



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. — Star photo

Ecevit greets Hasina

Turkish Prime Minister Bülent 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, reports BSS.

"The awarding of this prize constitutes another acknowledgment 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 in class 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.

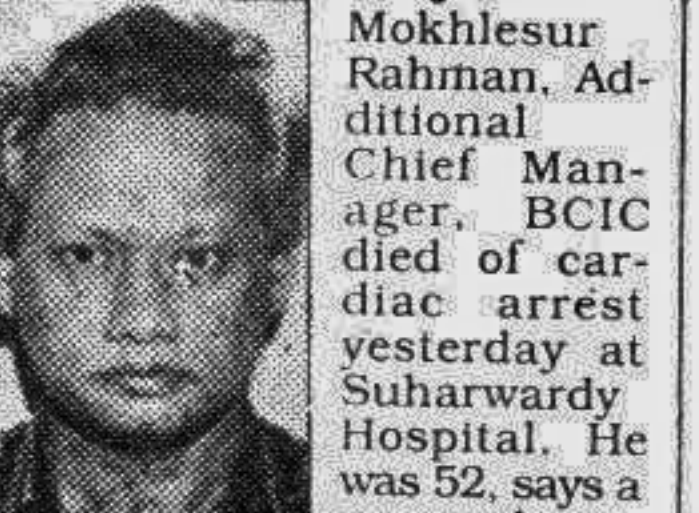
First class first



Sharmin Islam (Sham-pa) 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 Rezaul Islam, former Deputy Commissioner of Tangail. She is wife of Dr Abu Khaldun Al Mahmud, member of BCS (health) cadre.

Obituary



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

Late Mokhesur 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 Zohr prayers at BCIC premises and will be buried at his village (Mohish Batani) 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 Kathalagan residence today after Asr prayers.

Death anniversary

The 16th death anniversary of former MP M A Bari and a close associate of Bangladesh will be observed today. On this occasion a milad mahfil will be held after Asr prayers at the residence of the deceased at 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 Nimtali 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 Nimtali brothels was held at the CIRDAP auditorium in the city. Leaders of four NGOs — Naripakkha, Care Bangladesh, Bangladesh Women's Health Coalition and Narimotri — 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 rehabilitating 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 Kandupatti brothel.

The leaders told the press conference that the move to send the few thousand sex workers of Tanbazar and Nimtali 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.

Shathi, 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.

Mamataz Begum, a sex worker evicted from the Kandupatti 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.



Sex workers of Tanbazar and Nimtali 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, reports BSS.

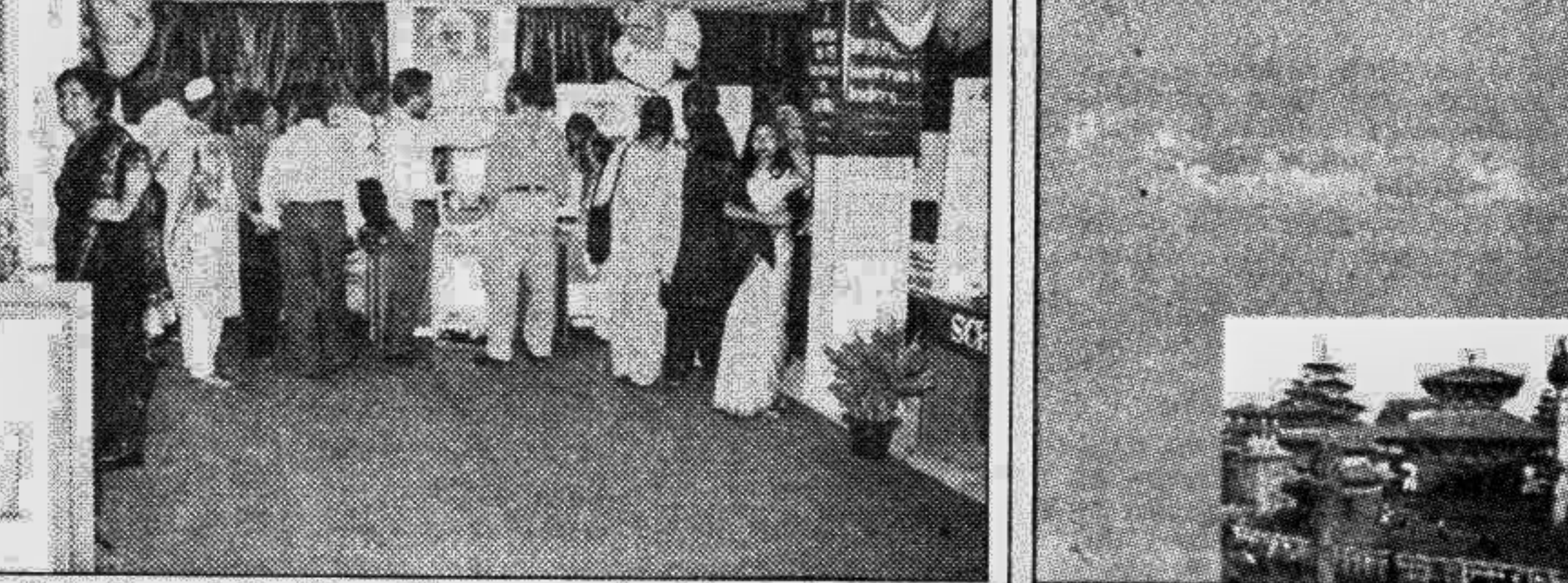
Taher left behind mother, wife, two sons to mourn his death. He was buried at Azampur Graveyard after namaj-e-janaza at Satgambuj Mosque at Mohammadpur.

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

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

Abut 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 Rupa, Ali Ashraf and Ali Akram are his brothers.

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



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

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.

Six cheats arrested

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

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.

Defaulters

From Page 1

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 Quasem and Iqbal Ahmed. The other involved Saiful Alam alias Masudul Islam of Al Arafat 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 Bangladesh 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 anybody," the judgment said.

During the arguments, petitioner lawyers raised a point that 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 petitioner.

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 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."

Training programme on X-ray

Diffractionmetry 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 Diffractionmetry 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+.

Dhaka-Ctg highway

From Page 1

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 Gunti embankment flooded new areas in Burichang, Devdwar and Chandina 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 Kamarkhata 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 thana has been breached at Batashpur in Kanargaoon union, flooding about 200 acres of standing rice crop. The river also affected Durgapur thana where several hundred acres of rice field have also been submerged.

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

PM spent busy day in London

LONDON, July 14: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Tuesday held a meeting with the members of Bangladesh business community living in London and gave interviews to different media, including ZEE TV and London based Al-Hayat newspaper of Middle East, reports UNB.

During the meeting with business community, Hasina urged them to invest in the country and take part in the economic development of the country. The government has been extending all-out support to the private sector and industrial environment is very much friendly in the country, she said mentioning the introduction of one-stop service of BOI.

Referring to their problems, the PM said she would look into the matters and try to solve those for the welfare of the business community.

Later, a delegation of British-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce, led by Peter Fowler, called on Prime Minister at her hotel suite and discussed matters of mutual interest, including increase of investment and trade between the two countries.

In the evening, Hasina was interviewed by ZEE TV network where she spoke about development efforts of her government. She also gave an interview to the London-based Middle East newspaper Daily Al-Hayat.

The UK unit of Udichi Shipki Goshi also called on her at the hotel.

Former cricket coach of Bangladesh Gordon Greenidge met the PM in the evening. She thanked Greenidge for training-up the Bangladesh cricket team, which made stunning victory against mighty Pakistan and Scotland in the World Cup Cricket.

pur, Matikata, Ujanpara, Bhatapara, Premtali, Harishankarpur, Bidipur and Pirajpur in Godagari thana are among the worst affected by the erosion of the Padma. In Chapinawabganj, Debinagar, Raninagar, Alatuli and Koldakati areas have been affected by erosion.

Our Feni correspondent reported that flood situation has improved in the district with the waning rains. Road communication on the Feni-Parashuram and Chhagalnaya to Muhuriganj was resumed with the improvement in situation.

The Muhuri went down in Parashuram but remained above red mark at Rajumia point. The Feni river was above danger level at Shuvopur. Flood water

Khulna BNP convenor

Isha expelled

KHULNA, July 14: The district BNP today expelled its convenor Syed Isha for his anti-organisational activities. The decision was taken at an emergency meeting of the district unit which brought allegations against Syed Isha.

The meeting made joint-convenor Alhaj Shaharuzzaman Mortuza as new convenor.

Brig Islam

From Page 1

ever, managed to call the police and was rushed to hospital.

Hafizur Haq from Bogra, was taken as a domestic help when Islam was posted in Ankara in October, 1987.

A Brigadier and a Major, the latter younger brother of Islam, who left Dhaka Tuesday for Ankara are now attending the injured Attache making arrangements for bringing back the two bodies.

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 Shabbuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has expressed deep shock at the death of the wife and son of the Defence Attache in Ankara.

Samad Azad on Tuesday described the incident as most gruesome and said this was the first incident of killing of family members of Bangladesh mission 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 Rakkhi Bahini in 1974 and later absorbed in the Army in the Armoured Corps.

Agrani Bank

From Page 1

stay at the new office.

Those who are yet to be released from the earlier post will stay in their positions while those who got release order but were yet to join their new posts will stay at the office of the general manager of the concerned circle.

The officials who are at the head office will remain under the administration and human resources department.

This will be effective until further order is issued regarding the matter, the circular said.

According to sources about 16 officials have already joined their new offices and six of them have taken charge at the head office.

A general manager who joined his new post under the transfer order claimed that everything was under control. "There is no disorder in the bank," he said.

The Agrani Bank employees' union affiliated with the ruling Awami League, however, denied any involvement with staying the mass transfer order. It was reported in the media that the union played a vital role in creating pressure on the authority.

Talking to a group of journalists, the president of the union Abdul Khaleque termed the transfer of 76 officials at a time as, "unprecedented."

"It is the matter for officials and we are not involved with it," he said adding that they were interested in matters regarding employees only.

has submerged 10 unions in four thanas of the district.

The floods also cracked the embankment of Muhuri, Mohua and Chilonia at 22 points. Our Kushtia correspondent said that the Padma rose by 8 centimetres, yesterday. The waterlogging situation in Kushtia town improved as there was no rain. The floods have affected three unions in Bheramara and eight unions at Daulatpur thana. The rise of the Padma also resulted in the devouring of large chunks of land and many homes in Daulatpur thana. Price of essentials have gone up in the affected areas.

Our Cox's Bazaar correspondent said that prices, too, shot up in the district after 12 days of rain and bad weather. Some 200,000 people were affected by flash floods and water logging in Sadar, Ramu and Chokoria thanas leaving 10,000 people seeking shelter in cyclone centres.

VGD programme starts today

An 18-month cycle of the Vulnerable Groups Development (VGD) programme, a worldwide largest poverty alleviation scheme exclusively for women, will be launched here today, reports UNB.

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs prof Zinatun Nesa Talukder will formally launch the programme at NEC building at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

World Food Programme Representative Dr Werner Keine, DG Women Affairs Nilufar Begum, DG Directorate of Relief and Rehabilitation AM Abdul Jabbar will be present at the function.

The presentation will cover new initiatives of the VGD programme, such as an enhanced focus on nutrition and improvement in food management.

The new 1999-2000 cycle of VGD programme covers about 500,000 VGD women.

Kader Siddiqui

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lawmaker said he saw newspaper reports on Wednesday saying that he was absconding. "Being a freedom fighter and a good citizen, I felt I should appear before the court."

The case against him was filed when the country was under Martial Law, he said, wondering how a case filed during Martial Law rule could be revived during democratic rule.

When the court fixed the hearing date, Siddiqui protested saying he will not accept it since his heart does not say so.

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

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

He said that he had no document 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. "I have not prayed for ball but the court has seen me free."

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

Earlier, hundreds of his supporters chanted slogans warning the government of dire consequences if any harm was done to their leader.

Scapegoat

From Page 1

Rajuk: "Even if we start looking for plots today, it will take minimum two years before they can be offered to the public. The 4000 plot promise is just a carrot to stop the current controversy."

But some say another scam is likely to happen when fresh plots, if any, are allotted to appease the dissenting cabinet members and MPs.

"To bury one scam, another may be born," said an official. Meanwhile, it has been known that the APS of PM's political adviser Dr Malek, Rezaul Karim, has also received a Rajuk plot.

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