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



Take steps to prevent dengue: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday called on people to adopt preventive measures against dengue and chikungunya, announcing that a nationwide cleanliness drive will start on March 14 to safeguard people from the deadly mosquito-borne diseases.

"Deadly diseases like dengue and chikungunya have caused loss of life. But, if we all become aware, it is possible to protect ourselves from dengue and chikungunya," he said in a

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Severe traffic congestion grips the capital's Gulistan area as shoppers crowd markets ahead of Eid, now less than 10 days away. The rush also intensifies after office hours as people gather on the streets to head home before iftar. The photo was taken yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

An unprecedented event for the House

13th parliament to begin today with speaker's chair vacant



MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

In a scene never witnessed before in Bangladesh's parliamentary history, the maiden sitting of the 13th Jatiya Sangsad is likely to begin today with the speaker's chair vacant for a brief period.

Parliamentary experts have described the development as "unprecedented", highlighting the unusual circumstances under which the new House is convening. Chief Whip Nurul Islam Moni yesterday said since there is currently no speaker or deputy speaker in office, proceedings will begin with both seats vacant for a short time.

Leader of the House Tarique Rahman will propose the name of a senior member to preside temporarily. Once another MP seconds the proposal, the nominated member will chair the session until the speaker and deputy speaker are formally elected, he said at a press conference at the parliament complex.

Traditionally, the outgoing speaker or deputy speaker presides over the inaugural sitting.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Action if allegations proven against any prosecutor

Says ICT chief prosecutor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Crimes Tribunal Chief Prosecutor Aminul Islam yesterday warned that appropriate legal action will be taken if allegations are proven against any prosecutor.

"We have received an allegation, and we are not taking it lightly," said Aminul, who leads a fact-finding committee formed on Tuesday to investigate allegations of unethical conduct involving members of the prosecution team.

The prosecution will also examine any other complaints related to the tribunal, he said while talking to reporters at his office.

The controversy surfaced after media reports cited multiple audio recordings purportedly involving former ICT prosecutor Saimum Reza Talukder, who allegedly sought Tk 1 crore from former Awami League lawmaker ABM Fazle Karim Chowdhury's family to arrange for his bail in a July uprising case.

Meanwhile, ICT-1 set March 30 to decide whether to frame charges against former lawmaker Rashed Khan Menon and former food minister Qamrul Islam, who are accused of three charges, including the killing of 23 people in Badda and surrounding areas during July uprising.

The tribunal set the date following hearing on charge framing by the defence.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Leadership void risks stagnation at ACC

Govt yet to form search committee to appoint new commission after resignations

DIPAN NANDY

Nearly a week after the chairman and two commissioners of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) resigned, the government has yet to begin the formal process of forming a search committee to appoint a new commission.

This has raised concerns about possible institutional paralysis at the country's top anti-graft body.

Officials familiar with the matter said the Cabinet Division is still waiting for a green signal from higher authorities before starting the process.

Under Section 7 of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004, a search committee recommends qualified candidates for the posts of commissioners. The committee prepares a list and submits it to the president, who appoints the commissioners and designates one as chairman.

On March 3, ACC Chairman

Mohammad Abdul Momen and two commissioners -- Mohammad Ali Akbar Azizi and Hafiz Ahsan Farid -- resigned, leaving the commission vacant and halting many key decision-making functions.

With Momen's departure, the

matters that were approved by the previous commission," he told The Daily Star.

Regarding the formation of the search committee, he said they had not yet received any information on the matter.



On March 3, ACC Chairman Mohammad Abdul Momen and two commissioners resigned, leaving the commission vacant and halting many key decision-making functions. The ACC has entered such a crisis for the fourth time since its establishment.

ACC has entered such a crisis for the fourth time since its establishment.

ACC Secretary Mohammad Khaled Rahim said the commission's activities have not come to a complete halt.

"ACC activities cannot be termed as stagnant. Work is continuing on

The ACC was established on November 21, 2004, replacing the Bureau of Anti-Corruption. Since then, seven commissions have been formed, though several left office before completing their terms due to political transitions.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

'Will publish Shafiqur's letter if he consents'

Says foreign ministry

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The foreign ministry has said it is ready to publish the full text of a much-discussed letter if the Leader of the Opposition provides written consent.

In a statement yesterday, the ministry responded to media reports published on March 10 regarding a letter sent by Opposition Leader Shafiqur Rahman to Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman on February 22.

The letter requested the appointment of the opposition leader's foreign affairs adviser, Prof Mahmudul Hasan, as an adviser to the foreign ministry with the status equivalent to a minister.

Officials and experts expressed surprise at the request, saying there is no known precedent anywhere in the world for an opposition party member to be appointed as an adviser to a government ministry.

Following media reports, Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Mia Golam Parwar issued a statement on March 10 saying Prof Mahmudul had been relieved of his responsibilities for violating the leader's instructions regarding the letter.

He was replaced by Dhaka-14 MP Mir Ahmad Bin Quasem.

The Jamaat statement said Prof Mahmudul had been asked about two weeks earlier to write a

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

First death anniversary of Syed Manzur Elahi today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today marks the first death anniversary of business titan Syed Manzur Elahi.

The eminent industrialist and former caretaker government adviser died on March 12 last year at Gleneagles Hospital in Singapore, leaving behind an industrial and financial landscape forever shaped by his vision. He was 83.

He built the country's leading shoe brand -- Apex, becoming known as a man who preferred building lasting legacies.

In 1996, Elahi served as an adviser to the caretaker government, overseeing the ministries of communications, shipping, civil aviation and tourism, posts and telecommunications, and housing and public works.

He was born into a distinguished family. His father, Sir Syed Nasim Ali, was the chief justice of undivided Bengal.

Elahi began his career at British American Tobacco, enjoying the stability of a corporate job before shifting to the leather business in Dhaka's Hazaribagh



SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



A group of school students browse books at a stall during the Amar Ekushey Book Fair in Dhaka's Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday. Despite a relatively low turnout this year, the fair continues to draw bookworms.

PHOTO: MEHEDI HASAN

e-Health Card to be launched by June

Says health minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health Minister Sardar Md Sakhawat Husain yesterday expressed hope that the national e-Health Card will be launched by June to make the country's healthcare stronger, more integrated, and effective.

He said Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has directed the implementation of this card as one of the priority initiatives to strengthen public service delivery.

The minister made these remarks while speaking as the chief guest at the closing session of a two-day high level policymaking workshop on reviewing preparations for the implementation of the national e-Health Card, held at a hotel in Dhaka.

The health minister said whenever a patient -- whether from the village or city -- receives treatment, physicians would be able to access essential health-related information through the card, enabling them to diagnose and treat more effectively.

He further said the card will serve as a foundational identity framework in the health sector. As a result, individuals can be accurately identified across different healthcare systems, while hospitals, clinics, and other facilities will be able to exchange medical information securely.

The workshop was jointly organised by the Aspire to Innovate (a2i) programme of the ICT Division, the Health Services Division, and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

