

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 ব্যাংকে সঞ্চয় করুন, নিরাপদে থাকুন

Major parties' absence doesn't invalidate polls

Says CEC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An election does not lack legality if major political parties abstain from participation, but it undermines legitimacy, said Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibur Awal yesterday.

"If major political parties do not participate in polls, it will not be impure. The election will not be deemed illegal, but the universality, credibility, and fairness can be curtailed. However, questions may not be raised about its legality. The relationship between legality and legitimacy cannot be entirely ruled out," Awal said.

He made these remarks while addressing a reception organised by the newly elected executive committee of the Reporters Forum for Election and Democracy, an organisation of journalists covering the Election Commission, at Nirbachan Bhaban in the capital.

He said if the right adjustments are made, the election can become even better.

Regarding the upcoming upazila-level elections, he said, "Distinguished individuals, those who are locally popular - not affiliated with any party, those who genuinely care for the people, and have connections with them, should contest the polls... Regardless of their party affiliation, they should participate and fulfill the promises made to the people after being elected".

"My experience in local government elections may be wrong, but I have always noticed that the turnout is very

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NATURE'S REBIRTH... A squirrel decides to step outside its drey in Bogura town's Fateh Ali Bridge area to enjoy fresh nectar of Shimul flowers as chilly breeze bids farewell yesterday morning. After weeks of fighting the cold, the country finally welcomes spring, a time when sun-kissed green leaves and vibrant floral petals take over withered grey branches and rustling brown leaves. PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABU

Government to formulate AI law: Anisul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said the government has taken initiative to formulate an Artificial Intelligence (AI) law.

"Initial discussions are taking place for this purpose. But opinions must be solicited from the stakeholders before formulating the law," he said while holding a meeting with a delegation of "Centre for Non-Resident Bangladeshis" at secretariat.

Anisul Huq said the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina-led government always wants to formulate people-friendly laws and that is why her government has kept scopes to hold talks with the stakeholders before enacting laws.

He said the government has already formulated the Use of Information and Communication Technology by Courts Act while establishing digital Bangladesh.

Include house helps under labour law

Speakers tell event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Domestic workers or house helps should be included under existing labour laws to effectively implement the Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare Policy 2015, said speakers at a discussion yesterday.

They also demanded justice for 15-year-old house help Preeti Urang, who died after falling from the eighth floor of a building in Dhaka's Mohammadpur on February 6.

The event, titled "Time is Now for Social and State Recognition of Domestic Work and Workers, Inclusion in Labour Laws," was organised by Mirpur Zone Domestic Workers Regional Forum, under Karmajibi Nari's "Securing Rights of Women Domestic Workers in Bangladesh" project. It was held in the capital.

With financial support from Oxfam GB and Global Affairs Canada, Karmajibi Nari is implementing the project through Dushtha Shasthya Kendra, UCEP Bangladesh, and HelloTask, providing life skills training to 16,000 domestic workers.

Beginning with a minute of silence for Preeti, Zakia Sultana, president of Mirpur Zone Forum, said due to absence of legal protection, employers dare to repeatedly abuse domestic workers and escape accountability through their influence.

Referring to Preeti's case, Zakia said, "If justice is delivered, we can hope to prevent such deaths from recurring."

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Bangalee students in 'tribal' quota

MBBS admissions spark controversy

AHMED DEEPTO

Seven Bangalee students have been selected under the "tribal" quota in the recent MBBS admission test, raising eyebrows and concerns about irregularities.

This unexpected development comes after the Directorate General of Medical Education (DGME) published the results on February 11, revealing the selection of Bangalee students within a designated quota meant for indigenous communities.

The MBBS exam was held on February 10 with results declared the following day.

The seven are: Sadia Akter Raisa (Colonel Malek Medical College, Manikganj), Saima Alam (Sathkhira Medical College), Tohura Tanjina Nishat (Shaheed Syed Nazrul Islam Medical College, Kishoreganj), Tasnuba Asmita Kahon (Sheikh Sayera Khatun Medical College,

Gopalganj), Arfa Jannat Samia (Sheikh Hasina Medical College, Tangail), Shahriar Hasan Shifan (Jashore Medical College), and Boishakhi Dey Nodi (Sheikh Hasina Medical College, Jamalpur).

