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ANNOUNCEMENT
 How good are our English-medium schools in teaching history and culture of Bangladesh? Not so good, reveals a survey carried out by a group of enthusiastic students.
 In our FOCUS page today, we publish the opinions of students, parents and principals of some leading English-medium schools on this important issue.
 The write-ups discuss the problems in a constructive manner and suggest possible solutions.
 We invite readers views on this important issue, which we intend to publish on the following days.

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UN to Celebrate Golden Jubilee: Humanity yet to overcome fear and plight
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International
Deaths of diplomats make US peace efforts in Bosnia tough
S Korea to pardon over 10m under general amnesty
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Business
Country's raw jute export earning rises by Tk 90.19cr in '94-95
Prices of rice, pulses decline while powdered milk rises
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STOCK MARKET

DSE price index	773.01 (+0.20%)
Market capital Tk	47.87 billion
Transactions in volume	10057
Transactions in value Tk	15.83 million

Metropolitan
Dhaka Day by Day
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NEWS BRIEFS
Hasina shocked at deaths of diplomats
 Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday sent a message to US President Bill Clinton, condoling the deaths of three American diplomats in Bosnia on Saturday. Robert Frasure, former ambassador to Yugoslavia and US special peace envoy in Bosnia, was killed along with Dr Joseph Krusei and Col Samuel Nelson, as their armoured vehicle veered off a mountain road and detonated mines near Sarajevo, reports UNB.

NGO worker's body recovered
 SAVAR, Aug 21: Police recovered the body of an NGO worker hanging from a tree near his office at Jalsa village in Dhamrai thana today. Police suspected Kamruzzaman, 32, a field worker of the Association of Social Advancement, ASA, was murdered by the unknown miscreants. The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy, reports UNB.

Rickshaw strike in Sylhet today
 From Staff Correspondent
 SYLHET, Aug 21: A day-long rickshaw strike has been called in Sylhet town and adjoining areas tomorrow.

Over 3 lakh marooned in Manikganj Fresh areas in Dhaka, adjoining dists flooded

By Staff Correspondent
 Fresh areas in Dhaka, Narayanganj and adjoining districts were submerged as rivers in the region continued to swell with waters rolling down from the upstream northern region.
 More low-lying areas in and around the capital reeled under water.
 The flood waters, however, started receding from the affected northern districts of Rajshahi, Chapai-



An old man is taking a child out of his partially submerged house in North Jatrabari area of the city yesterday.
 Staff photo by Anisur Rahman

nawabganj, Bogra and Naogaon. The situation further improved in Gaibandha.
 The situation was "alarming" in Faridpur district while "major parts" of Madaripur district town went under water, officials of the districts said.
 According to reports reaching here, diarrhoea has broken out in some areas of Manikganj district where over three lakh people have been marooned. Sixty-seven medical teams have been working in different affected areas, according to official sources.
 Those areas in Rajbari sadar and Goalundo in Rajbari district, sadar and Shibchar thanas of Madaripur district, Daulatpur, Shibbalaya, Hari-rampur of Manikganj, Bhagyakul, Srinagar and Lohajang of Munshiganj and Nawabganj, Dohar and Savar of Dhaka district went under water yesterday.

Situation in Kanaighat, Amalshid and Sheola in Sylhet may remain unchanged but in Itna, Nikli and Bhairab Bazar in Kishoreganj district may deteriorate further.
 The flood situation in Dhaka, Narayanganj, Faridpur, Madaripur, Manikganj, Munshiganj and Rajbari districts will worsen as major rivers in the areas including Meghna, Kaliganga, Buriganga, Shitalakhya will rise further. The Flood Information Centre here forecast yesterday, "It will take a week to start receding," an official of the centre said.

Our Narayanganj correspondent said that 14 unions in the district were completely submerged.
 See Page 12 Col 9

Indian train collision toll rises to 350

NEW DELHI, Aug 21: The death toll in the train crash in the vicinity of the Taj Mahal rose to 350 today as rescuers working through the night pulled more bodies from the wreckage, PTI reported, says AFP.
 Police and firemen extricated badly mutilated bodies from the smashed passenger cars of the Purshottam Express and Kalindi Express

at Ferozabad, near the northern Taj Mahal town of Agra, PTI said.
 The speeding New Delhi-bound Purshottam Express rammed early Sunday into the Kalindi Express which had halted outside the Ferozabad railway station after running over a stray cow.
 The two trains were carrying a total of 2,200 passengers. Most of them were asleep when the disaster took place.
 See Page 12 Col 6

100 hurt as JCD, BCL clash in Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent
 GAIBANDHA, Aug 21: At least one hundred people were injured, 28 seriously, in a three-hour clash between the activists of the Awami League-backed Chhatra League (BCL) and the BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) in the town last night.
 The seriously injured persons were admitted to Gaibandha hospital.
 Local offices of the Awami League and the BNP were also ransacked by rival activists during the clash which created panic in the town and kept movement of inter-

Threat to double surcharge Chittagong port faces congestion again

From Nurul Alam
 CHITTAGONG, Aug 21: Chittagong Port again faces a 'traffic-jam' of foreign cargo vessels now while the shipping lines have threatened to double the 'congestion surcharge' on containers from next month, port sources said.
 The threat, although given internally, came at a time when the Chittagong Port Authority was insisting on withdrawal of the 'port congestion surcharge' imposed by the shipping lines in July through their body the IPB (India-Pakistan-Bangladesh) Conference Line, port sources added.
 The CPA started insisting on withdrawal of the surcharge on containers early this month claiming a remarkable improvement in the port position particularly in case of container vessels with the easing of congestion, sources said.
 The IPB Conference Line imposed a congestion surcharge of 100 dollars on a 40 feet container and 50 dollars on a 20 feet container in the backdrop of 'traffic-jam' of container cargo vessels at the outer anchorage during May and June this year, officials said. The shipping lines have now informed the CPA that they might double the present surcharge from next month if port situation does not improve, port sources said.
 See Page 12 Col 6

BNP may contact AL in a couple of days

By Nazmul Ashraf
 The ruling BNP is likely to communicate with the opposition Awami League in a couple of days in its latest move to settle the persisting political standoff through negotiations, well-placed sources in the BNP said.
 Assigned by his party, BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukdar may soon contact his AL counterpart Zillur Rahman to convey the offer for a dialogue, the sources added.
 When contacted last night, Salam Talukdar, however, avoided a direct answer to a question in this regard but did not deny that a move was underway.
 "No problem," he replied when asked whether his plan to communicate with the AL could be reported.
 A smiling Talukdar added "You see, 48 hours is a long time for any prediction. Political matters may change even in five minutes."
 According to one source concerned, both the sides are "committed to maintaining guarded secrecy regarding the latest attempt to reach a consensus to end the political crisis as they fear any debate on the move before it takes a concrete shape could harm the process. And accordingly, leaders of both the sides are tight-lipped on the issue."
 The source further said the designated leaders of the two parties were having parleys to create the ground for

Manpower export to Malaysia Ministry working out solution to problem

By Reaz Ahmad
 The Ministry of Labour and Manpower is working out a solution to a problem that arose following the Malaysian government's decision to import manpower from Bangladesh through government channel only, sources said.
 Private manpower recruiting agencies have expressed concern over the new recruitment procedure and said some 10,000 people have already spent money for going abroad through the member agencies of the Bangladesh Association for International Recruiting Agencies (BAIRA).
 When asked, the Labour and Manpower Secretary told The Daily Star that the authorities were seriously thinking over the issue and added that the ministry would apprise the press within a day or two the latest development regarding manpower export.
 The secretary, however, declined to say what steps the authorities were going to take about those who have already spent money to be exported to Malaysia through private recruiting agencies.
 The Manpower Secretary, Harunur Rashid, who led a five-member Bangladesh delegation to Malaysia last week to discuss the issue, returned Sunday. Without elaborating, he just told this correspondent that "My mission to Malaysia was very much successful" and brushed aside press reports that "it was a failure."
 Another source in the Manpower Ministry, however, said that high officials of the ministry had emergency meetings over the past two days and the Prime Minister was also briefed on the 'Malaysia issue' Sunday.
 The secretary said that Manpower Minister Mir Shawkat Ali, who returned home Sunday after a visit to Mali, was suffering from fever and after his recovery the outcome of his Mali visit and the developments on the 'Malaysia issue' would be chancellor Professor

Demonstrations for reopening Rajshahi Varsity

From Our Correspondent
 RAJSHAH, Aug 21: Several hundred students of Rajshahi University staged a sit-in in front of the vice-chancellor's office today to press home their demand for immediate reopening of the university.
 The RU Sadharan Chhatra Chhatra Parishad (a committee of general students) held the demonstration.
 Meanwhile, 61 important personalities of Rajshahi including educationists, doctors, social workers and lawyers, today submitted a memorandum to the vice-chancellor.
 See Page 12 Col 6

Saddam's half-brother sides with defectors

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates, Aug 21: The split in Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's family deepened today when one of his half-brothers sided with two other defectors and refused to return to Baghdad, reports AFP.
 The split, which the opposition says was sparked by the rising power of Saddam's eldest son Uday, raises questions about the longevity of a government that has relied on family members since the devastating 1991 Gulf War.
 Barzan Ibrahim Takriti, a half-brother of Saddam who was Iraq's Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, has sided with Saddam's two sons-in-law who defected to Amman on August 8, sources close to the ambassador said. He is refusing to return to Iraq from Switzerland.
 Barzan served in Iraq's foreign intelligence service and managed Baghdad's secret bank accounts overseas which have allowed the Iraqi leader to stay afloat despite crippling sanctions, opposition members told AFP.
 He broke ties with Baghdad because of an incident involving his brother, Wathban Takriti, who was Iraq's Ambassador to the

Son stabs step mother to death

By Staff Correspondent
 A housewife was stabbed to death allegedly by her step son in Mirajnagar, Savar, early yesterday.
 Mollika Khatun, 35, second wife of one Abed Ali, received fatal injuries in her hands, belly and back at about 12:30 am Monday, according to sources.
 Mollika, daughter of Abdul Mannan, was immediately admitted to a local hospital and was shifted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. She died shortly after admission to the DMCH.
 A case has been filed with Savar thana.

HC admits Ershad's appeal

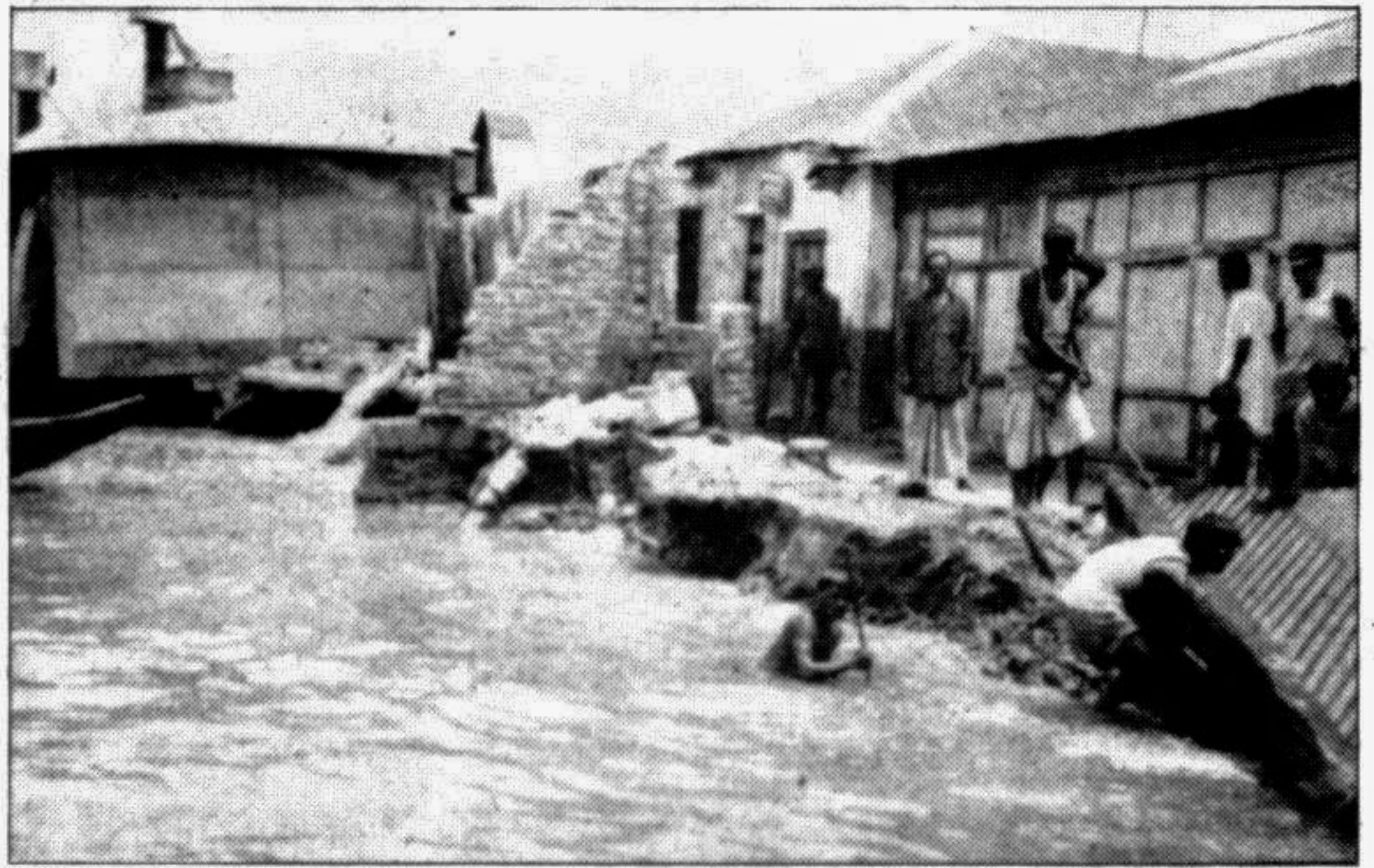
A single judge bench of the High Court division yesterday admitted deposed president Hussain Mohammad Ershad's appeal against the judgement of the Special Tribunal, Dhaka which convicted and sentenced him to three years simple imprisonment with fine, reports BSS.
 Justice Md Sirajul Islam, after hearing the appellant's counsel, granted the appeal filed by Ershad and stayed the operation of the order of realisation of fine against him.
 On July 7 Ershad was convicted and sentenced to 3 years simple imprisonment along with a fine of Taka 10,000 in default to suffer another four months imprisonment by special judge Zinat Ara in a corruption case known as the 'Japanese relief boat purchase case.'

Eliadah's release SC to hear today appeal against stay order

An Appellate Division judge of the Supreme Court yesterday fixed today for hearing an appeal for vacating the High Court-ordered stay on release of Eliadah McCord, reports UNB.
 Justice M A Rouf fixed the date for expeditious hearing upon an application moved by Barrister Rafiqul Haq along with the imprisoned American college girls' counsel, Obaidur Rahman Mostafa.
 Deputy Attorney General Shamsul Alam was also present when the judge heard

Meghna erosion at Chandpur 25,000 sq ft of Puranbazar devoured in 15 hours

From Our Correspondent
 CHANDPUR, Aug 21: The swelling Meghna and Dakatia rivers devoured some 40 shops and factories at Puranbazar in the town today.
 The erosion began at about 5 pm and some 25,000 square feet area at Tinpatti, Dhanpatti and Aratpatti of Puranbazar was devoured till 8 pm. The owners of shops and factories had hardly any time to save their establishments, local people said.
 The town protection embankment has almost been damaged and repair work by the Water Development Board (WDB) has remained suspended reportedly due to fund shortage.
 The government has urgently sanctioned 5000 cement-concrete blocks to save the embankment. But these cannot be installed due to fund constraints," WDB chief Engineer Abdur Rashid told this correspondent.
 According to an estimate by president of Chandpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry Jahangir Akhand Selim, the two rivers damaged property worth about Tk 50 crore today.
 Some 50 other shops at Puranbazar are threatened with the erosion triggered by a sharp rise in the water levels of the Meghna and



