

Ensure Your Retirement Financial Security  
at the End of Working Life

**PEOPLES PUBALI PENSION SCHEME (PPPS)**

- ✓ Attractive Interest Rate / Profit  
[ 6 Months FDR rate plus 1% p.a.]
- ✓ Monthly compounding interest / profit on a daily basis.



**AAA**  
Rated Bank



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

Open your  
**Account**  
from anywhere



PI Banking-  
a Pubali Bank apps

ISO/IEC  
27001:2022

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

## TIB hails MPs' decision not to take duty-free cars, govt plots

STAR REPORT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has welcomed the government's decision not to take duty-free cars and government plots, calling it timely, thoughtful, and hopeful.

It strongly demanded that all members of parliament and government officials publish their income, expenditure, and asset statements online every year.

In a statement issued yesterday, TIB also urged the government to adopt a coordinated national anti-corruption strategy to ensure lasting impact. It said this strategy should be based on the BNP's 31-point reform outline, the election manifesto, the July charter, and the Anti-Corruption Commission Reform Report.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Prime Minister and BNP Chairman Tarique Rahman stood in silence after placing wreaths at the graves of his parents, former president Ziaur Rahman and former prime minister Khaleda Zia, at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: PTD

## 'Hadi received repeated death threats'

ICT-2 accepts Oct 6 statement of slain Inqilab Moncho spokesperson

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A few months before his death, Sharif Osman Hadi told the investigation officer in a crimes against humanity case that he had been receiving repeated death threats.

He warned that without swift justice, "future mass killings by Awami men would be unimaginable".

Hadi gave the statement on October 6 last year as a prosecution witness in the case against Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader and six other party leaders and affiliates.

Yesterday, the International Crimes Tribunal-2 accepted his statement as formal testimony following a prosecution petition.

Hadi, spokesperson for Inqilab Moncho, described the alleged role of top Awami League leaders in the killing of unarmed protesters during the July uprising.

He also said he had received death threats from multiple phone numbers and had filed general diaries with Shahbagh Police Station.



SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## Ducusu's gains marred by some leaders' excesses

MAHATHIR MOHAMMED

In its first four months at the helm of Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducusu), the Islami Chhatra Shibir-backed panel took a number of initiatives for the welfare of Dhaka University students, but some of its leaders faced criticism for their excesses on the campus.

With its own budget, the Ducusu organised seminars and workshops on career development, research and skill development. It arranged legal support for 119 students over cyber harassment and disputes since September last year, according to Ducusu's four-monthly report published last month.



**Assault on anyone -- be it a teacher or a destitute person -- is a crime, which is not expected from Ducusu leaders... They cannot assault or harass anyone over ideological differences.**

MUSTAQ HOSSAIN, Former Ducusu general secretary

Ducusu leaders persuaded the university authorities to allocate Tk 5.5 crore for the renovation of old dormitories considered vulnerable to earthquakes and another Tk 50 lakh for the facelift of the DU central mosque.

They also played a key role in fulfilling the longstanding demand for evening bus service for nonresident students and pushed for introducing an online subscription system at the central library to boost its resources.

These positive steps were marred by the actions of some Ducusu leaders, who drew flak for their involvement

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

## Dhaka, Ctg city polls likely after Eid

LGD writes to EC to prioritise city corporation elections

DIPAN NANDY and AHMED DEEPTO

With the 13th parliamentary election now over, the Election Commission (EC) has begun preparations for elections to three major metropolitan local government bodies.

The Local Government Division (LGD) has formally requested the EC to take necessary steps to organise polls for Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC), Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) and Chattogram City Corporation. Following the request, the EC has initiated preliminary preparations, with elections expected after Eid-ul-Fitr. Government officials have also indicated that local elections will be prioritised.

The secretary of the Local Government Division sent two separate letters to the EC in the last week of January.

The letters stated, "The first meeting of DSCC was held on June 2, 2020. Accordingly, its five-year tenure ended on June 1, 2025. Meanwhile, the first meeting of DNCC was held on June 3, 2020,



### AT A GLANCE

- DNCC, DSCC terms expired in June 2025
- CCC term ends Feb 22 this year
- Local bodies largely run by administrators after uprising
- Service seekers suffer due to absence of elected reps

and its term expired on June 2, 2025. In addition, the first meeting of Chattogram City Corporation took place on February 23, 2021. Under the law, its tenure ends on February 22, this year."

