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## Vandalism at bank boardroom

### Former AL MP allegedly leads gangsters into UCBL meeting

By Staff Correspondent

Some 50 armed goons allegedly backed by police forces yesterday stormed the boardroom of United Commercial Bank (UCBL) during a board meeting and forced some bank directors to resign at the instigation of a former Awami League MP Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury Babu, the directors claimed.

They also charged that Babu forcibly became the chairman of the bank, a post from which

he was removed earlier. Babu, however, flatly denied the allegations.

The role of the police was veiled in mystery as nobody could say why the forces were seen with the goons. A police official present during the incident had allegedly told the bank directors that the forces were there at the 'directives from high-ups'.

The directors alleged that Babu, a former MP and also a

former UCBL director, along with his son Saifuzzaman Zaved led a gang of armed hoodlums who broke down the collapsible gate of the bank's head office at Motijheel in presence of police at around 3.30 pm when the board meeting was going on.

As we heard screams and shouting from downstairs, we asked the guards to put the collapsible gate under lock and key. But the hoodlums wielding

iron rods and other weapons climbed up to the fifth floor of the building in the presence of police, broke the gate and stormed into the bank," said Showkat Aziz Russell, Director, UCBL.

They broke into the board room and started beating the directors including UCBL Chairman Zafar Ahmed Chowdhury," said Zahangir Alam Khan, a bank director. He said that during the entire

episode, police forces were present, but they did not intervene despite repeated requests. "Finding no other alternatives, we then rang the Motijheel police station. But the duty officer told us that police were already at the spot and there was no need for sending further forces."

"We finally called Home Minister Mohammad Nasim, who sent in fresh forces and See page 11 Col 4."

## Opposition boycotts BAC meet

By Staff Correspondent

Opposition parties yesterday boycotted a Jatiya Sangsad Business Advisory Committee meeting protesting government's decision to provide India with transit facilities by-passing parliament.

Chief Whip of the Opposition in Parliament Khandakar Delwar Hossain in a letter addressed to Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury yesterday communicated their position on the issue.

Meantime, ruling party members of the Advisory

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## Doha, wife sentenced to 10 years' RI, fined Tk 50 lac

By Court Correspondent

Aminur Rahman Shamsud-doha, foreign minister of Ershad government, and his wife Wajlha Mokaddem Shamsud-doha have been convicted and sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for 10 years and fined Tk 50 lakh in default to suffer further one year rigorous imprisonment in a corruption case.

The Dhaka Divisional special Judge Md Fazlul Karim by a judgement yesterday found them guilty of misappropriation of Tk 47,87,196.88.

By the judgement the court

See Page 11 Col 8

## NGOs worry about their Tk 1000cr

### Slum eviction move may create big microcredit mess

By Special Correspondent

A number of foreign and local NGOs are watching with concern the police move to demolish the BNP Bustee (slum) at Agargaon in the city as they have given microcredit to the slum dwellers, NGO sources said yesterday.

Microcredit given to slum dwellers in the city so far totals about Tk 1000 crore, the sources said. NGO representatives held an emergency meeting on Wednesday after police asked residents at the BNP Bustee earlier on the day to move elsewhere within seven days.

The High Court on Monday directed the government not to evict slum dwellers without making any arrangement for

their rehabilitation.

The meeting held at the CARE office was attended by, among others, representatives from OXFAM, Concern, Action Aid, Radda Barnen and the Coalition for Urban Poor (CUP).

The meeting reviewed the situation following the police move and decided to make a representation to the Prime Minister and apprise her of the situation, particularly the need for rehabilitation.

The microcredit given so far for employment generation and development of slum dwellers will be "lost" if the government goes for eviction without rehabilitation, the sources said.

"We are watching the situation. We will take up the issue

seriously since the projects were approved by government agencies like the NGO Bureau," Kokil Ahmed, a Concern official said.

He said NGOs are not against removal of the slums to make the city beautiful. But it must be in phases, providing the scope for resettlement. "We will extend all-out co-operation to the government for their rehabilitation."

Another follow-up meeting of NGO representatives will be held on Wednesday, Ahmed said.

The CUP has already written to Bangladesh's development partners, expressing its concern following the police move against slums in the city.

## Bank rate down to 7 per cent

Bangladesh Bank has reduced its rate of lending to commercial banks and government from 8 per cent to 7 per cent per annum which business people say would spur industrial investment and trade, reports UNB.

A brief announcement of the central bank yesterday said the re-fixed rate would come into force from August 29.

The decision followed an announcement made by Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria at a meeting with Chamber leaders on Tuesday that the government would cut interest rate on credits.

When contacted, Bangladesh Bank Deputy Governor Ruhul Amin said the reduction would encourage the banks to lower their respective interest rates in lending to clients.

He said the central bank had decontrolled the interest rates leaving it to be determined by See Page 11 Col 8

## HC orders stop-eviction again

By Staff Correspondent

The High Court yesterday directed the government not to take any step in respect of slum dwellers until the signed judgement of Monday is delivered.

The directive comes after protection from the court was sought following reports in The Daily Star Wednesday that

Mohammadpur police were going ahead with the eviction drive at BNP Bustee at Agargaon in the city.

Dr Kamal Hossain and Md Nizamul Huq sought the protection from the same HC bench that delivered the judgement on Monday, directing the government not to evict the slum

dwellers without arrangement for their rehabilitation.

Court sources said the government is yet to get the signed judgement because it might take several days for the judges to sign the order and send it to the parties concerned. But they pointed out that a court order comes into force as soon as it is

pronounced in the open court. In this particular case, by directing the government to "read and understand the signed judgement", the court meant that the government should clearly know the detailed contents of Monday's judgement.

After yesterday's submission See Page 11 Col 7

## Red tape retards reforms

### PARC advice falls on deaf bureaucratic ears

By Shehab Ahmed

Bureaucratic red tape has slowed down implementation of a number of recommendations made by the Public Administration Reforms Commission (PARC), despite pressure from the government and

development partners to reform the bureaucracy, governed by vintage rules, some dating back to the British colonial era.

Not a single one of the 21 recommendations the PARC forwarded to the government

has been implemented so far, a number of which has been accepted in principle, including a major decision to appoint an Ombudsman and lower the voluntary retirement service See page 11 Col 4

## Soccer fiesta starts today

Sports Reporter



**Samba in town**  
The Rio de Janeiro team at the airport yesterday.

The second Bangabandhu Cup international football tournament begins today, promising a fascinating inter-continental contest for the next 12 days in the capital.

The stage is all set for the football fiesta in the country. Eleven teams from across the world and the hosts Bangladesh will take part in the mega event, dedicated to the memory of the country's founding father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The Bangabandhu National Stadium, which will play host to all the 15 matches including the grand final billed for September 7, wears a new look following a fortnight-long face-lift operation by hundreds of workers.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will declare the prestigious meet open at a colourful ceremony, which will begin at 4.30 pm. Both the state-run media — the Bangladesh Tele-

vision and Bangladesh Betar — will cover the hour-long opening ceremony and all the matches live from the big bowl. The 12 teams, split into four groups, will compete in the round robin first phase from where top four finishers from each group move into the semi-finals. Both the semifinals will be held on September 5.

The second event in the history of country's football after the Asian Youth Championship was back in 1978, in which 17 teams took part, will kick off at 5.30 pm with a Japanese selection pitting against the Pandag Somen FC of Indonesia in the inaugural match.

But the tournament will offer more than a mere contest between the Asian nations as the traditional powerhouse like Brazil, Ghana and Hungary are ready to show their skills on the Dhaka stage.

Rio de Janeiro side from

Brazil have declared that they are in this part of the world to display the beautiful game which they are dominating over the years and the Ghanaian Olympic team meanwhile will not be any less an opponent. And if that is not enough for zillions of local football zealots, the Carule FC of Hungary are here to provide the European flair.

Although the fight for the title is predicted to be a three-way heady battle between teams from Latinos, Europeans and Africans, Japan and South Korea promise a renewal of their perennial Asian rivalry.

Among the 12 teams, three will represent the national side. They are Kuwait, Nepal and the hosts.

For the hosts, the tournament will be hardly anything but a good opportunity to rub shoulders with quality opposition ahead of the SAF Games.

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## Specialised hospital sans specialists

By Naimul Haq

Doctors having no special training and required skill are assigned to treat patients at the specialised Infectious Disease Hospital (IDH) at Mahakhali in the city, hospital sources said.

According to experts, doctors should be specially trained in treating communicable diseases like tetanus, diphtheria, hepatitis, gas gangrene, chicken pox, measles, mums and Acquired Immuno-deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

"But it is very unfortunate that doctors without required skill are posted in the hospital" said senior doctor.

Another doctor told this correspondent, "We have no practical or theoretical knowledge in the treatment of infectious diseases. When we are assigned, we have to apply our general knowledge in treating the patients. But a specialised hospital like this should have experts in separate fields to treat patients."

Asked how a doctor carries out specific tasks without the required skill, one of the senior consultants said, "A newly posted doctor has to get acclimatised to the environment."

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## Flood situation in 5 districts worsens

The overall flood situation in five northern districts deteriorated today, snapping rail communication between Lalmonirhat and Kurigram districts and road communication in Sherpur district, reports UNB.

Flood water washed away 92 feet rail track near Teesta Railway station this morning, snapping rail link between Lalmonirhat and Kurigram districts.

Lalmonirhat Division (Railway) Engineer admitting the fact said repairing work has been undertaken to restore rail communication.

