

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.**ISO/IEC**
27001:2022**Open your**
Account
from anywherePI Banking-
a Pubali Bank apps**ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং সেবা প্রদানে 'ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং কর্ণার' পূবালী ব্যাংকের প্রায় সকল শাখা এবং উপশাখায়****DURGA PUJA****Law enforcers to be deployed from Sept 24****Says home adviser**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury yesterday said deployment of law enforcement agencies will begin from September 24 to ensure peaceful celebration of Durga Puja.



He was briefing reporters at the Secretariat following the 13th meeting on law and order, which discussed preparations for the upcoming national election, Durga Puja celebrations, and overall security situation.

Jahangir said puja committees have already agreed to keep seven guards at each mandap, while police, Rab, border guards, and Ansars will patrol ahead of the festival starting from September 28.

The women and children affairs ministry would deploy around 80,000 women volunteers to assist security efforts, he said.

Many mandaps now have video surveillance, helping to identify perpetrators quickly, he said.

He dismissed claims that 29 districts were at risk, saying, "This year puja will be celebrated peacefully across the country..."

Suspend highway project at Chunti wildlife sanctuary**BELA serves legal notice**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA) yesterday served a legal notice on the government, asking it to immediately suspend all activities of the Chattogram-Cox's Bazar highway improvement (Phase-II) project at Chunti Wildlife Sanctuary in order to properly protect its forests, wildlife, and biodiversity.

Advocate Zakia Sultana sent the legal notice on behalf of BELA to the officials concerned, saying that it is imperative to take acceptable alternative measures – including flyovers, overpasses, and underpasses – by seeking expert opinions and assessing the environmental impact impartially.

In the legal notice, BELA requested the officials to formulate a time-bound action plan for conservation and management of the sanctuary. It also said no new development projects should be undertaken in the sanctuary, and corrective measures should be taken after examining the project impact.



Police face resistance from locals during an eviction drive at Bastuhara Colony in Khulna's Mujgunni area yesterday. Inset, the law enforcers in action during a clash with the residents.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

**BASTUHARA COLONY****Eviction drive turns violent as locals clash with cops**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Several people were injured in a clash between police and locals during an eviction drive at Bastuhara Colony in Khulna city's Mujgunni area yesterday.

According to locals, the eviction was scheduled to begin at 9:00am to hand over possession of plots to their rightful owners. However, resistance from nearly 200 families currently residing on the two-acre colony land delayed the drive.

The situation escalated around 10:00am when police baton-charged residents attempting to block the eviction. In retaliation, the protesters threw brickbats, forcing law enforcers to retreat temporarily. Police later fired tear gas shells to disperse the crowd, prompting residents to flee.

During the clash, agitated locals vandalised a bulldozer brought for the drive.

Police said the eviction was carried out on the instructions of a magistrate but was suspended after the violence. "We are following court orders. But the drive has been halted temporarily due to the situation," said Mir Atahar Ali, officer-in-charge of Khalishpur Police Station. "Six police members were injured," he added.

The land in question has been at the centre of disputes for decades. In 1987, the government's housing authority sold the plots in Mujgunni through a lottery to 42 allottees. Despite purchasing the plots, the owners are yet to receive possession, said officials. On the other hand, nearly 200 low-income families, many identifying as displaced, have been living in the Bastuhara Colony for years. They argue that any eviction without rehabilitation would render them homeless.

"We have nowhere else to go. The government must ensure rehabilitation before eviction," said Nazrin Begum, one of the residents.

Another local Nazmul Karim said several of the wounded were taken to KMCH for treatment.

STUDENTS' UNION ELECTIONS

Following a long 35-year wait, the Rucsu election is finally set to take place on September 25. In the run-up to the polls, the RU campus is abuzz with anticipation as candidates put forward their pledges. The Daily Star spoke with two such aspirants – VP candidate Nur Uddin Abir and GS candidate Salauddin Ammar – to gain insight into their thoughts and aspirations.

