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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**List of Gano Forum nominees today**

The Gano Forum (GF) will announce the list of its party nominees for the June 12 parliamentary elections at 5 pm today at the party's central office in Segun Bagicha, says a press release.

**500 telephone lines out of order**

About 500 telephone lines in the city's Kalabagan, Rayer Bazar, Mohammadpur and Shaymoli areas went out of order due to development work. Repair work is going on to restore these telephones by May 14, said a T&T Board press release yesterday, reports UNB.

**80 more tribals return home**

**KHAGRACHHARI, May 10:** Some 80 Bangladeshi tribal refugees of 16 families returned home in last two days from the refugee camps across the border in the Indian state of Tripura. Thana Nirbahi Officer of Dighinala said the tribal refugees returned to their own homesteads at Baghaichhari in the thana from Shilachhari and Lebachhara camps, defying the tight security at the border. Sumana Chakma, a returned refugee, told UNB that they were passing unbearable days in the camps across the border.

**94 firearms recovered**

Police seized 94 different type of illegal firearms from different areas during the last 24 hours ending at 8 am yesterday and arrested 13 persons for possessing these weapons, an official press release said, reports BSS.

**Phensedyl seized in city: 2 held**

Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday recovered 500 bottles of phensedyl and arrested two people from the city's Purnan Paltan crossing. According to a DMP press release, police stopped a private car at the Paltan crossing, recovered the contraband and arrested Priya Bandhu and Mohammad Abdul Mannan, reports UNB.

**BJP, NF-LF to stake claim to form next govt**

## Rao resigns, Lok Sabha dissolved

**NEW DELHI, May 10:** Indian Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao resigned today and the tenth Lok Sabha (lower house of parliament) was dissolved, report agencies.

President Dr Shanker Dayal Sharma tonight dissolved the Lok Sabha following a recommendation by the union cabinet, which met here this evening under the chairmanship of the outgoing prime minister.

Sharma accepted Rao's resignation and asked the 74-year-old leader to stay on as caretaker until a new government is in place.

Sharma, whose position is mostly ceremonial, must choose another party to form a government and bring it to Parliament for a vote of confidence within 30 days.

Rao submitted his resignation after his Congress Party suffered a humiliating defeat in general elections.

Congress, which has ruled India for all but four years since independence in 1947, was forecast to finish third in the polls behind the right wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the left-wing National Front-Left Front (NF-LF).

The BJP said earlier today that it planned to stake a claim to power, probably on Saturday. But the NF-LF said it expected to form the largest bloc in the new parliament and should be given first chance to form a government.

The head of state kept the nation in suspense over whom he will call to form the next government — the BJP or a centre-left combine.

Both contenders staked their claim for office after the staggered general elections produced a hung parliament with no outright winner, although the BJP is set to emerge with the most number of seats in the Lok Sabha.

"We think the President will invite the leader of the largest party to form the government... and we will do it,"

BJP president Lal Krishna Advani said.

The BJP is expected to meet Saturday to formally elect its parliamentary leader and potential prime minister.

It has projected veteran politician Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who met President Sharma today, as its 'prime minister-in-waiting'.

The centre-left alliance (NF-LF) also staked its claim to form the next government, saying it enjoyed the crucial support of many small regional parties across the country.

"We will emerge as the single largest group and form the government," said Jaipal Reddy of the National Front. "If the need arises, we will demonstrate our majority on the floor of the House at any time."

Both Congress and the National Front have said they won't join a BJP-led government because the Hindu party is perceived as biased against Muslims, who comprise 12 per cent of India's 920 million people.

