

পূবালী ব্যাংক থেকে রেমিট্যান্স গ্রহণ
স্বাভাৱেই 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।

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DSCC to have 221 new school buildings

Says Taposh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh yesterday said 221 new government primary school buildings will be constructed in DSCC areas within next few years.

He said this while addressing as chief guest a programme to lay foundation stone of a six-storey building at Dhanmondi 1 Government Primary School under a project titled "Setting up government primary school and infrastructure development along with beautification in Dhaka Metropolitan areas and at Purbachal".

"We will have smart schools, smart students and smart citizens. As per the chronology we are going to lay the foundation stones of four new buildings at four government primary schools in Kalabagan, Motijheel Dilkusha, Nabab Katra and Shyampur areas today," Taposh said.

"All primary schools in DSCC areas will get new buildings by the next two or three years. Construction of four or five-storey buildings for 221 schools will be done on priority basis," he said.

Secretary to the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education Farid Ahmed said they have taken initiative to beautify schools by incorporating all modern facilities.

"We have already laid the foundation stones at 30 schools in both Dhaka south and north areas. Our target is to complete construction works at 10 schools by June," he said.



The 50 lawmakers elected to the reserved women's seats in parliament were sworn in yesterday. Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury administered the oath at Jatiya Sangsad around 3:30pm.

PHOTO: PID

Tackling graft gov't's main challenge

Speakers tell discussion, stress functional parliamentary democracy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tackling corruption and money laundering will be the main challenges for the government over the next five years, said speakers at a panel discussion yesterday.

Besides, restoring a functional parliamentary democracy will be another major challenge, they said. "Corruption is a cost that is being borne by all the Bangladeshi people while a few reap the benefits," said Zafar Sobhan, editor of Dhaka Tribune, which arranged the discussion in partnership with the Norwegian Embassy at a hotel in the capital.

Dr Imtiaz Ahmed, an eminent academic, said, "Money laundering needs to be brought down to zero. Money earned through high-level corruption doesn't stay in Bangladesh; only low-level corruption is caught because that money stays in the country."

Shama Obaid, BNP's organising secretary, said, "We should stop

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DR IMTIAZ AHMED
Eminent academic

political rhetoric and focus on real problems. People from all political parties should be able to work together."

"Our people need to be able to vote. The election process has been dismantled and destroyed. This needs to be fixed. The government does not have a fresh mandate from the people of Bangladesh. The decisions taken in parliament do not represent the people," she said.

Manisha Chakraborty, Barishal district unit member secretary of Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal, said, "We are seeing the funeral of democracy through the current parliament. The parliament is opposition-less, making the people powerless. There is no accountability and no reason for the government to listen to the people."

Regarding BNP's refusal to participate in national elections, Awami League MP Md Shahriar Alam said, "If they had participated, they may have won a significant number of seats, but they didn't."

"Take politics seriously if you're into politics. You have to remain in power. Power is central to politics," he added.

Dr Nuzhat Chowdhury, an eminent ophthalmologist and daughter of Dr Abdul Alim Chaudhury, a martyred intellectual, said, "All the parties should sit together and discuss how to keep the country on a secular path."

Take steps to reduce time, complexity in recruitment

President asks PSC

UNB, Dhaka

President Mohammed Shahabuddin yesterday stressed the need for taking effective steps including increasing the use of technology to reduce the complexity and lengthy processing time in government recruitment.

He issued the directive during a presentation of the Public Service Commission (PSC)'s Chairman Md Sohrab Hossain annual report for 2023 at the Bangabhaban yesterday noon.

The president asked the commission to ensure transparency and accountability. He said all the activities of the commission should be conducted so that the talented youth of the country can enter public service with a view to serve people.

No large scale iftar parties using govt funds

Directs PM; Ramadan office hours from 9:00am-3:30pm

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed all government employees not to arrange any large-scale iftar parties during Ramadan using public funds.



She discouraged arranging such iftar parties on private initiative as well.

The premier came up with the directives at the cabinet meeting held at the Prime Minister's Office. Cabinet Secretary Md Mahbub Hossain shared the directives with journalists after the meeting at a press briefing at the secretariat.

Ramadan will begin on March 12 or 13, depending on the sighting of the moon.

"Directive has come from the prime minister that no big iftar party can be arranged under government initiative," said Mahbub.

The PM also suggested that if any individual or private institution wants to spend money in this regard, they can distribute food among destitute people, said Mahbub.

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Form consumer syndicate against dishonest traders

Says DG of DNCRP

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Consumers need to unite against hoarders who create an artificial crisis of essential goods, said AHM Shaquazzaman, director general of the Directorate of National Consumer Rights Protection, yesterday.

He recommended consumers to form a syndicate of their own against dishonest traders.

He also spoke against food adulteration while addressing a workshop in Narayanganj on stopping the use of unsafe drums for sale and

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Teaming up to save DHAKA PONDS

Rajuk, district admin to recover 66 waterbodies

HELEMUL ALAM

Anyone visiting Dhaka's Dania area will find several rickshaw garages on land, which several decades back used to be a large pond.

The 0.2101-acre waterbody was filled up and occupied by people over the years like many other ponds in the capital.

A faded billboard in front of the land reads "1403, Dania Road. Flat booking is going on".

"Even in 1992-93, this used to be a pond," said Md Azhar, a local.

"Its water was crystal clear. However, the water became dirty later on and around 12 years back it was filled up to construct the rickshaw garages, owned by four or five persons," he added.

This pond was among 66 waterbodies under the jurisdiction of Dhaka District Administration.

Md Ashrafur Islam, chief town planner of Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha, said, "Of the 66 ponds in Rajuk areas, 55 are on khas land, seven are vested properties, and two each are under Dhaka north and Narayanganj city corporations." The official informed they



What looks like a rickshaw garage used to be a pond in the capital's Dania area. The 0.2101-acre waterbody was filled up and occupied by people over the years like many other ponds in the capital.

PHOTO: COLLECTED, STAR

are going to recover and protect the ponds with a view to using those as water retention reservoirs, for replenishing groundwater levels, and public recreational spaces with walkways and sitting arrangement.

"We have decided to take necessary steps to retrieve and protect 35 ponds in the first phase - four at Satarkul, three each at Dakkhin Khan and Sutturpur, two each at Ramna, Uttar Khan and Wari, and one each at Hazaribagh, Kalunagar, Lalmatia, Narayanganj,

Baropukur, Dania, Motijheel, Manda, Diabari, Goran, Satarkul and Chhoto Beraid, among other areas," he said.

"The rest will also be recovered in the second phase. All grabbers will be evicted with help from the district administrations," he added.

Meanwhile, three survey teams of Rajuk recently conducted site visits and found structures on many of those ponds.

There is a playground in place of a pond near Kamrunnesa Government High School at Wari, while tin-shed structures and semi-concrete multi-storied buildings were found at

Rajarbag pond. In Chhoto Beraid and Satarkul areas, housing projects were seen filling up some ponds and waterbodies with sand, while locals filled up a pond at Gazaria.

According to the World Health Organization standards, while at least nine square metres of public space is necessary for every person in a city, Dhaka has only 0.61 sq metres.

Nabayan Khisa, deputy town planner of Rajuk, said 80 percent of the 35 ponds to be recovered in the first phase are in good condition while the

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41 hospital brokers fined and jailed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mobile courts yesterday fined and jailed 41 brokers arrested across four hospitals in Dhaka and one in Gazipur for various crimes - including coercing patients to choose private hospitals.

In Dhaka, Rab raided four hospitals in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, arresting 38 brokers for persuading patients to switch to private hospitals.

The drive was led by executive magistrates Abu Hasan and Mazharul Islam at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, National Heart Institute and Hospital, Dhaka Shishu Hospital, and National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation, between 10:30am and 12:30pm.

The arrestees were fined and jailed on different terms on the spot.

Rab 2 Deputy Commander Major Mohammad Nazmullahel Wadud said the brokers were diverting patients from government hospitals to clinics and private facilities, earning commissions in the process.

He said another ring of brokers is active at government hospitals, who intercept patients outside doctors' rooms.

In Gazipur, a mobile court jailed three brokers for 20 days, after they were arrested from Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Medical College Hospital in the district during a raid around 3:00pm.

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