

Pubali Bank Credit Card – Now Just a Click Away!

- Apply online from your comfort zone
- Instantly check your credit score and credit limit in real time
- Simple process, trusted service

A Smart Choice for a Smarter Life – Pubali Credit Card

<https://applycreditcard.pubalibankbd.com> or Scan QR Code



পূবালী 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 ব্যাংকিং (PI Banking) –
একটি পূবালী ব্যাংক অ্যাপস

ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং সেবা প্রদানে ‘ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং কর্ণার’ পূবালী ব্যাংকের প্রায় সকল শাখা এবং উপশাখায়

18,000MW power production planned for summer

Load shedding to stay tolerable, says energy adviser
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Load shedding during the summer days will be kept at a tolerable level, Power and Energy Adviser Fouzul Kabir Khan said yesterday.

“I won't say there will be no power outage during the summer, but the load shedding will remain within a tolerable level. And there will be no difference between urban and rural areas,” he said at a seminar, titled “Energy Crisis: Way Forward,” organised by the Forum for Energy Reporters Bangladesh (FERB) at Bidyut Bhaban in the capital.

He said plans are in place to produce 18,000 megawatts (MW) during peak demand in summer, up from the current 16,000 MW. Additional demand will be met through coal and LNG imports.

Kabir added that when the interim government took charge, the power sector was in a disastrous state. “We have paid most overdue and late payments to companies,” he said.

The overdue bill, originally around US \$3.2 billion, has been reduced to US \$600 million and is expected to hit zero by the end of the fiscal year in June, he added.

To clear the payments, the government cut allocations from unnecessary projects. Kabir noted that late payments had also raised power production costs.

On gas exploration, Kabir said the government only took steps it could complete within its tenure.



SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Drops of water, waves of suffering

The daily struggle of women in Rangamati’s hills

MD ABBAS, BACK from Rangamati

In the quiet village of Bottola, nestled in the hills of Rangamati’s Naniarchar upazila, each day begins early.

As the sun rises, the village wakes up, and women like Mollika Chakma set out on their daily journey to fetch water – a task they have carried out for years, despite the pain and challenges it brings.

Stepping out of the house with an empty kolshi (pitcher), 38-year-old Mollika begins her daily walk – for water, her family, and survival.

Like many women from nearby hamlets – Toroni Para, Dharmasrom Para, and Shikolpara – she walks nearly two kilometres to fetch water from a shrinking kuya (well-like water source).

“I’ve been doing this since 2010. The pain never goes away – my lower back, knees, and hands hurt all the time. Sometimes we even squabble with neighbours because the kuya is drying up,” Mollika says.

Hundreds of women across Rangamati’s remote hills have a similar story.

Water is collected three times a day – at dawn, midday, and late afternoon. During the dry season, many wait up to three hours, often returning home with empty kolshis.

Juleka Chakma, 50, has been carrying water since she was eight. “My knees and back feel like they’re breaking. I have to take painkillers regularly,” she shares.



A woman pours water into her pitcher from a shrinking kua (water source like a well) in Bottola, a small village nestled in the hills of Rangamati's Naniarchhar upazila. The photo was taken recently.
PHOTO: STAR

For others, the pain becomes overwhelming. “It gets worse during full moon days. Sometimes I faint from the pain,” says Monika Chakma, who suffers from chronic back issues.

Beyond the physical strain, the emotional burdens run deep.

“If I come home late, my husband yells and accuses me of wasting time. Sometimes, he even hits me,” confides a woman from Shikolpara, requesting anonymity.

The dangers grow after dark.

“We’ve been bitten by snakes, attacked by wild animals, and slipped on the rocky trails,” says Ripona Chakma.

“During the monsoon, the paths become dangerously slippery. But what choice do we have?” she asks.

In Paschim Dewanpara of Sabekon union, the crisis is even worse. Villagers must cross rivers by boat to collect water.

Despite battling diabetes and heart disease, 47-year-old Champa Chakma still makes the journey. “My body can’t

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Reform disability policies for dev, empowerment

Demand rights groups at press conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a press conference yesterday criticised the Ministry of Social Welfare for its failure to support the empowerment and development of persons with disabilities, accusing it of being more of an obstacle than an aid.

