

Inside Today

Article

The Eerie Scene of Assam

Column: Between The Lines
by Kuldip Nayar
Page 4

International

Yeltsin re-elected president

China is a tested, trusted friend of Pakistan: Leghari
Page 5

Business

20 BCIC units produce goods worth Tk 1384.68 cr in '95-96

Yeltsin wins for market reform, but trouble looms

Pages 6, 7

DSE MARKET

DSE price index 989.40 (+1.53%)
Market capital Tk 6718.03 cr
Transactions in volume 269769
Transactions in value Tk 6.46 cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index 417.38 (+0.67%)
Market capital Tk 3755.41 cr
Transactions in volume 18025
Transactions in value Tk 55.29 lakh

Rising Stars

The plight of street children; Black sabbath; and Quiz Club
Page 9

Teens And Twenties

The ethics of tutorials; The role of student counselors; and The resurgence of ECA
Page 8

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



The Language Sans Frontier
Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

BNPPP meets tomorrow

A meeting of the BNP Parliamentary Party will be held tomorrow at 7:30 pm in the Cabinet Room of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, reports UNB.
Party sources said BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia would preside over the meeting, the first session of BNPPP, the largest opposition in seventh parliament.
The meeting will elect Leader of the Opposition, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Opposition Chief Whip and Whip.

ALPP meet now July 13

A meeting of the Awami League Parliamentary Party (ALPP) scheduled to be held at 6:15 pm on July 6 will now be held on July 13 at 10:30 am, ALPP sources said, reports BSS.

Medicines seized at ZIA

By Staff Correspondent
A Customs surveillance team seized banned medicines worth about Tk 1.08 lakh from three Pakistani nationals at Zia International Airport yesterday evening. The passengers arrived in Dhaka from Kathmandu by a Bangladesh Biman flight, airport sources said. A departmental case has been filed.

Heavy rain worsens flood situation

Flood situation in some areas of the country further worsens due to downpour and onrush of hill waters while there was some respite at a few places, reports UNB.
A total of seven rivers in Meghna and southeastern hill basins were flowing above their respective danger levels in the last 24 hours till 6 am yesterday.

According to Flood Information Centre's bulletin, 31 other rivers in the country's Brahmaputra, Ganges, Meghna and southeastern hill basins registered rise, but remained below their danger marks, six near to it.

The Surma at Kanaighat rose further by 37 cm and was flowing 81 cm above the red mark while Kushiya at Amalshid rose 162 cm and was flowing 82 cm above danger

level.
Kushiya at Sheela was also flowing 30 cm above after rising by 44 cm. The Manu at Moulvibazar was flowing 22 cm above its danger level, rising 39 cm during the period.
The bulletin also said the Manu at Manu Railway Bridge, Khowai at Habiganj, Haldia at Narayanhat receded but still were flowing above their danger marks by 86 cm, 10 cm and 26 cm respectively.

Meanwhile, Matamuhuri at Chiringa which was above the danger level receded below its danger mark.

In Sirajganj district, flood situation took a serious turn with 150 more villages in six thanas having been submerged.

Officials attributed the deteriorating flood situation to sharp rise of water level in the Jamuna, Fuljore, Baral, Isamati

and Karotoa rivers. The worst-affected thanas are Kazipur, Belkuchi, Shahjampur, Chauhan, Tarash and Sadar.

Meanwhile, 1500 families of 16 villages in sadar thana have taken shelter on the town protection embankment as their homesteads were devoured by the turbulent Jamuna.

Kawakola Union Parishad Chairman said seven villages of his union along with seven primary schools went into the gorge of the river.

Nearly 4,000 families remained marooned in Kazipur, Chouhan and Shahjampur thanas while 1,500 families of Kajuri union in Shahjampur thana have taken shelter on the embankment. Fifty schools of the thana were closed due to the worsening flood situation.

See Page 12 Col 4

Gowda's special message for Hasina Indian foreign secy due today, talks tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

Indian External Affairs Secretary Salman Haider who arrives in the city this afternoon on a three-day visit will carry a special message from Indian Prime Minister Deve Gowda for his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina, according to sources concerned.

The letter would be handed over to Hasina when Haider pays a courtesy call on her.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, talking to The Daily Star, described the scheduled visit of the Indian foreign secretary as "the first goodwill trip. It indicates that they are interested in initiating a good beginning in our bilateral relations."

Official talks between Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan and his Indian counterpart, which will take place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs tomorrow, are likely to cover the entire gamut of bilateral relations between the two neighbours, the sources said.

The Bangladesh side at the talks led by Sobhan will include the Additional Foreign Secretary concerned and Bangladesh High Commissioner to India C M Shafi Sami, who is already in the capital.

