



BIGGER & BRIGHTER

Star Lifestyle goes 20 pages, decked with bright colours of the season

LIFESTYLE

EXPORTS FALLING

Earnings dropped 4.6 pc in April from that of a month ago

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MYUNG-BAK IN MYANMAR

The first visit of a S Korean president after 29 years

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Society banking faces restriction

Seven-year jail for illegal operation; draft of amendment to cooperative act approved

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday approved the final draft of the Cooperative Society (amendment) Act 2012 that prohibits cooperative societies from running any credit programme among their members.

The draft law also bans receiving deposit or other financial services from those who are not members of the cooperative.

Also, it has provisions for maximum

seven years' imprisonment and a fine of Tk 10 lakh for doing banking without approval from the Bangladesh Bank.

"The highest penalty for breaching the law in the past was only one year," Cabinet Secretary Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan told journalists after the cabinet meeting at the secretariat with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

The fine has been raised to Tk 10 lakh

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Gone with greed

SAJJADUR RAHMAN

It was the lure of high profits that drove Mohiuddin Robin to deposit money with a cooperative society. But it wasn't long before the 31-year-old was overcome with a sense of despair.

Robin found out that the cooperative society was a fraud and all his money was

gone.

Robin, his family members, relatives and friends invested Tk 44 lakh in the cooperative society that promised to give a 24 percent annual profit (Tk 2,000 a month for Tk 1 lakh). Now, his relatives are putting pressure on him to return their money.

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Workers at a re-rolling mill in the capital's Demra sit idle as production remains suspended for power cut and low pressure in gas supply. Production at the factory has fallen drastically since electricity is available reportedly only for around six hours a day. The photo was clicked on Sunday.

TRACING ILIAS JS body slams lawmen for failure

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday blasted the law enforcement agencies for their failure to find out missing BNP leader Ilias Ali.

Criticising the home secretary and top police officials, members of the parliamentary standing committee on public assurance said there is no work that the police force cannot do.

BNP Organising Secretary Ilias Ali and his driver Ansar Ali went missing in the wee hours of April 18 from the city's

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18-party goes for 3-day agitation

Mass procession in Dhaka cancelled as police refuse to give permission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-led 18-party alliance last night declared three programmes, including countrywide hunger strike, to reiterate its demand of finding missing BNP leader M Ilias Ali and to protest filing of cases against opposition leaders.

Col (ret) Oli Ahmed, chairman of Liberal Democratic Party, made the announcement after separate meetings of BNP national standing committee and the alliance.

"We will observe nationwide hunger strike on May 20, submit memorandum to deputy commissioners on May 23 and stage demonstrations across the country on May 27," Lawmaker Oli Ahmed told the media emerging from the alliance meeting at BNP chairperson's Gulshan office.

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18-PARTY LEADERS GRANTED BAIL - PAGE 2

Irrigation over, power cut not yet

Financial constraints keep many plants shut; PDB seeks to buy offshore gas from Santos

SHARIER KHAN

Although the extra need for power for Boro season irrigation is over, the level of load shedding remains

unchanged due to the authorities' financial inability to operate many idle rental power plants.

A top official of the Power Development Board (PDB) said

although the irrigation phase for cultivation of Boro paddy ended on May 1, the demand for electricity remains the same due to hot weather. Irrigation required

up to 1,500 megawatts of extra power.

Consequently, power outages that began in March are taking

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Turn in wealth report

ACC asks 5 over railwaygate scandal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday asked two suspended top officials of the railway, their wives, and the sacked APS to former railway minister Suranjit Sengupta to submit wealth statements within seven working days.

The anti-graft body issued separate

notices to that effect, ACC Deputy Director Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya told The Daily Star.

Yusuf Ali Mridha, suspended general manager of railway (east), and his wife Yasmin Zakia Nargis; Enamul Huq, suspended security commandant of railway

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NEWS ANALYSIS

Popularity? Ask Barua

SHAKHAWAT LITON

It was none but technocrat Minister Dilip Barua who has urged Prof Muhammad Yunus and Sir Fazle Hasan Abed to join politics to test their popularity before speaking about the country's politics.

He might have forgotten his own popularity, public support behind him and tried to please the prime minister by blasting the two iconic characters for their suggestions for restoration of caretaker government for peaceful parliamentary polls at a meeting with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in Dhaka.

It is usual that Barua will remain grateful to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as she made him a fortunate man. In his long political career, Barua was never elected an MP and even could not contest the December 29 parliamentary polls in 2008 as Awami League had picked its own leader to contest the battle of ballots from the constituency from where Barua sought to contest.

Hasina inducted him as a minister in her cabinet and gave portfolio of the industries ministry, giving much

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PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Private CNG-run three-wheelers dumped on a government site in the capital's Agargaon area. Police have seized these vehicles over the last two days for plying the city streets as vehicles for hire. The photo was snapped yesterday.

PRIVATE YET NOT PRIVATE HC for action against errant 3-wheelers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday asked the government to explain in three weeks why it should not be directed to take action against "private" CNG-run three-wheelers illegally operating on a commercial basis in and around the capital.

Issuing a suo moto rule, the HC asked the concerned authorities to explain why they should not be directed to cancel their registrations.

The court also asked the commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) to explain why he should not be directed to run a mobile court to identify such anomalies and enforce the relevant laws.

The HC bench of Justice Mohammad Bazlur Rahman and Justice Md Habibul Gani came up with the rule following a report published in The Daily Star on May 13, titled "Private yet up for hiring".

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