



VOL. VII NO. 183 REGD. NO. DA 781

The Daily Star

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BB move to recover defaulted loans

11 banks asked to serve notices on 19 directors

By Inam Ahmed

The central bank, in a major move to bring discipline in the country's banking sector, yesterday asked 11 banks to serve notices on 19 of their directors to repay defaulted loans to banks other than their own.

According to banking sources, this is the first application of Clause 17 of the amended Bank Company Act by the Bangladesh Bank (BB) to remove directors of banks for having defaulted loans with other banks.

If they fail to repay their loans within two months, they will lose their directorships, as the new Act stipulates.

Earlier on Thursday BB had served notices on more banks to

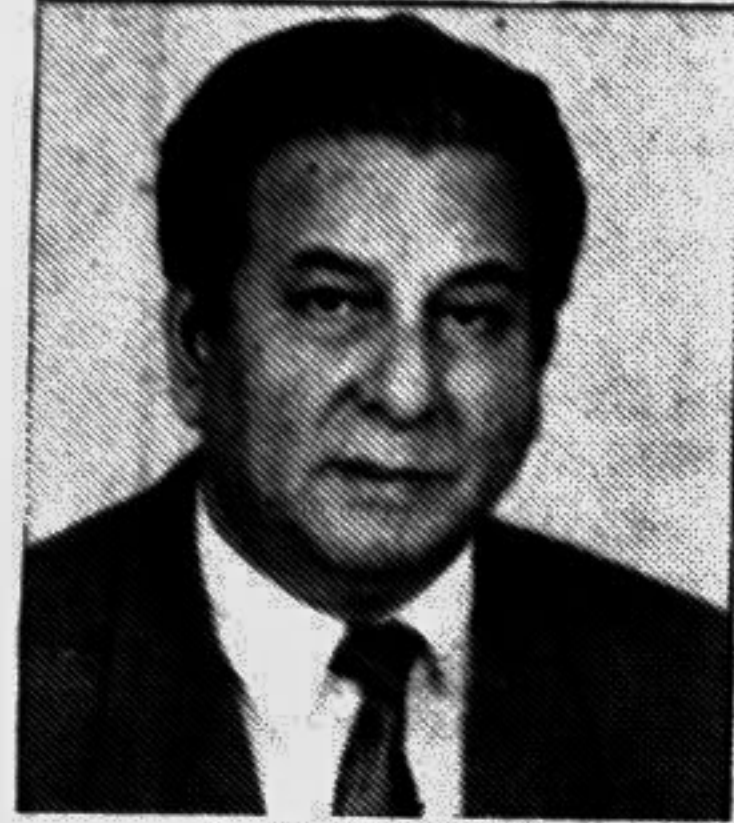
recover defaulted loans of five directors of AB Bank and IFIC Bank. Al-Arafah Bank and BSR.

The directors are: Abdus Salam of NCCBL having defaulted loans with State Bank of India, MA Hashem of City Bank, Shawkat Aziz of UCBL, Jahangir Alam Khan of UCBL, Monwarul Jahangir of UCBL, AFM Aminul Huq of Prime Bank, Afroz Abbas of Dhaka Bank, Dr J H Gazi of Social Investment Bank, Wazdul Islam of Uttara Bank, Azharul Islam of IFIC Bank, Manzurul Islam of IFIC Bank, and Ramzul Siraj of AB Bank — all having defaulted loans with Sonali Bank, Nurul Islam of NCCBL having loans with Dhaka Bank, M A

Quasem of NCCBL having loans with UCBL, Saiful Alam Khan of Al-Arafah Bank having loans with UCBL, Syed Sadullah Ahmed of Prime Bank having loans with South East Bank, Salma Haq of Prime Bank having loans with South East Bank, and AFM Fazole Rabbi of BSR having loans with Sonali Bank.

