

BB alone to release FDI figures from now on

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The figures on foreign direct investment (FDI) will be published by the central bank from now on to put an end to the dispute over figures released by both Bangladesh Bank (BB) and Board of Investment (BoI).

"The central bank will take the key responsibility to publish the figures on FDI," BB Governor Dr Salehuddin Ahmed told journalists after a meeting on 'Strategy to Attract FDI in Bangladesh' held at the BoI office in Dhaka yesterday.

As part of its initiative to attract more FDI, the BoI organised the meeting where representatives from ministries concerned and different government bodies were present.

BoI Executive Chairman Nazrul

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## CORPORATISATION

# 3 NCBs asked to end process by May

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Ministry of Finance yesterday instructed three nationalised commercial banks (NCBs) -- Sonali, Janata and Agrani -- to complete all formalities to corporatise by May 31, 2007.

The ministry in a letter yesterday asked the banks to submit application for registration as public limited company to the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies & Firms by April 22 after finalisation of the prescribed Memorandum and Articles of Association (MAA).

As per the timeline set by the finance ministry, the registrar of Joint Stock Companies & Firms will complete registration of the three

public limited companies by May 15, 2007.

Following the registration the government will issue a gazette notification in this regard.

The ministry has already sent a model of the MAA to the banks after vetting from the law ministry.

The council of advisers to the caretaker government on February 03 approved the draft by-laws required to turn the nationalised commercial banks into public limited companies.

Freeing the nationalised banks from government control through corporatisation is one of the major conditions that the World Bank (WB) set for the country to receive the \$200-million fourth instalment of

Development Support Credit (DSC). The WB board is likely to approve the DSC on May 29 next.

After corporatisation the government or the finance ministry would not be able to interfere in the banks' decisions on disbursement of loans, recruitment, and promotions including those to the vital posts like general managers, deputy managing directors, and managing directors.

A maximum of 13 members to be appointed by the government would comprise the board of directors. They would be accountable to the Bangladesh Bank (BB) the way private commercial banks are.

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## Cup takes a break

SPORTS REPORTER

After Sri Lanka's exciting two-run win over England in St John's, a two-day break begins today at the World Cup. The recess will end on Saturday when Bangladesh take on in-form South Africa at the Providence Stadium in Georgetown in another Super Eights affair.

The win on Wednesday took Sri Lanka to second spot behind Australia on run-rate difference but the two teams, along with New Zealand, are all on six points. South Africa have four points while Bangladesh are in the bottom of the pile with no points still to their credit after playing two Super Eights matches.

TigerCricket.com adds: It rained all day in Georgetown for the last two days but for the Bangladesh cricketers it means more annoying time without cricket training and the way the showers ruled non-stop, it raises concerns about the South Africa game.

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PHOTO: STAR

Rapid Action Battalion personnel capture seven Islamist militants and seize explosives, firearms and ammunition from them. The photograph was taken at Rab-2 office at Mohammadpur in the capital yesterday.

## Rare marine fish caught in Cox's Bazar

MUAZZEM HOSSAIN SHAKIL, Cox's Bazar

A very rare species of fish, captured from 60 to 80 feet deep sea water around 50-70 km southwest of the St Martin's Islands on April 2, is now kept at the museum of under-construction Panowa Bay Park at Cox's Bazar.

Ragib Uddin Ahmed, a biologist of the park, identified the rare fish at Cox's Bazar fish harbour and took immediate steps for its preservation.

Generally called ocean sunfish or slender sunfish, the fish's scientific name is Ranzania laevis that belongs to family Molidae.

The coral reef dependent species of fish, two and a half feet in length and weighing about 6 kg, has got an amusing tube-like mouth opening to suck algae.

The sluggish creature moves with the help of cartilaginous tail, appearing as



An ocean sunfish, a rare species, was caught in fishermen's net, 50-70km off the coast of St Martin's Island and brought to the fish landing station of Cox's Bazar.

## 4 CU teachers, journo receive death threat

CU CORRESPONDENT

Four Chittagong University (CU) teachers and a local journalist have received letters with death threat by an Islamist outfit claiming to be Bangladesh Islami Biplobi Command Council.

A threat letter was received yesterday afternoon by CU teachers -- Prof Helal Uddin Nizami of Accounting and Information Systems Department; Prof Hossain Kabir, chairman of Public Administration Department, Lecturer Milton Biswas of Bengali Department (temporarily suspended) and Lecturer Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman of Anthropology Department.

Another letter for senior reporter Samaresh Baidya of Bhorer Kagoj Chittagong office was sent to Bhorer Kagoj head office in Dhaka on Wednesday night.

Samaresh Baidya lodged a general diary (GD) with the city's Kotwali Police Station (PS) while Prof Hossain Kabir lodged another GD with Kulshi PS.

The other three teachers were also preparing to take similar measures, said sources.

## FIGHTING INFLATION

# Mirza contradicts WB idea of curtailing credit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance and Planning Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam yesterday said the view of the World Bank (WB) that reducing banks' credit will help rein in potential inflationary pressure is not right.

"We have to decide it by considering two factors--if excess aggregated demand has been created and, at the same time, if supply has been affected," Mirza Aziz told reporters at his secretariat office.

He said many people think that inflation takes place only due to the increased supply of currency. "But inflation is a price--it is an aggregate price in which demand and supply are involved," Aziz said.

"Now, if reducing banks' credit adversely affects the supply, it will be difficult to control inflation," he added while talking to the press after a pre-budget discussion with a

Bangladesh Economic Association (BEA) delegation led by its President Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad.

At the discussion, the BEA members opposed the recent hike in prices of kerosene and diesel. They suggested utilising the money recovered from corrupt people by the joint forces to subsidise the two petroleum products.

The WB on Wednesday in a commentary on the recent fuel price hike suggested tightening banks' credit to control potential inflationary pressures caused by the increase.

On the WB suggestion, the finance adviser said, "Economists may have different views but we will have to examine those suggestions in the context of reality."

Asked about the exemption limit of income tax, the finance

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## Abducted N'ganj industrialist murdered

A CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Police yesterday recovered the body of Golam Kibria, abducted industrialist and vice president of BNP Tarabo, Rupganj unit.

The body was found at Aambag in Sonargaon at around 11:00am.

Police suspect that Kibria, 45, owner of A.K. Textile Mill, might have been strangled to death.

Kibria went missing on Wednesday after a group of young men called him out of his Nowapara home at around 11:00am. He had Tk 80 thousand and two cellular phones with him at that time, said his family sources.

The last time his family heard from him was at 3:00pm the same

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## Prayer Timing

April 6		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4:40	5:15
Juma	12:30	1:15
Asr	4:45	5:00
Maghrib	6:21	6:24
Esha	7:45	8:15

Source: Islamic Foundation

## 10 British, US troops killed in Iraq attacks

Black Hawk helicopter shot down, 7 Iraqi soldiers slain, journalist killed in TV HQ bombing

AFP, Baghdad

Six American and four British soldiers were killed in separate attacks in Iraq, coalition forces announced yesterday, as Britain prepared to transfer security of another province to local troops.

Amid one of the bloodiest recent

24-hour periods for foreign troops in Iraq, the US military was also investigating reports that a Black Hawk helicopter was shot down south of Baghdad in a notorious Sunni insurgent stronghold.

The four British soldiers, together with a civilian translator travelling in the same vehicle, were

## SATKHIRA LAND GRABBING Munda community losing homesteads

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

The Munda community in Kashipur of Shyamnagar upazila in Satkhira sent copies a letter to the Anti-corruption Commission, intelligence agencies and joint forces asking for their help in preventing influential land grabbers taking away their ancestral homesteads.

In the latter, around 300 indigenous people of 46 families alleged that influential land grabbers have been torturing them, threatening them with death and implicating them in false cases filed with Shyamnagar Police Station. They said the land grabbers are hatching conspiracy to create panic among the people of Munda community. "Over 29 Munda families were compelled to leave their ancestral lands and take shelter at another place," they said.

They said one Kamrul Islam of Iswaripur in Shyamnagar has been pumping in saline water from the river into his shrimp enclosure set up around Kashipur destroying arable land so that the Munda community cannot cultivate their lands.

Moreover, Kamrul and his gang are not only torturing the indigenous people but also harassing them by implicating them in false cases in a bid to compel them to leave the area, they added.

They said Kamrul's younger brother Monzur Rahi, son-in-law of former Jamaat-e-Islami lawmaker Gazi Nazrul Islam, and his gang attacked the indigenous people on April 17 last year that left 12 people of the community injured.

The gang also chopped down trees on their lands and cut open an embankment that ruined the water of their pond with saline water, they alleged. They said they had filed cases with a police station but no action was taken against the criminals.

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