

পূবালী ব্যাংক থেকে রেমিট্যান্স গ্রহণ  
স্বাস্থ্যেই বিশ্বাস লাভ...

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।

স্বাস্থ্যেই বিশ্বাস লাভ...  
পূবালী ব্যাংক অ্যাকাউন্ট খুলুন

পাই ব্যাংকিং (PI Banking) -  
একটি পূবালী ব্যাংক অ্যাপস

পূবালী ব্যাংক সক্ষম করুন, নিরাপদে থাকুন

## 4-year-old dies in fire at Ashulia home

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Savar

A four-year-old child was burned to death in a fire that broke out at a home in Dhaka's Ashulia yesterday morning.

The deceased was identified as Shakib, son of Nizamuddin, a day labourer of Pathalia union in Ashulia. Shakib's mother is a house help.

The incident happened around 10:00am, said Alauddin, deputy assistant director of Fire Service and Civil Defense Directorate.

There are six rooms in the mud house where two families live. The child was alone in the house and his parents were outside during the incident. The blaze spread to the four rooms soon after the fire broke out.

A fire engine from Zirabo went to the spot and recovered the charred body, Alauddin said.

"Initially, we suspect that the house caught fire from an electrical short circuit," he added.



Traders display tyres occupying a significant part of a footpath in the capital's Bijoy Nagar area. Some of them even stack the tyres on the road, obstructing movement of pedestrians and vehicles. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## ALLEGATION OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT DU students demand probe against teacher

DU CORRESPONDENT

Students of Dhaka University's Mass Communication and Journalism Department demonstrated on the campus yesterday, demanding that Prof Naadir Junaid of the department be relieved from all academic activities.

They also called for a proper investigation into the allegation of "sexual harassment" brought against the teacher.

The students boycotted classes and formed a human chain at the base of Aparajeyo Bangla to press home their demands.

A DU student on Saturday filed a written complaint alleging sexual harassment and

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# 19 institutions owe DSCC Tk 75cr in holding tax

DIPAN NANDY

Dhaka Medical College Hospital, a government-run institution, has not paid a single taka of holding tax to Dhaka South City Corporation in the last 10 years.

As such, DMCH owes DSCC more than Tk 26 crore as holding tax.

The situation is the same for Dhaka University, which owes more than Tk 15 crore in holding tax to DSCC since 2014-15 fiscal year.

DMCH and DU are among 19 public and private institutions that owe DSCC more than Tk 75 crore in holding tax, according to a recent report of the revenue department of the DSCC.

Holding tax is one of the major sources of revenue for DSCC. Over the years, DSCC has repeatedly been serving the institutions notices, urging them to clear their dues. However, they did not respond, said officials.

In the last fiscal year, DSCC earned over Tk 347 crore from holding tax collected from areas under its jurisdiction.

DSCC Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh announced that they aim to collect Tk 512 crore from holding tax in this fiscal year.

According to the list of defaulters prepared by DSCC, Holy Family Hospital owes Tk 5.33 crore in holding tax since FY 2002-03, Justice Amin Ahmed Trust owes Tk 1.38 crore since FY 2021-22, Muktijoddha Kalyan

TOP DEFAULTERS	
NAME OF INSTITUTIONS	AMOUNT OWED IN CR
Dhaka Medical College Hospital	26.11
Dhaka University	15.27
Muktijoddha Kalyan Trust (Gulistan)	5.50
Railways Ministry	5.34
Holy Family Hospital	5.32

SOURCE: DSCC REVENUE DEPT

Trust (Gulistan and Wiseghat) owes a total Tk 8.63 crore, DMCH owes Tk 26.11 crore since FY 2013-14, DU owes Tk 15.27 crore since FY 2014-15, Popular Diagnostics Ltd owes Tk 63.66 lakh, Dr Sirajul Islam Medical College

and Hospital owes Tk 89.60 lakh, Northern Medical College Hospital owes Tk 3.18 crore, Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Limited owes Tk 1.39 crore, the railways ministry owes Tk 5.34 crore, office of Railway Divisional Engineer-3 owes Tk 2.76 crore, and Bangladesh Football Federation owes Tk 84.11 lakh.

Contacted, Brig Gen Md Asaduzzaman, director of DMCH, said, "I will find out more in this regard. If we owe any tax to the city corporation, steps will be taken to that end."

Prof Mamtaz Uddin Ahmed, treasurer of DU, said, "We have been paying holding tax to the local government ministry through the education ministry. Now the city corporation claims that the holding tax of the university is due for a long time. Funds have been sought from the University Grants Commission in this regard."

Prof Brig Gen SM Humayun Kabir (ret'd), director of Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College Hospital, said, "The money we owe was from a long time ago. As it was not cleared, the amount kept on increasing. We have applied to the city corporation for a tax waiver as a humanitarian organisation."

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## Over 1,000 private medical centres run without licence Says DGHS report to HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There are around 1,027 unauthorised private hospitals, clinics, diagnostic centres, and blood banks across the country that are operating without valid licences, according to a report by Directorate General of Health Services.

A total of 15,233 private hospitals, clinics, diagnostic centres, and blood banks have licences to run operations, said the report.

DGHS produced the report before the High Court yesterday through DAG Tushar Kanti Roy in compliance with its previous order while hearing a writ petition.

The bench of Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam and Justice Md Atabullah asked DAG Tushar to submit the report by swearing an affidavit and fixed February 18 for further hearings on the matter.

