

পূবালী ব্যাংক থেকে রেমিট্যান্স গ্রহণ  
স্বাভাৱেই দ্বিগুণ লাভ...

যে কোনো শাখা থেকে পিন নম্বৰ এৰ মাধ্যমে রেমিট্যান্স গ্রহণ কৰলে  
সৰকাৰ নিৰ্ধাৰিত ২.৫% প্ৰশোদনাৰ সৈতে পাবেন আৰু  
২.৫% পূবালী ব্যাংক প্ৰশোদনাসহ মোট ৫% প্ৰশোদনা।

সাপ্তে আৰুও আৰু নিশ্চিত আৰু সৰ্বশ্ৰেষ্ঠ পুৰস্কাৰ

ঘৰে বসেই  
ব্যাংক  
অ্যাকাউন্ট  
খুলুন

পূবালী ব্যাংক (PI Banking) -  
একটি পূবালী ব্যাংক অ্যাপস

পূবালী ব্যাংকে সক্ষম কৰুন, নিৰাপদে থাকুন

## Will formulate policy for social media

Arafat tells journos

BSS, Dhaka

State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mohammad Ali Arafat yesterday agreed to demands from journalists to formulate a policy for social media and ensure accountability.

"As journalists underscored the need to formulate policies for all social media, I agreed to the demands and will try to fulfill it after consulting with journalists and other stakeholders," he said.

The remarks came during a meeting with Broadcast Journalist Centre (BJC) leaders at Secretariat.

In the meeting, BJC leaders also placed other demands including taking steps to complete Sagar-Rumi murder trial, forming a wage board for broadcast journalists, formulating a policy and constituting a council for broadcast and

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**SPRING IN THE AIR!** In celebration of the first day of Falgun, a girl poised in the attire and colour of the season, makes her way through the merry crowd and the bubbles that are about to pop brushing up against the gentle basanta breeze. The celebration continued at Ekushey Bôi Mela as people, adorned in all the colours spring brings, made the mela the perfect place to celebrate all three festivities -- the first day of Spring, Saraswati puja and Valentine's Day. The photo was taken at Charukala yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Inflation will come under control soon

PM tells parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday told the parliament that various initiatives by her government will bring inflation under control soon.

"As per forecast, inflation is likely to come down significantly in 2024 in key economies, including the US and the European Union. This will reduce prices of fuel, food products, and fertilisers in the global market," she said in reply to a question by Jatiyo Party MP Mujibul Haque Chhunu.

"The government's initiatives to normalise the food supply situation and adjust fuel oil prices, among others, will bring inflation in the country under control," she said.

Hasina said the pandemic, Russia-Ukraine war, and war-centric sanctions adversely affected the global economy, and Bangladesh is among the nations experiencing various economic crises due to this.

"This has significantly impacted inflation, subsidy expenditure, balance of trade, forex reserves, and exchange rates," she added.

"The government is trying to keep the prices of consumer goods normal," she added.

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## KHALEDA CASES

Charge framing hearing deferred until Apr 24

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday set April 24 for hearing on charge framing of 11 cases, including a sedition case, filed against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

Judge (in-charge) Faisal Atiq Bin Kader of Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court fixed the date, said APP Tapash Kumar Pal. The adjournment came following petitions submitted by the defence, citing different reasons.

Khaleda Zia, who is out of jail following an executive order from the government, is now unwell and is staying at her Gulshan residence.

Among the 11 cases, 10 were filed in the first three months of 2015 over arson attacks, while the rest was filed with a Dhaka court on charge of making seditious comments on freedom fighters and martyrs of the Liberation War.

## Is family planning solely women's responsibility?

NILIMA JAHAN

Karima Begum found herself in a challenging situation when her husband returned home.

They were separated for nearly a year this time, and the only issue that led to their repeated separations was his reluctance towards contraception.

Karima, who supports her four children by working as domestic help, takes contraceptive injections every three months to avoid unplanned pregnancies.

However, the process leaves the 46-year-old with a range of side effects.

"My menstruation cycle changes, leading to skipped periods a month while resulting in heavy bleeding the next," she said.

Working from morning till evening, Karima has to work at seven households for a monthly income of Tk 12,000.

"I feel sick which disrupts my work. Alongside enduring the day-long toil, unprecedented bleeding further worsens my situation. On top of it, I am gaining weight due to the injections and this hampers my stamina and mobility," she added.

