

পূবালী ব্যাংক থেকে রেমিট্যান্স গ্রহণ
মাত্র দুই মিনিটে...
যে কোনো শাখা থেকে পিন নম্বর এর মাধ্যমে রেমিট্যান্স গ্রহণ করলে
সরকার নির্ধারিত ২.৫% প্রমোদনার সাথে পাবেন আরও
২.৫% পূবালী ব্যাংক প্রমোদনাসহ মোট ৫% প্রমোদনা।

সাপ্তে আটও আশ্রিত নিশ্চিত আকর্ষণীয় পুরস্কার

ঘরে বসেই
ব্যাংক
অ্যাকাউন্ট
খুলুন

পাই ব্যাংকিং (PI Banking) -
একটি পূবালী ব্যাংক অ্যাপস

পূবালী ব্যাংক সঞ্চয় করুন, নিরাপদে থাকুন



Need more women in science

PM tells int'l event

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said the world needs right policies and institutions to help young women choose a career in science and technology.

"We need more women and girls in science for a just, inclusive, and sustainable future. We must have the right policies and institutions for young women to choose a career in science and technology," she said.

The prime minister said this in a video statement that was played in the 9th International Day of Women and Girls in Science Assembly at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

She mentioned it is important that women in science are promoted to leadership positions.

"In Bangladesh, I

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



Work for cleaning and preparing the Central Shaheed Minar goes on in full swing, ahead of International Mother Language Day to be observed on February 21. On the day, Dhaka residents will pay tribute to the 1952 Language Movement martyrs at the monument.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

'Metro, expressway not enough to curb gridlock'

Speakers suggest overhauling public transport, bringing discipline to traffic system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

While the metro rail and elevated expressway alleviated congestion in certain parts of the capital, additional initiatives are required to address overall traffic jams, said speakers at a seminar yesterday.

They said the government should focus on expanding public transportation and increase facilities for pedestrians.

They were speaking at a seminar titled "Traffic Jam in Dhaka: The Impact of Metrorail and Elevated Expressway".

Bangladesh Utility Reporters Association organised the programme.

Prof Adil Mohammed Khan, president of Bangladesh Institute of Planners, said, "We're experiencing contrasting impacts

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



Tawfiq Aziz Khan's 22nd death anniversary

CITY DESK

Today is the 23rd death anniversary of Tawfiq Aziz Khan, former executive editor of The Daily Star, sports writer and commentator.

One of the leading journalists of the country, Tawfiq joined the then-Pakistan Observer as a staff reporter in 1958 while he was a student at Dhaka University.

He joined The Daily Star in 1990 as its founding managing editor. He became executive editor in 1997 and worked in that capacity till his death.

The first English sports commentator of the country, Tawfiq Aziz was the resident editor of Cricketer Asia of Hong Kong and Sports Times of Lahore. He was also the founding editor of the fortnightly Kriya Jagat.

Family, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for the salvation of his departed soul.

Include women with disabilities in JS reserved seats

Speakers tell event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rights advocates at a press conference yesterday demanded the inclusion of women with disabilities in the reserved seats for women in the 12th national parliament.

They also urged for the amendment of Jatiya Sangsad (Reserved Seats for Women) Election Act, 2004, to allocate quotas for women with disabilities, terming it a pivotal step towards ensuring their representation in the highest stage of political decision-making.

Women with disabilities must have representation from local governments to national parliament in order to overcome the behavioural and environmental barriers they face, the speakers opined.

The event, titled "Representation of Women with Disabilities in the Reserved Seats: Press Conference to Garner the Attention of the Prime Minister", was jointly organised by Protibondhi Nagorik Shangathaner Parishad (PNSP) and National Council of Disabled Women (NCDW) at Jatiya Press Club.

Presenting the keynote address, PNSP general secretary Salma Mahbub underscored the commitment outlined in the National Action Plan 2013 for the implementation of the National Women's Development Policy 2011 and the Action

Two seats are supposed to be reserved for women with disabilities in the parliament. However, no significant steps have been taken to translate this commitment into reality.

