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Allotment of all 301 Rajuk plots cancelled: Hasina

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday announced cancellation of Rajuk's recent allotment of 301 residential plots in Gulshan, Baridhara and Utara.

She made the announcement at a crowded press conference at a crowded press conference at

the Ganabhaban on her return from UK after a nine-day visit. When asked if she was aware of the controversy centring the allotment of plots, the prime minister replied, "I am fully aware. The list of all plots stands cancelled."

She said "I do not think there has been any irregularities in the allotment process. But since there have been press criticism and disputes on the issue, I have decided to cancel the list."

Hasina also said journalists

should investigate how Rajuk plots were allotted under the past regimes of Zia, Ershad and Begum Zia.

"Inquiry should also be made as to how many journalists got Rajuk plots and how much money was received by them from Ershad government for construction of buildings."

Asked if any inquiry would be made into the allotment of residential plots which were mostly given to her partymen, she replied, "Since the allotment has been cancelled, there is no need for investigation."

The prime minister said that in the past, plots had been allotted by different governments indiscriminately and illegally since 1957. All the regimes had committed irregularities in allotting plots to their partymen and relatives.

She mentioned that late Kafiluddin Chowdhury as a minister in those days had managed allotment of many plots to his near relatives and said an investigation into this would unveil the nepotism.

Responding to a question if her government would investigate irregularities in plot allotment under the past government

under the past government

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PM's 'no' to UZ city corporation polls under caretaker govt

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has dismissed the Opposition demand for holding the upcoming city corporation and Upazila elections under a caretaker administration, saying the demand is illogical and unrealistic.

Electoral bodies can not be held under a caretaker administration and it never happened so. They (the BNP) are now demanding it

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Rajuk employees to lock chairman's office Sunday

RAJUK Karmachar Sangsad and Officers Welfare Association will put the offices of the chairman and members under lock and key on Sunday, reports UNB.

The decision was announced at a joint rally of the officers and employees of the Rajuk and employees of the Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakha yesterday morning.

They also demonstrated inside the RAJUK Bhaban from morning to noon protesting the alleged corruption and irregularities in allotting plots and demanded the immediate removal of those involved.

The Association's leaders said they (the chairman and members) have tarnished the image of the organisation as well as the government through illegal allotment of plots.

RAJUK employees demanded formation of a judicial committee to look into the alleged corruption and irregularities of the chairman and members in allotting plots in Gulshan, Baridhara, Nikunja and Uttara Model Town.

Their demands also include formulation of a permanent policy for allotment of plots, and withdrawal of the show-causes notices served against 10 employees.

Heroin worth Tk 70 lakh seized, 4 held

By Staff Correspondent

Four people were arrested for possessing 700 grams of heroin worth about Tk 70 lakh from a house in the city's North Kafrul area yesterday morning.

Police identified the arrested as Kajuddin, 45, Golam Rababi, 31, Jahangir, 25, and Molibjul Sakil, 33.

Kafrul police said that the seized amount of heroin was seized from Kajuddin who went to the house to sell the drug. Police, acting on a tip-off, raided the house and arrested them.

According to police, the three others, arrested in this connection, were also involved in the sale and trafficking of heroin.

The seized drug was examined by the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) and its price was estimated at around Tk 70 lakh.

Chittagong port workers agitate for pay hike

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 15: Several hundred labourers who work under marine contractors at the jetties, gheraoed the office of Chittagong port for three hours from 12 noon today demanding increase in their wages, port sources said.

The agitating labourers, some wearing 'burial cloth', staged a demonstration in front of the office and exploded cocktails creating panic in the port office area, witnesses said.

They also put up a barricade on the road in front of the port office disrupting traffic, witnesses and police said. Later, police removed the barricade.

The gherao was withdrawn at around 3 pm following an assurance given by the marine contractors to increase the wages, port sources said.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina talking to newsmen on her return home from the United Kingdom. — PID photo

### Commentary

## Bold and decisive move, but it must go further

By Mahfuz Anam

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