

কর্মজীবনের শেষে অবসরকালীন আর্থিক নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিত করতে

সিনিয়র সিটিজেন পূবালী ডিপোজিট স্কিম (এসসিপিডিএস)

✓ ৫৯ বছর বা তার বেশি বয়সের যেকোনো বাংলাদেশি নাগরিক এই ডিপোজিট স্কিমে হিসাব খুলতে পারবেন
✓ আকর্ষণীয় সুদহার
(৬ মাসের এফডিআরের চেয়ে ১% বেশী হারে মুনাফা)

পূবালী ব্যাংক পাবলিসি
PUBALI BANK PLC.

ঘরে বসেই ব্যাংক অ্যাকাউন্ট খুলুন

পাই ব্যাংকিং (PI Banking) - একটি পূবালী ব্যাংক অ্যাপস

● বিস্তারিত জানতে নিকটস্থ শাখা/উপশাখা/ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং উইডোতে যোগাযোগ করুন | ● পূবালী ব্যাংকে সক্ষম করুন, নিরাপদে থাকুন

EXPORT-IMPORT OF SERVICES Commerce ministry approval made mandatory

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going to formulate a new law for importing and exporting of services, with the provision of getting mandatory approval from the commerce ministry.

Service means getting or providing facilities in person or through the internet from abroad, a commerce ministry official explained.

The cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday gave approval in principle of the draft of the "Import and Export Act, 2024," at a meeting held at the PM's office.

After the meeting, Cabinet Secretary Mahub Hossain told reporters that the old law on import and export control and prohibition is being updated.

"Some new matters have been added to the law. The existing law deals with import-export only of goods. Commercial 'service' activities are also included in the draft of the proposed law. Import and export of services will require the approval of the Ministry of Commerce," he said.

"According to the World Trade Organisation's General Agreement on Trade and Service, it is necessary to get approval from the government to import or export any services. In our country, there is no such provision."

This law will also take into account financial institutions funded by foreign investors.

Also, remittances will be considered as export earnings following the enactment of the new law, the official added.

In addition, the cabinet gave in-principle and final approval to the drafts of "Payment and Settlement System

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Fire fighters in action to douse a fire at a parking lot in Dhaka's Demra area last night. At least 14 buses -- some belonging to London Express -- were burned down in the blaze. PHOTO: COLLECTED

14 luxurious buses gutted in Dhaka fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several parked buses of London Express were burnt in a fire at a parking lot in Dhaka's Demra area last night.

Six fire engines went to Konapara area at 8:45pm and brought the blaze under control around 9:45pm, said Anwarul Islam, warehouse inspector of Fire Service's media cell.

The vehicles are intercity Volvo buses, Anwarul said.

Faisalur Rahman, deputy assistant director of Fire Service and Civil Defence, said people contacted fire service after seeing heavy smoke coming out of the parking lot.

At least 14 buses, some belonging to London Express, were burned down in the fire.

Fire officials said they are not sure how the fire ignited. It will be known whether the buses caught fire or criminals set those on fire after an investigation.

MOHAMMADPUR GANG-RAPE Four arrested, sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have arrested four persons from Dhaka in a case filed over gang-raping a 23-year-old woman after confining her in a Mohammadpur flat for 25 days.

The arrestees are Saan, 26, Rocky, 29, Himel, 27, and Salma alias Jhumur.

They chained, tortured and raped the woman for days until she was rescued on Saturday, said HM Azimul Haque, deputy commissioner of Tejgaon Division Police.

Meanwhile, Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Jashim placed each of the accused on a three-day remand after police produced them before the court with a seven-day remand prayer.

The DC said the accused filmed their crime, with police suspecting the videos were intended for sale to pornography networks overseas.

A barrister the victim was romantically involved with might have collaborated with the alleged perpetrators, Azizul said.

However, he didn't disclose the name of the said barrister, who "is now abroad".

"If he stays abroad, we will seek assistance from Interpol to bring him back," he said.

Earlier, the victim filed a case with Mohammadpur Police Station against the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

114 women raped in first three months this year

NILIMA JAHAN

Around 114 women were raped in the first three months of 2024, said Ain O Salish Kendra yesterday. Three victims were killed and one died by suicide after rape, the human rights organisation added.

At least 14 cases of minor boys being raped were reported during this period, they added.

The report, titled "Statistical Report on Human Rights Violation: January-March 2024," compiling data sourced from 10 daily newspapers, online portals, and ASK's internal channels, was disclosed yesterday.

According to the ASK report, 137 women were victims of domestic violence in the same period. Among them, 65 were killed while 49 women died by suicide. Moreover, 79 people -- 55 women and 24 men -- faced violence associated with incidents of sexual harassment.

