

**পূবালী ব্যাংক থেকে রেমিট্যান্স গ্রহণ
স্বাভাৱেই দ্বিগুণ লাভ...**

যে কোনো শাখা থেকে পিন নম্বৰ এৰ মাধ্যমে রেমিট্যান্স গ্ৰহণ কৰলে
সৰকাৰ নিৰ্ধাৰিত ২.৫% প্ৰদোদনাৰ সৈতে পাবেন আৰু
২.৫% পূবালী ব্যাংক প্ৰদোদনাসহ মোট ৫% প্ৰদোদনা।

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পূবালী ব্যাংকে সক্ষয় কৰুন, নিৰাপদে থাকুন

Over 50pc girls victims of child marriage

Says state minister in parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than 50 percent of girls in Bangladesh get married before the age of 18, State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Simeen Hussain (Rimi) told the parliament yesterday.

The state minister said this while replying to a query from Jatiyo Party MP and opposition chief whip Mujibul Haque Chunnun during a question-answer session tabled with Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury.

Chunnun said the rate of child marriage amongst girls from poor families was higher than ever before during pandemic and post-pandemic period.

He wanted to know the government's plan in this regard.

In response, Simeen Hossain said according to the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2019, the rate of child marriage under the age of 15 years is 15.5 percent, while the rate of child marriage under the age of 18 is 51.4 percent. The state minister then outlined 17 steps to prevent child marriage.

In response to another question, Simeen Hossain said monitoring activities to prevent child marriage are ongoing in 64 districts.

"According to the information available from field level of district and upazila, a total of 12,150 child marriages have been foiled between 2015 till August 2023," she added.



Following February 29 fire incident on Bailey Road, locals form a human chain in front of seven-storey Green Cozy Cottage Shopping Mall yesterday, demanding adequate fire safety measures at commercial buildings across the country. The incident claimed 46 lives.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Dhaka wants to import 9,000MW power from neighbours

UNB, Dhaka

State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid yesterday said that Bangladesh and India have a huge opportunity to work together for the development of the power and energy sector.

"We want to import 9000MW of electricity from the neighboring countries. The process to import hydro-electricity from Nepal and Bhutan has made a good advance," Hamid told Indian High Commissioner in Bangladesh Pranay Verma when he called on him at his office in the ministry.

He also informed the Indian envoy a deal is likely to be signed next month to import 40MW of hydro-power from Nepal.

He said that the import of 500MW of electricity

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Govt to sell meat, eggs at cheap prices on Ramadan

UNB, Dhaka

The Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock will sell beef, chicken, and eggs in trucks in different spots of Dhaka city from March 10 marking the holy Ramadan.

The mobile trucks will sell beef at Tk 600 per kg, goat/mutton at Tk 900 per kg, dressed broiler chicken at Tk 280 per kg, and eggs at Tk 10.50 per piece.

The Minister of Fisheries and Livestock Md. Abdur Rahman MP informed this to reporters in a press briefing yesterday.

"We will strictly control the market in the month of Ramadan. This mobile vending program will help regulate the market during Ramadan," he said.

He said, initially, the products will be sold at 30 spots in Dhaka city. The program will try to expand

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

FROM CANDIDATES' AFFIDAVITS

Reserved seat MPs see a rise in wealth

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five out of seven second-time lawmakers for reserved seats for women have seen an increase in their income in the last five years.

Three of them have seen an increase in both their movable and immovable assets alongside their income.

The affidavits filed by the candidates for reserved women's seats with the Election Commission revealed such information.

On February 28, MPs elected to the 50 seats reserved for women in the 12th national parliament took their oaths. Awami League candidates have been elected in 48 seats, while candidates from main opposition Jatiyo Party got the remaining two.

Among them, seven were reserved seat MPs in the 11th parliament -- Waseqa Ayesha Khan, Farida Khanam, Aparajita Haque, Nahid Izhar Khan, Shabnam Jahan, Aroma Dutta, and former state minister Fazilatun Nesa Indira.

