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Rajuk approves cancellation of plot allotment

By Staff Correspondent

The Rajdhani Unnayan Kar tipakha (Rajuk) yesterday approved the prime minister's decision for cancellation of allotment of all 301 residential plots.

"The decision has been taken at a special board meeting to pave the way for the prime minister's directive," a Rajuk official told *The Daily Star*.

At a press conference on her return from Britain on July 16, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina announced the cancellation of Rajuk's recent allotment of 301 residential plots in Gulshan, Baridhara and Uttara in the city.

Rajuk, earlier, distributed 301 plots, mostly among leaders and activists of ruling Awami League, sparking off

See Page 12 Col 3

**Jalal murder**  
Proceedings of case adjourned till Aug 9

By Court Correspondent

The Fifth Additional Metropolitan Session's Court yesterday adjourned the proceedings of Jalal murder case till August 9 following a prayer for extension of time by the prosecution lawyers.

Meanwhile, the defence lawyers for accused Inspector Ziaul Ahsan submitted three petitions for allowing them to see documents (*alamat*) and visit the place of occurrence.

Decomposed body of Jalal Ahmed Shafi, an informer of DB, was recovered from a rooftop water tank of DB office at Minto Road on March 25 morning. The body was identified six days after its recovery.

CID submitted the charge sheet of the case accusing four people, including three Detectives.

See page 11 Col 6

**Ring leader of Imon-Mamun group held**

By Staff Correspondent

Police arrested one Firoz Ahmed from the city's Kalabagan area Tuesday night for his alleged involvement with different terrorist groups.

According to police, Firoz was arrested following a confessional statement of Mamun, who was arrested from the city's Kakrall area Monday night.

Mamun in his statement said that he and his gang shot Dilara Begum, wife of Hares as directed by Firoz while she was travelling by an autorickshaw at Bijoy Swarani on June 17, police said.

Mamun also confessed that Firoz acted as the ring leader of Imon-Mamun group.

**Bangladesh believes in one China policy: FM**

Bangladesh made it clear yesterday that it was fully committed to 'one' China policy, reports BSS.

Bangladesh believes in "one" China policy and Taiwan is an integral part of China," Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad told the news agency.

The Foreign Minister said this following some recent remarks made by Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui. Azad said Bangladesh has excellent relations with the People's Republic of China.

**Inside Today**

### Article

Parliament and parliamentarians  
**Conflict of Expectations with Reality**

Column: Currents and Crosscurrents  
by M M Rezaul Karim

Page 4

### Focus

Liberation and Beyond  
by J N Dixit

Page 5

### Prayer Timings

July 22

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-10	4-15
Johr	12-50	1-25
Ajr	4-55	5-05
Magrib	7-00	7-05
Esha	7-55	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

# The Daily Star

Today's issue  
20 pages

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## Private bank CEOs propose capital punishment for wilful defaulters

By Inam Ahmed

Some private bank chief executives have proposed punishments like life imprisonment and death sentence for wilful defaulters who, they said, are now posing a big threat to the banking sector.

The plea came yesterday at a meeting between the managing directors and chairmen of private commercial banks (PCBs) with the members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance Ministry, according to sources.

But others said it needed more serious scrutiny to identify the role of bankers in creating default loans and other reasons before going for such tough measures.

MDs and chairmen from 13 PCBs were present in the meeting. Three PCBs — IFIC, AB and Al-Baraka — were not represented.

Members of parliament including Prof Ali Ashraf, Mostafa Kamal, Chitra Bhattacharya, Karimuddin Varsa, MK Anwar, Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury took part in the discussion. Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr M Farashuddin presented a report on the current situation of the

PCBs.

Some bankers were also against allowing more private banks, which they said would create an unhealthy competition. But the government disagreed, saying that in a free market economy, competition always bears good results.

The bankers also complained that the central bank was "over-regulating" the banking system. They substantiated their claims by saying that the central bank dictates opening of branches and uses its influence on banks to increase lending to agriculture sector.

They said the money loan courts are too inadequate to quickly settle cases involving loan default, which in a way is denial of justice.

Among other things which came up in the discussion were high rates of interest, trade unionism and separation of bank management from the clutch of directors.

BB Governor Dr Farashuddin identified five vital problems of the private commercial banks. These are: capital inadequacy, loan classification, shortfall in provisioning, in-

See page 11 Col 5



Zoology students stage a sit-in strike in front of the National Press Club yesterday demanding review of BCS rules for Fishery officers.

Star photo by Amran Hossain

## Flood situation in Comilla worsens, heavy rains in northern dists

By Special Correspondent

Heavy monsoon rains continued to pound the northern districts for the second consecutive day yesterday, threatening flash floods and water logging in the region while the situation in Comilla declined further, reports from officials and agencies.

The situation along the river Padma from Goalundo to Bhagiyakul may deteriorate slightly and flash flood may occur at Kurigram, Rangpur, Gaibandha and Bogra. But the situation in the Meghna basin may remain stable and the flash flood situation in the south eastern hill basin would improve, Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) said yesterday.

Mamun in his statement said that he and his gang shot Dilara Begum, wife of Hares as directed by Firoz while she was travelling by an autorickshaw at Bijoy Swarani on June 17, police said.

Mamun also confessed that Firoz acted as the ring leader of Imon-Mamun group.

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Source: Islamic Foundation

## The rich becoming richer

Gap with the poor in Dhaka widens dramatically

By Reaz Ahmad

The top five per cent of Dhaka population living in upper echelon now have their stakes in 31 per cent of total incomes generated in the capital. Income shares of the wealthy section was only 17 per cent hardly eight years back, says a study report.

"Poverty is declining among the poor in Dhaka, although the gap between the poor and the rich is widening -- dramatically," says an IRRI report released recently.

In a collaborative study carried out by the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), a cross-section of Dhaka's resi-

dents was surveyed to analyze changes in socio-economic conditions, food security, and access to urban services since 1991, when BIDS had conducted a benchmark study.

"Although income in general was up during the seven years, the income share for the bottom 40 percent on the per capita income scale declined from 17 to 11 percent, while that for the top 5 percent increased from 17 to 31 percent," says the report.

Economic condition of slum dwellers improved from a per capita income of 165 US dollars in 1991 to 250 US dollars in 1998. Yet the income by slum dwellers is only one fourth of the average income of non-slum

dwellers, the report notes.

The report apprehends, the rural-urban migration that has been contributing to Dhaka's alarming growth will be difficult to control. Demographers project that Dhaka will be the fifth most populous city in the world by year 2015 with a population of 19.5 million.

"The government needs to formulate appropriate policies to decentralize urbanization and reduce pressure on Dhaka," says IRRI's Deputy Director General Dr Mahabub Hossain.

Hossain, a former director general of the BIDS, warns that "Otherwise, providing basic services to Dhaka residents will

See page 11 Col 7

## Stampede: 100 hurt in Rose garments in Gazipur again

Over 100 workers were injured, nine critically, as several hundred workers tried to rush out through a single exit of a garment factory here yesterday, reports UNB.

The stampede took place at Rose Knitting housed on the first floor of a six-story building at Gazipur crossing, where two female garment workers were killed and over 25 others injured during a fire on July 9.

Several hundred workers of the garment factory ran out, trampling one another while trying to flee as they heard a big bang after an electric short circuit at about 2.05 pm, a witness said. Fire Brigade sources, however, said the workers panicked after hearing the sound of fall of an object during repairing of staircase of the garment factory.

They said firefighters from Tongi rushed to the spot and sent six injured workers to local hospital.

Fire Control Room however said, "No incident of fire occurred at the factory today."

According to UNB, Dhaka Medical College Hospital correspondent, nine critically injured female workers were brought to the hospital. They are Raqshan Ara, Pakhi, Sagarika, Nurjahan, Monwara, Rekha, Rabeya, Yasmin and Ayesha Akter.

## 4 held for killing Feni BCL activist

From Our Correspondent

FENI, July 21: Police arrested four people from Rampur in the town last night in connection with the murder of BCL activist Omar Faruque Rubel.

Rubel was shot dead during a gunfight between BCL and JCD at Panchgachia road yesterday evening.

The arrested were identified as Belal, Musa, Khoikan and Razzak.

Rubel was buried at his family graveyard at Utkil Para in the town at around 2 pm today.

The district units of Awami League, Jubo League and Chhatra League held a protest rally in the town today.

The speakers blamed BNP and its student front JCD for the killing.

Khaleda to address 26 meetings

## July 25 road march programme finalised

By Staff Correspondent

Main opposition BNP has finalised its planned three-day

march, the marchers will visit Gazipur, Mymensingh and Jamalpur with an overnight stay at Mymensingh. On the second day (Monday), the march will resume from Mymensingh and the marchers will visit different areas of Sherpur district. They will again return to Mymensingh for the night. On the concluding day, the marchers will visit Netrokona and Kishoreganj districts.

According to the programme, convoy of the road march will go through Gazipur, Mymensingh, and Jamalpur with an overnight stay at Mymensingh. On the second day (Monday), the march will resume from Mymensingh and the marchers will visit different areas of Sherpur district. They will again return to Mymensingh for the night. On the concluding day, the marchers will visit Netrokona and Kishoreganj districts.

The three-day march will conclude at Pirojpur under Barajitpur thana at Kishoreganj district.

As per the schedule, the opposition leader on the first day will address meetings at Mauna Chowrasta at Gazipur; start the road march from city's

Paltan Maidan at 10 am.

On the first day of the march, the marchers will visit Gazipur, Mymensingh and Jamalpur with an overnight stay at Mymensingh. On the second day (Monday), the march will resume from Mymensingh and the marchers will visit different areas of Sherpur district. They will again return to Mymensingh for the night. On the concluding day, the marchers will visit Netrokona and Kishoreganj districts.