



STILLNESS OF LIFE

Artists project Dhaka's traffic jam on canvas

PAGE 11

'IT'S JUST A START'

E-commerce platform Alertpay is re-launched as Payza in Bangladesh

IT & TELECOM

'BINDERS FULL OF WOMEN'

Obama pokes fun at Romney's remark in battle for female voters

PAGE 7

HALL-MARK LOAN SCANDAL Chairperson arrested

Scamster Tanvir confesses to magistrate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion yesterday arrested Hall-Mark Managing Director Tanvir Mahmud's wife and group Chairperson Jesmine Islam in connection with the Sonali Bank loan scam.

She was picked up from Manikganj around 7:30pm, hours after her husband confessed before a Dhaka court magistrate to his involvement in the Tk 2,686 crore swindle.

Rab intelligence chief Lt Col Ziaul Ahsan said Jesmine had been hiding in a home near Manikganj Circuit House, about 60 kilometres away from the capital.

Jesmine is one of the 27 accused in 11 cases filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission on charges of misappropriating Tk 1,568 crore from the Sonali Bank's Ruposhi Bangla Hotel branch.

So far, law enforcers have arrested four accused, including Tanvir and Jesmine. The two others are Hall-Mark General Manager Tushar Ahmed and Ruposhi

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Hall-Mark Managing Director Tanvir Mahmud, detained over the Sonali Bank loan scam, is being taken back to prison after interrogation at the Anti-Corruption Commission in the capital yesterday.

DESTINY ASSETS Govt mulls takeover

Law amendment proposed for appointing administrator

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

The government would take over the ownership of controversial Destiny Group so that no one could sell its assets, a senior official of commerce ministry said yesterday.

Until the cases were disposed of, the commerce ministry would run the routine activities of the company through one or more administrators, said a joint secretary of the ministry seeking anonymity.

The ministry yesterday sent the Cabinet Division the summary of the proposed amendment of Bangladesh Companies Act 1994 for its opinion on appointing an administrator to the group as soon as possible.

On receiving the Cabinet Division's opinion, the ministry would send the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

Gen Harun gets conditional bail from HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted bail to Destiny Group President Lt Gen (retd) M Harun-Ar-Rashid for two months in two money laundering cases, on condition that he will no longer be involved with the group.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed the cases with Kalabagan Police Station on July 31 against 22 top officials of the group, including Harun, over laundering of Tk 3,285.26 crore.

The court granted the bail on the grounds of his ill-health and the fact that he is a freedom fighter, said the court in the order, adding that he cannot even "approach" any of the group's offices.

According to the conditions in the order, Harun cannot influence the investigation into the cases, communicate with any of the co-accused "by telephone" or otherwise, and make any public statement about the cases.

The HC ordered Harun to cooperate with the investigation officer during the investigation and restricted him



M Harun-Ar-Rashid

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4



Newsweek to cease print edition in Dec

AFP, Washington

Newsweek announced yesterday it would end an 80-year run as a print magazine at the end of the year, taking the venerable publication all-digital to cope with a harsh media

SEE PAGE 7 COL 5

NEWS ANALYSIS

Muhith shocked banking sector

INAM AHMED

The finance minister's scathing criticism of the central bank on Wednesday about its role and capacity to detect the Hall-Mark scam has come as a shock to the banking world.

A few questions have appeared in the public mind: What has the finance minister, AMA Muhith, achieved with his salvos? Was it right for him to do it in such a manner? Did he make the correct points or was it the result of an open division between the governor of the central bank and the finance minister? And what implications does it have on the banking world?

Regulators worldwide are very sensitive institutions. They make or break the things they govern.

When they are under attack, for good reasons or wrong, by the government itself, their status is compromised. They become weak and susceptible to be

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

CABINET MEETING

Private TV, newspapers not allowed

STAR REPORT

Journalists of all private television channels and newspapers were yesterday barred from covering the cabinet briefing at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) for the first time since the Awami League-led government took office in January 2009.

They were also barred from covering another discussion programme at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital, where the premier was present as the chief guest.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

'NY TERROR PLOT' Nafis' family stunned

AP, Dhaka

Just a few hours before he was arrested in an FBI sting operation, a Bangladeshi man accused of trying to blow up New York's Federal Reserve building calmly spoke via Skype with his parents back home and updated them on his studies, his family told The Associated Press.

They were stunned yesterday morning to find out that the banker's son from a middle-class Dhaka neighbourhood was accused of trying

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5



PHOTO: STAR

Quazi Ahsan Ullah shows a photo of his son, Rezwanul Ahsan Nafis, at his residence in the capital's Jatrabari yesterday.

HC ORDER ON RAMU INNOCENTS

Uttam's mother, aunt freed

Govt probe blames 200 for attacks, makes 22 recommendations

STAR REPORT

A Cox's Bazar court last night released Uttam Barua's mother, aunt and baby cousin from jail hours after the High Court had directed the government to free them immediately.

It was Uttam's faked Facebook page with an anti-Islam photo that provoked the rampage against the Buddhist community in Ramu on September 29.

He along with his mother Madhu Barua and aunt Adi Barua were arrested the next day. Anisha, Adi

Barua's two-year-old daughter, had to be in custody with her mother.

Meanwhile, the committee investigating the violence submitted its report to the home ministry yesterday.

Senior Secretary CQK Mustaq Ahmed said he received the report from the additional divisional commissioner of Chittagong around 12:30pm, UNB reports.

The probe identified 205 persons, including local leaders and activists of Jamaat-e-Islami, BNP and the ruling Awami League, as the ones responsible for the vandalism and

arson that continued for hours that night.

It also found complicity of Naikhangchhari Upazila Chairman Tofail Ahmed, locally known as a Jamaat man.

Tofail has links with Myanmar-based terror group Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO), the report said. In July, he attended a secret meeting with 14 other RSO members in Dubai, reports Prothom Alo.

Tofail is also a relative of Abdul Moktadir, now under police custody

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

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