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

**Prof Yunus launches new hajj app ‘Labbaik’****Hajj flight starts**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday said the mobile app “Labbaik” is ready to provide services for hajj pilgrims and will play a crucial role in ensuring they can perform their religious duties smoothly.

He made this statement while inaugurating the app, which has been developed under government management for the first time, at the state guest house Jamuna.

The app features include emergency support, weather updates, flight information, location tracking, and accommodation information.

Urging pilgrims to use the app, the chief adviser said, “It will be helpful in performing religious duties,

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Despite an approaching train, a man crosses the tracks, walking directly over the rail lines. In the background, some individuals are even seen sitting right beside the tracks. This reckless behaviour poses a constant risk of accidents. The photo was taken in the Tejgaon Railway tracks area yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

**6 DEMANDS OF POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS ‘Concerns genuine, but reforms need planning’**

ARAFAT RAHAMAN

Polytechnic students across the country resumed protests on Saturday, demanding urgent reforms through a six-point charter to fix long standing problems in recruitment policies, education standards, and job opportunities.

A government-appointed review committee, which was formed on April 22 to draft a roadmap for implementing those demands, held its first meeting on the same day.

However, initial discussions within the committee indicate that while some student demands are valid, others may face major challenges in terms of feasibility and policy execution.

After the committee's first meeting, three of its members told The Daily Star that without addressing fundamental problems

like teacher shortages, weak governance, and poor enforcement, meaningful change is unlikely – no matter how promising reforms may look on paper.

The students' six demands include abolishing the 30 percent promotion quota for craft instructors, standardising the diploma in engineering curriculum to four years, and ensuring reserved quotas in technical Grade-10 posts.

Students had initially suspended their protests on April 22 after the committee's formation. However, they resumed demonstrations the following day, citing dissatisfaction with the government's response and remarks made by some officials.

Among the demands, the call to abolish the promotion quota has broad support. Student leaders argue that promoting instructors

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**Video evidence shows protesters were shot before being burned****Prosecution tells ICT on Ashulia killings**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A newly discovered video shows six protesters being shot before their bodies were burnt by the police in Ashulia during last year's July uprising, the prosecution told the International Crimes Tribunal yesterday.

The investigators found the footage at the final stage of their probe into the incident, prompting the prosecution to seek more time to submit the report.

ICT Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam informed the two-member tribunal, led by Justice Md Golam Mortuza Mozumder, that the investigation was nearly complete, but the new evidence necessitated further work.

The tribunal extended the deadline for the submission to May 25. The tribunal also extended until July 20 the deadline for submitting the probe report against several top law enforcement officials, including former IGP Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun and Maj Gen (forced retired) Ziaul Ahsan. They are accused of command responsibility for crimes against humanity committed during the uprising.

They include ex-IGP Mamun, Maj Gen Ziaul, former Mirpur deputy commissioner Mohammad Jasim Uddin Mollah, former additional superintendents of police Abdullah Kafi and Mohammad Shahidul Islam, and former OC Abul Hasan (Jatrabari) and Mohammad Mazharul Haque (Gulshan), along with ex-DB inspector Arafat Hossain.

Separately, the tribunal extended until July 14 the deadline for submitting the investigation report into the shooting of a student hanging from a ledge in Rampura.

**Trafficked, forced to fight, killed in a foreign war**

At least 3 Bangladeshis killed in Russia-Ukraine war after being trafficked; accused agency get invited to govt workshop

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Promised lucrative jobs in Russia, Bangladeshi workers were instead trafficked, tortured, and forced to fight in a war thousands of miles from home, a conflict they had no stake in and no training for.

According to the Human Trafficking Cell of the Criminal Investigation Department, Dhaka-based agency Dream Home Travel allegedly trafficked around 20 Bangladeshis to Russia during the last two years. The victims were offered salaries between Tk 2 lakh and Tk 2.5 lakh per month to work in chocolate factories, or as cleaners and cooks.

Initially, 10 individuals were first sent to Saudi Arabia on Umrah visas. After performing Umrah, they were trafficked to Russia and sold to a man named Sultan, who then handed them over to Russian soldiers.

Then, the ten were pushed into the frontlines, forced to fight Russia's war on Ukraine with little to no training. Those who

refused faced brutal physical and psychological torture, including food deprivation, CID officials said.

