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

EU to provide €175,000 to help prevent measles

UNB, Dhaka

The European Union (EU) is providing €175,000 in humanitarian funding to support efforts to prevent measles in Bangladesh.

The funding is part of the EU's overall contribution to the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

It will be provided to the Bangladesh Red Crescent to facilitate and sustain ongoing vaccination campaigns and carry out other prevention activities, such as distributing hygiene kits, across the country's eight divisions, said the EU Embassy in Dhaka yesterday.

The most vulnerable families will also receive cash grants to help them face illness-related costs, such as transport to health centres or loss of

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Battery-run rickshaws operating illegally being towed near Mohammadpur Bus Stand in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

FROM PRESS GALLERY



Local govt polls under consideration Fakhrul tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is actively considering holding local government elections, and the process will begin swiftly once preparations are complete, said Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives Minister Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday.

Responding to a question from Jamaat lawmaker Zahirul Islam during a parliamentary session, the minister said authorities are working on necessary groundwork before announcing any schedule.

Answering another query from independent MP Rumcen Farhana, the minister said local government elections are conducted in phases and may take between 10 months and a year to complete across all tiers.

He said several factors must be considered

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A hundred frames, everlasting loss BILS exhibition captures human toll, lived realities within urban tragedies



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As you make your way through the exhibition, the first few images that catch the eye almost begin on a hopeful note, showing labourers returning home with quiet dreams and the joy of reuniting with loved ones. But that warmth swiftly fades. Beyond the opening frames, the tone shifts as over 100 photographs tell stories of grief, capturing the raw anguish of loss and the hollow stares of those left behind.

This emotional journey, titled "Still Standing: Industrial Disasters, Workers' Lives and the Cost of Forgetting in Bangladesh", showcases photographs from 10 of the country's most devastating industrial and urban disasters over the past two decades.

Starting from Friday before ending yesterday at the National Art Gallery (Gallery 5) of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, the exhibition was organised by the Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS). It featured the work of The Daily Star photographers Anisur Rahman, Amran Hossain, Rashed Sumon, Palash Khan, Prabir Das, and Rajib Raihan.

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Govt agencies rack up Tk 629cr in unpaid land taxes

DIPAN NANDY

Government ministries and their subordinate agencies owe more than Tk 629 crore in Land Development Tax (LDT), with the highest arrears accrued by the ministries of railways, environment, and local government.

Data from the Land Reform Board shows that arrears owed by institutions under 37 ministries stood at Tk 711.21 crore, including Tk 561.78 crore accumulated till June 2025 and an additional Tk 149.43 crore since then. Of this, around Tk 82 crore has been recovered, leaving Tk 629.14 crore unpaid.

Bangladesh Railway, under the Ministry of Railways, is the largest defaulter, owing Tk 202.25 crore.

Md Afzal Hossain, director general of BR, said, "We are making efforts to pay the outstanding land development tax. However, the allocation we receive from the Ministry of Finance is insufficient. For example, if we are required to pay Tk 100 crore in taxes, we receive only Tk 20-30 crore in allocation. That is why the backlog has accumulated."

"Bangladesh Railway is a service-oriented institution. Yet we have to pay land development tax as if we were a commercial entity. I would request the government to reconsider and reassess the land development tax, taking this issue into account," he added.

Other major defaulters include the Roads and Highways Department

(Tk 57.88 crore), Water Development Board (Tk 28.96 crore), city corporations (Tk 26.04 crore), the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (Tk 16.42 crore), and the Public Works Department (Tk 16.39 crore).

The Land Reform Board has recently taken initiatives to recover the outstanding taxes, including organising a workshop in January and planning to send letters to all ministries and agencies next month. A

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draft letter has been finalised, stating that mobilising internal resources and increasing domestic revenue are essential for national development and that land development tax is a key source of government revenue.

Officials of the Land Reform Board say the overall arrears have reduced compared to previous years following various initiatives to this end. Earlier,

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RESERVED SEATS EC rejects appeal of NCP's Monira Sharmin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission yesterday rejected an appeal against the nomination of BNP-backed candidate Zeba Amina Khan for the reserved women's seat poll to the 13th National Parliament, allowing her candidacy to stand.

At the same time, the EC upheld the returning officer's decision to cancel the nomination of National Citizen Party (NCP) candidate Monira Sharmin, ruling that she had not completed three years since resigning from government service.

The EC also dismissed an appeal filed against BNP candidate Madhabi Marma's nomination, leaving her candidacy valid.

Yesterday marked the first day of hearings on appeals against returning officers' decisions regarding nomination papers for the reserved women's seats. The hearings began at 11:00am at the EC headquarters in Agargaon and concluded at noon.

After the hearing, Election Commissioner Abdur Rahmani Masud

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Drive against drugs after April 30 Says Salahuddin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A nationwide coordinated drive will be launched against drugs and gambling after April 30, said Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed in parliament yesterday.

He made the announcement while responding to an attention notice on urgent public importance at the parliament, chaired by Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmad.

Noakhali 2 lawmaker Zainul Abidin Farroque, in his notice, said, "As night falls, wild revelry begins... shisha lounges never die down. Illegal

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Absence of MP, ministers disrupts JS proceedings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parliament's regular work was disrupted yesterday after three urgent notices under Rule 71 could not be dealt with on time due to the absence of the relevant ministers and one MP.

Rule 71 allows MPs, with the speaker's permission, to raise urgent public matters.

The sitting began at 3:05pm, five minutes late, but the notices for the home, road transport, and disaster management ministers stalled as the ministers were absent.

A notice by ruling party MP Kamruzzaman Kamrul also failed when he was not in the chamber. The discussions resumed around 4:20pm.

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2026

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