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# The Daily Star

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**World Bank Supplement**  
 Today's issue of The Daily Star contains a 48-page 4-colour magazine on the World Bank operations in Bangladesh. The Magazine contains articles and interviews on various World Bank projects in the country. Make sure you get your free copy from your hawkers.

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**STOCK MARKET**

DSE price index	781.56 (-0.47%)
Market capital Tk	46.91 billion
Transactions in volume	121172
Transactions in value Tk	18.03 million

**Metropolitan**  
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**NEWS BRIEFS**

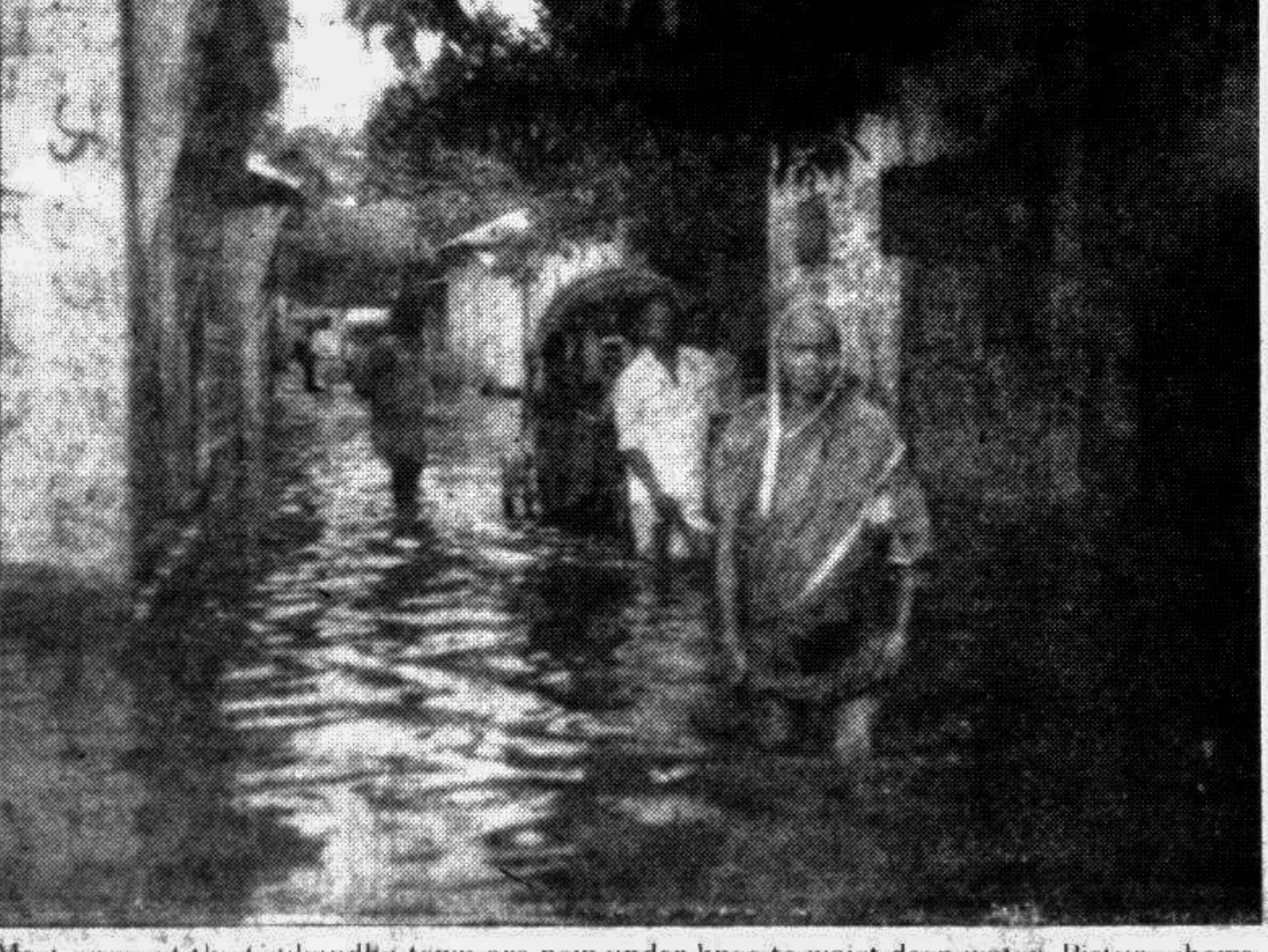
**President assents to 2 more Bills**  
 President Abdur Rahman Biswas has assented to two more Bills passed by Parliament during its current session. The bills are the Jamuna Multi-purpose Bridge Project (Land Acquisition) Bill 1995 and the Judicial Administration Training Institute Bill 1995, a Parliament Secretariat press release said yesterday, reports UNB.

**Dhaka dist BCL president held**  
 SAVAR, July 9: A pro-Awami League Chhatra League leader was arrested with a fire arm from Atakpara in Savar thana today. Police said Majumdar Islam Rajib, Dhaka district unit president of the Chhatra League, was nabbed with a sophisticated revolver. Police, following his confessional statement also arrested four others — Rony, 18, Mamun, 22, Asad, 24, Belal Mahmud, 25 — along with a knife and four rounds of bullets from different parts of the area, reports UNB.

**40 hurt in bus collision**  
 SAVAR, July 9: Forty people were injured when two buses collided near Savar Cantonment on the Dhaka-Aricha highway today. The injured were rushed to Savar CMH and different hospitals in Dhaka. A case was filed with the local police, reports UNB.

## 6 drown: Situation worsens further Gaibandha town goes under water

By Staff Correspondent  
 Sirajganj, Lalmonirhat, Netrokona, Kurigram, Tangail, Gopalganj and Manikganj districts.  
 The Brahmaputra and the Ganges and all their tributaries, which had already been flowing above danger levels, continued to rise at all points, further aggravating the flood situation, according to the Flood Information Centre in Dhaka.  
 Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, after visiting Flood and Relief Control Room in Dhaka, yesterday directed all concerned authorities, including district administrations, to extend all-out assistance to the flood victims.  
 State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Harun-ur-Rashid and the ministry's secretary, Islamuddin Malik, briefed Begum Zia that 22 districts were affected by the current floods.  
 The current floods have affected Panchagarh, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Sirajganj Lalmonirhat, Netrokona, Madaripur, Tangail, Jamalpur, Munshiganj, Gopalganj, Sherpur, Satkhira, Bogra, Pabna, Manikganj, Brahmanbaria, Feni, Chittagong, Sunamganj, Moulvibazar and Sylhet districts.  
 Our Gaibandha correspondent reports: Flood water entered almost all the residences, offices, and business and educational institutions. Bank authorities closed all the banks, except the main branch of Sonali Bank, as water entered the vaults of some of them.  
 Three persons including two children were killed and many injured.



Most areas of the Gaibandha town are now under knee to waist deep water. Picture shows a lane at Bridge Road. — Star photo by Rezaul Haque

## Deportation from Saudi Arabia Overstay main reason, says Foreign Ministry

Diplomatic Correspondent  
 A total of 27,584 Bangladeshis have been deported from Saudi Arabia since January '94 mostly on grounds of overstay. This includes 1870 deportees who are expected to reach Chittagong today by ship.  
 A spokesman of the Foreign Ministry said yesterday that the Ministry of Labour and Manpower and the Home Ministry were informed of the grounds of deportation. The deportees included mostly people who over the years had stayed back in Saudi Arabia after performing 'umrah' and Hajj. There were also cases where the contractual obligations with the employer concerned had not been fulfilled or they had simply overstayed after expiry of their permit.  
 Presently people from Bangladesh comprised the largest number of overseas workers in Saudi Arabia and their figure was between five to seven lakh, the foreign Ministry spokesman said at a regular weekly briefing yesterday.  
 He said that the government had made representations to the Saudi authorities in the past not to send the deportees in bulk or by ship.  
 He, however, said since the Saudi government bore the entire burden of return passage of the deportees and economic factors were involved, the option was theirs. The Saudis have given the assurance that the means of return of the deportees would be comfortable and also of a desirable standard.  
 The spokesman said that Bangladesh had always insisted on proper verification by its Embassy before anyone was being sent back and the response from the Saudis so far as the Bangladeshis were concerned was satisfactory.

## DU commerce faculty renamed

By Staff Correspondent  
 Parliament yesterday passed a minor amendment to the Dhaka University Order, 1973, replacing the word 'Commerce' with 'Business Studies'.  
 Proposing the amendment, Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar said worldwide the faculty is currently known as business studies. So the amendment is necessary to keep pace with the global changes, he added.  
 Sircar proposed the amendment to Articles 27 (1) and 46 (1) relating to the name of the faculty and the degrees. But State Minister for Textiles Abdul Mannan moved an amendment to the bill proposing that the word 'Commerce' should be replaced by 'Business Studies' anywhere in the 1973 Order.  
 Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali raised some questions relating to the amendment.

## Dates scandal Pak diplomat from UAE recalled

DUBAI, July 9: Pakistan has recalled one of its diplomats here amid accusations that he had tried to forge documents to facilitate the shipment of rotten dates to Bangladesh, reports AP.  
 Nadeem Ahmed denied the charges in an interview Sunday with The Associated Press. He said he planned to report soon to the Foreign Office in Islamabad.  
 Ahmed was the head of chancery at Pakistan's consulate in Dubai. He was relieved of his duties last month after allegations that he had teamed up with Pakistani businessman Chaudhury Altaf in the bad dates scandal.  
 Ahmed, 38, told AP that he felt he was a scapegoat.  
 "My only fault was that I did a favour to a friend," he said.  
 Ahmed said Pakistani-based commission agent Sabih Ahmed had asked him to go and check dates.

## PM tells Country Director WB tags too much conditions to aid

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday urged the World Bank to tag reasonable conditionalities to aid so Bangladesh can utilise it for its self-reliance, reports UNB.  
 The World Bank, she said, imposes too much conditions while it sanctions aid that hamper proper utilisation of the funds.  
 Begum Zia was talking to the Bank's outgoing Country Director, Paul Isenmen, when he made a farewell call on the Prime Minister at her office in the afternoon. WB's new Country Director designate for South Asia Ms Micko Mishimizu also made her courtesy call.  
 The Prime Minister said her government was trying heart and soul for making the country self-reliant and sought the Bretton Woods institution's continued support in Bangladesh's development endeavours.  
 "I request the World Bank to help us in our drive towards self-reliance by giving us reasonable conditions during aid sanction," she said.  
 Thanking the World Bank for its assistance in the field of power, Begum Zia said Bangladesh needed a huge quantity of electricity for ensuring overall development of the country.  
 She said her government had taken special steps to reduce system loss and realise electricity bills, and the measures proved successful. "We have taken special measures in national interest, not in the interest of the World Bank."  
 In the mean time, the Prime Minister said the government had adopted energy, oil and power policies encouraging the private sector to invest.  
 For rapid industrialisation, spread of education, attracting foreign investment, Bangladesh needs huge electricity, she told the World Bank executives.

## Khaleda now desperate to prolong rule: Opposition

Opposition leaders yesterday rejected outright the Prime Minister's contention about caretaker government and said Begum Zia became desperate for prolonging her rule by ignoring people's will.  
 Future election to parliament must be held under a neutral caretaker government as per will of the people, they asserted today to UNB.  
 Awami League leader Tofael Ahmed, Jatiya Party's acting Chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, Jannaat Secretary General Moulana Matur Rahman Nizami and NDP chief Salahuddin Qader Chowdhury came up with identical reactions over the Prime Minister's remarks made Saturday that caretaker government is unconstitutional.  
 They said the Prime Minister, who herself violated the Constitution by See page 12 Col 7

## Saifur assures protection of small investors' interest in DSE

By Staff Correspondent  
 Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman has said steps will be taken against irregularities in the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) to protect interest of small investors.  
 "I shall look into the secondary market to make it transparent and through regulations, stop irregularities and manipulation of share prices," the minister said while addressing a seminar on capital market organised by the Bangladesh Share Investors Forum (BSIF), a body of small share investors of the DSE here yesterday.  
 "There is an unhealthy trend in the DSE where brokers are acting as managers and exorbitant biddings over unused seats made." He called for filling up the unused seats immediately.  
 "I am always on the side of the small investors. They play the most vital role in quality investment in the country's economy," the minister said.



A dance sequence at a cultural function in celebration of Nazrul Jayanti at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium in the city yesterday.

## Bangla-Pak JEC meet from July 25

By Staff Correspondent  
 A two-day meeting of Bangladesh-Pakistan Joint Economic Commission (JEC) will begin in Islamabad July 25.  
 This will be the sixth meeting of the JEC. The last one was held in Dhaka in July '91.  
 The Bangladesh delegation to the meeting will be led by Commerce and Information Minister Shamsul Islam. A number of businessmen are likely to accompany the JEC team.  
 The JEC meeting is expected to 'concentrate on improving the trade imbalance now facing Bangladesh', said a high official of the Commerce Ministry.  
 In fiscal '94-95, Bangladesh exported to Pakistan goods worth 28 million US dollars while imports from that country stood at about 101 million dollars. Islamabad mainly exported cotton while Dhaka's exports consisted of jute and tea. Dhaka also exported non-traditional items like processed food and jamdani sarees. Carpets have also started securing a market, the ministry official said.  
 During the Prime Minister's recent visit to Islamabad, the two countries signed an Investment Protection and Promotion Agreement and also an MOU on agriculture.  
 Economic Counsellor at the Pakistan High Commission in Dhaka Syed Shafruddin said that there was a keen interest in expanding trade ties and the JEC meeting, against the backdrop of the recent agreements, will help boost more trade cooperation.

## DU body formed to decide fate of 20 students

By DU Correspondent  
 A sub-committee has been formed at the Dhaka University academic council meeting to find out a suitable solution to the problem of admission of 20 students.  
 At the one and half an hour debate on the subject yesterday, most of the members of the Academic Council spoke against their admission while some others argued in favour of their admission on humanitarian ground.  
 The sub-committee headed by pro-vice chancellor Shahid Uddin Ahmed, comprises the deans of six faculties and the chairmen of four departments of the Commerce Faculty.  
 The 10-member committee will submit its report to the Academic Council within seven days suggesting ways of deciding the fate of the 20 students who could not sit for the admission test due to a reception recorded to them by the Education Ministry on June 15.

## Four more held in Chuadanga

From Our Correspondent  
 CHUADANGA, July 9: Four more persons were arrested today in connection with the killing's in Damurhuda thana on Friday.  
 Seven persons, reportedly activists of the Workers Party, were called out from the cluster village of Ibrahimpur and later killed by armed youths, said to be members of the outlawed Purbha Banglar Communist Party, locally known as Sarbahara Party.  
 Those arrested today are Moimuddin, 30, Bablu, 28, Khairul Islam, 30 and Miraz, 25. With them, 12 persons have been arrested so far.  
 Meanwhile, a half-day hartal was observed in Chuadanga today to protest Friday's massacre.  
 The Workers Party also held a rally where central leader Fazle Hossain Badsha and others spoke.  
 As police intensified their operation, the panicky people, particularly the youths of the locality and its adjoining areas, fled their homes.  
 Local people believe, the real killers have crossed the border.

## City's eco-system: Part III Fire fighters face water crisis

By Morshed A Khan and Krishna P Roy  
 Gradual disappearance of water reservoirs and low-lying areas from the city is already posing enormous problems for fire fighters, according to an official of the Fire Service and Civil Defence.  
 During a recent fire incident at a shop at Elephant Road, fire fighters had to fetch water from a pond in Dhaka University area, quarter kilometre away, he said. "Such a situation may cause great disasters," he said.  
 "Most of the water reservoirs have disappeared over the last ten years." In case of a big fire, we have to pump water from a reservoir nearby. But now a days, we face serious difficulties due to lack of natural water reservoirs," he said. "In the city's surrounding areas also, plots are being elevated and industries set up there without ensuring fire fighting facilities. This is a helpless situation."  
 In the process of filling up the low-lying areas, 'precious' top soil of the adjacent areas of the city are being removed which is not environmentally sound, said an official of the Department of Environment (DOE).  
 Low-lying lands and open space not only serves as water retention places in the city. Those also help growth of a healthy society, according to professionals. If the present trend of filling up the open spaces continues, the city will soon lose all the vital facilities for a decent living too, experts said.



A canal in the city being filled up by dumping waste. — Star photo

## All because of polls?

By Farid Hossain  
 Bangladesh Television has always been aggressive in its coverage of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia. The government-controlled BTV even beat itself in screening Begum Zia's meeting Saturday with the journalists who work for foreign media and belong to Overseas Correspondents Association of Bangladesh. It was almost a live broadcast. The BTV was very very generous. Not only was the voice of the Prime Minister aired, the audience could hear some of the journalists speaking and shooting questions to Begum Zia. Nearly all of those who participated in one of the rarest press briefings with the Prime Minister had their faces flashed on the BTV screen, which is sometimes dubbed an 'Idiot Box'.  
 It was Begum Zia's first meeting since she took over as the country's Prime Minister four years ago. The OCAB has been trying for a press briefing with Begum Zia virtually since the day she was elected to the office. This time her office agreed.  
 The Prime Minister invited the OCAB members to her Secretariat and spoke for more than an hour. Impressive as she is, Begum Zia, in a pink and-blue 'chaddar', was smiling nearly throughout the meeting. The meeting room was slightly rearranged as Begum Zia invited the journalists to sit closer to her.  
 Before Begum Zia arrived, there was some confusion. Those who carried their tape recorder were told that they can't keep the equipment at the Prime Minister's table. An official suggested that it was simply an informal meeting and he found no reason why the proceedings should all be recorded. The journalists murmured protests. And the misunderstanding was quickly removed.  
 That the BNP government will not renew the 25-year Indo-Bangladesh Friendship Treaty is known to all. The treaty expires in 1997 and Begum Zia needs to win another election to be able to decide the fate of the controversial treaty. In any case, the treaty is dead. Because Sheikh Hasina has also promised not to renew the treaty if her Awami League is voted to power.  
 Begum Zia will not concede to the opposition demand for a neutral caretaker government to supervise general elections. This was simply a reiteration. She also did not forget to bash the opposition as she always does.  
 She was vague in reply to questions which could have produced something new. Asked if her government or the BNP will take initiative to ban the bank loan defaulters from general elections her reply was this is an issue which needs to be addressed unitedly with other parties. Why other parties? Can't the BNP take a stand against the defaulters? Begum Zia was asked if her government should take actions against the Islamic fundamentalists who brand their critics as 'murtads' and thus create a serious situation. She had no definite answer. She said her government does not believe in 'latwaisim', See page 12 Col 8

## Pak politics corrupt, says Imran

LONDON, July 9: Cricketing hero Imran Khan said today that he did not want to enter politics in Pakistan because it was far too corrupt, reports Reuters.  
 "At the moment our country is going through the greatest crisis. It really is sinking," he told Sir David Frost in a BBC television interview with his new English wife Gemma beside him.  
 "If I felt that by going into politics, I felt I could help my country I certainly would. But the fact is that politics in Pakistan is completely corrupt."  
 "You need so much money to fight elections. Once people get into government, they try and retrieve that money by corrupt practices. As a result, politicians are completely discredited in Pakistan."  
 Imran Khan, a national hero as the country's cricket captain, has raised See page 12 Col 8

## Security relaxed for July 12 talks with Shantibahini

From Staff Correspondent  
 CHITTAGONG, July 9: Security has been relaxed in Dudukchhara border village under Panchhari thana of Khagrachhari hill district for holding peace talks with Jana Sanghati Samity leaders on July 12.  
 Eight security camps at Dudukchhara have been withdrawn and five others have not been functioning since July 7, five days ahead of the talks, as per condition placed by Shantibahini.  
 Shantibahini leaders headed by Shanto Larma, president of the Parbhatty Chhattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), the parent body of Shantibahini, will meet the government sub-committee which will be led by Rashed Khan Menon, MP.

**Wimbledon Result HIGHLIGHTS**  
 Courtesy  
**KLM Royal Dutch Airlines**  
 Men's singles (final): Pete Sampras (USA) def Boris Becker (Germany)  
 Women's doubles (final): Jana Novotna (Czech Republic) and Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario (Spain) def Gigi Fernandez (USA) and Natasha Zvereva (Belarus)  
 Mixed doubles (final): Jonathan Stark (USA) and Martina Navratilova (USA) def Cyril Suk (Czech Rep) and Gigi Fernandez (USA).