



FAMILY CARD

Over 37,000 women to get Tk 2,500 each before Eid

PM inaugurates pilot today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 37,567 women-headed households in 14 areas, including two in the capital, are going to get Tk 2,500 each against the family cards through their bank accounts or mobile wallets before Eid.

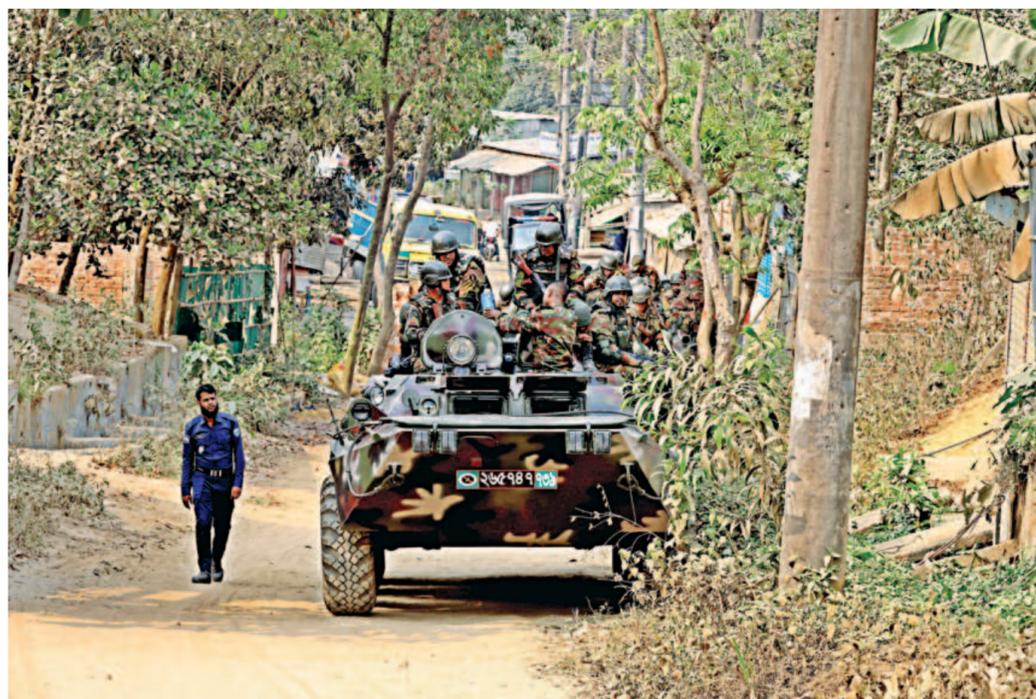
Social Welfare Minister Abu Zafor Md Zahid Hossain yesterday announced the decision at a press conference in the finance ministry.

He added that during the pilot phase, the beneficiaries were selected after data from 51,805 households of the extremely poor, poor, and lower-middle-class were verified. "Those who have been selected will get their money through their bank accounts or mobile wallets before Eid."

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman is expected to inaugurate the pilot phase of the Family Card programme at the Korail slum today.

At the briefing, Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury said the pilot programme would continue until June. The full programme would start from the next fiscal year. Gradually, it would be expanded from lower-

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5



Members of the army in armoured personnel carriers during a major joint forces operation in the Jungle Salimpur area of Sitakunda in Chattogram yesterday afternoon. The remote hilly area, known as a safe haven for criminals, came under renewed scrutiny after a Rab officer was beaten to death there in January.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Joint forces claim control of Jungle Salimpur

Key suspect Yasin escapes; 15 held, weapons recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chattogram

Joint forces yesterday launched a large-scale operation in the Jungle Salimpur area of Sitakunda upazila in Chattogram, deploying around 3,200 personnel from the army, police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab).

The operation began around 6:00am with heavy equipment, with members of the joint forces cordoning off the entire area before conducting raids.

Later, Ahsan Habib Palash, deputy inspector general (DIG) of the Chattogram Range, while talking to journalists in the afternoon, said that they established full control in the much discussed area.

According to him, several weapons were recovered during the drive and around 15 people were detained, though the exact number could not

SEE PAGE 8 COL 6

WAR ON IRAN 4 Bangladeshis killed in Middle East so far

STAR REPORT

The government yesterday condemned attacks that have claimed innocent lives after two Bangladeshis were killed in a strike in Saudi Arabia amid the US-Israel war on Iran.

In a statement, the foreign ministry said the government was deeply saddened by the deaths and injuries of Bangladeshi nationals in the conflict.

"Continued loss of lives of innocent Bangladeshi civilians in the region is a matter of grave concern," the statement said, calling on all parties to exercise maximum restraint.

It also urged the international community to take urgent and effective measures to de-escalate the situation and prevent further loss of life.

The two Bangladeshis killed in the attack in Saudi Arabia's Al-Kharj governorate were Bachchu Miah of Katiadi in Kishorganj and Mosharrar Hossain of Shakhipur in Tangail.

The injured are receiving treatment at local hospitals, while officials from the Bangladesh Embassy in Riyadh have visited them and are in contact with Saudi authorities to bring back the bodies, the ministry said.

