



# The Daily Star

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**WITH TODAY'S ISSUE**  
**GREEN**  
 style

**IMAGES AND ICONS**

Memorial programme along with film show pays tribute to Tareque Masud, Mishuk Munier

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**HELPFUL HACKER**

Palestinian hacks Facebook boss Zuckerberg's page to expose bug

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## CHANGES TO INFO TECHNOLOGY LAW Ominous draft cleared by govt

**Arrest without warrant** **14-year jail**  
**Non-bailable**

HASAN JAHID TUSHER and ABDULLAH MAMUN

The cabinet yesterday approved the draft of the ICT (Amendment) Ordinance-2013 proposing to empower law enforcers to arrest any person without warrant and increase the highest punishment to 14 years. In the original Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act-2006, enacted by the BNP-Jamaat government, the maximum punishment was 10 years' jail term and a fine of Tk 1 crore. And police had to seek permission from the authorities concerned to file a case and arrest any person involved in crimes covered under the law. The amendments, okayed in a regular cabinet meeting, envisage a minimum jail term of seven years. In the original act, termed by many a repressive law, offences were bailable. Now they have been made non-bailable, meaning the bail is at the judge's discretion. "Some crimes were non-cognisable under the existing act," Cabinet Secretary M Musharraf Hossain told reporters after the meeting at the Bangladesh Secretariat. "But the new act will make those cognisable. [That means] the police will be able to arrest a suspect without issuing of warrant [by the court]. But they will have to produce the arrested person before the court within 24 hours." He said the cabinet had asked the ICT ministry to bring further changes

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Internationally famed geneticist Maqsudul Alam, second from left, is flanked by other scientists of jute genome project at the Bangladesh Jute Research Institute yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Salute to you all

Govt invests, scientists deliver in jute genome decoding feat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Completion of genome mappings of both tossa and deshi (white) genera of jute and that of the plant's enemy -- a deadly fungus -- by Bangladeshi geneticists in consecutive three years is a great feat in itself. However, that's only a part of a huge scientific success story of Bangladesh, and its band of famed and young enthusiast scientists. The other parts of the success story are building of a state-of-the-art genomics research facility in the country and development of capacity in dealing with intellectual property rights (IPR) and patent laws.

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## PM on Star Our comments

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Sunday made a pointed attack on The Daily Star, singling out the paper saying that the newspaper 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]," is what she exactly said at a crowded press conference at her official residence Gono Bhaban. We at The Daily Star take her comments very seriously because it comes from no other than a person holding the highest seat of the government. We want to state emphatically that to the best of our ability The Daily Star practises the highest level of ethical journalism where distortion of facts and statements has no place. And if and whenever any unintentional distortion happens, we quickly correct ourselves without any prejudice, publishing it as close to the original

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## You'd better budge

*Khaleda slams PM's remark on polls-time govt*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has urged the Awami League-led government to restore the caretaker government system at the upcoming parliamentary session in order to avoid people's wrath. Speaking at a rally at Suhrawardy Udyan in the capital, she said that if voted to power at the next polls, her party would "introduce a new trend in running the government and practise politics of unity, not division". Khaleda, the leader of the opposition, slammed Hasina over her Sunday remark that she would not budge an inch from the current constitutional provision for holding the next parliamentary polls. "You said you will not move even by a hair's breadth. But such a wind will rise through people's movement that your hair will be blown away. You

will not be able to control the situation and your existence will be at stake," she said, referring to Hasina's comment. She called upon the government to create a level-playing field by restoring the provision for a non-partisan polls-time government to test its popularity. "Let's see who gets more votes. What are you afraid of? Why are you unwilling to restore the caretaker government system?" she questioned. The BNP chief also asked her party leaders and supporters to prepare for launching an agitation against the government. Swechchhasebak Dal, the volunteers' wing of the BNP, organised yesterday's rally to mark its 33rd founding anniversary. Khaleda launched a blistering attack on the AL-led government and portrayed a gloomy picture of the country during its tenure.

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## LAND BOUNDARY AGREEMENT Delhi fails again to place bill

*Trinamool, AGP block move in Rajya Sabha*

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Indian government's efforts to place a constitution amendment bill in Rajya Sabha to ratify the land boundary agreement (LBA) with Bangladesh failed yesterday, with lawmakers of Trinamool Congress and Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) scuttling the move. Backed by Trinamool members, Birendra Prasad Baishya of AGP thronged the well of the House and opposed the bill as soon as External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid rose to introduce it in the upper house of

Indian parliament. The Constitution (119th Amendment) Bill, 2013, is intended to give effect to an exchange of enclaves adversely held by India and Bangladesh. Due to the uproar, Khurshid could not move the bill and Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman PJ Kurien adjourned the House for 10 minutes at 2:00pm. After the House reassembled, Kurien said the bill would be taken up some time later and wanted to discuss other issues listed by the Rajya Sabha.

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BNP chief Khaleda Zia speaking at a rally at Suhrawardy Udyan in the capital marking the 33rd founding anniversary of Jatiyatabadi Swechchhasebak Dal yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Diplomats not convinced

*Dipu Moni justifies arrest of Odhikar secretary*

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday briefed foreign diplomats based in Dhaka, informing them the next general election would be held as per constitutional provisions. Dipu Moni also ruled out any possibility of amending the constitution to restore the caretaker government system. The government would not budge an inch on the constitutional provision, she said. Responding to a query from an influential country's high commissioner as to whether there would be any flexibility on a polls-time government, Dipu Moni answered in the negative. But she added the door was still open for talks with regard to the "composition of the interim government". The foreign minister also briefed the diplomats on the arrest of Odhikar Secretary Adilur Rahman Khan and also about the garment sector.

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## COP, WIFE MURDER Police now look for instigators

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives have been investigating whether anyone instigated the murder of Special Branch inspector Mahfuzur Rahman and his wife Swapna Rahman or helped their daughter Oishee Rahman kill them at their Chamelibagh residence in the capital. "We found that Oishee not only planned the murder but also directly took part in it. However, we are not yet certain about the exact number of murderers or the murder motive," Joint Commissioner of Police Monirul Islam told

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## AGRANI BANK Tk 2,885cr stuck in anomalies

*Finds CAG inspection*

MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

Agrani Bank is mired in losses of Tk 2,885 crore for its reckless lending practices, auditors found recently. The inspection, conducted by the Office of Comptroller and Auditor General (OCAG) at the state-run bank's head office from May to July, found that some of the funds might never be recouped. The bank has a hole of Tk 416.85 crore in its books from its failure to recover the amount it invested in "buyback shares" of Unique Hotel and

**MAJOR IRREGULARITIES**

Clients	Amount
Unique Hotel, BEXTEX, GMG Airlines	Tk 416.85 cr
Khaleque and Sons	Tk 206.20 cr
Nur Jahan Super Oil	Tk 133.60 cr
Dhaka Dyeing and Manufacturing Company Ltd	Tk 74.62 cr

Resort Ltd, BEXTEX Ltd and GMG Airlines in 2010. Agrani parted with Tk 300 crore at the time of

purchase and the companies were supposed to repurchase the shares after one year at 20 percent interest. The transaction, however, never took place, said the audit report. The shares' value as of December 31 last year stood at Tk 271.34 crore. So far, the three companies paid only Tk 7.29 crore of the interest amounts of Tk 124.14 crore, meaning a total of Tk 416.85 crore is pending, the report said. Moreover, the bank could not adjust the outstanding amount by selling in the stockmarket, as

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## FELANI MURDER TRIAL Father, uncle testify at Indian court

STAR REPORT

The father of the teenaged Bangladeshi girl Felani Khatun, who was shot dead by Indian Border Security Force in 2011, testified at the murder trial in an Indian court yesterday. A special court, set up by the BSF at Cooch Behar district in West Bengal, began recording his testimony around 10:00am. The proceedings of the court, headed by BSF IG SK Srivastava, were not open to the media. Besides Felani's father Noor Islam,

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