

PUBALI SWADHIN SANCHAY
✓ Attractive Interest Rate / Profit
[3 Months FDR rate plus 1% p.a.]
✓ Any amount can be desposited at any time as desired

AAA
Rated Bank

**পূবালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি.**
PUBALI BANK PLC.

Open your
Account
from anywhere


PI Banking-
a Pubali Bank apps

ISO/IEC
27001:2022

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

‘Relocating bus terminals may backfire’

IPD calls for comprehensive transport measures

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government’s plan to relocate Dhaka’s four inter-district bus terminals – Sayedabad, Mohakhali, Gabtoli and Fulbaria – to the city’s outskirts may increase public hardship and safety risks instead of easing traffic congestion, according to the Institute for Planning and Development (IPD).

In a statement issued yesterday, IPD said relocating the terminals to Kanchpur, Hemayetpur, Tongi, and Keraniganj without proper planning and adequate public transport connectivity would neither provide a sustainable solution to traffic congestion nor improve urban mobility.

Instead, it could create significant inconvenience and additional financial burdens for commuters, it added.

Relocating the existing four terminals is neither realistic nor sustainable from a planning perspective and does not adequately consider the needs of commuters, it said.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



Speakers at a roundtable, titled “Gender-Responsive Climate Governance in Bangladesh: Strengthening Policy, Institutions and Sectoral Action”, jointly organised by The Daily Star and UNDP Bangladesh at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

EC plans mock voting ahead of local polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) is planning to conduct a mock voting before holding the local government elections.

EC Senior Secretary Akhtar Ahmed shared the developments yesterday while speaking to The Daily Star at his office at the EC headquarters in Dhaka’s Agargaon.

He said the EC has already prepared the five key components required for the polls – necessary information, training, mock voting, law enforcement deployment, and budgeting.

Akhtar said the commission already possesses the necessary data and infrastructure to conduct the elections, including voters’ list, polling centres and election materials.

The candidates will also be known ahead of the polls, he said.

Explaining the preparations, he said one of the key requirements is the training process linked to the election schedule.



5 key steps prepared for upcoming local polls

Training, mock voting for smooth polls process

Illegal shops near EC headquarters to be evicted

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Brief rain, prolonged misery



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An hour of heavy rainfall yesterday afternoon brought large parts of Dhaka to a standstill, turning major roads into waterlogged stretches and exposing the capital’s long-standing drainage problems once again.

Commuters from Lalmatia to Mirpur and Karwan Bazar faced severe disruption as waterlogging intensified within a short time.

In Lalmatia, the road in front of Aarong went under water, forcing pedestrians and shoppers to wade through knee-deep water.

Office-goer Mizanur Rahman, who was trying to return home to Dhanmondi, said the situation worsened within minutes.

“I stepped out when it was just light rain. Within

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

‘Strong on paper, weak in practice’

Experts say climate finance fails to reach vulnerable women

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite strong national policies and budget allocations on climate change and gender equality, Bangladesh is struggling to translate these measures into tangible benefits for climate-vulnerable women, said experts at a roundtable yesterday.

The event, titled “Gender-Responsive Climate Governance in Bangladesh: Strengthening Policy, Institutions and Sectoral Action”, was jointly organised by The Daily Star and UNDP Bangladesh at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka.

Speakers stressed that instead of routine “budget tagging” or broad gender allocations, the government needs outcome-based tracking and stronger inter-ministerial accountability to assess how climate finance is actually supporting marginalised women and sustainable development.

Dr Tania Haque, professor of Women and Gender Studies at Dhaka University, said Bangladesh does not face a policy gap but a major implementation challenge driven by reactive approaches.

She said existing policies often portray women mainly as victims of climate disasters, rather than recognising them as active agents of change.

She proposed establishing a “National Climate Ombudsman” to

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Shift from budget tagging to outcome-based tracking
- Set clear KPIs for gender-responsive climate spending
- Appoint lead authority to oversee implementation
- Link social safety nets with climate hotspot data
- Ensure women’s access to land, credit, climate-smart tech

improve oversight and introducing a “Time Poverty Index” to measure women’s unpaid care work.

