



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

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28 PAGES PLUS RISING STARS PRICE : Tk 10.00



USAIN BOLTS TO RECORD

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GROWTH FORECAST REVISED UP

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CANDID JACKIE KENNEDY

Newly released audio tapes offer White House insight

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ILLEGAL ORGAN TRADE

Lax law leads to the crime

Hospitals say they do check donors' identity, sellers reject the claim

EMRAN HOSSAIN

Organ trade is flourishing as private hospitals do very little to verify whether organs are being sold or donated following state laws.

According to the law, organs can only be transplanted if it is donated by a close kin or spouse or if somebody donates his or her organs prior to death. The law says that one cannot under any circumstances receive money in exchange for organs.

In other words, organ trade is illegal and a punishable offence. One can be imprisoned for three

to seven years and fined Tk 3 lakh for violating the law.

However, the law does not clearly say how a hospital should verify whether an organ is donated or purchased. This allows people to make money by showing poor people kin of rich people and transplanting their organs.

"Private hospitals have been negligent in verifying the identity of donors. They should have been more cautious and strict," said Additional Deputy Commissioner of Detective Branch (north) Moniruzzaman,

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Posters inside the arch of the foot-bridge between Birdem Hospital and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University in the capital advertise the sale of kidneys. There are more similar posters on the walls of the two hospitals. When The Daily Star called one of the mobile phone numbers mentioned in the ads posing as a customer, the person on the other end asked for Tk 4 lakh for a kidney and he was seemingly inclined to haggle on the price. The authorities concerned are either unaware or unwilling to capture such organ traders who advertise since the person The Daily Star talked to did not seem to be afraid of his call being traced and him being arrested.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

PADMA BRIDGE PROJECT

ADB wants quick implementation

It does not want any 'intentional delay'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Asian Development Bank yesterday said it does not want any "intentional delay" in the implementation of the Padma Bridge project.

"It (the Padma Bridge) is a complex project because of engineering design, resettlement and environmental issues, implementation arrangement and involvement of large contracts, and three development partners and the government," said Thevakumar Kandiah, country director of ADB Bangladesh Mission.

He was speaking at the launch of "Asian Development Outlook 2011 Update" at the ADB office in the capital.

"We do not want any intentional delay by any party. We all want the speedy implementation of the project," said

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Bar raised high for aspiring banks

Scope opens in private sector; stringent conditions set

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Bangladesh Bank has decided to allow setting up new banks in private sector with stringent conditions.

The banks must be established with capital from net assets disclosed in income tax returns. Loan and tax defaulters in the last five years will be barred from applying for launching new banks, according to the conditions.

The decision came yesterday at a meeting of the bank's board of directors with its

Governor Atiur Rahman in the chair, NBR Chairman and board member Nasiruddin Ahmed told reporters after the meeting.

The meeting did not decide on the number of new banks, but a top official of the central bank said they may approve three to four new banks.

Wishing anonymity, a board member said the condition of providing capital from disclosed assets has been kept to prevent black money holders from owning shares of new banks.

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WikiLeaks

DGFI meddled in media

US diplomatic cables disclose how it tried to control coverage, bought shares of ETV

STAR REPORT

The Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) played a key role to limit and censor media coverage that was critical, or provoked opposition against its policies during the immediate past caretaker government backed by military, leaked US diplomatic cables reveal.

The cables, published by whistleblower website WikiLeaks on August 30 this year, say the military intelligence along with other officials discreetly phoned and suggested how to cover the day's news,

leading the media outlets to practice self censorship.

They also disclose that even after the caretaker government had departed, the DGFI purchased shares of private TV stations.

The DGFI formed an organisation named Bangladesh Perspectives Research Foundation that purchased 20 percent of ETV and was in the process of buying more than one-third shares of the now-closed Channel 1, one cable said.

Quoting journalists, the then charge

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Abul asks all to help TIB probe

His invitation for investigation surprises ACC chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh has no authority to investigate allegations of corruption in the communications ministry or any other

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ROADS & HIGHWAYS DEPT 17 corrupt officers made OSD

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Seventeen serving officers of the Roads and Highways Department, who had gone to the now-defunct Truth and Accountability Commission to be pardoned of corruption charges, were puni-tively made "officers on special duty" yesterday.

Punitive action was taken against two such employees of the department as well.

Actions will also be taken against those self-confessed corrupt officials who are now on leave preparatory to retirement (LPR), after getting opinions from the law ministry. Their pension process will be

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