



YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

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### 11 banks face Tk 33,575cr capital deficit



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### Aussies seek first Ashes on English soil in 22 years



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### Russia hits industrial facilities in Ukraine



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### Just keep loving me: Nusraat Faria

## Respect our right to own policies

### Foreign ministry urges all

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh expects all concerned to respect Bangladesh's sovereign rights to pursue its independent domestic as well as foreign policy based on the motto -- "Friendship to all, malice towards none" -- as envisaged by the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

In a statement, the foreign ministry yesterday said it notes the remarks made by the spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China in the context of some recent comments made by Bangladesh prime minister.

On Wednesday, Wang Wenbin, spokesperson for the Chinese foreign ministry, at a briefing said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina spoke not just

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Dwellers of shanties built on the pavement of Atish Deepankar Road near Malibagh level crossing sleep on rickshaw-vans instead of the shacks due to the hot and humid weather. Experts say such high summer temperatures, caused by El Nino, may continue for many years to come. The photo was taken around 5 o'clock in the morning yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Hotter, drier summers may be new norm

### Experts urge all to be adaptive

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Expressing concern over the record temperature rise in April and May in Bangladesh, experts have warned that this can become the new normal for the country.

According to Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD), heatwaves swept over different parts of the country for 24 days in April and 22 days in May this year.

In 2018, heatwaves lasted 10 days in April and eight days in May.

These two months also witnessed very low rainfall this year compared to the average rainfall during the same period over the last 30 years.

The 30-year average rainfall for April was 134 millimetres while the figure was 284 millimetres for May. But this year, the rainfall was 66.4 percent less in April and 44.1 percent less in May than the 30-year average, according to BMD data.

"This year's weather pattern is very unusual. The frequency of heatwaves is increasing, the areas affected are widening gradually, and the temperature is also on the rise," Md Monowar Hossain, a meteorologist at the BMD, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Meteorologists said this change in weather conditions has become a new weather phenomenon in the country.

According to the World Health Organisation, a heatwave is generally defined as a period of at least five

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## Grabbing land, stealing fertiliser his forte?

### Ex-Narsingdi MP Poton forced many to sell land at low prices, faces Tk 1,163cr suit for fertiliser scam

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Abdul Kuddus and his brother Helal Uddin own 13 decimals of land in a plot jointly owned by several people under the Ghorasal municipality.

In early 2018, the two brothers received a proposal to sell their land at Tk 20 lakh. The market price for the land in Ghorasal's prime location was nearly Tk 1 crore back then. So they refused to sell.

In a couple of months, a group of men linked to Narsingdi Awami League leader Kamrul Ashraf Khan Poton filled the entire plot with earth and enclosed it with a boundary wall.

"Poton has turned the plot into a car parking facility and rented it out to an industry," Abdul Kuddus recently told The Daily Star.

Nearly fifty people from different areas of Palash upazila have brought allegations of land-grabbing against

Poton. A former lawmaker from Narsingdi-2 constituency, Poton is the senior vice president of Palash upazila Awami League.

Asked whether he filed any case, Kuddus said he and his brother could not muster the courage to file a case against Poton who was evidently very powerful in his constituency.

Fearing backlash, nobody in Palash and Ghorasal speaks out against Poton or his family, allege locals and AL sources.

Poton's elder brother Anwarul Ashraf Khan Dilip is the incumbent lawmaker from the constituency. His nephew Al Mozahid Hossain Tushar is the mayor of Ghorasal municipality.

Poton forced many people from Khudraban, Ghorasal municipality and Danga areas under Palash upazila

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## Fertiliser thieves to be sent straight to jail: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday said that if necessary it would send those found involved in the misappropriation of imported fertilisers straight to jail.

"We will not tolerate any kind of corruption including money laundering. We have zero tolerance for corruption," said the bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Khizir Hayat Lizu during the hearing on a rule.

"Give us the specific names [of those] who are involved in misappropriation of fertilisers. We will take appropriate actions against them. No one involved in this scam will be spared," the bench said.

The court said this after Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) lawyer Molla Kismot Habib sought time for submitting its enquiry report to the court.

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## Journalist beaten to death by 'UP chairman's men'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

A journalist died yesterday, a day after he was attacked and injured allegedly by some supporters of a Union Parishad chairman in Jamalpur's Bakshiganj upazila.

Golam Rabbani Nadim, 42, was the Jamalpur district correspondent of Banglanews24.com and Bakshiganj upazila correspondent of Ekattor TV.

He died from his injuries around 2:30pm yesterday at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital, said hospital's Deputy Director Jakiul Islam.

The victim's family and colleagues said that on May 10, a woman at a press conference in Bakshiganj claimed Mahmudul Alam, chairman of Sadhurpara Union Parishad, had secretly married her but did not want to give recognition.

Nadim and several other journalists published reports from the press conference. As a result, the chairman was enraged, they said.

Mahmudul, also general secretary of Sadhurpara union unit Awami League, filed a case against Nadim and another journalist under the Digital Security Act with Mymensingh Cyber Tribunal on May 17.

But the tribunal dismissed the case on May 30, according to tribunal sources.

Nadim, whose report was run by Banglanews24.com, came to know about the dismissal of the case on Wednesday evening.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Lalon Mia, Bakshiganj upazila correspondent of the daily Odhikar, who was with Nadim, said when they were returning home and reached Bakshiganj Bazar area around 10:00pm on Wednesday, an assailant hit Nadim.

As the journalist fell on the ground from his motorcycle, some others beat him up indiscriminately with iron rods, injuring him critically.



Golam Rabbani Nadim

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## UNIVERSAL PENSION Govt to set up an authority soon

### Rules drafted to recruit manpower

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

The government is set to form the National Pension Authority (NPA) to execute the Universal Pension Scheme formulated to provide pension services for the common people.

The announcement for the organisation and its activities will be made by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina most likely in July. The Daily Star has learnt from finance ministry officials involved with the proceedings.

The rules detailing competencies, salaries and benefits for the chairman and members of NPA have already been formulated and the finance ministry has already begun its recruitment.

For now, two additional secretaries of the finance division are in contention for the post of executive chairman.

The executive chairman and members must have a postgraduate degree in one of the following subjects: public finance, economics, accounting, finance, banking, public policy, public administration, actuarial science and public financial management.

The candidate must have 20 years of experience in administrative and executive positions within government or autonomous organisations, including ten years in public financial management.

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People queue up behind a truck of TCB to buy essentials like rice, lentil, and edible oil at reasonable prices at Sahapur Thukra Bazar of Khulna's Dumuria yesterday. Many travelled 4km to 5km to reach there way before the truck arrived. Food inflation, caused by global supply disruptions and economic slow down, the war in Ukraine, and market manipulation by some unscrupulous traders, has forced many to depend on TCB outlets.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

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