

**PUBALI SWAPNA PURAN**

✓ Attractive Interest Rate / Profit  
[3 Months FDR rate plus 1% p.a.]

✓ Any amount can be deposited at any time as desired

**AAA**  
Rated Bank



**পূবালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি.**  
**PUBALI BANK PLC.**

Open your  
**Account**  
from anywhere

ISO/IEC  
27001:2022

PI Banking-  
a Pubali Bank apps

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

## Act now to prevent post-polls violence

37 noted citizens urge new govt, parties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thirty-seven citizens yesterday called on the Election Commission, the government and leaders of all political parties to take effective steps to prevent post-election violence reported in several districts.

In a statement, they expressed deep concern over incidents of violence following the 13th national parliamentary election and demanded immediate action to stop them.

Referring to the February 12 polls, the signatories said the election had set a rare example by being held nationwide without major violence or casualties from clashes between rival candidates and their supporters.

However, they noted that from the day after the election, media reports emerged of attacks and retaliatory violence between supporters of rival candidates in several districts. According to the statement, one person was killed and several others injured.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1



Chief of Army Staff General Waker-Uz-Zaman calls on Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus at the Chief Adviser's Office yesterday. Prof Yunus expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Army Chief for the Bangladesh Army's cooperation during his tenure, particularly in the national parliamentary elections.

PHOTO: PTD

## Hasina issue will not derail Dhaka-Delhi ties

Says Fakhrul in an interview with The Hindu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's relations with India will not be "captive" to a single issue, and the presence of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina in India will not "deter" Dhaka from pursuing broader ties with New Delhi, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir has said.

In an exclusive interview with the Indian daily The Hindu, Fakhrul said Bangladesh would expedite projects that serve its interests and intensify development cooperation with India.

"We believe Hasina has committed serious human rights violations. There is a popular demand to punish her, and we believe India should hand her over to us. But not handing her over will not be a deterrent to building broader relations, including trade and commercial ties," he said while talking to the Indian newspaper at the BNP chairperson's Gulshan office in Dhaka.

He stressed that the overall India-Bangladesh relationship should not be "captive" to one issue.

The interim government has repeatedly urged India to



SEE PAGE 9 COL 5

## 12 young MPs to join new parliament

DIPAN NANDY and AHMED DEEPTO

Twelve young lawmakers are set to join the national parliament formed in the wake of the July mass uprising, with their oath-taking scheduled for this morning at the South Plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban. They account for 4.04 percent of the 297 elected members of parliament.

Five of the 12 young MPs were elected from the National Citizen Party (NCP), a political platform founded by leaders of the July uprising. The figures come from an analysis of the results of the 13th National Parliamentary Election held on February 12.

A report released yesterday by Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), titled "Observation of the 13th National Parliamentary Election Process and Affidavit-based Assessment," found that the average age of elected MPs this year is 59.

According to the report, 3.3 percent of MPs are aged 25-34, 6.73 percent fall within 35-44, 18.86 percent are 45-54, 33.67 percent are 55-64, and 36.3 percent are above 65.

According to TIB, the inclusion of a significant number of fresh faces is expected to make

this parliament more dynamic and youth-centric than its predecessors.

Data from TIB's "Know Your Candidate" portal indicates a rise in youth participation. Candidates aged 25-34 accounted for 9.41



To take oath this morning at South Plaza

They make up 4.04% of 297 elected MPs

Five elected from NCP

Average age of elected MPs 59

Youth candidates (25-34) rose to 9.41% from 3.96% in 2024

percent this year, compared with 3.96 percent in 2024, 0.16 percent in 2018, and none in the 2014 election.

Under the National Youth

SEE PAGE 9 COL 7

## New PM to decide on his official residence

Says adviser Adilur Rahman Khan

HELEMUL ALAM and BAHARAM KHAN

The new prime minister will decide on his official residence as the interim government has not finalised it so far, said Housing and Public Works Adviser Adilur Rahman Khan yesterday.

Adilur also said 37 houses have so far been prepared for the new ministers and state ministers across Minto Road, Dhanmondi and Gulshan, while preparations are underway to arrange a few more houses if necessary.

The adviser spoke to journalists at the Secretariat. He expressed hope that all residences would be ready by the swearing in of the new cabinet.

Md Khalequezzaman Choudhury, chief engineer of the Public Works Department, said preliminary preparations have been made for the next prime minister's official residence, including a conceptual design for a specific

location.

