

HIGHEST EVER INVESTMENT  
IN DATABASE INFRASTRUCTURE

**পূবালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড**  
PUBALI BANK LIMITED

The migration will take place during  
28-30 September 2023.  
Banking operations will remain  
suspended on those days.

LALBAGH FIRE  
Six fall ill  
from smoke  
inhalation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six persons, including five of a family, fell ill after inhaling smoke from a fire that broke out at a plastic shop in Dhaka's Lalbagh area yesterday. They were taken to National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery.

They are: house owner Jakir Hossain, 65, his wife Taslima Hossain, 62, their son Md Rafi, 39, daughter-in-law Tahsin Karim Anika, 30, grandchild Zyna Hossain Afrin, 13 and house help Maksuda Begum, 60.

Fire service officials said the family lived on the second floor of a three-storey building, which housed the plastic shop on the ground floor.

They were at home when the fire originated at the shop around 1:30pm. As black smoke engulfed the building, they took shelter on the roof. Locals rescued them using a ladder from the nearby building, Md Badsha, a neighbour, said.



A colourful aura adorns the autumn sky following a drizzle yesterday afternoon. The photo was taken in Hazaribagh. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Patient’s family  
‘assaulted’ by Ansar  
members at NICVD  
Probe body formed; one  
Ansar member suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Family members of a critical patient at the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) were allegedly beaten by Ansar security personnel on Sunday night.

They were trying to enter the hospital's coronary care unit with a bag of blood to save one Tanjina Akter, 40. The family claims they had already paid Ansar members for access to the facility earlier that day, but were asked for money again. A dispute ensued, leading to an altercation, and by the time they reached the CCU unit with the much-required blood, Tanjina had already passed away.

She died at the hospital around 11:55pm, according to her death certificate.

Selim Reza, husband of the deceased, said Tanjina was admitted to the hospital on Saturday after she felt unwell. After she had a heart attack on Sunday, she was shifted to the CCU.

"The doctor told us to arrange blood. My younger son Tanzil Akter Nayan first entered the CCU to see his mother, after paying money to Ansar members. After some time, when I tried to enter the CCU with the blood, the Ansar members obstructed me and

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POSTS OF ADDL IG, DIG  
Police seek more  
promotion ahead of polls

SHARIFUL ISLAM

The home ministry has requested the public administration ministry to approve more in-situ posts of additional inspector general and deputy inspector general of police.

In-situ post means police personnel who hold the same position and perform the same duties after their promotions.

The move came amid commotion among BCS police cadre officers after public administration ministry approved only 52 posts against the home ministry's proposal of 189 posts of Addl IGP and DIG.

The posts approved by the public administration ministry are two posts of Addl IGP (Grade 2) and 50 posts of DIG; along with 140 posts of Addl DIG and 150 posts of SP. It sent the proposal to the finance ministry on September 19 for approval.

After scrutinising a Police Headquarters proposal, the home

ministry in July forwarded a proposal to create 15 Grade 1 posts of Addl IGP, 34 Grade 2 posts of Addl IGP, 140 posts of DIG, 150 posts of Addl DIG and 190 posts of SPs for one year.

Police officers said after the public

**Number of promotions in higher posts is very few in police cadre. So, there has long been frustration among police officials.**

MD ASADUZZAMAN  
GS of Police Service Association

administration ministry approved few posts for Addl IGP and DIG, they got disheartened. They also said in administration cadre, officers are getting in-situ promotions at top levels.

They also said the proposal to create the posts was for removing

frustration of police cadre officials who cannot get promoted due to a lack of vacant posts at senior levels.

Sources at the PHQ said promotion in the posts of Addl DIG and SP ranks may come soon as there are no review requests for the posts. Many said the government is sincere to ensure the promotion ahead of national election and remove frustration among police officers including SPs who play a pivotal role in the elections.

Meanwhile, in a letter to the senior secretary of the public administration ministry on September 19, the home ministry's deputy secretary Noor-E-Mahabuba Joya requested approval of more additional IGP and DIG posts.

The letter highlighted the critical role of Bangladesh police in maintaining internal and public security and stressed the need for sufficient skilled manpower in leadership positions to address new

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ROHINGYA REPATRIATION  
Dhaka waiting  
for Naypyidaw  
to engage int’l  
volunteers

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka is waiting for Naypyidaw to engage international volunteers in the process of Rohingya repatriation and humanitarian assistance before taking the next steps, said foreign ministry officials.

During the official-level meeting between Myanmar and Bangladesh on September 4, Myanmar officials agreed to involve international volunteers, including those from the UN and ASEAN countries, in the repatriation process.

In the meeting, the two countries also agreed that a Myanmar delegation would visit the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar as part of confidence building measures so that they are convinced to return to Myanmar. Also, a Bangladesh delegation would visit Rakhine of Myanmar before starting the repatriation by October.

Two attempts of repatriation -- one in 2018 and the other in 2019 -- failed as Myanmar could not meet the Rohingyas' demands for guarantee of safety, citizenship, and ethnicity recognition.

"The schedule of the Myanmar delegation is yet to be finalised. Initially, we thought of arranging the visit by September, but we are waiting to see how Myanmar is engaging the international volunteers," a foreign ministry official told this correspondent on September 24.

According to the officials, Rohingyas demand to return to their original residences in Rakhine State, not to the camps. Myanmar officials also agreed to this.

Chinese Special Envoy for Asian Affairs Deng Xijun, who visited Dhaka on August 1 this year, also confirmed this matter.

Under Chinese mediation, Bangladesh and Myanmar have been working to implement a pilot project of repatriating at least 3,000 Rohingyas to Myanmar. Initially, the repatriation was supposed to start before monsoon this year, but that did not happen. Now, they want to start the repatriation by October. Engagement of the UN, ASEAN or other international aid agencies in the repatriation process and humanitarian assistance is among some of the basic conditions that need to be met, officials said.

"We know that there is a tripartite memorandum of understanding among the Myanmar government, UN Refugee Agency and UNDP. The MoU expired in March this year and is yet to be renewed," an official said.

"Renewal of the MoU would be a sign showing Myanmar's willingness to engage the international volunteers," he added.

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A FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL

85pc house helps receive  
salaries through MFS  
Says MJF report



Speakers at the event yesterday. PHOTO: COLLECTED

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mobile Financial Services are encouraging female domestic workers towards economic empowerment through savings and self-sufficiency, according to a report.

The findings of the report titled "Economic Empowerment of Domestic Workers Through Digital Financial Services- Project Shuchona" were revealed by Manusher Jonno Foundation at an event held at its office in the capital's Mirpur.

Around 698 respondents from Mohammadpur, Khilgaon, Mirpur,

Kamrangirchar, and Keraniganj, including female domestic workers and women employers, participated in this study conducted by Associates for Innovative Research and Development.

The study was undertaken to evaluate the impact of Project Shuchona, a 25-month-long initiative supported by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which empowers domestic workers with knowledge and access to digital financial services to improve their financial autonomy.

According to the study, 84.5 percent of

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A speeding bus rear-ends another as they try to get on the Bangla Motor-Moghbaraz flyover yesterday morning. Luckily, no casualty was reported. The photo was taken on Rashed Khan Menon Road in Eskaton. PHOTO: COLLECTED