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# The Daily Star

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RANGS GROUP

## 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 taken charge will continue 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 Niraj 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 Ashkpur 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The barricade was withdrawn at 2 pm after intervention of the local administration.

## Vajpayees asks Pakistan for a fresh beginning

KULLU, 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 commitment. 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.

## Inside Today

### Article

## Pressure is different from punishment

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by Kuldip Nayar  
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## Liberation and Beyond

by J N Dixit  
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## Prayer Timings

July 15		
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

## 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 Gumbi, Surma, Kusiyara 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 Gumbi 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 dis-

tricts. The Halda at Narayanhat 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.

Contingents of army and police were deployed near Chandina thana headquarters in Comilla where new stretches of Dhaka-Chittagong highway went under water yesterday with Gumbi still flowing 126 millimetres above danger level, district officials told the Star.

Several points of the Dhaka-Comilla section of the highway and Comilla-Sylhet highway remained under water.

Comilla district relief office sources said, road communication between Dhaka and Comilla was under threat as water overrun the highway at places near Comilla Cantonment.

BSS quoting Water Development Board (WDB) officials described the situation in eight thanas in Comilla and Sylhet region to be serious. The most affected thanas are Burichang, Barua, Chaudagram, Laksam and Comilla sadar in Comilla and Kanaighat, Zakiganj and

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Harvesting disaster

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

—Star photo

## '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 showcause notice on the investigating officer to explain why Siddiqui was shown "absconding" in the charge sheet.

Mohiuddin Ahmed, an official of the Bureau of Anti-Corruption, filed a case with Motiheel 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.

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

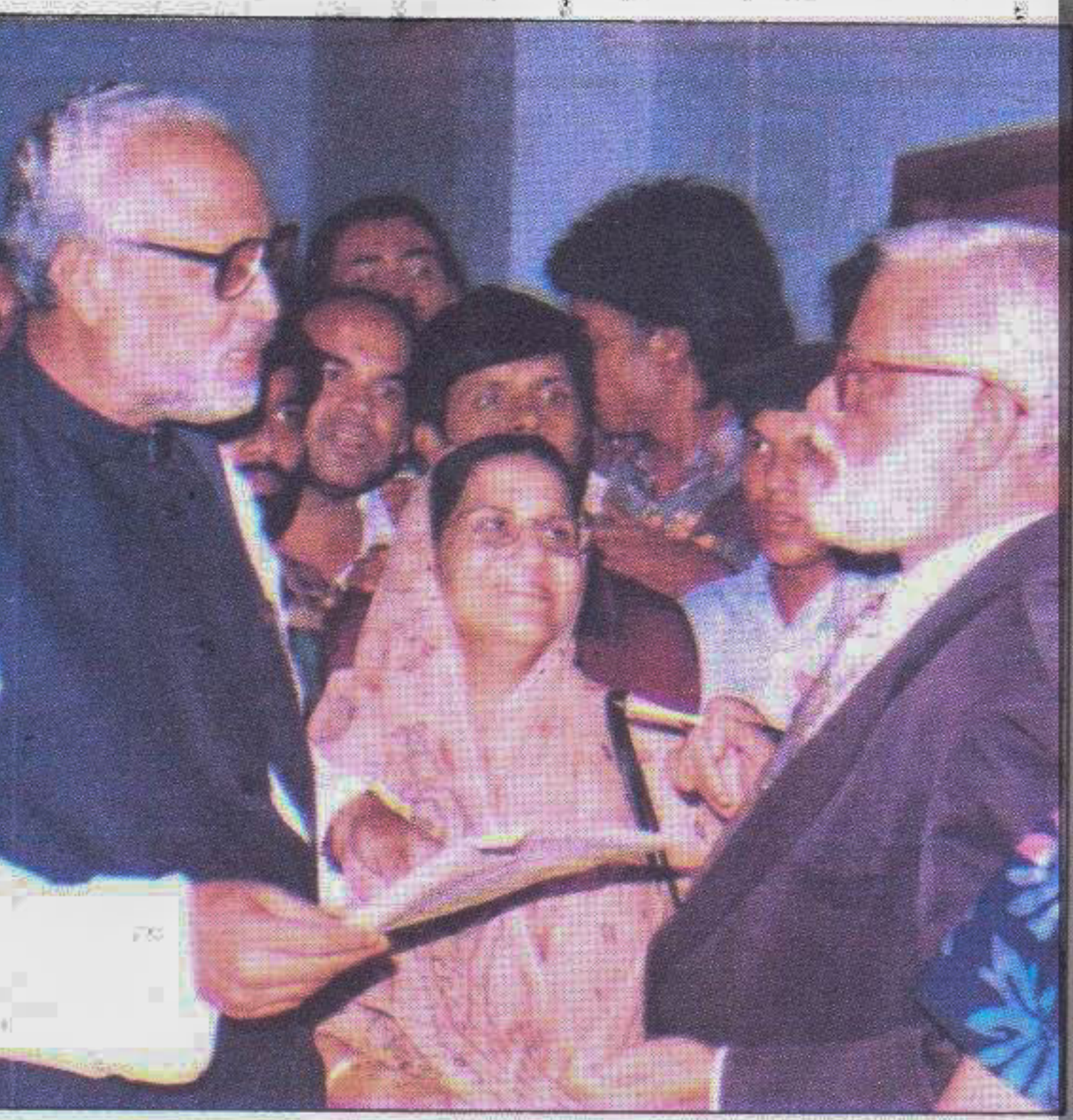
Referring to press reports that he was absconding, Siddiqui said, "I am not absconding. I am here to say that I was never absconding."

CMM KM Abdullah 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 to it.

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

## AL has only two paths before it: Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia has said the Awami League government has adopted a scorched earth policy and is planfully destroying the country.

"The AL is taking the country to such an extreme stage that none will be able to run the country after assuming power in future. They are destroying the economy, education, institutions, administration and defence to make the country subservient to others," the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament said yesterday.

Addressing the leaders and activists of Laxmipur district unit of BNP and front organisations at her official residence in the city, Begum Zia alleged that the ruling party is collecting arms and making money to win the next general election and retain power.

She said: The AL has two paths before them...either they have to stay in power or leave the country. People have become fed up with AL's misdeeds, corruption, repression, politi-

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## Farhad murder Arrest, attachment of property of BNP leaders stayed

A High Court Division Bench yesterday ordered a stay on arrest and attachment of property of the BNP leaders till July 18 in the police murder case, reports UNB.

Dhaka City BNP Convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka, JCD president Habibul Nabi Sohail and Ward Commissioner Chowdhury Alam and 22 others appeared before a criminal division bench of the High Court and prayed for anticipatory bail.

The court asked them to move the petition Sunday (July

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## 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 Mosharraf 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 Purabachal project at the outskirts of Dhaka city.

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

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## PM returns today

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina returns home today ending her first ever official visit to the United Kingdom, reports BSS.

Sheikh Hasina left Dhaka for London on July 5 at the invitation of British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

The two prime ministers held official talks on July 7 and jointly inaugurated Bangladesh Festival the same day.

A number of British leaders, including the Home and International Development Ministers and Leader of the Opposition called on the Bangladesh leader during her visit.

Besides, meeting Bangladeshis on various occasions, Sheikh Hasina addressed a number of seminars and symposium, including one on investment.

The Prime Minister also gave interviews to both electronic and print media in London.

## 4 more pro-peace activists abducted in Rangamati

RANGAMATI, July 14: Four more pro-peace activists were reportedly kidnapped by the anti-peace activists from Bormachhari in Kawkhali thana of the district today, official said, reports BSS.

The victims were identified as Doyaldhan Chakma, 20, Luxmikumar Chakma, 28, Joyoushdhan Chakma, 28 and Kalahoy Chakma, 35. With these, the anti-peace activists so far abducted seven pro-peace activists from Kawkhali thana of the district within a span of one week, official added.

A member of the Parbatyia Chattagram Jano Sanghati Samity, Jashi Chakma, was included in the list who was reportedly abducted on July 6 by the activists of Proshit-Sanchoy group opposing the CHT Peace Accord, official added.

Separate cases of abduction were lodged with Kawkhali thana of the district.

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

By M Shamsur Rahman

Bankers termed the Supreme Court judgement on Monday as a landmark victory against defaulters. Following the judgement, five directors of three commercial banks lost their directorship.

Hailing the judgement, they said that it would help restore discipline in the financial sector and reduce the culture of bank loan default.

The crucial judgement of the Supreme Court came just a day after the remark of the President who accused the political parties of giving shelters to defaulters and taking huge sum of money from them.

"Even the trend of political patronisation of the defaulters will end as it has been proved once again that law is above everyone," said a managing director of a private commercial bank, on condition of anonymity.

"With the disposal of these two writ cases, the general notion among the defaulters that they could get away without repaying the money by obtaining stay order from court has been shattered," he added.

These judgement and observation of the court will act as a reference for others, said another retired managing director of a nationalised commercial bank (NCB), also requesting anonymity.

He said the High Court judgement on the two writs can cut short proceedings in other cases as the judgement has interpreted many crucial banking laws.

On May 9, 1999, the High Court Division Bench comprising Justice Kazi Ebadul Hoque and Md Mozammel Hossain delivered the crucial judgement on two writ petitions

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## GRAND OPENING

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(15th July, 1999)

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## 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 Attache 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 Sirajus Saleheen in their

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".

Reports from Ankara said

the domestic help first stabbed 14-year old Saleheen to death in his bedroom and then locked the door. He then went to the next room and killed his smother.

The Defence Attache who came for lunch during the incident was also pounced upon by the assailant. He stabbed the Attache in the neck, hands, face and several other parts of his body and immediately fled the residence by a taxi. Islam, how-

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## Faruque was a terrorist in guise of Ansar

From Quazi Amanullah

KHULNA, July 14: Ansar Faruque Hossain, 30, was among the 398 outlaws and terrorists to surrender to the Home Minister on July 2. He laid down a home-made gun that he used for killing as an armed cadre of 'Purbo Banglar Communist Party', based in Rupsha-Terokheda belt.

On July 1, he left the KDA branch of Uttara Bank depositing his 303 rifle as usual. But bank officials were taken aback when they received information that guard Faruque Hossain surrendered as an outlaw and was sent to Noornagar sub-jail.

Police quoting Faruque said that he was recruited as an

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 an 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.