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

Mob violence a threat to democracy

Says HRFB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Human Rights Forum Bangladesh (HRFB) yesterday expressed grave concern over continued incidents of mob violence across the country.

In a statement, the forum said such incidents are not only matters of law and order but also of profound significance for the future of Bangladesh's democratic system, rule of law, and human rights.

Referring to a recent incident in Rangpur, the HRFB said allegations have surfaced that two men were beaten to death by mob while police were present at the scene, but took no steps to protect the victims.

Media reports later said the police merely recovered the bodies from the scene -- an act the forum described as a serious failure in discharging their duties.

Citing constitutional safeguards, the HRFB said Articles 31 and 32 of the Bangladesh Constitution guarantee citizens' right to life and personal liberty, while Article 27 ensures equal protection of law.

It reads that Sections 149, and 150-152 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) clearly mandate that police officers must take all possible steps to prevent any known offence and act immediately to ensure public safety if there is a likelihood of a crime being committed. Sections 154-157 oblige police to receive and record information about crimes, investigate promptly, and arrest offenders,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



A one-kilometre stretch of canal emerges during low tide at Laboni Beach in Cox's Bazar. Beyond it, people stand on the sand, gazing out at the sea. However, once the high tide comes in, the entire area is submerged in chest-deep water, posing a serious risk to anyone who cannot swim. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: MOKAMMEL SHUVO

NATIONALISATION DEMAND MPO teachers issue one-month ultimatum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers of MPO-enlisted schools, colleges, madrasas, and technical institutions have issued an ultimatum to the government to meet their demand for nationalisation of the institutions by September 14.

If the demand is not met, they said they will observe a half-day work stoppage on September 14, followed by full-day strikes on September 15 and 16.

They also warned of a continuous sit-in in front of Jatiya Press Club from October 12.

The ultimatum came yesterday after a meeting with the education adviser at the Secretariat.

During the meeting, ministry officials said a letter had been sent to the finance ministry on August 7, proposing to increase teachers' house rent allowance from Tk 1,000 to Tk 2,000, medical allowance from Tk 500 to Tk 1,000, and festival allowance from 50 percent to 75 percent, according to the teachers.

Welcoming the proposal, the MPO Teachers' Nationalisation Alliance said house rent allowance should be paid as a percentage of basic salary, similar to government teachers.

"Even if it is increased by 20 percent for now, it must soon match the rate given to government employees.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

ICT-1 records
testimony of
witness on
Chankharpul
shooting

STAR REPORT

A prosecution witness told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday that he heard men in police uniforms speaking Hindi when thousands of protesters gathered at Chankharpul on August 5 last year.

Shahid Ahmed, uncle of victim Md Yakub, testified that as protesters reached the intersection, policemen were stationed opposite them, and he heard one say "Idhar aao [come here]".

Yakub was among six killed when police allegedly opened fire on protesters marching towards Gono Bhaban during the July uprising.

Shahid said he and others took Yakub to Mitford Hospital, where

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

DSCC misses revenue goals for 5th straight year

DIPAN NANDY

For five consecutive fiscal years, Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) has failed to meet its revenue collection targets, with the shortfall in 2024-25 being the largest in recent years.

In the latest fiscal year, DSCC set a revenue target of Tk 1,337 crore but collected only Tk 791 crore – a shortfall of Tk 546 crore – marking a decline of nearly Tk 270 crore compared to the previous year. The collection rate dropped to 59 percent, the lowest in five years, after never falling below 70 percent in the preceding four years.

The DSCC authorities attributed the sharp fall to the 42-day lockout and protest movement surrounding BNP leader Ishraque Hossain's mayoral oath-taking, which halted all citizen services and revenue collection at Nagar Bhaban and its 10 regional offices.

The movement began on May 14,

when Ishraque's supporters locked the main gates of Nagar Bhaban and regional offices, and ended on June 23.

A review of the past five years shows the pattern of missed targets.

| FISCAL YEAR | REVENUE TARGET (Tk/cr) | REVENUE COLLECTED (Tk/cr) | COLLECTION SHORTFALL (Tk/cr) |
|-------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 2024-25 | 1,337 | 791 | 546 |
| 2023-24 | 1,372.37 | 1,061 | 311.37 |
| 2022-23 | 1,277 | 1,031.97 | 245.03 |
| 2021-22 | 1,242.46 | 879.65 | 362.81 |
| 2020-21 | 991.77 | 703.31 | 288.46 |

SOURCE: DSCC

In 2020-21, DSCC targeted Tk 991.77 crore but collected Tk 703.31 crore, a shortfall of Tk 288.46 crore. In 2021-22, the target was Tk 1,242.46

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

RABINDRA UNIVERSITY
Tk 519cr campus
project set to be
placed for Ecneec
approval

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prioritising literature, music, fine arts, theatre, agriculture, livestock and fisheries, and environmental sciences, the permanent campus project of Rabindra University in Sirajganj is set to be placed for approval at next week's Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) meeting.

The Tk 519.15 crore project will feature 11 faculties and 40 departments, accommodating 7,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students for education and research.

The proposed campus will have three five-storey dormitories, which will be built at a cost of Tk 139.89 crore.

It will also feature four non-residential buildings: a five-storey academic building, a five-storey administrative building, a three-storey



SEE PAGE 9 COL 6

Twenty collect nomination forms for Ducsu polls

DU CORRESPONDENT

A total of 20 candidates have collected nomination papers for the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducsu) election over the past two days.

Thirteen of them collected papers yesterday, while seven did so on Tuesday.

Chief Returning Officer Prof Dr Mohammad Zashim Uddin disclosed the information during a press briefing in front of the Chief Returning Officer's office at the Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Building yesterday.

Of the 20, five are vying for the post of vice president (VP) – three of them collected their papers yesterday and two on Tuesday -- while the remaining are contesting for other positions.

Responding to journalists' queries, the CRO said objections raised by student organisations regarding the posts of president and treasurer of Ducsu have been resolved as per the constitution, leaving no scope for the commission to intervene further.

It also said no complaints regarding violations of the electoral code of conduct have been received against any candidate so far.



Despite broken headlights, a cracked windshield, and rust covering its body, this bus continues to operate in the capital. Public transport vehicles are required to pass a mandatory fitness test, and since July 21 the government has announced strict penalties for operating ramshackle buses and trucks with faulty machinery. Yet such dilapidated buses still ply the city's streets. This photo was taken in Lalmoni yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

EDCL reduces prices of 33 medicines

BSS, Dhaka

Essential Drugs Company Limited (EDCL), the state-owned pharmaceutical manufacturer, has announced price reduction on 33 essential medicines.

EDCL Managing Director Md A Samad Mridha yesterday revealed this update at a press conference at its headquarters.

He claimed that the company has attained unprecedented achievements over the past six months and the decision to reduce the prices was taken following the formation of the interim government.

The reduced price medicines include tablets, capsules, oral saline, injections, and other critical pharmaceutical items, he added.

Mentioning that several reform initiatives have been undertaken to boost production and make the company profitable, Mridha said these include dismantling syndicates, combating corruption, and terminating around 700 unnecessary employees.

As a result, production has increased by an estimated Tk 59 crore, he said, adding that by opening tenders for raw material procurement, the company is now saving approximately Tk 18 crore per month.

Mridha further announced that the company would set up two new plants under EDCL, of which one will be a biotechnology facility focused on vaccine production, including insulin and other biological products.