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**পুবালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি.**  
**PUBALI BANK PLC.**

ISO/IEC  
27001:2022

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



My request is that the interim government should, as soon as possible, move into full caretaker mode and act according to the character and features of a caretaker administration.

AMIR KHOSRU  
MAHMUD  
CHOWDHURY  
BNP senior leader



The BNP has not demanded the reinstatement of the caretaker government system; rather, it wants the current interim government to function in a caretaker-style role.

ASIF NAZRUL  
Law Adviser

If restored, caretaker system will apply after next polls  
Says lawyer at SC hearing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Senior lawyer Sharif Bhuiyan yesterday urged the Supreme Court to restore the non-party caretaker government system by cancelling its 2011 verdict that scrapped the 13th Amendment to the Constitution.

He said the system is essential for holding free and fair elections and establishing democracy.

Bhuiyan told the court that if restored, the caretaker system would be effective for the parliamentary polls following the upcoming one, expected in February next year, as it cannot be implemented under the current interim government.

He placed his arguments for the second consecutive day before a seven-member Appellate Division bench headed by Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed during the hearing of appeals and review petitions against the 2011 verdict that struck down the non-partisan

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PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Clearing and forwarding agents, along with importers, collect their goods from Gate-9 of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport. Following the recent fire at the airport's cargo village, large volumes of imported goods are being stored in Biman's hangar near Gate-9. C&F agents are now collecting their deliveries as quickly as possible, especially temperature-sensitive items such as vaccines. The photo was taken yesterday.

## CHEMICAL, INDUSTRIAL BLAZES Fire service struggles with limited capacity

DIPAN NANDY

Lack of basic fire safety measures, poor coordination among agencies, and weak emergency response systems are the main reasons why three recent major fire incidents could not be brought under control quickly, experts and officials said yesterday.

They made the observations after analysing the fires at Dhaka airport, the Chattogram Export Processing Zone, and chemical warehouse in Mirpur -- all of which exposed the Fire Service and Civil Defence's limited capacity to handle chemical and large-scale industrial fires.

Experts expressed grave concern over the incidents, which occurred within just six days, noting that two of them took place in key point installation areas.

"The capacity to deal with general and chemical fires is



FILE PHOTO: CEPZ FIRE

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Modernise fire service to improve capacity
- Provide modern tools, training
- Conduct regular joint drills with relevant agencies
- Keep KPI areas under constant surveillance
- Probe causes, response failures in recent incidents
- Equip cities, key fire stations with specialised gears

different, so the entire department needs modernisation," Brig Gen (retd) Abu Nayeem Md Shahidullah, former director general of the fire service, told The Daily Star.

He urged the government to equip the fire service with the tools and training required to tackle chemical fires effectively.

"Initial response, alarm systems, and water supply -- all are part of fire management. Major weaknesses were visible at all three sites. Authorities should verify whether joint drills between the fire service and relevant agencies are being conducted regularly," he said.

The fire at Dhaka airport broke out around 2:30pm on October 18 and took more than 26 hours to douse. Similarly, the Chattogram EPZ fire, which started around 2:10pm on October 16, raged for over 24 hours.

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'Want equal access to jobs, higher studies'  
Says Qawmi Education Rights Movement  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Qawmi Education Rights Movement yesterday placed a five-point demand calling for full recognition of Qawmi education and equal access to higher studies and employment.

The demands were made at a seminar at the Dhaka Reporters Unity, where speakers also sought state recognition for Qawmi students who were killed and injured during the July uprising.

The other demands include granting national equivalence to all levels of Qawmi education up to the master's level in line with the existing law, removing all restrictions that prevent Qawmi students from pursuing higher Islamic education abroad, and formulating a law to

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Germany our top trade partner in Europe: Yunus



PHOTO: PID  
UNB, Dhaka

Describing Germany as Bangladesh's biggest trade partner in Europe, Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus yesterday expressed optimism that newly appointed German Ambassador to Bangladesh Dr Rüdiger Lotz would work to boost trade and investment between the two countries.

The German ambassador paid a courtesy call on the chief adviser at the State Guest House Jamuna and discussed issues of mutual interest.

During the meeting, the ambassador expressed support for the interim government and enquired about preparations for the national election in February 2026.

He said it was encouraging to see people in Bangladesh becoming more engaged in the democratic process, according to the chief adviser's press wing.

The chief adviser said the National Consensus Commission had done an excellent job by bringing major political parties together to sign the charter.

They also discussed the Rohingya situation and Germany's continued support in this area.

Migrant workers to get job contract before departure  
Says Saudi minister

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia have signed a new labour agreement requiring every migrant worker to receive a documented job offer and contract before departure through authorised digital channels.

Saudi Minister for Human Resources and Social Development Ahmad Bin Solaiman Al-Rajhi made the announcement in a statement issued by his ministry on Tuesday.

Al-Rajhi and Bangladeshi Expatriates' Welfare Adviser Prof Asif Nazrul signed the agreement on October 6 in Saudi Arabia, marking the first such deal between the two countries.

Earlier, the two nations signed an agreement in 2015 concerning domestic worker recruitment and another in 2022 on skill verification.

Currently, about 25 lakh Bangladeshi workers are in Saudi Arabia. However, there have been numerous reports of labour abuses, including excessive

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Battery-run auto-rickshaws crowd the main road in front of the IDB Bhaban, causing severe traffic congestion and immense suffering for commuters. Although such rickshaws are not permitted on the main roads, they continue to defy the rules, creating major problems for regular vehicles that use the route daily. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

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- » Treatment costs outweigh tobacco revenue
- » 3.71cr crore adults use tobacco, 1.61 lakh die yearly
- » Ban loose cigarette sales, e-cigarettes
- » Tobacco caused Tk 30,560cr losses against Tk 22,810cr revenue in 2017-18

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## Amend anti-tobacco law, close existing loopholes: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-tobacco activists and health officials yesterday urged the government to swiftly approve the proposed amendment to the Smoking and Tobacco Products Usage (Control) Act to protect public health and reduce tobacco-related deaths.

They said the argument that a stricter law would hurt revenue is unacceptable, as the cost of treating tobacco-related diseases far exceeds the tax income from tobacco companies.

The call came at a seminar, organised by the National Heart Foundation of Bangladesh. It was held at the CIRDAP auditorium in Dhaka.

A recent World Health Organization report said about 3.71 crore people aged 15 or above in Bangladesh used tobacco products last year, including 1.97 crore smokers.

Campaigners have long demanded further amendments to close loopholes in the anti-tobacco law that tobacco companies exploit to promote tobacco use. The law, first enacted in 2005, was last amended in 2013.

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