A large portion of Puran Bazar area in Chandpur town was devoured by the Meghna yesterday.
 — Star photo by Shirin Akhter

T&T to provide satellite link-up at DEPZ for data, software export

The Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board will install a satellite geo-centre in the Dhaka Export Processing Zone area to facilitate data and software export, reports UNB.
 The decision was taken at the 9th meeting of the Board of Governors of the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) held at the International Conference Centre last night with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair.
 This will be the first major step for exporting data based software, a billion dollar business in the developed world, from EPZ.
 The Prime Minister asked the authorities concerned to implement the project smoothly and within the shortest possible time to help Bangladeshi entrepreneurs to step into the booming business.
 Various issues of development of the EPZs, including possibilities of setting up of new zones, came up in the discussion, attended by ministers, secretaries and senior officials of the BEPZA.
 The meeting also discussed matters relating to sale of goods manufactured in the EPZ factories within the Customs areas on payment of 20 per cent duty and VAT through letter of credit.
 It further deliberated on adequate supply of water to Chittagong EPZ, construction of factory buildings in CEPZ with fund from banks and BEPZA's own finance, progress of establishing an EPZ at Mongla, and expansion of the existing EPZs.
 A total of 72 industrial units in EPZs — 60 in Chittagong and 12 in Dhaka — exported goods worth 233



Seles returns with a bang

TORONTO, Aug 21: Monica Seles, the co-number one seed with Steffi Graf, completed a remarkable first week back in tournament tennis Sunday, demolishing upset-minded Amanda Coetzer 6-0, 6-1 to capture the Canadian Open, reports AP.

Returning to competitive tennis, nearly 28 months after she was stabbed during a tournament in Hamburg, Germany, Seles seemed to have lost none of the skills that made her the No 1 player in the world.
 She chose the Canadian Open as a first tournament back, essentially to get in some matches before the US Open, which begins next week. But her game was so strong that instead of a warm-up, it turned into a walk to the championship.
 See Page 12 Col 7

Ex-presidents' pension enhanced

The Cabinet yesterday approved two proposals for reorganising the organogram of the President's office and for enhancing pension and other facilities of former presidents, reports UNB.

The approval was given at the weekly Cabinet meeting held at Bangabhaban with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair.
 Ministers and State Ministers in charge of different ministries attended the meeting.
 Cabinet Secretary, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister and secretaries concerned were present.

No polls to be held under BNP: AL

Awami League leaders yesterday demanded dissolution of the Parliament and immediate announcement of date for general elections under a neutral caretaker government, reports UNB.
 "No election will be allowed under Khaleda Zia's government," Abdus Samad Azad said at a discussion meeting at the Golchakkar Town Hall at Mirpur in the city.
 The Bangladesh Awami Tante League organised the meeting in observance of 15th August, the day of assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, as "National Mourning Day".
 Awami League president Sheikh Hasina, who was scheduled to be present as chief guest, couldn't attend due to her ailment. She sent a message to the meeting, reaffirming her pledge to break the "shackles of mis-

JS has lost its legitimacy, asserts JP

By Staff Correspondent
 The Jatiya Party yesterday argued that the present Parliament had lost its legitimacy with the resignation of Opposition MPs and blamed the government for running the country unconstitutionally.
 "The Parliament has ceased to exist and become *functus officio* since 147 territorial constituencies having not been represented in accordance with the Constitution," said party president member Barrister Moudud Ahmed at a press conference.
 The vacant seats of Parliament should have been filled up by May 3 last, taking into account the 36 days allowed by the High Court, he said, adding that as seats were not filled with the