

পূবালী ব্যাংক থেকে রেমিট্যান্স গ্রহণ
স্বাচ্ছন্দে দ্বিগুণ লাভ...

যে কোনো শাখা থেকে পিন নম্বর এর মাধ্যমে রেমিট্যান্স গ্রহণ করলে সরকার নির্ধারিত ২.৫% প্রদোদনার সাথে পাবেন আরও ২.৫% পূবালী ব্যাংক প্রদোদনাসহ মোট ৫% প্রদোদনা।

সাপ্তে আটও ত্রাত্তে নিশ্চিত আকর্ষণীয় পুরস্কার



পূবালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি
PUBALI BANK PLC.

ঘরে বসেই
ব্যাংক
অ্যাকাউন্ট
খুলুন

পাই ব্যাংকিং (PI Banking) –
একটি পূবালী ব্যাংক অ্যাপস

পূবালী ব্যাংকে সঞ্চয় করুন, নিরাপদে থাকুন

RESERVED SEATS FOR WOMEN

AL earns Tk 4.05 crore by selling 810 nominations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League has earned Tk 4.05 crore by selling 810 nomination forms for the reserved seats for women in the 12th Jatiya Sangsad.

Each nomination paper is being sold at TK 50,000.

The party started selling the nomination papers at its central office at Bangabandhu Avenue in Gulistan at 10:00am yesterday, and the sale will continue till next Thursday.

There are 50 reserved seats for women in parliament.

Earlier, the 62 independent MPs have given AL President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina the power to elect members of the reserved seats on their behalf. It means AL can place 48 MPs in reserved seats, while Jatiyo Party (JP) will have two.

Earlier, a notification was sent by the AL stating that application for party nomination for reserved seats can be collected and submitted from the central office.

A total of 275 nominations were sold in the Dhaka division, 149 in Chattogram, 26 in Sylhet, 75 in Rangpur, 56 in Barishal, 77 in Khulna, 90 in Rajshahi, and 62 in Mymensingh divisions.

In addition to the leaders and activists of different levels of the party, five actors have so far collected nomination forms for the reserved seats.

They are Apu Biswas, Nipun Akter, Tanven Sweetey, Urmila Srabanti Kar, and Sohana Saba.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



Passengers get off a bus in the middle of the busy Airport Road yesterday while other buses race past it. This risky way of commuting often leads to accidents as buses plying the same route are often seen racing each other to board passengers first. The photo was taken near Airport Railway Station.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

‘Will discuss Myanmar situation’

Says foreign minister on his meeting with Indian counterpart in Delhi

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Hasan Mahmud flew to New Delhi last night for his first bilateral meeting with his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar since he assumed office following the January 7 polls.



During his visit on February 6-9, he is also scheduled to meet Indian Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, said the foreign minister to journalists at the ministry yesterday.

“We earlier sought the support of India for Rohingya repatriation. We will also discuss the Myanmar security

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Country loses 13cr tonnes of agri soil to brick kilns annually: Saber

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thirteen crore tonnes of agricultural soil is being destroyed in the country every year due to brick kilns, said Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Saber Hossain Chowdhury in parliament yesterday.

The minister made this statement while replying to a question from independent MP Syed Sayedul Haque from Habiganj-4, better known as Barrister Suman.

Destroying agricultural soil for brick kilns has implications over the country's food security, Saber added.

In reply to another query from ruling Awami League lawmaker Nur Uddin Chowdhury, the minister said the country has to shift to a more eco-friendly method of making bricks.

Closing or demolishing brick kilns is not the only solution. We are trying to shift towards block bricks, he said.

“We will close existing brick kilns in a planned manner, so that development doesn't get disrupted. The price of bricks should not increase,” he added.

The environment ministry has conducted 2,516 raids in relation to the illegal production and use of polythene from January 2019 to December 2023, the minister said.

Fines amounting to Tk 6.17 crore were collected in 4,207 cases, Saber told the House.

He said 170 people have been imprisoned for various periods and 2,071.37 tonnes of polythene, grains and raw materials have been seized. Additionally, 16 regular cases have been filed.

