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

Highest budget for edn if BNP returns to power Pledges Tarique

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday said if his party is voted to power, it will prioritise education by giving the sector the highest budget allocation to enhance its quality and develop skilled, ethical human resources.

"We have a plan, as we did before. During the tenure of Khaleda Zia, education used to get the highest allocation in the national budget. Inshallah, if BNP gets the responsibility of running the country again, we will ensure the highest allocation for education," he said.

Tarique made the remarks while virtually addressing the Khandaker Shamsul Alam Foundation's Merit Scholarship Examination and Results and Prize-Giving Ceremony held at Pakundia Government High School field in Kishoreganj.

Tarique said the party's plans include repairing and improving dilapidated primary schools so that students can study in a better environment.

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A healing home for Dhaka's trees

DNCC to open tree support centre next month

DIPAN NANDY

The smoke, dust, and concrete walls of Dhaka seem to be closing in, making it harder to breathe each day. In this bustling city, catching sight of greenery feels like a rare stroke of luck. Yet, the answer to relief lies close -- in trees. A little shade, a breath of oxygen, a moment of peace.

With this vision, a unique initiative is taking shape in the capital -- the Tree Service and Rooftop Garden Support Centre.

Located at the northwest corner of Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Memorial Park in Gulshan, the initiative by Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) aims to build a modern and sustainable system for tree care and preservation within urban life.

According to DNCC sources, the tree "hospital" will begin operations next month. Environmental organisation Green Savers will operate it

jointly with the DNCC.

The centre will provide treatment and care for plants. Citizens can bring their sick or weak plants to the Tree Hospital, where specialists will diagnose

Clinic where people can learn about soil composition, watering schedules, and the right balance of light and nutrients.

One of the most innovative features is the Plant Foster Hub. In



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

diseases, test soil quality, and offer guidance on proper care.

A Plant Pharmacy and Laboratory will teach organic methods of plant treatment. There will also be a Plant Care

the rush of city life, many people struggle to care for their plants regularly, and some must leave them behind when travelling for long periods. This centre will offer a safe space for them.

People can leave their plants here for a few days, and trained staff will look after them.

The centre will also include a Plant Library and Research Zone, housing books, guides, and research papers on plant life, sustainable agriculture, and the relationship between nature and urban living.

Ahsan Rony, chief executive officer of Green Savers, said, "We don't just want to plant trees -- we want to learn how to care for them. Our goal is a Dhaka where every person loves trees, nurtures them, and considers them a part of life."

Contacted, DNCC Administrator Mohammad Azaz said, "The entire facility will be built using eco-friendly architectural design. It will be lightweight, energy-efficient, and low in carbon emissions. The design will include open spaces that allow natural light and air to flow freely, creating an ideal environment for plant care."

'Minority rights a crucial element of democracy'

Analysts call for just and fair polls in Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As Bangladesh goes through a transition and heads for elections by February next year, political analysts have called for a just and fair process where all people, regardless of caste, creed, and gender, can participate.

They made the remarks at a workshop "Inclusive Democracy", organised by the Centre for Governance Studies (CGS) in collaboration with FES Bangladesh.

Women make up nearly 50 percent of the population, yet their representation, along with that of other minorities, has been notably limited in this historic process [July charter].

Zillur Rahman, CGS President

It held at a city hotel to encourage ideological dialogue and democratic practice among young politicians, said a press statement.

Felix Gerdes, resident representative of German-based think tank Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung (FES) Bangladesh, said the issue of minority rights remains a crucial element of democracy worldwide, as "the tyranny of the majority is not necessarily better than the tyranny of the minority".

CGS President Zillur Rahman said

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'His ideals still relevant for post-uprising Bangladesh'

Speakers tell discussion marking Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Huq's 152nd birth anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Huq's politics of rights, agrarian reform, and electoral legitimacy remain crucial for post-July uprising Bangladesh, as the country struggles to redefine justice and democracy, said speakers at a seminar yesterday.

Marking the 152nd birth anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla, The Daily Star organised a discussion titled "The Daily Star Itihas Adda: Sher-e-Bangla's Relevance in Today's Bangladesh" at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

Writer and researcher Altaf Parvez said the present time demands a critical and impartial reading of Sher-e-Bangla's life.

Describing Fazlul Huq as a multidimensional and experimental leader, Parvez noted that despite his elite background and early association with the Nawabs and the Muslim League, Huq went on to form the Krishak Proja Party to represent peasants and tenants.

"In the 1930s, the main contradiction was between cultivators and zamindars.

