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# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



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## Jamaat's role under probe

*War crimes investigation gets underway*

**TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY**

The formal investigation into Jamaat-e-Islami's alleged war crimes began yesterday in what could be the first step towards the trial of the party that opposed the birth of Bangladesh in 1971.

"The allegations against Jamaat-e-Islami were put into the complaint register of the investigation agency today [Sunday] and the probe was launched," Abdul Hannan Khan, chief of the war crimes investigation agency, told The Daily Star yesterday.

"We have appointed Matiur Rahman as the investigation officer for the case today [Sunday]," he said.

Hannan said, "It may take one and a half months or two to complete the investigation ... collecting and analysing documents will be the focus of the probe."

The activities of Razakars, Al-Badr, Al-Shams and Peace Committee -- auxiliary forces of the Pakistani army -- would also come under investigation as these forces were formed following the political decision of Jamaat, Hannan added.

On completion of the probe, the agency would submit its report to the prosecution team and the prosecution, after scrutinising the report, could submit formal charges against the party before the tribunal.

Just-appointed Investigator Matiur Rahman told The Daily Star that his probe would start from the very birth of Jamaat to its present



Oishee, Sumi and Rony -- arrested in connection with the killing of police inspector Mahfuzur Rahman and Swapna Rahman -- are being taken to the court yesterday. Faces of the two girls have been blurred as they are minors. PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

## Some points to ponder

*Law overlooked in dealing with juvenile crime suspect*

**STAR REPORT**

Oishee Rahman turned 17 on Saturday. Still a child under the law, she cannot be placed on police remand, despite the fact that she is a suspected killer of her parents. Yet, a Dhaka court put her on a five-day remand yesterday.

But it's not just about Oishee. The court also granted the police petition, seeking to take on remand Oishee's domestic help Khadiza Khatun Sumi, who looks not more than 10-11 years old. Poor Sumi did not have a lawyer to at least raise this issue before the court.

Police put Oishee's age at 18 and Sumi's 15.

Sumi, Oishee and Oishee's friend Ronny, 25, were brought to the court at 3:00pm.

In jeans and short kameez and her head covered with a scarf, Oishee looked sad and devastated in the dock.

Talking to reporters inside the courtroom, she said she disclosed to the police the motive of the murder and the names

## PM on Star, media

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday claimed that The Daily Star always distorts whatever she says.

"It is The Daily Star! No matter what I say, it will be distorted, and that is the character [of the newspaper]," she said at a crowded press conference at her official residence Gono Bhaban.

"Light rolls into darkness. And stars cannot be seen in darkness," she said in an oblique reference to both The Daily Star



## Big boost for jute

*Bangladeshi scientists decode genome sequence of golden fibre's other variety*

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Three years into the successful genome sequencing of tossa jute, Bangladeshi scientists led by Dr Maqsoodul Alam have unravelled the genome sequence of deshi (white) jute.

This completes the genome sequencing of both genera of jute -- tossa and white -- thereby opening up scopes for developing more productive jute varieties in future.

Sitting by globally famed geneticist Maqsoodul Alam, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina announced this yesterday at a press briefing at the Gono Bhaban.

"Earlier, our scientists decoded tossa jute plant genome and now they have decoded the genome of deshi (white) jute," the premier said. "I hope the golden fibre will bring back our golden smile," an enthusiastic Hasina added.

Genome sequence represents a valuable shortcut, helping scientists find genes much more easily and quickly. A genome sequence allows scientists to identify and understand how genes work together for the plant's different features like growth, development and maintenance as an entire organism. This allows them to manipulate the genes and enhance, reduce or add certain features of the plant.

## I won't budge

*Hasina vows again on polls as per constitution*

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has yet again said the next general election would be held as per the constitutional provisions.

"Everything will take place according to the constitution. I will not budge an inch on this," she told a press conference at the Gono Bhaban yesterday.

Rejecting the opposition's demand for the restoration of the caretaker government system, the prime minister said, "I want to assure the people that the parliamentary elections will be held in time as per the constitution."

Asked if parliament would be dissolved before the election as she had earlier announced and if her cabinet would have any limitation on its functions during election time, she suggested this correspondent read the constitution.

## Restricted, she killed parents

**SHAHEEN MOLLAH**

Oishee decided to kill her parents after they had taken away her mobile phone on July 31.

They also kept her confined to house as they came to know about her bad company and drug use.

The 17-year-old girl said all this to detectives.

Around 4:00pm on Friday, the decomposing bodies of Special Branch police inspector Mahfuzur Rahman and his wife Swapna Rahman were



A recent photo shows farmers process jute in a pond, dried up amid scanty rain, at Monirampur upazila in Jessore. Scientists are working on different varieties of jute tolerant to natural adversities like draught or lack of rain. PHOTO: STAR

## Four state banks to get Tk 5,000cr

**REJAUL KARIM BYRON**

The government is set to inject Tk 5,000 crore into four state-owned commercial banks to make up for the significant capital shortfall that has alarmed both the World Bank and IMF.

The decision was conveyed to the banks yesterday at a meeting chaired by Finance Minister AMA Muhith and attended by the chairmen and managing directors of state banks, high officials of Bangladesh Bank (BB) and finance ministry's banking division.

"There is already a provision in this year's budget for it," Muhith told the reporters after the meeting.

On June 30, the capital shortfall of Sonali, Janata, Agrani and Rupali banks stood at Tk 9,062 crore, an increase of 357 percent from December 31, 2012, according to statistics from the central bank.

A jump in classified loans accounts for the astonishing rise, which has prompted calls for restructuring of the four banks from both the multilateral lenders.

The capital shortfall in the banks had also prompted the International Monetary Fund to impose a condition: the government will have to recapitalize the banks to help them meet the deficits by the end of the current fiscal year.

Muhith said the banks were directed to meet their remaining shortfall of Tk 4,062 crore by recovering their classified loans.

Also at the meeting, BB Governor Atiur Rahman presented the results of the diagnostic tests conducted last month. The four state banks were found to have performed poorly in terms of asset quality, liquidity management and internal audit and control, in the tests.

Copies of the recently amended Banking Companies Act, which empowers the BB to fire MDs if irregularities were detected at their banks, were distributed among the

CAPITAL DEFICIT AT STATE BANKS	
Sonali: Tk	4,544cr
Janata: Tk	1,623cr
Agrani: Tk	2,481cr
Rupali: Tk	415cr
BASIC: Tk	183cr

## PM to head interim govt

*ALWC meeting told; AL leaders to visit dists to pick JS polls candidates*

**HASAN JAHIID TUSHER**

The highest policy-making body of the ruling Awami League last night took the stance that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will head the interim government that will oversee the next parliamentary elections.

In no circumstances, the AL will move away from this stance, observed party leaders at a meeting of the Awami League Central Working

## Rejection to deepen crisis

*Fakhrul reacts to PM's comments on demand for caretaker govt*

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The prime minister's remark that the next parliamentary elections would be held in line with the constitution had deepened the country's ongoing political crisis, said BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday.

He said this in a formal reaction to the PM's speech at a press conference called to unveil the success in decoding the genome of local jute species. PM

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