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## CA-CEC MEET BNP wants an election date: Rizvi

UNB, Dhaka

BNP expects a specific date for the national election following the meeting between Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus and Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin, said party Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday. "We believe that the expectations and aspirations of the people will be reflected by setting the election date and the announcement of the schedule," said the BNP leader.

He was talking to reporters after visiting the China-Bangladesh Friendship Conference Centre, the venue for BNP's inaugural programme of a 36-day series of events to mark the first anniversary of the July-August mass

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority workers measure the depth of the Buriganga to determine if any measures have to be taken to maintain the ideal level of water in the river. The structure has been in place for decades to check the water level at this point. The photo was taken from near the Kamrangirchar area of the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Two Covid deaths, one dengue fatality in 24 hours

STAR REPORT

At least two people have died from Covid-19 in the last 24 hours till 9:00am yesterday, while seven new infections were reported during the same period, according to the DGHS.

A total of 181 samples were tested for the virus in that period, bringing the number of confirmed Covid-related deaths to 22 since January.

After months of low activity, a Covid-related death was first reported on June 5, prompting the health authorities to reissue precautionary guidelines, including the use of face masks in public spaces.

Meanwhile, one person died of dengue in the last 24 hours till 9:00am yesterday, with 262 admitted to hospitals, according to DGHS data.

# Govt to regulate battery-run rickshaws

Buet-designed vehicles to roll out in  
Paltan, Dhanmondi, Uttara from Aug

DIPAN NANDY

The government is set to bring battery-powered rickshaws under a new regulatory framework in an effort to streamline their operations and enforce a court directive.

A draft regulation has been prepared to bring the vehicles -- commonly known as e-rickshaws -- under licensing, registration, insurance, and speed limits within all city corporation jurisdictions.

Various government departments have already begun preparatory work.

A comprehensive database of e-rickshaws and their drivers will be created using a unified registration form, which has already been dispatched to Dhaka north and south city corporations and other urban authorities.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

### AT A GLANCE

- Maximum speed 30 kmh
- Drivers' license mandatory
- Five-year lifespan set
- Pilot run begins in Aug in Paltan, Dhanmondi, Uttara

As part of the initial implementation, the government has approved a prototype

e-rickshaw developed by Buet. Training for 300 drivers began this week, and a pilot launch of the new rickshaws is planned for August in Paltan, Dhanmondi, and Uttara.

The draft rules stipulate that e-rickshaw drivers must be at least 18 years old, literate in Bangla, and undergo health screening at designated government hospitals. Training on traffic laws, road safety, and battery maintenance will be compulsory. Licences will require renewal every five years, subject to a driving test.

Each rickshaw's speed will be capped at 30 kilometres per hour -- 15km/h in school zones -- with mandatory installation of speed regulators. Vehicle dimensions must not exceed 250cm in length and 110cm in width, and passenger

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

## China keen to set up industries at Mongla

Says press secretary

UNB, Khulna

Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam yesterday said the government has taken comprehensive plans for the development of Mongla Port as China has shown interest in setting up industries in the area.

"China has expressed interest in setting up industries at Mongla Port... the current interim government is working for the development of Khulna and the entire region," he said while exchanging views with journalists at the Khulna Deputy Commissioner's office.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## JU allocates only 2.85% for research

Okays Tk 323cr  
budget for 2025-26

SAKIB AHMED

The Senate of Jahangirnagar University has approved an annual budget of Tk 323.35 crore for the 2025-26 fiscal year, with minimal allocations for research and healthcare services.

JU Treasurer Prof Dr M Abdur Rab presented the budget during the 42nd annual Senate meeting held yesterday afternoon.

An analysis shows that student welfare, research, and healthcare received relatively low priority in the budget.

The overall size of this fiscal's budget has been Tk 14.58 crore less compared to Tk 337.93 crore in the last fiscal.

The highest allocation of Tk 221 crore (68.23 percent) has been earmarked for salaries, allowances, and pensions for university teachers, officials, and employees.

The second-highest allocation of Tk 78.08 crore (24.15 percent) has been made for goods and services, which include general ancillary costs, maintenance and repairs.

Other allocations include miscellaneous expenditures Tk 14.59 crore (4.63 percent).

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



## OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH Govt to expand skills training in all 64 districts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday announced plans to expand the Skill-Focused Literacy for Out-of-School Adolescents (SKILFO) project nationwide, following the successful completion of its pilot phase in Cox's Bazar.

"The pilot has shown that a skills-based, non-formal education can change lives. We want to take this model to all 64 districts in future," said Prof Bidhan Ranjan Roy Podder, adviser to the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, at an event jointly organised by his ministry and Unicef at a hotel in the capital.

Bureau of Non-Formal Education (BNFE) Assistant Director SM Shamim Ahasan presented the project's key findings, saying that it has already reached 7,000 adolescents in Cox's Bazar. The next phase will see SKILFO rolled out in 16 districts, with a target of bringing over one lakh out-of-school and NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) adolescents under its coverage.

According to official data, around 2.2 million people enter the labour market annually, but only

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



Demonstrators as part of the 'Dhaka-Chattogram Road March', organised by a coalition of left-leaning parties, gather at the port city's Customs intersection yesterday afternoon, demanding an end to foreign control over the country's seaports and other strategic sectors. The coalition resumed its protest programme in the morning for a second consecutive day, staging rallies and processions.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## JULY UPRISING Jamaat announces 39-day event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami will hold various programmes from July 1 to August 8, marking the first anniversary of July uprising.

The announcement came from Secretary General Mia Golam Parwar at a press conference at the party's Moghbazar office in Dhaka yesterday.

On July 1, prayers will be offered at all party branches for the martyred and injured; from July 2 to 4, food will be distributed among the destitute; from July 8 to 15, Jamaat leaders will meet the families of victims.

On July 16, Jamaat will hold a discussion and prayer session in Rangpur in memory of Shaheed Abu Sayed.

On July 19, the party ameer will attend a rally at Suhrawardy Udyan.

From July 20 to 24, seminars and symposiums will be held; from July 25 to 28, documentary

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

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