Meanwhile, the BB has circulated among all commercial banks a list of the directors of all banks in the country. It has also asked each bank to fill in a chart stating whether any director on the list is a defaulter with it. The information has to be sent to the BB every three

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Owners of Beximco Group allegedly threaten BB Governor

The owners of a big business house yesterday allegedly threatened the Governor of Bangladesh Bank of dire consequences for identifying them as loan defaulters, reports UNB.

Competent sources said business tycoons, Sohail F Rahman and Salman F Rahman, owners of Beximco Ltd, went to meet BB Governor Lutfar Rahman Sarkar at his office at about 11:15 am and hurled abuses and threats at him.

The sources said serving of notices by banks to repay their outstanding loans and leaking the notices to some newspapers might have enraged the two industrialist brothers.

The incident happened at about 11:15 am in the presence of Deputy Governor MI Khan, Deputy Governor Dr Sohrab Uddin, Executive Director Abdur Raquib and General Manager Khurshidul Alam.

They reportedly accused the Governor of identifying them as defaulters. They also complained how the bank notices

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HC order to supply Faruk copies of confessional statements

The High Court yesterday directed the District and Sessions Judge, Dhaka to supply uncensored copies of the confessional statements and retractional statements to accused Syed Faruk Rahman in the Bangabandhu murder case.

The discussion bench of the HC comprising Justice Mahmudul Amin Chowdhury and Justice Shah Abu Nayeem Mominur Rahman also fixed August 6 for hearing of the substantive petition of Col (rt) Syed Faruk Rahman.

In this petition Col (rt) Faruk Rahman prayed under Article 110 of Constitution to withdraw the case from the District and Sessions Court, Dhaka and to transfer it to the HC or any other competent court.

It was alleged in the petition that the District and Sessions Judge, Dhaka vide his order on March 12 rejected the prayer for supplying copies of statements recorded under section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Advocate Khan Saifur Rahman moved for the petitioner while Attorney General KS Nabi represented the state.

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PM returns on Aug 6

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is due to return home from the US on August 6 as per her original schedule, sources in the Prime Minister's office said yesterday.

Hasina left the country on July 13 for Hamburg, Germany, to attend a two-day international conference. Later she left for Miami, US, to be with her daughter Putil, blessed with a daughter on July 20.

The Prime Minister will return via London, arriving in Dhaka by a Biman commercial flight on July 6.

Rules of Business—Minister and Secretary

by Mohammad Siddiqueur Rahman Page 4

Business

BGMEA urges EU not to 'harass' member states importing Bangladeshi knitwears

DSE index witnesses 42-point rise Pages 6,7

International

Gujral govt has no right to remain in office: BJP Page 8

Hydrocarbon exploration in 15 blocks

Comilla-B'baria zone draws highest number of proposals

By Sharier Khan

The Comilla-Brahmanbaria region appears to be the most lucrative region for gas and oil exploration as the highest number of foreign companies submitted their proposals for this area in the second round of bidding for hydrocarbon exploration in fifteen blocks.

Some 28 proposals were submitted by 20 foreign companies and one local company, BAPEX, on July 15, roughly outlining an investment of 2 billion US dollars in the next 3 years. BAPEX is a subsidiary of Petrobranga.

There were seven proposals for Block 9 (Comilla-Brahmanbaria), six for Block 10 (Barisal-Bhola) and five for Block 11 (Netrokona).

Of these proposals, the maximum number was submitted by a joint venture of multinationals Shell and Cairn.

The Shell-Cairn joint venture's proposed blocks were: Block 19 (in Bay of Bengal near Hatiya), Blocks 9 and 6 (covering Shariatpur to Brahmanbaria), Block 5 (southwest Sundarbans) and blocks 10 and 7 (covering Chandpur to Barisal).

Among the other companies, Tullow Oil Plc of UK submitted proposals for four blocks — 9, 6, 4 (Jhenidah-Chuadanga) and 11 (Netronaka).

BAPEX submitted proposals with multinational companies Mobil and Petronas Carigali for blocks 9 and 11 and with local

cal and PTI Oil for Block 10. Oil giant Mobil also submitted proposal for Block 10.

