

চুক্তি এ রিপোর্ট প্রিয়ের প্রয়োজন নে...

যেকোনো শাখা থেকে রোমটিয়াল গ্রহণ করলেই  
পাবেন সরকার নির্ধারিত ২.৫% প্রয়োদনা

সাথে আরও আরও নিচে আত্মস্থীয় পুরস্কার  
\* শর্ত প্রযোজন



পুবালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি.  
PUBALI BANK PLC.

Best Financial Institution  
DHL-The Daily Star Business Awards.



AAA  
Rated Bank

ISO/IEC  
27001:2022

ঘরে বসেই  
ব্যাংক  
অ্যাকাউন্ট  
খুলুন

পাই ব্যাংক (PJ Banking) -  
একটি পুবালী ব্যাংক অ্যাপস

Π

## NID CORRECTION EC fails to meet three-month target

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission has failed to complete National Identity Card (NID) corrections within the promised three-month timeframe, with officials now stating that the backlog of applications will take at least another six months to clear.

Last December, ASM Humayun Kabir, director general of the National Identity Registration Wing at the EC, had assured that all correction applications would be resolved within three months.

However, after three months and five days, he admitted that the process has not been completed on time.

Speaking to reporters at the EC headquarters in Dhaka yesterday, he cited the ongoing voter list update as the primary reason for the delay.

Currently, 4 lakh

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

## DGHS former driver Malek jailed for 13yrs in graft case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Abdul Malek, former driver of Directorate General of Health Service, was sentenced to 13 years' imprisonment for amassing wealth worth Tk 1.5 crore illegally and concealing wealth statement of Tk 93 lakh to the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Judge Md Jakaria Hossain of Dhaka Special Judge's Court 6 handed down the sentence in presence of Malek yesterday, the lone accused.

The judge also fined him Tk 2,00,000, in default of which he will have to stay one more year in jail.

In the judgement, the judge said the prosecution was able to prove the charges brought against the convict undoubtedly and he was given the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7



PHOTO: STAR

Families of the nine female martyrs hold portraits of their loved ones lost in the July uprising, at an event at The Daily Star Centre yesterday. The newspaper organised the event to honour the martyrs, marking International Women's Day. At the event, Adviser to the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock Farida Akhter and The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam handed over the portraits and Eid gifts to the families.

## Remembering the women who fought for change

Families share stories of loved ones martyred in July uprising

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

They were shot dead in the streets. Some took their last breaths in makeshift clinics, their bloodied bodies carried by strangers. Others called home in their final moments, whispering words of love and fear before falling silent.

They were young, hopeful, and defiant -- demanding

would not have been possible without them.

Today, the families of these women struggle to survive in a country that still refuses them justice. Cases remain stalled in many instances.

The family members of the nine female martyrs of the July uprising gathered at The Daily Star Centre yesterday to share their grief.

However, she continued to participate in demonstrations there.

On August 5, Nafisa joined a long march towards Dhaka. At around 2:30pm, she called her father, overjoyed, saying, "Hasina has fled." Moments later, she was shot.

"She called me, saying she was dying and to come and take her body. I started from Tongi, 35km

These martyrs are not just numbers. They were daughters, wives, and sisters.

Shahid Meherun Nesa Tanha, a university student, loved eating pulao and meat. Since her death, her mother has not cooked those dishes again. "Without my daughter, my house is dark," said Asma Akter, tears in her eyes. "During Eid, she would cook everything herself. She would



She called me, saying she was dying and to come and take her body. I started from Tongi, 35km away, but there were no buses, rickshaws, or vehicles. I reached Savar on foot in the evening.

Abul Hossen  
Father of Nafisa Hossen Marwa



Without my daughter, my house is dark. During Eid, she would cook everything herself. She would prepare the semai the night before. But now my daughter is gone. What Eid do we have left?

Asma Akter  
Mother of Meherun Nesa Tanha

change in a country that had long crushed dissent. When the bullets came, they did not discriminate between men and women.

Yet the stories of the fallen women -- who stood shoulder to shoulder with men in the fight for freedom -- have been overlooked.

The regime fell, but their names are already fading. And yet, toppling a regressive regime

The event -- How are the families of female martyrs of July uprising doing? -- was organised marking International Women's Day.

Abul Hossen, father of martyr Nafisa Hossen Marwa, who ran a tea shop in Tongi, said he had sent his daughter to his in-laws' home in Savar on July 28 after learning she had been regularly joining protests.

away, but there were no buses, rickshaws, or vehicles. I reached Savar on foot in the evening," he said.