"We will show it to the new PM, and after his review, we will make a decision," he said.

Asked whether there had been any preliminary decision to temporarily move to Jamuna, he said no such decision had been taken.

### AT A GLANCE

No decision yet on Jamuna

37 houses prepared for ministers, more if needed

144 NAM Bhaban flats being readied for MPs

50 cars and 50 drivers kept ready

Meanwhile, an official from the Department of Housing said there is no specific time frame mentioned regarding how soon the current advisers must vacate government housing after their term ends or upon resignation.

"Usually, they vacate the

residence as soon as possible after their duties end. There are also instances where some leave even before their term is officially over," the official said.

After the fall of the Awami League government during the July mass uprising, the then PM Sheikh Hasina's official residence Gono Bhaban was transformed into the "July Memorial Museum" by the interim administration. As such, the issue of a new official residence for the prime minister has emerged.

Earlier on July 7, the Chief Adviser's Office formed a high-level committee led by Md Nazrul Islam to select a suitable residence for the upcoming PM.

The committee initially proposed merging the Speaker and Deputy Speaker's residences in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar and submitted a report after an inspection. Another option in the Defence Ministry area was also considered.

Converting the state guest

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## Ekushey book fair to run from Feb 20 to Mar 15

Bangla Academy fixes dates despite publishers' demand

STAR REPORT

The Bangla Academy has decided to run the Amar Ekushey Book Fair from February 20 to March 15. The head of the government will inaugurate the book fair. Preparations are underway accordingly, the Bangla Academy said.

The book fair traditionally begins on February 1. However, this year it was postponed due to the national election.

The academy's decision comes at a time when a platform of more than 300 publishers under the banner of Prokashok Oikya has been demanding the book fair begin after Eid-ul-Fitr and urged BNP Chairman Tarique Rahman's intervention to this end.

The platform's spokespersons, Mezbah Uddin of Ahmad Prokashoni and Mazharul Islam of Anyapokash, said publishers are at risk of suffering losses if the fair is held during the month of Ramadan as there is a possibility of significantly fewer visitors during this time.



SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

## Teen stabbed to death in Jatrabari

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 15-year-old madrasa student was stabbed to death allegedly by a group of teenagers in Dhaka's Jatrabari area on Sunday night, police said.

The victim, Mahim Mia, was attacked around 10:00pm in Kajla School Goli and taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in critical condition, where doctors declared him dead at about 11:30pm, said Inspector Md Faruk, in-charge of the hospital's police outpost.

Police said Mahim, a Hizb student at a local madrasa, lived with his family in the Kajla area. He was originally from Kishoreganj Sadar upazila.

According to Mahim's father, Din Islam, a group of teenagers called his son into an alley in front of their house as he was returning from their fruit shop and later attacked him with sharp weapons.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



A customer looks at a plastic shelf displayed on a footpath at Chitrali Bazar on BIDC Road in Khulna. Traders have illegally occupied the busy footpath with shops and goods, forcing pedestrians onto the road, putting them at risk and disrupting traffic movement. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## No new vehicle registration without scrapping old one

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

No one will be allowed to register a new or used motor vehicle without scrapping a vehicle that has exceeded its economic life, according to a new government guideline.

Under the Motor Vehicle Scrapping and Recycling Guideline-2026, authorities may also scrap vehicles that have remained without a valid fitness certificate for more than one year without reasonable cause.

Violation of the guideline will be treated as an offence under the Road Transport Act, 2018.

The Road Transport and Bridges Ministry issued a gazette on February 13, saying the guideline takes effect immediately.

The interim government introduced the guideline about eight months after fixing the economic life of buses and minibuses at 20 years and goods-carrying vehicles, such as trucks and covered vans, at 25 years. The guideline aims to ensure proper scrapping of outdated vehicles.

The move comes as more than 80,000 vehicles registered with the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) have already exceeded their economic life, many of which are still in operation.

Officials also said several lakh vehicles are running without a valid fitness



Vehicles without fitness for over one year may be scrapped

Guideline effective from Feb 13

Economic life set at 20yrs for buses, 25yrs for trucks

More than 80,000 BRTA-registered vehicles exceeded economic life

Violators face up to three months' jail or Tk 20,000 fine, or both

clearance.

BRTA Chairman Abu Momtaz Saad Uddin Ahmed said implementation would take time as several committees must be formed. "All these works will start after the formation of the new government," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1