Among the 20 foreign participants, Cairn already has two Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) with the government under which they are working in the Bay of Bengal and Chittagong Hill Tracts. Another company, Okland International, has a PSC for exploration in the Bay of Bengal near St Martins Island.

Two other companies — Occidental and UMC of USA which already have PSC, with the government, did not participate in the bidding.

However, Occidental's investment partner Unocal,

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A JCD procession on the Dhaka University campus during the strike yesterday. — Star photo

Road accidents in Ctg, Bogra kill 14

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 27: At least 10 people were killed and 30 others injured in four separate road accidents in and around the city today.

Police said a head-on collision between a passenger bus and a truck on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Bartakia bazar point under Mirsharhat thana at about 2 pm left seven persons including the bus driver dead and 30 others injured. One Haji Abdul Hafiz, 60, was among the dead.

The injured were admitted to the local health complex and Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Police said a seven year old girl died on the spot when a private car ran over her at Muradpur at 3 pm. A rickshaw passenger, Saiful Hasan, 20, died at the same place at noon after being hit from behind by a bus while a tempo passenger, Omar, 27, died at Selimpur under Sitakundia thana after being hit by a speedy truck.

Police seized all vehicles involved in the accidents.

UNB adds: Four people were killed and eight injured as they fell from the rooftop of a night coach on the Dhaka-Rangpur highway near the town early yesterday.

Two of the dead were identified as rickshawpullers Abdul Khaleque, 23, and Abdur Rashid, 20, of Uttarbaladoba in Kurigram district.

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JCD begins strike at DU

By DU Correspondent

The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of BNP, began an indefinite strike at Dhaka University yesterday protesting the 'capture' of Surya Sen Hall by the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL).

All academic and administrative activities on the campus remained suspended. The university authorities earlier postponed all examinations scheduled for yesterday and today.

The BCL captured Surya Sen Hall, a stronghold of JCD, taking Thursday last advantage of infighting in the JCD.

The JCD brought out a procession on the campus in the morning and later held a rally in front of the Aparajay Bangla. The rally was addressed, among others, by JCD president Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anney, general secretary Habib-Un-

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Rule on BB, 2 other banks for refusing to approve loan

The High Court yesterday issued rule upon Bangladesh Bank and two other banks of the show cause within six weeks as to why their letters of refusal to approve loan to Beximco Knitting Limited shall not be declared void as these have violated Articles 27, 31 and 40 of the Constitution, reports BSS.

A division bench of the HC comprising Justice Mohammad Mozammel Huq and Justice Mohammad Hasan Amin issued the rule.

The court also directed the Bangladesh Bank, Eastern Bank Limited and Standard Chartered Bank not to treat the Beximco Group as a defaulter of Eastern Bank Limited relating to Beximco Limited till disposal of various cases pending in different courts or till disposal of this rule, whichever is earlier.

ASF Rahman and Salman F Rahman of Beximco Knitting

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Govt team to visit Rohingya camps tomorrow

From Abdul Monayem Khan COX'S BAZAR, July 27: An inter-ministerial delegation is scheduled to visit the two Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar on Tuesday to see the latest situation there, official sources said today.

Sources in the Refugee and Repatriation Commissioner's office at Cox's Bazar told this correspondent that the delegation comprising one official each from the ministries of Foreign Affairs, Home Affairs and Disaster Management and Relief will come here on a three-day visit.

The delegation will later submit a report to the government on the situation in the camps at Nayapara and Kutupadeng.

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Detention of 4 BNP leaders declared illegal

The High Court yesterday declared the detention of four BNP leaders of Barisal illegal and asked the government to set them at liberty forthwith if not wanted in any other case, reports UNB.

A division bench of the High Court, comprising Justice KM Hasan and Justice MD Awlad Ali, passed the order after hearing four habeas corpus writs.

BNP leaders Mujibur Rahman and Sheikh Mohammad Abdul Malek and JCD leaders Mainul Islam Pulok and Shari-uddin Babu were given detention for 30 days by the District Magistrate's court of Barisal on July 7.

They were arrested by Barisal police during a countywide hartal enforced by the opposition BNP on July 3.

Challenging the detention order, Laily Begum, wife of Mujibur Rahman, filed a habeas corpus writ for her husband

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BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan addressing a protest rally in front of the party central office in the city yesterday. — Star photo

BNP protest rally in city

'Design to erase Zia's name will be resisted'

By Staff Correspondent

BNP leaders have said the party will undo 'all designs' of the government to 'erase' the name of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman from the national history.

Addressing a public rally in the city protesting the alleged move to delete Zia's name from the title of the international airport in Dhaka, they said, late Zia will be remembered for ever for his immense contributions to the restoration of democracy and massive developments in the country.

Chaired by city BNP chief Sadek Hossain Khoka, MP, the rally, held in front of the party's central office at Naya Paltan, was addressed by its Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, MP. Standing Committee members Col. (Retd) Ohi Ahmed, Dr. Khandakar, Mosharraf Ho-

ssain, MP and KM Obaidur Rahman, MP and other central leaders including Khurshid Jahan Haq, MP, Mir Shauqat Ali, Abul Hasnat, Anwar Zahid and Ashraf Hossain.

In his speech Mannan Bhuiyan urged the government to "shun vindictive politics or face dire consequences." He also announced a party programme to hold protest rallies at district and thana headquarters on August 3 to protest the alleged government move to change the name of Zia International Airport.

The BNP Secretary General alleged, "The AL has forcibly occupied the Surya Sen Hall of the Dhaka University, the Baitul Mokarram national mosque, the Eden Girls' University College and then the Zia In-

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'Name of no airport changed'

The government has not changed the name of any airport of the country, an official handout said here yesterday, reports BSS.

The handout said: The attention of the government has been drawn to some proposals and counter-proposals regarding change of names of different airports of Bangladesh centring which a false, misleading and provocative campaign is being carried out from certain quarters.

To remove confusion in public minds, the handout said, it is clarified that no name of any airport of the country has been changed.

Hearing of Yasmin murder case resumes today

From Our Correspondent RANGPUR, July 27: Hearing of the sensational Yasmin rape and murder case will resume tomorrow in the court of district and Sessions Judge, Rangpur.

All nine accused in the case have been facing trial under section 201 (34) of the Penal Code for alleged negligence of duty, concealment of facts, attempt to damage "alamat" and trying to divert the case.

Out of the total of 54 prosecution witnesses, 45 testified so far and rest 9 PWs are expected to be examined from tomorrow.

The nine accused in the case are: Former Dinajpur Police Super Abdul Muttab, former Kotwali thana Officer in Charge Mahtab Hossain, former SI Swapan, former Officer-in-Charge Watch DSB Matur Rahman, former ASI Molnu Haque and Jahangir, former constable Abdu Sattar, former police line driver Amrit Lal and Dinajpur general hospital physical Dr Mohsin.

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One beats his wife, minor son to death in city

By Staff Correspondent

One person beat his wife and minor son to death at Bhanhantek under Cantonment thana in the city yesterday.

According to police, Sharifa Khatun alias Nayantara, 32, and her nine-year old son, Roni, died when Shahadat Hossain, 40, hit them with bricks following an altercation with his wife over drinking liquor. Police said, Shahadat often quarreled with Sharifa as she objected to his drinking.

An employee of Ghalai Cantonment, Shahadat also hit his son with the brick when the boy tried to resist him from assaulting his mother.

Sharifa and Roni were taken to the CMH immediately. Sharifa succumbed to her injuries soon after admission while the boy died at about 6:30

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2 abducted men chopped to death in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent JHENIDAH, July 27: A gang of ten to twelve persons abducted two men from a house at Khoshalpur village under Kalliganj thana last night and later chopped them to death.