Haider will be assisted by senior Indian officials and High Commissioner in Dhaka Deb Mukherjee.

Although wide-ranging issues are expected to be discussed, the talks are mainly to focus on extending the areas of bilateral cooperation. Some crucial issues like the water-sharing of the common rivers including the Ganges, repatriation of the Chakma refugees from camps in India, demarcation of land boundary, solution of the enclave problem and the delimitation of land boundary and trade imbalance are also expected to be discussed, sources concerned said.

Haider, who came here in June last year may also renew

See Page 12 col 6

PM urges teachers to wage social movement against illiteracy

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the teacher community to wage a social movement against illiteracy throughout the country, reports BSS.

"We need your cooperation in removing illiteracy from the country as the government alone cannot accomplish such an uphill task," she said while talking to a delegation of the Bangladesh Shikshak Oikya Parishad at her office in the evening.

Chairman of the Parishad Muhammad Qamruzzaman led the delegation. The members of the delegation included from the Bangladesh Shikshak Samity, Bangladesh College-University Shikshak Samity, Bangladesh Assistant Teachers' Samity, Jatiya Primary Teachers' Samity, Bangladesh Primary Teachers' Samity and Government Secondary Teachers' Samity.

The Prime Minister lauded the role of teachers in social development and said the active cooperation side by side that of other social forces

See Page 12 Col 2

BNP will set new trend in politics, says Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent

BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia has said her party will set a new trend in the country's opposition politics.

"BNP will prove that a party in the Opposition (in parliament) can also serve the people provided it is sincere to do so," Begum Zia told a meeting of the Dhaka City branch leaders of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at her party's Kakrail office in the capital last night.

The former Prime Minister underlined the need for hard work by the leaders and workers of her party for the purpose.

Reiterating her allegation that the people's mandate in the June 12 general elections was reversed in a 'planned way', the BNP chief said, her party "would do politics from the Opposition camp since it believes in democracy, Constitution and law."

See Page 12 Col 3

PM assures business leaders Allot support to private sector

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said country's economy would have to be reformed in line with the changing global economic order overcoming all hurdles, reports UNB.

"We can't afford to stay away from the present global economic trend and order," she said while addressing leaders of different trade bodies, including the FBCCI, who called on the Prime Minister at her office.

Hasina assured the business community of allot support of her government for the development of the private sector in the country.

She said her government would create an atmosphere which will be favourable for setting up mills and factories

on private initiatives. "Private sector will not expand if the democracy does not take institutional shape."

For the development of economy of the country, she said her 11-day-old government had already taken some steps which include improvement of law and order situation. "Law and order will ensure our success," she added.

"There are uphill problems, but my government is determined to face and overcome those," Hasina said. "Some will try to create obstruction, but our effort will not stop," she asserted.

Recalling yesterday's DU campus strike enforced by the BNP's student wing, Hasina said: "I don't understand why

See Page 12 col 6

All 30 women MPs-elect take oath today

By Staff Correspondent

The swearing-in of the newly elected 30 women members of Parliament will be held this evening at the Sangsad Bhaban.

Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali will administer the oath at 7:30 pm.

Meanwhile, Chief Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad Abul Hasnat Abulduh yesterday requested the women MPs to remain present at his office at 7 pm today.

Earlier the Election Commission yesterday announced the official results of the 30 reserved women seats of Parliament through a gazette notification.

A total of 30 women candidates submitted nomination papers with the Returning Officer Wednesday for the reserved seats.

See Page 12 col 8

Khaleda takes oath today

By Staff Correspondent

BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia will take oath as Member of Parliament today at 5:30 pm at the Sangsad Bhaban.

The former Prime Minister would represent the Feni-1 constituency and vacate the other four seats she secured in June 12 election, according to a party press release.

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali will administer the oath to Begum Zia, who returned from all the five parliamentary seats she contested — Feni-1, Chittagong-2, Laxmipur-2, Bogra-6 and Bogra-7.

JU teachers observe strike

JU Correspondent

The teachers of Jahangirnagar University observed a day-long strike yesterday protesting the assault on a teacher.

Kaasar Hossain of the English Department was assaulted on July 1 by students in front of the Kamaluddin Hall which was captured by Shibir activists.

The angry students attacked him alleging that he had links with the Shibir activists and helped them to carry on their activities on the campus.

The Jahangir Nagar University Teachers' Association (JUTA) at a meeting on Wednesday condemned the attack on the teacher and the terrorist activities on the campus by the Shibir.

Meanwhile, the leaders of the All-Party Students Unity (APSU) held a meeting with the Vice-Chancellor yesterday an assured him of their help to restore normalcy on the campus.

