

পূবালী ব্যাংক থেকে রেমিট্যান্স গ্রহণ  
স্বাভাৱেই দ্বিগুণ লাভ...

যে কোনো শাখা থেকে পিন নম্বৰ এৰ মাধ্যমে রেমিট্যান্স গ্রহণ কৰলে  
সৰকাৰ নিৰ্ধাৰিত ২.৫% প্ৰশোধনাৰ সৈতে পাবেন আৰু  
২.৫% পূবালী ব্যাংক প্ৰশোধনাসহ মোট ৫% প্ৰশোধনা।



সাপ্তে আতও আৰু নিশ্চিত আকৰ্ষণীয় পুষ্কৰ



পূবালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি  
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পাই ব্যাংকিং (PI Banking) -  
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পূবালী ব্যাংকে সঞ্চয় কৰুন, নিৰাপদে থাকুন

## Building fires acts of 'culpable homicide'

Say experts, blame govt agencies  
and building owners

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts at a press conference yesterday termed the frequent incidents of fires in buildings in the capital as acts of "culpable homicide".

They also called for holding the government agencies concerned and building owners responsible and accountable for the incidents.

Bangladesh Environmental Movement (Bapa), Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP), and Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (Bela) jointly organised the press conference titled "City Overwhelmed by Risky Buildings: What Needs to be Done?" at Jatiya Press Club.

Architect Iqbal Habib, also vice-president of BAPA, emphasised a lack of enforcement as a significant cause of fires.

Approval process for businesses like restaurants require permits from 10 government agencies, but the approvals are often issued without proper inspections, he said.

In many cases, businesses operate without approval entirely, he also said.

"Therefore, these 10 government agencies, including city corporations, environment department, district administrations, fire service, as well as the business operations, should be held accountable under the law for culpable homicide," he added.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



Responding to the season's call, shimul flowers are in full bloom. Two birds engage amidst the vibrant red blossoms, symbolising the transition from winter to spring. This photograph was captured in Batiaghata, Khulna yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## MUSLIM COUNTRIES PM suggests common currency



UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday suggested that the Muslim countries introduce a common currency like the euro of the European Union to facilitate trade and commerce among them.

"It would be very good if we can introduce a common currency following the European Union to facilitate trade and commerce among us," she said.

The prime minister said this while a delegation of D-8 trade ministers led by

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

## Prof Yunus, Opportunity International CTO discuss collaboration

STAR REPORT

Nobel laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus was hosted by US Ambassador to Bangladesh Peter Haas at a dinner on Monday to meet with Greg Nelson, chief technology officer of Opportunity International.

They discussed the health programmes of Grameen and Opportunity International and about possible collaboration between the two organisations, said the Yunus Centre yesterday. Amy Haas, Laurie Nelson and Nurjahan Begum, executive vice chairman of Grameen Shikha, were present on the occasion.

## Councillors harbouring teen gangs: DB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch (DB) of police yesterday said some former and present councillors of Dhaka city are harbouring members of teen gangs.

Police said they came to know about the councillors' involvement after arresting 33 members of the gangs from the Wari and Gulshan areas.

Many of these arrestees have police cases filed against them with different police stations.

Addressing reporters at the DB office, Harun Or Rashid, additional commissioner, said the gangs are involved in mugging, harassment, and eve-teasing across Badda, Vatara, Turag, and Jatrabari.

This comes after the DB's February 21 operation in which 10 members of these gangs were apprehended for various offences in Tajmahal Road, Geneva Camp, and Basila.



Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 5-15 12-45 4-30 6-05 7-30  
JAMAAT 5-50 1-15 4-45 6-10 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## TAQI MURDER

# 11 yrs on, probe yet to be completed

SHARIFUL ISLAM and SOURAV HOSSAIN SIAM

Yet another year of the killing of Tanvir Muhammad Taqi in Narayanganj passed by and the investigating body, Rab, like the past nine years, said the investigation is still ongoing, prolonging the wait of Taqi's parents for justice.

The grieving parents saw a glimpse of hope days before Taqi's first death anniversary when Rab claimed that it had cracked the murder mystery and even prepared a draft probe report.

The draft probe report was leaked in the media, revealing involvement of 11 people, including Azmery Osman, in the killing.

