted a national action plan to reduce plastic pollution, and by 2030, tree coverage will increase from the current 22.37 percent to 25 percent," he said.

Saber Hossain Chowdhury, chairman of standing committee of the environment ministry, said the planet is currently facing

three challenges – climate change, losing biodiversity and plastic pollution. "Bangladesh is no exception to this. The ministry has to take the lead to fight those," he said.

Meanwhile, in a press release, Amirul Razib, convener of Movement to Protect Tree of Satmasjid

**“The planet is currently facing three challenges – climate change, losing biodiversity and plastic pollution. Bangladesh is no exception to this.”**

SABER HOSSAIN CHOWDHURY

Road, said the government must stop felling trees, filling up waterbodies and clearing forest in the name of development. "This tree felling spree going on at a time when people are struggling to cope up with the sweltering heat," he said.

He urged the government to bring those who are involved in the tree felling at the capital's road dividers to book.

### Filling up DIT pond illegal, punishable

Bela serves notice to DSCC mayor, govt agencies, officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela) yesterday served a legal notice to Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh, some other government agencies and its officials, and individuals to protect the DIT plot pond at ward-47 under DSCC.

S Hasanul Banna, advocate of Bangladesh Supreme Court and lawyer of Bela, served the notice to the DSCC mayor, the land ministry, secretary to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Rajuk chairman, director general of the Department

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## Budget reflects no concern for environment

Speakers tell discussion, demand 3.2pc of GDP for climate adaptation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should allocate 3.2 percent of the GDP for climate adaptation in the proposed national budget, since this will prepare the country to effectively combat the risks posed by climate change, said speakers at a programme yesterday.

Under the recently proposed national budget, an allocation of Tk 37,051 crore has been made for climate-related initiatives. It represents 4.86 percent of the total budget and 0.74 percent of GDP.

Civil Society (CSOs) and experts have voiced concerns that this budget allocation falls short of adequately addressing climate change challenges.

Climate change causes an economic loss of 2-3 percent of GDP each year. Failure to allocate adequate allocation in this sector could hinder the country's sustainable development.

COAST Foundation, Center for Participatory

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## JS body gets 90 more days to examine media bill

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information and Broadcast Ministry yesterday got another 90 days to examine the much-debated-about Mass Media Employees (Services Conditions) Bill 2022.

This is for the fourth time that the chairman of the parliamentary watchdog Hasanul Huq Inu sought the time in parliament as the committee couldn't scrutinise the bill for placing it before the House within the stipulated time.

The House yesterday unanimously approved the proposal.

On March 28 last year, Information Minister Hasan Mahmud placed the bill and it was sent to the parliamentary standing committee on the respective ministry for scrutiny.

The committee earlier in June and August last

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Amid scorching heat, residents of the capital's Ahmedbagh queue up in front the area's water pump with cans to collect drinking water, following a power cut yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

### 9.43pc pass DU 'Ka' unit entry test

DU CORRESPONDENT

The admission test results for "Ka" unit under the science faculty of Dhaka University for 2022-23 session were published yesterday, with the pass rate being 9.43 percent.

A total of 11,109 students passed this year among 1,17,763 candidates who sat for the examination. A total of 1,851 students can be admitted under the unit.

Results are available at the university website and can also be received via SMS from mobile phone operators.

## BR to launch 'mango special train' June 8

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With almost half of the season gone, Bangladesh Railway has decided to launch a special train service to transport mango from June 8 from Chapainawabganj and Rajshahi to Dhaka.

In 2020, the government began the "mango special train" to help growers' transporting their goods amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

However, the service may run only for two weeks as BR has to operate "Cattle Special Train" ahead of the Eid-ul-Azha, raising questions about the feasibility of the service.

Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan will inaugurate the "mango special



train" service at Chapainawabganj Railway Station on June 8, Asim Kumar Talukder, general manager (west) of BR, told The Daily Star yesterday.

One train will be operated every day from Chapainawabganj at 4:00pm and will take mangos from Rohanpur,

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### No reg for parties that fail to meet criteria

Says EC Alamgir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Election Commissioner Md Alamgir yesterday said they will not register parties that fail to meet their criteria.

He said this while speaking to journalists at his EC office.

The EC will scrutinise the applications and later publish an advertisement in the media. This way, people will get the chance to object, following which the EC will hold hearing before issuing registrations. Parties that meet all the conditions will only be given registrations, he added.

Only 12 of the 93 political parties, that had applied for a registration, were able to meet all the criteria during the preliminary selection process. The EC plans to complete their registration process by this month if they manage to keep up with the requirements.

The political parties that survived the preliminary selection are – Amar Bangladesh Party, Bangladesh Nationalist Movement, Bangladesh Humanist Party, Gono Odhikar Parishad, Nagorik Oikya, Bangladesh Sanatan Party, Bangladesh Supreme Party, Bangladesh Labour Party, Bangladesh Minority Janata Party, Bangladesh People's Party, Democratic Party, and Bangladesh Liberal Democratic Party.

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