

Pubali Home Loan
just a **click** away

Apply online - instantly know your loan limit.
Your loan now at your fingertips.

• Flat • Office • Construction • Renovation

Scan QR code or <https://applyhomeloan.pubalibankbd.com>



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



A group of Jahangirnagar University students visits The Daily Star's ongoing photo exhibition on the arson attack and vandalism at its office on the capital's Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue yesterday. The exhibit, displaying scarred spaces left by the assault on December 19 last year, will remain open until May 15 at The Daily Star Centre.

PHOTO: MEHEDI HASAN



Police push for reforms, capacity building

Six proposals to be placed before PM during Police Week

Restoring trust in police top priority

Says PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday said restoring public confidence in the police force and improving the law-and-order situation are now the government's top priorities.

In a message marking Police Week 2026, the prime minister extended greetings and congratulations to all serving, former and retired members of Bangladesh Police.

"The current government has been implementing extensive programmes aimed at building a prosperous, self-reliant, democratic and humane state based on justice," he said.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 7

TOUSIF KAIUM

Bangladesh Police are set to place a series of reform and capacity-building proposals before the prime minister during Police Week 2026, including the appointment of police liaison officers at Bangladesh missions abroad and the establishment of specialised police facilities in Jangal Salimpur, a crime-prone area near Chattogram city.

This year's Police Week begins today under the slogan "Amar Police, Amar Desh, Sobar Agey Bangladesh" ("My Police, My Country, Bangladesh First"), with discussions centring on institutional reform, modernisation, operational capacity, and welfare initiatives.

"A total of six proposals have already been finalised to be placed before the prime minister during the four-day event," a senior official at Police Headquarters told The Daily Star yesterday.

One of the key proposals includes appointing police liaison officers at Bangladesh missions abroad to support migrant workers and strengthen international cooperation



SIX PROPOSALS

- Police liaison officers abroad
- Specialised training facilities
- Police aviation unit
- Dedicated cybercrime unit
- Bangladesh Police Medical Service
- Dedicated sports complex

against transnational crimes.

To expand training capacity, police will propose establishing a specialised training institute in Jangal Salimpur in Chattogram, alongside two new police training centres in Sylhet and Barisal.

A high-ranking official of the Chattogram Range said the existing training programmes at the Bangladesh Police Academy were introduced long ago and no longer fully address the evolving nature of crime.

"Crime patterns have changed significantly over time. Although units such as the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit and the Bomb Disposal Unit exist, there is no dedicated training centre for them. The proposed facility in Jangal Salimpur is intended to provide specialised training for these units," the official said.

Police are also seeking to establish a specialised aviation unit to improve operational mobility, surveillance, rescue operations, and emergency response capacity in remote and high-risk areas.

Another major proposal involves setting up a dedicated cybercrime unit equipped with advanced forensic facilities and trained personnel. The force has also proposed forming a Police Medical Service to improve healthcare

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

141 Dhaka spots at risk of waterlogging

Experts call for canal connectivity, integrated drainage plan

HELEMUL ALAM

Dhaka's two city corporations have identified 141 locations vulnerable to waterlogging ahead of the upcoming monsoon and said they are taking measures to reduce the risk.

Of the spots, 108 are in Dhaka North City Corporation areas and 33 are in Dhaka South City Corporation areas.

Urban planners and experts, however, said the city's drainage crisis cannot be solved without

Planning and Development, said Dhaka's canals, drains and local drainage lines remain clogged with waste despite repeated cleanup drives.

"The city corporations continue to talk about projects and investments, but area-based assessments and long-term planning are still lacking," said Adil, also a former president of the Bangladesh Institute of Planners.

He said localised waterlogging has become common across the city, citing water accumulation



FILE PHOTO

restoring canal connectivity, improving maintenance, and implementing an integrated master plan.

Former Bangladesh Institute of Planners president Mohammad Fazle Reza Sumon said the biggest problem remains the lack of connectivity between secondary and tertiary drainage channels and the main outfalls.

"Ultimately, all water has to flow into the primary channels. But the connectivity needed for that is still not functioning properly," he said.

According to him, some restored drainage connections have again fallen under encroachment, while many northern areas of the city remain vulnerable despite partial improvement efforts.

He warned that the drainage system may struggle if rainfall exceeds 80 millimetres, while some areas could face severe flooding during heavier rainfall.

Urban expert Prof Adil Mohammed Khan, executive director of the Institute for

near Dhanmondi Lake after only a short spell of rainfall this year.

"That indicates flaws in the drainage design and water flow system," he added.

Adil also stressed the need for a coordinated drainage master plan instead of separate approaches by the two city corporations.

He emphasised public awareness and community involvement to prevent garbage dumping into drains.

Dr Mohammad Safiullah, superintendent engineer of DSCC, said the corporation has identified 33 hotspot areas and formed ward-based emergency response teams involving its engineering and waste management departments.

Safiullah said the corporation has increased the number of temporary pumps from two to eight this year to tackle waterlogging in critical areas, including New Market, Dhanmondi Hawkers Market, Bakshibazar, Chanmari intersection, Rajarbagh and Fakirapool.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Foreign policy to prioritise nat'l interest

Says PM's adviser on foreign affairs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister's Adviser on Foreign Affairs Humayun Kabir yesterday said Bangladesh would place national interest, economic diplomacy, strategic autonomy, balanced engagement and national security at the core of its foreign policy.

"Our foreign policy is based on the aspiration of putting Bangladesh first. It means prioritising Bangladesh, prioritising national interest and the country's development," he said while speaking as the keynote speaker at a policy roundtable.

The event, titled "Bangladesh First: A Foreign Policy Outlook for a New Bangladesh", was organised by the Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies at a Dhaka hotel.

He said the BNP government's foreign policy would be multifaceted and flexible, engaging with all nations without depending on any specific country, while focusing on exports, investment,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



A woman and her son carefully tiptoe through a muddy section of the Sadarghat-Gabtolli Beribadh road in Dhaka's Alir Ghat area. Residents suffer as the dilapidated road becomes nearly impassable during and after rain. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Values-based journalism key to public trust

Say speakers at KU seminar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Speakers at a seminar on media freedom and responsibility yesterday underscored the need to restore values-based journalism, uphold ethics, and balance editorial independence with financial sustainability to regain public trust.

They said the independence of both the media and the judiciary is vital for justice and accountability in a democratic state, while responsible and objective reporting is essential to ensure the flow of accurate information in society.

The seminar, titled "Media in the Contemporary Context", was organised by the Khulna University Journalists' Association at the conference room of the Central Research Laboratory of Khulna University.

Speaking as the keynote speaker, The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam said value-based journalism must be restored to rebuild public trust in the media.

"We will restore journalism grounded in human values," he said. "This is one of the key ways to address the frustration people have developed toward the media. Freedom of the press is one of the fundamental requirements of institutional democracy," he added.

He said in a democratic state, the independence of

SEE PAGE 9 COL 3