



Transfer of 76  
Agrani Bank  
board meets  
today

By Staff Correspondent  
The board of directors of Agrani Bank will sit today and discuss the issues arising out of the transfer and stay order of 76 officers, according to sources.

The transfer orders of 76 mid-level officials were given at the beginning of this month and later it was stayed under pressure reportedly from government high-ups. Protesting the interference by the government the managing director of the bank A K M Nazmul Haq tendered his resignation on Monday last.

He, however, showed personal reasons behind his resignation. The final decision regarding his resignation will be taken after the prime minister's return from London, sources said.

Meanwhile, the bank issued an office circular regarding the transfer order of 76 high officials. The circular said the officials who have already joined their new posts and those who have joined the new post but were yet to take charge will

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Supporters and  
opponents of  
Siddiqui clash  
at Tangail

TANGAIL, July 14: The supporters and opponents of Bangabir Kader Siddiqui, clashed here this afternoon, reports UNB.

Witnesses said some 20-25 homemade bombs were exploded during the clash. Police charged baton and fired tear-gas shells to disperse pro-Siddiqui group.

They said the clash erupted when police obstructed a procession of the supporters of Kader Siddiqui at Post Office Square. The procession was brought out protesting issuance of arrest warrant against Siddiqui.

Over a hundred of Chhatra League activists came to the scene from a nearby rally and chased the processionists. BCL held the rally at Niral square to protest Siddiqui's statements against the Prime Minister.

Both the groups charged each other and exploded 20 to 25 bombs, creating panic in the town.

Meanwhile, truck owners put up barricade at Ashekpur on Dhaka-Tangail highway, protesting the issuance of warrant against Kader Siddiqui in a forgery case in Dhaka, disrupting traffic for over six hours.

The barricade was withdrawn at 2 pm after intervention of the local administration.

Vajpayee asks  
Pakistan for a  
fresh beginning

KUJLU, July 14: Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee today asked Pakistan to make a fresh beginning to carry forward the Lahore peace process, which has been marred by its incursions in Kargil and asserted that India would not wait indefinitely for the intruders to withdraw, reports PTI.

The Lahore declaration was a firm commitment between India and Pakistan to resolve all issues bilaterally and what happened in Kargil was totally against this comment, Vajpayee told reporters after addressing a BJP rally here.

Stating that India would not wait indefinitely for the intruders to withdraw, he said that they would be thrown out if they refuse to vacate Indian territory.

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different from  
punishment

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### Prayer Timings

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

Source: Islamic Foundation

Flood situation in 3 dists worsens

## Dhaka-Ctg highway near Chandina submerged

By Special Correspondent

The flood situation in Comilla, Sylhet and Naogaon deteriorated yesterday with the Gumti, Surma, Kushyara and Atrai flowing above the red mark and the Chhoto Jamuna nearing the danger level in Naogaon, inundating fresh areas, officials, correspondents and agencies said.

The Gumti is still buoyant with rushing water from the Tripura hills, submerging the Dhaka-Chittagong highway near Chandina and roads linking Comilla with Sylhet and Chandpur, officials said. Elsewhere the Baranai river in Rajshahi tore through its embankment, flooding vast areas in Tanore and the erosion of the Padma continued unabated along its banks. The river also continued to rise flowing 12 centimetres above red mark at Munshiganj.

The Brahmaputra remained below danger level but continued to rise upstream, worsening erosion in the northern districts. The Haldia at Narayanpur in Chittagong was another river that continued to flow above danger level.

Barring 16-millimetre rain in Cox's Bazaar and 7-millimetre at Srimangal, the weather remained fair in the country, meteorological office reported yesterday. It said that light to moderate rain with temporary gusty wind is expected at a few places over Khulna, Barisal, and Chittagong divisions. Moderate to heavy falls at one or two places are expected over Dhaka and Sylhet divisions.

There would be little change in the weather in the next 48 hours beginning 6 pm today. During the next five days afterwards rainfall may increase, it added in its extended weather outlook.

In Feni the floods began retreating with no rains reported yesterday. But the situation in Comilla deteriorated with fresh areas being inundated by the river.

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AL has only two paths before it: Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent

Siddiqui accompanied by his wife appeared before the CMM at 2:45 pm and defended himself without any lawyer.

Referring to press reports that he was absconding, Siddiqui said, "I am not absconding. I am here to say that I was never absconding."

CMM KM Abdulla fixed August 12 for a hearing, saying the court will then decide whether to continue with the case.

The CMM in his order said Siddiqui is a parliament member and a valiant freedom fighter. He is set free since there is no risk it.

In his statement, the AL

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I'm here to say I was never absconding'

By Staff Correspondent

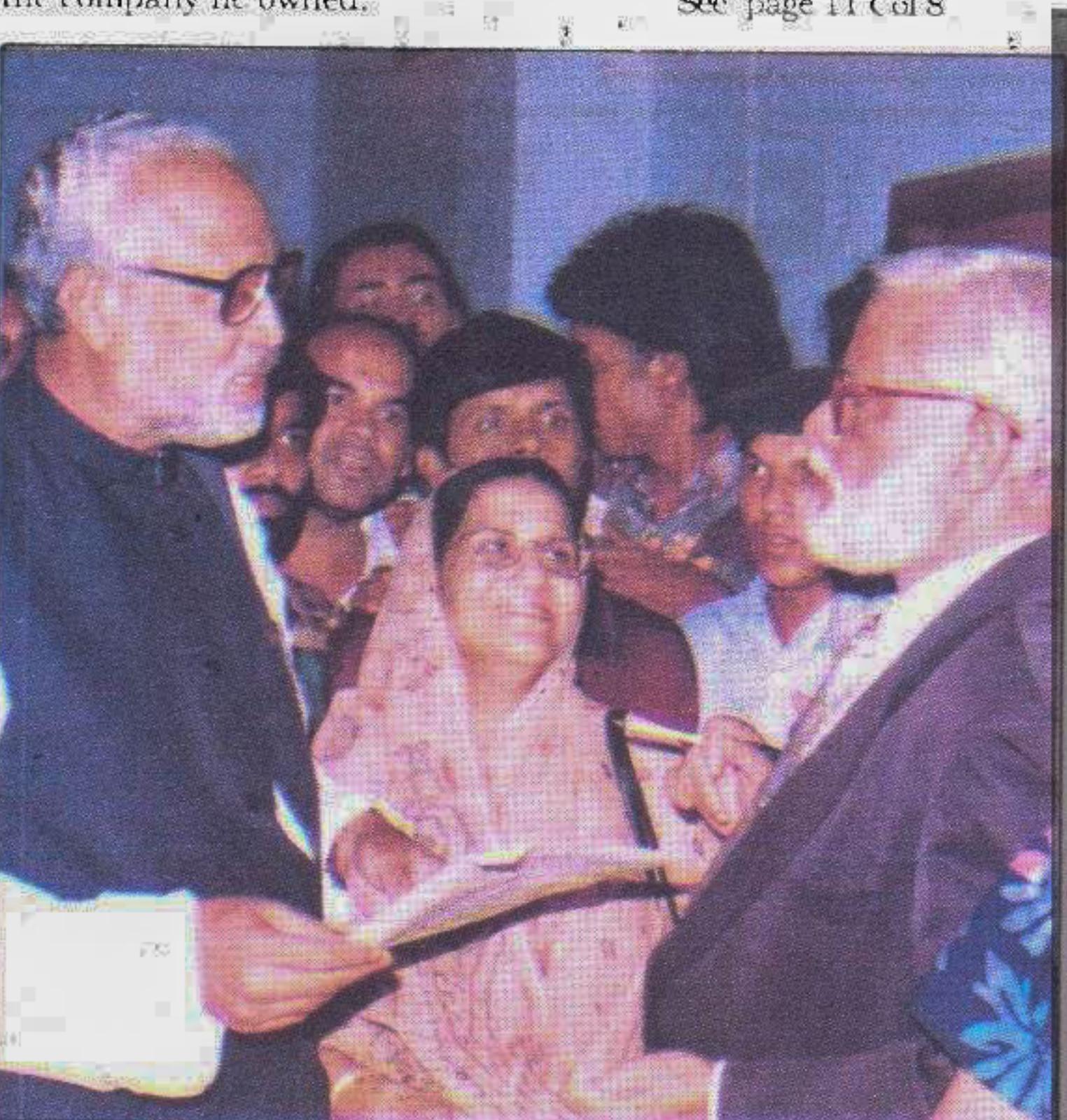
Ruling party MP Kader Siddiqui appeared before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court yesterday in connection with a corruption case filed against him 23 years ago.

The court issued a showcase notice on the investigating officer to explain why Siddiqui was shown "absconding" in the charge sheet.

Motiul Quader Ahmed, an official of the Bureau of Anti-Corruption, filed a case with Motijheel thana in 1976, accusing Siddiqui of taking a Tk. 15.53 lakh loan from Uttara Bank by submitting forged documents of Sonar Bangla Prokashal Ltd., the company he owned.

In his statement, the AL

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Tiger' in the court  
Rebel AL leader Kader Siddiqui appeared in the CMM's court, yesterday.

—Star photo

## Alleged killer nabbed: Brig Islam undergoes 14-hr surgery

By Staff Correspondent

Turkish police yesterday nabbed fugitive Hafizur Rahman, alleged killer of the wife and son of the Defence Attaché in Bangladesh Embassy in Ankara, according to reports received in Dhaka.

Hafizur, domestic help of the family, was caught in Ankara after a massive manhunt was launched by police. He is suspected of killing Brigadier Shariful Islam's wife Kismet Ara Islam and their only son Sirajul Saleheen in their

Reports from Ankara said

apartment on Monday. Islam was seriously injured in the incidents.

