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## Promotion of deputy secys demanded

By Special Correspondent  
The 'Upo Sachib' (Deputy Secretary) Forum has demanded immediate government steps to fill up 175 vacant posts of joint-secretary 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 Mohamand Shahajahan Mia, Convenor 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

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**Khaleda extends support to one China policy**

BNP Chairperson and leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda 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.

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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

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# The Daily Star

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**RANGS GROUP**

## 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 Mohamed 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 announced

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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 PID handout said.

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

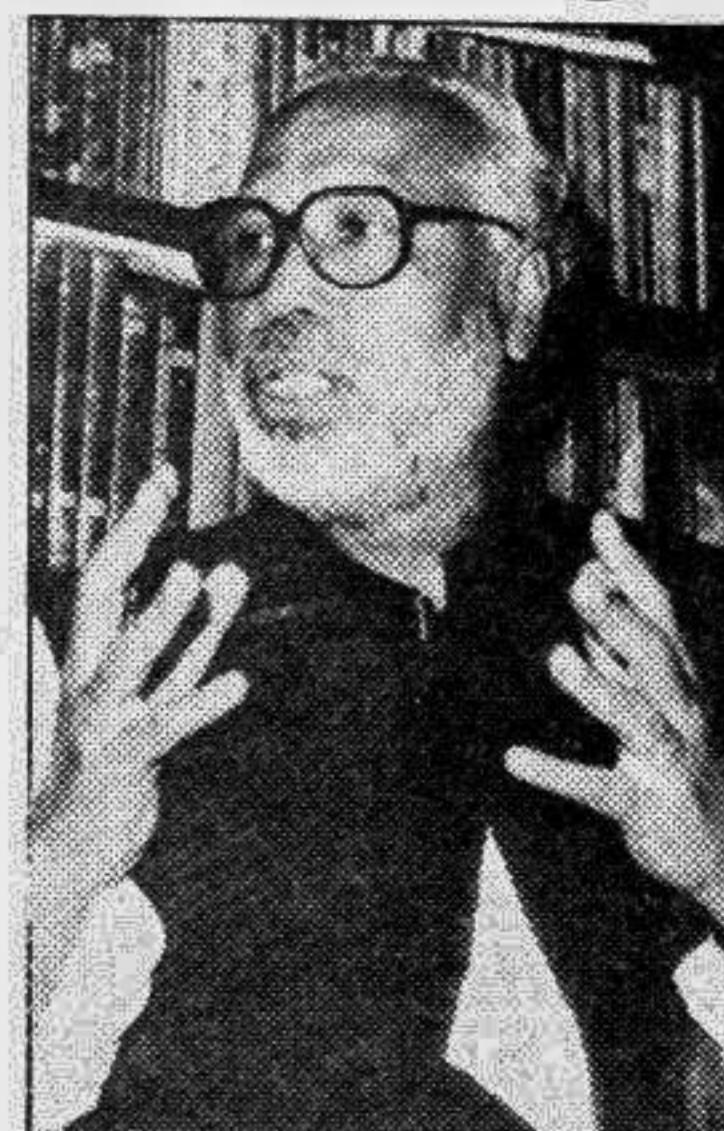
## Kader Siddiqui ignores party move, vows to keep 'fighting'

### 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 sepoys of the Pakistani army. Quitting Pakistan Army after the war, he joined Chhatra 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 Kaderia Bahini. When Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family members were killed in a military coup 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 in 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

## Sex workers evicted

From Ehsanul Haque

NARAYANGANJ, July 24: In a pre-dawn swoop today, police evicted sex workers from Tanbazar and Nimboli 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 swoop.

Some 2400 sex workers earlier left the red-light areas 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.

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 Nimboli 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.

Shafiq 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 IAC and officers-in-Charge of all the seven police stations in the district also participated in the "operation".

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 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 hartsals.

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

JP is going for a four-day launch march from Dhaka to Barisal, Jamaat for a three-day road march from Bogra to Chittagong 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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## 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, subservient foreign policy and anti-national activities" of the government.

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia, JP Chairman HM Ershad, Jamaat-e-Islami Leader Golam Azam and IOJ chief Moulana Azizul 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.

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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 sign 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 been 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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Tears tell the tale

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

Star photo

## Ershad is a betrayer, says Hasina

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 in the afternoon.

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, are 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."

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.