Prof Sharmin Neelormi of Economics at Jahangirnagar University said climate impacts such

as coastal salinity are not caused solely by climate change, citing factors like the Farakka Barrage’s backwater effect and unplanned shrimp farming. She called for better climate attribution in budgeting.

She added that isolated five-year project cycles have failed to create lasting change, leaving structural vulnerabilities affecting women largely unchanged from 2000 to 2026.

She proposed integrating quantifiable KPIs in national budgeting and linking social safety nets, such as the “Family Card”, with climate hotspot data to help vulnerable households graduate from vulnerability.

Md Shamsoddoha, chief executive of Centre for Participatory Research and Development, said discussions on gendered impacts of climate change are often limited to regions like Satkhira and Khulna and to water scarcity issues.

He warned that women’s daily exposure to saline conditions during household work poses serious reproductive health risks.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

656 judge posts vacant nationwide

Says law minister; 80 July-linked cases filed with ICT

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Md Asaduzzaman informed the parliament yesterday that 656 judge positions remain vacant across the country.

Responding to a query from lawmaker Selina Sultana, the minister said 1,964 of the total 2,620 sanctioned judge posts are currently filled.

“The process of filling these vacancies through promotion, transfer, and appointment of new civil judges is underway,” he also said.

Asaduzzaman also informed that the government has recently established 650 civil and senior civil judges’ courts, 406 sessions judges’ courts, and 204 additional sessions judges’ courts. The creation of new judge posts for these courts is under active consideration to ensure faster disposal of pending cases, he added.

Responding to another query from lawmaker Nilofar Chowdhury Moni, the law minister informed the House that 1,19,830 cases are pending in family courts across the country as of March 31.

Dhaka tops the list with 13,135 pending cases, followed by Chattogram (10,686), Mymensingh (4,938), Tangail (4,622), and Rajshahi (3,713).

To address the backlog, the government has set up 163 family courts and 35 family appeal courts

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

NBR order may limit solar tax benefits

Civil society groups say incentives could bypass households, small businesses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Civil society organisations yesterday expressed concern that a recent National Board of Revenue (NBR) order could undermine the government’s efforts to expand renewable energy, despite the FY2026-27 budget’s broad tax exemptions for solar equipment.

Representatives of several organisations said an NBR Statutory Regulatory Order (SRO) issued on June 8 limits the benefits of renewable energy tax exemptions to a small group of large companies.

According to them, the SRO grants duty and tax waivers only to VAT-registered Renewable Energy Service Companies that generate electricity under Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs), potentially excluding millions of residential consumers, small businesses, farmers, and community-based renewable energy initiatives.

“The benefits must be available to all citizens, not only a handful of large corporate developers,” said Hasan Mehedi, chief executive of Coastal Livelihood and Environmental Action Network (CLEAN).

The concerns were raised at a press conference titled

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Hawkers occupy much of the footpaths and spill onto the road divider near Gausia Market in the capital’s New Market area yesterday. Despite repeated eviction drives, vendors keep returning, putting themselves and pedestrians at risk and disrupting traffic.

HC questions legality of Cyber Safety Act provision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule questioning the legality of Section 50(5) of the Cyber Safety Act, 2026, which mandates blanket dismissal of pending cases, including those involving cyber sexual harassment and online gender-based violence.

In the rule, the court asked the respondents to explain why the section of the law should not be declared unconstitutional.

The HC also sought an explanation from them as to why the dismissal of a cyber sexual harassment case pending with Barishal Cyber Tribunal under this provision should not be declared unlawful.

The case was filed by victim Rubaya Monzur under the Cyber Security Act with Kotwali Model Police Station in Barishal on June 20, 2020 over harassment, impersonation, and misuse of her mobile number and identity through different social media platforms.

Law and home secretaries, inspector general of police and Cyber Tribunal, Barishal have been made respondents to the rule.

The bench of Justice Ahmed Sohail and Justice Fatema Anwar issued the rule

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8