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The Daily Star

Banking sector in a mess, says President

'Political parties take huge funds from loan defaulters'

By Staff Correspondent

Death of policeman
Liaison body demands judicial probe

By Staff Correspondent

The liaison committee of the BNP-led opposition alliance has demanded formation of a judicial inquiry committee to identify the persons involved in the 'secret murder' of a police constable in the city on Wednesday.

Constable Farhad was killed and eight others were injured in a bomb explosion at Zero Point. Police filed two cases against some 150 BNP leaders and activists including Sadeq Hosain Khoka and Nazimuddin Alam MPs on charge of alleged involvement in the incident.

The liaison body of the alliance components -- BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Oikya Jote -- alleged that the government has filed 'false and conspiratorial' cases against leaders and activists of BNP and its front organisations."

In a statement yesterday, the

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Commissioner Babul on 4-day remand

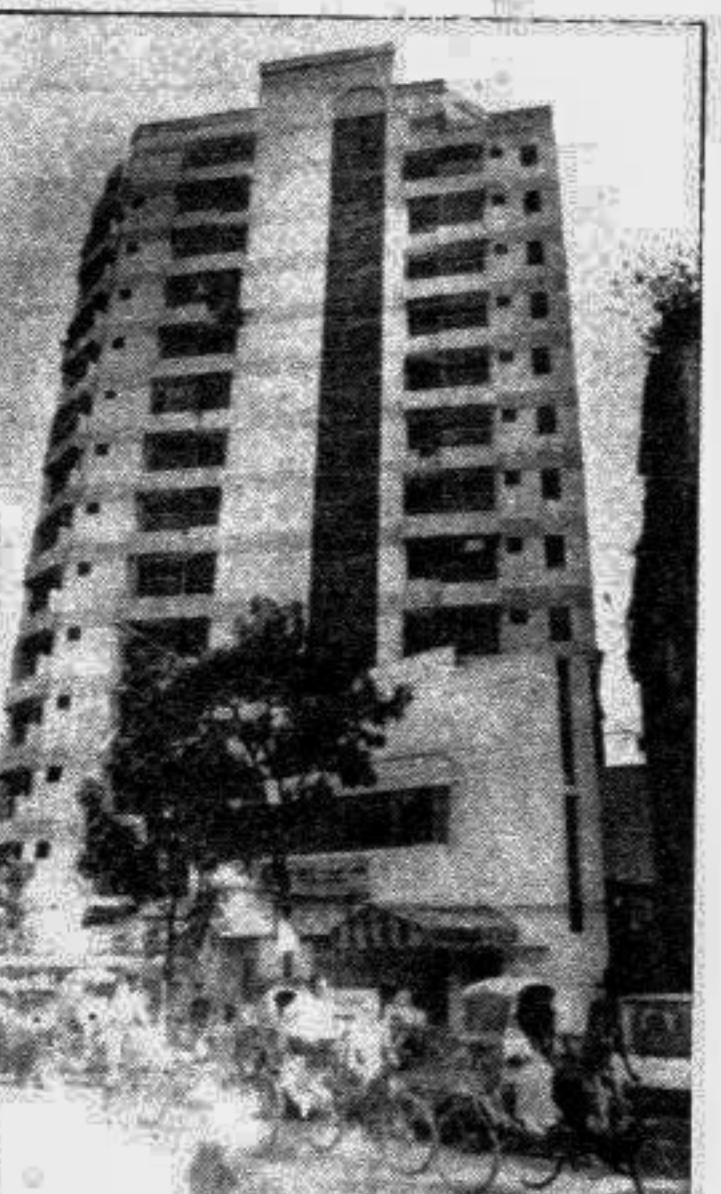
By Court Correspondent

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) court yesterday placed Jahiruddin Babul, Dhaka Metropolitan Corporation (DMC) ward commissioner from ward 24 (Khilgaon) and opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) central leader on a four day remand. He was arrested for alleged involvement in the killing of Constable Farhad on July 7, the day before an opposition-sponsored general strike ('hartal').

Meanwhile, the Detective Branch (DB) of police, yesterday, took Shamsuddin, the other person arrested in the same murder case, on a fresh remand of two days.

Farhad, a constable of the riot police, was killed while eight other police men were wounded when unidentified miscreants hurled bombs at police.

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Taking over

Rows of houses, on stilts, have been built by encroachers on the River Buriganga.

By Staff Correspondent

President Shahabuddin Ahmed has said political parties take huge funds from big defaulters of bank loans and shelter them.

"These political parties cannot continue without support from the big loan defaulters. Just the way they cannot continue without students, musclemen and terrorists," he said.

The President was inaugurating the Silver Jubilee cele-

bration of Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM) in the city yesterday.

"If we fail to rid ourselves of such attitude and activities, it will not only jeopardise the financial and banking sectors but will also threaten our survival as a nation," Shahabuddin cautioned.

He also blasted both the ruling party and the Opposition for hurling abuses at each other

while debating over the GDP growth.

The turmoil in parliament over the GDP growth last year -- whether it was four per cent or five per cent -- and the way abuses were hurled by referring to the past of each other have destroyed the image of the entire nation before the world," the president said.

Shahabuddin stressed development of the banking sec-

tor for the growth of the national economy.

The banking sector is now beset with a number of problems, he said. "The main problems are financial mess, loan default culture, negative activities of trade unions, excess manpower, corruption and lack of ethics."

He said the depositors keep their money in the banks in trust and that bank deposit in

the country is low compared to that in other countries. "It will go down to zero if the banks do not keep that trust."

The President noted that it was the duty of the banks to scrutinise every application for loan before sanctioning it and that banks should be allowed to work independently without any outside interference.

The defaulted bank loans now stand at around Tk 14,000

crore, he said. "These loan defaulters have created a very dangerous situation in the banks and other financial institutions. They are very powerful and have political patronage."

Referring to the activities of Grameen Bank, Shahabuddin said small borrowers of this banks are repaying their debts in due time but big defaulters of

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Bangladesh lift Asian youth cricket title

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh lifted the Asian Youth Championship title for the second consecutive time when they defeated Nepal by six wickets in the final at the Kalang Oval ground in Singapore yesterday.

The predictable victory for fancied Bangladesh was achieved in the 30th over when, chasing a paltry Nepal total of 125 all out in 39.2 overs, they reached 126 for four wickets.

Hannan Sarker scored a polished 44 for the winners. But wicketkeeper Golam Mortaza won the man-of-the-final award for effecting four dismissals including three stumpings.

The victorious youth team, which was also earned the ticket for the World Youth Championship by reaching the final, will return home today. The World Youth Championship will be held in Sri Lanka in January next year.

Madrasahs

Expenditure up by 62 pc in last 4 years

Star Report

Government's expenditure for madrasahs has gone up by around 62 per cent in the last four financial years since 1995-96.

An amount of Tk 204.48 crore was spent in fiscal 1995-96, which rose to Tk 206.28 crore in 1996-97, Tk 268.58 crore in 1997-98 and 329.01 crore in 1998-99, according to available statistics.

At present, there are 6,847 approved madrasahs in the country with a total of 1,26,054 teachers and employees and of 22,06,810 students.

There are five stages in the madrasah education which are Ebtedayi (primary), Dakhil (Secondary School level), Alim (Higher Secondary), Fazil (degree) and Kamil (Post Graduation).

There are 14,21,072 students, in 4,794 government approved Dakhil madrasahs, 3,47,657 in 983 Alim madrasahs, 3,74,742 in 955 Fazil madrasahs and 63,339 students in 115 Kamil madrasahs.

Former student leader of Dhaka Polytech shot dead

By Staff Correspondent

Former vice-president of students' union of Dhaka Polytechnic Institute was shot dead in front of a student dormitory of the Institute in the city's Tejgaon area yesterday evening.

The dead was identified Sohel Alam, 26, a resident of city's Demra area, police said.

A number of students of the Institute suspected that Sohel's killing was a sequel to rivalry between two factions of BCL, student wing of the ruling Awami League, at the Institute.

According to a number of students, the assailants attacked Sohel at about 6:30 pm when he was watching television at the TV room of Latif Hall.

They dragged Sohel on the

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Workers of 3 jute mills call hartal in Khulna July 18

KHULNA, July 11: Agitating workers of three Jute Mills here today announced fresh programmes, including day-long hartal on July 18 in Khulna city, demanding payment of outstanding wages and reopening of two mills, reports UNB.

Convenor of Sonali, Ajay and Afil Jute Mills Workers Samannay Sangram Committee announced the programmes at a press conference at the local press club.

The programme included road barricade in front of the mills from 9 am to 1 pm July 12-15.

Mukul murder : Court rejects Narajee petition

JESSORE, July 11: A Magistrate Court today rejected the 'Narajee petition' of the plaintiff of Runner Editor Mukul murder case, reports BSS.

The court also fixed the next date of hearing of the case on August 3.

The plaintiff of the case and wife of the slain Editor submitted the 'Narajee petition' to the court of magistrate Golam Rahman Miah on May 5 last.

Saiful Alam Mukul, Editor of Jessore Daily Runner, was murdered by miscreants in the town on August 30 last year. The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has already submitted the chargesheet accusing 22 persons, including BNP central leader Tariqul Islam.