Form policies to protect parks, playgrounds

Experts tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A policy, with proper planning and management, is necessary to protect parks and playgrounds across the country, urban planning experts said yesterday.

According to the World Health Organization, every person needs a minimum of nine square metres of open space. However, only 16 percent residents of Dhaka city can avail the amenities, they said at a views-exchange meeting held at Jatiya Press Club.

There is also an acute shortage of playgrounds in other divisional and district cities of the country, they added.

IPD and Work For A Better Bangladesh Trust (WBBT) jointly organised the meeting on “Planning and management of playgrounds in city areas: challenges and perspectives”.

“The recent initiatives taken for developing fields and parks in the city area are highly commendable. However, due to lack of accessibility and inclusiveness in the

“At present, the opportunities to play in fields are shrinking. Most schools do not have playgrounds. Not only in Dhaka, there is shortage of fields in other district and divisional cities. As a result, the prevalence of juvenile gangs and drugs is increasing.”

Adil Mohammad Khan Director of IPD

developed fields, local people are deprived of engagement in sports,” Adil Mohammad Khan, director of Institute For Planning and Development, said in keynote speech.

“At present, the opportunities to play in fields are shrinking. Most schools do not have playgrounds. Not only in Dhaka, there is shortage of fields in other district and divisional cities. As a result, the prevalence of juvenile gangs and drugs is increasing,” he also said.

In this situation, creating playgrounds in every ward and allowing sports opportunities to girls are necessary, Adil added.

According to research, of the 235

playgrounds in Dhaka, 141 are institutional grounds where children and teenagers do not have free access, said Professor Akter Mahmud, adviser of IPD.

“A similar situation prevails in other district and upazila towns. However, the Open Space Protection Act-2000 dictates that playgrounds, open spaces, parks and natural reservoirs in the country's urban areas cannot be changed in any case if they are marked as fields/gardens or waterbodies in the master plan,” he said.

Considering the shortage of playgrounds, Dhaka's drainage management can also be

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

‘Conduct fair probe, punish those involved’

Demand 18 eminent citizens, Shujan over JU rape incident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eighteen citizens yesterday expressed anger and protested the rape of a student at Jahangirnagar University on February 3.

“We are shocked and outraged by this incident,” they said in a statement.

It mentioned that similar incidents occurred at the university in the past, but the authorities failed to investigate or take action.

“The university also failed to implement effective security measures on the campus, allowing some rogue students to commit such crimes,” the statement read.

They also expressed concerns over the rapist's alleged political affiliations.

“The students of today will govern the state and society in the future. If they face such moral degradation, the country's future is at risk,” the statement read.

In the statement, they demanded the government swiftly investigate and prosecute this heinous crime. They also called upon the JU authorities to ensure full security on the campus.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

One generation to next, Humayun Ahmed lives on

ARAFAT RAHAMAN

What makes a writer truly live on?

Eleven years, six months, and eighteen days. This is roughly the time which has passed since the literary world mourned the loss of the icon that is Humayun Ahmed.

The last time Humayun visited Amar Ekushey Boi Mela was in 2011. In 2012, as that year's fair was going on, he was in New York for cancer treatment, before passing away later in July.

But even a decade after his death, the writer is still at the top of the readers' list. He is well alive in the hearts of his fans through eternal characters like “Misir Ali”, “Himu” and “Shuvra”.

As usual, flocks of young bookworms are thronging the stalls selling books of or on Humayun at this year's book fair to explore the captivating world he created through words.

This newspaper yesterday came across at least a few dozen readers, young and old, who came to the fair from across the city for the sole purpose of buying his books.

One of them is Sarah Rahman. She said, “He paints pictures with words. His characters feel like neighbours, friends and families. When I revisit his stories, it's like coming back home.”

During the visit, numerous stalls and pavilions displayed large portraits of the late author, suggesting his mammoth popularity among readers. Most of Humayun's published works are from Anya Prakash,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



Even more than a decade after his death, Humayun Ahmed is still at the top of the readers' list, such is his enduring popularity. From novels and autobiographies to travelogues, all his titles are still selling well at this year's Boi Mela.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS