

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.



ঘরে বসেই
ব্যাংক
অ্যাকাউন্ট
খুলুন



পাই ব্যাংকিং (PI Banking) –
একটি পূবালী ব্যাংক আপস

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

Lack of reform priorities led to political chaos

Speakers urge govt to put more focus on labour, agriculture or health sectors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government has failed to set their reform priorities, which led to chaos among the political parties and damaged the national consensus, speakers told an event yesterday.

They said if the government were to prioritise reducing discrimination in the labour, agriculture or health sectors, they would be able to connect all the political groups in the process.

Labour sector is one of the most discriminatory sectors in the country where the government has opportunities to reduce discrimination and give labourers a better work environment, they added.

The remarks came at a special lecture on the recommendations made by the Labour Reform Commission, titled "Discriminatory Society: Debate and Ways", at Dhaka University yesterday.

The speaker of the lecture, Taslima Akhter, also one of the members of the Labour Reform Commission, said around 85 percent of the country's total 8 crore labourers are still out of any legal framework.

"Household workers, agricultural labourers, and those involved with fisheries are still not acknowledged in the

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4



A boy stands on the rail line, mere seconds after a train just passed, while two school-going children jump up and hop over a fence. All of these dangerous activities could lead to an accident at any time. The photo was taken from the Sayedabad area of the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Bangladeshi workers to resume work from Monday

Malaysia firm agrees to key demands

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

After a weeklong work abstention, nearly 200 Bangladeshi migrants in Malaysia have agreed to return to work from tomorrow, following a commitment by glove company Mediceram to compensate their recruitment fees, pay salaries on time, and refrain from any forcible deportation.

A workers' committee representing the 190 Bangladeshi migrants and the management of the Negeri Sembilan-based company reached the agreement after a meeting yesterday.

This is the same company visited by Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Adviser Prof Asif Nazrul on May 14 during his visit

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

Star wins 2nd place at INMA Media Awards



STAR REPORT

The Daily Star has clinched second place in the "Best Commerce Product or Service" category at the 88th INMA Global Media Awards 2025, a global stage that celebrates the most innovative initiatives in the news media industry.

The award was secured for introducing Keeron, The Daily Star's standalone EdTech business vertical, which has redefined how legacy media can diversify into high-impact digital ventures.

This marks a historic milestone, with The Daily Star being one of just three entries shortlisted from Bangladesh, joining a global lineup of finalists from Africa, Asia/Pacific, Europe, Latin America, North America, and South Asia – including industry giants such as The New York Times (US), News Corp Australia, and Financial Times (UK).

Launched in September 2023, Keeron was recognised for its transformative impact on professional upskilling of youth – having registered 60,000+ learners and 25000+ paid

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

Lightning alerts 20–30 minutes in advance

Govt planning new early warning system to reduce fatalities

HELEMUL ALAM

After failing to implement earlier projects such as planting palm trees and installing lightning arresters in high-risk areas, the interim government is now planning to introduce an early warning system to reduce lightning-related casualties.

Razwanur Rahman, director general of the Department of Disaster Management, said the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) is developing a system that will issue warnings 20 to 30 minutes before lightning strikes in specific areas.

"With early warnings, residents can take precautionary steps to protect themselves," he said. "We are trying to disseminate this information via mobile operators to areas at risk of lightning strikes. We also plan to open a WhatsApp group to quickly communicate alerts to local officials like DCs and UNOs."

Rahman said the initiative is a joint effort between the Department of Disaster Management and the BMD.

According to data from the Department of Disaster Management, 2,328 people were

killed by lightning strikes between 2010 and 2020, with the highest annual death toll – 359 – in 2018.

Meanwhile, Save the Society and Thunderstorm Awareness Forum (SSTAF) reported that 1,536 people have died in the last six years since 2019. Of these, 265 died in 2019,

230 in 2020, 305 in 2021, 277 in 2022, 245 in 2023 and 214 in 2024.

Rashim Mollah, secretary of SSTAF, said 75 people were killed in lightning strikes between January and April this year, including 18 on

April 28 alone.

Prof Kabirul Bashar, president of SSTAF, identified 10 high-risk areas – Sunamganj, Habiganj, Kishoreganj, Netrakona, Sylhet, Chapainawabganj, Chattogram, Naogaon, Dinajpur, and Sirajganj.

Dr Shameem Hassan Bhuiyan, deputy director of BMD, said lightning accompanies thunderstorms and is categorised into three types – cloud-to-cloud, cloud-to-air, and cloud-to-ground – the last of which directly affects humans.

He said a storm warning centre has recently been established on the BMD premises and has shown promising results in detecting lightning strikes in advance. Radars in Dhaka and Rangpur are also providing relevant data.

"The key challenge is how to deliver timely alerts to those at risk before the lightning strikes," he said. "National broadcasts via radio and TV aren't enough, we need targeted alerts in specific zones."

Dr Bhuiyan said the BMD plans to use mobile network towers to send area-specific alerts through SMS broadcast mode. "We will use voice SMS to send alerts 20 to 30 minutes in advance so people can

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

AT A GLANCE

- Warnings to be issued 20–30 minutes before lightning strikes
- Alerts to be sent via mobile operators using SMS, voice messages
- Warnings will be area-specific, focusing on high-risk zones like haor regions
- WhatsApp groups to inform local officials (DCs, UNOs) quickly
- Data from radars in Dhaka and Rangpur to be used to detect strikes
- Training events planned to teach people how to respond to alerts

'MARCH FOR YUNUS' Protesters place 5-point demand

DU CORRESPONDENT

Protesters under the banner of "March for Yunus" gathered in Dhaka's Shahbagh area yesterday afternoon to press home their five-point demand, including the appointment of Prof Muhammad Yunus as the president.

The protest programme began outside the National Museum around 3:30pm.

Their other demands include the formation of a national government with participation from all political parties, constitutional reforms, holding the Awami League accountable for the killings



during the July uprising, and keeping Yunus in power for at least five years.

"A consensus must be reached to restructure the interim government by removing controversial advisers and forming a strong national government," said Al-Amin Atiya, one of the demonstrators.

"Since activities of Awami League and Chhatra League are restricted, a former Chhatra League leader like Chuppu cannot remain in the presidential post. We want to see Yunus as the president. If necessary, the state must expand the president's powers," he added.



These battery-run rickshaws illegally traverse the Buddhijibi Bridge, putting other vehicles and passersby at risk. Despite several warnings, these vehicles continue to use the bridge. The photo was taken in the Bosila area of the capital recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

CID freezes 35 bank accounts linked to Munni Saha

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has frozen 35 bank accounts linked to journalist Munni Saha, her husband Kabir Hossain, and several individuals and entities affiliated with them.

The accounts currently hold a total balance of Tk 18.16 crore, according to a press release issued yesterday, signed by Jashim Uddin Khan, special superintendent (media) of the CID.

According to the CID's Financial Crime Unit, the accounts were frozen as part of a money laundering investigation initiated under the Money Laundering Prevention Rules, 2019.

Milestone Laurels International School

★★★★★

Admissions

Open for
2025-26

★★★★★

Looking for a top English Medium school in Uttara?

Milestone Laurels International School

Pursuing Excellence in Education With a Legacy of 23 Years

Pearson Edexcel Curriculum

Permanent Future Campus in Sector-16

01911-154412

30 Garib-E-Newaz Avenue, Sector-11
Uttara, Dhaka-1230