They argued that the ministry has failed to recognise the rights of persons with disabilities as fundamental human rights, continuing instead to treat them through a charity-based approach.

The speakers also called for a major shift in attitude, proposing that the ministry be

If mindsets, methods, planning, and implementation remain the same, no positive outcomes will follow. Structural and procedural transformation is crucial.

Dr Iftekharuzzaman, TIB Executive Director

renamed the Ministry of Social Development and Empowerment to reflect a more rights-based approach to disability issues.

The press conference, titled “Legal Rights, Protection, and Prevention of Neglect, Deprivation, and Human Rights Violations Against Persons with Disabilities,” was organised by Disability Rights Watch (DRW) in collaboration with Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) at the Midas Centre in the capital’s Dhanmondi.

Khandaker Jahurul Alam, member secretary

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



‘Anti-Hegemony Muslim Unity Platform’ held a rally in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday.
PHOTO: STAR

Muslim platform holds solidarity assembly

STAR REPORT

The “Anti-Hegemony Muslim Unity Platform” yesterday held a rally in front of Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka to express solidarity with oppressed Muslim communities in Palestine, India, and Myanmar’s Arakan region.

The event featured speeches from key organisers and spokespersons, including Muhammad Mizanur Rahman, Syed Muhammad Hasan Al-Azhari, Syed Saiful Islam Bari, Shafik Al-Mujaddedi, and Imran Hussain Tushar, according to press release.

Abul Kashem Muhammad Fazlul Haque, vice-principal of Dhaka Quaderia Taiyabiya Alia (Kamil) Madrasa, read out a declaration of the rally.

“The core spirit of the July uprising was to stand against the oppressor and to play a vocal role against domination,” the declaration said.

The platform pledged to rebuild the future of Bangladesh while “remembering and embodying the spirit of the July uprising.”

It also called for the formation of global public opinion in support of oppressed Muslims in Palestine, India, and Arakan (Rakhine), demanding “direct intervention from the UN and the recognition of Palestine as an independent state,” and calling for the repeal of the “unconstitutional Waqf Bill passed in the Indian Lok Sabha.”

১৬৩৫৪

ইউনাইটেড ফাইন্যান্স
ঐক্যে সবার লাভ... প্রতিদিন

৩৬ বছরের পথচলা

দেশ বিনির্মাণে

অবদান রেখে আসছে ৩ যুগ ধরে

আস্থা ও সেবার বন্ধনে অটুট থাকুক
আগামীর দিনগুলো ইউনাইটেড ফাইন্যান্স এর সাথে

সাস্টেইনাবিলিটি র‌েটিং ২০২৩

দেশব্যাপী বিস্তৃত অফিস নেটওয়ার্ক

AA ক্রেডিট র‌েটিং

Five killed, eight hurt in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Five people were killed and eight others injured in road accidents in three districts yesterday.

In Chattogram, two members of a family were killed and seven persons injured when a pickup skidded off the Dhaka-Chattogram highway near Sitakunda while another van overtook the vehicle.

The deceased are Jakia Islam, 5, and Sakhina Begum, 60.

Jamal Uddin, father of Jakia, is among the injured, said Abdul Mobin, officer-in-charge of Baro Aulia Highway Police Station.

The injured were initially taken to local upazila health complex from where they were transferred to Chattogram Medical College Hospital.

In Munshiganj, a man was killed and another injured as a truck hit a motorcycle from behind on the Dhaka-Mawa Expressway in Sreenagar.

Alimul, 27, died on the spot, said Abdul Kader Jilani, officer-in-charge of Hasara Highway Police Station.

In another accident, one Farukuzzaman, 59, was killed as when his motorcycle skidded off a road after hitting a roadside railing of the expressway near Nimtala Railway Station in Sirajdikhan, said police.

In Kuakata, seven-year-old Ibrahim alias Jaber was killed after being hit by a microbus on Kalapara-Kuakata highway in front of the Pakhimara Water Museum.

The deceased was the son of Afzal Hawlader from Huichhanpara village near Kuakata.

Partner with us and build your dream together.

LAND WANTED

For Joint Venture Development

@ DHANMONDI, GULSHAN, BANANI, BARIDHARA ...

Call For More Details:
01329 713 683

TROPICAL HOMES
Since 1996

50 years
OF EDUCATIONAL TRAVELERS' EXPERIENCE