



Years of indiscriminate waste dumping have left the Zia Sarani canal in the capital's Shanir Akhra in a filthy state, polluting the water and spreading a foul smell in the area. Locals say the clogged canal has also contributed to a surge in dengue cases in the neighbourhood. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: MEHEDI HASAN

UNION PARISHAD Draft polls code likely next week

AHMED DEEPTO

The Election Commission is likely to publish the draft of code of conduct within next week, following a meeting ahead of the upcoming union parishad elections expected to begin in October this year.

The EC will publish the draft on its website for public opinion before approval and finalisation.

EC officials said the draft would then be sent to the law ministry for vetting. The commission would prepare and bring amendments to the rules of the other four tiers of local government bodies — municipality, zilla parishad, upazila parishad, and city corporation — to reflect the final code for the union parishad election.

EC Senior Secretary Akhtar Ahmed shared these developments with The Daily Star on Monday afternoon at his office in EC headquarters.

Asked when the commission meeting would be held, he said, "We expect to hold

SEE PAGE 9 COL 2



Draft NHRC law may weaken the commission: TIB

Graft watchdog submits 19
recommendations to govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has expressed concern that the institution proposed under the draft National Human Rights Commission Act, 2026, would not function as an independent commission.

In a statement issued on June 8, TIB said the draft law, prepared by the government on May 17, contains several fundamental changes from the 2025 ordinance that undermine public expectations for an effective human rights commission free from government influence.

The organisation also noted that several provisions are inconsistent with the Paris Principles and other international

standards governing national human rights institutions.

TIB also submitted 19 recommendations to the government, seeking substantial revisions to the draft law and urging meaningful public participation in finalising the legislation.



One of TIB's key concerns relates to Section 3(2). While the 2025 ordinance stated that the commission would be an independent institution and would not fall under any ministry or division, the new draft omits the latter provision. According to TIB, this could enable executive control over NHRC and hinder its ability to operate independently.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 2

Bangladesh may get floating NPP

Hints Russia during Khalilur,
Rosatom DG talks

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Russian State Atomic Energy Corporation Rosatom has hinted at offering a floating nuclear power plant (FNPP) unit to Bangladesh, which is seeking expanded cooperation in nuclear energy.

The proposal was discussed during a meeting between Bangladesh Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman and Rosatom Director General Alexey Likhachev in Moscow on June 9, according to a press release from the foreign ministry. Khalilur is currently on an official visit to Russia and is scheduled to return today.

During the talks, both sides underscored the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, being built with Russian support, as a cornerstone of bilateral relations. Khalilur said the project is playing a key role in strengthening Bangladesh's energy security and improving macroeconomic resilience.

He noted the successful fuel loading at Unit-1 in May 2026 and sought continued Russian technical support for grid synchronisation and eventual commercial operation.

The Russian side said the process would be completed very shortly. Rosatom officials also indicated that Unit-2 of the plant is expected to become operational by next summer.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

3 July case verdicts likely this month

Hopes ICT chief prosecutor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Prosecutor of the International Crimes Tribunal Aminul Islam yesterday expressed hope that verdicts in three crimes against humanity cases linked to the July 2024 uprising would be delivered within June.

In one case, former minister Hasanul Haq Inu, now in custody, is the sole accused. Another case names Awami League Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif and three other Kustia AL leaders, all absconding, as defendants.

The third case involves five former police officers, including former Dhaka Metropolitan Police commissioner Habibur Rahman, accused of killing two people and injuring two others in Rampura during the uprising. Only ASI Chanchal Chandra Sarkar is in custody, and the trial is in its final stage.

Speaking after the conclusion of arguments in the case against Hanif and others, the chief prosecutor said the tribunal, scheduled to go on annual vacation from July 1 to 20, had been requested to deliver the judgments before then.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



A worker sprays insecticide around a small pond during a special cleanliness drive launched by Rajshahi City Corporation to prevent dengue and other mosquito-borne diseases. The two-week programme was formally inaugurated yesterday.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

63% retailers knowingly ignore polythene ban

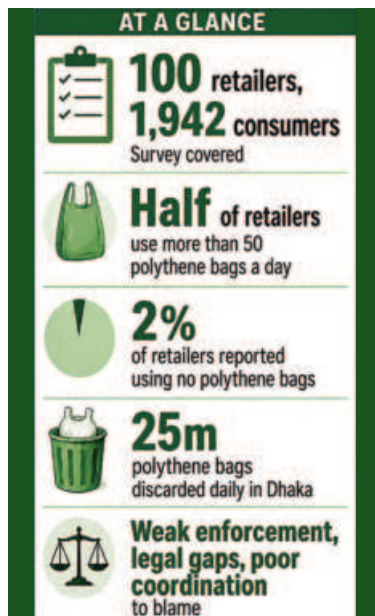
Finds ESDO study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than 63 percent of retailers continue to use banned polythene shopping bags despite being aware of the prohibition, as per a recent survey, suggesting that awareness alone is not enough to ensure compliance.

The study, conducted by Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO) among 100 retailers and 1,942 consumers between July 2025 and June 2026, found that half of the retailers use more than 50 polythene bags a day, while only 2 percent reported not using any.

It said affordability, accessibility, convenience and long-standing habits remain the main drivers of polythene use among both consumers and retailers. Rural and informal markets are particularly dependent on polythene bags due



to their low cost and convenience for small purchases.

The study also identified weak enforcement of the ban, legal loopholes, lack of environmental education, limited availability of alternatives, political influence, and coordination gaps among responsible institutions as key structural reasons behind continued widespread use of polythene bags.

The findings were presented in a report titled "Beyond the Ban: Unpacking Polythene Dependency in Bangladesh" at ESDO's Lalmatia office yesterday.

Presenting the findings, project lead Noshin Naila said Bangladesh emerged as a global environmental pioneer by introducing a ban on polythene shopping bags in 2002, yet around 25 million bags are still discarded daily in Dhaka alone.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 8

EMPOWERING TOMORROWS ENTREPRENEURS

Investing in Startups &
Equity Onboarding

Growing & safe partner of
the funds collected
for Startups



Opening of Multicurrency Offshore
Banking FC Accounts

Opening of FC Savings, Current, SND
& Term Deposit accounts

Term Deposit Accounts with
attractive interest rate

Loan Facilities against lien of
Deposit Accounts

Seamless transfer of funds & interest
anywhere in the world

Trade Finance Solution with LC &
Bank Guarantees

Grow your wealth
Globally with Pubali Bank PLC.
Offshore Banking Unit

For details, please visit
<https://www.pubalibangla.com/OffshoreBanking>

* Terms and conditions apply



HSBC/HKU CASE CHALLENGE ‘Team Bangladesh’ second runner-up



CITY DESK

"Team Bangladesh" has secured the second runner-up position at the HSBC/HKU Business Case Challenge 2026, one of the world's leading undergraduate business case competitions jointly organised by HSBC and the University of Hong Kong (HKU).

The team, comprising Shakhawat Salim, Naveed Abrar, Md Ridwan Sakib Anjum, and Mohammad Faiyad Hossain from Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP), represented the country after emerging as champions at the Business Case Competition 2026 organised by HSBC Bangladesh and BRAC University in April.

The global competition, held in Hong Kong from June 1 to 5, brought together 24 undergraduate teams selected from a pool of more than 12,000 students who competed in local rounds across the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

Australia emerged as champion, while Thailand secured the first runner-up position. Bangladesh finished as the second runner-up.

During the competition, teams worked on four business cases reflecting contemporary corporate challenges: managing founder-dependency risks at an investment firm, helping Pop Mart sustain profitability beyond its initial popularity, educating the public about stablecoins in Hong Kong, and transforming an influencer-led fashion brand into a global business.

Measles outbreak 8 more die of measles-like symptoms yesterday

