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## 'Power not for abusing, but for helping people'

### HC blasts authorities for not appointing doctors to vacant posts in prisons

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday blasted the authorities concerned of the prisons and health ministry for not recruiting doctors to vacant posts in jails despite its repeated directives.

"How many years do you need to recruit doctors to vacant posts in prisons? You could not come out of the bureaucratic tangles as you are still now exchanging letters..."

"Power is not for abusing, but for helping people. Most of prisoners are poor. Please, save them by appointing doctors. If rich people go to jail, they manage division facilities," the HC bench of Justice KM Kamrul Kader and Justice Mohammad Showkat Ali Chowdhury told the lawyers for the health ministry and inspector

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a meeting with visiting Indian Army Chief General Manoj Pande at her Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban office yesterday evening. At the meeting, Hasina called for strengthening military cooperation between the friendly countries of Bangladesh and India.

PHOTO: PID

## Children more vulnerable to lead poisoning

### Speakers tell seminar urging people to raise voice for better public health

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People must raise their demands to political parties which will participate in the next general elections so that they may pledge to work towards better public health, said Saber Hossain Chowdhury, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on environment ministry, yesterday.

"We have passed 50 years, but how our next 50 years will progress will depend on our outlook on public health," said Saber, at a seminar held at the Department of Environment (DoE) auditorium.

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NATIONAL BUDGET 2023-24

# Allocation to tackle graft unclear

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

The government's high-ups have talked about their "firm stances" against graft to protect the country's GDP on multiple occasions. However, there is little reflection of that stance in the latest budget disclosure as to how the government will curb corruption and money laundering.

In the last five fiscals, the government mentioned its plans regarding the issue and how it was supporting the Anti-Corruption Commission to fight corruption. However, this aspect was absent in the latest budget speech made by Finance Minister AHM Mustafa

Kamal.

"According to a reliable estimation, around \$12 billion is laundered abroad on average every year. It is not unknown to the government that if the corruption could have been curbed to even a medium level, the GDP growth would be increased by 2.3 percent," said Transparency International Bangladesh in a statement released on Friday.

Last September, the Criminal Investigation Department of police gave a partial estimation where it said Bangladesh may have lost around \$7.8 billion (around Tk 75,000 crore) in remittance in the last year because of hundi.

The government does not want the ACC to go after massive corruption ahead of the national elections, said an ACC official.

"If the ACC works properly and independently, you will see that 90 percent of the corrupt people are from the ruling party. So the government wants the ACC to go slow and engage only in the routine work," he said, requesting anonymity.

At a programme held in February, Agriculture Minister Muhammad Abdur Razzaque said a huge amount of money is being laundered from Bangladesh to different countries, including Canada's

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## The allure of 'six months in power'

### 22 people seek AL nomination for Dhaka-17 by-polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nearly two dozen people are seeking the ruling Awami League's tickets to contest the Dhaka-17 by-polls even though the current parliament will dissolve in six months.

Strong possibilities of getting the party ticket for the next national polls and lucrative amenities are tempting many to seek the AL ticket for the by-polls.

The geographical importance of the constituency is also a factor behind the interests of the nomination seekers, as important areas such as Gulshan, Banani, Bhashantek, and the Cantonment area fall under this constituency.

Politicians, businesspersons, actors, and even comedians are on the list of 22 persons who collected the AL nomination forms on the last day.

Whoever wins the polls will take part in the parliamentary sessions for several months, as the 12th national polls must take place within 90 days before the expiration of the term of the Jatiya Sangshad on January 29, 2024.

Mohammad A Aralat, chairperson of Suchinta Foundation and member of AL central committee,

### Sources inside the AL said the aim of those seeking the nomination is to ensure their nomination in the upcoming 12th national elections.

actor Ferodus Ahmed, comedian Siddiquir Rahman, Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) President Md Jashim Uddin, and Roushan Hossain Pathan, who is the son of former lawmaker Akbar Hossain Pathan, are the mentionable names among the nomination seekers.

Earlier, in Chattogram-8 constituency, 27 persons sought nomination from AL even though the lawmaker would only get to hold office for eight months.

Sources inside the AL said the aim of those seeking the nomination is to ensure their nomination in the upcoming 12th national elections, as the one getting the party ticket for the by-polls is most likely to get endorsed by AL in the upcoming elections.

The privileges enjoyed by a lawmaker are another important factor. As per the Members of Parliament (Remuneration and Allowances) Order, 1973 (President's Order), a lawmaker shall

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PHOTO: COLLECTED

Samiul Islam, a third-year student at Jahangirnagar University's geography and environment department, has been on a hunger strike since May 31. Denying the requests of the university authorities, he has decided to stand strong until his three demands -- removal of gono (common) room, listing alumni living illegally in the dorms and ensuring seats for current students -- are fulfilled. This photo was taken on the campus yesterday.

## 'On the brink of public outrage'

### Say opposition lawmakers on power crisis; parliament passes supplementary budget

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lawmakers from the opposition Jatiya Party yesterday in parliament expressed their apprehension that public outrage might occur across the country due to ongoing load shedding amid the heatwave.

State Minister for Power Nasrul Hamid in response said he has already expressed regret due to the sufferings of people and requested all to have patience for a couple of weeks more to resolve the situation.

Nasrul demanded the sanction of Tk 32.46 crore for the current fiscal year, while 10 lawmakers proposed cut motions, opposing his demand. However, only six of them were present during the discussion in the parliament.

Jatiya Party MP Fakhrul Imam said, "Our electricity demand is 14,000 MW, while we have the capacity to produce 26,000 MW. However, we are only producing 7,000 MW currently."

Another JP lawmaker Shameem

Haider Patwari said, "Load shedding will increase further with the shutting down of the Payra power plant."

"I saw in the media that the capacity charge bill is Tk 90,000 crore, with Tk 20,000 due. The question is -- why do we have to pay such a huge amount in capacity charge?"

JP lawmaker Rowshan Ara Mannan said the country's energy security is currently under threat.

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## Historic Six-point Day today

BSS, Dhaka

The historic Six-point Day, marking the demand for autonomy for the then East Pakistan, will be observed today across the country.

On June 7 in 1966, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman launched a massive movement against the misrule of the Pakistanis on the basis of the 6-point demand, the Magna Carta of the Bangalis, demanding autonomy for the then East Pakistan.

Eleven people, including Manu Mian, Shafique and Shamsul Haque, were gunned down by the police and paramilitary EPR on June 7, 1966 in Dhaka and Narayanganj during a hartal called for the release of Bangabandhu and other leaders detained for launching the six-point movement against the then barbaric ruling clique. President Mohammed Shahabuddin and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid rich tributes to the memories of Bangabandhu and all who embraced martyrdom for implementing the six-point demand.

PRAYER  
TIMING  
JUNE 7

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-05	12-45	5-00	6-45	8-15
JAMAAT 4-40	1-15	5-15	6-50	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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