

# The Daily Star

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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**India blasts Insat-28**

NEW DELHI, July 23: Insat-28 has been blasted into space from Kourou in French Guyana today by the European space agency's Ariane rocket. Insat-28 is a 1,906 kg multi-purpose, multi-role and second totally indigenous satellite. It would move the Indian space and advanced communication programme a step further towards greater capability, more perfection and effective controls, reports Xinhua.

**Plot to blow up UN: 2 more held**

NEWARK, N.J., July 23: The FBI arrested two more suspects overnight in an alleged plot to blow up the United Nations, two commuter tunnels and other New York landmarks. The arrests bring the number in custody to 11. Matarawi Mohammed Saleh, 44, and Ashraf Mohammed, 31, were taken into custody Wednesday night at a beachfront motel in North Wildwood. James C. Esposito, agent in charge of the FBI office in Newark, said early Friday, reports AP.

**Fahd's elder brother dead**

DUBAI, July 23: The elder brother of Saudi Arabia's King Fahd died today. A statement carried by the official Saudi Press Agency said Prince Saad, 70, had been suffering from an unspecified long-term illness. Prince Saad was the eldest living son of Saudi Arabia's founder, the late King Abdul-Aziz, who in 1932 merged two parts of the Arabian Peninsula, creating a new kingdom, reports Reuters.

## Flood situation worsens Rainfall adds to people's miseries

Waters rushing from the upper catchment areas of the major rivers Thursday is worsening the overall flood situation of the country, according to our correspondents and district officials. Situation in some districts, however, remained unchanged, they said. At least seven people were killed Thursday including five by mudslide at Kaptai in Rangamati district, officials said. The two others were drowned in Sirajganj district. The misery of lakhs of people in the districts of greater Chittagong, Sylhet and Rangpur

regions have mounted with fresh inundation of land and continued rainfall. Crops on thousands of hectares have been destroyed, according to reports received in Dhaka. Six districts — Sylhet, Sunamganj, Habiganj, Moulvibazar, Netrakona and Feni — have been cut off from the rest of the country. Roads and rail links between a number of places have remained suspended as those have gone under flood waters. Telecommunication between the capital and many places of the flood affected areas has been hampered due to continu-

ous showers. Nine northern and eastern rivers further swelled Thursday engulfing more areas of 19 flood-hit districts of the country. Flood protection embankments in a number of districts have been washed away while at many other places, particularly those along the river Jamuna and the Brahmaputra, have been threatened by severe erosion. A bulletin of the Flood Forecasting Centre (FFC) of the Water Development Board Thursday said that all the rivers in the Meghna basin, barring

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## Ship movement in Ctg port suspended

CHITTAGONG, July 23: Movement of all kinds of ships on Chittagong port channel remained totally suspended in the face of heavy current caused by the continuous discharge of lake water from Kaptai Dam, officials said. Heavy onrush of water in the Kaptai lake from the upper catchments after torrential rain in the hilly areas forced the Kaptai Hydro-electric Project authority to discharge the waters that had already crossed the danger level overflowing the dam, officials informed. The rate of water discharge from the lake recorded today is three lakh cubic feet per second. The Kaptai lake waters flowing down the channel with the highest swelling has threatened the ship movement on Chittagong port channel, said the Chairman of Chittagong port Amanul Islam Chowdhury while talking to The Daily Star. "The current is so heavy that it has made ship operation risky on the channel" the port chairman added saying, however,

that some of the navigational aids had already been sent. Meanwhile, both arrival and departure of vessels to and from Chittagong port channel were kept suspended from Thursday fearing a major damage to the ships as well as to the channel. Amanul Islam Chowdhury said. "There could arise permanent complications in the channel if the ships were allowed to operate at this situation," he added. However, all port officials, employees and port users were alerted, and precautionary measures taken to make people aware by megaphone and through Chittagong radio about the alarming situation around the port channel, the chairman said. The port chairman claimed that despite such a situation cargo was moving inside the port jetties where 18 ships remained anchored. But the chairman apprehended that many ocean-going vessels might be stranded here if such an alarming situation

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## BNP paved the way for martial law in '82, says Hasina

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina said yesterday that the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), while governing the country in 1982, paved the way for martial law corrupting the administration and misusing the national wealth. This party coming back to power has resumed its malpractices... and has waged false propaganda against the opposition in a bid to hide its own misdeeds and mislead the innocent people," the Awami League chief Hasina told newsmen yesterday on her arrival at the Zia International Airport in the capital after her visit to France and the United Kingdom. Elaborating on her allegations, the AL leader said corruption spread all over the country during President Ziaur Rahman's rule and his successor Justice Abdus Sattar was compelled to dissolve his cabinet due to unbridled corruption of the ministers. Hasina warned the government to take necessary steps to

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Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia with a children's team of the Shishu Academy at her Sugandha office yesterday. — PID photo

## Children's team calls on PM

An eight member children's delegation of Bangladesh Shishu Academy which leaves Dhaka for the Japanese city of Pukucka tomorrow to attend the fifth Asia-Pacific Children's Convention there, last night called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia at Sugandha, reports BSS. The members of the delegation, who will present dances and songs at the convention, performed for 10-minutes before the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister expressed satisfaction over their performance and wished their success at the convention. She also advised them to enhance the image of Bangladesh through their performance. Chairman of Bangladesh Shishu Academy Dr Kaaj Anwar Mansur was present on the occasion. The delegation members are: Jahanara Faruq Moli, Ruma Zaman, Samia Sharmin Shimu, Rabeya Sultana Ummi, Mohammad Obedul Islam, Abu Yakub Ishaq, Tanjeen Ferdous Alam and Khilji Ashikul Huda.

## EC assures continued aid for development

The European Commission (EC) has assured continued assistance to Bangladesh for development works, reports UNB. "We will do our best to accommodate the interest of Bangladesh," said EC Vice President Manuel Marin at a meeting with Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman yesterday. The EC Vice President flew in here earlier in the day on a three-day visit leading a three-member delegation. Bangladesh and EC will sign an agreement for a 30 million ECU integrated food assisted development project today. EC countries have been providing assistance to Bangladesh both in credits and grants to such sectors as agriculture and rural development, science and technology, energy, poverty alleviation and women's development. During the 90-minute talks at the state guest house Meghna, Marin was assisted by EC cabinet member Ponette, Director (Asia) E Fossati and EC

Commission Chief in Dhaka Ambassador F Bally. Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman who aided the Foreign Minister during the deliberation told newsmen the meeting covered the entire gamut of the bilateral relation and cooperation for development. The Bangladesh side also included Director General (West Europe) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Reazul Hasan, Director General (Economic Affairs), Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury and Bangladesh Ambassador in Brussels Hasan Ahmed. Briefing newsmen about the outcome of the talks, Reaz said that the EC had shown keen interest in providing all possible assistance to Bangladesh for promotion of socio-economic condition of the people. "The commission has appreciated all pragmatic approaches of Bangladesh to achieve potential developments", the Foreign Secretary said. At the talks, the Foreign Secretary said. See Page 12 Col 6

## 59 killed as plane crashes in China

BEIJING, July 23: At least 59 people died when a passenger jet skidded into a lake today after an abortive attempt to take off from Yinchuan airport in northwestern China, Xinhua news agency reported, says AFP. The agency said an Englishman, which it had earlier identified as a French national, was among those killed. A total of 108 passengers and five crew members were on the Beijing-bound plane when it crashed at the Yinchuan airport, the three-sentence Xinhua report said. Yinchuan, capital of the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, is about 900 kilometers west of Beijing. The report did not say what kind of plane it was or name the airline. No explanation was given for the crash.

## 6-member Pak cabinet sworn in

ISLAMABAD, July 23: Acting President Wasim Sajjad swore in a six-member caretaker cabinet today to run Pakistan until national elections set for October 6, the official APP news agency said today, reports Reuters. The ministers were named as Syed Baber Ali, Mohammad Shafique, Ahmed Farooq, Fatch Khan Bandial, Nisar Memon and Abdus Sattar, a retired senior diplomat who was expected to take charge of foreign affairs. Their offices would be announced later, APP said. All the ministers are reported to be retired bureaucrats or army officers, chosen as political neutrals who would not try to influence the election results. They will serve with caretaker Prime Minister Moeen Qureshi, a former World Bank Vice President. The caretaker cabinet replaces 26 ministers and 18 ministers of state that had governed Pakistan for 32 months up to last Sunday under former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. See Page 12 Col 4

## Major wins confidence vote and backing for European Treaty

LONDON, July 23: Prime Minister John Major won a vote of confidence and Parliamentary backing for a treaty of European union Friday, facing down rebels in his party with the threat of an immediate national election, reports AP. Major carried the confidence motion on a vote of 339-299 in the House of Commons. The government also prevailed 339-301 against a last-gasp attempt by the Labour Party to force it to sign up to a charter of worker's rights as part of the Maastricht Treaty. The votes cleared the way for the government to formally ratify the treaty, once the courts dispose of a private suit filed earlier this week. Winding up a day-long debate, Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd declared, "This is the last

speech in the last debate on the ratification of the Maastricht Treaty. I was fairly sure of applause on that proposition at least." Major said it was time for Parliament to ratify the treaty of which its 11 partners in the European Community have already endorsed. Arguments about Britain's place in Europe have divided both the main parties, and contributed to the downfall of Margaret Thatcher in 1990. "I am not prepared to let it poison the political atmosphere any longer," Major told a rowdy house, referring to Conservative Party divisions over the treaty he negotiated at Maastricht in the Netherlands in 1991. "The bill must be lanced and it must be lanced today," he added, "At the conclusion of

this debate, either the government will have won the vote of confidence and can proceed with its policy... or we shall have lost it and will seek a dissolution of Parliament." Conservative rebels faced the choice of getting into line or forcing a national election that the party — running last in opinion polls — would be hard-pressed to win. The European Community now will be able to implement the Maastricht Treaty once private legal challenges in Britain and Germany are resolved. The British hearings start Monday; Germany's Constitutional Court is expected to rule in September. "Either we have a general election or have to vote for this ghastly Maastricht Treaty," said See Page 12 Col 5

## Dr Kamal hails JS for reviving probe body

COMILLA, July 23: Democratic Forum (DF) leader Dr Kamal Hossain today urged the parliament to take effective steps towards uprooting violence from the educational institutions, reports UNB. A parliamentary committee was formed more than a year ago to evolve ways and means to curb terrorism, but it failed to come up with concrete steps, he told a discussion meeting here this evening, organised by the Forum's national grand conference preparatory committee. Dr Kamal said his Forum would go for an agitation if its demand for ending terrorism in educational institutions was not met within October 11. Referring to the present administrative system, Dr Kamal called it a faulty system that hindered the development process. See Page 12 Col 4



Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina being received at the Zia International Airport by party leaders on her return from a trip to Europe.—Star photo

## 'Aug 1 to see start of a long struggle in Jatiya Party'

Jatiya Party dissident leader Shamsul Huda Chowdhury yesterday said that August 1 would see the beginning of a long struggle within the party. "I don't know what my partymen would suggest on that day but I think it would not be the D-day," the 73-year-old former Speaker told The Daily Star in an exclusive interview. Before giving the interview at his residence at around 11 am yesterday, Chowdhury held a close-door meeting with former Deputy Prime Minister Dr M A Matin who deserted the party and the President H M Ershad a few days before his fall in December 1990. Matin told this correspondent that he came to examine the eyes of Chowdhury who in his interview said Matin will not be included in the JP. JSD leader Noor-e-Alam Ziku, JP dissidents Maj (Retd) Manzur Kader, Shajjad Hossain, former Deputy Minister Nurul Amin Khan

Pathan and a number of party workers were present during the interview. Shamsul Huda Chowdhury who retains a presidium post in the JP declined to give the names of the leaders who might attend the meeting on August 1. "I just sent an open letter to the party workers who fell that JP is not moving well because of its autocratic leadership,"

Chowdhury said adding that "I personally did not tell anybody to attend the meeting." He reiterated his previous day's statement that the move was in no way a bid to split the party but many things depended on the opinion of the participants. The veteran politician who as the last aide of Ershad continued to exercise his power as a Speaker when the present government assumed power in 1991, said that the Jatiya Party was founded with the break-away faction of the BNP (Huda-Matin) and he was one of the founders of the party. Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and Shah Moazzem Hossain came to the scene at least two years later but Mizan Chowdhury was the 'all-powerful' in the party today pushing it to the point of a crisis, he added. He said that there were resentments among the party See Page 12 Col 7

## Efforts on to modernise city transportation

By Sohel Manzur  
Efforts are on to find out ways to modernise the transportation system of Dhaka, covering all the aspects of the sector, according to official sources. A study in this regard is being conducted by the government with the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the sources said. The main objective of the study, titled the "Greater Dhaka Metropolitan Area Integrated Transport Study," is aimed at developing a short-term action plan for the improvement and optimal use of existing assets and infrastructure of Dhaka city and developing a future long term strategic improvement plan. The UNDP has provided 2.3 million US dollar for the study, which is being conducted by the Planning Commission. The PPK Consultants Private Limited of Australia, Delcan See Page 12 Col 4

## Dollar experiences dull market

By Inam Ahmed  
The dollar market witnessed a dull week following the floating of dollar rates on Saturday last. There had been a surplus of dollars in the market with too few buyers, according to banking sources. Dollar rates also plummeted in the face of weak demand during the week. The exchange rate was Tk 39.93 a dollar on Thursday, the day before Bangladesh Bank said that exchange rate of dollar would be declared on a day-to-day basis. The step was taken as a move towards the convertibility of Taka as announced by the Finance Minister in the budget. The convertibility is likely to become effective from September. However, on Saturday, the first day that dollar went floating, the rate remained constant and gradually came down to only Tk 39.88 on Thursday. Bankers insisted that the dollar clients were totally con-

fused because of this sudden change in the foreign currency market that resulted in the slump. They also pointed out that the previous week was a hectic one for the dollar. The secondary exchange market was also dull during the past week. However, the rate of dollar climbed up by ten paisa Thursday. Banking sources said the Bangladesh Bank is either monitoring the Tokyo, Singapore closing, Singapore latest or New York closing rates early in the morning and then sending them to the Exchange Rate Committee. The committee headed by the Sonali Bank then sets the rates for the commercial banks. Until the new system, the central bank followed trade weighted average rates for dollar. However, the foreign banks with their better global linkage used to predict the dollar rates See Page 12 Col 8

## Come forward to save Bosnian Muslims: Nizami

Secretary General of Jamaat-i-Islami, Bangladesh, Maulana Matur Rahman Nizami has called upon the people to come forward to help save the Bosnian Muslims, reports BSS. Maulana Nizami, who is also Leader of the Jamaat Parliamentary Party, was addressing a rally held on the occasion of its "Bosnia week" at the southern gate of Baitul Mukarram Mosque here yesterday. Organised by Dhaka city Jamaat-i-Islami, the rally was presided over by Ameer of city unit ATM Asharul Islam and addressed by city unit Secretary Advocate Jastim Uddin Sarker. Maulana Nizami accused the Serb forces, backed by certain quarters, of killing Bosnian Muslims and said they were being gradually pushed towards deaths in the absence of arms and medicines. Posing a question, the Jamaat Secretary General said "As Muslims whether we can sit idle when the Bosnians are in extreme crisis? "Don't we have any responsibility?" he asked.