

WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

STAR WEEKEND

HUMANS FOR SALE

Human trafficking in Bangladesh
The hidden crime for the world



'READY TO NUKE CHINA'

US Pacific Fleet commander says he would launch nuclear strike on China if Trump orders

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THE DEAL DONE?

PSG reportedly agree terms with Neymar

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No to partisan prosecution

Govt decides in principle to introduce permanent prosecution service with professional lawyers

SHAKHAWAT LITON and PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The government has decided in principle to launch a permanent prosecution service with professional lawyers, by abolishing the long-standing practice of appointing partisan people as public prosecutors.

"An independent prosecution service will be introduced in phases. We are considering empowering the Judicial Service Commission to make the appointments," law Minister Anisul Huq told journalists after emerging from a session of the DC conference at the Cabinet Division yesterday.

The government is now assessing the cost as well as the size of the manpower needed, law Secretary ASSM Zahirul Haque Dulal told The Daily Star when contacted.

At present, there are some 4,000 public prosecutors as well as additional and assistant prosecutors and government pleaders, according to the law ministry.

In case of a crime, it is the responsibility of the state to punish the offender, which depends largely on the performance of the public prosecutors who represent the state in lower courts. But because of their poor performance, only 25 to 30 percent cases see conviction, legal experts say.

On the other hand, government pleaders pursue civil cases before lower courts across the country.

Whenever a political party forms the government, all prosecutors and pleaders appointed by the previous administration are replaced by a new group.

In the appointments, loyalty to the ruling party rather than efficiency gets priority.

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The recent rains have resulted in many roads around the city falling into a state of utter disrepair. This picture, taken in Agargaon Link road, shows the poor condition of the road following the downpours. Passengers are seen here pushing vehicles stuck in the potholes arising from the damage.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Social Business Day conference cancelled

Police deny Yunus Centre permission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An international conference around the "7th Social Business Day 2017" to be organised by Yunus Centre today was cancelled yesterday, as police said they would not be able to provide security for the event.

About 200 participants from abroad had already arrived in the country to take part in the conference, which was to take place at the newly built Samajik Convention Centre in Savar, said a statement from Yunus Centre.

"We regret to inform you that we are cancelling the conference around the Social Business Day 2017, scheduled to be held on July 28-29, 2017, due to unavoidable circumstances," read the statement.

The statement came hours after

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ROW OVER IRREGULAR MIGRANTS Bangladesh likely to face EU visa curbs

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

When the country is facing extreme difficulties in shipping goods to the European Union due to a ban on direct cargo flights, Bangladesh may face a fresh crisis of visa restriction for its nationals because of its delay in bringing back the Bangladeshis who are ineligible for asylum in Europe.

Diplomatic sources said the EU, the 28-nation European bloc, has already decided to restrict visas for foreign countries that refuse or are reluctant to take back their nationals who reached European shores across the Mediterranean since 2014.

Some countries, including Bangladesh and Nigeria, are often reluctant to readmit their citizens and the EU has recently doubled down on efforts to expedite such returns, said diplomats of EU countries in Dhaka.

The issue of visa restriction further worried Dhaka after the European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker on Tuesday threatened to "limit visas" to Europe for travellers from Bangladesh if there was no action by Dhaka on irregular migrants.

In a letter to Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni on July 25, Juncker also promised to "pressure Bangladesh" to take back its migrants, since the "vast majority of them" have no right of asylum or international protection in Europe.

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LOWER COURT JUDGES Govt submits draft rules to chief justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday submitted the draft of the rules determining the discipline and code of conduct for the lower court judges to Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha.

He handed over the draft to the chief justice after meeting him at his Supreme Court office in the afternoon.

"I have submitted the draft of finalised rules to him [chief justice]. Now, he will examine the rules. If he consents to the rules after scrutinising, it [rules] will be sent to the president for approval for issuing a

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SECOND SUBMARINE CABLE Disruption to inland link delays launch

MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM

Bangladesh is being deprived of the benefits of its second undersea cable connection, established at a cost of Tk 660 crore, because of the authority's failure to establish an uninterrupted inland link.

The country got connected to the submarine cable system called South East Asia-Middle East-Western Europe 5 (SEA-ME-WE 5) at the landing station in Kuakata on February 21.

The government declared its target to inaugurate the connection by mid-March. But the link between the landing station and the capital could not be set up within the stipulated time.

Another programme was scheduled for the launch of the cable operation this month, but it has been cancelled because of the disruption to the inland link.

A 19-member consortium of 16 nations built the cable across Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Europe.

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TOP!
QUOTE

"There was no culture of corruption in Bangladesh in the past. Once it used to take place in secret ... it was a matter of shame. But now it happens openly."

FINANCE MINISTER
AMA MUHITH
AFTER INAUGURATING ACC HOTLINE SERVICE IN THE CAPITAL



The building of Saheber Char Government Primary School is being devoured by the Brahmaputra river in Hossainpur upazila of Kishoreganj. River erosion seems to be on the rise alarmingly. Story on page 17.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



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Too much rain clogged city's storm sewers

Wasa on Wednesday's waterlogging

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has not yet decided which authority will implement the storm drainage master plan, approved in 2014 for tackling flooding on city streets caused by rain.

Dhaka streets suffer deluge every time there is moderate rain, mainly because of inadequate drainage system managed by seven different authorities who have little coordination among themselves, say city planners. The authorities include the two city corporations, Water Development Board and Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk).

However, the master plan proposes to entrust a single authority with the job, Taqsem A Khan, managing director of Dhaka Wasa, said at a press conference yesterday. "The master plan approved in 2014 is yet to be executed properly."

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BRITISH COUNCIL PRESENTS...

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