

Pubali Bank PLC steps into a new era of Digital Banking

To unlock a faster, safer and smarter banking experience, please complete your

BIOMETRIC REGISTRATION



পূবালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি
PUBALI BANK PLC.



Open your Account from anywhere



PI Banking-
a Pubali Bank apps



ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং সেবা প্রদানে "ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং কর্পার" পূবালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি সকল শাখা এবং উদ্দেশ্য

Issue notice for Joy to appear by Dec 17

Orders ICT-1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday ordered notices to be published in two national dailies, asking absconding accused Sajeed Wazed Joy to appear before it by December 17 in a case over alleged crimes against humanity committed during the July uprising.

The three-member tribunal, led by Justice Md Golam Mortuza Mozumder, issued the order after prosecutors reported that the arrest warrant for Joy could not be executed. His co-accused, former state minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak, who is now in custody, was produced before the court.

The tribunal set December 17 for hearings on charge framing in the case.

The same date was

SEE PAGE 9 COL 6



Speakers at a roundtable titled 'Building Competent Learners in Bangladesh: Evidence on Foundational Skills of Children' at The Daily Star Centre yesterday. The Daily Star and the Institute of Informatics and Development organised the event.

High enrolment, low learning gains

Speakers tell Star-IID discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday expressed deep concern over Bangladesh's foundational learning crisis, warning that high enrolment and increasing private spending on education are not leading to real learning gains.

They noted that although Bangladesh has achieved near-universal school enrolment, ensured free textbook distribution, and introduced mother-tongue-based instructions, serious questions remain about what children are actually learning.

They highlighted findings from a recent ICAN-ICAR study showing that 58 percent of Bangladeshi children depend on private tutoring, one of the highest rates globally, and that despite significant household spending, neither formal schooling nor private tutoring is delivering strong foundational learning outcomes.

The findings were discussed

at a roundtable, titled "Building Competent Learners in Bangladesh: Evidence on Foundational Skills of Children," jointly organised by The Daily Star and the Institute of Informatics and Development (IID) at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Prioritise teacher training

Increase access to education resources

Focus on improving classroom quality

Implement comprehensive reforms

The ICAN-ICAR study is a citizen-led, household-based assessment coordinated by the People's Action for Learning (PAL) Network and implemented in Bangladesh by IID. It covered all 64 districts and 275 villages, and assessed 6,479 children aged 5 to 16.

Presenting the keynote, IID

SEE PAGE 9 COL 2

UN proposals saw 'mixed response'

Says Huma Khan about report on July rights violations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Outgoing head of the UN Human Rights Office in Bangladesh, Huma Khan, expressed dissatisfaction with the government's failure to disband the Rab and implement key institutional reforms, while also acknowledging progress on several recommendations, including the swift enactment of a law on enforced disappearances.

"In terms of following up on the recommendations of the UN fact-finding report [on human rights violations and abuses during the uprising], it has been a mixed response," she said, noting that while the government "has been able to implement a number of recommendations," many others remain unimplemented.

Huma Khan made these remarks at an event where Tech Global Institute, Netra News, and the International Truth and Justice Project jointly launched the Monsoon Protest Archive -- an online repository documenting digital evidence of the July uprising in Bangladesh.

The website (<https://monsoonprotestarchive.com>) was unveiled at the Bangla Academy.

Huma Khan said OHCHR had placed "a lot of emphasis

SEE PAGE 9 COL 6

OHCHR had placed "a lot of emphasis on disbanding Rab, but that didn't happen," though there were "welcome changes in the criminal code," including the enactment of a law on enforced disappearances.

HUMA KHAN

'We still lack space for rights to flourish'

Sultana Kamal tells discussion marking Human Rights Day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh still lacks a space where human rights can truly flourish, said rights activist Sultana Kamal yesterday. She expressed hesitation in speaking on the topic, stating that the country has lost the moral ground needed to uphold these values.

"Without building that space free from fear and oppression, talk of dignity, justice, or equality will remain hollow," Sultana Kamal said, addressing a discussion at the Liberation War Museum on International Human Rights Day.

Using a metaphor from Rabindranath Tagore, the former caretaker government adviser illustrated the crisis. "If we cannot prepare the 'lotus', where will the goddess 'Lakshmi' sit? We have failed to build that space," she said.

Sultana said rights are often viewed narrowly as protection from arrest or torture, but their true necessity lies in the daily process of "becoming human".

She emphasised that rights are not merely matters of law or courts

but a fundamental cultural issue that must be reflected in daily behaviour.

