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WITH TODAY'S ISSUE



TOUR OF 'JYOTI SANGHITA'

Play on Jagatjoyoti Das and his guerrilla group "Das Party" to travel three districts

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REFUGEE TEACHER'S TALE

Palestinian, who grew up in refugee camp, wins \$1m Global Teacher Prize

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Atiur faces heat

Muhith hints at changes in BB management; gov't decides to form 4-member body to probe \$101m heist from BB account with New York Fed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bank Governor Atiur Rahman yesterday faced criticism from government high-ups and a number of ruling party leaders for "incompetent handling" of the cyber theft.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith was furious, and hinted that the top management of the BB may see changes as the fallout of the theft of \$101 million from the BB account with the New York Federal Reserve Bank.

"We are going to make a major decision," he told reporters at the secretariat after the weekly cabinet meeting yesterday.

Asked what the major decision would be, Muhith said, "Definitely, there will be a major change."

The minister made the comment in response to a query whether the government would take any action against the BB.

The BB governor has been criticised particularly for keeping the government in the dark about the matter for more than a month.

Questions were raised over Atiur's



decision to travel to New Delhi to attend an event of the International Monetary Fund at a time when mysteries around the cyber theft were unfolding.

Yesterday, Muhith told reporters that a decision about the "major change" would be made public by 4:00pm after a meeting with Atiur.

When the minister made the comment, Atiur was on his way back to Dhaka from New Delhi. The BB governor went to the Indian capital on March 10 to attend a three-day meeting of the IMF.

Atiur was supposed to meet Muhith immediately after his return home. But the meeting didn't take place as the BB chief was "tired", said a BB official seeking anonymity.

The governor would meet the finance minister today, and this was communicated to the minister, said the official.

In the afternoon, Shahedur Rahman, senior public relations officer of the finance ministry, told reporters that the finance minister would hold a press conference at 11:00am today, and brief the media about

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This wooden bridge over the Pyain River in Jaflong of Sylhet has been built illegally by a section of stone traders to facilitate the movement of stone-carrying trucks. It blocks the natural flow of the once pristine river, which has already lost much of its beauty to rampant stone extraction. The photo was taken on Sunday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Cyber heist irks PM

PARITHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed disappointment and concern over the Bangladesh Bank heist, said sources.

She talked about the matter with her colleagues at the weekly cabinet meeting at the secretariat.

At the meeting, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said it must be found out why he was kept in the dark for over a month about the theft of \$101 million from the central bank's account with the New York Federal Reserve Bank, a minister told The Daily Star on condition of anonymity.

Muhith said he wondered how the Bangladesh Bank didn't bother informing him about such a serious incident.

Earlier on Sunday, the theft of BB's reserve money came up at the Awami League Parliamentary Board's meeting at the

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PM urges UK for cargo ban review

Writes to Cameron; two British companies short-listed for airport security job; civil aviation secretary removed

REZAUL KARIM and SHARIFUL ISLAM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday wrote back to her British counterpart David Cameron and requested a review of the ban on direct air cargo from Dhaka to London.

In reply to Cameron's March 8 letter to her, Hasina also wished to work together with the British government on meeting all the global security requirements of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

In his letter, the UK PM called for a visible improvement of airport security by March 31 to avoid further measures like banning of direct passenger Biman flights from Dhaka to London.

Contacted over the phone, a diplomat at



the Bangladesh High Commission in London around 9:00pm (Bangladesh time) confirmed that Hasina's letter has reached Cameron.

Earlier, diplomatic sources in Dhaka and London said Bangladesh government had instructed its high commission to ensure that the letter reaches the British Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street, in the shortest possible time.

Sources at the Prime Minister's Office and foreign ministry in Dhaka said Hasina signed the letter to Cameron yesterday morning and sent it to him immediately through the Bangladesh mission in London.

The prime minister in the letter expressed hope that the UK government would

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CONTEMPT RULE

Qamrul offers apology to SC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Food Minister Qamrul Islam yesterday offered an unconditional apology to the Supreme Court for his remarks over the war crimes case against Jamaat-e-Islami leader Mir Quasem Ali.

Filing an application with the SC in response to a contempt rule in this regard, he urged the court to reschedule the date of hearing the rule for any day after March 16 as he is abroad now, Qamrul's lawyer Mamun Mahub told The Daily Star.

Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Huq will appear before the apex court today to apologise for his comments, according to his lawyer Abdul Baset Majumder.

Mozammel will submit a reply to the contempt rule today, he added.

The two ministers on March 5, 6 criticised Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha



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BIOMETRIC SIM REGISTRATION

HC questions legality

Issues rule on authorities amid public fear of misuse of their personal data

ASHUTOSH SARKAR and MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM

The High Court yesterday questioned the legality of the collection of fingerprints of mobile subscribers for SIM registration, in the wake of widespread criticism of the move and public fear of possible misuse of such personal data.

The court issued a rule on the authorities and asked them to explain in a week as to why the move should not be declared unlawful. The bench of Justice Syed Muhammad Dastagir Husain and Justice AKM Shahidul Huq fixed March 24 for further hearing.

The biometric registration began on December 16 last year after BTRC, the telecom regulator, issued an order in November. The government plans to complete the process by the end of next month, saying that the move would prevent crime and help catch miscreants.

But rights activists and the public in general are very wary that the fingerprints might fall into wrong hands and then misused because the data is being collected by mobile operators, not by the government.

Legal experts see this as privacy violation. The government made the biometric registration process mandatory to keep the SIM cards active, but did little to dispel the fear, partly genuine and partly fueled by social media.

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SUPER 10 BEGINS TODAY

SPORTS REPORTER



The ICC World Twenty20 2016 Super 10 stage will begin today when India take on New Zealand in the opening Group 2 encounter at the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium in Nagpur. The match will begin at 8.00PM BST.

On Wednesday, Bangladesh will begin their campaign in the Super 10 against Pakistan at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata.

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Mustafizur best debutant of 2015

Votes ESPNcricinfo

SPORTS REPORTER

Three years ago Mustafizur Rahman, like any other aspiring fast bowler, arrived in Dhaka and constantly hunted for opportunities to play professional cricket. He approached coaches and clubs until he was noticed.

Three years on and he has been voted the debutant of the year 2015 by ESPNcricinfo, the world's most sought-after cricketing website.

The transitions in the left-hander's career have been quick. With every match he played, his responsibility grew and the beauty about it all was that he managed to shoulder that responsibility.

From being a mere youngster thrown into the side against the mighty Pakistanis in 2015, he has gone on to become the go-to bowler in the national

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Notice for IPO Lottery Conduction Program

The Board of Directors, Management & Staff of **Bangladesh National Insurance Company Limited** express their profound gratitude to the Almighty and to the honorable investors for successful completion of subscription of the IPO of the Company. The Company takes great pleasure to announce that the application for shares has been oversubscribed for more than Tk 707 crore by **around 40 times** against Public Offering of **Taka 17.70 crore**. The Company also gratefully acknowledges the co-operation and services rendered by Bangladesh Bank, Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC), Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms, Dhaka Stock Exchange Limited (DSE), Chittagong Stock Exchange Limited (CSE), CDBL, Underwriters, all Stockbrokers, Insurance Development & Regulatory Authority (IDRA), Manager to the Issues & Post Issue Manager. The Company cordially invites all the honorable investors to attend the lottery conduction program for allotment of shares on **March 20, 2016, Sunday, at 03.00 P.M The Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB), Ramna, Dhaka.**

Company Secretary



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