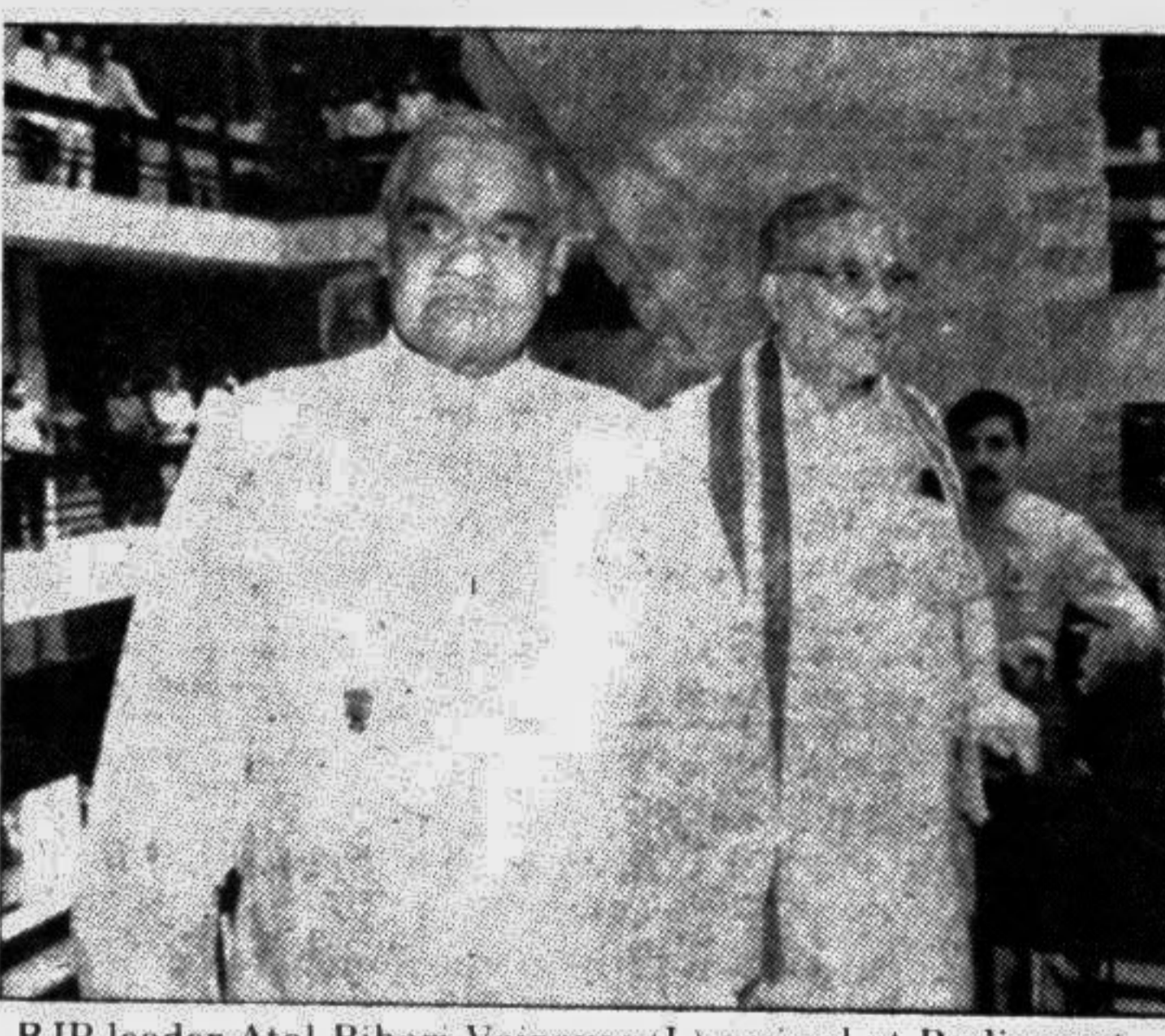
The BJP advocates arming India with nuclear weapons, a more forceful policy toward its hostile neighbour Pakistan, and tighter restrictions on foreign investment, especially in consumer industries.

The most likely coalition combination involved the National Front and all or part of the Congress Party.

A Congress spokesman, Ved Prakash, said that if the National Front "comes up with a viable plan" and pledges to continue Rao's economic reforms, "the Congress can consider supporting" the Front in a coalition.

A clearer picture is expected to emerge in the next two days after a frenetic round of consultations among party power brokers.

On the third day of vote counting — which is likely to be



BJP leader Atal Bihari Vajpayee (L) arrived at Parliament annex for a meeting of the BJP yesterday in New Delhi. —AFP/UNB photo

**Indian polls**

**Party position at a glance**

**NEW DELHI, May 10:** Party positions in vote counting from India's 11th parliamentary election at 1815 GMT Friday:

Total number of seats	Seats declared
545	428
Congress (I)	118
Hindu nationalist parties allies (total 142)	
Bharatiya Janata Party	118
Shiv Sena	16
Samar Party	5
Haryana Vikas Party	3
National Front-Left Front alliance (total 90)	
Janata Dal	33
Telegu Desam Party	16
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	16
Samajwadi Party	12
Communist Party of India	7
Revolutionary Socialist Party	5
Forward Bloc	1
Non-aligned DMK	17
Nam Manila Congress	20
Shromani Akali Dal	8
Bahujan Samaj Party	9
Other parties, independents	24

**JP announces list of party nominees**

By Staff Correspondent

The list of nominees from the Jatiya Party were released to the press after 1 last night. About a dozen candidates who were not JP members would also contest the elections with its election symbol plough, said JP Secretary General Anwar Hossain Manju.

The party fielded candidates in all the 300 constituencies of the Jatiya Sangsad.

According to the list, JP chief and jailed former president H M Ershad would contest from five constituencies. His nomination papers would be filled by his brother, said a JP leader.

Meanwhile, some presidium members of the JP had already left for their constituencies to file nomination papers, for which the last date is tomorrow.

List will be published tomorrow.

**Hasina urges people to forgive 'past mistakes'**

## State to be run thru' nat'l consensus: AL manifesto

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League announced its election manifesto yesterday with a pledge to run the country on the basis of 'national consensus' if voted to power in the June 12 general elections.

Announcing the 21-point manifesto at the central office of the party at Bangabandhu Avenue, Awami League president Sheikh Hasina sought forgiveness for 'some mistakes' in the past and made a fervent appeal to the people to give it "a chance."

"Please cast your votes for Awami League. Give us a chance to serve the nation. It was very natural that Awami League might have done some mistakes while steering the war-ravaged country in the past. We hope the countrymen will forgive our mistakes in the past."

Over one hundred newsmen attended the press conference where the AL chief also announced the names of all but 35 party candidates for contesting in the 300 seats of the Jatiya Sangsad. The press conference began at 11:30 am, one and a half hours behind schedule.

Awami League pledged not to renew the 25-year Friendship Treaty with India and to take steps to realise the due share of waters of the common rivers.

The salient features of the AL 'Election Manifesto 1996' include pledges to bring about transparency in governance, establish rule of law and a corruption-free government; new pay commission for government servants; subsidy to agriculture sector; land reform, economic reform and industrialization; autonomy to the state-run media; separation of the judiciary from the executive; revival of Upazila system and strong local bodies.

Sheikh Hasina said Awami League played glorious role in all democratic movements in the past beginning from the Language Movement in '48 and '52. 'Bangabandhu and Awami League never compromised on the questions of Bangladesh's rights."

"Awami League will continue its movement for building a happy and exploitation-free Bangladesh dreamt by the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. If it gets the responsibilities of running the state, the Awami League is determined to fulfill its commitments to the people."

The 21 points of the AL election manifesto (in brief):

1. **TRANSPARENT & ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT:** A) Awami League will establish rule of law.
- B) Accountability and transparency will be ensured in running the state. Necessary laws will be enacted in determining conditions of recruitment and job descriptions of

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**AL announces all but 8 of its nominees**

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League yesterday announced the names of all but eight of its nominees for the June 12 parliamentary elections.

The AL list of candidates for 292 Jatiya Sangsad seats out of the 300 was released late last night.

**List of candidates on back page**

Earlier, in the afternoon, AL chief Sheikh Hasina announced the names of party candidates for some 265 seats at the party central office at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city.

Some significant changes were finally made in the list of nominees announced earlier on the day.

It was announced earlier that Sheikh Hasina would contest from four constituencies including one in the capital. But in the final list released at about midnight, it was seen that Hasina would not be a candidate from the Dhaka-4 (Demra) constituency. The

See Page 12 Col 1

**BNP announces list of 298 candidates**

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) yesterday announced the names of 298 nominees for the June 12 parliamentary elections.

The names of BNP candidates for the two remaining constituencies — Dhaka-11 and Dhaka-12 — are expected to be made public today, party sources said.

Of the 298 BNP candidates, names of 292 were announced at a press conference at the party's Kakrail office in the city in the evening. Party secretary general Abdus Salam Talukder announced the list at the press conference in presence of party chief Begum Khaleda Zia.

Another six nominees were

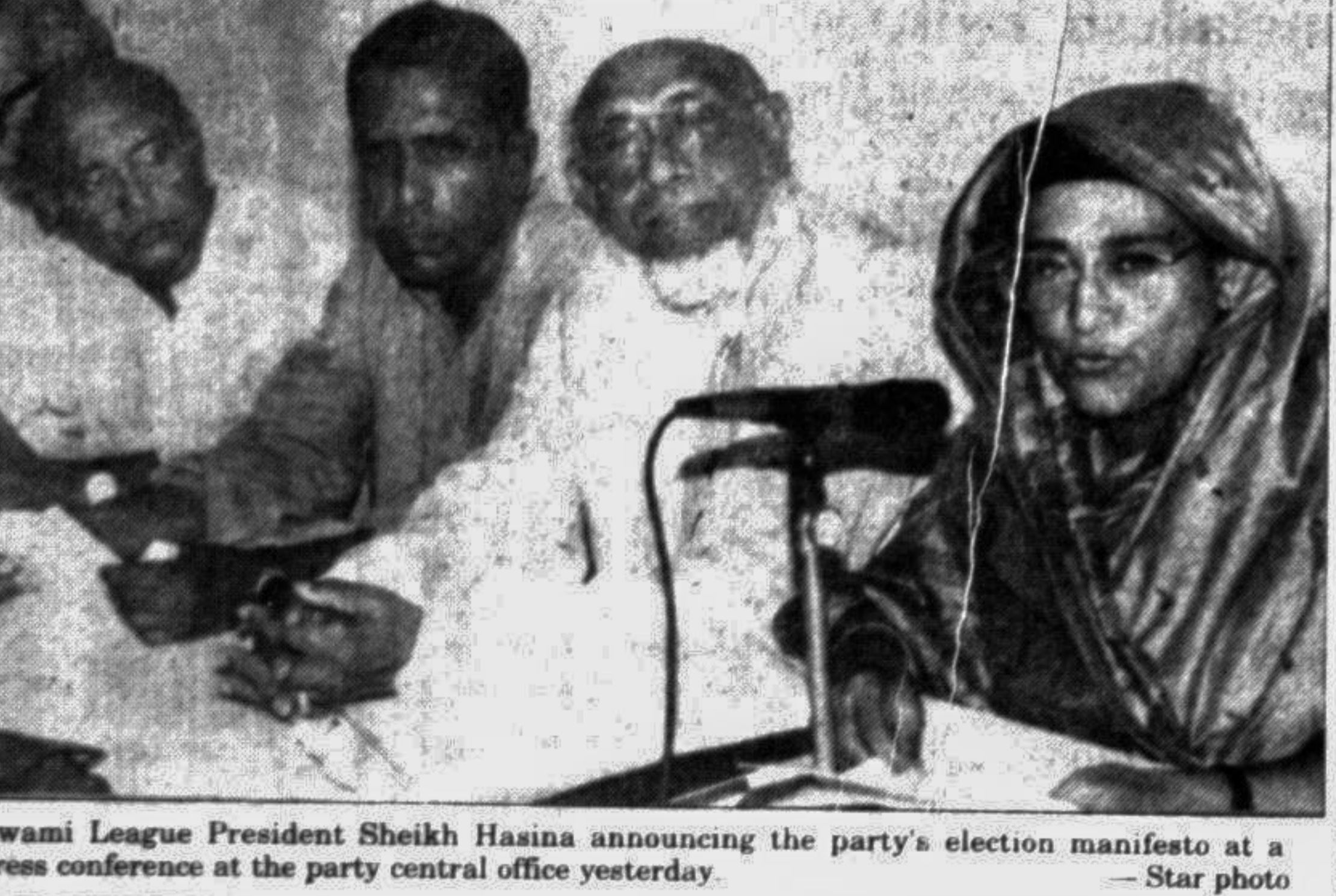
**List of candidates on page 7**

named in a press statement faxed to The Daily Star later in the night.

During the press conference Begum Zia had, however, told the journalists that party nominees for the eight remaining constituencies would be announced this morning.

Nominees for eight constituencies were changed after the list was released. Md Shamsuzzaman Samu was replaced by Anwarul Kabir Chowdhury in Nilphamari-3, Engineer Alhaj Abdus Sabhan replaced by Kazi Golam Mahub in Bakerganj-1, Principal Alhaj Brig (ret'd) Anwar Hossain Choudhury by Principal Abdur Rashid Khan in Bakerganj-6, Gulzar Ahmed by Joyrul Zakarin in Sunamganj-3, Salahuddin Kamran by Mahbur Rahman in Noakhali-3, Sarwar Jamal Nizam by Advocate Kabir

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Awami League President Sheikh Hasina announcing the party's election manifesto at a press conference at the party central office yesterday. — Star photo



NDP president Salauddin Qader Chowdhury formally joined the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) at a function in the city yesterday. — Star photo

**Hasina's appeal to partymen**

## Don't resent even if selection hurts you

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina has appealed to the party rank and file not to resent the selection of party candidates for the coming general elections even if it hurts them in any way.

"I beg your pardon for not being able to satisfy you all, I will not claim as well that the selection that our Parliamentary Board made is cent per cent perfect," said Hasina while addressing thousands of party workers and leaders who gathered near the party central office at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city eager to know the names of party nominees.

Hasina made the appeal yesterday just before she announced the names of party candidates for the June 12 parliamentary polls.

"Please, don't show any indisciplinary behaviour if any one of you even feel sorry about our choices of candidates. My doors will remain open to you, come to me, see me, I will listen to you," Hasina said, "since the

1991 elections, we surveyed time and again the positions of prospective candidates in every constituency. Our selection is made on the basis of those surveys."

The AL chief further said that the party had got 38 per cent of the votes cast in '91 elections and "this time our target is to bag at least 51 per cent."

"Remember that we the AL leaders and workers and our supporters and sympathisers are not the all who constitute the full electorate. There is a large number of silent voters on whom we have to bank. They will decide about their choices at the end of electioneering. So try your best to attract those voters with your soft-words and place the party ideals and programmes above everything else," she said.

Awami League is a big party. We have a large number of dedicated workers and leaders. But, I can't field more than 300 candidates for 300

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**Diana threatens to postpone divorce**

LONDON, May 10: Princess Diana threatened to postpone her divorce from Prince Charles during a face-to-face meeting with Queen Elizabeth, the Sun reported today, says AFP.

She said the Prince of Wales would have to wait another two years for the marriage to end unless settlement talks were speeded up, the mass-circulation tabloid said.

Diana reportedly visited Buckingham Palace after being told by her lawyer Anthony Julius that negotiations were bogged down in endless wrangling.

During the Wednesday's meeting with the Queen, Diana warned that she would issue a statement to the press unless the settlement deadlock was broken, the Sun said.

The statement would say that she would pull out of talks altogether "unless there was some movement."

Royal watchers believe Diana wants a settlement of 15 million pounds (22.5 million dollars). She has agreed to give up the title royal highness, and would be known simply as

See Page 12 Col 2

**Salahuddin Quader Chy, his brother join BNP**

NDP President Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury and his brother Giasuddin Quader Chowdhury joined the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) yesterday, reports UNB.

"I expressed my allegiance to a courageous and able leader, Begum Khaleda Zia, in the present critical juncture of the country," SQ Chowdhury told newsmen at the party's Kakrail office last night after the joining.

He said he had decided to strengthen the hands of Begum Zia in view of the present political scenario of the country as well as results of the just concluded elections of the neighbouring country.

BNP Secretary General Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar, RA Ghani, KM Obaidur Rahman and Anwar Zahid were present on the occasion.

SQ Chowdhury was elected MP thrice. He and his younger brother will contest the coming election from Chittagong-7 and Chittagong-6 constituencies respectively.

Addressing hundreds of BNP supporters who gathered at the office premises, he called for crashing 'conspiracy' of the evil forces who let loose a reign of terror across the

See Page 12 Col 2

**Surge in DSE trading**

## Price index jumps by 34.21 points

By Rafiq Hasan

Share trading at the Dhaka Stock Exchange surged last week as prices of a number of blue chip issues gained, increasing both the Price Index and Market Capitalisation.

Prices of on an average 49 companies shares increased while 42 incurred losses, out of 99 traded issues, during the week.

The Price Index jumped by 34.21 points and market capitalisation increased by Tk 190.62 crore, during the week.

The price index reached 869.15 points on Thursday, the closing day of the week, from 834.94 points in the previous week.

The market capitalisation increased to Tk 5901.21 crore from the previous week's Tk 5710.87 crores.

Talking to The Daily Star, market operators and some share brokers said that the market had surged because the investors are buying shares and debentures with full confidence.

Growth of capital market is very much expected by the domestic investors because they have been convinced that it is vital for overall development of the economy, the DSE Chairman pointed out.

Intiaz farther said, "Usually the share market plunged into a depression during the election period in other countries but that was not so far observed in our country."

The people seem to have been full confident that nothing would affect the share market whatever changes after the ensuring election, he said.

There is no chance of any major fluctuations in the market indicators upto the next general election, he added.

The DSE Chairman hoped that the market would remain steady even after the election.

The investors both little about any development in the political arena because they know that all major political

See Page 12 Col 3

**3 slaughtered in Meherpur**

MEHERPUR, May 10: Three people were slaughtered on Thursday night, allegedly by members of an outlawed party, at village Rajnagar in Sadar thana of the district, reports UNB.

The dead were identified as Rafiqul Islam, 35, Nakrul Islam, 35, and Sultan, 30.

Police, who recovered the bodies, said an armed group of Purbabangla Communist Party dragged the victims from their houses to a nearby field and chopped them to death.

The victims were reportedly the activists of a local group and the killing might be a backlash of their rivalry with the outlawed party.

Police sent the bodies to the Sadar Hospital for post mortem examination.

Meanwhile, an unidentified man, 38, was admitted to the Sadar Hospital with bullet wounds late Thursday night. Later, he was shifted to Kushiata as his condition deteriorated.

Earlier, the injured man was rushed from Rajnagar to the Sadar Hospital by some unknown people. Police suspected that the injured might be linked with the Rajnagar killing of three people.

At least 30 people were killed by the rival groups in Meherpur district in last one year. At Hasnabad, a village adjoining Rajnagar, three people were slaughtered in February.

**BNP nominee in Feni-3 declared persona non-grata**

President and general secretary of the BNP, Jubo Dal and Chhatra Dal of Sonagazi thana and different unions under it have criticised the nomination of Mosharraf Hossain from Feni-3 constituency, reports BSS.

In a statement, they said Mosharraf Hossain was never involved in BNP politics, rather he was an associate of autocrat, a press release said.

Popular MP and former whip Mahabul Alam Tara, who was elected from the concerned constituency was deliberately dropped from nomination in a conspiratorial manner, local BNP leaders said. The people of the area will never accept this undemocratic act of the leadership, they cautioned.

Unless the decision is changed immediately, the concerned quarters will be held responsible for any situation, they said.

They demanded immediate cancellation of the nomination of Mosharraf Hossain who is in manpower business and declared him persona non-grata in Feni Sonagazi area.

Signatories included Kabir

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