Meanwhile, one woman died by suicide after sexual harassment, while four men were killed for protesting against incidents of sexual harassments.

On the other hand, 16 women were subjected to dowry related violence, of

whom five were killed, two died by suicide and eight faced physical violence. Seven domestic helps faced torture during this period, five of whom were killed.

In the first quarter, a total of 325 children fell victim to torture, of whom 139 were murdered. Additionally, 27

an alarming level."

"We observed two types of mistrust prevalent among the general population and criminals. The public lacks confidence in law enforcement agencies, while perpetrators believe they can act with impunity," he said.

"The government must prioritise restoring public confidence in its institutions, including law enforcement agencies. To uphold its reputation and demonstrate competence, the government must actively work towards earning the trust of the people," he said.

ASK, in its report, also condemned the recent incidents of sexual harassment and violence in the educational institutions. The report mentioned allegations of sexual harassment against teachers in Dhaka University, Jahangirnagar University, Jagannath University, Chittagong University, and Kabi Nazrul University. "Such allegations are deemed unacceptable," it mentioned.

In a separate media monitoring report based on 16 daily newspapers, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad revealed that in March 2024 alone, 245 women

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

ASK REPORT ON RIGHTS' VIOLATION (JAN-MAR 24)

Rape of women	114
Rape of minor boys	14
Killed after rape	3
Domestic violence	137
Violence against children	325

children resorted to suicide, and the bodies of 32 children were recovered "under tragic circumstances".

According to Faruq Faisal, the executive director of ASK, "Although not all incidents of rape and sexual harassment are reported in the media, the data we are getting is increasing at

SEXUAL HARASSMENT JU student lodges complaint against teacher

UNB, JU

A female student of Jahangirnagar University lodged a written complaint of sexual harassment against a teacher of marketing department yesterday.

The student filed the complaint with the Anti-Sexual Harassment Cell of the university.

Earlier on March 23, the student from the marketing department, brought up the allegation of sexual harassment in a Facebook post.

"Assistant Professor Saju Saha sexually harassed me in the name of counselling... Because of this, I could not even do the class properly," reads the post.

On March 24, Saju also lodged a general diary with Mirpur Model Police Station seeking legal action against the student for uploading the Facebook post.

Asked about the harassment, the teacher said, "As far as I understand from reading her post, it seems strange to me. She can say it better. I will follow the legal path."

The department's chairman Associate Professor Ariful Haque said they have seen the Facebook post but so far they have not received any complaint from the student in this regard.

"We will take necessary measures once the complaint is lodged," he said.



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

The Daily Star hosted a roundtable discussion titled "Private Universities: Successes and Challenges" at The Daily Star Centre yesterday. Public relations professionals from private universities across the country attended the event to address obstacles and discover opportunities.

'Genuine' HSC, SSC certificates for sale!

BTEB employee held for selling over 5,000 forged copies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over the last couple of years, if one with ill intentions knew who to pay, he or she could obtain a "genuine" SSC or HSC certificate from the Bangladesh Technical Education Board (BTEB), regardless of their student status.

Be it to turn failing grades into passing ones, improve GPA, and obtain a certificate without even having to take the exams -- all was made possible by one man on the inside: AKM Shamsuzzaman, a system analyst at the BTEB who charged between Tk 15,000 and Tk 50,000 to deliver each certificate.

The Detective Branch of police revealed how he operated after arresting him along with his accomplice, Faisal, from his Agargaon home early yesterday.

According to Mashur Rahman, deputy commissioner of Lalbagh Division DB, Shamsuzzaman sold over 5,000 forged certificates over the last couple of years.

He began his operation by first stealing a substantial amount of the papers on which the BTEB prints the genuine certificates.

He then printed fake certificates on genuine papers and sold them to clients.

As a final flourish of legitimacy, these certificates were uploaded to the board's server database, allowing clients to show verification if they were ever challenged.

Detectives are now trying to determine if he had more accomplices, the DB official said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

Second phase of upazila polls on May 21

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The second phase of this year's upazila elections will be held on May 21, the Election Commission said yesterday.

A total of 161 upazilas around the country will go to polls in the second phase, the EC announced following a meeting of the election commissioners.

The EC set April 21 as the last date for nomination paper submission, EC Secretary Jahangir Alam told reporters. The nomination papers will be scrutinised on April 23 and the last date for withdrawal of candidature is April 30.

The upazila elections will take place in four phases.

A total of 152 upazilas around the country will go to polls in the first phase on May 8. The third and fourth phase is expected to take place on May 29, and June 5 respectively. The EC has made it mandatory for aspiring candidates to submit nominations online to prevent breach of the electoral code.