The Water Development Board sources said the Dharala is flowing 93cm above the danger mark at Ferry Ghat point.

Some 300 houses in Khamar Halokhana, Mondalpara, Laxmi Kanta and Char Barabari in sadar thana were damaged by flood water.

Some 700 square km area of Kurigram and Lalmonirhat district is now under floodwater affecting 12,000 families.

In Rangpur, at least 50,000 people of eight thanas and two

pourasavas of the district have been affected by flood caused by downpour for the last three days.

About 500 families have taken shelter in 10 educational institutions in the town. The pourasava authority distributed relief among the affected people.

In Sherpur, road link between sadar and Nalitabari thanas remained snapped as a bridge on the road was damaged by flood water.

With the rise of water level in the Ghughai river, Simultoli, Jagania, Kalakuma, Tantar and Kalastar villages of Nalitabari thana have been inundated.

In Sirajganj, with rise of water level in the river Jamuna, the flood situation in the district deteriorated further today, submerging vast areas.

The flood protection embankment at Kazipur and Chowdhali thanas became vulnerable.

Some 75,000 people in Belkuchi, Chowdhali, Shajadpur, Kazipur and Sadar thanas of the district were affected by floodwater.

## HSC success rate 53%

By Staff Correspondent



Abedul Huq (2nd from left) and Shamim Al Mamun (3rd from left) secured the top slot jointly. Wasim Reza (left) headed the Commerce list while Sonia Zahid was first among Science students. (Merit lists on Page 11)

Five educational boards yesterday published the results of Higher Secondary Certificate examinations 1999. The rate of success was 53.4 per cent.

Out of total 544,291 examinees under Dhaka, Comilla, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Jessore Boards, 290,627 passed.

Of the successful students, 86,955 are from Dhaka Board, 40,102 from Comilla Board, 30,800 from Chittagong Board, 90,953 from Rajshahi Board and 41,817 from Jessore Board. Of them, 175,179 were male and 115,448 female.

The boardwise success rates are: 52.20 in Dhaka, 45.46 in Comilla, 68.93 in Chittagong, 61.89 in Rajshahi and 42.73 in Jessore.

In Dhaka Board, Md Abedul Haque (Roll-104036) of Dhaka College and Kazi Mohammad Shamim-Al Mamun (Roll-105566) of Notre Dame College jointly topped the combined merit list from Science, Agriculture and Home Economics groups. They got 953 marks each with distinctions in four subjects.

In Humanities, Islamic Studies and Music group, Raseel Zamader (Roll-356280) of DK Ideal, Sayed Atahar Ali Academy secured the first position with 933 marks and four distinctions. Mohammad

The Commerce group merit list was topped by Md Wasim Reza (Roll-507153) of Dhaka City College got highest 862 marks with two distinctions.

In Comilla Board, Maliha Sultana (Roll-100519) of Sylhet MC College topped the combined merit list of Science, Agriculture and Home Economics group securing 929 marks with distinctions in four subjects.

In the combined merit list of Humanities, Islamic Studies and Music group, Mohammad Saiful Azam (Roll-330441) of Naziganj Model College and Shamima Mazumder (Roll-347308) of Juranpur Adarsha College jointly secured the first position with 863 marks.

In the Commerce group, Gouranga Chandra Debnath (Roll-513560) of Adhyapak Abdul Mazid College topped the merit list securing 794 marks.

In Chittagong Board, Mohammad Afzal Hossain (100847) of Chittagong College topped the combined merit list of Science, Agriculture and Home Economics group with 901 marks. He got four letters.

Mahua Zahur (Roll-301820) of Chittagong College topped the combined merit list of Humanities, Islamic Studies and Music Group with 819 marks and four distinctions. Mohammad

Yousuf (Roll-501220) of Government Commerce College topped the merit list of Commerce group with 816 marks and two distinctions.

In Rajshahi Board, Md Bahulul Haider (Roll-114917) of Rangpur Cadet College got the first position in Science, Agriculture and Home Economics merit list with 962 marks and four distinctions.

Farzana Akhter (Roll-301442) of Varendra College of Rajshahi secured the first position in Humanities, Islamic Studies and Music group merit list with 867 marks and three letters.

In Commerce group, Mosammat Nusrat Sarmah (Roll-511522) of Bogra Cantonment Public School and College topped the merit list with 827 marks and two distinctions.

In Jessore Board, Abdullah Al Reza (Roll-202519) of Barisal Cadet College topped the merit list of Science, Agriculture and Home Economics group.

In Humanities, Islamic Studies and Music group's merit list, Entesar Alam (Roll-312710) of Amritlal Day College of Barisal secured first position.

In Commerce group, Md Saifullah Azad (Roll-507387) of Khulna Public College stood first.

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