

**Share scam cases**  
Three revision  
petitions sent  
to HC for  
quashment

By Court Correspondent  
The District and Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka yesterday sent the three revision petitions, filed by five top executives of three companies accused in the share market scam cases, to the High Court for quashment of the proceedings saying that the charges were brought against the accused improperly.

The revision petitions were filed by Sohel F Rahman and Salman F Rahman, AB Siddiqu Rahman and DH Khan of Beximco and Shine Fukur Holdings and Shamsuddoha of Doha Securities, all accused in the share market scam cases.

District and Sessions Judge Kazi Golam Rasul forwarded the petitions to the High Court Division with recommendations for quashing the cases filed by Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

The revision petitions were filed after Abdur Rashid Khan, Executive Director of SEC.

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**Barracks for the  
homeless to be  
built in coastal  
areas**

A high-level meeting here yesterday decided to construct barrack — like houses for landless and homeless people on khas land in the coastal areas, flood-prone areas and the areas affected by river erosion, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will supervise this programme to be implemented in phases, official sources said.

The LGRD and Cooperatives Ministry and Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries

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**BNP meets today  
to decide on  
by-election**

By Staff Correspondent  
The standing committee of the BNP is scheduled to meet this evening to discuss, among other issues, the June 30 by-election in the Manikganj-3 Jatiya Sangsad constituency. Ahmed Nazir, press secretary to BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia said last night.

The meeting, to be held with Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair at her Mintor Road official residence, is expected to decide whether the BNP will contest the by-pol or not.

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**Indian HC calls  
on Khaleda**

Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Dev Mukherjee paid a courtesy call on BNP Chairman and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia at her cantonment residence yesterday evening, reports UNB.

They discussed matters relating to mutual interest of the two countries, said a press release.

BNP Secretary General Abdur Mannan Bhuiyan was present on the occasion.

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**Beximco, Islam groups took over Tk 1100 cr thru' 'improper means'**

## EBL urges all banks not to issue fresh loans to 3 defaulting cos

By Inam Ahmed

Eastern Bank Ltd (EBL) has sent a warning letter to all commercial banks of the country saying that three companies — Beximco, Solitech and Patuakhali Foods Ltd — owe to it more than Tk 100 crore in defaulted loans.

The letter dated April 16 this year also requested all banks to stop giving any loans to these companies without prior clearance of the EBL in accordance with the amended Banking Company Act.

It also attached a list of 33 companies affiliated with these three organisations.

Meanwhile, it has been revealed that the two big conglomerates of the country — Beximco Group and Islam Group — have taken more than Tk 1100 crore from the banks mostly through 'improper

means'. EBL, formerly the Bank of Commerce and Credit International (BCCI), also asked a foreign bank to stop its funding of Beximco and a copy of the letter was forwarded to the above Bangladesh Bank.

Beximco is owned by Sohel F Rahman and Salman F Rahman, and Patuakhali Foods is a subsidiary of Beximco. Solitech was also with Beximco Group until they split in 1990. EBL's letter shows Salman Rahman as its director.

When asked, EBL officials said since the issue remains unsettled with EBL, Salman Rahman still has to shoulder the liability of Solitech.

The EBL letter said, "Despite repeated requests, the principal borrowers and the guarantors have failed to pay off the Bank's

dues. Pursuant to the spirit of the Bangladesh Bank Circular letter and the interest of the Bank and its depositor, we would request and advise you not to accommodate any credit facility whatsoever to the above borrowers and the guarantors and the shareholders, directors and the sister concerns and allied organisations where they have direct and indirect interest, without prior written clearance of the Bank. We have already initiated legal proceedings against all the borrowers and guarantors."

It further said, "Your cooperation and assistance is required more particularly in the interest of Bangladesh economy and to safeguard banking institutions from the default loan culture."

Beximco Group has taken

more than Tk 644 crore in loans from several commercial banks, latest Bangladesh Bank figures revealed. Islam Group has taken over Tk 460 cr from different banks. A large portion of this money was gained through improper practices.

On the other hand, Islam Group also took a large amount of money from IFIC and Uttara banks through improper means. According to Bangladesh Bank figures, Islam Group had taken Tk 232 cr from IFIC against 333 accounts and Tk 53 cr from Uttara Bank, which it finally owned after the central bank unearthed the fictitious accounts.

A top Bangladesh Bank official said, "These two Groups alone have put many financial institutions in dire straits."

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## Bank fraud, share manipulation Crime detection unit under home ministry suggested

**Bank fraud, share manipulation**

A high-profile conference on the capital market yesterday suggested a series of recommendations, including a deadline for bourse automation, to revamp the market and overhaul its watchdog body, reports UNB.

The conference, on "Revitalising the Capital Market" suggested formation of a special Economic Crime Detection Unit under the Home Ministry to stop stock market manipulation, and commercial and bank frauds.

The Federation of Bangladeshi Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) and the American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh (AmCham) jointly organised the day-long conference at a city hotel.

Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria inaugurated the discussion, supporting the idea of

forming an Economic Crime Detection Unit which is in place in many countries like the USA, UK and Thailand.

Former finance ministers Saifur Rahman and Abdul Mael Abdul Muhib, Bombay Stock Exchange President MG Damani, Stock Exchange of Thailand vice-president Krairat Sirikanchan, chiefs of Dhaka and Chittagong bourses, economists, brokers and sponsors of the listing companies took part in the conference.

Briefing newsmen, FBCCI President Yussuf Abdullah Harun said the participants elaborately discussed the experiences of the Bombay and Thailand stock exchanges which had similar violent ups and downs like that of Bangladesh.

At the conference, the partic-

ipants discussed the regulatory aspects of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Operations of the stock exchanges and fiscal policies of the government, and came up with a 16-point recommendation to streamline the stock exchanges and the SEC.

Harun said the recommendations would be sent to the Prime Minister or the Finance Minister for necessary action.

The conference unanimously suggested that the SEC, being the regulatory body, should be independent and its staff given salaries in line with the private sector. It should also accommodate professionals like lawyers and accountants.

In pricing the initial public offerings (IPOS), the present system of SEC setting the prices

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## Govt asked to show cause Eviction of Kandupatti inmates illegal: HC

By SC Correspondent

The High Court yesterday issued a *rule nisi* on the government to show cause within seven days as to why it should not be directed to restore the possession of the buildings and houses at Kandupatti to several hundred sex workers who were evicted on May 11 and 12 in the manner not authorised by law.

The division bench of the HC comprising Justice Md Mozammel Haque and Md Hassan Amin upon a writ petition filed by Sultana Nahar, an advocate of the Supreme Court and a human-rights worker, issued the *rule nisi* on the secretaries of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Social Welfare and Women and Children's Affairs, Inspector General of Police, Police Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, Divisional Commissioner of Dhaka and Officer-in-Charge of Kotwali Police Station, Dhaka.

The court also directed the respondents to show cause as to why they should not be directed to set the law into motion against the persons who took law into their own hands in evicting the inmates of Kandupatti.

The HC further directed the respondents to show cause as to why they should not be directed to

hearing of the *rule nisi*.

It was stated in the writ petition that about six hundred sex workers were evicted by an unruly mob led by the local Ward Commissioner Hossain Mollah under the very nose of the law enforcing agencies.

That they were asked under threat by the local goons on

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**Hawkers allowed  
on footpaths  
during holidays**

The Dhaka City Corporation yesterday allowed the hawkers to run their business on the footpaths and open space of some areas in the city during two-day weekly holidays on humanitarian grounds, a DCC press release said, reports BSS.

The areas are: Motijheel, New Market, Balaka Cinema Hall and the green belt area from the High Court gate to Doel Crossing, it added.

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**Malnutrition**  
Bangladesh to incur \$23b production loss in 10 yrs

Bangladesh will incur a colossal loss of 22.9 billion US dollars in next ten years due to production shortages caused by large-scale malnutrition, reports UNB.

Of the total, 11.4 billion dollars loss will be due to lost production from protein-energy malnutrition, 6.8 billion due to lost agricultural production from iron-deficiency, and 4.7 billion from iodine-deficiency.

This was disclosed in a UNICEF report which was presented to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a meeting of the National Nutrition Council yesterday.

The report said Bangladesh would receive close to 7 dollars' benefit in future production for every one dollar in investment in nutrition programme.

It said too many children of Bangladesh are malnourished. The 1992 survey on Child Nutrition found that 92 per cent of all pre-school children had low weight for their age and 90 per cent were stunted by age due to protein-energy malnutrition.

Currently in Bangladesh, about 72 million people nationwide are affected to some degree by iodine-deficiency.

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**Police deployed at DU halls**

Police were deployed at the gates of dormitories of Dhaka University yesterday to check terrorist activities on the campus, reports BSS.

The Provost Standing Committee of the university at a meeting on Saturday, with Vice-Chancellor Prof. A K Azad Chowdhury in the chair, decided to post police at the residential halls to maintain peaceful atmosphere.

The meeting also decided to issue laminated identity cards to the resident students within next 15 days to prevent entry of the outsiders and terrorists into the halls.

As per the decision of the Provost Standing Committee, police have started checking the identity cards of the students at the hall gates in presence of the provost or house tutor.

However, police were not seen at the Salimullah Hall, according to UNB.

Meanwhile, some students of

Trade, industry and investment will be main areas of cooperation of the new economic bloc, comprising 8 major OIC countries, to be launched in Istanbul in mid-June, reports UNB.

The D-8 (Development-8) trade bloc groups Bangladesh, Turkey, Pakistan, Iran, Malaysia, Indonesia, Nigeria and Egypt.

The planned cooperation among them also encompasses banking, rural development, health, agriculture and development of human resources.

Declaration of the inter-continental rim, initiated by Turkey, will be made in a summit of the eight countries June 14-15.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will lead the Bangladesh delegation to the conference.

**D-8 to be launched  
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## Sectt employees defy ban, protest new office timings

By Staff Correspondent

Several hundred government employees defied the ban on demonstrations inside the Secretariat, protesting the new office hours which became effective yesterday.

A large number of employees, including junior officers, deserted their offices in the late afternoon.

Those who stayed were seen either discussing the day's events or enjoying a cat nap. The employees who belong to the personal staff of ministers

**10 more buses  
for Sectt staff**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the concerned authorities to provide 10 more buses for transportation of the employees of the Bangladesh Secretariat, officials sources said, reports BSS.

The additional buses will be pressed into service within the next two days, the sources said.

or top official were staying after 2:30 pm.

At least half of the employees left after a noisy demonstration following a rally where their leaders vowed that they would continue to defy the new office hours which became effective yesterday.

A large number of employees, including junior officers, deserted their offices in the late afternoon.

Employees' leaders also threatened to shut the gates of the Secretariat if the authorities failed to announce the pay commission report for public servants and implement it by June. "We should get the new salary scale with our pay packet on July 1," Shah Alam,