Azmery is the son of late Jatiyo Party lawmaker Nasim Osman and nephew of ruling Awami League MP Shamim Osman.

A day before Taqi's first death anniversary, Col Ziaul Ahsan, the then additional director general of Rab, told the media they had evidence of the involvement of the 11 and insisted the charge sheet would be submitted any day.

That day, however, has yet to come, even after 10 long years, highlighting the authorities' unwillingness to end it.

The court extended time 70 times to complete the investigation so far after Rab



The court extended time 70 times to complete the investigation so far after Rab sought more time to complete the probe.

"Rab prepared the charge sheet, but it did not press it in last 10 years as members of Narayanganj's influential Osman family are involved in this murder," Rafiqur Rabbi, Taqi's father, told The Daily Star recently.

The family has an 'undeclared indemnity' by the government, he alleged.

According to the leaked probe findings, Azmery not only masterminded the murder of the bright teenage boy in Narayanganj but also directly took part in it.

At his directives, his accomplices followed Taqi and forcefully took him to his "torture centre" at Winner Fashion on Allama Iqbal Road on March 6, 2013.

Later that night, Azmery and his cohorts beat and strangled the seventeen-year-old boy to death. His body was then put into a sack and taken to Charargop area in Azmery's car.

From there, the killers took the body to Kumudini Jora Khal in a boat and dumped it in the Shitalakkhya sometime between 1:00am and 1:30am on March 7.

Taqi's body was recovered from the river the next day, according to the findings.

Taqi went missing after he left his Shaista Khan Road home in Narayanganj for Sudhijon Pathagar, a local library, around 4:00pm on March 6, 2013.

A day after his body was found, his A-level results were out, which showed he got the world's highest mark in physics in that exam, obtaining 297 out of 300.

The day Taqi's body was found, Rabbi filed a murder case with Narayanganj Sadar Model

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

## 'It will foster more money laundering'

Say JP MPs on offshore  
banking bill

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Opposition Jatiyo Party lawmakers yesterday in parliament feared that money laundering from the country will increase through offshore banking following the passage of "Offshore Banking Bill, 2024."

Finance Minister Abul Hasan Mahmud Ali placed the bill in the House, which was passed by voice vote.

Participating in a discussion before passage of the bill, four JP MPs -- Opposition Chief Whip Mujibul Haque Chunnun, Hafiz Uddin Ahmed, Masud Uddin Chowdhury, and Ruhul Amin Hawlader -- demanded the bill be sent to a committee to elicit public opinion on it. The proposal was rejected by a voice vote.

This is the first time the government is making offshore banking law in the country.

"Big thieves, big fishes, state leaders, and smugglers use offshore banking in island nations like the Bahamas to make their black money legal and to launder money abroad," said Chunnun.

"Names of some people from Bangladesh have appeared in newspapers. They laundered money through offshore banking and built houses and hotels abroad," he said.

Chunnun fears increasing money laundering from the country through offshore banking.

The other JP lawmakers echoed him. As per the proposed law, non-resident individuals or foreign firms can open offshore bank accounts in Bangladesh to invest here, with a license from

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

## FIRE RISKS IN BUILDINGS

# Rajuk to start 10-day drive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) will be conducting a 10-day inspection across eight zones to identify buildings at risk of fire hazards, said Rajuk Chariman Anisur Rahman Miah.

The comments came during a views exchange meeting with the City Development Journalist Forum Bangladesh.

Inspectors of Rajuk will inspect buildings which are at risk of fire hazards and submit a report within 10 working days and will also warn those violating fire safety regulations.

Anisur also said that they will put banners on building that are at risk.

If the owners, who are in violation of fire safety rules do not make changes even after the warning, then they will face action from Rajuk, said Anisur.

A survey conducted after the fire at Siddique Bazar last year found that 683 buildings were using their basements to store flammable items, violating rules. Rajuk issued several warnings and notices, but most of them did not fix the issue, the Rajuk chairman noted.

We have decided to issue another notice to clear their basements within the next seven days. We will check again and if rules are still being violated, action will be taken, he added.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



People grapple with pollution in the capital's Gabtoli area yesterday. The absence of rainfall worsened the existing alarming pollution levels, exposing people living in the capital especially the daily commuters to harm's way. Dhaka yesterday ranked third on the list of cities worldwide with the worst air quality.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN