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# The Daily Star

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## Promotion of deputy secys demanded

By Special Correspondent

The 'Upo Sahib (Deputy Secretary) Forum' has demanded immediate government steps to fill up 175 vacant posts of joint-secretaries by promoting the deputy secretaries who were left out earlier despite their seniority.

The Forum in a resolution taken at a meeting yesterday pointed out that about 200 deputy secretaries belonging to the 1973 batch were not considered for promotion. It was violation of a guideline approved by the Prime Minister in 1998.

They were left out while deputy secretaries belonging to 1974, 1976 and 1977 batches were promoted. This created an "adverse reaction and frustration" among the "deprived" senior deputy secretaries leading to a "near collapse of the chain of command", the resolution said, according to a press release. The meeting was presided over by Mohammad Shahjahan Mia, Convener of the Forum.

The meeting decided to submit a memorandum to Prime Minister. The Forum will be compelled to go for any "extreme course of action" if the demand is not fulfilled within one month, the press release said.

## Govt negotiating with German co to neutralise 'toxic' fertiliser

The government is negotiating with a foreign company to get rid of stock of "toxic" fertiliser imported in late 1991, reports UNB.

Official sources said a German company has agreed to neutralise the fertiliser now stored in BADC warehouses. Negotiation with the company is in final stage. The government, considering its adverse impact on environment, wants the company to take the toxic fertiliser away from the country to destroy or neutralise the stock.

A meeting will be held in the Ministry of Agriculture on August 1 to decide the fate of this toxic fertiliser, said an official of the ministry.

Around 6,000 tons of zinc oxy-sulphate fertiliser was imported in late 1991. Almost half of the quantity is still kept in the country, reports UNB.

## Khaleida extends support to one China policy

BNP Chairperson and leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleida Zia yesterday hoped that the tension between China and Taiwan will soon end through peaceful means, reports UNB.

In a statement yesterday, she extended unequivocal support to one China policy and said Taiwan will eventually be reunified with the mainland.

## Inside Today

### Article

## Case for an Objective Assessment

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by Kuldip Nayer  
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### Focus

## Law and Our Rights

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Many countries may be at Y2K risk  
Coca-Cola likely to face record high fines

DSE, CSE price quotations  
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### Prayer Timings

July 25	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4:10	4:15
Johr	12:50	1:25
Asr	4:55	5:05
Maghrib	6:55	7:00
Esha	7:55	8:15

Source: Islamic Foundation

## King Hassan passes away

RABAT, July 24: King Hassan II, who ignored regional taboos to help forge Mideast peace and ruled his North African country for 38 years, died of a heart attack. He was 70, reports AP.

The king was succeeded by his son, Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed, who announced Hassan's death on state television Friday, describing his father as "a great leader and one of this world's great men."

State television announced in the early hours of this morning that Sidi Mohamed, 35, would succeed his father. He will be known as King Mohammed VI.

The government, senior military officials and religious officials all proclaimed their official recognition of the new king, state television said.

The announcement of Hassan's death brought hundreds of crying mourners to the royal palace in the center of the capital, Rabat, which began 40 days of official mourning. A Moroccan Television news announcer

burst into tears while reading a statement about plans to bury the king next to his father.

Hassan was an all-powerful monarch who created democratic institutions and a moderate Arab who formed a diplomatic bridge between the West and radical Arab governments. He helped bring about the 1979 peace treaty between Israel and Egypt, as well as subsequent agreements between Israel and both the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Jordan.

Hassan's funeral was scheduled for tomorrow, the royal palace said. Unmarried at age 35, the crown prince has an interest in literature and art.

The king had been hospitalized earlier Friday in Rabat for what the palace described as an acute lung infection. His son said he died at 4:30 pm local time (11:30 am EDT) of a heart attack.

Hassan played a precarious balancing act in the Middle East, bringing Arabs and Is-

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King Hassan II

## Bangladesh to mourn death today

Bangladesh will observe national mourning day today as a mark of respect to Moroccan King Hassan II, reports BSS.

The government took the decision to observe the day to show respect to the departed soul of King Hassan II, who died on Friday, a PD handout said.

National flag will fly at half mast in all government, semi-government and autonomous offices and Bangladesh Missions abroad.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina left Dhaka last night for Rabat to attend the funeral of King Hassan II of Morocco, reports UNB.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Principal Secretary Dr SA Samad, Foreign Secretary CM Shafi Sami and Press Secretary Jawadul Karim are accompanying the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister is expected to return home tomorrow.

## Sex workers evicted

From Ehsanul Haque

### Where have they taken Shathi?

By Staff Correspondent

A pre-dawn sloop on sex workers at the 150-year-old Tanbazar and Nimtoli brothels at Narayanganj yesterday left a mother asking, "Where is my Shathi?"

The mother of Shathi, Khadija Akhtar, said at the Naripakkha office in Dhanmondi that her daughter was bearing the education expenses of her five sisters and brothers in Bagerhat. She has also been helping the family to survive, she said.

But do not know where she is now. Please tell Shamin Osman not to hurt my daughter."

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NARAYANGANJ, July 24: In a pre-dawn sloop today, police evicted sex workers from Tanbazar and Nimtoli brothels in the town.

Authorities said in the evening that they took 267 of the inmates to government vagrant homes at Kashimpur and Pubail in Gazipur for rehabilitation.

But sources in the brothels claimed that police forcibly took away about 400 sex workers, and about 600 fled away during the sloop.

Some 2400 sex workers earlier left the red-light area as trouble began in the brothels since the murder of a sex worker there on July 1 and a subsequent government announcement for their rehabilitation elsewhere.

There were about 3,400 sex workers in the 150-year-old brothels, according to earlier official estimates.

According to witnesses, some 300 policemen laid a siege

around the Tanbazar and Nimtoli brothels at around 4 am. Announcement by loudspeaker was made calling upon the inmates to come out.

"Come out, buses are ready to take you to the rehabilitation centres," the police announced, one witness told this correspondent.

Unwilling to respond to the call, the sex workers started shouting in defiance. At this stage, police locked the collapsible gates and started dragging them into 10 buses, parked near the brothels. Many managed to evade the police action. They sneaked through windows and other secret ways.

Shafiqul Kabir, a Director of the Social Services Department, led the three-hour police drive. The Deputy Commissioner, Superintendent of Police, a team of magistrates including a female one and officers-in-charge of all the seven police stations in the district also participated in the "operation".

Most of the inmates could not take any of their household belongings, the witnesses said.

The drive over, hundreds of "mistresses", brokers and pimps of sex workers and shopkeepers at the red-light area came out from hideouts. They, along with many onlookers, thronged the roads adjacent to the brothels.

After the "operation", many sex workers who escaped the eviction, were seen coming back to the red-light area and asking police to allow them to take away their belongings from the brothels, still cordoned by police.

But the policemen did not allow them, saying the local authorities will have to be sure about the ownership of their property.

Till filing of this report late last night, police were guarding the 21 buildings at Tanbazar and Nimtoli brothels. The

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## Kader Siddiqui ignores party move, vows to keep 'fighting'

### Interview with The Daily Star

Fifty two year old Kader Siddiqui, the only civilian who was awarded Bir Uttam for heroic exploits against the Pakistani Occupation forces in 1971, has recently been in the news. A consistent fighter, as he calls himself, Siddiqui, took part in the 1965 Indo-Pak war as a sepoy of the Pakistani army. Quitting Pakistan Army after the war, he joined Chhattr League - the student front of Awami League. During the nation's War of Independence, he raised a large army of freedom fighters that fought the occupation army of Pakistan and came to be known as Mujib Bahini. When Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family members were killed in a military putsch in August 1975, he had left the country for India, and again, raised an army to fight those who seized power following the killing of the First Family. He returned home after the fall of Ershad regime in December 1990. In 1996 general elections, he became an MP from a Tangail constituency on AL ticket. For the last few months, he has been very critical of his party leadership as well as the government run by party chief Sheikh Hasina. A member of the ruling Awami League's Central Working Committee, Siddiqui has temporarily been expelled from the party for his public criticism against various government policies. Nurul Kabir, a senior correspondent of The Daily Star, spoke to him a couple of days ago. As

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Kader Siddiqui making a point during the interview

## Opposition starts road march today

By Staff Correspondent

BNP and its alliance partners will launch today the second phase of their simultaneous road march to different destinations in the country to intensify the anti-government agitation.

The four parties -- BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Oikya Jote - had earlier announced the march programme to protest 'Awami misrule, corruption, repression, killing of opposition activists and police personnel, subversive foreign policy and anti-national activities' of the government.

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleida Zia, JP Chairperson HM Ershad, Jamaat Ameer Golam Azam and IOJ chief Moulana Azimul will lead the separate marches, also to protest power crisis, deterioration of law and order, price spiral of essentials and govern-

ment 'failure' in various fields.

The alliance components also went for similar road march programme earlier on May 16-18.

BNP policy makers considered road march as a powerful means of mobilising people's support in its movement against the government instead of going for frequent hartals.

The party begins a three-day march from Dhaka to Mymensingh today.

JP is going for a four-day 'march' from Dhaka to Barisal, Jamaat for a three-day road march from Bogra to Chapainawabganj and IOJ for a two-day march from the capital to Chittagong.

Central leaders, mainly chiefs of the four parties will address public rallies on their way to respective destinations. All the parties have decided to

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## Mysterious death of a convict in Mymensingh jail

MYMENSINGH, July 24: A convict died in Mymensingh Jail Friday night due to negligence of the jail authorities, his family alleged, reports UNB.

Jail authorities, however, said that Rafiqul Islam alias Angur, 28, son of Lal Mia alias Azizul of Shankipara died of tuberculosis.

Angur was sentenced to 17 years imprisonment in arms and jail escape cases and he already suffered 15 years in jail, they said.

Jail sources said Angur fell unconscious inside jail at night and was rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital at about 11.45 pm. He died there soon after admission and his body was brought back to the jail the same night.

Angur's wife and other relatives were informed of the death when they went to see him in jail at about 9 am today. The family alleged that at one stage authorities took Angur's wife inside the jail and asked her to take the body signing on a white paper.

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## Spl drive to nab professional killers in city

The police have taken a special drive in the city to round up hardcore criminals engaged in secret killing, reports UNB.

The step has been taken in view of rising incidents of secret killing, believed to have done by professional killers.

More than 120 people were killed in the city during the last six months.

All professional killers and terrorists of the capital have been identified and listed. They are being rounded up shortly.

DMP Commissioner A K M Shamsuddin Ahmed told the news agency yesterday. Some 20 hardcore criminals have been marked as professional killers, said a senior police official, requesting anonymity. They have no strong political affiliation. They are being utilised by others, he added.

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## Quota forgery: 24 units did it in last 2 yrs

By Rafiq Hasan

As many as 78.96 lakh pieces of apparel were exported to US by forging 106 export visas over last two years and 24 garments factories were involved in it.

This was found in a recent investigation by Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), which distributes garments export quota and monitors export activities.

EPB had suspended export activities of 21 factories out of the 24 which were found guilty in primary investigation earlier. Owner of one of the 21 factories appealed to the High Court and got a stay order on suspension.

Of the three other factories, owner of one surrendered the quota including penalty. Further investigation is going on against the rest two factories, sources concerned said.

Showcause notices were issued by EPB on all the factories asking for payment of penalty. "Export licences of those factories would be cancelled if they fail to pay penalty," said a senior official.

Usually, penalty for such forgery is payment of four times the value of exports against forged quota or return of quota

four times that forged.

The 24 factories exported apparels forging quotas numbering 634, 347, 348, 334, 647, 648, 635, 340, 640, 352, 659 and 237.

One of those -- Mrs Smart Stitch Apparels at Mirpur -- alone exported more than 20 thousand dozen pieces of apparels by forging 12 visa documents.

When contacted, BGMEA vice president Nurul Haq Sikder said that the government should take stern action against the garments factories found involved in quota forgery.

The image of the country is being tarnished abroad due to quota forgery by a section of garments factory owners.

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Tears tell the tale

An inmate of Tanbazar brothel at Narayanganj breaks down after eviction yesterday.

—Star photo

## Ershad is a betrayer, says Hasina

RANGPUR, July 24: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today called former President Ershad a "betrayer" as he is issuing threats against her government that had given him the opportunity to attend Parliament, reports UNB.

"The betrayer is now giving threats of movement against us and joining hands with those who put him in jail for corruption... It was our generosity that enabled him to attend Parliament," she told a huge public meeting at Zila School ground here in the afternoon.

She said the people of this region had voted Ershad in 1991 and 1996 but he was thrown into jail by Begum Khaleida Zia's government on massive corruption charges.

Hasina said her government had freed Ershad but he betrayed with Awami League government by launching a movement against it.

"He will get his due for betraying with us and also with the people of this country," the Prime Minister told the people of Rangpur, the birthplace of the deposed president.

She said the people of greater Rangpur did not give any parliament seat to the ruling party

in the last election, but Awami League did not make any discrimination in taking development programmes for this neglected region.

"You might forget us, but we did not forget you. We are taking massive development programmes for this region," she said listing the steps taken for greater Rangpur.

She said she has laid the foundation stone of first Science and Technology University at Rangpur today.

She said the government has taken a number of steps for the development of schools and colleges and specific steps for the madrasahs. But, she said, the opposition parties, including BNP, is spreading lies against Awami League that it is closing down the madrasahs. She mentioned that it has included over 200 madrasahs in MPO.

Referring to the opening of Bangabandhu multipurpose bridge on the river Jamuna, she said it will end sufferings of the northern people. "Now investment will be made in northern region industries will be set up and jobs will be created."

The Prime Minister said there is a good scope of setting

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## Three years in office President didn't visit any foreign country

By M Anwarul Haq

President Shahabuddin Ahmed did not visit any foreign country during his nearly three years in office although he received invitations from several leading heads of state or government.

Nelson Mandela invited Shahabuddin twice, in March 1997 when he visited Bangladesh as President of South Africa and in June this year to attend the installation ceremony in which his successor Thabo Mbeki took over.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad represented President Shahabuddin in the ceremony. President Shahabuddin was also invited by President of Iran Mohammad Khatami.

Turkish President Suleyman Demirel had invited the Bangladesh President on four occasions to visit Turkey. Demirel had invited Shahabuddin when the former visited Bangladesh along with Nelson Mandela and Yasser Arafat in March, 1997 to attend the Silver Jubilee celebration of the country's independence. The

Turkish President renewed the invitation once again during his trip to Dhaka to attend the D-8 Conference in March this year.

Sources said that President Shahabuddin had intended to visit Turkey last year but later abandoned it due to the severe floods.

Demirel has again sent a fresh invitation to Shahabuddin Ahmed to visit Turkey and attend the celebrations marking the 75th anniversary of founding of the Turkish Republic in October this year.

Diplomatic sources hinted that President Shahabuddin may visit Turkey. "We hope this time he will be visiting Turkey in October or November," said an official concerned.

Asked if the President is reluctant to travel abroad or he has to seek clearance from the Prime Minister, a presidential spokesman said, "Only the President decides whether he would pay a visit to a foreign country. He only needs to initiate

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### Congestion surcharge

## CPA to send protest note to CFTC

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 24: Chittagong Port Authority has decided to send a protest note to Singapore based Chittagong Feeder Trade Committee (CFTC) against its decision to impose congestion surcharge on container cargo, port sources said.

CFTC, an organisation of feeder vessel operators, took the decision recently to impose congestion surcharge on container cargo at Chittagong Port from August 23.

Port officials said that the decision was unjustified as congestion eased at the Chittagong port. They informed that the port authority would take a move to force CFTC to cancel its decision.

Meanwhile, president of steamer agents association Tarek Anis, echoing the same sentiment, said "we would protest the decision of CFTC and we will send a letter to it after holding a meeting of our association tomorrow."

"CFTC unilaterally took such a decision without any reason despite improvement of situation at Chittagong port," he added.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

The Daily Star and APTECH Computer Education are jointly organizing a seminar titled "Moving Forward with Information Technology."

### OBJECTIVES

- ★ Govt has declared IT as thrust sector — what has been done so far.
- ★ Identify steps to be taken both by the govt and the private sector.

Date: July 31, 1999 Time: 04:00 pm.

Venue: Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh, Ramna, Dhaka.

Speakers: Opinion-leaders and policy-makers from government and private sector.

Register with any of the following APTECH centres to participate in this unique seminar. Registration is free.

Banani: Awal Centre (5th floor), 34, Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani C/A, Tel: 9886539

Dhanmondi: 7-13, Satmasjid Road (4th floor), Dhanmondi, Tel: 9128354-8

Esakaton: 17, New Esakaton Road (2nd floor), Maghbazar, Tel: 9341761, 9350531

Kakrail: Metropolitan Scout Bhaban (1st floor), 54 Inner Circular Road, Tel: 837357, 839091

Old Dhaka: 2, English Road (1st floor), Tel: 019-342245-6

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