



EID TICKETS

Advance bus tickets will be available from July 14, train tickets from July 20

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AIRLINE BUSINESS

Two new operators to join domestic aviation sector

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THE 'CRAZY DIAMOND'

Read a tribute to Syd Barrett by Fahmim Ferdous

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WAR TRIAL OF ORGANISATION Govt moves to amend law

Draft act proposes ban if found guilty; amendment to facilitate trial of Jamaat

ASHUTOSH SARKAR and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The government is set to incorporate in the war crimes act specific provisions for punishment for organisations, which will pave the way for the trial of the Jamaat-e-Islami for its alleged war crimes in 1971.

The law ministry has completed a draft for bringing about amendments to the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act-1973 and will send it to the cabinet for its approval anytime soon.

The lack of clear-cut provisions for punishing any organisation in the ICT Act is considered a major obstacle to trying the Jamaat for its role during the country's Liberation War.

Under the draft law, the war crimes tribunal will have powers to ban any organisation and prohibit its activities in any name or any form or in disguise, if convicted of war crimes, said sources having knowledge of the draft.

Leaders and activists of the guilty organisation, who had direct involvement in the commission of offences and have so far escaped trial, will also face conviction.

"A draft on the amendment of the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act has already been readied... I can decide in a week as to when the draft will be placed before the cabinet," Law Minister Anisul Huq told The Daily Star on Friday.

He, however, declined to disclose the nature of punishment proposed in the draft.

Once approved by the cabinet, the draft will be placed in parliament for passage.

But that will take around two months, as parliament is in recess now. The House session concluded on July 3 and is constitutionally bound to sit within two months.

On July 15 last year, the International Crimes Tribunal-1

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Two commercial buildings of Tongi kitchen market stand within the foreshore of the river Turag. The Gazipur district administration and the BIWTA jointly conducted a drive on May 15 to reclaim the foreshore for a proposed walkway. Around 60 makeshift structures were knocked down by the authorities but the two buildings, built by the market's mosque authorities, remained unscathed. BIWTA officials and the district administration earlier bent the foreshore alignment and set up boundary pillars in the river to save the buildings.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

This is war!

AGENCIES, Rio De Janeiro

Crazy as it may be, the 2014 World Cup is nearing its end, and a pair of semifinal match-ups will decide who advances to the final in Brazil.

Only four national teams remain vying for the world championship trophy, and after an

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German to the core ... Marcel Klingbiel, a taxi driver dressed in the tri-colour, poses in front of his decorated car in Ramstein near Kaiserslautern on Sunday.

PHOTO: REUTERS



DCs press for more powers

3-day conference begins tomorrow

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

A three-day annual conference of the deputy commissioners begins tomorrow in Dhaka with many DCs seeking power to remove elected Union Parishad chairmen and members found involved in illegal and anti-people activities.

As the local government and rural development ministry now has that authority, the UP representatives often ignore the local administration, allege the DCs.

In a written proposal to the Cabinet Division, the DCs of Pabna, Sirajganj, Mymensingh, Gazipur, Jamalpur and Rajbari have called for empowering the divisional commissioners

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SCAM-HIT BASIC BANK

Board dissolved

Bank gets new chairman, 4 directors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday dissolved the infamous board of BASIC Bank over its role in financial irregularities that cost the state-run lender Tk 4,500 crore in the last four years.

The seven-member board of BASIC (Bangladesh Small Industries and Commerce) Bank has been dismissed "on the basis of the investigation report of the central bank" on the scams in the bank, the Banking and Financial Institution Division of the finance ministry said in a circular.

This is the second time the board of a state-run bank was fired for financial anomalies in a span of less than two years. In December 2012, the board of Sonali Bank was reconstituted following the Hall-Mark scam.

Banking Division Secretary M Aslam Alam said the division had conducted functional audit in BASIC bank's Gulshan, Shantinagar and Dilkusha branches.

"On the basis of the audit, the central bank fired the managing director of the bank on May 29 this year, and also recommended dismissing the entire board," he told The Daily Star.

"We have dissolved the board in line with the Banking Companies Act, the central bank report and the audit."

The division yesterday appointed Alauddin A Majid, chairman of state-controlled Krishi Bank, as the new chairman of BASIC Bank. He has been relieved of his current responsibility with immediate effect.

It also accepted the resignation letter sent by Sheikh Abdul Hye Bacchu, the

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PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES Ministry, UGC trash TIB report on anomalies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The education ministry, University Grants Commission and private universities yesterday rejected a research report of Transparency International Bangladesh, which cited their engagement in anomalies in the operation of private universities.

At a meeting, they unanimously termed the report baseless and said TIB had prepared the report to harm the "evolving" higher education sector in the country.

Entrepreneurs, chairmen and members of boards of trustees, and vice-chancellors of different private universities attended the meeting convened by the ministry in the wake of the TIB report launched on June 30.

"We all have come up with an opinion that the report is condemnable and unacceptable," Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid told reporters after the meeting at his ministry's conference room.

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