

**পূবালী ব্যাংক থেকে রেমিট্যান্স গ্রহণ
স্বাভাৱেই দ্বিগুণ 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।

সাথে আরও আশ্চর্যজনক আকর্ষণীয় পুরস্কার



**পূবালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি
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পূবালী ব্যাংকে সক্ষয় করুন, নিরাপদে থাকুন

UNEARTHING THE PAST

The north remembers

Kurigram museum preserves evidence of Razakars' crimes, freedom fighters' valor

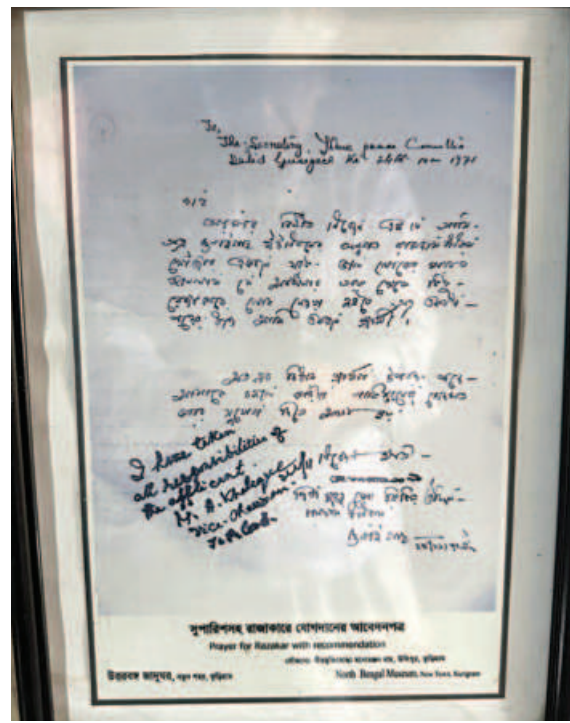
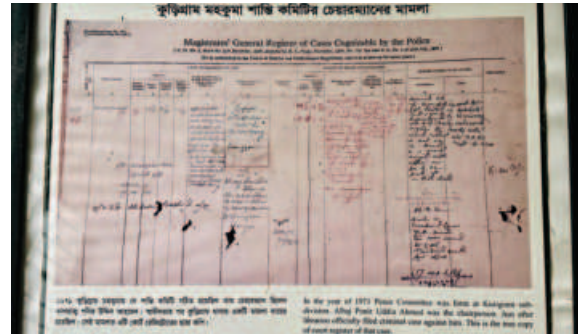
ANWAR ALI

In Kurigram, a district in northern Bangladesh, there's a house with a collection of over 5,000 war artifacts.

'Lincoln's Inn', a duplex residence that was named after house owner SM Abraham Lincoln, has been rebranded as North Bengal Museum.

And rightfully so. The unique thing about this museum is it holds hundreds of rare applications from those who volunteered to become Razakars (local collaborators of the then Pakistani occupation army), and evidence of organised crimes committed against Hindus in 1971.

There are documentation of how Razakars had applied to Pakistani forces to occupy a house of one Dhiresh Bagchi, and take over a shop of Kaushal Paul or fell a tree of a Shyamacharan Barman.



Clockwise from top left, the preserved copies of a case statement, an appeal letter to join the Razakar forces, and bones extracted from mass graves at display at the North Bengal Museum in Kurigram.

PHOTO: STAR

GALLAMARI MASS GRAVE

Still bearing marks of butchery

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Anyone in Khulna who either witnessed the Liberation War of 1971 or is aware of the region's war-history will shudder at the name of Gallamari mass grave.

Located in Batiaghata upazila, the Gallamari area became a killing field, which saw around 15,000 people butchered by the Pakistani forces and their local collaborators - Razakars, Al-Badr, and Al-Shams men.

Today, 53 years since the independence, the place still bears the marks of butchery.

The once bushy surroundings near the single-storey Khulna radio station building and Gallamari Canal, located approximately three kilometers from Khulna city, became a center of genocide and torture orchestrated by Pakistan.

Sk Quamaruzzaman Tuku, 81, commander of Mujib Bahini in greater Khulna region, said, "Khulna was a common point for people fleeing the war to seek refuge in India. Thousands of people, mostly Hindus, from southern districts of Bagerhat, Pirojpur, Jhalakathi, Barishal, Gopalganj, and Faridpur



used the route through Rupsha and Bhairab rivers to enter India."

"The collaborators took advantage of this aspect, lured the people to step into their traps, and then held them captive at the radio station building in Gallamari, torturing them for days before they eventually died."

"After their deaths, the bodies were dumped in Mayur and Bhairab rivers and adjacent areas in Gallamari.

The place was full of corpses, skulls, skeletons, bones," he added.

Bidhan Golder, a freedom fighter, said, "The very first Razakar camp and concentration centre was set up in Khulna. Jamaat-e-Islami leader AKM Yusuf, who was the head of the peace committee in Khulna, founded the Razakar forces with 96 men at an Ansar camp on Khan Jahan Ali Road in Khulna."

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RECRUITMENT AT BSMMU

Protesters allege outgoing VC's involvement in graft

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A section of teachers, officials and nurses at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University yesterday demonstrated in front of the VC's office, protesting alleged corruption in recruitment of over 100 staffers.

The protesters, under the banner of Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad (Swachip- BSMMU unit), also alleged that Prof Sharfuddin Ahmed, the outgoing vice-chancellor of BSMMU appointed more than 100 teachers and staffers in exchange for money.

During the demonstration, Prof Sharfuddin's personal assistant Dr Rasel Ahmed was assaulted and thrown out of the VC's office.

Prof Sharfuddin's tenure ends on March 28. Prof Deen Md Nurul Haque, former director general of the Directorate General of Health Services, is set to take charge as BSMMU VC from March 29.

BSMMU officials said Prof Sharfuddin has been accused of appointing around "hundred" of teachers, officers and employees.

"After the name of new VC is announced, the outgoing VC usually only has routine work for the last few days till the end of his tenure," said Prof Ariful Islam Joarder Tito, member secretary

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Nothing but hypocrisy

Hasan on BNP's solidarity with 'Boycott India'

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister and Awami League Joint General Secretary Hasan Mahmud yesterday said the main objective of BNP's call to boycott Indian products is to destabilise the country's market and increase prices of essentials.

He said many products in Bangladesh come from India, and some border trade also takes place legally across thousands of kilometres of border.

"You will eat onions that come from India, your leader will wear sarees you will eat iftar that has beef coming from India, you will go to India for medical treatment, and you call for boycott of Indian products - these are nothing but hypocrisy. The real objective of BNP is to increase the price of products by destabilising the market in the country," Hasan said.

The foreign minister made the remarks when reporters asked him about the call for a boycott of Indian products by some groups, including BNP.

He spoke as the chief guest at the district development coordination meeting at the Chattogram Circuit House.

The foreign minister said that BNP leader Ruhul Kabir Rizvi has burnt his shawl along with those who called for a boycott of Indian products. "Actually, I don't know if the shawl was bought from India or from Bangabazar."



DOMESTIC WORKER ABUSE

'Investigate all incidents properly'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Maximum plaintiffs in cases of domestic worker abuse try to get away by financially settling with the victim's family, often resulting in injustice, said speakers at an event yesterday.

They said most incidents haven't been thoroughly investigated, leaving poor and powerless families without justice, reads a press release.

The discussion took place at the office of Manabdhikar Shogskriti Foundation (MSF) which was jointly organised by MSF, Amrai Pari Jote, Kapaeng Foundation and Domestic Workers Rights Network-DWRN.

Quoting media statistics, discussants mentioned that from 2023 to March 2024, 39 domestic workers experienced abuse: one died after rape, seven were

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DHAKA COLLEGIATE SCHOOL

Demolition of historic building sparks outrage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The historic building of Dhaka Collegiate School, a prestigious institution and one of the first government schools of undivided India, is undergoing demolition, sparking outrage among heritage activists and alumni.

Founded in 1835, the institution began as Dhaka English Seminary. In 1841, addition of its college unit transformed it to Dhaka Collegiate School.

The institution saw renowned figures including Jagadish Chandra Bose, Meghnad Saha, Munir Chowdhury, Buddhadeb Basu, and Syed Shamsul Haq as its student over the years.

School authorities claimed the demolition is necessary due to safety concerns and they followed proper procedures and permissions from the authorities concerned.

However, activists claimed the building could have been renovated and preserved considering its historical significance while also ensuring students' safety.

Adding to the controversy, the building, despite being over a century old, is not listed as a heritage site by the Department of Archaeology.

A 2018 High Court order, however,

had restricted alterations to over 2,200 buildings in Dhaka, including this building.

Even the Dhaka District Administration granted permission for its demolition after structural engineers from the Department of Education had previously identified this building as unsafe.

Visiting the school yesterday, it was seen that around 30 workers were demolishing the two-storey building, dismantling doors, windows, and the roof.

According to them, they have been engaged in the demolition work for several days.

Mehedi Hossain, one of the workers, said, "Our task is to demolish the building. We have been given three months to complete it."

A company named Maa Enterprise won the bid for demolishing the building for Tk 3,32,000.

A spokesperson for, anonymously, confirmed that the company got the work through bidding process.

Some parents of students alleged that demolition of the building caused disruption during classes and examinations.

Taimur Islam, CEO of Urban Study Group, said the precious heritage structure should have been preserved.



This decaying building was once the prestigious Dhaka Collegiate School, an institution that taught legends, including Buddhadeb Basu and Jagadish Chandra Bose.

