



FACEBOOK HAS 1B USERS
Despite this growth, the social site is based on a tricky business model
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The outgoing Chinese Communist Party leadership holds last meet
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'THE RADIANCE IS ALL'
Ajoy Chakrabarty talks about what keeps him on journey through music
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Govt favours new banks

Draft law allows them to have more directors than other banks

REJAUL KARIM BYRON
The government has offered concessions to the nine new banks and made room for other contenders having political clout to join the fray for making quick bucks as sponsor directors.
Under the draft Bank Company Act, no bank can appoint more than 15 directors. But the banking division of the finance ministry, which prepared the draft recently, has proposed appointing 20 directors for the newly approved banks.
This has been done to allow the original licence holders (sponsor directors) of the new banks to sell the positions of the five additional directors to make extra money, industry experts say.
The sponsor directors have already sold out those positions at much higher prices to new investors for collecting the required capital, they added.
Some directors are also selling their shares at exorbitant rates, said a Bangladesh Bank official, preferring not to be named.
The central bank in April this year approved nine banks -- six local banks and three NRB (non-resident)
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Sand traders ignore the pillars marking the Turag river edge at Shinnirtek of Mirpur in the capital and occupy a large portion of the river for their business.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Limon won't withdraw case against Rab men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal
College student Limon Hossain and his family have said that they will not withdraw the case his mother Henoara Begum has filed against Rab personnel for shooting him, leading to the amputation of one of his legs and disruption in studies.
A week after Ashok Kumar Biswas, deputy commissioner of Jhalakathi, advised Limon to apply for clemency in the two cases Rab filed
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Notice
Star Insight magazine will not come out tomorrow. A special issue of the magazine focusing on 'Celebrating Life 2012' will be published on November 10.

Mashiur returns

The adviser attends office with Padma probe still on

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Prime Minister's Economic Affairs Adviser Mashiur Rahman has returned to work, although one of the World Bank conditions for the revival of Padma bridge loan was to keep him on leave during the probe into graft allegations in the mega project.
He joined his workplace at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday afternoon as his one-month leave ended on Wednesday, said his Personal Secretary Tapan Kumar Chakrabarty in the evening.
Relying to a query, Tapan said he knew nothing about the adviser's leave extension.
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It was a 'mistake'

Many top BNP leaders say party shifting from 'anti-India' stance

RASHIDUL HASAN
Realising that its long-held "anti-India" stance was a mistake, the BNP appears to be making a turnaround in its policy towards the big neighbour, party insiders say.
Now on a visit to India, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has clearly signalled that she wants to reverse the stance on relations with New Delhi. She has assured Indian leaders that her party would not allow Bangladesh territory to be used by terrorists and insurgents to
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target India.
Political analysts say that after benefiting from its anti-India polemics over the years, the BNP is shifting its strategy because of the changing socio-economic and political conditions at the national, regional and global level.
According to some top BNP leaders, the growing realisation that the party had to pay much for its anti-India strategy and that India is now a big factor in regional and international politics is the reason behind this shift.
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Scrap HC verdict in jail killing case

Govt prays to SC for upholding lower court judgment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The government yesterday prayed to the Supreme Court to uphold the lower court verdict by cancelling the High Court verdict in the historic jail killing case.
The Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka in 2004 awarded death sentence to three former army personnel and life imprisonment to 12 others. The HC in 2008 upheld the death penalty of one, acquitted six of the convicts and did not say anything about the eight others.
Yesterday, the attorney general's office made the prayer to the SC in a concise statement it submitted seeking the hearing of an appeal against the HC verdict filed in 2009.
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Three minibuses form a rolling road block on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue near Farmgate in the capital yesterday in their rush to be the next to get more passengers onboard. Reckless and inconsiderate driving of minibuses have been key reasons for mishaps on the city streets.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Khaleda now plans to visit US, UK

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia is likely to visit the UK and the USA in December or January, party sources told The Daily Star.
During the tenure of the incumbent government, this would be Khaleda's second visit to the two countries which, party members say, "hold great significance for us in terms of their political and economic influence over Bangladesh".
The opposition leader's previous visit was in May, 2011. Party members severely criticised the 15-day-long visit as the BNP
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FIRMS INVOLVED IN SONALI SCAM ACC seeks bank details of 16

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Anti-Corruption Commission has directed the Bangladesh Bank to send it the bank account information of 16 top officials of five companies in connection with a scam involving Sonali Bank's Ruposhi Bangla Hotel branch.
The central bank has received a letter from the ACC in this regard. The BB may on Sunday send letters to the concerned banks, asking for the information, a high
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DESTINY COOPERATIVE SOCIETY Sale of assets banned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The government has banned selling of assets of Destiny Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd (DMCSL) to safeguard the interests of its members.
The Department of Cooperatives (DoC) on October 30 sent letters to all deputy commissioners asking them to prevent DMCSL, a cash cow of controversial Destiny Group, from selling the cooperative's land, buildings or any other assets.
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"We have issued the instructions to safeguard the interests of the cooperative's general members. If we keep hold of the cooperative's assets, we will be able to repay its members at least a portion of their dues," DoC Registrar Md Humayun Khalid told The Daily Star over the phone.
The DoC is working to find out the total assets and liabilities of DMCSL, he said.
The restriction on the cooperative's sale of assets came after the DoC received information about the DMCSL's attempts
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Sabina Yasmin | Ajoy Chakrabarty | Kaushiki Desikan

GALA NIGHT & Award Giving Ceremony

Entry is free with card!

6:00 pm
Today, Friday
Shaheed Suhrawardy Indoor Stadium, Mirpur