At least three Bangladeshis have already been killed, they added.

Humayun Kabir from Singra upazila of Natore was one of them.

**According to the Human Trafficking Cell of the Criminal Investigation Department, Dhaka-based agency Dream Home Travel allegedly trafficked around 20 Bangladeshis to Russia during the last two years.**

Meanwhile, Aminul from Keraniganj, Dhaka, sustained critical injuries. His wife, Jhumur Akter, later filed a case with Banani Police Station.

On April 14, the family of Akram

Hossain, 25, from Hosenpur village in Brahmanbaria's Ashuganj upazila, received news that Akram had been killed in a drone attack.

Akram had left for Russia nine months ago, hoping to lift his family out of poverty by working as a welder.

Akram's father Morshed Mia said, “We sent Akram to Russia by borrowing money from relatives, paying Tk 9 lakh to middlemen.”

At first, Akram worked at a Chinese company in Russia for six months as a welder. The company stopped paying him around two and a half months ago.

Two months ago, the same brokers who brought Akram and other Bangladeshis to Russia forced them to join the military as “contract fighters”.

After 15 days of basic training, Akram was sent to the warfront in Ukraine.

Dream Home Travels' partner Fabia Zerir Tamanna was arrested on February 5 at Dhaka airport while trying to flee to Nepal. She is

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**CONSENSUS COMMISSION Gono Odhikar Parishad for nat'l constitution council**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gono Odhikar Parishad yesterday opposed a proposal to include “pluralism” in the preamble of the constitution. Instead, it called for the inclusion of “religious harmony” during its meeting with the National Consensus Commission (NCC) at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan.

The party endorsed several reform proposals, including limiting a prime minister to two terms, ensuring the prime minister and leader of the house are separate individuals, introducing a bicameral parliament, and reserving 100 seats for women in the lower house.

However, it rejected the idea of allocating seats in the proposed upper house (senate) based on the percentage of votes won in the lower house. Instead, it suggested that any party securing at least 1 percent of the national vote should gain representation in the senate.

The party supported forming a National Constitution Council and proposed bringing the appointment of the police chief and the heads of the three security forces under its authority.

On reforming Article 70, it partially agreed, suggesting lawmakers be allowed to vote independently except on motions of confidence and finance bills. It opposed lowering the minimum age for parliamentary candidates from 25 to 21, proposing a reduction to 23 instead. The party also disagreed with making the Election Commission accountable to parliament, proposing instead that it report to the National Constitution Council.

**No more unauthorised restaurants****DSCC cancels their licences for not complying with approved designs**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation has revoked the trade licences of restaurants operating without proper approval.

The decision was made public yesterday through an official notice.

According to the notice, several residential and commercial buildings under DSCC's jurisdiction are operating restaurants, including rooftop establishments, without approval from the Rajuk and for not complying with its approved architectural designs.

These unauthorised operations have raised significant safety concerns, with incidents of fatalities and property damage already reported. It has also been revealed that many of these illegal businesses obtained their trade licences through unethical means, the notice said.

To address these risks to public safety, the DSCC has declared that all unauthorised restaurants, particularly rooftop establishments, will have their licences cancelled.

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PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

A child joyfully catches rainwater in a bowl and pours it over his head, delighted by the monsoon rain that finally arrived. After weeks of scorching heat and humidity in Khulna, the downpour brought immense relief to all. The photo was taken yesterday in the Bastahara area.

**Pakistan envoy briefs Dhaka on regional issues**

BSS, Dhaka

Pakistan High Commissioner Syed Ahmed Maroof yesterday called on Foreign Secretary Md Jashim Uddin and briefed him on regional issues, according to a statement by the Bangladesh foreign office.

“The high commissioner of Pakistan briefed the foreign secretary about regional issues,” the statement said, in an apparent reference to the escalated tensions between New Delhi and Islamabad following the terror attack in India's Kashmir.

The Pakistan envoy's visit came a day after Foreign Adviser Md Touhid Hossain said Dhaka favours a peaceful resolution to the India-Pakistan tensions over Kashmir, stressing dialogue and diplomacy as the means to ensure peace and stability across South Asia.