While incomes increased for five of the seven, one saw a decrease in her income in the last five years, and one did not show any income.



The yearly income of Shabnam Jahan, general secretary of Mahila Awami League, saw a huge rise, as she used to earn Tk 3.6 lakh in 2019, which rose to around Tk 75 lakh in 2024, a 20-fold rise.

She possessed immovable assets worth Tk 1.86 crore five years ago, which increased to Tk 2.98 crore in 2024.

Aroma Dutta's yearly income saw a four-time rise -- Tk 15.40 lakh to over Tk 65 lakh, while her movable and immovable assets have also increased in five years.

Aparajita Haque's income decreased from Tk 32,88,653 a year in 2019 to Tk 23,08,700 in 2024.

However, her movable and immovable assets increased seven and two-fold, respectively, in this period.

Farida Khanam did not mention any profession in any of her two affidavits. She mentioned immovable assets worth Tk 81,25,000 in 2019, but she claimed she does not own any immovable assets in the latest affidavit.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

Inflation isn't main concern of people

Says finance minister

UNB, Dhaka

Finance Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali yesterday refused to accept that inflation is one of the main concerns of the people of the country.

He said this while replying to question on inflation after attending the Deputy Commissioners conference in Dhaka.

Facing repeated questions from reporter, he said people are more interested about how one crore people are getting essentials through family cards.

"They are getting various products at lower cost," he said.

Finance Minister Mahmood Ali also said, "After independence, our economy is the best shape. Economic indicators are improving, there is nothing to be disappointed regarding the economy."

He urged reporters to express the real and actual scenery of the financial sector through their reporting.

Bangladesh is moving forward as per the Delta Plan 2100, and development in different sectors is visible like metro rail and Padma Bridge, he pointed out.

State Minister for Finance Waseqa Ayesha Khan was also joined in the deputy commissioners' conference.

NIKO GRAFT CASE

Court to record statements of PWs on April 4

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday set April 4 for recording statements of prosecution witnesses in the Niko graft case filed against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and seven others.

Judge Sheikh Hafizur Rahman of the Special Judge's Court-9 of Dhaka passed the order, said a staffer of the court.

"The court recorded statements of witness Miraj Hossain. It also started recording statements of another witness Abdul Baki, but could not complete," said Mohammad Ziauddin, a lawyer for Khaleda.

Ziauddin represented her in court in her absence yesterday. During yesterday's hearing, Khaleda's former senior assistant secretary CM Yusuf Hussain, and BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman's close friend Glausuddin Al Mamun and former Dhaka Club president Selim Bhuiyan were present.

RANGPUR, BARISHAL

HC orders to demolish 922 illegal brick kilns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the authorities concerned of the government to evict 922 illegal brick kilns constructed in Rangpur and Barishal in four weeks.

The court also ordered them to take appropriate legal action against the owners of illegal brick kilns and submit compliance reports by April 25.

The HC passed the order after going through the lists of brick kilns and their owners submitted by the divisional commissioners' offices of Rangpur and Barishal divisions.

The lists were submitted in compliance with the earlier order of the HC.

The bench of Justice JBM Hassan and Justice Razik-Al-Jalil came up with the order while hearing a writ petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB) on September 10, 2022, seeking necessary directives for the government to take steps against the illegal brick kilns.

During the hearing, petitioner's lawyer Manzill Murshid told the HC that 922 illegal brick kilns in Barishal (112) and Rangpur (900) divisions are running without permission from the Department of Environment, which are punishable offences.

He said the administrations have completely failed to evict those under the Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act.

He prayed to the HC to order the government to shut down the operations of the illegal brick kilns.



The black smoke, released by brick kilns set up on arable lands in Shaluchikor area of Sylhet's Gowainghat upazila, not only pollutes the air but also the soil and waterbodies in the area. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR