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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 Sadek Hossain 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

Commissioner Babul on 4-day remand

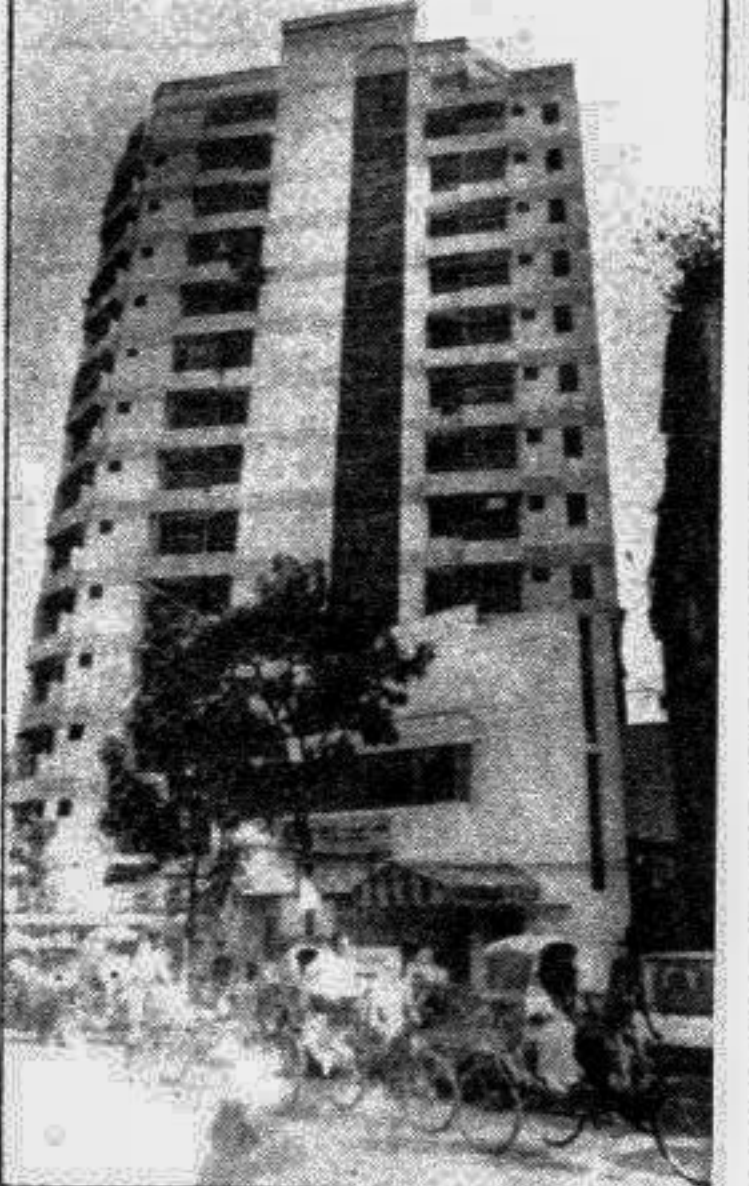
By Court Correspondent

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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We regret

Nazmul Haque Khan, Director of Consortium of Ideal Home Development Ltd & Suvasu Development Ltd in a clarification pointed out that the building in the above picture, printed yesterday, fully complies with Rajuk rules and has 25 apartments with parking facilities for as many cars. The parking arrangement has been made in two floors—the basement and the ground floor. It is one of the buildings constructed by the Consortium. The above was actually a file photo mistakenly printed with a news item on high-rises without parking facilities.

The Daily Star regrets the inadvertent error.

Inside Today

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The Balkans: Victory and Beyond

Column: Perspectives by Brig (Rtd) M Abdul Hafiz Page 4

Focus

Liberation and Beyond by J N Dixit Page 5

Prayer Timings

July 12		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4:10	4:15
Johr	12:50	1:25
Asr	4:55	5:05
Maghrib	7:00	7:05
Esha	7:55	8:15

Source: Islamic Foundation

Banking sector in a mess, says President

'Political parties take huge funds from loan defaulters'

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, businessmen and terrorists," he said.

The President was inaugurating the Silver Jubilee celebration 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 sector 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 bank are repaying their debts in due time but big defaulters of

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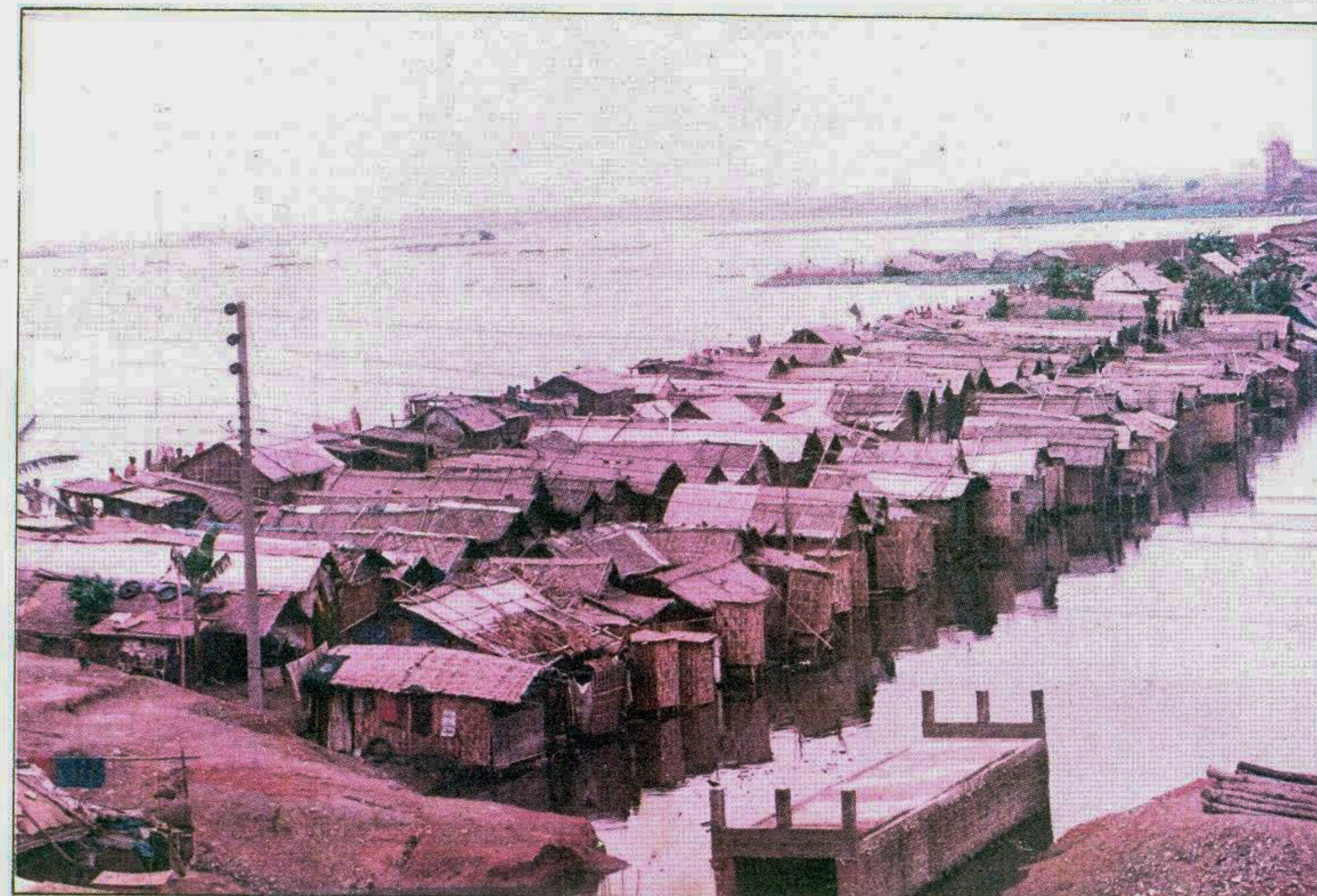
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Taking over
Rows of houses, on stilts, have been built by encroachers on the River Buriganga.

—Star photo by AKM Mohsin

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 south-eastern 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 per cent of Comilla town went under knee-deep water, trapping about 300,000 people, damaging crop, vegetable and aman seedling, BSS reported.

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