

Enjoy Your Golden Years with
SENIOR CITIZEN PUBALI DEPOSIT SCHEME (SCPDS)

- ✓ Any Bangladeshi individual aged 59 years and above can open account under this scheme.
- ✓ Attractive Interest Rate / Profit [6 Months FDR rate plus 1% p.a.]

AAA
Rated Bank

পূবালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি.
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



PM stresses transparency in spending public money

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday stressed the need to ensure transparency and accountability in public spending and the implementation of government projects.

He said public funds are used to serve people, and it must be ensured that the money is spent properly and the objectives of government projects are achieved, according to a press release from the Prime Minister's Office.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



A Mro woman with her children digs into the rocky bed of the Matamuhuri River in Shindu Mukh Para of Alikadam upazila in Bandarban recently to collect drinking water. Heavy rains have muddied most sources, forcing families in the community to carve basins in the stone where filtered water seeps through -- a stark sign of the ongoing shortage of clean water.

PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA

Recognition gaps, social bias keep Harijans marginalised

Speakers at seminar call for equal rights, dignity for them



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lack of constitutional recognition remains one of the most pressing challenges for the Harijan community, as around 1.6 million people still lack a clear legal identity despite having national ID cards and voting rights, speakers said at a seminar yesterday.

Harijans are neither recognised as indigenous nor as a distinct community, limiting their access to state benefits and services, they said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Sujan, Noor get bail from HC in multiple cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detained former Awami League ministers Md Nurul Islam Sujan and Asaduzzaman Noor were granted bail in three separate cases and one case, respectively, by the High Court yesterday.

However, the court refused to grant bail to Asaduzzaman Noor in a murder case and to senior journalist Mozammel Babu in an extortion case.

The bench of Justice KM Zahid Sarwar and Justice Sheikh Abu Taher delivered the verdicts after hearing five separate bail petitions filed by Sujan, Noor, and Babu over the past year and earlier this year, citing health issues and long periods in jail.

Sujan's lawyer SM Abul Hossain said there is no legal bar to his release if the state does not file an appeal before the Appellate

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

BNP eyes long-overdue overhaul of affiliate bodies

Most committees expired, some for over a decade; Tarique asks for shortlist of candidates

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

Prime Minister and BNP Chairman Tarique Rahman has instructed senior party leaders to prepare a list of potential candidates for key posts in the party's associated and affiliated bodies.

Party sources said committees in 10 of the BNP's 11 affiliated bodies have already expired, some by more than a decade, creating pressure for a long-overdue restructuring.

Among the major associate and affiliated bodies, the committees of Chhatra Dal, Jubo Dal, Swechhasebak Dal, Krishak Dal, Mohila Dal, Muktiyoddha Dal, Sramik Dal, Tanti Dal, Matsyajeabi Dal and Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha have all exceeded their official terms.

BNP leaders said the issue has become more urgent as several leaders of these bodies are now

serving either in the government or as members of parliament, limiting their ability to remain actively involved in organisational work.

Wishing anonymity, a BNP standing committee member, who is also a minister, said, "Two or three affiliated bodies will get new leadership first. After that, others

Committees of Chhatra Dal, Jubo Dal, Swechhasebak Dal, Krishak Dal, Mohila Dal, Muktiyoddha Dal, Sramik Dal, Tanti Dal, Matsyajeabi Dal and Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha have all exceeded their official terms.



For instance, Swechhasebak Dal president SM Jilani is now a lawmaker, while its general secretary Razib Ahsan is serving as state minister for shipping.

The Swechhasebak Dal committee, formed on September 4, 2022, completed its term last year.

will be reorganised gradually. All decisions will be taken by BNP Chairman Tarique Rahman."

He also said those who are now in government or serving as MPs are expected to step aside from organisational posts.

"This will allow others to get

SEE PAGE 13 COL 4

'Can't sit and wait for India on Teesta' Says Khalilur ahead of China visit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will not wait for a Teesta water-sharing deal with



India, calling it a matter of "life and death" for river communities, and is instead turning to China to discuss development projects in the region, said Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman yesterday.

Ahead of his official visit to Beijing, Khalilur told the media the Teesta project would "definitely" be on the agenda.

Asked if Dhaka still hoped for the long-stalled agreement -- especially after the BJP's rise in West Bengal -- he replied, "Look, a government has not

SEE PAGE 13 COL 3

Govt to review private univ laws with stakeholders

Says education minister at APUB event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will review the legal and regulatory framework for private universities in consultation with stakeholders, rather than taking

A committee will examine the Private University Act and related frameworks from 1992, 2010, 2022 and 2025, along with current demands from the sector.

top-down decisions, said Education Minister ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon yesterday.

He said a committee will examine the Private University Act and related frameworks from 1992, 2010, 2022 and 2025, along with current demands from the sector.

"We will sit, sort it out, and then announce it. If needed, we will go to parliament," he said at a views exchange meeting held by the Association

SEE PAGE 13 COL 7

75 journos harassed in April: HRSS

22 people killed in mob violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 75 journalists faced harassment and abuse in 40 incidents across the country in April, according to the monthly report of Human Rights Support Society (HRSS).

According to the report released yesterday, 22 people died and 39 were injured in 44 incidents of mob violence, alongside six deaths and 533 injuries in 98 incidents linked to political violence.

The findings were compiled from 16 national media outlets and HRSS's own data.

Of the journalists targeted, 42 were injured, 17 assaulted, and 10 threatened. Additionally, three were detained, and five were accused in four separate cases.

Mob violence incidents remained frequent, often triggered by allegations of theft, robbery, snatching, and blasphemy.

While political violence saw a slight decrease from March -- during which 18 deaths and 912 injuries were recorded in 113 incidents -- the HRSS described the situation as still alarming.

Internal BNP conflicts accounted for the highest 40 clashes, leaving four dead and 247 injured. Clashes between BNP and Jamaat resulted in 113 injuries, while BNP-Awami League confrontations left 58 injured. Other violence stemmed from inter-party conflicts, extortion, and struggles for dominance.

294 women and girls faced violence, including 68 rape cases and 79 instances of sexual harassment, while domestic violence claimed 64 women's lives.

In 13 separate attacks on political activists, six people were killed and 32 injured, while 37 sustained bullet wounds. The report also noted widespread vandalism, arson, and looting.

Law enforcers reportedly obstructed seven public meetings and rallies, leading to 49 injuries and two detentions. Interference with freedom of expression also rose, with 23 people detained and nine cases filed, primarily over social media posts.

The report highlighted a concerning situation for women and children. In April, 294 women and girls faced violence, including 68 rape cases and 79 instances of sexual harassment, while domestic violence claimed 64 women's lives.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



Vehicles struggle through thick mud at the Boalia canal stretch of the Shimna-Brahmanbaria road, where delays in a key bridge project have left approaches nearly impassable. The section regularly traps traffic, causing long jams and severe suffering for commuters between Brahmanbaria town and Bijoy Nagar upazila. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: MASUK HRIDYO