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



The central message of Durga Puja is to stand against and defeat injustice, oppression, dishonesty and persecution. I can say with great conviction that I know of nowhere else in the world where communal harmony exists as it does in Bangladesh.

PRESIDENT MIRZA FAKHRUL ISLAM ALAMGIR said while visiting Ramna Kali Mandir in Dhaka on the occasion of Durga Puja yesterday



A bond with the soil, passed down through generations. As a farmer prepares his land for winter crops, his young grandson lends a hand with a plough. Together, they carry on a farming tradition deeply rooted in rural Bangladesh. The photo was taken in the Borochar area of Sylhet Sadar upazila on Saturday morning.

PHOTO: **SHEIKH NASIR**

IN FOCUS



Prime Minister Tarique Rahman presents the National Standard to a Bangladesh Army unit at a ceremony at Savar Cantonment yesterday.

PHOTO: **PID**

Discipline, public trust key to armed forces' strength: PM

UNB, *Dhaka*

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday urged members of the armed forces to uphold the Constitution, laws, military regulations and humanitarian values while discharging their duties.

Speaking at a National Standard presentation ceremony for several battalions and regiments of the Bangladesh Army at Savar Cantonment, he also stressed the need to modernise the armed forces, strengthen domestic defence production and develop technological capabilities to meet emerging security challenges.

"An armed force's strength is not limited to weapons, equipment or manpower. Its real strength lies in discipline, skills, leadership, morality, training and public trust," he said, stressing the importance of maintaining the chain of command.

He said the government was working to make the armed forces more technologically advanced, skilled and professional, while prioritising a domestic defence industry to produce weapons, ammunition and other equipment.

However, technology could never replace people, he said, stressing the need for an integrated defence capability enabling the army, navy and air force to operate together effectively.

Book fair to be held Jan 7-Feb 6 next year

UNB, *Dhaka*

The month-long Amar Ekushey Book Fair, traditionally held in February to commemorate the Language Movement martyrs of 1952, will begin on January 7 next year and run until February 6.

The decision was taken at a views-exchange meeting with representatives of publishers on October 13, according to a notice signed by Bangla Academy Director General Mohammad Azam yesterday.

According to the notice, the dates were finalised based on a unanimous decision by the publishers' representatives at the meeting.

Cultural Affairs Minister Nitai Roy Chowdhury chaired the meeting, while Prime Minister's Adviser on Cultural Affairs Dr Zahed Ur Rahman and Cultural Affairs Secretary Yasmin Begum were present.

'One company, one route'

Trial bus services on 6 routes to begin Nov 1

The six main routes are Gazipur-Dhakeshwari Temple, Gabtoli-Demra, Duaripara-Sadarghat, Ghatarchar-Demra, Ghatarchar-Kanchpur and Mirpur-12-Mawa.

SHAMIMA RITA

Dhaka is set to launch trial company-based bus services on six routes from November 1 under the "One company, one route" initiative to streamline public transport.

The routes, operators, bus numbers and stoppages were discussed at a meeting held by Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) yesterday.

According to Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA), the trial will initially cover five non-AC routes and one AC route, with three circular routes expected to be added two months later.

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Freedom fighter, artist Saeeda Kamal passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Freedom fighter and artist Saeeda Kamal Tulu passed away at a private hospital in Dhaka yesterday morning. She was 74.

She breathed her last around 7:15am, her elder sister, noted rights activist Sultana Kamal, confirmed.

During the Liberation War, Saeeda Kamal served at the Bangladesh Field Hospital on the war front alongside Sultana Kamal.

In recognition of her

SEE PAGE 9 COL 3

DAP changes raise red flags

Approval process comes under scrutiny; IPD demands withdrawal of amendments

Purbachal, Jhilmil plots get additional FAR of up to 0.5 | Three open-space plots reclassified for heavy industry | Rajuk source alleges procedural violations | Planners warn of environmental risks | Rajuk to clarify amendment process

HELEMUL ALAM

The government has amended three key provisions of the Detailed Area Plan (DAP) 2022-2035, allowing additional floor area ratio (FAR) for residential plots, changing the land-use classification of three plots and revising regulations for water-flow zones.

The amendments, published in a gazette by the Ministry of Housing and Public Works on October 14, have drawn criticism from urban planners over alleged procedural irregularities and potential environmental consequences.

The changes also faced criticism at a board meeting at the ministry, where it was decided that Rajuk would issue a statement clarifying the procedure, meeting sources said.

"Rajuk will issue a statement on this matter tomorrow (Monday)," said Md Alamgir Hossain, public relations officer at the ministry.

Rajuk Chairman Reazul Islam declined to comment.

Under the revised provisions, eligible residential plot owners in Purbachal and Jhilmil can receive an additional FAR of up to 0.5 if they apply for building-plan approval within six months from October 15. The incentive mainly applies to plots measuring at least five kathas.

Beneficiaries must complete

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

'Kill them and hide their bodies'

Prosecution cites UN report on Hasina's alleged orders during July uprising

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prosecution yesterday told the International Crimes Tribunal-2 that ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina had ordered senior officials to kill protesters and conceal their bodies during the July uprising, citing a UN fact-finding report.

The prosecution cited the report while seeking to frame charges against 19 people, including former Awami League lawmaker Saiful Islam, over the killing of Military Institute of Science and Technology student Sheikh Ashabul Yamin and the shooting of six others during the uprising.

Reading from the report titled "Human Rights Violations and Abuses related to the Protests of July and August 2024", Prosecutor Gazi Monawar Hossain Tamim said, "According to a senior official's testimony, the then prime minister personally ordered killings when she told senior officials present at a meeting on July 19 to 'arrest the ringleaders of the protests, the troublemakers, kill them and hide their bodies'."

During the hearing, Prosecutor Tamim referred to a recorded phone conversation between Hasina and the then DSCC mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh on July 18.

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Risking their lives, passengers ride on the roof, engine and footboards of an overcrowded train near Khilgaon in the capital yesterday. The dangerous practice leaves them vulnerable to falls and collisions with overhead bridges and trackside structures, posing serious risks of injury or death.

PHOTO: **RASHED SHUMON**

BNP govt incapable of working with opposition

Alleges Shafiqur Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Opposition Leader and Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman yesterday accused the BNP government of backtracking on its commitments to implement the July charter, saying it had failed to seek the opposition's cooperation.

"We have long been saying that we would cooperate with the government. From today, we declare that we will cooperate with the 18 crore people. This government has failed to take our cooperation," he said while speaking at a discussion, organised by the Amar Bangladesh Party (AB Party) at the Dhaka Reporters Unity auditorium in Segunbagicha.

Shafiqur alleged that the BNP had abandoned its earlier position on implementing the July charter and the referendum verdict after coming to power, forcing the opposition to launch a movement outside parliament.

"Had the BNP respected the mandate of both votes, we would not have needed to launch a movement outside parliament even for a second. They have pushed us onto the path of agitation," he said.

Opposition Chief Whip and National Citizen Party chief coordinator for the

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