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SURREAL, HUMANIST

Artworks of Spanish painter are exhibited in Dhaka

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PAPON AT BCB TOP

Abahani cricket committee chief becomes Bangladesh Cricket Board president

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MAN BOOKER FOR FICTION

Mantel is the first woman and first Briton to become a two-time winner

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Muhith berates central bank

Says it woke up late to Hall-Mark loan scam; Sonali moves to sue culprits finally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday came down hard on Bangladesh Bank, saying it responded late to the Hall-Mark loan scam.

"BB found it [scam] out in 2010 and did nothing throughout 2011. Suddenly, it woke up in 2012," Muhith told reporters after a cabinet committee meeting at the Cabinet Division.

"It [BB] is yet to mature", he said, questioning the central bank's capacity.

A BB probe in May detected the biggest ever scam in the country's banking sector -- irregularities involving Tk 3,547 crore in the Ruposhi Bangla branch of Sonali Bank. Of the amount, the Hall-Mark alone took away around Tk 2,686 crore on forged documents.

After the anomalies started grabbing the headlines, Muhith said Tk 4,000 crore was not "a big amount". Later, he was castigated by his party's two senior lawmakers for the comment.

A senior official told The Daily Star that the central bank did not know about the irregularities in 2010.

"Over 80 percent of the embezzlement took place in between October 2011 and May this year," the official

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The Mohakhali canal in the capital is now hardly recognisable as a water body. Continuous dumping of sewage and industrial waste has choked the canal to death, although a signboard stands right there prohibiting such acts. The photo was taken on Tuesday. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

TIB-bashing by ruling alliance politicians continues

STAR REPORT

The government will take action against the law-makers if they are found to be involved in negative and criminal activities, as revealed in a TIB survey report.

The warning came from newly appointed Information Minister Hasanul Haque Inu yesterday, only two days after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina termed the survey "ill-motivated".

"If anyone is found guilty, actions will be taken against them after investigation, if not, explanation will be sought from the TIB," UNB quoted Inu as saying at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

The Transparency International Bangladesh would be asked to submit

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NEWS ANALYSIS

UNELECTED PEOPLE

PM's comments and the reality

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her colleagues in the cabinet and party have been reiterating that there is no scope for unelected forces running the country. Yet her government still has many unelected people directly exercising state power.

There are unelected people everywhere in the executive branch--from her cabinet to the crucial local government bodies. Even the city corporation area within which she resides is being run by an unelected individual--administrator--appointed by her government.

Currently, three technocrat ministers, seven powerful advisers, 61 administrators for as many district councils and two administrators for the bifurcated Dhaka City Corporation are glaring examples of how unelected

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EXTERNAL TEAM'S VISIT

Muhith hopes for positive WB report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday assured the World Bank of taking legal action against the corrupt people if the lender could provide evidence of corruption in the Padma bridge project.

"If they [the WB] can provide the Anti-Corruption Commission with evidence of corruption, it [the ACC] can file cases in a week," Muhith told reporters after a meeting of the cabinet committee on purchase and economic affairs at the

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Fourteen yet fearsome

His case shows how slum boys end up in crime world

KAILASH SARKAR

He may be only 14, but locals of the capital's Sayedabad, where his family lives in a small roadside house, fear him. His friends also show him extra 'respect'.

His name is Mohammad Mamun, also known as Pichchi Mamun. He is the youngest member of Dakat Shahid ring. Shahid was a notorious criminal killed in a shootout with Rapid Action Battalion in Old Dhaka in July last year.

Mamun has experience of being detained by law enforcers several times. He also served eight months



Mohammad Mamun

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Passport office in crisis again

Malaysian firm threatens to stop work for MRP over contract renewal row

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Malaysian company assigned to prepare machine-readable passport (MRP) yesterday renewed its threat to pull out of the MRP project if the authorities do not extend its contract by October 31.

The announcement came only a day after the company IRIS Corporation Berhad consented to continue with the

job on condition that their contract will be renewed by the deadline in accordance with a proposal to adjust the current dollar rate.

The passport officials had agreed to the proposal, but the home ministry did not approve it and sent it back to the Department of Immigration and Passport

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A close look at the butterflies of the Sundarbans



Wild quails still found in Bangladesh



Fishing cats under threat



Traveling to freezing Alaska



Limon gets exemption

Won't have to appear in next hearings of case filed by Rab

A CORRESPONDENT, Jhalakathi

Considering his physical condition and studies, a Jhalakathi court yesterday exempted Limon Hossain, the young college student maimed by Rab last year, from appearing before the court during future hearings.

Limon, aided by his lawyers, appeared before

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War crimes trial won't hurt ties

Says Saudi envoy

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Saudi Arabia has termed the trial of war criminals and arrests of pro-Islamic parties' leaders "internal affairs of Bangladesh", and said the issues would not affect relations between the two countries.

"The relations between Saudi Arabia and Bangladesh were never ever strained in the past

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Nazmul Hassan MP

Managing Director, Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
Managing Director, Shinepukur Ceramics Ltd.
Director, Independent Television Ltd.

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