

জনসংগঠন ও বিকাশের প্রয়োজনীয়তা  
প্রিয়জনদের প্রয়োজনে...

যেকোনো শাখা থেকে রেজিস্ট্রেশন গ্রহণ করলেই  
পাবেন সরকার নির্ধারিত ২.৫% প্রমোদনা

সামগ্রিক আয় ও আয়কে নিশ্চিত আকর্ষণীয় পুরস্কার  
\* শর্ত প্রযোজ্য



Best Financial Institution  
DHL-The Daily Star Business Awards.



ISO/IEC  
27001:2022

ঘরে বসেই  
ব্যাংক  
অ্যাকাউন্ট  
খুলুন



পাই ব্যাংকিং (PI Banking) -  
একটি পূর্ববাহী ব্যাংক আপস

ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং সেবা প্রদানে 'ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং কর্ণার' পূর্ববাহী ব্যাংকের প্রায় সকল শাখা এবং উপশাখায়

## DB for 'all-out action' against criminals

12,500 held in 3 weeks in 'Devil Hunt'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police has launched an "all-out action" against criminal gangs to curb robbery, mugging, and theft in the capital.

DB has adopted a "zero-tolerance" policy against crime, said DMP Additional Commissioner Rezaul Karim Mallik, also the DB chief, at a briefing at the DMP Media Centre yesterday on maintaining law and order during Ramadan.

The DB chief's remarks comes at a time when joint forces, including the army and law enforcement agencies, arrested 12,500 nationwide in three weeks under "Operation Devil Hunt" and 1,304 in the capital over the past five days in a crackdown amid a surge in crime.

"Intelligence suggests that most individuals involved in these crimes are aged between 15 and 30, many being part of juvenile gangs. A fascist political party is encouraging and

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## ONE YEAR OF BAILEY ROAD FIRE

# A grim reminder, but little action taken

Many restaurants in high-rise buildings lack proper fire safety measures

DIPAN NANDY and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

A leap day comes once every four years -- a moment outside the ordinary, an extra page in the calendar where possibilities stretch a little further.

On that rare night of February 29 last year, friends and families gathered at the different restaurants housed inside the Green Cozy Cottage on Bailey Road.

Then, in the blink of an eye, the flames erupted. Some were reduced to ashes, while others suffocated as the thickening smoke sealed their fate. Forty-six lives were gone too soon.

Today, the skeletal remains of Green Cozy Cottage stand as a grim reminder of February 29, 2024. One year on, justice remains elusive.

**INITIAL CRACKDOWN FIZZLES OUT**  
Following the tragedy, Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) and the Fire Service and Civil Defence launched a crackdown on fire-prone restaurants in high-rise buildings across Dhaka.

Several establishments were shut down, but the momentum quickly faded.

Ashraful Islam, chief urban planner of Rajuk, insisted the effort had not stopped.

"Fire safety inspections are part of our regular activities. After last year's Bailey Road fire, we conducted extensive inspections, and the Restaurant Owners' Association assured us they would provide a list of risky buildings. However, we have yet to receive anything from

them," he said.

Regarding Green Cozy Cottage, he added, "The building is under legal proceedings. Until the case is resolved, all activities will remain suspended."

Imran Hassan, secretary general of the Restaurant Owners' Association, said they had worked with a committee formed by the former Prime Minister's Office. "If the incumbent government takes such an initiative, we will cooperate," he said.

He claimed many restaurant owners ignored fire safety warnings as they were not association members.

**A CITY STILL AT RISK**

Despite the initial shock, high-rise restaurants across Dhaka -- from Dhanmondi's Satmasjid Road to Gulshan, Banani, Khilgaon, Uttara,



FILE PHOTO

At least 46 people were killed in the Bailey Road fire in Dhaka on February 29, 2024.



The skeletal remains of Green Cozy Cottage building.

PHOTO: STAR

and Bailey Road -- continue to operate with inadequate safety measures.

A week-long visit by this newspaper found many restaurants in high-rise buildings lacking proper fire safety provisions.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



## BORDER SECURITY

# BGB to breed and train its own K-9 unit

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN, from Cox's Bazar

The Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) will no longer rely on foreign countries for purchasing trained dogs, as it will now breed and train its own dogs at its specialised K-9 unit and training centre in Gazipur.

Previously, the K-9 unit used to purchase trained dogs of different breeds from India to deploy at the border for security search operations.

Since its inception in 2015, the unit has purchased 79 dogs of various breeds, including German Shepherds, Labradors, Golden Retrievers, and Rajapalayams, at a cost of Tk 30,000 to Tk 35,000 each.

Home Adviser Jahangir Alam Chowdhury inaugurated the training centre at an event at the Cox's Bazar Battalion (34 BGB) yesterday.

BGB Director General Maj Gen Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman Siddiqui, along with the directors of the newly inaugurated units, was present on the occasion.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8



Workers pack up all of the leftover books from this year's Ekushey Boi Mela to send those back to their warehouses. With the book fair concluding on February 28, all of the stalls in Suhrawardy Udyan and Bangla Academy were dismantled yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Metro rail sets new timings for Ramadan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The metro rail authorities have revised the weekday train schedule for Ramadan. However, the train service schedule for Fridays and Saturdays will remain unchanged.

Passengers will be allowed to carry a 250ml water bottle before and after iftar, DMTCCL said yesterday. No food will be allowed on trains, platforms, or concourses.

Metro trains will run from Uttara to Motijheel at 10-minute intervals from 7:10am to 7:30am. They will operate at eight-minute intervals from 7:31am to 6:50pm, after which the interval will revert to 10 minutes from 6:51pm to 9:00pm.

Trains from Motijheel to Uttara will run at 10-minute intervals from 7:30am to 8:00am, at eight-minute intervals from 8:01am to 7:30pm, and again at 10-minute intervals from 7:31pm to 9:40pm.

## 268 instances of fake news in February

Finds Rumor Scanner's report

### AT A GLANCE

- 250 instances of misinfo circulated on FB
- 127 political misinformation cases
- 73 on national issues, 10 on int'l affairs, 18 on religion
- 108 text-based, 64 image-based, 96 video-based
- 9 from Indian mainstream media, 3 from Indian social media



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fact-checking organisation "Rumor Scanner" identified 268 instances of misinformation about Bangladesh circulating online in February.

Of these, 250 were propagated on Facebook. Notably, there were 57 cases where 32 local and international media outlets were impersonated using media logos, headlines, and graphics.

Prothom Alo was the most frequently misrepresented outlet (eight cases), followed by Channel 24 and Jamuna TV (four each).

Political misinformation topped the list, with 127 false claims -- 47 percent of the total. Additionally, 73 instances of misinformation were related to national issues, 10 to international affairs, and 18 concerned religion.

Among the detected misinformation, 108 were text-based, 64 were image-based, and 96 were video-based.

While Facebook was the primary platform for misinformation, other platforms included X (44 cases), TikTok

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

# Ramadan Mubarak

For 29 years, Prime Bank Hasanah has upheld the values and principles of Islamic banking, providing modern, Shariah-compliant solutions for all. We are here to ensure seamless financial services tailored to both personal and business needs.

Consumer Banking

SME Banking

Corporate Banking

Women Banking

Digital Banking

Debit, Pre-paid and Credit Cards

Payroll Banking

Remittance Service

24/7 Helpline  
**16218**  
primebank.com.bd