



## Section 57 in new garb

*Draft of Digital Security Act finalised keeping provisions similar to ICT act's*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid calls for the repeal of section 57 of the Information and Communication Technology Act, the government has decided to revoke the controversial section that is prone to misuse.

However, sources involved in the process said the contents of section 57 have been incorporated in the proposed Digital Security Act 2017 with some modifications.

Section 57 and other controversial provisions of the ICT act will be removed, as the draft of the Digital Security Act has been finalised, Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu told reporters after an inter-ministerial meeting on the draft act at the law ministry yesterday.

The draft, to be sent to the cabinet for approval, will contain proposals for abolishing sections 54, 55, 56, 57 and 66 of the ICT act, he said.

According to section 57, if anyone deliberately publishes or transmits any false and obscene material on a website or in any electronic form, or causes deterioration in law and order or prejudices the state's image or hurts religious beliefs or instigates anyone against any person or organisation, such activity will be regarded as an offence.

The offender will face a maximum punishment of 14 years' imprisonment, says the section.

These offences have been included in various sections of the proposed

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



Nuns making motifs on the premises of Holy Rosary Church in the capital's Tejgaon last night. Pope Francis is scheduled to visit the church on Saturday. Different parts of the capital have been decorated on the occasion of the papal visit.



Papal visit a celebration of harmony  
*Bangladesh ready to welcome Pope today*

PORIMOL PALMA

Pope Francis' visit to Dhaka begins today. It will be a celebration of Bangladesh's tradition of harmonious living between people of various faiths and ethnicity, Catholic Church officials said.

It's also an appreciation of the church's contribution to the country's socio-economic spheres, especially in education and healthcare, they said.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Keep up the pressure on Myanmar

*PM asks int'l community over Rohingya return*

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday reiterated her call to the international community, including the UN, to maintain the pressure on the Myanmar government to take back its nationals from Bangladesh.

She made the call when UN Under Secretary Fekitamoeloa Katoa Utoikamanu met her at her office.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim said the premier mentioned about the sufferings of the people in Cox's Bazar due to

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



## Now BIFC faces liquidity crunch

*The non-bank financial institution fails to return Rupali Bank's Tk 32 crore*

AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

After Farmers Bank, a non-bank financial institution has failed to pay a depositor's money, a development that erodes depositors' confidence.

Bangladesh Industrial Finance Company (BIFC) failed to pay back Tk 31.73 crore of state-owned Rupali Bank due to its liquidity crunch.

Rupali Bank lodged a complaint with the Bangladesh Bank on November 22 where it said the BIFC did not pay back the money, which was a term deposit and had matured in October.

According to Rupali Bank, the bank had deposited Tk 50 crore, of which Tk 30 crore matured last month. The bank sent a number of letters to the trouble-hit BIFC for the Tk 31.73 crore, with interest, but failed to make the BIFC pay.

The BIFC even did not respond to Rupali Bank's queries, a letter mentioned.

Md Ataur Rahman Prodhan, managing director of Rupali Bank, told The Daily Star yesterday, "We have lodged a complaint with the central bank to help us recover the fund. We are also thinking of legal action against BIFC."

Asked why the BIFC failed to pay, Managing Director MM Mostafa Bilal of the BIFC refused to comment.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

FARMERS BANK  
It now has 3 months to sort itself out

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bank yesterday gave the cash-strapped Farmers Bank a breathing space of three months to address its current crisis.

It, however, asked the commercial bank to resolve all the urgent issues in a week.

The central bank came up with these decisions during a meeting with the members of the restructured board of the troubled bank at the BB headquarters in the capital.

"The central bank has asked us [the directors] to inject fresh funds into the bank," Mohd Athar Uddin, a director of Farmers Bank, said while briefing

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

SIRAJGANJ LAW STUDENT RUPA

## 5 face trial for rape, murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A Tangail court yesterday framed charges against five transport workers in the case filed for gang raping and killing law student Rupa Khatun in a running bus on August 25.

District and Sessions Judge Rabiul Hasan, who worked as the acting judge of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal yesterday, also set January 3 for hearing testimonies from the witnesses, said AKM Shamimul Akter, special public prosecutor of the tribunal.

On October 15, Sub-Inspector Kaiyum Khan Siddique, investigation officer of the case and the then in-charge of Aronkhola Police Outpost in Madhupur, submitted a charge sheet to the Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court in Tangail against the five accused.

Thirty-two people, including police, doctors and government officials, were made witnesses in the charge sheet. The bus and mobile phone, purse, spectacles and bloodstained

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



LOWER COURT  
Govt finalises disciplinary rules for judges

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The law ministry has finalised the disciplinary rules for lower court judges in line with article 116 of the constitution, which allows the president to control their postings, promotions and leaves in consultation with the Supreme Court.

Article 116, in its current form, says, "The control (including the power of posting, promotion and grant of leave) and discipline of persons employed in the judicial service and magistrates exercising judicial functions shall vest in the President and shall be exercised by him in consultation with the Supreme Court."

The rules would be sent

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

## Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant

**Shah Cement** is proud to be the chosen brand for foundation work of the first Nuclear Reactor



SHAH CEMENT

*Born to Build*