



The Daily Star

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No change in GB structure

Muhith says no plan to raise govt stake in Grameen Bank

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday made it clear that the government would not bring any changes to the current structure of Grameen Bank.

"From the very beginning, the government has been saying it has no intention to change the ownership or management style of the bank," the minister told reporters after a meeting at the Economic Relations Division in the capital.

Muhith made the comment after reporters asked whether the government has any intentions to secure majority share in the microcredit organisation founded by Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus.

He said the government has 25 percent share in Grameen Bank, and insisted that it would remain the same.

"What Prof Yunus said about increasing the

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GRAMEEN BANK OWNERSHIP



Govt
25%
Borrower-shareholders
75%



The Karail slum near Banani in the capital continues to expand. This photo taken recently shows how houses have been built with shiny new corrugated iron sheets.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

The Daily Star WISHES ITS READERS, PATRONS, ADVERTISERS AND WELL-WISHERS A VERY HAPPY EID.

HOLIDAY

The offices of The Daily Star will remain closed on August 8, 9 and 10 on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr and there will be no issue of the newspaper on Aug 9, 10 and 11. However, if Eid is celebrated on Aug 10, the following day (Aug 11) will also be a holiday and in that case there will be no issue of the

Due to Eid-ul-Fitr holidays the following weekly publications of The Daily Star will not be published on the scheduled dates mentioned against each:
The Star of August 9
Showbiz of August 10
Shout of August 11

Eid likely tomorrow

STAR REPORT

The holy Eid-ul-Fitr will be celebrated across the country tomorrow if the new crescent moon of Shawwal month is sighted today.

If the moon is not sighted today, the biggest religious festival of Muslims will be observed on Saturday.

A meeting of the National Moon Sighting Committee will be held at Islamic Foundation at 7:10pm today to review reports on moon sighting

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GRAMEEN BANK DIRECTORS Govt to amend election rules

DCs to oversee 2-tier polls

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

A government panel has proposed appointing deputy commissioners to oversee the elections for nine borrower-director posts in the 12-member Grameen Bank board, a move which enhances the government's role in the organisation.

The recommendation comes as part of the government's reported plan to restructure the Nobel-winning microfinance institution in a bid to boost oversight and rein in its activities.

"At the moment, there is no rule for the appointment of directors for the Grameen Bank board. There is an instruction regarding it, but it is not legal," Finance Minister AMA Muhith said yesterday, adding that a framework would be designed in a "couple of days".

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The propaganda and the mindset

Banality, immorality and illegality of it all

MAHFUZ ANAM

COMMENTARY

Awami League can justly be credited with having given us something new. So far we had heard of land-grab, river bank-grab, property-grab, office-grab, vehicle-grab, etc., but never of billboard-grab. On Monday morning the city dwellers were caught by surprise with several thousand billboards at almost all major intersections and roads of the city,

with messages of self-praise about how successful the government has been in fulfilling its promises.

Taking a leaf out of Gen Ayub Khan's propaganda circus of the late sixties, titled "Decade of Development", Awami League appears to be launching its own propaganda offensive about its own five years of development.

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No backing for land deal

BJP tells Manmohan

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Top leaders of India's main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) yesterday conveyed to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh their opposition to the Land Border Agreement with Bangladesh.

The BJP leadership told the prime minister that under the agreement India will have to give away much more land in return for what it would get from Bangladesh, sources in the party said.

BJP's stand was conveyed when Manmohan called the party's leaders to

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Desperate to go home

Eid holidaymakers risk their lives; buses, trains, launches overloaded with passengers

STAR REPORT

A major portion of Eid holidaymakers yesterday left the capital with a worry of returning to the city safely and on time, thanks to Jamaat's call for a countrywide 48-hour hartal from August 13.

The shutdown that had previously been called for August 12-13, based on which many had made their holiday plans, was later deferred by a day.

The shifting of hartal time has dimmed the spirit of the holidays a bit, as it threw most of the holidaymakers' plans into total disarray.

Other than that, the journey on the highways was more or less smooth as of yesterday evening. Unlike the past, this year people faced less traffic congestion leaving the capital.

There were crowds at the exit and entry points of the city but most of the city roads witnessed no severe traffic jams. However, the afternoon shower caused some problems to the holidaymakers in many parts of the capital, especially in the shopping mall areas.

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A woman from the footbridge of Airport Railway Station tries to get on to the roof of a train as hundreds take the risk of travelling on the roofs of trains in the pouring rain, bottom left. Three people died yesterday falling from the roof of a train as many in their attempt to spend Eid with their families overcrowd launches and trains.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ/ RASHED SHUMON