Will work to ensure students' rights**Says VP candidate Nur Uddin Abir**

SHARIF M SHAFIQUE

Sheikh Nur Uddin Abir, vice-president candidate of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal - backed "Oikya boddho Notun Projonmo" panel in the upcoming Rucsu elections, has pledged to work for ensuring students' rights so they are not subjected to deprivation or exploitation.

Talking to The Daily Star, Abir said the Rucsu elections being held after 35 years is a historic opportunity

for Rajshahi University students to finally elect their representatives in a festive environment.

"Students demanded Rucsu polls many times in the past, but now finally it is happening. We are now reaching out to voters, and they are welcoming us with enthusiasm," he said.

Abir, who has been active in campus politics since his admission in 2018, said, "From the beginning, I worked for students' rights. I

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

**Quick response team for students****Vows GS candidate Salauddin Ammar**

SADI MUHAMMAD ALOK

Salauddin Ammar, who is contesting for the general secretary post in the upcoming Rucsu elections from the "Adhipottobirodhi Oikya" panel, has pledged to form a quick response team on the campus to address students' problems.

Ammar is former coordinator of Students Against Discrimination (SAD). "From the very beginning of my campus life, I have

always been involved in movements and struggles for students' rights, speaking out and fighting against injustice. I am running in this election because I want to work for the students."

"When it comes to students' rights, I have never made the slightest compromise. If the students choose me as their representative, I will certainly do whatever is necessary for their rights," he told The Daily Star.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

**Public admin senior secy transferred**

STAR REPORT

Senior Secretary Mokhles Ur Rahman has been transferred from the Ministry of Public Administration and appointed as a member of the Planning Commission.

The Ministry of Public Administration issued a gazette notification in this regard yesterday.

Mokhles Ur Rahman, an officer of BCS administration cadre from batch-82, was appointed senior secretary of the ministry in August 2024 following the fall of the Awami League government.

While speaking to The Daily Star, he said, "The government has done what it deemed best. In line with that decision, I have already joined my new workplace." Meanwhile, an additional secretary of the Ministry of Public Administration Abu Shahin M Ashaduzzaman has been given the charge (present duty) of the ministry's secretary.

**Mokhles Ur Rahman****Students to get new textbooks in January****Says finance adviser**

STAR REPORT

Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed yesterday said students will get new textbooks in January, even though the purchase proposal was withdrawn for further scrutiny.

Speaking to reporters at the Secretariat after a meeting of the Advisory Council's committee on public purchase, Salehuddin said some printing orders had already been issued, but approvals for books for several classes were held back.

"We want to verify the quality of books printed earlier – the paper used, and whether some firms are monopolising multiple contracts," he said. "That is why today's purchase proposal was withdrawn. The list will be reviewed and brought back, possibly next week."

"Reports of malpractice surface from time to time. We want to ensure no such firms are awarded work this year," he said.

While work orders were issued in November last year, the government is taking steps to finalise them in September this time so that books are delivered on January 1, he said.

Ctg, Naogaon, Narsingdi get new DCs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has appointed new deputy commissioners (DCs) in three districts – Chattogram, Naogaon and Narsingdi.

Mohammad Abdul Awal, currently serving as DC of Naogaon, has been made the new DC of Chattogram, replacing Farida Khanom.

Monira Haque, deputy secretary of the Secondary and Higher Education Division, has been appointed as the new DC of Naogaon.

Meanwhile, Mohammad Anwar Hossain, deputy secretary of the Health Education and Family Welfare Division, will serve as the new DC of Narsingdi, replacing Mohammad Rashed Hossain Chowdhury.

A notification confirming the appointments was issued yesterday, signed by Aminul Islam, deputy secretary of the Ministry of Public Administration.



Political leaders accompanying Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus at the United Nations General Assembly await at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport VIP lounge in Dhaka before their flight to New York early today.

PHOTO: FACEBOOK/CHIEF ADVISER GOB