Police were cross-examining the alleged killer to ascertain the motive behind the killings.

Brig Islam, who underwent a 14-hour surgery at Ankara's Hacettepe Hospital, was out of danger, according to Foreign Ministry sources in Dhaka yesterday afternoon. Doctors however said that the next seven days were 'critical.'

The court asked them to move the petition Sunday (July

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The Defence Attaché who came for lunch during the incident was also pounced upon by the assailant. He stabbed the Attaché in the neck, hands, face and several other parts of his body and immediately fled the residence by a taxi. Islam, however, said that the next seven days were 'critical.'

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Faruque was a terrorist in guise of Ansar

From Quazi Amanullah

Ansar after completing necessary formalities, obtaining good character certificates both from the O.C. of Rupsha thana and the chairman of Ghatbhog Union Parishad.

I was assigned to supply necessary information to my party leaders about the monetary transaction and position of the bank locker," the outlaw told this correspondent in the sub-jail. "Finally good sense prevailed on me and I quickly decided to surrender to take advantage of the general amnesty and thus return to normal life."

He said that he never got the opportunity to loot the bank where he was stationed because of extra-security measures by

the bank authorities.

"I managed to obtain good character certificates from the O.C. of Rupsha thana by offering illegal gratification, but the UP chairman gave it fully knowing that I was an outlaw," Faruque said. "These two certificates helped me get the job as Ansar, although I had to undergo a training course in this regard," he added.

Faruque is now afraid of retaliation by his former friends and has sought security for his life. When contacted, O.C. of Rupsha thana Elias Fakir said, "I am not an angel. I do not know if somebody is an outlaw or not. It is my duty to contain crime and nab criminals as the

law of the land demands, but I am not supposed to meddle in the internal affairs of a man or woman," he said.

The O.C. further said, "I am an O.C., not a pathologist who does blood test of people."

The recruitment of an outlaw in the Ansar forces in such a way has raised many eyebrows. It is learnt that movement of all members of Ansar stationed in different camps are being closely watched and their verification reports re-examined, said a source.

Caution is also being taken in giving assignment, particularly in financial institutions, the source added.

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Harvesting disaster  
Children at Edbarpur village, eight kilometres off Comilla town, fish in flood water.

—Star photo

### Storm brewing inside AL over plot scam

## Who will be the scapegoat?

Star Report

A storm is brewing inside the ruling Awami League over the recent plot scam that may come out in the open after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina returns home from UK, according to sources.

A strong lobby is now active inside the ruling party to counter the actions of Works and Housing Minister Engineer Mosharrif Hossain, under whose directive Rajuk distributed 301 plots, mostly to party people.

The backlash is likely to fall on the junior officers of the prime minister's office against whom party leaders and bu-

reaucrats are becoming vocal. It is now widely believed that the scheme was designed by those officials, who also got plots.

Even the ministers, MPs and AL leaders who got plots are now bitter about the whole process because they have become controversial by the flagrant display of nepotism by Rajuk and the ministry.

However, the housing minister is still confident about winning the battle with his cabinet colleagues as he is said to enjoy strong blessings of the prime minister.

Meanwhile, Rajuk is now stuck with the housing minis-

ter's promise of providing 4000 more plots to applicants to stymie the dissent.

Rajuk officials are working hard to figure out how to find land to keep the promise. The organisation is also lacking fund to develop more land.

According to sources, it will need about Tk 1000 crore to prepare 4000 plots. But Rajuk does not have any fund for land development. It has already blocked Tk 300 crore in its Purbachal project at the outskirts of Dhaka city.

"We have no money and land as well," said a high official of

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Take proper steps to rehabilitate sex workers before eviction!

By Staff Correspondent

Women's leaders at a rally yesterday urged the government to take proper steps to rehabilitate the women and children of Tanbazar red light area before evicting them.

The meeting was organised in front of the National Museum in protest against the eviction of sex workers from Tanbazar brothel.

Speakers said the government must rehabilitate the sex workers, their children and dependents.

The rally organised by Sammilto Nari Samaj, a platform of women organisations was addressed among others by Shamsunnahar Jyotsna, Seema Das Shernu, Advocate Sultan Akhtar Rubi, Hajera Sultan, Shirin Akhtar and Rawshan Ara.

The women's leaders called for supply of food to the sex workers, medical treatment and education of their children in the interim period before rehabilitation.

The leaders accused a vested quarter for eviction of the sex workers in the name of rehabilitation.

"None can evict them from their present dwelling as they have been living there for more than a century," a leader said.

They demanded proper vocational training of the sex workers for rehabilitation.

"Sex workers have the right to live in society," another speaker said.

They said the amount that has been proposed to rehabilitate the sex workers of Tanbazar red light area, is not sufficient to rehabilitate 4,000 people.

Later a procession was brought out that paraded different streets and ended at the Muktangan.

Bankers on Monday's SC verdict  
A landmark victory against defaulters

By M Shamsur Rahman