

MARBLE MARBLE MARBLE
 WE HAVE HUGE READY STOCK OF
 ITALIAN CARRARA, PERLATO SICILIA,
 BOTTICINO, INDIAN KESSWARI GREEN,
 MALAYSIAN AND PAKISTANI MARBLE
 OF DIFFERENT TYPES
NIRMAN INTERNATIONAL LTD.
 199, TEJGAON 1/A, DHAKA
 TEL: 605957, 607363 SHOW ROOM: 861985

The Daily Star

**Moneylink
ATM's**
 Standard Chartered

VOL. V NO. 168 REGD. NO. DA 781

ASHAR 28, 1402 BS,

DHAKA WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 1995

SAFAR 13, 1416 HIJRI

12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 5.00

Inside Today

Article

Hold National Referendum on the Issue of Caretaker Government

Column: Cross Currents by CAF Dowlah Page 4

Focus

An exclusive interview with MQM leader Altaf Hussain; and Sexcapades, protests, rows—and still a year to go Page 5

International

Troops repulse LTTE attack, advance towards Jaffna

Ignoring UN threat Serbs advance deep into Srebrenica Page 8

Business

ECNEC okays Tk 264 cr water resource development projects

Qatar set to become dominant force in world energy market Pages 6, 7

STOCK MARKET

DSE price index	760.51 (+0.20%)
Market capital Tk	46.85 billion
Transactions in volume	117438
Transactions in value Tk	16.28 million

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



The Fashion Fascists Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

15 held from city hotel

By Staff Correspondent
 Detective Police yesterday arrested 15 people including four women from a residential hotel at Malibagh for their alleged involvement in anti-social activities. The arrested were identified as Rumi, 18, Thanaulias Reshma Begum, 25, Mita, 26, Mousushli, 18, Shahid, Monir, Mahabub, Abdul Karim, Shekhar, Abdul Rahim, Elm Hossain, Kalam, Idris, Ranjit and Akhter.

'MV Mecca-1' leaves today

From Staff Correspondent
 CHITTAGONG, July 11: The vessel 'MV Mecca-1', which arrived here on Monday carrying the Bangladeshi deportees from Saudi Arabia, will sail back tomorrow morning, sources said. The Bangladesh Shipping Corporation is the local agent of this ship chartered by Saudi government to carry the deportees.

One killed in Jhenidah clash

JHENIDAH, July 11: A young man was killed and four people were injured in a clash between two rival groups at Jahuli village in Maheshpur thana today. Police said Jahangir Hossain, 25, died on the spot after his rivals hit him by sharp weapons during the clash which erupted following a dispute over a land at noon. Of the injured, Hossain Ali, 40, was rushed to the Jessore General Hospital while his son Arif, 15, admitted to Maheshkhali Health Complex, reports UNB.

Traffic disrupted in Ctg city

From Staff Correspondent
 CHITTAGONG, July 11: Traffic in the city was disrupted this morning for about two hours as some transport workers put up barricades on roads. They went on the action when a rumour spread that a tempo helper Shahjahan, who received stab injuries by terrorists at Hathazari, died in the hospital, police said. However, it became normal with the intervention of police at 1 pm.

Parliament session prorogued

Death penalty for repression on women, children

By Staff Correspondent

The budget session of Parliament was prorogued yesterday with the enactment of a tough law providing for death sentence for raping, murdering for dowry and trafficking of women and children.

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, piloting the Women and Child Repression (Special Provision) Bill, said, crimes against women and children had increased in recent times and the new law was necessary to contain such crimes.

He said, the Women Repression (Deterrent Punishment) Ordinance 1983, the Anti-dowry Act 1980 and the Children Act 1974 has failed to curb such heinous crimes.

The salient features of the new law are:

— Special Tribunals will be formed in all the district headquarters for trial of the cases;

— Investigation must be completed within a maximum of 90 working days of filing the case;

— Accused would not be granted bail during investigation;

— The Special Tribunal must complete the trial within 120 days after getting the case;

— Trial can be held in the absence of the accused;

— Magistrates can record statement of a witness at any place for quick disposal of the case;

The new law provides for death sentence for:

- a) Raping women and children;
- b) Deaths caused by raping;

- c) Gang rape;
- d) Death due to torture for dowry and

e) Child trafficking
 The punishment for other related crimes under the new law ranges from a minimum of seven years to life imprisonment.

Four ruling party MPs, taking part in the discussion termed the new law as one of the best initiatives of the BNP government to protect women and children. The MPs were Farida Rahman, Fatema Chowdhury Paru, Hamida Ali and Maj (ret) Akteruzzaman.

After the passage of the new bill, the House took up for consideration the Companies Profit (Workers Participation) (Amendment) Bill 1995.

But afterwards, Law Minister Mirza Gofam Hafiz withdrew the bill after a member said the bill was not properly tabled.

Maj (ret) Kamrul Islam said as the bill involves financial matters it needed consent of the President before its introduction in the House. Some of the members said it is not a finance bill but others differed with them. After nearly an hour of debate, the bill was deferred when the Law Minister himself said he deemed it to be a financial matter. A number of ministers also took part in the debate but neither the Finance Minister nor his deputy was present in the House yesterday.

Before the prorogation order of See page 12 Col 3



Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi appearing in public after a press conference yesterday at her residence in Yangon. — AFP photo

'We have to choose between dialogue & devastation'

YANGON, July 11: Freed after six years of detention, dissident leader Aung San Suu Kyi said today her democracy movement remains strong and urged the military government to negotiate peace in Myanmar, report AP, Reuters.

"We have to choose between dialogue and utter devastation," she said.

The Nobel Peace Prize laureate was unexpectedly freed yesterday by the government that seized power after crushing huge pro-democracy rallies that she had led in 1988.

A beaming Suu Kyi told reporters that her freedom was unconditional. She said detention "has not changed my basic objectives at all," but she spoke in conciliatory tones clearly aimed at encouraging talks with the government.

Looking slimmer but healthy in a purple traditional jacket and sarong, she met reporters and diplomats jammed into her lakeside residence, where she had been under house arrest. She was flanked by senior

officials of the National League for Democracy, the party she had helped found.

In a prepared statement, she said that in his message yesterday notifying her of freedom, government leader Gen. Than Shwe said the government "would like me to help toward achieving peace and stability of the country."

"Once bitter enemies in South

Africa are now working together for the betterment of the people. We can look forward to a similar process," Suu Kyi added. "We have to choose between dialogue and utter devastation."

"There is more in common between the authorities and we of the democratic forces in Myanmar than existed between the black and white people of South Africa," she said.

She noted that the government has stated its aim was to return power to the people, and "this is exactly our

aim as well."

Suu Kyi urged the release of remaining prisoners, and said: "I am happy to say that in spite of all that they have undergone, the forces of democracy remain strong and dedicated."

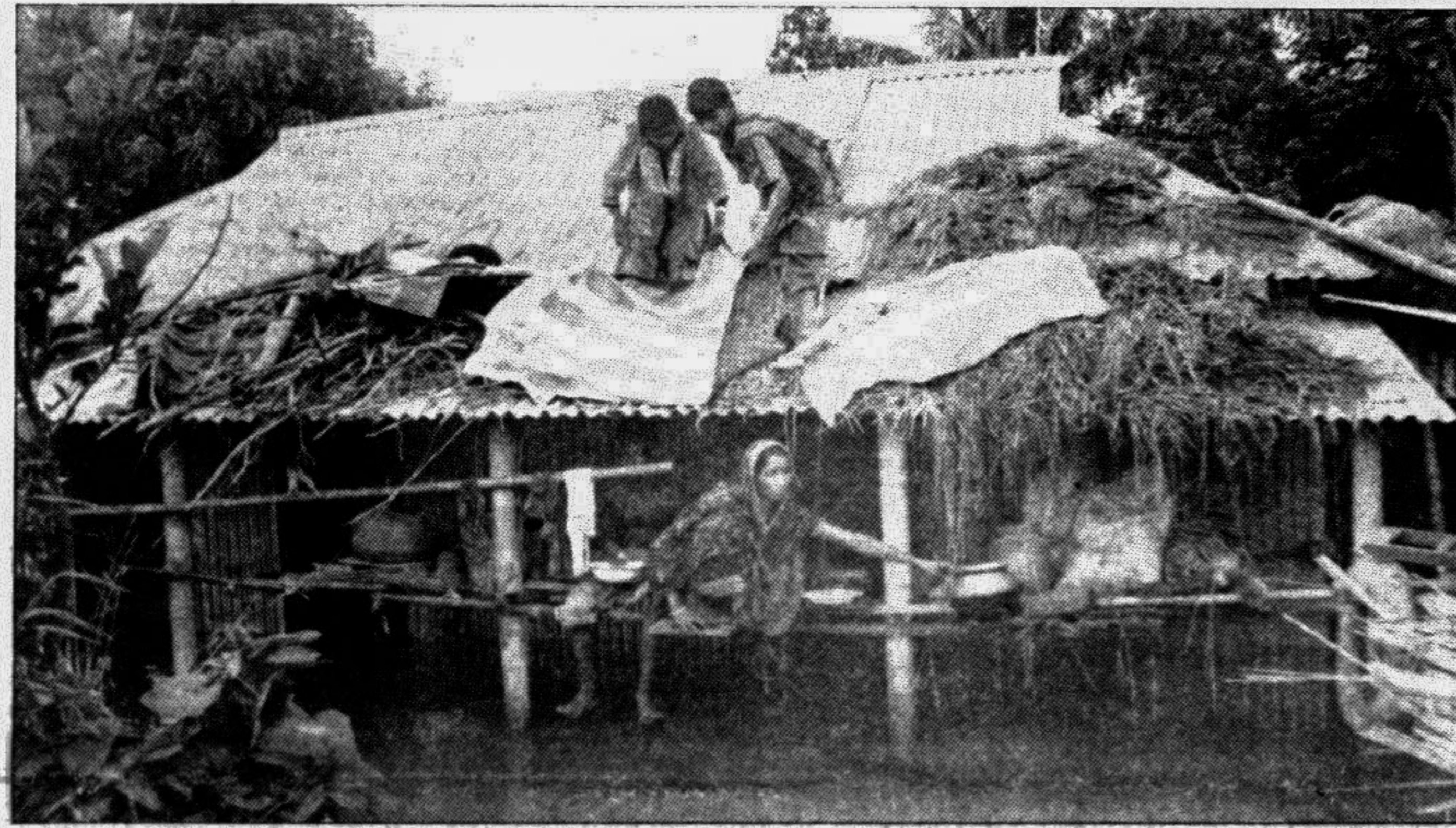
She said there was no hostility between her and the government, and she bore no resentment for her detention.

"We intend to help them in any way we can to return power to the people," she said in response to a question.

Suu Kyi said she was released without conditions. Asked if she planned a public rally, she said she needed time to consider her next steps.

News of her release was still being blacked out in Myanmar in a move diplomats interpreted as a sign of caution on the part of the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC).

But crowds milled outside her See page 12 Col 1



Adapting life to flood water intruding into homes, a Sirajganj family prepares to make a bedroom of their tinroof. — Star photo by Enamul Haq

City's road links with Ctg, N'ganj threatened Floods hit Dhaka, N'ganj

By Staff Correspondent

The overall flood situation deteriorated further in Gaibandha, Sherpur, Netrokona and Manikganj districts while many areas of Narayanganj and Dhaka districts raked under waters yesterday.

Dhaka's road links with Chittagong and Narayanganj have been threatened as the rising water level has almost reached the highway level at Bandar.

One ferry ghat at Aricha and another at Nagarbari went under water as the Padma and the Jamuna continued to swell yesterday.

The situation slightly improved in Lalmonirhat but was static in Sirajganj when road links between the district headquarter and four thana remained snapped.

Our Narayanganj Correspondent reports: eighteen unions in five

thanas of the district have been affected by flood with rise of water levels in Buriganga and Shitalakky rivers.

The affected unions are Khakkanda, Kalapaharia, Sadanandi, Fatchpur, Ujipur and Dishanandi in Araihasar thana, Kalagachia, Dhungari, Madampur and Musapur in Bandar thana, Nogaon, Aminpur and Barudi in Sonargaon thana, Alirtek and Gokhnagar in Sadar thana and Kashipur, Bakhtabali and Enayetsagar in Fatulla thana.

At least 70 per cent areas of these unions have gone under water. There is hardly any dry land in Khakkanda union. The Shitalakkya swelled by 19 cm yesterday but was flowing 19 cm below the danger mark.

District Water Development Board sources said the Shitalakkya may rise further and cross the 1988 level within next 48 hours.

All 22 unions under Dohar and Nawabganj thanas in Dhaka district have been affected by flood. Some 42,000 houses in these unions have been damaged, according to primary estimation.

Our Gaibandha correspondent reports: The overall flood situation in this worst affected district has deteriorated further following collapse of a vast portion of Korotoa Embankment at Balua.

At least 13 people were injured in a clash among flood-affected people over taking shelter on Rasulpur Flood Control Embankment in Phoolchhari See page 12 Col 6

PM visits 4 flood-hit N districts

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday visited the flood-affected areas of Sirajganj, Gaibandha, Kurigram and Bogra, reports UNB.

She had an aerial view of the affected areas during a low-fly in a helicopter.

During a meeting with the district officials at Sirajganj, the Prime Minister directed them to provide adequate relief materials to the flood-affected people and take steps for their rehabilitation.

She warned against any irregularities in the distribution of relief materials. Local leaders of different political parties were also present at the meeting.

The Prime Minister also stressed the need for installing sufficient number of tubewells to ensure avail- See page 12 Col 3

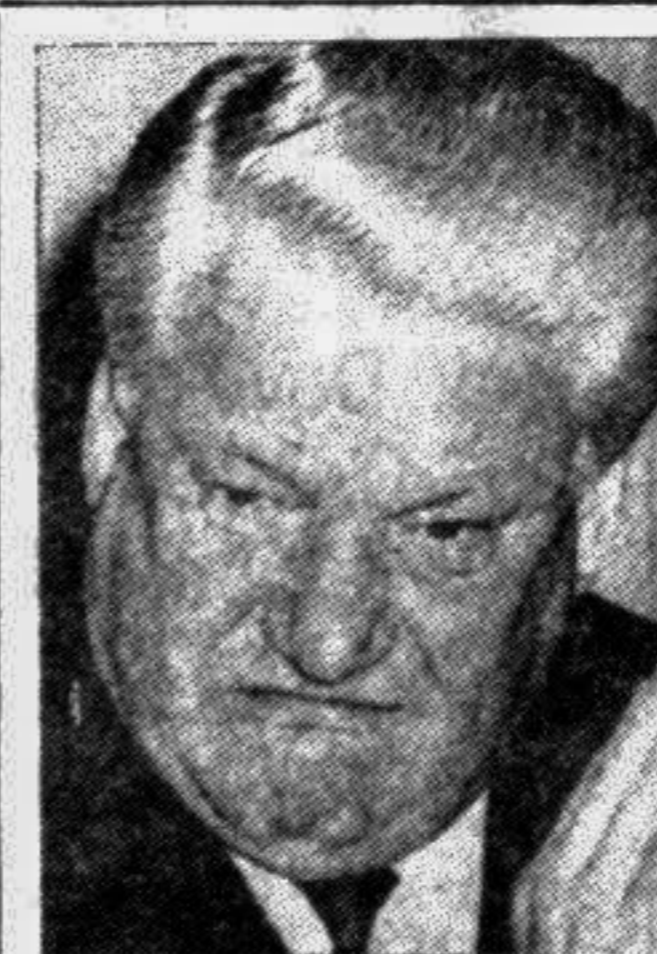
Monsoon may reactivate again

The monsoon, which is now less active, may again reactivate within a couple of days leading to increased rainfall all over the country, according to meteorologists, reports UNB.

They said monsoon was very active during the first week of this month and under its influence widespread rainfall occurred all over the country while heavy rainfall at places.

After the first week of July, monsoon activities weakened leading to moderate rainfall over the country.

"This is a normal monsoon pattern. It reactivates and becomes less active after a couple of days leading to 'break monsoon' when there are isolated light to moderate rain," said Sajedur Rahman, Deputy Director of Storm Warning Centre at the Met Office. See page 12 Col 8



Yeltsin hospitalised

MOSCOW, July 11: President Boris Yeltsin was hospitalised today with acute heart problems, the presidential press service reported. The condition of the 64-year-old Russian president was not immediately known, reports AP.

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, Yeltsin's No 2, was at work in Moscow, his spokesman said. Under the Russian Constitution, Chernomyrdin would replace Yeltsin if the president were unable to serve.

Yeltsin was undergoing treatment at the Central Clinical Hospital in Moscow. A spokesman for Yeltsin's press service told the Associated Press that doctors were examining the president and were treating him. The spokesman, who refused to give his name, said the president was hospitalised early today. He refused to give further details.

Yeltsin was last seen in public at a soccer match in Moscow.

40 pc bank loans overdue

By Staff Correspondent

About 40 per cent of the Tk 326730 million loans, provided by the country's banking sector, are overdue, according to the annual report on the Operations of the banks and financial institutions for 1994-95 published by the Finance Ministry this week.

During the year the total credit level of the banks increased by 12.1 per cent, compared to 3.3 per cent in 1993-94, and stood at Tk 271363 million.

"To restore the financial health of the banks, it is essential to improve the capital structure of the banks by recovering the overdue loans," said Dr A T M Shamsul Huda, Secretary of the Banking Division, in a review of the banking sector.

The report, however, does not provide any comparative figures for outstanding loans of the banks in the previous years. It listed various steps taken to recover the outstanding loans by the banks, including regular review of the recovery position of the banks by the Bangladesh Bank.

In addition, the central bank has also set up a 'Large amount credit review cell' and a Credit Information Bureau. An 'early warning system' to identify the weaknesses of the banks through the CAMEL rating system was also initiated.

The report said that during the year under review the government issued long-term bonds to the banks against the outstanding loans of the nationalised sector.

In 1994-95, bank credit to the public sector increased by three per cent to Tk 34163 million while in the private sector it increased by 13 per cent and stood at Tk 237200 million. Increase in bank credit to the public and the private sectors during the previous fiscal stood at two per cent and four per cent respectively.

In the agriculture sector, credit See page 12 Col 7

Tk 119 cr loss in govt textile mills

By Staff Correspondent

Thirty public sector textile mills incurred a total loss of about Taka 112 crore in 11 months during the last financial year, State Minister for Textiles Abdul Mannan disclosed at the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday. It may amount to Tk 119 crore when loss for the whole fiscal will be calculated, he said.

Replying to Sardar Shakhawat Hossain and supplementaries from some other members during the question-hour period, Mannan said the huge loss was mainly because of obsolete machinery of the mills, most of which were set up during the 1930s and 1940s.

The government is contemplating selling the textile mills to those who will be able to undertake BMRE and also running some mills under joint venture with private sector, he said. The government has a plan to do BMRE of 10 state-run textile mills.

US normalises ties with Vietnam

WASHINGTON, July 11: President Bill Clinton announced today the United States is normalising relations with Vietnam, closing a bitter chapter in American history two decades after the end of the Vietnam War, reports AP.

"Today I am announcing the normalisation of the diplomatic relationship with Vietnam," Clinton said in a White House ceremony.

Talks with Shantibahini today

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 11: The peace talks between the government and the Shantibahini are scheduled to resume tomorrow.

According to official sources, all preparations are complete for tomorrow's talks at Dudukchhari border village under Panchhari thana of Khagrachhari district.

Eight security camps at Dudukchhari have been withdrawn and five others have not been functioning since July 7 as per the condition placed by Shantibahini.

Shantibahini leaders headed by Shanto Larma, president of the Parbatyia Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), the parent body of Shantibahini, will meet the government sub-committee which will be led by Rashed Khan Menon, MP.

This will be the fifth round of talks between the sub-committee and the PCJSS.

Canadian counsel for Ershad

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Party has appointed a Canadian lawyer to defend its chief and deposed President H M Ershad in the Manzur murder case, said a party press release issued last night.

The lawyer, Marcel Denis is expected to arrive here along with the JP presidium member and former Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed by July 17.

Denis, a former Labour Minister of Canada's federal government and the ex-deputy speaker of that country's House of Commons, on July 8 last confirmed to the JP leader, now visiting Canada, his acceptance to act as a defence counsel for Ershad along with local lawyers.

A noted solicitor and a university teacher of Canada, Denis visited Bangladesh in 1989 as the leader of a Canadian parliamentary delegation.

Govt-MQM talks begin

By Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD, July 11: Peace talks opened here today between the government and armed insurgents who have threatened to push for their own ethnic province if the negotiations fail, reports AP.

See also page 5

A five-member delegation from the rebel Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), which has been waging an insurgency in the southern city of Karachi, arrived under tight security and immediately began talks with government officials at the capital's Parliament House.

The MQM's basic demands call for a more equal share of power and opportunities for the Mohajirs, or migrants, who make up about 70 per cent of Karachi's 12 million popula- See page 12 Col 7

Bangladesh still most densely populated

By Staff Correspondent



Even with a low annual growth rate of 2.2 per cent, Bangladesh still remains the most densely populated country in the world, barring island state Singapore, in terms of population per hectare arable land.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in its annual report has said population per hectare arable land in Bangladesh is 823 while it is 2570 in Singapore.

However, in Bangladesh knowledge about contraceptive methods has dramatically increased. According to the State of World Population report, released yesterday worldwide, the level of contraceptive knowledge in Bangladesh has risen to cent per cent now from about 65 per cent in 1969.

Releasing the report at the Jatiya Press Club, UNFPA resident representative Eimi Watanabe, however, said See page 12 Col 8



A five-member MQM team led by Ajmal Dehlvi (L) arrived at Islamabad airport yesterday for talks with government. — AFP photo