"The state does not give me my rights, nor can anyone take them away. The state can only be the protector," she said, adding that rights are innate and inalienable.



Without building that space free from fear and oppression, talk of dignity, justice, or equality will remain hollow.

SULTANA KAMAL

Expressing deep concern over the degradation of social values, she contrasted Bangladesh's situation with global standards of accountability.

"In our country, be it personal, social, or state level, there is no accountability. We have fallen into a social system where we have forgotten to show even a modicum of respect for one another."

Tracing the history of rights, Sultana reminded the audience that the demand for the "Rule of Law" dates back to the Magna Carta of 1215. "Article 39 of the Magna Carta established the freedom of speech, movement, and belief. Today, we are still voicing the same demands: no one should be arrested arbitrarily or punished without proven guilt," she said.

"Where there is no liberty, justice, and peace, there are no human rights," she said, adding that the ultimate goal is ensuring people are never forced to live in a culture of fear.

Sultana also criticised the contradictions regarding gender equality. She pointed out that while the Constitution guarantees equal rights, discrimination against women is often perpetuated using religion and culture as shields.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 5

Divisive politics hindered progress on human rights

Says Nur Khan Liton

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Opting for divisive politics, rather than choosing a path that brings everyone together, has wasted the opportunity to strengthen the human rights situation in the country in the post-uprising period, said HRSS Adviser and rights activist Nur Khan Liton yesterday.

"People are still found dead in rivers. We see custodial torture. Extrajudicial killings are increasing again. Public demands are being crushed with force," he said, urging the government to send a strong message to security forces to prevent abuses.

He made the remarks at an event marking Human Rights Day 2025, jointly organised by HRSS and the UN Human Rights Office Bangladesh at the National Museum in Shahbagh. This year's theme was "Human Rights: Our Everyday Essentials".

Liton acknowledged some improvements, such as a decline in state-backed crossfire incidents and enforced disappearances.

However, he said the true number of enforced disappearance victims is much higher than the official estimate of 250 to 400.

"When we investigate one complaint, we often find two more victims whose families never came forward," he said.

Liton said serious violations continue, and the

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

Star journo among 10 wins NIMC-UNDP media award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For in-depth reporting on judicial independence, ten journalists

-- including Baharam Khan The Daily Star's Senior Reporter Baharam Khan -- have been honoured at the "Media Award on Judicial Independence 2025," organised by the National Institute of Mass Communication (NIMC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Certificates and prize money were handed over to the winners at an award ceremony held yesterday at the NIMC auditorium on Darussalam Road in Dhaka.

The other awardees are

SEE PAGE 9 COL 2



Apprehension over fair polls persists

Debapriya tells meeting in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Despite a clear national consensus for the upcoming national election, the persistent public apprehension regarding the capacity to hold a credible and fair election has not been dispelled, said Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, distinguished fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue, yesterday.

Speaking after a regional pre-election consultation meeting of the Citizen's Platform at a hotel in the port city, Debapriya, the platform's convener, stressed that the government and the Election Commission must work to remove this apprehension and ensure a widely acceptable election based on maximum public participation.

Participants, including citizens, teachers, researchers, lawyers, businesspeople, and political representatives from across Chattogram, demanded good governance, accountability, the rule of law, and a robust and independent judiciary.

They said despite the recent movement and calls for wide-ranging institutional reforms, there has been no significant discussion or push for internal reform within political parties ahead of the election.

Debapriya emphasised that the key to accountability lies with the citizens, who must take a bold and proactive role rather than solely relying on politicians or the government.

The economist noted a positive shift in political

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4



PHOTO: TITU DAS

Seven-year-old Mariam carries her father's lunch, wrapped in a cloth, on her head as she walks to the paddy field where he works. The photo was taken in the Bukhainagar area of Barishal Sadar upazila recently.

TK 600CR GRAFT ACC files case against Bashundhara chair, 15 others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has filed a case against Bashundhara Group Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan and 15 others over allegations of embezzling Tk 600 crore from National Bank PLC.

ACC Director General (Prevention) Md Akhtar Hossain confirmed the case yesterday, stating that Sobhan's sons, Sadat Sobhan and Safiat Sobhan, along with several directors of National Bank, have been named as co-accused.

The bank directors include Monwara Shikdar, Parveen Haque Shikdar, Moazzem Hossain, Rick Haque Shikdar, Ron Haque Shikdar, Anwar Hossain, and AKM Enamul Haque Shamim.

According to the case statement, the accused

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1