The letters added that under

the Local Government (City Corporation) Act, elections must legally be held within 180 days prior to the expiry of a corporation's term.

Since the fall of the Awami League government following the July mass uprising on August 5, 2024, many local government institutions have remained without elected representatives. Except for union parishads, elected representatives of 12 city corporations, all 330 municipalities, 61 zilla parishad chairmen, 493 out of 495 upazila parishad chairmen, and 988 vice-chairmen and women vice-chairmen of upazila parishads were removed as many went into hiding.

Following a court order, Shahadat Hossain, who finished second in the election, assumed office as mayor of Chattogram City Corporation.

The remaining bodies are still vacant. Most union parishad chairmen and members are also in hiding. As a result, nearly all local government institutions are currently being run by administrators.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## Arrest warrant against Tulip over flat scam

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A special court yesterday issued arrest warrants against British MP Tulip Siddiq, niece of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina, and Rajuk's former assistant legal adviser Sardar Mosharraf Hossain in a case filed over "illegal acquisition" of a flat in Dhaka's Gulshan 2 area by providing undue benefits to a developer.

Judge Md Sabbir Faiz of the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court in Dhaka passed the order after accepting the charge sheet submitted by the ACC.

The court set March 8 for submitting a report on execution of the warrants.

ACC filed the case on April 15 last year. According to the case documents, the accused allegedly abused their power and illegally took possession of a flat of Eastern Housing Limited in Gulshan 2 without paying any money, and later got it registered.

## July charter's legality challenged at HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A petition was filed with the High Court yesterday challenging the legality of the July charter.

Supreme Court lawyer Md Eunus Ali Akond submitted the petition.

Akond said the constitution contains no provision for a charter of this nature, particularly its proposals for a referendum and a 100-member upper house in parliament.

He said the HC could hold a hearing on the petition next week.

Jamaat-e-Islami lawyer Mohammad Shishir Manir said they will place arguments before the HC opposing both the petition.

## Restore civic liberties, freedom of expression PEN Bangladesh urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

PEN Bangladesh has congratulated the newly elected government on receiving an overwhelming mandate to lead the country at a critical stage in its democratic transition.

In a statement issued on February 16, PEN Bangladesh President Dr Shamsad Mortuza and Secretary Jahanara Parveen said the strong public endorsement carries both legitimacy and responsibility to revitalise democratic institutions, restore public trust, and rebalance authority and constitutional rights.

PEN Bangladesh -- the national chapter of PEN International -- urged the government to prioritise restoring civic freedoms, particularly the constitutional guarantee of freedom of expression under Article 39 of the Constitution.

It called for the immediate release of writers, journalists, and activists detained solely for peaceful expression; an independent and transparent review of alleged civil rights violations; reform of repressive legal provisions that criminalise speech under broad or vague clauses; and institutional safeguards to protect media independence, artistic freedom, and digital rights.



US Ambassador to Bangladesh Brent Christensen visited the SM Sultan Art Conservation Project at Bengal Shilpalay in the capital yesterday. He was received by Bengal Foundation Chair Abul Khair and other trustees, and toured the foundation's exhibition and conservation facilities.

PHOTO: COURTESY

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## BENGAL FOUNDATION US envoy visits SM Sultan Art Conservation Project

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Brent Christensen yesterday visited SM Sultan Art Conservation Project at the Bengal Shilpalay in the capital.

Bengal Foundation Chair Abul Khair, Director General and Trustee Luva Nahid Choudhury and Director Ataur Rahman welcomed the ambassador.

During the visit, he met the Bengal Foundation's management and received an overview of the recently completed SM Sultan Art Conservation Project, which has been implemented by Bengal Foundation with support from the US Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP).

The project focused on the research and conservation of artworks by the eminent Bangladeshi artist SM Sultan, according to a statement of the Bengal Foundation.

The initiative integrated in-depth art-historical research to guide sustainable conservation techniques,