



A crowd shopping for essentials from a TCB sale point in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club. With the fasting month of Ramadan beginning late this month and prices of essentials expected to shoot up on the occasion, the government-run Trading Corporation of Bangladesh started selling the commodities at lower prices yesterday to help out low-income people.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

## Unapproved secretary level officials 600

State Minister Ismat Ara tells parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 410 extra joint secretaries, 178 additional secretaries, and 12 secretaries are working against the numbers of approved posts in the three top tiers of government services, State Minister for Public Administration Begum Ismat Ara told parliament yesterday.

Replying to lawmakers' queries, she said there were 505 approved posts of joint secretary, 117 of additional secretary, and 53 posts of secretary. But 915 joint secretaries, 295 additional secretaries, and 65 secretaries are working at present, she said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## Bapa against housing in Dhaka floodplains

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government must immediately retract its decision to allow housing schemes in floodplains, altering the Detailed Area Plan (DAP), environmentalist group Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa) said yesterday.

A joint statement of Bapa and the Institute of Architects Bangladesh, signed by Bapa general secretary Md Abdul Matin, termed the decision "suicidal" and demanded that the government consult professional groups before brining any amendment to the DAP.

A cabinet committee on June 4 okayed alterations to the DAP to allow some private housing developments on conservable flood flow zones in Rupganj and Tongi within the capital's master plan area.

It also decided to scrap a 100-foot canal along the 300-foot Purbachal link road off the plan to facilitate the approval of several blocks of another private housing scheme.

The DAP is the first vital document to ensure a planned capital city, which is already in a critical state thanks to unplanned development, said the statement.

The government is the custodian of the DAP, which is required to build a livable and environmentally sound capital city, it said, but the latest move is contradictory to DAP's spirit.

The total land earmarked for housing development in the 1,528-square km DAP area is still unexhausted, so destruction of conservable flood flow zones is unnecessary and suicidal, it said.

## Businessman shot in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three unidentified criminals shot a businessman in the legs in the capital's Moghbazar yesterday morning.

Mustafizur Haq Lemon, 47, owner of Jamuna CNG Filling Station, is undergoing treatment at Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College and Hospital.

Lemon was going to his CNG station by a rickshaw and the criminals barred his way in rail gate area before shooting him, said Ramna Police Station Sub-inspector Jakir Hossain.

Assistant Police Commissioner (Ramna Zone) Shibli Noman said local criminals might have shot him to realise extortion money.

## PROPOSED BUDGET Raushan differs with Ershad's critique

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition Raushan Ershad yesterday disowned Jatiya Party chief HM Ershad's criticism of the proposed budget and said the finance minister had placed a "very nice" budget.

"What our party chief [HM Ershad] said about the budget was his personal opinions only," Raushan told a press conference at the Jatiya Sangsad Media Centre.

On Saturday, Ershad in his formal reaction said the proposed budget was too "dreamy", and the government would not be able to implement the colossal budget.

The JP boss also claimed he was giving the budget reaction on behalf of his party and Raushan.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

## PUBLIC EXAM QUESTION LEAKS Writ petition to form judicial commission filed with HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer yesterday filed a writ petition with the High Court seeking its directive on the government to form a judicial commission headed by a retired SC judge to probe the recent public exam question leaks.

Eunus Ali Akond submitted the petition praying to the HC to order the government to formulate a law titled "Question Paper Leak Control Act" with a provision of life sentence for question leaks of public examinations including Primary School Certificate, Junior School Certificate, Secondary School Certificate, Higher Secondary Certificate and Bangladesh Civil Service.

In the petition, Akond said the education life of the students was being hampered due to the question leaks.

But there is no specific law for ensuring punishment for those responsible for the offence, the lawyer said in the petition.

Along with the writ petition, the petitioner annexed an article published on The Daily Star on June 7 under the headline "Question Leakage: Genesis of the Problem".

The petitioner urged the HC to issue a rule upon the government authorities to explain why they should not be directed to punish the persons involved in such offence.

Advocate Akond told The Daily Star that the court might hear the petition on June 15.

## SCHOOLBOY KILLING 2 City College students on 5-day remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed two students of Dhaka City College on a five-day remand each in connection with a case filed for killing a boy at Zigatola in the capital.

Ayaz, 15, a student of Government Laboratory High School, was killed on Monday during a clash between the students of science and commerce faculties of the college over playing football. Ayaz along with his elder brother Arzeen, a student of the college, was reportedly present on the spot.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

# WAR CRIMES TRIAL Suspects freed after Bangabandhu killing

Prosecution witness in Subhan's case tells tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A freedom fighter yesterday said the local collaborators of the Pakistani army in Pabna, who had committed numerous crimes during the liberation war, got released after the Collaborators Act-1972 was repealed following the political change-over in August 1975.

Fazlur Rahman Fantu, the 11th prosecution witness in the case against Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdus Subhan, also said the accused left Bangladesh for Pakistan probably in November 1971 along with his political guru Ghulam Azam, a war crimes convict.

Subhan, then Pabna Jamaat chief and a

top leader of Pabna Peace Committee, returned to Bangladesh after Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's assassination on August 15, 1975, he said.

Fazlur, an acting editor of a local weekly in Pabna, gave the information, while being cross-examined for the second day yesterday. Fazlur testified on Sunday that he saw Subhan and his cohorts stab three people to death in Ishwardi on April 17-18, 1971.

He also said Jamaat men operated a torture cell in Ishwardi, where the lists of pro-liberation people were prepared and decisions were taken before killing them and Subhan used to visit the cell.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



## A true voice of Lalon songs falls silent

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

Baul Abdul Karim Shah considered one of the last voices of the original tune of Lalon songs, passed away at his residence in Kushtia yesterday.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

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