The government is closely monitoring the evolving situation and attaches high priority to the safety and welfare of Bangladeshi nationals in the Middle East, where

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Global arms exports soar on European demand

AFP, Stockholm

Global weapons flows grew by almost 10 percent in the past five years, with Europe more than tripling imports, a report showed yesterday.

The surge in European countries can be explained, in part at least, by the fact they are buying weapons to supply to Ukraine and because they are



seeking to boost their own military capabilities against a perceived threat from Russia, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said.

The volume of worldwide arms flows grew by 9.2 percent in the period 2021 to 2025 compared to the preceding five-year period, according to SIPRI's new report.

SIPRI analyses trends over half-decades because a few deliveries of major contracts can tilt yearly figures.

While imports of weapons to Europe are still not at the levels seen during the Cold War, "Europe is now the largest recipient of arms", Mathew George, director of SIPRI's Arms Transfers Programme, told AFP.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

'People's voting rights were violated'

Says Jamaat ameer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Opposition Leader and Jamaat Ameer Shafiqur Rahman yesterday alleged that people's voting rights were violated in the national election and claimed that his party had been "made the opposition in a calculated way".

Speaking at an iftar event in the capital's Siddheshwari yesterday, he said the outcome of the polls did not reflect the will of the people.

"Before the election, we said loudly that we did not want the victory of any party. I even mentioned my own party by name and said we did not want its victory. We wanted the victory of 180 million people. That victory has not been achieved."

Shafiqur claimed that the facts surrounding the polls were now becoming clear. "Everything has come out in broad daylight, and witnesses are also emerging. The judgment now rests with the court of the people, and In Sha Allah, the verdict will come in favour of the people."

Jatiya Ganatantrik Party (Jagpa) organised the iftar event at a hotel.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

Chhatra Shakti men beat up DU student

Allege he is linked to banned Chhatra League

DU CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka University student was beaten and later handed over to police by activists of Jatiya Chhatra Shakti, the student wing of the National Citizen Party, early yesterday.

Speaking to journalists while lying injured on the Shahbagh Police Station premises, philosophy student Rahid Khan Pavel, from the 2020-21 academic session, said he was assaulted after being labelled a member of the now-banned Chhatra League.

He alleged that the attackers left him at the police station after taking away his mobile phone, motorcycle keys, and wallet.

Pavel said he had gone to Kazi Nazrul Islam Hall of Buet to have sehri. There, DU students Hasib, Shuvo, Saifullah, and Abrar, along with around 20-25 others, began beating him.

"They hit me on the head with bricks, stabbed my hands and body with a bike disc lock, stepped on my legs from the toes up, and beat me with belts."

He alleged that the attackers took him to the DU campus and continued the assault, saying, "They also beat me at the police station, but law enforcers intervened and saved me."

Pavel denied having any political affiliation,



SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

Govt floats tenders to buy 3 LNG shipments

Seeks deliveries in April

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has floated tenders to buy three more liquefied natural gas (LNG) cargoes from the spot market for April delivery in a desperate race to secure gas amid deepening turmoil in the Middle East.

State-run Rupantarita Praktik Gas Co Ltd (RPGCL) on Sunday sought delivery of the LNG cargoes in three phases between April 5 and April 13, a move that came four days after the company floated tenders to buy two cargoes of gas for March 15-16 and March 18-19 deliveries.

Bangladesh had to buy two LNG cargoes from the spot market after failing to attract bidders for two consecutive days, although at more than double the normal rate.

The move comes amid uncertainty over the timely arrival of LNG shipments from Qatar, as shipping in the Gulf remains severely disrupted after Tehran threatened to "set fire" to vessels in the Strait

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

Laws alone can't ensure gender equality

Speakers say at UN Women report launch

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Achieving gender equality requires more than strong legal provisions; it demands institutional accountability, inclusive reforms, and the dismantling of colonial-era loopholes that leave women and marginalised groups vulnerable, speakers said at a roundtable yesterday.

Organised by UN Women, in partnership with the European Union and The Daily Star, at The Daily Star Centre in the capital's Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, the roundtable marked the launch of a study titled "Achieving Equality Before the Law in Bangladesh: An Assessment of the Law from a Gender Perspective".

Launching the report, UN Women Country Representative Gitanjali Singh outlined a six-point strategy to bridge the gap between legal theory and the lived realities of women.

She urged the immediate passage of the sexual harassment prevention and domestic violence amendment ordinances.

"We need justice systems that don't just respond to violence but prevent it," Singh stated, advocating a "whole-of-government" justice strategy integrating police, courts, and social services while increasing funding for grassroots movements.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1



Participants at a roundtable organised by UN Women at The Daily Star Centre, marking the launch of the report "Achieving Equality Before the Law in Bangladesh: An Assessment of the Law from a Gender Perspective".

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Taka weakening against dollar amid war tensions

B1

HASANAH ISLAMIC BANKING
البنكية الاسلامي
Prime Bank

PRAYER TIMING
MARCH 10

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:59	12:45	4:30	6:07	7:30
JAMAAT 5:09	1:15	4:45	6:17	8:00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN	MAR	SEHRI	IFTAR
20	10		6:07
21	11	4:56	6:07
22	12	4:55	6:08