7 Cong-I MPs ask Rao to come clean

NEW DELHI, July 24: Seven MPs from India's ruling party have asked Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao to clear himself of allegations by a stock broker that he gave the leader a suitcase stuffed with money, reports AFP.

The demand has stunned Rao's Congress (I), which is banking on the support of ruling party parliamentarians to scuttle a proposed opposition no-confidence motion against the government next week in parliament, newspapers said.

The seven Congress (I) MPs have said the 72-year-old premier should 'come clean' of the payoff charge being probed by a parltamentary panel, which is also investigating India's largest securities swindle, the dailies

The Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) has begun examining the allegation of stock broker Harshad Mehta that he paid 333,000 dollars to Rao on November 4, 1991 at the Prime Minister's New Delhi residence.

Mehta is one of the key accused in the 1.3 billion dollar securities scam which surfaced in April last year. The wealthy broker said last month that he made the payoff to earn the Prime Minister's 'political

13 get life term for killing two

NETRAKONA, July 24 Thirteen people were today sentenced to life term in jail for killing two brothers in an attack while they were working in a field, reports UNB.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Abdur Razzak pronounced the rigorous imprisonment on Bhitor Dera, Susanta Master, Samor, Ulingo, Farid, Debesh, Mudhanath Sarma, Moresh, Hajong, Ditin Garo, Gilliot, Nitai, Proshanta and Prodison Garo.

According to prosecution, the convicts, mostly tribals swooped on Ajhar Ali and his brother Jainal Abedin o Khuchughara village in Calmakanda thana while working in the field at their village and stabbed them to death on June 2 in 1991.

The court, after examining the witnesses and evidences handed down the judgement.

Malaysia From page 1 col 7

As regards allegations against those 31 agencies, the minister said that charges like cheating the people and usurping money for sending them abroad, non-payment of wages as per terms and conditions for those working abroad, were brought against them. "We have identified a num-

ber of dishonest agents and we will take them to task in due course," said the minister adding that other than cancellation of licenses and forfetture of security deposits, measures under criminal laws might be

The minister mentioned that the government had been campaigning against unscrupulous agents through both electronic and print media with advice to job-seekers not to go abroad without clearance from the Manpower Bureau.

"District administrations and the offices concerned have also been advised to remain alert against the activities of such agents," said the minister pointing out that the government campaign worked well and the situation had improved consid-

Flag meet

From Page 1 Col 8 Bangladesh.

BDR arrested Zahir Ahmed alias Bujee Zahir and his accomplice Lal Mia, believed to be members of an international smuggling racket on June 30

Myanmar authorities unilaterally closed down three transit points from July 1 and the movement of the people of the two countries was kept suspended from then.

Earlier, at a meeting between the two border security forces on July 7 at Monungdow in Myanmar, the Nasaca demanded unconditional release of the arrested people.

The meeting ended without any fruitful result as the Bangladeshi side told their counterpart that there are specific charges against the ar-

rested people. Meanwhile, the 68th batch of Rohingya refugees comprising 259 people today (Saturday) returned to their homeland, Myanmar, raising the total

number to 30,552. The repatriation of the next on July 26.

The MPs in a joint letter to Rao on Wednesday urged the premier to direct his personal guards and secretaries to expose Mehta's allegations as

"Related officials should appear before the JPC and truthfully depose so that your name can be cleared in relation to the allegation made by Harshad Mehta," newspapers quoted the MPs' letter as saying.

The MPs also urged Rao to brief the Congress (I) leadership about details regarding the allegations on the eve of the parliament's monsoon session which begins on Monday.

Yeltsin breaks off holiday to face critics

MOSCOW, July 24: Russian President Boris Yeltsin broke off his holiday and returned to Moscow today to answer critics in the conservative-dominated Parliament, whom he has accused of seeking to reverse his political reforms, the presidential press service said, reports

Yeltsin went on a two-week holiday last week, but several leading reformers and the newspaper Izvestia had urged him on Friday to return to "make his voice heard" following attacks by conservative deputies on Russia's economic reforms, foreign policy and presidential aides.

Islamic Varsity closed fearing student clash

KUSHTIA, July 24: Islamic University was closed today for two weeks apprehending clash between the belligerent activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, re-

Authorities took the decision in a meeting held here Friday with Vice Chancellor Dr Abdul Hamid in the chair, as tension intensified on the campus and university buses could not ply to bring students to their

The meeting was attended by DCs, SPs, BNP district leaders of Kushtia and Jhenidah and the teachers of the university.

On Thursday, JCD supporters allegedly prevented plying the university buses and as a result classes could not be held

Tension lingered on the campus since a clash between Shibir and JCD activists occurred on July 5. Several teachers were also assaulted.

JS body

From page 1 col 7 ings and tried to identify the members who disclosed inside

information to the print media. Meanwhile, a Treasury Bench member in the committee, while talking to The Daily Star last night, observed that the committee must resolve the disputes over the terms of refer-

Failure to reach a consensus on the issue would definitely affect the prestige of the Jatiya Sangsad', the ruling party MP told this corresponon condition of dent

An opposition member of the House committee, however, felt that the probe body had reached a difficult phase with the government insisting on 'limiting' the area of investiga-

The Opposition MP, requesting anonymity, said that the 'objectives' of the probe body formation would be frustrated if the government failed to change its present attitude.

The committee is scheduled to meet again at 5 pm on July

The meeting was attended by Khandakar Delwar Hossain. Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia, Jamiruddin Sircar, ASM Hannan Shah, Abdul Mannan, Aminul Haq and Abu Yusuf Mohd Khalilur Rahman from the ruling party while Abdus Samad Azad, Begum Sajeda Chowdhury and Mohammad Nasim of the Awami League, Maudud Ahmed of Jatiya Party Maulana Abdus Sobhan of the Jamaat-e-Islami and Suranjit Sengupta of the Ganatantri

Rashed Khan Menon of the Workers Party was not present in the meeting as he had to fly for London yesterday for a medical check up in the Kings Hospital. He received treatment there following bullet wounds batch is expected to take place he received on August 17, last

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Maruel Marin, Vice President of the Commission for European Community (CEC), called on Prir e Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday. - PID photo

Biman earns Tk 60 cr profit, says minister

By Staff Correspondent National carrier Biman Bangladesh Airlines has earned Tk 60 crore 'profit' during the fiscal 1992-93, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan said yesterday.

"The amount may slightly be higher than this as the accounts is yet to be finalised, the Minister said without elabo-

He was addressing a function at Hotel Purbani in which Biman awarded a Maruti 1000 car to a passenger, winner of a

One Ram who flew from Bombay to Dubai on a Biman's flight on May 13 won the lottery. Nearly 38,000 passengers travelled in Biman's 29 international routes in the month of May. The May 13 flight No BG017 was selected by a separate lottery as the "flight of the month."

A number of MPs, high government officials and senior journalists were present during

Another passenger Alamgir who flew on Chittagong-Dhaka-Dubai flight on the same day was put on the waiting list. Alamgir would be given the car if Ram fails to receive it within 60 days. The Biman authorities also

selected Dhaka-Dubai-London flight of June 13 for awarding one of its passengers the car for the month of June. Separate draw would be held later to select the lucky passenger.

Four participants in yesterday's function were also awarded four Biman tickets in two separate lottery draws arranged on the occasion.

One arrested

with arms By Staff Correspondent

Dhanmandi police in a raid Saturday noon arrested Asgar a wanted 'terrorist' from the Kataban slum and recovered two crude bombs from his pos-

PM seeks EC help for poverty alleviation

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday sought the ecoperation of the European Community countries in the efforts of the South Asian region to alleviate poverty, reports

The Prime Minister was talking to the visiting EC Vice President Manuel Marin who called on her at her office.

Begum Zia, also the SAARC Chairperson, called for the participation of the EC in the fund for South Asian development which has been proposed for the regional progress.

She informed the EC Vice President that substantial proposals had been adopted in the last SAARC summit in Dhaka for the improvement of the lot of more than one billion people of the region.

Begum Zia said poverty alleviation had also been identified as a priority national pro gramme in Bangladesh.

Responding to a query, the Prime Minister said besides floods in rainy season, withdrawal of water from the big rivers of the country was causing environmental degradation including desertification, salinity and other ecological problems in the country.

The EC Vice President highly appreciated all the efforts of the government of Begum Zia in strengthening the roots of democracy in Bangladesh.

He specifically lauded the family planning programme and campaign in Bangladesh. He pointed out that Bangladesh was one of the few Muslim countries which was successfully and effectively carrying out family planning despite religious dogmas.

Marin said Bangladesh's efforts for the improvement of the situation in the education sector especially in the female education was appreciable.

He expressed his personal feeling and concern for the burden and difficulties that Bangladesh was bearing because of the Rohingya refugee

Marin lauded the privatisation process of Begum Zia's government to encourage individual entrepreneurship

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister K M Rabbani and Bangladesh Ambassador to Brussels Abul Ahsan were present on the occasion.

PM: Cooperation From page 1 col 7

sult, employment opportunities will increase which will help al leviate poverty".

The Prime Minister said the regional seminar on "Role of Engineers in Poverty Alleviation in Developing Countries" is a timely initiative.

Pointing to the critical role of engineers in economic development, she said the pace of development is faster in countries where the number of professional engineers are more.

She cited the example of Japan and said the share of technicians and engineers in Japan is comparatively higher than other industrialised countries -- which is one of the main causes of its prosperity.

Begum Zia stressed the need for grooming engineers and technologists with expertise and efficiency in greater numbers who will have to involve themselves deeply in development of economic infrastructures, including agriculture and indus-

"We can expect our lot to improve only when technology becomes our day today companion", Begum Zia said pointing out that it was the responsibility of the engineers and technologists to blaze the trail.

The Prime Minister asked the engineers to take up the challenge of keeping the country apace with the advancing world through optimum utilisation of all available resources.

to leave India NEW DELHI, July 24: Indian

Pakistan Embassy employee accused of spying to leave the country within a week, reports The employee, Mohammad

whom the Pakistan Embassy described as a driver, was arrested on Friday by the Delhi Police while trying to take some documents from an Indian national.

Ship movement in Ctg port partially resumes

CHITTAGONG, July 24: Ship movement on Chittagong port channel partially resumed today with the sailing out of three foreign container vessels from the jetties under special ar-

which has begun to recede, he The DC said that more than 20,000 people were worst af-

among the flood victims. Our Correspondent in Moulvi Bazar Thursday visited some of the flood affected areas

The report from Moulvi Bazar said that thousands of people have taken shelter on the evacuated schools and flood protection embankments. Those could not make it to

the dry places, remained on the roof-tops of their houses. There were severe crisis of pure drinking water in the

Our Correspondent from cations between Habiganj, Sylhet and Dhaka could not be restored although water has re-

ceded from many places on the noon, the officials said.

PM advises JCD to pursue politics of

honesty, ideals Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday asked the members of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), her party's atudent front, to pursue politics of honesty, justice and ide als, reports UNB.

"The organisation will flourish but you have to maintain a clean character and win the confidence of the general people," she told the leaders of the JCD who called on her at Sugandha yesterday evening after a day-long meeting of its central committee.

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, Energy Minister Prof Khandker Mosharraf Hossain, BNP's student affairs secretary Advocate Motibur Rahman, DUCSU VP Amanullah Aman MP, GS Khatrul Kabir Khokon and AGS Nazimuddin Alam and JCD president Fazlul Huq Milon also addressed the function.

Milon read out a 12-point resolution of the JCD central committee which was addressed by 65 leaders, including presidents and general secretaries of district units.

Begum Zia called upon the student leaders to strengthen the organisation at their respective districts in order to implement the development programmes initiated by the present government.

She warned that the oppo sition were out to malign the democratic government creating indiscipline in national life. She alleged that they were trying to mislead the people by carrying out planned propa-

The Prime Minister advised the JCD leaders to sink their petty differences and work unitedly to strengthen the organi

She also asked the student leaders to organise relief and stand by the flood-affected prople besides participating in the government programmes.

One shot dead, over Tk 1 lakh looted in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, July 24 Armed miscreants this morning allegedly shot dead a petrol pump manager and took away Tk 1,18,000 from his possession near the GEC crossing in the city, police said. Priyatosh Paul, 52, came

under attack of the hoodlums at the GEC crossing while he was going to a bank with the said amount of money by a mi-The miscreants fired at

Priyatosh when he attempted to resist them at the time of snatching the money at gun-

Employee of Pak embassy ordered

authorities Saturday ordered a

rangements, port officials said.

Considering the urgency of the three ships, they were allowed today to move out despite the risky situation, officials

the port jetties was still kept suspended fearing accident, port officials added.

Dhaka-Sylhet rail link may be restored today

The Dhaka-Sylhet rail link, which has been suspended due to flood for four days, might be restored today (Sunday). Railway officials hoped. Meanwhile four of the five

coaches of the Upaban intertween Rashidpur and Satiajuri The salvage operation, which began Saturday morning, would

be completed by this morning and communication restored by

The Midnight File

2 Somalis killed in shoot-out

ROME, July 24: Two Somalis were killed and two Americans wounded in a shoot-out in the south of Mogadishu today, the Italian Ansa news agency reported. The Ansa reports, quoting military sources in the Somali capital, said the incident occurred when snipers opened fire on a US military convoy. There was no word on how badly the Americans had been hurt, reports Reuter.

US flood death toll rises to 40

ST LOUIS, Missouri, July 24: The death toll after more than a month of record flooding in the Midwest rose to nearly 40 after a camp counselor and three boys died in a cave when a flash flood struck. Another counselor and two other boys were still missing. Meanwhile heavy thunderstorms continued to swell the already saturated Missouri river watershed, reports AFP.

Armenians continue advance into Azerbaijan

MOSCOW, July 24: Two columns of Armentan tanks continued their advance today into Azerbaijan, heading north and east of Agdam, according to the Azerbatjan Defence Ministry cited by the Itar-Tass news agency. The tanks left Agdam - the Azeri town setzed Friday by Armenian forces - and were moving north toward Barda and east toward Agjabedi, the Azerbaijan Minister in Baku said, reports AFP.

EC support for SAARC

From Page 1 Col 4 Spanish, noted that the country is the second largest EC grant aid recipient after India. All EC assistance to

Bangladesh is in the form of grant, he said. Bangladesh received a total of about 892 million European Currency Unit (ECU), nearly one billion US dollars, as EC grant assistance during the 1976-92 period while the yearly disbursement of aid stands at around 60 million

Replying to a question, he brushed aside apprehensions that EC assistance to developing countries would decline because of greater demands placed on it by the Eastern European Countries. "The situation has not

changed at all as in reality very little of the (EC's) public money has been used in Eastern Europe," he said, while noting that most of the assistance to the former socialist states is in the form of project aid while the developing nations receive grant assistance

Asked if the annual dis bursement of EC assistance to Bangladesh would increase in the near future, he said that there is a possibility, but added "the (aid) absorption capacity (of Bangladesh) is a problem.

Responding to another ques-

JCD

From Page 1 Col 5 BNP Chairperson Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for constituting a belitting central body of the organisation.

It decided on involving JCD in the BNP's programmes for tree plantation, canal digging, mass education and other production oriented activities.

The meeting called upon the leaders and workers of the organisation to stand beside the flood affected people Some 60 leaders of the JCD

addressed the meeting that continued for nine hours from 10 am. Among them were Alam, Nazimuddin Moniruzzaman Monir, Habibul slam Habib, Niamul Huda Towhid, Moniruzzaman Bulbul, Iftekhar Hossain, Harun-or-Rashid, Abul Khair Bhuiyan and Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu.

Better late than never By Staff Correspondent

A telegram took three days to reach Dhaka from Sirajganj. The Daily Star Correspondent Ashit Choudhury sent a floodstory on July 22 which was delivered to the addressee yesterday night.

The T&T officials were not available for comment.

Japan From page 1 col 7

On Friday, the Japan New Party and the Sakigake New Party put forth conditions for a non-LDP coalition, calling for a package of political reforms bills, a tougher penalty for election law violations and a ban on contributions to political parties from corporations and groups.

The proposal said the political reform government* should clean up rampant political corruption by changing electoral districting system and banning political donations by companies by the end of this

The signs of opposition unity dealt a new blow to the Liberal Democrats, who plan to vote next Friday to replace Kiichi Miyazawa, who resigned as party president and prime minister to take responsibility for the party's loss of a parliamentary majority in the elec-

The LDP voting will be by secret ballot of its legislators, meeting the demand of junior legislators who at a heated party caucus Thursday denounced the party's tradition of choosing its leaders through back-room deals and negotia-

The newly elected Parliament is expected to meet August 2 to choose the new premier. Miyazawa is to stay in office until a successor is named.

tion, the EC Vice-President said that Bangladesh enjoys an open garments market in the EC and "will not face any problem on access to the market" in the fu-

He spoke highly of the recent changes in Bangladesh towards a democratic set-up, economic liberalisation and privatisation I appreciate that Bangladesh wants to introduce a new image internationally" in contrast to the disaster-prone and povertystricken image prevalent earlier,

Responding to a question, the EC Vice-President welcomed the recent ratification of the Maastricht Treaty by the British Parliament. "It is a very good news that finally the Treaty has been ratified in a dramatic fashion in the House of Commons. On Bosnia, Marin acknowl-

formulating it's policy towards the strife-torn former Yugoslav republics. "We have to try to push all parties towards peace and a formula which protects the

Bosnian minorities has to be

edged that the EC has perhaps

applied double standards in

found." Earlier, Bangladesh Ambaseador in Brussels Syed Hasan Ahmed introduced the EC Vice-President at the press conference, which was also attended by EC Director (Asia) E Fossatti and EC Commission chief in Dhaka, Ambassador F Batlly.

Noting that Bangladesh enjoys the most liberal trade regime in exports to the EC market, Ambassador Ahmed pointed out that EC is the largest export market for Bangladeshi products accounting for 39 per cent of the total and 42 per cent of the garments

He added that the trade balance has swung in favour of Bangladesh in the last few

Ishaq Khan

From Page 1 Col 4

The alleged Indian attack was deterred only because of Pakistan's nuclear capability and the fact that Gandhi was assassinated 10 days before the suspected launch date, Ishaq

Khan said.

many years in different government positions, he had on more than one occasion been responsible for preventing the nuclear programme from being abandoned under western pres-Ishaq Khan said that US President Jimmy Carter's na-

He claimed that during his

tional security advisor had convinced General Mohammed Zia ul-Haq, Pakistan's military ruler from 1977 to his death in 1988, to pack up Pakistan's nuclear programme in return for 250 million dollars in the US Ishaq Khan claimed the

agreement was ready to be signed, but "I came in the way of this deal and convinced the late general to disassociate himself" from such a deal. Ishaq Khan did not name the

official, but Zbigniew Brzezinski was Carter's national security advisor.

Independent confirmation of Ishaq Khan's disclosures was not immediately possible. The former president had succeeded General Zia after his death in a mysterious plane crash on August 17, 1988.

Zia had acknowledged that Pakistan achieved the capability of enrichment of uranium in mid-1980s through its indigenous efforts and repeatedly vowed to continue what he called the 'peaceful nuclear pro-

Despite denials at the highest level in Islamabad, western experts believe Pakistan's nuclear programme is weaponsoriented. Former US President George Bush suspended Pakistan's

military and economic assistance in October 1990 following reports that Islamabad had material to assemble several nuclear bombs. Successive talks have failed to restore the more than 500 million US dollars annual aid.

Flood may hit mid-region and part of the sadar thana From Page 1 Col 5 with an estimated 25 lakh peo-The river Surma, which is still flowing above danger level, ple were the worst-hit areas. Jamalpur district control has begun to recede at several room officials said over telephone that 31 out of the total

ceived in Dhaka, the flood situation has slightly improved in Panchagarh, Nilphamari Kurigram, Sunamgani and the hill districts of Khagrachhari, Rangamati and Bandarban.

Comilia and Feni. It remained static in Habigani, Chittagong, Jamalpur and Cox's Bazar districts. an official Meanwhile, handout said Thursday that the Relief Ministry doled out Tk

15.50 lakh and an additional

1150 tonnes of rice to the 12

The districts included

seriously affected districts.

The situation has worsened

in Seraigani, Netrakona, Sylhet,

Chittagong, Comilla, Feni, Brahmanbaria, Serajganj Jamalpur, Cox's Bazar, Sylhet, Sunamganj, Habiganj, Moulvi Bazar and Narsingdi. Our Staff Correspondent from Chittagong reports: The flood situation in the

Chittagong district remained

unchanged while it improved in

all the three hill districts.

A total of two lakh people have been seriously affected by the floods, according to the distriet control room. Road Communications between Chittagong and

Rangamati, Kaptai Khagrachhart and Cox's Bazar remained snapped for the last four days. No casualty has been re-

ported Thursday. Our Sylhet Correspondent eports: The flood situation further worsened Thursday as waters continued to pour in from across the border. Sylhet town was also cut off

from the six of its thanas which includes Beani Bazar, Zakiganj, Kanaighat, Gowainghat, Balaganj and Fenchuganj. The report said that no step has yet been taken to evacuate

thousands of people stuck in

flood waters while no shelter

Thursday.

Waters of the Manu has also begun to fall Only Kushiyara still continued its upward trend. At Amalshid point, the river recorded a 185-centimeter rise

Our Correspondent in

Flood situation

at a glance Panchagarh Improved Improved Nilphamari Kurigram Improved Slightly Improved Rangpur Gaibandha Worsened Worsened Sirajganj Netrakona Worsened Sunamgan Unchanged Sylhet Unchanged Habiganj Worsened Comilla Worsened Feni Unchanged Chittagong Khagrachhari Improved Improved Rangamati Bandarban Improved

Cox's Bazar Unchanged Jamalpur Moulvibazar Worsened Gaibandha said that flood situation in the district continued to worsen Thursday with four more unions freshly engulfed by

The total flood-hit unions of

the district now stands at 28. The river Ghagat was flowing three feet above the red mark, according to the local district control room. Serajganj Our Correspondent adds: Thousands of people living in

flood waters.

about 80 chars and sandbars were passing sleepless nights because of rising water. Chowhali, Kazipur, Belkuchi

aggravated further Thursday with fresh inundation, they The Deputy Commissioner of Panchagarh told The Daily Star over telephone that flood situa-

tion was improving in his dis-

67 unions of the district have

Flood situation of the district

been affected by floodings.

Out of the total 6.68 lakh. nearly one lakh people of the district were hit by flood water

fected He informed that two lakh Taka, 200 metric tonnes of rice and 200 pieces of saris and lungis have been distributed

of Rajnagar thana.

Habiganj adds: Road communi-

The overall flood situation in the district deteriorated further Saturday because of the continued water rise in the local

From Staff Correspondent

But the arrival of ships into

By Staff Correspondent

city train, derailed at a place bestations, have been salvaged.

The officials said that a relief train from Akhaura began the salvage operation after water receded from the rail track. Saturday morning.