Through land reform and debt relief, Huq awakened Bengal with a new consciousness," he said.

Parvez described 1937 as a "disastrous turning point", when

July charter's core agenda overlooked those who suffered the most -- workers, peasants, Dalits, minorities, women, and students.

Altaf Parvez
Writer and researcher

Sher-e-Bangla's life shows that compromise is not weakness but a necessity in leadership. No society can move forward without some level of give and take.

Perween Hasan
Academic and historian

Congress's refusal to back Huq forced him into an alliance with the Muslim League. Despite setbacks, he said Huq's 1937-39 ministry implemented major reforms such

as free primary education, the Debtors' Relief Act, and job quotas for Muslims.

Referring to the July charter, Parvez said its core agenda of ending discrimination overlooked those who suffered the most -- workers, peasants, Dalits, minorities, women, and students.

"Did we pay the debt of blood, or did we betray it?" he asked.

Constitution expert Arif Khan described Fazlul Huq as an "organic intellectual" devoted to education, land rights, and debt relief.

Calling him "a founder of the state of Bangladesh", he said Huq's vision of regional distinctiveness and self-determination predated later nationalist movements.

"The state that was supposed to deliver justice did not do so," Arif said. "We were turned into subjects, like in a kingdom. Sher-e-Bangla gave the subjects back their rights as citizens."

He added that Huq never tolerated authoritarianism. "He believed in elections and not in coming to power by any other means," he said.

Writer and academic Prof

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Police probe slap on child during father's arrest

Viral video sparks outrage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have launched an inquiry into an incident in which a girl was slapped as she clung to her father during his arrest at Geneva Camp in Mohammadpur on Thursday.

In the footage, the child was seen crying and holding onto her father while someone in the crowd slapped him, hitting the girl in the process as several uniformed police officers stand nearby.

Police yesterday said the man, identified as Rustam, was arrested during a raid in connection with a clash between two drug-trading groups in the area.

Earlier that day, 20-year-old Md Zahid was killed in a crude bomb explosion during the clash.

After the video went viral, many criticised the police, saying that while they have the right to arrest suspects, such actions were unacceptable.

Jewel Rana, additional deputy commissioner of DMP's Tejgaon division, told The Daily Star, "We have seen the video. Someone from the crowd slapped him; only the hand was visible. We will investigate further."

He said it has not yet been confirmed whether the person who struck the man and the child was a police officer or a civilian.

Institutional reforms key to ending enforced disappearances

Says law adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Adviser

Dr Asif Nazrul

yesterday

said

institutional

reforms

were required

alongside

legal ones to

prevent

enforced

disappearance,

calling the

crime worse

than murder.

He was

addressing

the

inaugural

session of a

day-long

workshop

on the

issue

at a city

hotel.

The

Commission

of

Inquiry

on

Enforced

Disappearances

organised

the

workshop

with

assistance

from the

Office

of the

High

Commissioner

for

Human

Rights

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United

Nations.

Nazrul

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"the

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judiciary

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uproot

the

culture

of

enforced

disappearance

from

Bangladesh".



Will ensure expat representation in parliament

Says Jamaat chief

STAR REPORT

Jamaat-e-Islami

Ameer Shafiqur

Rahman has

said that

if his party

comes to

power, it

will ensure

the

representation

of

expatriates

in the

national

parliament.

Currently

visiting

the

US, Shafiqur

made

the

remarks

while

delivering

the

keynote

speech

at a

civic

reception

in

New

York

on

Friday

local

time.

He

recalled

how

many

expatriates

withheld

remittances

during

the

July

uprising

as

a

protest

against

the

fallen

Sheikh

Hasina-led

government.

"Your

decision

not

to

send

remittances

shook

the

ground

beneath

the

oppressor's

feet."

He

also

outlined

his

party's

priorities

in

various

sectors,

including

education,

economy,

employment,

judicial

system,

and

international

relations,

if

elected

to

power.

He

emphasised

that

both

dignity

and

security

of

women

would

be

ensured.

The

Jamaat

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expatriates

to

exercise

their

right

to

vote.

"Do

not

forget

to

cast

your

vote

--

vote

for

whoever

you

like,

whichever

party

or

candidate

you

prefer.

What

matters

is

that

you

vote."

We are inviting experts from four countries -- the UK, Australia, China, and Turkey -- to conduct an investigation. They will determine the cause of the Dhaka airport fire and find out if anyone was responsible.

JAHANGIR ALAM CHOWDHURY
Home Adviser

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