Abul Hossen filed a case in Savar after several days of struggle, but only after police removed the names of certain officials and Awami League leaders. "As I live in Tongi, I have no updates on the case," he added.

prepare the semai the night before. But now my daughter is gone. What Eid do we have left?"

Naima Sultana, a 16-year-old schoolgirl, used to wake her mother up every Eid morning with a hug. "Ma, you look beautiful. I love you so much," she would say. Her mother, Ainur Nahar, now dreads the silence that awaits her this Eid morning.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## 'A threat to travel sector'

Travel agents protest draft law banning ticket sales between agencies

RASHIDUL HASAN

The Civil Aviation Ministry's draft directive prohibiting travel agencies from buying or selling tickets through other agencies has sparked criticism, with industry leaders warning of severe business disruptions.

The Association of Travel Agents of Bangladesh (ATAB), which represents around 4,000 travel agencies, has strongly opposed the move, calling it a threat to the sector.

"If the ministry enforces this anti-business decision, we will not accept it," ATAB President Abdus Salam Aref told The Daily Star.

The ministry recently drafted guidelines aimed at enhancing transparency and preventing customer harassment in the travel agency sector.

However, a clause of the draft, which states, "A travel agency shall not buy or sell tickets through another travel agency," has drawn opposition from stakeholders.

Industry leaders argue that such a restriction would force thousands of agencies out of business and increase

difficulties for customers.

SN Manzur Murshed, former ATAB president, said it undermines the globally accepted agent-to-agent (B2B) model.

"If Bangladesh deviates from this norm, local agencies will struggle to compete internationally, impacting millions of people," he said. "If the ministry approves this draft, it will mark a black chapter for the industry."

Murshed also highlighted the impracticality of the clause, pointing out that General Sales Agents (GSAs) of airlines, which function as travel agencies, would be unable to sell tickets to other agencies.

Currently, Bangladesh has around 5,700 licensed travel agencies, but only 970 are accredited by the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

Among these, just 350 agencies have ticket-selling authorisation for major airlines such as Emirates, Qatar Airways, Singapore Airlines, and Saudi Arabian Airlines.

As a result, over 5,000 licensed agencies rely on these 350 for ticket procurement.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

If the ministry enforces this anti-business decision, we will not accept it.

ABDUS SALAM AREF  
ATAB President

The ministry will not take any measures that create difficulties for travel agencies.

MOHAMMAD ATAUR RAHMAN  
Joint Secretary  
Civil Aviation Ministry



A craftsman busy embroidering a Banarasi sari with colourful patterns, beads, and stones on a wooden frame. As Eid draws closer, artisans are working day and night to deliver their products, which are currently in high demand. The photo was taken at Ambagan Bihari Colony of Chattogram city recently.

## Mid-day meal in primary schools returns in April

35 lakh students to get dry food instead of cooked meals; project to cost Tk 5,552cr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After more than two years, the government is going to reintroduce the feeding programme for students of all government primary schools in 150 poverty-ridden upazilas by next month with an aim to increase school attendance and reduce the dropout rate.

Yesterday, the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecnec) at a meeting approved a project proposal of Tk 5,552 crore under which various dry food including breads, bananas and eggs will be given to the students instead of cooked meals.

Over 35 lakh students of about 20,000 government primary schools, mostly from poverty-prone areas, are likely to get the mid-day meals, according to the planning ministry documents.

Earlier, the government provided cooked meals to the students under the school feeding programme but closed it in 2022.

After the Ecnec meeting held at the Planning Commission in the capital, Planning Adviser Wahiduddin Ahmed said, "The government has plans to introduce the programme at all government primary schools gradually."

Explaining the reason behind providing dry food instead of cooked meals, the adviser said previously

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

## Govt to tackle misinfo with own narrative

Rizwana tells seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will combat misinformation and disinformation through its actions and by establishing its own narrative, said Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan.

Simply enacting laws will not stop the spread of false information, she said, adding that people must reflect on their role, and media outlets must determine how to channel their efforts effectively.

Rizwana made these remarks at a programme titled "Media in the Age of Misinformation and Disinformation -- Challenges, Responsibilities, and the Path Forward for Development," organised by the Press Institute Bangladesh (PIB) and Oxfam in Bangladesh.

The event was held at PIB office in the capital.

The adviser stressed the media's responsibility to present accurate information. However, she pointed out that in many cases, misleading information is being spread, which creates misconceptions in society. She said, some news outlets publish stories just to increase views, often hiding the truth in the process.

Rizwana said over the past 20-25 years, the media landscape has changed dramatically. "If we

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7