Heavy rain triggers fresh flood in six dists

By Special Correspondent

A massive cloud from the Arabian sea triggered heavy rains in Bangladesh, India and Nepal during the past 36 hours ending 6 p.m. yesterday, sending major river systems in spate and inundating fresh areas in Comilla, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Khagrachari, parts of Sylhet and Sunamganj and worsening erosion in different parts of the country, reports by Daily Star correspondents and agencies said.

With all four major river systems on the rise, floods in the north, central and southeastern parts of the country are expected. The onrush of upstream water and continuing rains is likely to aggravate the situation further, experts said.

About 80 percent of Comilla town went under knee-deep water, trapping about 300,000 people, damaging crop, vegetable and aman seedling, BSS reported.

Quoting Lalmonirhat district administration the agency said, roads and low-lying areas of the district are inundated due to water logging caused by heavy downpour during the last two days coupled with the

opened shelter for 30 families in the town where normal life has also been paralysed.

The Ganges fed by heavy rains in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Nepal and rushing waters from upstream has continued to rise along with its tributary Goral.

The swift current of the Ganges has sliced away huge chunks of land in eight unions of Daulatpur thana, devouring at least 50 homesteads and forcing many people to flee their homes, our Kushtia correspondent said.

The Water Development Board (WDB) tolled high alarms to reinforce the river embankment with sandbags and is monitoring the situation closely, reports by correspondents and officials said.

The Daily Star correspondent in Khagrachari reported that heavy downpour and onrush of water from the hills sent the Chengi and Maini rivers in spate, flowing above their danger marks, triggering landslides and worsening road condition, disrupting road communications between Dighinala-Marishya and Kha-

grachari-Rangamati.

The rain for the past four days left at least 200 families trapped in flood water. The Khagrachari municipality has

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Illegal settlers damaging embankment

By Morshed Ali Khan

Most parts of the Dhaka flood protection embankment between Gabtoli and Killarmor are increasingly becoming vulnerable to "structural damages" as hundreds of settlers are digging as they did to build shanties.

The earthen embankment may come under "heavy pressure" with the advent of flood as concrete slabs have been removed from its slopes at different places. Water Development Board engineers said. Removal of the slabs has made it more vulnerable to leaks and cracks, they said.

The structure has also become weak due to piling of brick and sand loaded trucks on some stretches of the earthen road on the embankment.

Ditches have appeared on the road as the top soil has been carried away due to movement of trucks. The settlers on both sides of the embankment sprinkle water on the road in dry season to escape from the dust generated by the running trucks.

Officials of the WDB, the custodians of the embankment, said people take shelter on embankments in different areas of the country during flood but an embankment is "never meant

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restored through the 1996 elections.

The Prime Minister mentioned the development efforts of Bangladesh being carried out defying all odds and obstacles, and called upon the expatriate Bangladeshis to invest back in the country in a big way for the welfare of the nation.

"We have taken a number of steps to facilitate investment by the expatriate citizens of Bangladesh. We have created an investment-friendly environment," she said, mentioning the steps taken to that end.

She told the Londoners that her political opponents were calling strikes against this year's budget designed to protect the interests of common people.

The United Kingdom Awami League organised the reception in honour of the Prime Minister who is here on a nine-day visit since July 6. Presided over by UK AL President Shamsuddin Khan, the function was also addressed by AL Joint Secretary Azizur Rahman, state minister for foreign affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury and party central leader advocate Shahara Khutun and Sultan Sharif.

Hasina observed that the opposition was envious of her government's development and welfare works during last three years of its rule since democracy and people's rights were

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Appointment of doctors Writ filed against PSC for violating rules

By Gobinda Bar

The Public Service Commission (PSC) allegedly violated government rules in recruiting professors, associate professors and assistant professors for medical colleges during 1996-97.

Aggrieved doctors filed a writ petition with the High Court recently against the Chairman of the PSC, the Health Secretary and some others challenging the PSC recommendations for appointment of doctors last year.

The HC issued a rule nisi asking the authorities concerned why the PSC recommendations for appointment of assistant professors of Orthopaedics would not be declared illegal.

The petitioners alleged that Rule four of BCS recruitment said that appointment of Orthopaedic doctors was "subject to" and asked the Health Ministry "not to make any correspondence over the issue until the case was disposed of."

They said that PSC had recommended appointment of 17 assistant professors of Orthopaedics though there was an advertisement for only two.

They also alleged that the dis-

Sources said that PSC rec-

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Sailing through roads

Many of the city roads have gone under water following heavy rains. Picture shows a thoroughfare at Plassey

— Star photo: Anisur Rahman

Prayer Timings

July 12

Azan	Jamaat
4-10	4-15
12-50	1-25
Asr	4-55
Maghrib	7-00
Esha	7-55
	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation