

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

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

সাথে আনও আছে নিশ্চিত আকর্ষণীয় পুস্তকমত



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পূবালী ব্যাংকে সক্ষয় কৰুন, নিৰাপদে থাকুন

Khaleda's jail sentence suspended for 6 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday, for the ninth time, extended the suspension of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's jail sentence for another six months, according to a gazette notification issued by home ministry.

The bail was granted on two conditions as before - Khaleda Zia will receive treatment staying at her residence and she cannot go out of the country, Mohammad Abu Sayed Mollah, deputy secretary at the public security division of the home ministry, who signed the notification, told The Daily Star.

Earlier this month, Khaleda Zia's family applied to the government to extend its order that suspended her jail sentences in two cases as per section 401 (l) of the Criminal Code of Procedure (CrPC) and to allow her to go abroad for treatment.



Pedestrians rush towards the median amid speeding vehicles on the capital's Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, risking lives. The photo was taken around 4:00pm yesterday, beneath the MRT station in Karwan Bazar which has a footbridge for crossing over. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Extend Eid holidays by two days

Demands Jatri Kalyan Samity for safer travels

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 1.60 crore people will leave the capital and adjacent districts ahead of the Eid-ul-Fitr this year, estimated Bangladesh Jatri Kalyan Samity.

The organisation warned that without proper management of public transport, the Eid journey for such a large number of people could become disastrous.

The Samity requested the government to declare April 8 and 9 as holidays to extend the Eid vacation, aiming to facilitate smoother journeys for people returning home.

Samity's Secretary General Mozammel Hoque Chowdhury made the observation at a press conference at the Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday.

Mozammel, speaking to this correspondent, explained their estimates were based on media reports, toll plaza data, and mobile SIM data from the last Eid-ul-Fitr. They projected approximately 1 crore departures from Dhaka, 40 lakh from Gazipur, 12 lakh from Narayanganj, and 8 lakh from nearby districts before Eid. Their projections indicated that 30 lakh would travel by buses and minibuses, 4 lakh by train, 35 lakh by personal cars, 12 lakh by bikes, 60 lakh by launch, and 1 lakh by air. Roughly 18 lakh would resort to illegal methods such as riding on train rooftops or traveling on trucks and goods-laden vehicles, they estimated.

He also demanded that authorities take steps to stop private buses and launch operators overcharging passengers during the Eid rush and stop operations of unfit and illegal vehicles on highways.

BNP main barrier to democracy

Says Quader

UNB, Dhaka

A w a m i League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said BNP leaders should unconditionally apologise to the nation for their undemocratic activities.

"BNP is the main obstacle to the implementation of democratic ideals in this country," he said in a statement sent to the media.

Quader, also the Road Transport and Bridges Minister, alleged that BNP, which had been born in the womb of dictatorship, continues its ill-attempt to undermine the ideals and values of the great Liberation War and democracy.

"BNP leaders should seek unconditional apology before the nation for their undemocratic



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PSC seeks more pays and perks for chairman, members

Draft law sent to public administration ministry

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and BAHARAM KHAN

The Public Service Commission wants to upgrade the statuses and salaries of its chairperson to that of a Supreme Court's Appellate Division judge and its members to those of High Court judges.

Currently, the PSC chairman's remuneration and privileges are similar to the cabinet secretary and its members' are similar to a secretary.

In a draft law titled "Bangladesh Public Service Commission Chairman and Members (Status, Dignity, Remuneration and Privileges) Act 2023", the PSC also made proposals for full time official transport, a furnished residence free of rent, municipal taxes and electricity, water and gas bills.

It sent the draft law seeking to amend the existing "The Members of the Bangladesh Public Service Commission (Terms and Conditions of Service) Act, 1974" to accommodate the changes.

PSC Chairman Sohorab Hossain said the draft law proposal was sent to the public administration ministry. "The ministry concerned will be able to give further information."

Rationalising the changes in the draft, PSC said both the Election Commission and PSC are constitutional bodies and Article 139(2) of the Constitution says, "The chairman and

other members of such commissions shall not be removed from office except in like manner and on the like grounds as a Judge of the [Supreme Court]."

"The Chief Election Commissioner enjoys the salary and facilities of a judge of the Appellate Division and other election commissioners also get the remuneration and privileges of high court judges, the draft stated.

But if the proposals are considered, it would increase the cost of the government when it has taken various austerity measures. It would also encourage others [to make similar proposals], so it's better not to consider such a proposal at this time.

AN OFFICIAL OF THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION MINISTRY

On the other hand, Sohorab said, officials of the National Human Rights Commission, Anti-Corruption Commission and Information Commission, which are not constitutional bodies, are also getting similar salaries and facilities.

The PSC in the draft said the status

and remuneration of its chairman and members should be similar to that of other constitutional statutory commissions.

"Changes are needed in the law to eliminate the disparity of pay and perks between the post holders of constitutional bodies," the draft said.

PSC recruits Bangladesh Civil Service cadre officers as well as non cadre officials and can have six to 15 members. At least half of the members must be persons who have held offices in government service for at least twenty years. Normally, the chairman and members who come from government services are senior officers and those from outside are mostly senior academicians. Currently, there are 15 members.

A judge of the Appellate Division gets Tk 1,05,000 and a judge of the High Court gets Tk 95,000 as monthly basic salary.

The cabinet secretary's monthly basic salary is Tk 82,000 while a secretary draws Tk 78,000 per month.

The PSC proposal sought a special allowance per month at the rate of 50 percent of PSC chairman and members' salaries. It also proposed two festival allowances and Bangla New Year allowances. The PSC chairman and members are currently not entitled to these facilities.

The draft also proposed providing the same

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PAHELA BAISHAKH

Actions against propaganda

Says home ministry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Legal actions will be taken against those spreading propaganda about the Bangla New Year on social media, according to a statement issued by the home ministry yesterday.

Besides, all celebrations must end by 6:00pm, and playing the "vuvuzela" flute will be banned.

The decision was taken at the law and order meeting at the Secretariat ahead of the Bangla New Year celebrations. Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal presided over the meeting.

The district administration, district police, and organisers will ensure security at various events including Pahela Baishakh celebrations, Baishakhi Mela, and sports and cultural events across the country through coordination.

Dog squads will be used at important places including Ramna Batamul, Ramna Park, Suhrawardy Udyan, Dhaka University, Hatirjheel, and Rabindra Sarobar. There will be special surveillance of the necessary forces and intelligence agencies from law enforcement agencies, reads the statement.

Besides, necessary security will be ensured on the premises of Bangla Academy.

During the New Year, special security will be provided to important areas and installations - including diplomatic areas. During the New Year celebrations, there will be fire service teams with fire fighting vehicles and ambulances at important points in Dhaka city and across the country.

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