

ত্রুটি এ রিপোর্ট দ্বারা প্রকাশিত প্রয়োজন নয়।  
যেকোনো শাখা থেকে রেমিট্যাল প্রযোজন প্রাবন্ধ সরকার নির্ধারিত ২.৫% প্রয়োজন।  
সাথে আরও আরও নিচে আত্মস্মীয় প্রযোজন।  
\* শর্ত প্রযোজন।

ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং সেবা প্রদানে 'ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং কর্মী' পূর্বালী ব্যাংকের প্রায় সকল শাখা এবং উপশাখায়

ঘরে বসেই  
ব্যাংক  
অ্যাকাউন্ট  
খুলুন

পাই ব্যাংক (PI Banking) -  
একটি পূর্বালী ব্যাংক অ্যাপস

Π

## Govt to shift NID services to independent authority

EC staff to stage demo today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Identity Card (NID) services will remain under the Election Commission (EC) for now but will eventually be transferred to an independent data authority, said Faiz Ahmed Tayab, special assistant to the chief adviser for the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications.

Speaking at a press conference titled "Ownership of NID" held at the ICT Building yesterday, he said, "We are establishing a Data Authority, not shutting down the EC's IT cell. For now, everything will remain unchanged but will be regulated through the new authority."

"No one will lose their job; instead, new employment opportunities will be created," he said, adding that the move will not place NID operations under any ministry.

Meanwhile, EC officials and employees have announced a two-hour nationwide demonstration today, demanding that NID

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8



For the fifth year running, UNDP and The Daily Star gave five women the "Nirbhaya" award yesterday for championing the cause of women changemakers from grassroots communities. They received crests and certificates during a ceremony at IDB Auditorium in the capital's Agargaon.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## PRY SCHOOL TEACHERS Cops use water cannons, batons on protesters

STAR REPORT

Police yesterday charged batons and used water cannons to disperse a procession of non-government primary school teachers demanding nationalisation of their institutions.

At least six people, including two women, were hurt in the incident near the Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka. They took primary treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said hospital sources.

Police and witnesses said the incident took place around 1:30pm when the teachers started a procession towards the state guest house Jamuna, the residence of Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, from the Jatiya Press Club to press their demand.

Shahinur Rahman, one of the injured, told reporters that they were marching towards Jamuna with a legitimate demand, but police used water cannons and charged batons on them.

Khalid Mansur, officer-in-charge (OC) of Shahbagh Police Station, said a protest procession of the teachers was marching towards Jamuna when police tried to stop them near the Kadam Foara.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## Fearless champions of change

Five grassroots women changemakers get 'Nirbhaya' award by UNDP Bangladesh, Star

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Born into poverty and forced into an abusive marriage at a young age, Rogina Begum from Pirojpur seemed destined for a life of hardship.

Despite enduring physical and emotional torment, she remained silent, believing that leaving her husband's home would only lead to more suffering.

However, her determination to build a better future for her children kept her going.

Working as a domestic helper and tutor, Rogina's life took a turn when she was selected for UNDP's SWAPNO Project. The programme provided stable employment and financial literacy training, ultimately transforming her life.

With her earnings, she invested in livestock and small-scale fish farming, creating a sustainable income.

As part of the celebration of International Women's Day 2025, Rogina was honoured with the "Nirbhaya" (Fearless) award by The Daily Star and UNDP Bangladesh, alongside four other women -- Nazrul Islam Ritu, Tandra Mollik, Champa Chakma, and Kabita Banerjee.

This was the fifth edition of the "Nirbhaya" initiative.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

We must remember the human stories behind these figures -- the individuals who are the true agents of change.  
STEFAN LILLER  
Resident representative of UNDP Bangladesh

## CONDOLENCE MESSAGE



Syed Manzur Elahi

The Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI) is deeply saddened by the passing of Mr. Syed Manzur Elahi, a distinguished industrialist and business leader. He passed away on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at Gleneagles Hospital in Singapore at 9:30 AM Singapore time (7:30 AM Bangladesh time). Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi rajeun. His loss will be profoundly felt both personally and nationally, especially within the business community and by all who had the privilege of knowing him. A quiet mentor to many, his business acumen, integrity, and kindness remain an enduring example adding immense value to strengthening corporate governance and empowering various social organisations.