Sidelining Karima's repeated efforts, her husband refused to use permanent



**A 2020 Nijera Kori study by Prof Zobaida Nasreen of Dhaka University's anthropology department revealed that 96 percent of male respondents believed birth control was solely a woman's responsibility.**

contraceptive methods, citing concerns about a potential decrease in his workability, despite being a seasonal worker who doesn't contribute to his family.

"He returned this time upon the condition that I would take injections, despite the side effects," she said.

Sabrina Trina, a 24-year-old service holder married for 11 months, shared a similar experience.

Due to her husband's unwillingness to use contraception, Trina has to rely on short-term contraceptive pills, as her husband feels

family planning is her "sole responsibility".

Trina gets severe mood swings which affects both her professional and personal life. Her husband even forces her to take emergency contraceptive pills when she forgets to take her regular ones. This makes her worried about her fertility.

"Women are responsible for everything, be it infertility or family planning," she lamented.

**LOW PREVALENCE RATE IN MEN**

According to the Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey 2022, the contraceptive

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## Ensure justice for Preeti Urang

Speakers demand at human chain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students, youths, and women organisations from the indigenous community yesterday demanded justice for Preeti Urang, a 15-year-old house help, who fell to her death from the eighth-floor flat of The Daily Star's executive editor.

They made the demand at a human chain formed under the banner of "Indigenous Students, Youths, and Women Organisations" seeking justice for Preeti Urang and the attempted rape of an indigenous girl at Mahalchhari in Khagrachhari district.

It was held in front of the capital's National Museum.

Preeti from Moulvibazar's Kamolganj upazila died after falling from the Mohammadpur flat of Syed Ashfaqul Haque, executive editor of The Daily Star, on February 6. Ashfaqul and his wife are now on a four-day police remand.

Meanwhile on February 9, two men attempted to rape an indigenous girl while she was on her way to bring water from a Jhiri in Khagrachhari's Mahalchhari upazila. The two accused were arrested later.

Speaking at yesterday's event, Ananya Drong, finance secretary at Bangladesh Indigenous Youth Forum, said they feel ashamed that they always have to take to the streets to seek justice for the

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## Save Sundarbans at any cost

Speakers tell event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National and international conspiracies are going on to destroy the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest, speakers alleged at a programme yesterday.

Stressing that the Sundarbans is a vital part of Bangladesh's national identity rather than being just a forest, the speakers said the forest is crucial for the country's ecological balance, and economic well-being both at present and in future.

A group of environmentalists and rights activists joined a human chain demanding all illegal activities destroying the Sundarbans be stopped. It was organised by Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon in Dhaka's Shabbagh area.

"Since the current government took office, development projects have been focused on the Sundarbans, which, according to our observation, has caused more harm than benefit. The trees, biodiversity, and waterways of the Sundarbans are being destroyed one by one," said Bapa president Prof Nur Mohammad Talukder, who chaired the event.

"The Sundarbans protected the country from all natural calamities that have occurred till date. If it survives, Bangladesh will survive," he also said.

"At the national and international levels, there are numerous plans and conspiracies to destroy the Sundarbans. Using its existing rules and regulations, the government must take decisive action to safeguard the forest at all cost," he added.

"Bangladesh will be a developed country in 2041. What will be the condition of the Sundarbans then?"

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PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

To raise awareness among students regarding the importance of the world's largest mangrove forest, artists perform at an event yesterday. Tour Operator Association of Sundarbans organised the programme at Khulna Lions School and College, marking Sundarbans Day.

## Suspended ASP indicted in rape case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka tribunal yesterday framed charges against Sohel Uddin Prince, a suspended assistant superintendent of police (ASP), in connection with a rape case.

The ASP, now on bail, pleaded not guilty and demanded justice after Judge Md Al-Mamun of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-6 of Dhaka read out the charges to him, said court sources.

The tribunal also dismissed the petition submitted for discharging Sohel from the charges. The tribunal fixed April 1 for starting trial of the case.

According to the case statement, around 7:00pm on February 4 of 2021, a woman went to the Ramna Police Officers' Mess where she was raped by the accused at gunpoint.

Following the incident, she filed a case against Sohel with the tribunal on November 23, 2022.