

পূবালী ব্যাংক থেকে রেমিট্যান্স গ্রহণ
মাত্র ২৫ মিনিটে

যে কোনো শাখা থেকে পিন নম্বর এর মাধ্যমে রেমিট্যান্স গ্রহণ করলে সরকার নির্ধারিত ২.৫% প্রণোদনার সাথে পাবেন আরও ২.৫% পূবালী ব্যাংক প্রণোদনাসহ মোট ৫% প্রণোদনা।

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Subservient foreign policy to blame

Alleges Rizvi on border situation
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP senior secretary general Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday said the Bangladesh-Myanmar border has remained unprotected due to the Awami League government's "subservient" foreign policy.

"Now blood is being shed at the border. The country's borders always remained unprotected under the Awami League government. The government is failing to protect the country's sovereignty," Rizvi said at a press conference in Nayapaltan central party office.

"The current government is afraid of even lodging strong protests. They have kept

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METRO RAIL

A 'magic carpet' bringing bookworms to Boi Mela

TAHIRA SHAMSI UTSA

Just five years ago, if you told someone that they could commute to and from the Boi Mela in just an hour, they would have laughed at you and called you delusional.

However, the introduction of the metro rail has become a magical gateway for numerous people, allowing them to not spend their entire day in traffic just to visit the book fair.

Like Aladdin's magic carpet, it quickly zips through the city and gets them to their destination, all in record time by Dhaka standards.

Anisha Kader, an NGO worker residing in Uttara, was able to attend Amar Ekushey Boi Mela after almost five years. For her, the moment was heart-warming and she expressed joy over the improved accessibility facilitated by the newly operational metro rail.

An avid book lover, Anisha faced numerous challenges when attending the fair due to the city's notorious traffic. Recalling her time at Dhaka University, Anisha shared, "For five years, I couldn't attend any of my friends'

Travelling by metro rail is a relief this year, as elderly citizens like my parents are also able to visit the fair and enjoy colourful events.

Khandaker Robin
A Dhaka University graduate



hang-outs at the Boi Mela. But this year, I was excited as metro rail's TSC station opened in January. It took me less than 30 minutes to come here today."

The metro rail, which has been operating six days a week since January 20, has significantly slashed travel time for many, making it a viable option for those who had previously refrained from navigating the city for leisure, due to transportation woes.

Anisha expressed her plans to visit the fair more frequently, mentioning, "It would be excellent if the metro rail becomes operational on Fridays as well."

Khandaker Robin, a recent graduate from Dhaka University, echoed similar sentiments.

Visiting the fair from Mirpur 11 with his parents, Robin highlighted the challenges faced due to inadequate bus services.

"Travelling by metro rail is a relief this year, as elderly citizens like my parents are also able to visit the fair and enjoy the colourful events of Bangla Academy and Suhrawardy Udyan," he shared.

Robin's mother, Chaina Begum,

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Mirza Abbas gets bail in six cases

COURT CORRESPONDENT

BNP standing committee member Mirza Abbas got bail yesterday in six cases filed with Paltan and Ramna Model Police Stations over political violence centring the BNP rally in Dhaka on October 28 last year.

Dhaka Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Sultan Sohag Uddin passed the order after his lawyer Mohi Uddin Chowdhury submitted nine bail petitions.

The magistrate refused to grant him bail in three other cases -- two were filed with Ramna Model Police Station for vandalising vehicles in front of chief justice's residence and attacking his residence on October 28 while the

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Dengue drives need coordination

Speakers urge for proper monitoring, involvement of entomologists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Drives against Aedes mosquitoes, carriers of dengue virus, across the country are not getting fruitful results due to lack of coordination and monitoring, said experts at a roundtable yesterday.

The Dhaka North City Corporation held the roundtable at its conference room to finalise its round-the-year mosquito control plan.

Speakers urged the authorities concerned to involve sufficient entomologists in this work, who will not only lead the entire process, but also monitor the work round the year.

They also mentioned that surveys to identify hotspots have been insufficient, and recommended the city corporations to conduct the surveys on their own initiatives.

"As a part of the activities with

the city corporation, I once went to the field. While I went to the designated spot at 8:00am as per schedule, the mosquito supervisor came at 9:00am. I later came to

If dengue spreads this year, it will be riskier as a huge number of people are already infected by dengue virus. Second, third or fourth-time dengue cases are more severe.

PROF ABM ABDULLAH

know he worked as an assistant of a ward councillor," said Kabirul Bashar, an entomologist at Jahangirnagar University.

He also said around 43 percent of Aedes mosquitoes breed in the basement of multi-storey buildings



One dies, 11 get hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One more dengue patient died while 11 were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning.

The total number of deaths now stands at 16 while total number of cases rose to 1,137, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

A total of 104 dengue patients are still undergoing treatment at different hospitals across the country.

Among the total cases, 1,012 dengue patients have already been released.

Last year, the country witnessed 1,705 dengue-related deaths and a total of 321,179 reported cases.

RESOLVING FEUD
AL to hold special meeting Saturday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League is going to hold a special extended meeting on Saturday aiming to rein in party infighting across the country and bring discipline within its ranks.

Over 3,000 party leaders from central to grassroots, and elected representatives of the party -- both the AL lawmakers and independents from within AL, top leaders of front and associate bodies have been invited to the meeting.

AL President Sheikh Hasina will preside over the meeting, to be held at Gono Bhaban at 10:30am.

The meeting comes amid concerns over internal feud exacerbated by the decision allowing leaders to contest against party nominees in the January 7 polls, during which party supremo Hasina will provide guidance to grassroots leaders.

It comes after the AL decision to not provide the party electoral symbol "boat" in local government

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Action plan to combat drugs on the cards

Home minister tells JS
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal yesterday told parliament that the government is preparing a comprehensive action plan to combat the drug menace.

The minister said this while replying to a query of Awami League MP M Abdul Latif from Chattogram-II.

In absence of the home boss, Law Minister Anisul Huq gave reply to questions of lawmakers related to home affairs ministry during the question-answer session.

In a scripted answer, the home minister said, time fitting decisions were taken to finalise the need-based action plan through organising workshops with the stakeholders at upazila, district and divisional stage.

He said the government has taken a project titled

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INTER-DISTRICT ROUTES
BRTC plans to add 1,000 buses to its fleet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation is planning to expand its service in Dhaka, Chattogram and different inter-district routes by procuring around 1,000 buses.

A project to buy 340 CNG-run AC buses has already passed, while three more projects for buying 600 more buses are pending approval.

Besides, the state-run transport agency is going to take two separate projects to prepare 1.75 lakh drivers, officials said.

"Turning BRTA into a modern, profitable and smart organisation is my main target," said BRTC Chairman Tazul Islam.

He made the comments at a views-exchange meeting with the members of Reporters for Rail and Road (RRR), an organisation of reporters covering roads, railways, communication infrastructures and transport related issues, at BRTC's headquarters in the capital.

"BRTC is now operational in 208 local and five international routes between Bangladesh and India. Currently, we are carrying feasibility studies to operate buses on three more international routes," he shared.

Tazul said BRTC was incurring losses till 2019-20, but he made the corporation a profitable one after taking charge in February 2021. BRTC made Tk 84.35 crore profit in the last three fiscal years.

The corporation had dues (salary and other benefits for workers and employees) of Tk 101 crore till 2021, but

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Despite a ban, battery-run three-wheelers ply the Khulna-Mongla highway. Meanwhile, unfit vehicles, mostly loaded with construction materials, add to the risk. The photo was taken in Khulna's Chulkathi area yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN