

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 পাবলিসি. PUBALI BANK PLC.

ISO/IEC 27001:2022

Open your Account from anywhere

PI Banking - a Pubali Bank apps

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

## DOCTORS-DU STUDENTS SCUFFLE Emergency care at DMCH remains halted for 5 hours



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital's (DMCH) emergency department remained suspended for around five hours yesterday after a scuffle between doctors and Dhaka University students at the department forced many critical patients to seek care elsewhere.

The incident occurred around 5:15pm, and emergency services were suspended from about 5:22pm. The services properly resumed around 10:15pm.

According to doctors at the emergency department, a DU student came for treatment earlier in the day and was given a prescription. As the medicines were not available at the hospital, he was asked to buy them from outside.

He later returned with fellow students and started misbehaving with the doctor on duty, claiming the medicines were not available outside either, the doctors said.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 5



People cautiously waded through dirty water that continues to overflow from a clogged manhole and puddles onto Elephant Road in Dhaka. This issue has persisted for nearly a month, increasing the likelihood of accidents and inconvenience to pedestrians' movements. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

## Bogura-6 by-polls, Sherpur-3 election today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission is set to hold by-election for Bogura-6 constituency and the rescheduled general election for Sherpur-3 today for the 13th National Parliament.

Voting will be taking place from 7:30am till 4:30pm.

The 13th National Parliamentary election, alongside a referendum, was held on February 12 across 299 constituencies. Prime Minister and BNP Chairperson Tarique Rahman, who won in Dhaka-17 and Bogura-6, later vacated Bogura-6, prompting the EC to declare the seat vacant and announce a fresh schedule.

Meanwhile, the election in the Sherpur-3 constituency was cancelled eight days before the national election following the death of Jamaat-e-Islami's valid candidate in the constituency.

## 'BNP following AL's footsteps'

Alleges Asif Mahmud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Citizen Party (NCP) spokesperson Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyian yesterday alleged that the BNP is following a path similar to that once taken by the Awami League.

He warned that the ruling party would not be able to "do whatever it wants" after the July uprising.

He made the remarks at a roundtable titled "The Politics of Cancelling Ordinances and Denying Referendums: Bangladesh in the Era of Parliamentary Dictatorship", held at the Jatiya Press Club.

Asif said the country could have moved forward by implementing the July Charter and the referendum verdict but was instead heading in the opposite direction.

He also accused the BNP of taking a selective stance

SEE PAGE 9 COL 3

## 13TH PARLIAMENT

### Family, not individual, core unit of development

Tarique tells JS, reiterates 4cr families to come under 'Family Card' scheme

STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday told the parliament that the BNP government considers family, not the individual, as the fundamental unit of development.

He reiterated that four crore low-income and marginalised families across the country will be brought under the Family Card programme gradually.

The Leader of the House said this while replying to a question from Noakhali-1 MP AM Mahub Uddin Khokon, reports BSS.

Tarique, also ruling BNP chairman, said the current government has taken the Family Card programme based on the vision of ensuring social security for citizens through a family-centric development



approach.

In the initial phase, he said Family Cards were distributed to 37,814 families across 10 districts and three city corporations on March 10, 2026.

Meanwhile, the prime minister also announced a series of measures aimed at strengthening Bangladesh's education sector, reiterating the government's pledge to gradually raise education spending to 5 percent of GDP, as outlined in the election manifesto.

Responding to a question from BNP lawmaker Selim Reza during the question-and-answer session at the parliament, the premier said 43 priority areas in the education sector have been identified, with short, medium, and long-term plans underway.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

### No primary schools in 2,839 villages

Education minister tells parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Primary and Mass Education Minister ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon yesterday told parliament that 2,839 villages across the country do not have any primary schools.

The minister presented the data responding to a question from BNP lawmaker Zainal Abidin.

According to the minister, the number of villages without primary schools stands at 717 in Dhaka Division, 818 in Chattogram Division, 355 in Rajshahi Division, 37 in Rangpur Division, 341 in Khulna Division, 45 in Barishal Division, 260 in Sylhet Division and 266 in Mymensingh Division.

Based on the data, a total of 2,76,516

SEE PAGE 9 COL 3

## Hybrid classes planned for Dhaka schools: Milon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Education Minister ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon yesterday said the government is planning to introduce hybrid classes, combining online and offline lessons, on a pilot basis at selected educational institutions in Dhaka.

He said the move was being considered in view of the global energy crisis, severe traffic congestion, and the growing need to adapt to a technology-based education system.

Milon made the remarks as chief guest at a seminar titled "Continuing education activities

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## Australian parliamentary team due this week

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

An Australian parliamentary delegation led by Speaker of the House of Representatives Milton Dick will visit Bangladesh this week to strengthen parliamentary-to-parliamentary engagement between the two countries.

The visit is part of an international three-country tour to Malaysia, Bangladesh and Türkiye ahead of the 152nd Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly in Istanbul, Türkiye, on April 15-19.

The delegation includes Milton Dick MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives (Queensland); Sharon Claydon MP, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives (New South Wales); Basem Abdo MP (Victoria); Senator Deborah O'Neill (New South Wales); Senator Andrew McLachlan CSC (South Australia); and Senator Tammy Tyrrell (Tasmania).

"The visit reflects Australia's long-standing

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## PLAYING MARCH 7 SPEECH Emi denied bail for the third time

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday denied bail for the third time to Sheikh Tasnim Afroz Emi, former vice-president of Shamsunnahar Hall union at Dhaka University and a central vice-presidential candidate in the 2025 Ducus election, in a case filed under the Anti-Terrorism Act over playing Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's March 7 speech on a loudspeaker.

Judge Md Nurul Islam of the Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court-II in Dhaka passed the order after hearing her bail petition, defence lawyer Muha Noman Hossain told The Daily Star.

On March 8, police produced Emi along with Md Asif Ahmed Shoikot, former employment affairs secretary of the banned Chhatra League's

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

## 'See what they did to my husband...'

Wife shows photo of victim's mutilated body at Int'l Crimes Tribunal-1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A chilling photograph of the mutilated body of a victim of enforced disappearance was produced before the International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday, leaving the courtroom in silence.

The image showed the body of a man with limbs tied up, eyes blindfolded, and a woollen cap pulled over the head. The abdomen was cut open with entrails exposed, and the face disfigured beyond recognition.

Munni Akhter, wife of slain Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) member Md Nazrul Islam, recalled the brutal end of her husband while testifying as the third prosecution witness in a crimes against humanity case against Maj Gen (relieved) Ziaul Ahsan, who stands accused of abducting and killing 104 people.

"See what they did to my husband... what state they left him in," Munni told the tribunal in a voice heavy with anguish, while struggling to hold back tears.

She described how the family had identified Nazrul from the same image

after police recovered his body from the Baleshwar River in 2010, following his abduction.

Munni said her husband, a medical assistant at the BDR Hospital in



Pilkhana, had witnessed killings during the 2009 BDR mutiny and fled the compound by scaling a wall to save his life.

Fearing for his safety, Nazrul went into hiding, moving to Keraniganj and later to Gopalganj, where he worked under a false identity, Nurul Amin Munshi, at a clinic in Kotalipara.

On March 15, 2010, he left for work but never returned.

The next day, Munni learned from

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## Autorickshaw driver killed as bus hits him

STAR REPORT

A CNG-run autorickshaw driver was killed after a bus hit him in the capital's Farmgate area yesterday.

The victim, Mamun Foragi, 33, was critically injured in the crash around 12:30pm near the Tejturi Bazar footbridge, witnesses said.

Passersby rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead around 1:15pm, said Inspector Md Faruk, in charge of the hospital's police camp.

Kazi Faisal, a local, said a bus of Labbaik Paribahan struck the autorickshaw driver near the footbridge at Tejturi Bazar.

According to his driving licence, Mamun was the son of Sekandar Foragi from Charfesson upazila in Bhola and had been living in the Hirajhil area of Siddhirganj, Narayanganj.

Police said the body was kept at the hospital morgue for autopsy.

Tejgaon police are investigating the incident.

## Appellate Division will decide fate of SC Secretariat: AG

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Attorney General Md Ruhul Quddus yesterday said the issue of establishing the Supreme Court Secretariat will ultimately be settled by the Appellate Division, as the government plans to appeal against the High Court verdict.

He noted that the High Court directive to establish the Secretariat will not take effect until the Appellate Division disposes of the appeal.

He made the remarks at a press briefing at his office on the Supreme Court premises yesterday afternoon.

Ruhul told reporters, "The issue of establishing a separate Supreme Court Secretariat is tied to the Supreme Court itself. We expect the apex court will hear and dispose of the appeal cautiously so that no question arises about its decision in the future."

Following a writ petition, the High Court bench of Justice Ahmed Sobel and Justice Debashish Roy Chowdhury delivered its verdict on September 2 last year, scrapping article 116 of the constitution, which had vested the powers of control and discipline of lower court judges in the president.

The bench directed the government to establish the Supreme Court Secretariat within three months and ruled that the Supreme Court, not the president, will have authority over the transfer, posting, and discipline of lower court judges.

