



# The Daily Star

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## NEW WEAPON IN OLD FIGHT

Nanomedicine is being considered a promising tool for cancer diagnosis

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## WASHINGTON WORRIED?

The US calls for Morsi's release as Islamists throng Cairo streets

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## THE LIFE OF AN ARTIST

Murtaja Baseer recalls the support of his father Dr Muhammad Shahidullah

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## Saudi warns hajj pilgrims over virus

AFP, Riyadh  
Saudi Arabia yesterday urged elderly and chronically ill Muslims not to perform the hajj pilgrimage, to curb the spread of the MERS coronavirus which has killed 38 in the kingdom.

The health ministry issued a set of conditions for people wanting to perform the annual hajj, which this year falls in October, or the year-round umrah or minor pilgrimage.

It recommends postponing the umrah and hajj this year "for the elderly and those suffering chronic illnesses, like heart, kidney, respiratory diseases, and diabetes".

People with immunity deficiency, as well

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## 34TH BCS EXAMINATIONS

# No quota now in preliminary test

*PSC to apply the system at the later phase of exams; revised results today; protesters demand cancellation*

TAMANNA KHAN and PROTIK CHAKRABORTY

The Public Service Commission will today announce revised results of the 34th BCS preliminary exam, scrapping the earlier one based on the quota policy.

The results would be available on the website www.bpsc.gov.bd from 5:00pm today, said a press release yesterday.

More than 1.93 lakh out of 2,21,575 registered candidates took the preliminary exam on May 24. The result that came out on Tuesday declared only 12,033 examinees qualified for the written exam, triggering protests from job seekers.

PSC Chairman AT Ahmedul Huq Chowdhury yesterday evening said they are announcing the revised result after reviewing the entire situation. He denied that the anti-quota movement had forced the commission to change its position.

Ahmedul Huq added the quota policy will now be applicable for the combined results of written exam and viva as in the past.

Meanwhile, attempts to stage demonstrations against the quota provision at Dhaka and Jahangirnagar universities failed amid obstruction by Bangladesh Chhatra League, a student body backed by the ruling Awami

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RELATED STORY ON PAGE 5

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Amend the labour law properly

Formulate rules and regulations concerning the law

Enforce compliance with the building code

Strengthen factory inspection

Make the labour department accountable

Speed up cases at labour courts

Detect faulty industrial units and take action

Form a govt agency to oversee building construction

Set up an occupational health safety institute

Have separate construction codes for residential, commercial and factory buildings

Ensure electrical safety at factories

# RMG workers must have union rights

Labour leaders at The Daily Star-BILS roundtable press for inclusion of effective trade union in amended labour law, ensuring workers' safety

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Labour leaders have called for effective plant-level workers union in the garment sector and rejected the "participation committee", mentioned in the draft amendment to the labour law, as an alternative to trade unions.

They expressed concern that the amended law due to be passed in parliament this week might not live up to the expectation of the country's garment workers as they strive to get a large platform to voice their demands.

The participation committee mentioned in the draft is to be formed with all stakeholders, including labour leaders and garment workers.

The law is one of the key factors that might determine whether Bangladesh regains trade preferences in the US market

or loses preferential market access to the European Union.

The parliament begins its session today with a task to stamp its approval on a number of bills including the Labour Law (amendment).

The workers' concern came at a roundtable styled "Safe Workplace: Recent Experience and Way Forward" at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka yesterday.

Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS), which promotes the causes of working people and trade unions, and The Daily Star, the country's mass circulated English newspaper, jointly organised the programme.

BILS Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan said ensuring workers' safety should be a matter of utmost importance. It should

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## INSULTING WOMEN

# Hasina slates Hefajat chief's comments

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday blasted Hefajat-e-Islam chief Shah Ahmed Shafi for his "derogatory" remarks about women.

"Recently, a religious leader has made some indecent remarks about women. I'm totally confused how a religious leader could utter such indecent words when Islam has showed highest respect for women," she



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HEFAJAT DEFENDS SHAFI - PAGE 16

## Noted citizens slam Shafi's remarks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seventeen eminent personalities yesterday denounced Hefajat-e-Islam Ameer

Shah Ahmed Shafi's remarks about women as disgraceful and vulgar.

In a statement under the banner of "Bangladesh Rukhe Darao", they said Shafi's remarks run against the constitution where equal rights are enshrined for men and women.

In a video clip of his sermon, now available on Facebook and YouTube, Hefajat chief said women

should stay within the four

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## SCAM-HIT BASIC BANK

# Tk 601 cr financial anomalies found

*Auditors suggest action in 5 months*

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

A government audit report has unearthed serious irregularities involving Tk 601 crore at the state-run BASIC Bank Ltd.

The commercial audit department of the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General found 17 instances of financial irregularities in its audits at the bank's headquarters in 2012.

The audit department sent a report to the Banking Division secretary at the finance ministry on June 18, and asked him to take action in five months.

In most cases of irregularities, a number of the bank's branches lent money to clients beyond their credit limits and showed overvalued prices of mortgaged properties, said the report of the commercial audit department.

On some occasions, the bank's headquarters breached its credit policy

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## HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS



To the worthy son of greater Comilla **Abdullah al Mamun Tuhin**, Director, Crystal Insurance Company Ltd, for being elected **Co-chairman, FBCCI** Standing Committee on Insurance and Non-Banking Financial Institution, Standing Committee on Environment and Climate Change, Standing Committee on Relief and Rehabilitation, and EC member of Bangladesh Garments Washing Industries Association.

We wish him continuous success and long life.

Chairman

**Muhammad Mahbubur Rahman (Khokan)**  
Greater Comilla History Heritage Preservation Foundation  
85/1/A, Purana Paltan Line, 5th Floor, Dhaka-1000

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The Daily Star

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