SALMA MAHBUB
PNSP general secretary

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



People listening to audiobooks at Kahinik stall at Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday. According to the stall officials, currently Kahinik has over 100 books in its store. Two other stalls, Kabbik and ShunBoi, located on the Bangla Academy premises, have also been capturing the attention of booklovers through audiobooks at this year's book fair.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Audiobooks: when stories come alive

ARAFAT RAHAMAN

While taking a stroll at the Amar Ekushey Boi Mela yesterday, a voice narrating a passage from Bibhutibhusan Bandyopadhyay's classic "Adarsha Hindu Hotel" grabbed this correspondent's attention.

Intrigued, he followed the trail and discovered a unique stall inside Suhrawardy Udyan — Kahinik Audiobooks.

Here, stories come alive not through words, but through narration. The audio books have brought a breath of fresh air to this edition of the fair, enchanting visitors with narratives that transcend the pages.

This innovative approach changes the typical Boi Mela experience, providing a modern and accessible way to engage people with books and Bangla literature.

According to the stall officials, currently Kahinik has over 100 books in its store, reaching over 25 countries and making Bangla literature accessible to global readers.

Beyond Kahinik, two other stalls, Kabbik and ShunBoi, located on the Bangla Academy premises, have also been capturing the attention of booklovers.

Launched in 2022, Kabbik already has over 2,500 audiobooks in its library, offering a diverse selection of genres

including horror, thriller, classics, poetry, children's content and others. Shunboi, another platform, has released 300 audiobooks and plans to expand its library in the coming months.

These stalls are attracting large crowds at the fair, both young and old alike.

One Tuhin Alam from Uttara, said, "I've already registered on their app. Numerous books are available for listening at Kahinik Audiobooks, and visitors can enjoy a specific duration of free listening time."

Md Salman, another youth, said, "Listening to my favourite stories is fun but I also value the scent of physical books; after all, stories aren't the only thing that matters."

Contacted, Kahinik co-founder Imrad Zulkarninesaid, "While hundreds of other stalls offer pages to turn, we tried to do something unique that can bring stories closer to booklovers, where they can access favourite stories from any place, at home, workplace or in a traffic jam."

He said it's a platform for writers, publishers, and storytellers to showcase their work, bypassing traditional barriers and connecting directly with their audience.

"Currently, we are collaborating with 16 publishers," Imrad added.

Empower communities to transform health sector

Say speakers; new platform launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Advocacy with strategic priorities is urgent to mitigate the issues pertaining to the country's healthcare sector, said experts at a programme yesterday.

The event, titled "Bangladesh Road to UHC: Urgency of a strategic big-push", was organised by PPRC, a research institute, at the CIRDAP auditorium in Dhaka.

At the event, UHC Forum, a newly-formed platform led by health-focused professionals and activists, was launched with the motto of "Empowering Progress, Engaging Communities, Transforming Health".

The new think-tank will work on policymaking and strategic support to the government for the healthcare sector.

"The country's healthcare sector has loopholes regarding community engagement, real-time data, mixed skill, and politically intelligent reform. These gaps led us to build the UHC Forum," said PPRC executive chairman Prof Hossain Zillur Rahman, also the forum's convener.

"Here, we will focus on five particular priorities — non-communicable diseases, economic burden caused by health, and community engagement for public health, and provide policymaking support to the government in this regard to ensure inclusive and universal healthcare for all," he said.

Public health expert Abu Jamil Faisal, former health secretary Md Ashadul Islam, and Prof Syed Abdul Hamid of the Institute of Health Economics, also spoke.

A Concern of United Group

www.sjwschool.org

Let's learn to spread our wings

SIR JOHN WILSON SCHOOL

EST. 1995

Main Campus: United City, Satarkul, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh
Early Section: House 5, Road 77, Gulshan 2
Admission office: 01709933013

Sir John Wilson School has unleashed its spirit bird, symbolically as it strives to give wings to its students!

With a vibrant learning environment and fresh approach to steer curiosity and creativity, Sir John Wilson School is ready to take its children to soar high!