The bodies of Bablu alias Kader, 22, of the same village and Momin, 22, of Manirampur thana of Jessore district were found in a paddy field this morning. Momin was at Kader's house of the time.

Kalliganj police suspected that the two men, members of the Bahini, were killed due to internal conflict. A case has been filed with Kalliganj thana. None was arrested till the filing of this report.

Talks with UNHCR

No question of forced repatriation: Govt

By Reaz Ahmad

The government yesterday reaffirmed its firm determination to ensure voluntary repatriation of Rohingya refugees and denied in categorical term that any refugee was sent back against his will.

The government's commitment to voluntary repatriation was spelt out during two rounds of talks held here with representatives of the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), official sources said.

UNHCR mission chief in Myanmar Canh Nguyen Tang, mission chief in Bangladesh Arun Salangam and head of its Cox's Bazar sub-office, Nguyen Van To had separate meetings with Islam Uddin Malik, Secre-

tary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief and Aminul Islam, Additional Secretary of Foreign Ministry.

The meetings were held against the backdrop of UNHCR's protest against alleged forced repatriation of refugees last week. Mentionably, repatriation was suspended on Thursday following anti-repatriation demonstrations by some refugees in two camps in Cox's Bazar.

Foreign Ministry sources told The Daily Star last night that the government reaffirmed its firm commitment to the UNHCR to go by the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in

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Chakma issue: Team visits Tripura next month

By Special Correspondent

A delegation of the National Committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts (NCCHT) will visit the Indian state of Tripura sometime early next month in a fresh bid to persuade some 40,000 tribespeople living in refugee camps to return home.

The NCCHT delegation headed by its convener Abul Hasnat Abdullah, chief whip of Parliament, was scheduled to leave Dhaka today for Agartala.

The committee postponed its visit as the chief minister and other officials of the Tripura administration expressed their inability to meet the delegation because of their preoccupation.

The NCCHT would be in Tripura between August 7-9, according to highly-placed sources. This was decided at a high level meeting yesterday.

It is likely to visit different refugee camps in southern Tripura and meet the refugees as well as their leaders, particularly Upendra Lal Chakma who had imposed certain conditions like involvement of UNHCR and ICRC in repatriation and resettlement of the refugees.

The issue was raised by the Parbatyia Chhattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) leaders during their talks with the NCCHT earlier this month.

It was suggested at the meeting that the NCCHT would visit the refugee camps and hold talks with their leaders as well as the Tripura officials.

Some 10,000 refugees had returned, one group in 1994 and the other, about six thousand early this year following re-

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Kashmir rebels must surrender arms before talks: Gujral

SRINAGAR, India, July 27: Indian Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral, in an apparent U-turn, said here today that Kashmiri Muslim separatist militants would have to surrender their arms before peace talks with the government could go ahead, reports AFP.

He declined to elaborate after being asked to explain his apparent new stand.

An earlier report said, Gujral today renewed offers of unconditional talks with Muslim separatists but said the country's unity would be preserved "at all cost."

His offer of unconditional talks with Kashmiri militants was the first ever by the Indian government.

The prime minister, on the second day of his maiden visit to the northern state, also reacted to reports that Afghan and Pakistani militants were fuelling separatist violence in Kashmir by saying: "No mercy

will be shown to the foreigners present on our soil.

"Our men have the capabilities to fight these foreigners."

India estimates there are around 3,000 Muslim separatist militants fighting in Kashmir. More than 20,000 people have died during a separatist campaign since its launch in 1989.

AP adds: Rebel leaders reacted cautiously today to the government's offer of unconditional talks to end the insurgency in Jammu-Kashmir but India's Hindu nationalist party

opposed it.

"We have no problems with talks," said Omer Farooq, chairman of the Hurriyat Conference, an umbrella organisation of pro-independence groups.

"This will amount to succumbing to violence and recognising the voice of the gun," said Chander Mohan Sharma, the state vice president of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

The BJP has consistently opposed talks with Muslim rebels and has preferred a military solution to the insurgency.