The petition was filed by Supreme Court lawyer ABM Shahjahan Akanda Masum and Shamim Ahmed, father of five-year-old Ayaan, who died following a circumcision at United Medical College Hospital in Dhaka on January 9, seeking its directive on the authorities concerned to give Tk 1 crore to Ayaan's family and to probe the incident.

On December 31 last year, Ayaan was circumcised at United Medical College Hospital, where doctors reportedly administered excessive anaesthesia for the procedure without his parents' consent.

As he did not regain consciousness in a few hours post-operation, he was transferred to the United Hospital in Gulshan. After keeping Ayaan on life support in the paediatric intensive care unit for seven days, the doctors declared him dead, Shahjahan told The Daily Star.

## 'No economic zone on agri land' Say eminent citizens in a letter to PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nine eminent citizens, in a letter issued yesterday, sought necessary measures from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to stop the filling of agricultural land with sand under the guise of establishing an economic zone in Sonargaon upazila of Narayanganj.

They also requested the local administration to implement the court order and revoke the pre-qualification licence of Unique Properties Development Ltd owner Md Nur Ali. He obtained it from the Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority for establishing the "Sonargaon Economic Zone" on agricultural land in Pirojpur union of the upazila.

They hoped that the prime minister's instructions would set an example for protecting agricultural land and preventing land grabbers from initiating such projects.

"Your [PM] firm statement and stance on protecting agricultural lands and water bodies, alongside various laws, policies, and government plans to preserve them, have created hope among people," said the letter issued by the eminent citizens, including rights activists Sultana Kamal, Khushi Kabir, and Transparency International Bangladesh's Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman.

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## ROAD ACCIDENTS

### Five die in lorry-autorickshaw collision in Cumilla 3 more lives lost on roads

STAR REPORT

Five persons were killed in a head-on collision between a lorry and a CNG-run auto-rickshaw in Cumilla's Daudkandi upazila yesterday morning.

The deceased are Jahanara Begum, 55, and her son Shafi Ullah; Pijush Mondol, Monir, 35, and auto-rickshaw driver Ismail, 38.

The accident took place at Mahananda on Sachar Gouripur regional road around 9:30am, said Mozammel Hoque, officer-in-charge of Daudkandi Police Station.

Quoting locals and eye-witnesses, the OC said while trying to overtake another vehicle, an auto-rickshaw collided head on with the lorry coming from the opposite direction.

Four of them died on the spot, said Rasel Ahmed, an officer of Daudkandi Fire Brigade, adding that one died after being taken to local health complex.

Injured Sadia, 20, and Sharif, 5, have been sent to Dhaka as their condition deteriorated.

Meanwhile, three people were killed and five others injured in road accidents in three districts in the last two days, according to

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## Govt must create a complete data bank: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Road safety campaigners yesterday demanded the government build a comprehensive data bank on road crashes so that the issue can be tackled properly.

They made the demand at a press conference organised by Bangladesh Jatri Kalyan Samity in the capital on building a complete road crash data bank by the government to achieve the SDG target.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) target 3.6 is to reduce the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents by half.

The demands came at a time when the country is witnessing growing numbers of road crashes and deaths, but the numbers vary in the data of different government and non-government organisations.

Hossain Zillur Rahman, former adviser to a caretaker government, said it is urgent to establish good governance on the roads to curb road crashes and deaths.

"Apart from building a complete road crash data bank, transparency and accountability of the government fund for road crash victims must be ensured," said Zillur, also the convener of Safe Road and Transport Alliance.

Although road infrastructure saw a big boost and the number of vehicles saw a sharp rise, road safety issues remained ignored, he said.

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PHOTO: COLLECTED

A section of tea workers staged a rally in Moulvibazar's Komolganj upazila yesterday, demanding a fair investigation into the death of Preeti Uran, 15.

## AMAR EKUSHEY BOI MELA

### Where love for books begins

ARAFAT RAHAMAN

Eight-year-old Jamiul couldn't contain his excitement, bouncing on his toes as he waited to enter the Suhrawardy Udyan section of the book fair. His father, Shafayet, held his hand tight, with a proud smile mirroring his son's joy.

"Boi Mela is where our love for books began," Shafayet shared, his voice warm with nostalgia. "We didn't want Jamiul to miss the magic."

Everywhere, children like Jamiul, hands held tight by parents, skipped

between stalls, their laughter echoing through the book fair. The air buzzed with a contagious energy, a celebration of stories and shared experiences.

While the little ones explored genres like rhymes, cartoons, and comics in the "Shishu Chatter" areas, the youths searched for thrillers, adventures, histories, poetry, novels, and more.

Tonoya, a 25-year-old private university student, said, "Usually, I buy books online. But why would I miss such a chance to buy books in person, in the

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## PREETI'S DEATH Tea workers call for fair probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A section of tea garden workers yesterday staged a rally in Moulvibazar's Komolganj upazila demanding justice for the death of Preeti Uran, a house help who died in Dhaka on February 6.

The 15-year-old fell from the eighth-floor apartment of The Daily Star's Executive Editor Syed Ashfaqul Haque in the capital's Mohammadpur.

At yesterday's rally, the participants also called for a fair investigation into her death.

The rally was organised by "Cha-Sramikder Das Dafa Bastabayan Sangram Committee", "Uran Bhasha O Sangskriti Rakkhya Committee" and "Bangladesh Oraon Welfare Association" at Mirtinga tea garden around 11:00am.

Speakers also demanded reforms in wage structure for tea workers and proper

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