

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.

Obaidul  
Hasan takes  
oath as 24th  
chief justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Justice Obaidul Hassan took oath as the 24th chief justice of Bangladesh yesterday.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin administered the oath at Darbar Hall of Bangabhaban, the official residence of the president, at 11:00am, Supreme Court sources told The Daily Star.

The prime minister was not present at the new chief justice's oath taking ceremony as she is abroad.

Hassan, a senior judge of the Appellate Division, was appointed the 24th chief justice of the country on September 12.



Justice Obaidul Hassan taking oath as the 24th chief justice. President Mohammed Shahabuddin administered the oath at Bangabhaban yesterday morning.

PHOTO: PID

Snap illegal  
power lines  
immediately  
Demands JS body

UNB, Dhaka

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry yesterday recommended the government to disconnect illegal electricity lines on an urgent basis and take steps immediately to identify snapped power lines during natural disasters.

The parliamentary watchdog also suggested ensuring power supply by determining the actual demand of electricity in different areas of the country.

The recommendation came from the 41st meeting

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There will be  
'constitutional  
gap' if polls not  
held by Jan 29

Says EC Alamgir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Election Commissioner Md Alamgir yesterday said a "constitutional gap" will be created if the next general election is not held by January 29 next year.

"There has to be an election in any situation, otherwise there will be a constitutional gap. If that gap is created, there will be anarchy in the country."

"The Election Commission cannot allow that to happen," Alamgir told reporters at his office while answering journalists' questions.

The current parliament expires on January 29. According to the constitution, the national election must be held at any time in the final 90 days of the parliament's tenure. The 90-day countdown starts on November 1.

His comment comes at a time when the ruling Awami League and opposition BNP and several other parties are at odds over the polls-time government.

AL says the election will be held under the current government as per the constitution, while the opposition is demanding a caretaker government, saying the elections under the current administration will not be free and fair.

The opposition also wants reconstitution of the current election commission.

Alamgir said there might be some sort of "political crisis" over such disagreements between political parties, but that doesn't mean that the parties are not in the course of election.

Alamgir said it was not the EC's responsibility to make the election environment beautiful, but the commission was still working for this cause.

Meanwhile, another Election Commissioner Anisur Rahman while talking at a programme in Gazipur yesterday said that political parties should have interest in participating in elections. "It is not our duty to bring all parties into the election, we will not force anyone to take part in it.. but are inviting all to the polls anyway," he said.

**There has to be an election in any situation, otherwise there will be a constitutional gap. If that gap is created, there will be anarchy in the country**

'We oppose  
external  
interference'  
Says Chinese envoy

DIPLOMATIC  
CORRESPONDENT

China opposes any kind of external interference in Bangladesh, said Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen on Monday.

China supports Bangladesh in safeguarding national sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, he said.

He made the remarks at a reception marking the 74th anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China at a city hotel.

"...all countries should abandon the cold-war mentality and zero-sum game," he added.

Choose eco-friendly  
candidates for polls  
Bapa urges political parties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon yesterday demanded political parties to not nominate candidates who are responsible for pollution, in the upcoming national polls.

A group of environmentalists and teachers brought forth this demand during a press conference at the capital's Dhaka Reporters Unity auditorium.

Bapa President Nur Mohammad Talukder said some dishonest businessmen, officials, ministers and MPs are responsible for air and environmental pollution, leading to public health and lives being put at risk, just for profit.

The government complies with the demands of all of these high-profile polluters, which has resulted in Bangladesh's average life expectancy falling by eight years.

All political parties should only nominate environment-friendly candidates, said Bapa Vice President Iqbal Habib.

DU Geography and Environment Department Chairman Professor Shahidul Islam, Bapa Joint Secretary Ahmed Kamruzzaman Majumder, and national committee member Gaus Peyaree also spoke at the event.

Promote self-  
regulation in media

Speakers tell event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There is an absence of editorial guidelines in media houses, which creates scopes for external factors to control journalists and newsrooms, according to a study.

The study, titled "Advocacy for Enhanced Media Self-Regulation in Bangladesh," was conducted by three International Training Program (ITP) members from Bangladesh in support of the Sweden-based organisation NIRAS, in collaboration with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

This study was coordinated by MRDI.

Mir Masrur Zaman, director of the Society for Media and Suitable Human Communication

Techniques (SoMaSHTe), presented the research findings at a stakeholders' consultation on media self-regulation during "Research Findings Dissemination and Opinion Mobilization," held at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

"The constitution of Bangladesh has mentioned the right to information and freedom of speech, but simultaneously, there are many laws used for suppressing the voice of journalists," the study said.

The report also pointed out the absence of any specific law to protect journalists. In addition to this, two more research reports were also presented at the event.

"Bangladeshi media leaders and professionals are worried about the

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Overgrown bushes, dumped non-biodegradable waste, and algae choke the Kunipara end of Hatirjheel lake in the capital. The current state of the water poses a serious threat to the waterbody's marine biodiversity while its stench is unbearable for the area's residents. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

AL unfazed by  
US visa policy  
Speakers tell Jubo  
League event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,  
Rajshahi

Awami League is undeterred by the US visa policy and sanctions, said AL presidium member AHM Khairuzzaman Liton in Rajshahi yesterday.

He was speaking at the triennial conference of Rajshahi Jubo League. The day-long conference, chaired by city unit Jubo League president Ramjan Ali, was held on Pathanpara Road.


It featured discussions on the US visa policy, where party leaders criticised BNP's reliance on foreign powers and called for strong unity among party members ahead of the polls.

Information Minister Hasan Mahmud expressed concern over the US ambassador's comments on media personalities and their inclusion in the visa policy. He viewed this as an interference with the nation's independent media.

Meanwhile, JL Chairman Sheikh Fazle Shams Parash highlighted the challenges faced by the organisation due to intra-

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PRAYER  
TIMING  
SEPTEMBER 27



Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:35	12:45	4:15	6:00	7:30
JAMAAT 5:10	1:15	4:30	6:05	8:00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

85pc used 'Surokkha' to get jabs  
Says MJF study on Covid vaccination

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 85 percent people voluntarily registered for Covid-19 vaccines through "Surokkha" app while the remaining 15 percent registered in person during special vaccine campaigns or at vaccine centres, according to a Manusher Jonno Foundation study.

The findings of the study, titled "The Feedback State: Listening and Responding to Bangladesh's Citizens During the Covid-19 Pandemic" was revealed yesterday in an event held at a city hotel.

Around 2,400 individuals (50

percent male, 50 percent female), from rural and urban areas of 33 districts, participated in the study.

According to the study, 36 percent of respondents availed government healthcare services during the pandemic, either personally or for their families. Among them, 20 percent utilised telemedicine services.

Approximately 11 million and three million telehealth consultation calls were made in 2020, and 2021 respectively.

Additionally, 70 percent received information through

private television channels, 34 percent from BTV, 27.3 percent through social media, 24.7 percent through announcement using loud speakers, 12 percent via SMS from mobile operators, 11.3 percent through local government representatives, 1 percent from upazila Facebook pages, and 5.3 percent from other sources.

Of the respondents, 48 percent obtained information about the pandemic from family and community members.

Speaking at the event, lawmaker

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The Daily Star Centre  
64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215

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