While details of these students and their nominations are listed, questions remain regarding how they managed to qualify under the tribal quota, sparking discussions

In 2017, four Bangalee students got nominated at the admission test for dental units of government medical colleges. After media reports, the authorities canceled their admission and selected students from indigenous groups.

about potential rule violations and the need for further investigation.

Contacted, Director (Medical Education) of DGME Mohiuddin Matubbar said, "If the allegations are true, then their admission will be cancelled. Admission of Bangalees under the 'tribal' quota is not permitted according to rules."

He said applicants sometimes mistakenly select the tribal quota during the application process. "We are scrutinising what really happened. We will take steps accordingly," he added.

On January 10, the DGME released the MBBS admission circular 2023-24 for government and private medical colleges nationwide. Mohiuddin Matubbar signed the circular.

It specified 17 seats reserved for students from indigenous communities, including three hill

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Fulfill climate commitments

Saber asks developed nations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environment Minister Saber Hossain Chowdhury underscored the necessity for developed nations to fulfill their promised commitments regarding climate change.

Speaking at the World Government Summit in Dubai, he emphasised the pressing need for fostering global solidarity and trust so that the momentum created through the UAE Consensus during COP28 can be built upon and solidified.

Highlighting commitments made during previous COPs - relating to emission cuts, means of implementation, and adaptation finance - he noted that these promises have not been fulfilled.

"Behind terms like 'adaptation, financing gaps' lies the fundamental 'trust gap'."

He called for concerted efforts to bridge this trust deficit, asserting that COP28 prioritised building global trust and solidarity.

"All actions must be aligned with science and the absolute imperative of capping temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius," he said, asserting that we must solve the problem of climate change faster than we are creating it.



Locals queue up in front of an OMS truck on the capital's Bosila road to buy essentials at subsidised prices. Each buyer can purchase 5kg of rice for Tk 30 per unit while flour, with same allotment per head, is sold for Tk 24 per kilo. The goods are packed and handed over after they show their NID and sign their names in a register book. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Taking measures against dengue

Says health minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 1,721 people died of dengue between January 2023 and February 5 this year, Health Minister Dr Samanta Lal Sen told parliament yesterday.

In reply to a query of ruling Awami League MP M Abdul Latif from Chattogram-11, the minister said the Health Service Division has taken various measures to reduce casualty from dengue.

Samanta said pre-season (pre-monsoon), season (monsoon) and post-

season (post-monsoon) surveys of Aedes mosquitoes are ongoing in Dhaka city. The results of the survey are being communicated to city corporations.

He said the Aedes mosquito survey programme is being completed every two months at Dhaka airport.

Besides, new editions of national guidelines on dengue patient management were prepared and distributed.

Dr Samanta also said an integrated control room for dengue prevention and control has been set up.

12th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Al Hajj Lt. Col Hesamuddin Ahmed, psc (Retd). served as a Secretary to the Government of Bangladesh in various ministries. He was the Administrator of the Dhaka Municipality, Chairman of RAJUK and other important corporations.

Being the Founder President of the National Shooting Federation Bangladesh, the Founder Member and Founding Vice Chairman RAOWA, his contributions will always be remembered.

He was associated with UCEP Bangladesh, SAHIC and various sports and social welfare organizations. In recognition of his remarkable contributions in the field of Sports development and social welfare, he was awarded the National Sports Award (2003), Atish Dipannkar Gold Medal, Poet Sarojini Naidu Gold Medal, C R Das Gold Medal etc.

**-Dearly Missed & Always Cherished by
Wife, Son, Daughter, Daughter in Law,
Son in Law & Granddaughters**

In the Loving Memory of Al Hajj Lt. Col. Hesamuddin Ahmed, psc (Retd).
"Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal."