



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina being welcomed with a dance performance at Dhaka Cantonment yesterday. Later, the premier opened the newly constructed Armed Forces Institute of Pathology Bhaban and Sena Prangan (Army Central Auditorium) Bhaban there.

PHOTO: PID

Army now has public trust as it stands by people  
Says Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the country's army has earned public trust and confidence by standing beside the people.

"Our army now stands beside the people and has gained public trust and confidence," she said.

The prime minister made these remarks while addressing a darbar at Army Central Auditorium in Dhaka Cantonment.

Earlier, the premier opened the newly constructed Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) Bhaban and Sena Prangan (Army Central Auditorium) Bhaban in Dhaka Cantonment.

The PM said people had lost their trust and confidence in the army after August, 1975. She mentioned this in reference to the role of a few disgruntled army men in the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with most members of his family on August 15, 1975.

She said since coming to power for the first time in 1996 she has taken steps to restore public trust and confidence in the army.

"I endeavoured to create trust and confidence in the army."  
SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

## UPDATING TRANSPORT PAPERS Govt caves in yet again, waives delay fine

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Giving into pressure from transport associations, the government once again waived the fines for failing to update driving licences and vehicle documents on time.

The Road Transport and Highways Division yesterday issued a circular mentioning that motorists will enjoy the waiver until June 30 this year.

This is the second time the government has given the waiver this year.

Motorists have to pay fines for updating a vehicle's outdated fitness certificate, tax token, and route permit and for an expired driver's licence.

But defaulters have been enjoying the waiver for years, although, like yesterday's circular, the authorities often say they are offering such a waiver for the last time.

"Motorists have been enjoying the waiver for over a decade. Almost every time, it is mentioned that this will be the last time but I don't know when

**Motorists have been enjoying the waiver for over a decade. Almost every time, it is mentioned that this will be the last time but I don't know when it will actually be the last time**

A BRTA OFFICIAL

it will actually be the last time," an official of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) told this correspondent.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## Western hypocrisy evident in their politics, media Speakers tell event on press freedom

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The West champions terms like freedom of the press, freedom of expression, and human rights, but does not adhere to them themselves, said speakers at a discussion yesterday.

They said this while joining a panel discussion titled, "Western Hypocrisy on Press Freedom", organised by Drik Gallery.

The event was moderated by acclaimed photographer Shahidul Alam.

Zahed Ur Rahman, a writer and political analyst, said, "The Western media reports based on their interests, geopolitical, political, and cognitive bias," he said.

"They even refrain from using the word genocide. Due to such mainstream media roles, people are seeking alternatives by creating their own social media channels."

Nurul Kabir, editor of New Age, drew parallels between how Pakistani people labelled freedom fighters during Bangladesh's Liberation War and how Western media now labels those fighting for sovereignty and independence.

"What Israel is doing is not war; it is aggression," he emphasised.

He explained the Western media's hypocrisy, saying, "To understand it, we must grasp their politics. They create narratives to justify their actions and normalise them to the public."

He described Israel's actions in Gaza as a form of settler colonialism supported by powers such as the US and UK, adding, "The conflict in Gaza was engineered by major powers to legitimise their authority."

He highlighted the widespread protests against Israeli atrocities in Gaza, comparing them to the anti-Vietnam War protests, noting, "This has instilled hope."

Former Dhaka University Professor Meghna Guhathakurta, now executive director at Research Initiatives Bangladesh, commented on the parochialism entrenched in Western media.

"We see it in their channels, and this parochialism breeds hypocrisy. Understanding their parochialism helps us comprehend their hypocrisy," she remarked.

A photo exhibition showcasing journalists who were killed while covering Israeli brutalities in Gaza is currently underway at the Gallery. It is open to all from 3:00pm to 8:00pm until May 11.

**The Western media reports based on their interests, geopolitical, political, and cognitive bias.**

ZAHED UR RAHMAN  
Political Analyst



A group of Dhaka University students held a rally in front of Raju Memorial Sculpture yesterday expressing solidarity with the pro-Palestinian protests taking place across universities in the US.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Petition seeks HC directives to curb tree felling

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A rights organisation yesterday filed a writ petition with the High Court seeking its directive upon the government to curb cutting of trees across the country to protect the environment.

Advocate Manzill Murshid submitted the petition as a public interest litigation on behalf of the Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB) after media published news of trees being cut down in various areas despite the recent rise in temperature.

The HC bench of Justice Md Khasruzzaman and Justice KM Zahid Sarwar

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## Through the lens of history

Photo exhibit displays raw emotions of 1971 refugees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A picture is worth a thousand words. It won't be a cliché to describe the photographs displayed at "The Rise of A Nation" exhibition in Zainul Gallery of Faculty of Fine Arts of Dhaka University with this proverb.

It featured photojournalist Raghu Rai's works capturing the exodus of 10 million people during Bangladesh's 1971 Liberation War.

Curated by Zihan Karim, the display depicts the raw emotions and resilience of those displaced, shedding light on the untold stories of suffering and hope.

Rai's powerful compositions show resilience amidst pain, such as a picture of a mother shielding her child as they flee the onslaught of Pakistani

occupation forces or a young boy's determined gaze reflecting his unbroken spirit despite all odds.

Inaugurated by Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque yesterday, the exhibition aims to highlight the role of photography in recognising the Bangladesh genocide of 1971.

"These photos transported me back in time. One picture, in particular, caught my eye: a child nestled in his mother's lap, amidst thousands waiting at the no man's land to cross into India. It felt as though I was there myself, and the child's gaze pierced through the image, connecting with me directly," Shoaib Ahmed, a DU student, told this newspaper.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

## TRAFFICKING CASE Milton Samadder on 4-day remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



A Dhaka court yesterday placed Milton Samadder, founder of Child and Old Age Care, on a four-day remand in a case filed over trafficking.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Shanta Akter passed the order after investigating officer Sikdar Mohitul Alam, an inspector of the Detective Branch of police, produced him with a seven-day remand appeal, said a court police.

Earlier in the day, Milton was produced before the court on completion of a three-day remand in a case filed over fraudulence.

On Thursday, DB sub-inspector Kamal Pasha filed the case with Mirpur Model Police Station against two people including Milton on charges of unauthorised burial and making fake death certificates.

Detectives detained Milton from the capital's Mirpur on May 1. Detectives seized at least 50 forged death certificates dated from 2019 to 2023

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## All schools, colleges reopen

STAR REPORT

After several closures due to the heatwave sweeping the country, all primary and secondary schools, colleges, madrasas, and technical institutions across the country resumed classes yesterday.

However, schools are operating under certain conditions to ensure students' safety.

According to several school teachers and officials, student attendance is quite satisfactory as temperatures have somewhat lowered.

Ariful Islam, principal of Dhaka Collegiate School, told this newspaper that around 80 percent of students attended classes yesterday. He expects that the number will increase further today.

He mentioned that since the temperature is lower and there has been rain in the past few days, many parents felt comfortable sending their children to schools.

Nurul Kabir, a parent of two students at Alim Uddin High School in Mirpur, said, "Even my little daughter is happy to attend school today after a long break. Although schools were closed, we tried to cover her syllabus at home...."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7