Mr. Elahi served as MCCI President in 1990 and 1991 and as President of the Bangladesh Employers' Federation in 2005-06 and 2006-07. Under his leadership, MCCI played a pivotal role in shaping Bangladesh's trade and commerce landscape, particularly in advancing the revenue generation system.

As the visionary leader of Apex Group, one of the country's prominent conglomerates, Mr. Elahi's illustrious career spanned multiple industries. He was recognized with accolades such as "Business Executive of the Year 2000" and "Business Person of the Year 2002." He also served as an Adviser to the Caretaker Government of Bangladesh in 1996 and 2001.

MCCI extends its heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family and requests prayers for his departed soul. May Allah grant him Jannatul Firdous and bless his family with patience and strength.

Ameen



Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka

## A DAY IN COURT

### Of 'preventing measure' against anti-govt slogans

EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

Former state minister for posts, telecommunications and information technology Zunaid Ahmed Palak was brought to a courtroom of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court of Dhaka from its lockup yesterday.

Wearing a police helmet and bulletproof vest, Palak was escorted from the lockup at 9:30am, flanked by police officers. His hands were cuffed behind his back.

Just two days back, on the premises of the Metropolitan Sessions Court of Dhaka, he had complained about how he was handcuffed from behind while being brought to the courtroom.

Salman F Rahman, former private industry affairs adviser to ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, also walked towards the courtroom just before Palak yesterday. His hands were also cuffed behind his back.

Former lawmaker Mohammad Solaiman Salim and former Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) mayor Atiqul Islam followed, both had their hands cuffed behind their backs.

Further back, former senior secretary Mohibul Haque also walked with his hands cuffed behind his back. Their handcuffs were unlocked after they were placed inside the courtroom dock.

Minutes later, Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## WE DEEPLY MOURN



Syed Manzur Elahi

(26 September 1942 - 12 March 2025)

ICC Bangladesh is deeply shocked and grieved at the sad demise of ICC Bangladesh Founding Member and Chairman of Apex Group of Industries Syed Manzur Elahi in Singapore at 9:30 am on Wednesday, 12 March 2025. Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi rajeun. Mr. Elahi was the current and founding Chairman of Mutual Trust Bank PLC and sponsor Director of International Publications Limited (The Financial Express).

We remember with gratitude his unqualified support, contribution, guidance and active participation since ICC Bangladesh started its journey in the 90s. He has served as ICC Bangladesh Executive Board Member for a number of years.

He was appointed Adviser to the Caretaker Government of Bangladesh, twice (1996 & 2001) for his integrity, leadership, professionalism and non-partisanship. He was President of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Dhaka; Bangladesh Employers' Association (BEA); Dhaka University Alumni Association (DUAA) and Honorary Consul for Belgium in Bangladesh.

Mr. Elahi has served as Chairman of the Bangladesh Association of Banks (BAB), Central Depository Bangladesh Ltd. (CDBL), Credit Rating Agency of Bangladesh (CRAB), Manusher Jonno Foundation, MTB Foundation and Sunbeams School Ltd.; Vice Chairman of the Bangladesh Association of Publicly Listed Companies (BAPLC), Director on the Boards of Bangladesh Bank, Sonali Bank and Bangladesh Krishi Bank.

Mr. Elahi was awarded "Business Executive of the Year 2000" by the American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM), Bangladesh and "Business Person of the Year 2002" by the Daily Star and DHL Worldwide Express & "Lifetime Achievement Award" of the UK-Bangladesh Catalysts of Commerce and Industry (UKBCCI).

He was also the Chairman of Apex Pharma Ltd., Blue Ocean Footwear Ltd. (Joint Venture with Taiwan), Apex Enterprises Ltd. (Holding Company), Apex Investments Ltd. (Licensed stock brokerage), Grey Advertising (Bangladesh) Ltd. (Joint Venture with USA) and Quantum Consumer Solutions Ltd. (Joint venture with India).

May Allah rest his soul in peace in heaven.



International Chamber of Commerce - Bangladesh