



The rains have added to problem of damaged roads all around the city. The above picture showing pools of water on such a road was taken from city's Baridhara area.

## Ecevit greets Hasina

Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit yesterday congratulated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for winning this year's UNESCO Peace Prize in recognition of her contribution to the resolution of conflicts in the southeastern hill region, reported BSS.

The awarding of this prize constitutes another acknowledgement of your excellency's outstanding qualities of statesmanship, your wise leadership as well as your dedication to contribute to the continued welfare and prosperity of the fraternal people of Bangladesh," he said.

## First class first

By DU Correspondent

Biswajit Sarker stood first class first in the Bachelor of Fine Arts in 1996 from Graphic Design Department of the Institute of Fine Arts (IFA) in Dhaka University.

He also awarded Best Medium prize from Graphic Design Department in IFA annual exhibition in 1996, 1997 and 1998.

Biswajit, the youngest son of Nagendranath Sarker and Sarwasati Sarker of Mollapara in Barisal, aspires to apply modern technology in graphic design and work in this field.

## First class first

Sharmin Islam (Shamal) stood 1st class 1st in MA final examination in Philosophy from the University of Dhaka in 1996. She secured record highest marks of last ten years, says a press release.

She also stood 1st class 1st in her BA honours examination. Sharmin is the daughter of late Reazul Islam, former Deputy Commissioner of Tangail. She is wife of Dr Abu Khaldun Al Mahmud, member of BCS (health) cadre.

## Obituary

Mokhlesur Rahman, Additional Chief Manager, BCIC, died of cardiac arrest yesterday at Suharwary Hospital. He was 52, says a press release.

Late Mukhlesur Rahman joined BCIC as an Asst Chemical Engineer after graduation from BUET in 1970. He left behind two daughters, mother and host of relatives and admirers. His *namaj-e-janaza* was held yesterday after *Zohra* prayers at BCIC premises and will be buried at his village (Mohish Bari) home at Bogra.

Senior advocate of Dhaka District Bar and an eminent social worker AKM Rezaul Karim died of old age ailment at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) Tuesday night, family sources said. He was 84, reports BSS.

He left behind wife, two sons and five daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

Advocate Karim was buried at Banani Graveyard yesterday after *namaj-e-janaza* at Dhaka Judge Court premises.

His *quikhwani* will be held at his Kathalgan residence today after *Asr* prayers.

Death anniversary

The 16th death anniversary of former MP M M A Bari and a close associate of Bangabandhu will be observed today. On this occasion a *mild* *mazil* will be held after *Asr* prayers at the residence of the deceased at the 10, TB Cross Road in Khulna. A programme for feeding of destitutes and orphans will also be held, says a press release.

## Rehabilitation, not eviction demanded

## Sex workers threaten sit-in in front of PM's residence

By Ehsanul Haque

Sex workers representing different red light areas yesterday asked the authorities not to go for eviction of any brothel before rehabilitation of all the prostitutes across the country.

Addressing a joint press conference in the capital, they also threatened a sit-in demonstration in front of the prime minister's official residence if their demands are not met soon. However, no date for the planned demonstration was announced on the day.

The sex workers strongly condemned the process of evicting the Tanbazar and Nimgali brothels in Narayanganj in the name of rehabilitating the inmates and termed the eviction move 'a political design' by ruling party MP Shamim Osman.

The press conference of three organisations of the sex workers - Durjoy, Ulka and Mukti - and representatives of the Tanbazar and Nimgali brothels was held at the CIRDAP auditorium in the city. Leaders of four NGOs Naripaksha, Care Bangladesh, Bangladesh Women's Health Coalition and Namoiti also attended the conference.

A seven-point demand of the

sex workers were raised at the press conference.

These include: halting eviction of the two Narayanganj brothels in the name of rehabilitation of the inmates, providing education, health, training etc. to the sex workers, keeping them at their present locations, engaging the sex workers and the human rights and women activists in the government plans for development of the sex workers, identifying reasons that lead a woman become a sex worker and removal of those, listing the pimps and taking legal action against them and rehabilitating the sex workers who were earlier evicted from the Kandupatty brothel.

The leaders told the press conference that the move to send the few thousand sex workers of Tanbazar and Nimgali to vagrants' homes in the name of rehabilitation is unrealistic. Rather, they suggested that beggars who roam on streets and other places be sent to these vagrants' homes.

They further pointed out that there were lakhs of unemployed boys and girls in the country who might be forced

into the sex business unless they were helped and engaged in income-generating works.

Shafhi, a representative of the Tanbazar brothel, said they were ready to give up their profession if they were properly rehabilitated. "But if we are forcibly evicted from the brothel, we will make the whole town a red-light area."

She further informed that she was forced to adopt this profession when she was only 13. Now she is mother of an 11-month-old girl and maintains a family of six. "Give me the assurance that I will be accepted in the society and my daughter can study in a good school. If I get another livelihood, I will definitely give up the profession for good," she said saying that other inmates of the brothel had similar stories to relate.

Mamata Begum, a sex worker evicted from the Kandupatty brothel, regretted that even after death, they cannot be properly buried and are floated in the river instead.

"Only Allah can punish us for our sins after we die, no one else can do so. We have every right to burial after death," she said.

The leaders held a press conference at the CIRDAP auditorium in the city yesterday protesting their eviction from the red-light area.



Sex workers of Tanbazar and Nimgali held a press conference at the CIRDAP auditorium in the city yesterday protesting their eviction from the red-light area.

— Star photo

## Music director Abu Taher dead

Eminent music director Abu Taher died of a heart attack yesterday at the National Institute of Cardiology. He was 45, reported BSS.

Taher left behind mother, wife, two sons to mourn his death. He was buried at Azimpur Graveyard after *namaz-e-janaza* at Satgambuj Mosque at Mohammadpur.

He started his career as a music director in the film industry through the movie "Bhigabata" in 1986 and worked for more than 100 films.

He earned the Double Platinum Disk Award from HMV of India.

Abu Taher hailed from a family having traditional devotion for music. Late Dhir Ali Mian was his father and composers - Mansur Ali, Younus Ali and Alauddin Ali are his uncles. Besides, music directors Ali Asgar Khokan, Ali Akbar Rupu, Ali Ashraf and Ali Akram are his brothers.

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader yesterday condemned the death of Abu Taher and said the country has lost a promising personality in the cultural arena.

## SAS Airlines appoints agency

The Leo Burnett Co. has been named the new worldwide advertising agency for SAS Airlines company, says a press release.

This was announced by Linda Fredheim-Bjork, Director-Marketing Communications, SAS.

Leo Burnett will now work with SAS, one of the biggest names in Scandinavia, on its total marketing communications all around the world. The agency will take over the account from August 1. Leo Burnett won the procurement of the SAS account against a number of well known agencies of the world.

Leo Burnett is one of the world's biggest advertising agencies, with over 270 operating units in 90 markets around the world. In Bangladesh, Leo Burnett works in collaboration with Bitopi Advertising Ltd.

Khilgaon police have arrested six members of an inter-district cheat gang from South Goran in the city organised Tuesday night, reports BSS.

Partial view of the Open House organised by Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) at its premises yesterday.

## 5 dacoits held in Natore

NATORE, July 14: Five alleged dacoits were arrested along with arms and ammunition from Charpatkole village in Singra thana early today, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, police arrested them while they were preparing for committing dacoity in an engine boat.

The recovered arms and ammunition included two short guns, one foreign-made revolver, six rounds of bullets and two sharp weapons.

The training courses are a part of round the year programmes introduced by Plasma Plus.

Training programme on X-ray Diffractometry ends

Plasma Plus, a centre for technology transfer in science and medicine in its May-June-July schedule of "Continuing Education in Science & Medicine" organised intensive training courses on X-ray Diffractometry and Thermal Analysis and their application in soil research," says a press release.

Jointly organised in collaboration with A Q Chowdhury and Yellow Page, they were attended by leading scientists from Soil Resource Development Institute (SDRI). The programmes conclude Monday with a simple ceremony in which certificates were awarded to the attendees.

The training courses are a part of round the year programmes introduced by Plasma Plus.

## Defaulters

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filed by five directors of three commercial banks.

The Supreme Court on Monday upheld the verdict of the High Court, barring the five from holding the office of director of any financial institution until they repay their entire outstanding loans.

The first writ involved four Beximco directors — Sohel F Rahman, Salman F Rahman, MA Quashem and Iqbal Ahmed.

The other involved Saiful Alam alias Masudul Islam of Al Arifa Islami Bank.

The Rahman brothers were on the board of directors of IFIC Bank while the other two were directors of AB Bank.

The High Court also found Beximco — one of the biggest business houses in Bangladesh — to be more interested in litigation than repaying loans.

While delivering judgment in two crucial bank defaulting cases by its directors, the HC also observed that the loans, for which Beximco executed guarantee bonds in favour of Arab Bangladeshi Bank, have raised "unfounded intricate questions spending valuable time of the court at the expense of other litigants."

During the course of hearing of the writ cases, there were strong arguments from both sides regarding interpretation of some banking laws.

While delivering the judgment the HC interpreted those banking laws.

Regarding Section 17 of the Bank Companies Act, the HC said that the Act aimed at saving the banks from the grip of the directors who abuse power in managing funds of the banks.

It is not to realise the money by issuance of notice under that provision of law and as such time under that section would run from the date of service of notice under Section 17 (1) irrespective of subsequent rescheduling of the loan and can not be extended by any body," the judgment said.

During the arguments, petitioners raised a point that they were on the verge of striking a rescheduling deal with the AB Bank. But the High Court observed that when Section 17 provides for a payment within two months from the date of receipt of notice, the time could not be extended by rescheduling the loan by the respondent on the prayer of the petitioners.

The judgment said that the intention of Section 17 became clear from its sub-sections which called for vacation of directorship of a person, and under Section 17 (1) he would remain disqualified for one year from becoming director from the date of payment of the entire dues of the bank or the financial institution.

The High Court observed that the two-month period could not be extended by rescheduling the loan by creditor bank or financial institution after service of the notices.

"Although rescheduling is perfectly valid and binding between the creditors and the debtors, hence advice of Bangladesh Bank to AB Bank cannot be termed or treated as a decision under the provisions of sub-sections of the said Act," the judgment said.

"In our view, the advice was given by Bangladesh Bank to the creditor, AB Bank, to allow rescheduling facility to the petitioners to enable it to realise outstanding loan from the petitioners and the same is not a decision under sub-sections of the said Act."

The High Court observed that the two-month period could not be extended by rescheduling the loan by creditor bank or financial institution.

The court fixed the hearing date for the next hearing on July 21.

Training programme on X-ray Diffractometry ends

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Training programme on X-ray Diffractometry ends

## Dhaka-Ctg highway

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Beanibazar in Sylhet.

WDB officials said some 8,500 sq km area in 122 thanas have been affected, of which 39 thanas have been affected by moderate floods and 75 thanas are facing normal seasonal floods, the agency reported.

BSS reported that in Comilla the flood water logged in the town and adjoining areas is receding. But the water gushing through the breaches in the Gumi embankment flooded new areas in Burichang, Deviwar and Chanda thanas and threatened the Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Nimsar.

Officials said that repair work on the embankment remained suspended as WDB engineers were awaiting further recess in the flow of water.

They said thousands of people shifted to safe places and more than 6,000 took refuge at flood shelters.

Floods have damaged some 6,500 homes and standing Aus crops and seed bed of transplanted Aman in about 48,000 hectares of land were damaged.

BSS quoting police said that a 55-year-old man died when a small boat capsized after hitting a submerged electric pole at Kamarkhara area in Burichang. Army boats rescued some people while others managed to swim to safety. The Army teams have continued relief work among the affected people in the district.

Our correspondent from Rajshahi said that swollen by rushing water from the upstream and heavy rains, the Rivers Atrai and Chhoto Jamuna went in spate, flooding vast stretch of areas in Naogaon.

WDB officials said the Atrai crossed its danger level and the Chhoto Jamuna was almost near its red mark.

In Rajshahi the embankment along the Baranai river at Tanore thanas has been breached at Batashpur in Kamargaon union, flooding about 2,000 acres of standing rice crop. The river also affected Durgaon thana where several hundred acres of rice field have also been submerged.

Some low lying areas went under water in Bagha, Chirghat, Godagari and Tanore thanas of Rajshahi due to heavy rain. Severe erosion continued unabated, washing away land and homes in Bulanpur, Barshi, Shrirampur, Barakuthi and Panchabati in Rajshahi city, Shahapur in Paba, Balighata, Sultanganj, Hatapara, Madaripur.

Foreign Ministry sources said the authorities in Ankara have been requested to give the report of forensic examination of the bodies.

Meanwhile, Turkish President Suleyman Demirel in separate condolence messages to President Shahbuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has expressed deep shock at the death of the wife and son of the Defence Attaché in Ankara.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad on Tuesday described the incident as most gruesome and said this was the first incident of killing of family members of Bangladeshis anywhere in the world.

The reason for the double murder and attack on the Brigadier could not be known till now.

Brig. Sharif joined the Rakki Bahini in 1974 and later absorbed in the Army in the Armoured Corps.

He mentioned that he was regularly attending the parliament sessions and was never absconding.

By bringing this allegation, the government has insulted the freedom fighters and the people of Bangladesh," he said.

He said that he had no documents concerning the case but he appeared to show respect to law.

Later, Siddiqui addressed a brief rally on the court premises which was also addressed by Dr. Kamal Hossain and his brother Latif Siddiqui.

He told the rally that the government tried to revive the case but the court has set me free.

He called upon his supporters to fight terrorism with honesty and courage, not with terrorist activities.

Earlier, hundreds of his supporters chanted