City

BASIC Bank agrees to cut credit growth

Signs deal with central bank

REJAUL 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

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



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.

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 SEE PAGE 10 COL 2 .

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 pro-· posed 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 In her concluding speech in the budget 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.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

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 antipeople 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

further deposition.

recording the cross-examination of Masuda: war crimes accused Banu Ratna, the first prosecution witness in : Salauddin Quader the case. State-appointed defence counsels Abdus · April 1971.

Shukur Khan and Salma Hai Tuny cross-: examined Masuda.

On Monday, Masuda, a niece of martyred · said he was arrested in the intellectual Prof Giasuddin Ahmed, testi- : first week of May in 1971 fied that Mueen Uddin and Ashrafuzzaman : in Islamabad. The prosecuhad abducted her maternal uncle from · tion, on the other side, Dhaka University campus on December 14, : brought 23 charges of 1971. He never returned.

During his 23-minute unfinished testi- · allegedly committed by mony yesterday, Asif Munier, the youngest . Salauddin from April 4 to SEE PAGE 2 COL 3 .

SQ CHY'S TRIAL Witness gives hearsay testimony

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

 A defence witness yesterday until tomorrow when Asif will place his : gave hearsay testimony at the International Crimes Earlier in the day, the tribunal completed · Tribunal-1 on presence of · Chowdhury in Karachi in

Third defence witness · Qayum Reza Chowdhury : crimes against humanity SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

The Baily Star **Integral Energy Limited ONLINE POLL** Do you think the latest

Bangladesh regain the GSP facility from the US? (36%)(64%)

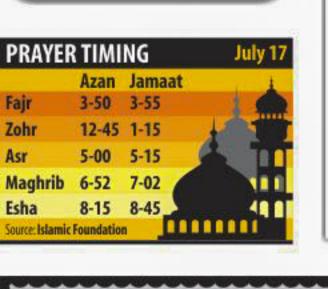
TOTAL VOTES: 205

amendment to

the labour law will help

TODAY'S POLL Do you think it is justified for the Jamaat-e-Islami to call hartal in the holy month of Ramadan?

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A belief that big is beautiful is causing a self-inflected 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 child-

hood 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.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 8

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.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1







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. SEE PAGE 10 COL 8

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