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## NEWS BRIEFS

## Khaleda greets Silvio Berlusconi

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday conveyed her warmest greetings and felicitations to Prime Minister of Italy Silvio Berlusconi on the occasion of the National Day of his country. In her message Begum Zia expressed the confidence that the existing warm and cordial relations between Bangladesh and Italy would be further strengthened in the years to come, reports BSS.

## New daily appears in Rajshahi

RAJSHAHI, June 1: A new daily newspaper named 'Dainik Upachar' came out in Rajshahi city today. Rajshahi City Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu attended the publication ceremony of the daily as the chief guest, reports BSS.

## Nurse found dead

By DMCH Correspondent  
A senior nurse of a private clinic in the city, was found dead yesterday. Sanchita Sarkar, 22, was found unconscious in her room at Al-Beruni Clinic at Khilji Road, Moham-madpur, in the morning. She was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared her dead. The cause of the death is yet to be known.

## Seminar on economic reforms today

By Staff Correspondent  
A national seminar on 'Experiences of Economic Reforms in South Asia' will be held today at 9:00 am at the Hotel Purbani under the auspices of Bangladesh Workers Party.

Member of Indian Parliament and former Finance Minister of the West Bengal provincial government Dr Ashok Mitra, Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University Dr Rathindra Narayan Basu and Nepalese economist Dr Dilli Raj Khanal will address the seminar.

## PM's call to increase GDP, investment

## Tk 11,000 cr ADP for '94-95

The National Economic Council yesterday approved a Tk 11,000 crore Annual Development Programme (ADP) for 1994-95, about 14.58 per cent up from the outgoing fiscal's revised ADP outlay, reports UNB.

The NEC in a meeting with its chairperson Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair also endorsed the revised ADP outlay of Tk 9,600 crore for 1993-94.

Original size of the ADP for the current fiscal year (1993-94) was Tk 9,750 crore.

Approving the ADP for the coming and outgoing fiscal years, the Prime Minister stressed the need for increasing the GDP to 7-8 per cent and investment to 20 per cent to come out of the poverty cy-

cle. Begum Zia noted with satisfaction that the ADP financing from domestic resources stood at 37 per cent in 1993-94 and hoped it would rise to 38 per cent in the next ADP.

She called for increasing overall investment as well as encouraging the private sector. The present investment rate is 14.5 per cent of total GDP, which is not complementary to accelerating growth.

"Weaknesses in implementation of projects and their lack of merits are the main impediments to present process of development. The weaknesses in implementation of development projects must be overcome," the Prime Minister said referring to sloth in implementation of some pro-

jects in the current year.

She said the situation cannot be changed until strict discipline in implementing projects and accountability are ensured. The Prime Minister asked the ministries to be more alert and serious in this regard.

"We are reviewing the progress in implementation of projects in various important sectors and giving necessary instructions to the ministries to resolve the problems," she told the meeting.

The Prime Minister also asked the 'administrative machinery to be more welfare and development-oriented and encourage small private entrepreneurs.

Steps will be taken to encourage private investment by

giving them incentives from the coming fiscal year, she assured.

Focusing on the priorities of next ADP, Begum Zia said 28 per cent allocation had been made for overall agriculture sector including rural development and water resources as the country's economy is still agro-based. This allocation is one and a half times that of 1989-90.

The government also attached importance to human resource development and earmarked 31 per cent of the development spendings for socio-economic sectors in coming financial year.

Education is the principal means of human resource development and hence it has

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## AL advisory body blames BNP for impasse

By Staff Correspondent

The Awami League advisory council has held the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) responsible for the present political impasse in the country.

The council maintained that the crisis could be resolved only through passage of a Constitution amendment bill seeking provision for holding general elections under a caretaker government.

The 15-member advisory body met yesterday, at the official residence of AL Chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

The meeting expressed the view that resolution of the crisis lay with the moving of a Constitution amendment bill by the ruling party because, it pointed out, passage of such a bill required support of at least two-thirds of the 330 mem-

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## Return of Chakmas stalled again

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, June 1: Repatriation of the rest of Chakma refugees from Tripura state of India has been stalled again with no response to this effect from the Indian authorities or refugee leaders received so far, sources said.

Officials here said they had expected that the next phase of repatriation would start shortly after the visits of Governor of Tripura Ramesh Bhandari and a refugee delegation led by chairman of Chakma Refugee Welfare Association Upendra Lal Chakma to Chittagong Hill Tracts. But no response in this regard was received as yet.

Ramesh Bhandari and Upendra Lal Chakma who led a 14-member refugee delegation, last month separately vis-

ited CHT to see the condition of Chakma refugees who returned home between February and an agreement.

A total of 379 families comprising 1845 members out of the over 50,000 refugees returned home between February 15 and 22 and settled down with financial help and relief materials provided by the government.

When contacted over telephone from here, an official of the Special Affairs Division told the correspondent that the process was on to start the repatriation. "But we are also welcoming those refugees who are returning on their own arrangements and providing them same financial package," he said.

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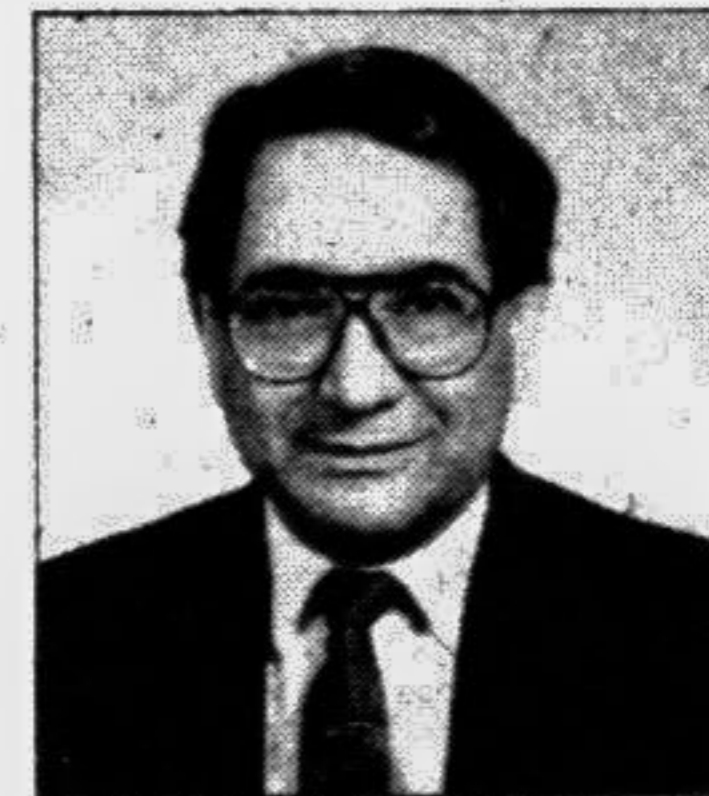
## ICAO expert tells Daily Star Dhaka strategic point for aviation network

By Asiuzzaman

Bangladesh, located at a very strategic position, could provide aviation communication facilities to both international and regional operators, an expert from the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) said.

"A lot of aircraft from the East and the South-East Asian countries overfly Bangladesh. Moreover, the country has a domestic air traffic network. So, if the country is backed up by the proposed CNS/ATM system, it will help both ways," Vijendra Singh, an Indian-born British expert told The Daily Star in an interview.

The Communication Navigation Surveillance (CNS)/Air Traffic Management (ATM) is a multi-billion dollar project undertaken by the ICAO, which is



Vijendra Singh

expected to go into full operation by 2010.

Singh, 63, who served in the Royal Air Force and the UK Civil Aviation Authority until

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## Foreign cos need no SEC clearance to set up units

The foreign commercial enterprises do not require any permission or clearance from Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to set up joint venture or wholly foreign owned companies in Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Joint venture and wholly foreign owned companies which intend to establish industrial and commercial enterprises in Bangladesh apply to SEC for obtaining its prior permission or clearance before they approach the office of registrar, joint stock companies for incorporation as public or private companies under the Companies Act, 1913.

The SEC in this connection notified all concerned that its prior permission or clearance is not required in such cases under the provision of any law or administrative order currently in force.

## Arafat won't be allowed to visit Jerusalem: Rabin

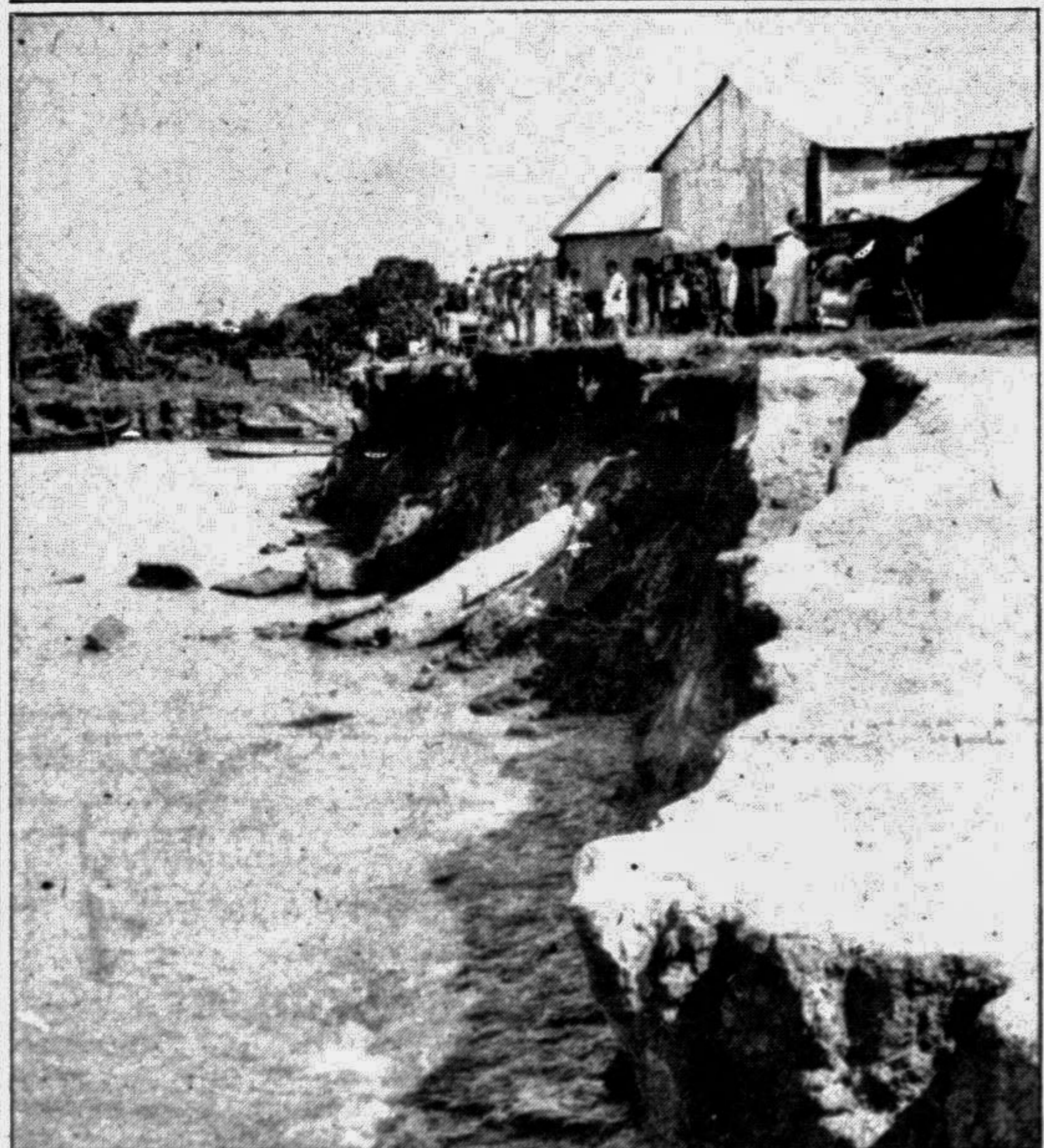
JERUSALEM, June 1: Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin hardened his stance on Tuesday saying he would not allow PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to visit Jerusalem in the next two years, state radio reported, reports AFP.

With both Israel and the Palestinians both increasingly pushing their claims to Jerusalem, Rabin scotched any hopes of an early trip to the holy city for the PLO leader.

"For the moment, can't see any reason for him to come to Jerusalem," state radio quoted Rabin as telling a closed door meeting of Parliament's Defence and Foreign Affairs Committee.

"But after two years I don't know that my position might be," the Premier added.

After two years of autonomy Israel and the PLO are scheduled to begin negotiations on a permanent settlement, which is to include the question of Jerusalem.



Fresh erosion by the river Padma at Louhajang of Munshiganj district has begun well ahead of the monsoon. This picture was taken yesterday at Dighali Bazar.

— Star photo by A K M Mohsin

## Indo-Pak war of words over Kashmir marks NAM confce

CAIRO, June 1: India and Pakistan traded accusations today of torture, oppression and terrorism they said had occurred in their disputed border area of Kashmir, reports BSS.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali told the non-aligned conference that India was trying to put down an indigenous uprising in the troubled state "with a ferocity seldom witnessed in the history of occupation."

"Torture, rape, deaths in custody, pillage and arson have become routine procedure," he said adding, "more than half a million security forces continue to ravage this beautiful land."

India's Minister of State for External Affairs R L Bhatia responded by accusing Pakistan of "state-sponsored terrorism

from across the border." "Kashmir has been, is, and will always be an integral part of India, and those who live there are citizens of India with the same rights and obligations as all other Indians," he said.

Their statements to a closed-door session of the non-aligned foreign ministers were made available to journalists.

## Editorial on Page 4

"There were some skirmishes regarding Kashmir between Pakistan and India," Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa told reporters.

Bhatia accused Pakistan of breaking the rules of non-aligned movement by raising a bilateral dispute with a fellow member.

But Ali said if the Movement could not resolve conflicts like that in Kashmir it would

have "no relevance at all." The NAM foreign ministers, facing calls to reform their movement to fit the post-cold war world, turn the tables today when they discuss demands for an overhaul of the United Nations.

The meeting will call to expand the UN Security Council to strengthen non-aligned representation and reflect the increased number of developing nations in the world body, India's UN ambassador Hamid Ansari told reporters. "Existing imbalances (in the Security Council) should be reduced," he said. "Communication between the Security Council and UN members should also be improved."

Mubarak's warning about the future of the NAM was echoed on Tuesday by Shri Lankan Foreign Minister.

## DU eviction notice disgrace to martyrs: Hasina

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the Dhaka University authorities to withdraw the order asking members of the martyred families to vacate their campus quarters, reports UNB.

In a statement, she said the notice served by the university authorities was but disgrace to the martyred intellectuals and inhuman gesture toward their families.

The families of martyred intellectuals are being neglected. Without making alternative arrangements, eviction of the families would be a sheer inhuman act, she said and urged the authorities to withdraw the order and extend cooperation so that they can live with dignity.

the demand. Dr Kamal said he noticed the political scenario of that country analogous to that of Bangladesh. "I was deeply impressed by the sagacity, statesmanship and wisdom of the political leadership of South Africa which, despite inter-party disputes and differences ingrained in a multi-racial society, managed to work out a consensus on fundamentals to further dialogue and made a good beginning on the road to democracy."

Paying glowing tribute to the enlightened leadership of the contending parties he said it developed political process and highly innovative institu-

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## SA experience can help resolve crisis: Kamal

Gano Forum president Dr Kamal Hossain, who led the UN observer team to recent elections in South Africa, thought the experience he had gleaned from that country's political scenario could help resolve the crisis looming large on our national life.

Talking to UNB yesterday he said measures taken by South African political leaders to hold free and fair elections in their country could go a long way in meeting our political parties' rising demand for free and fair elections.

The opposition in Bangladesh is demanding caretaker government to conduct general elections and boycotting Parliament session to press

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