See Page 12 Col 2

Dacoity at Segun Bagicha: Arrested persons remanded

By Staff Correspondent

The three persons arrested in connection with a robbery at Segun Bagicha in the city were taken on a day's remand yesterday.

A gang of dacoits looted money and gold ornaments worth about Tk 9.55 lakh from the house of Md Nazrul Huq at Segun Bagicha under Ramna thana in the early hours of Tuesday.

The arrested persons — Altaf Hossain alias Yunus and his associates Latif and Mintu — were produced before the

See Page 12 col 8

Kidnapped Ctg contractor found dead

By Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 4: Raazon police recovered the body of Rafiqul Islam, 40, from Karandip near the Karnaphuli river today.

Police said, a group of terrorists kidnapped Rafiq, a contractor, from Gassi village on Wednesday and took him away on a microbus.

Rafiq was kidnapped for not paying tolls to them, police added.

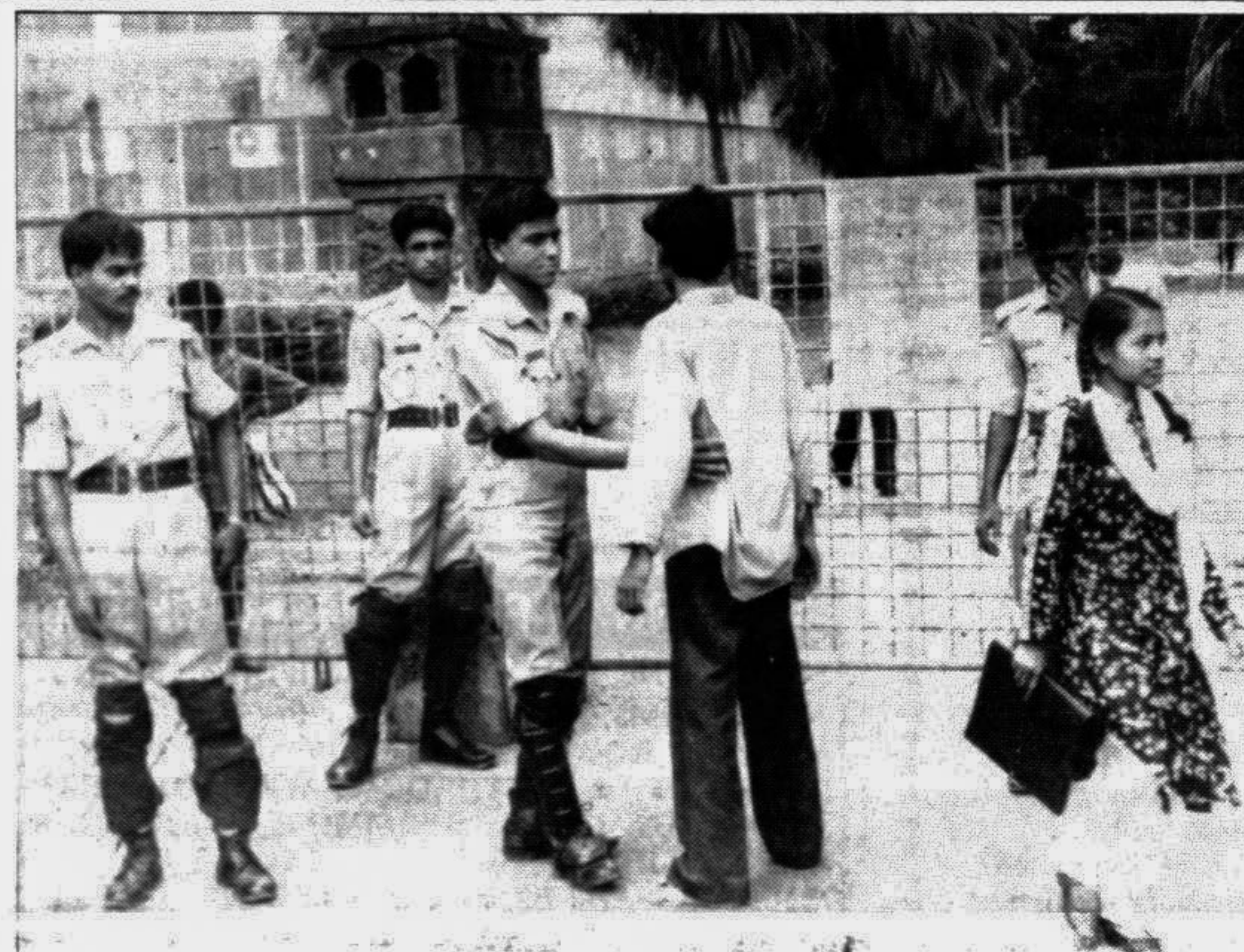
Six dacoits held in city

By Staff Correspondent

Detective police arrested six alleged dacoits and recovered stolen goods worth about Tk 1.25 lakh from different parts of the city Wednesday.

According to police, the arrested are the members of an organised gang of inter-district dacoits. They were identified as Md Rafiq, Zahurul Huq, Fazlu, Abul Kashem, Mobarak and Yusuf Ali.

Following their confessions, police recovered a color TV, a refrigerator and 465 bundles of corrugated iron sheets.



Police searching body of a student at an entrance to the Dhaka University campus during a strike called by the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) yesterday. — Star photo

LTTE suicide bomber kills 21 in Jaffna

COLOMBO, July 4: A Tamil rebel suicide-bomber with explosives strapped to her body threw herself before a government motorcade Thursday, killing at least 21 people and injuring a top government minister, a military official said, reports AP.

The attack occurred in Jaffna City, which the military captured in December from Tamil rebels after months of intense fighting, said Brig. Sarath Munasinghe, the military spokesman.

The dead included army Brig Ananda Hammangoda, 10 Tamil civilians, some government officials and the chairman of the state owned Lanka Cement Ltd, said Munasinghe in a statement.

At least 50 people were seriously wounded, including women and children, in the attack shortly after noon and are being treated at nearby Palali military hospital, the spokesman said.

Housing Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva was slightly wounded when the bomber leaped out of a crowd of on-lookers towards his motorcade, Munasinghe said.

See Page 12 col 7

Heroin smuggling case Supreme Court upholds Eliadah's life term

By SC Correspondent

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday upheld the trial court judgement sentencing the American national Eliadah McCord for life imprisonment on charge of heroin smuggling.

According to the verdict of the highest judiciary of Bangladesh the 23-year-old girl shall have to suffer more 26 years imprisonment as she has already served 4 years out of total 30 years.

She, however, may get 7 years of remission for holidays and good conduct.
Obaidur Rahman Mustafa, counsel for Eliadah, told The Daily Star, "If Eliadah wishes she can appeal to the President for clemency by the way of a mercy petition for which I would help her."

The Appellate Division by its verdict allowed the government appeal and set aside the judgement of the High Court Division.

A division bench of the HC comprising Justice MM Huq and Justice Md Nurul Islam on August 9, 1995, by a judgement



Eliadah McCord

on Eliadah's appeal against the trial court judgement, on the ground of benefit of doubt, reduced her life imprisonment to two years' sentence which

See Page 12 col 7

Opposition to have place in govt

Yeltsin declares after victory

MOSCOW, July 4: President Boris Yeltsin, after an emphatic election victory over a communist rival, made a plea today for national reconciliation and hinted he would find a role in government for the defeated opposition, reports Reuters.

"Let us not divide the country into the victorious and the vanquished," the 65-year-old

Earlier story on page 5

president declared in a televised address to the nation after a win over communist Gennady Zyuganov which returned him to the Kremlin for four more years.

He said the pre-election campaign before Wednesday's vote had been highly charged. "You solved this dispute. I am sure that in the new (government) team there will be a place for all those whom you trust," he told the Russian people.

"Together we will revive Russia," he declared.

Yeltsin, with an energy be-lying a spell of ill health, got

See Page 12 Col 3

Manila declaration today Regional media watchdog for child rights likely

MANILA, July 4: The establishment of a regional media watchdog is among the actions put forward in a declaration to be adopted here tomorrow by 23 Asian countries, Australia, Britain, Russia and the United States.

The Asian declaration on child rights and the media, obtained by AFP today, calls on governments, non-government

organisations and the corporate sector to provide co-ordinated monitoring mechanisms (for media) and encourage self-regulation at regional and national levels.

The declaration will be the climax of the first international forum on the subject, attended by more than 250 delegates, who have addressed the lack of locally produced child sensitive fare to compete with the flood of western media inundating the region.

An earlier sticking point raised was the declaration's possible infringement of media freedoms, but delegates said this concern had been addressed.

"We would want to see (in the declaration) a strong, unequivocal commitment to freedom of media," Mahfuz Anam, Editor of The Daily Star of Bangladesh said.

"It (the declaration) is very comprehensive, we made sure that we will not violate national policies of countries, Philippine Social Welfare Secretary Lina Lugo told the agency.

See Page 12 Col 1



Russian President Boris Yeltsin (L) receives a bunch of flowers and congratulations from Prime Minister Victor Chernomyrdin during their meeting at the Kremlin yesterday after Yeltsin won the presidential election. — AFP/UNB photo