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BASIC Bank agrees to cut credit growth

Signs deal with central bank

REJAUJ KARIM BYRON

BASIC Bank yesterday finally signed a deal with the central bank, agreeing to reduce its credit growth by December to restore discipline in the scam-hit bank.

Finding many instances of irregularities in credit disbursement, Bangladesh Bank last month asked BASIC Bank to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a set of conditions to establish credit discipline in the bank.

According to the deal, BASIC Bank has to bring down its credit growth by December to 10 percent. It was 40 percent on June 13, compared to a year ago.

Average credit growth in the banking sector was 9.41 percent in the same period while many private and foreign banks saw a decline. But BASIC Bank maintained a high credit growth at that time.

On investigation, Bangladesh Bank found that there had been unbridled corruption in disbursing loans at different branches of BASIC bank.

Wishing anonymity, a central bank official said an observer might be appointed to restore discipline in the bank.

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Shibir activists torch two lorries, including an oil tanker, at Fatullah, Narayanganj yesterday during the dawn-to-dusk hartal called to protest the sentencing of former Jamaat ameer Ghulam Azam to jail for crimes against humanity.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

WAR TRIBUNAL Judges at life risk, says PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the judges of the International Crimes Tribunals were delivering verdicts in war crimes cases risking their lives in the face of national and international pressure.

"And this is a big achievement for the nation. We are getting long-awaited justice after 42 years," the premier said in parliament, commenting on the verdict against Ghulam Azam.

In her concluding speech in the budget session, Hasina, also the ruling Awami League president, said more verdict would follow and her government would execute the convicted war criminals in its tenure. She said her party had pledged to try

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9 SUPREME COURT JUDGES Govt sits on risk allowances

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The government is yet to decide about paying risk allowances to the judges of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court even three months after a move by the law ministry to this effect.

In a letter to the finance ministry on April 10, the law ministry had proposed a risk allowance of an additional 70 percent of the monthly salary of each of the nine judges of the apex court as it was now dealing with appeals against verdicts in war crimes cases, said sources in law ministry.

Talking to The Daily Star, Law Minister Shafique Ahmed said he was not aware of the progress of the ministry's proposal.

The government high ups, said a law ministry official, were considering whether the ministry's proposal was logical or not, as the Appellate Division judges deal with many cases other than those of war crimes.

The proposal will be placed at a ministerial meeting later this month or early next month for a decision, he added.

The monthly salary of the chief justice is Tk56,000. An Appellate Division judge gets Tk53,100, while a High Court judge gets Tk49,100 a month.

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Al-Badr men picked up Prof Munier Chy

Son testifies at war tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Asif Munier, son of martyred intellectual Prof Munier Chowdhury, yesterday testified that Al-Badr men had abducted his father from their residence at the capital's central road on December 14, 1971.

He also said his father was vocal against the then Pakistani government for its anti-people and anti-Bangalee activities.

Asif was testifying as the second prosecution witness in the case against "absconding Al-Badr leaders" Chowdhury Mueen Uddin and Ashrafuzzaman Khan before International Crimes Tribunal-2.

Tribunal Chairman Justice Obaidul Hassan recorded part of his testimony before adjourning the case proceedings

until tomorrow when Asif will place his further deposition.

Earlier in the day, the tribunal completed recording the cross-examination of Masuda Banu Ratna, the first prosecution witness in the case.

State-appointed defence counsels Abdus Shukur Khan and Salma Hai Tuny cross-examined Masuda.

On Monday, Masuda, a niece of martyred intellectual Prof Giasuddin Ahmed, testified that Mueen Uddin and Ashrafuzzaman had abducted her maternal uncle from Dhaka University campus on December 14, 1971. He never returned.

During his 23-minute unfinished testimony yesterday, Asif Munier, the youngest

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SQ CHY'S TRIAL Witness gives hearsay testimony

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A defence witness yesterday gave hearsay testimony at the International Crimes Tribunal-1 on presence of war crimes accused

Salauddin Quader Chowdhury in Karachi in April 1971.

Third defence witness Qayum Reza Chowdhury said he was arrested in the first week of May in 1971 in Islamabad. The prosecution, on the other side, brought 23 charges of crimes against humanity

allegedly committed by Salauddin from April 4 to

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The Daily Star
 Integral Energy Limited
ONLINE POLL
 Do you think the latest amendment to the labour law will help Bangladesh regain the GSP facility from the US?
 Yes (36%)
 No (64%)
 TOTAL VOTES: 205
TODAY'S POLL
 Do you think it is justified for the Jamaat-e-Islami to call hartal in the holy month of Ramadan?
 PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net



Fatness is beauty!

MAIL ONLINE

A belief that big is beautiful is causing a self-inflicted obesity crisis in a West African country and putting the lives of women at risk.

In Mauritania, women are encouraged to gain as much weight as possible from childhood in order to be considered attractive.

Having a fat wife is desirable and is a sign of wealth and prestige in the country where food is in short supply.

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Joy, family in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's only son Sajeeb Wazed Joy along with his wife and their daughter arrived in Dhaka yesterday.

Joy, his wife Christine Overmeyer and their daughter Sophia will spend the month of Ramadan with Hasina, the PM's special assistant (media) told The Daily Star last night.

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BRB
SEHRI, IFTAR TIMINGS

Ramadan	July	Sehri	Iftar
7	17		6-52
8	18	3-51	6-52
9	19	3-52	6-51

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34TH BCS TEST RESULTS 280 examinees excluded from revised list

WASIM BIN HABIB

The Public Service Commission has excluded at least 280 candidates who were on the first list of successful ones in the 34th BCS preliminary test, although it said the reviewed list included all of them.

The revised list, which came out on Sunday, shows that most of the dropped ones are from indigenous communities.

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