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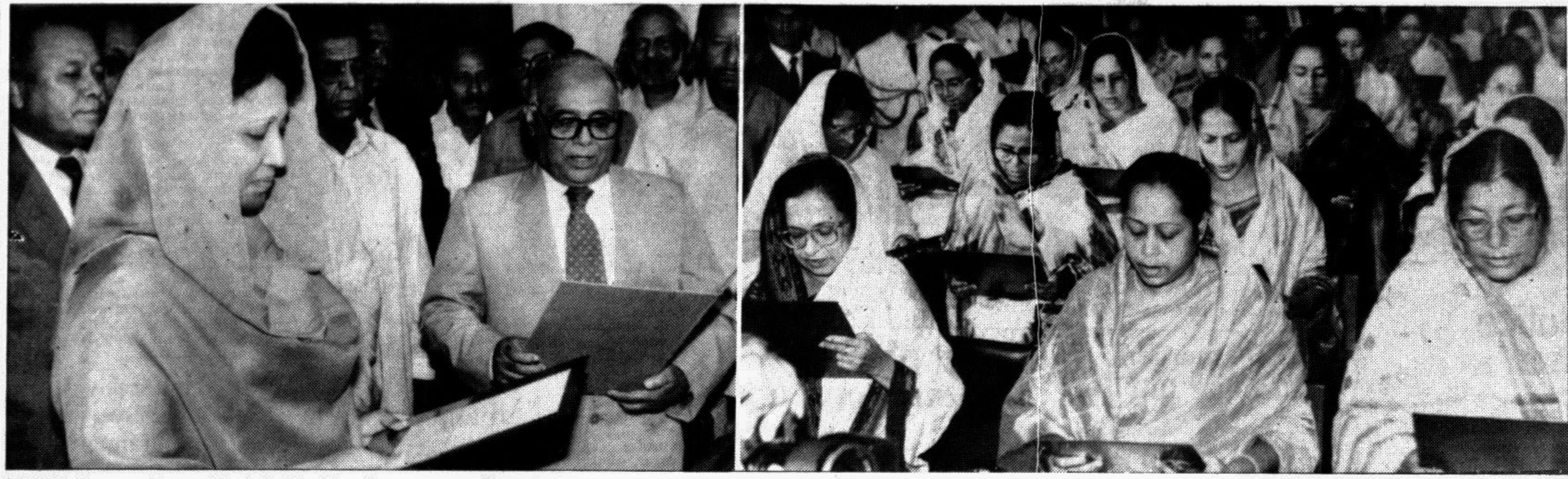
**BNPPP meets today**  
The first meeting of BNP Parliamentary Party will be held today at 7:30 pm at the Cabinet room of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban. BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia will preside over the meeting. BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has requested all party MPs to attend the meeting, said a press release yesterday, reports UNB.

**6 slaughtered in Lahore**  
LAHORE, July 5: A woman and her five children were slaughtered in Lahore as they slept in their house today, only two days after 11 people were killed in a similar incident in another city, police said. Unknown assailants carried out the murder in the Mohajirabad slum of Lahore, slitting the victims' throats, police said. There was no known motive for the attack, police said, reports AFP.

**8 die in Malaysian bridge collapse**  
KUALA LUMPUR, July 5: A van carrying women workers fell into a river when the bridge it was driving on collapsed today, killing the driver and seven passengers. Bernama news agency reported. It said the victims drowned in the river, reports AP.

**Ukrainian govt resigns**  
MOSCOW, July 5: The Ukrainian government resigned today in a move widely expected following the approval of a new constitution, Interfax said. The government tendered its resignation and it was accepted by President Leonid Kuchma, reports AFP.

**UN worker beaten by Serbs**  
SARAJEVO, July 5: A UN worker was beaten by Serbs in the northern Bosnian town of Banja Luka on Thursday in a deliberate attempt to obstruct bus services between the country's ethnic communities, a UN spokesman said today. "One of our staff members was jumped by a bunch of thugs — roughed up, punched about," said Kris Janowski, a spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), reports Reuters.



BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia (L) and women members (R) for the reserved seats taking oath as MPs yesterday. — Star photo

**Khaleda, 30 MPs-elect take oath**

By Staff Correspondent  
BNP Chairperson and former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia took oath as an MP yesterday.  
The thirty women MPs-elect for reserved seats were also sworn-in.  
Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali administered the oath to Begum Zia at his Parliament Chamber in the afternoon.  
Former Deputy Leader of the House Prof AQM Badrud-doza Chowdhury MP, BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan MP, Saifur Rahman MP, M Shamsul Islam MP, KM Obaidur Rahman MP and Amanullah Aman MP were, among others, present on the occasion.  
The Speaker administered oath to 27 women MPs belonging to the Awami League at the See Page 12 col 5

**Adjoining districts hit Flood threatens Dhaka**

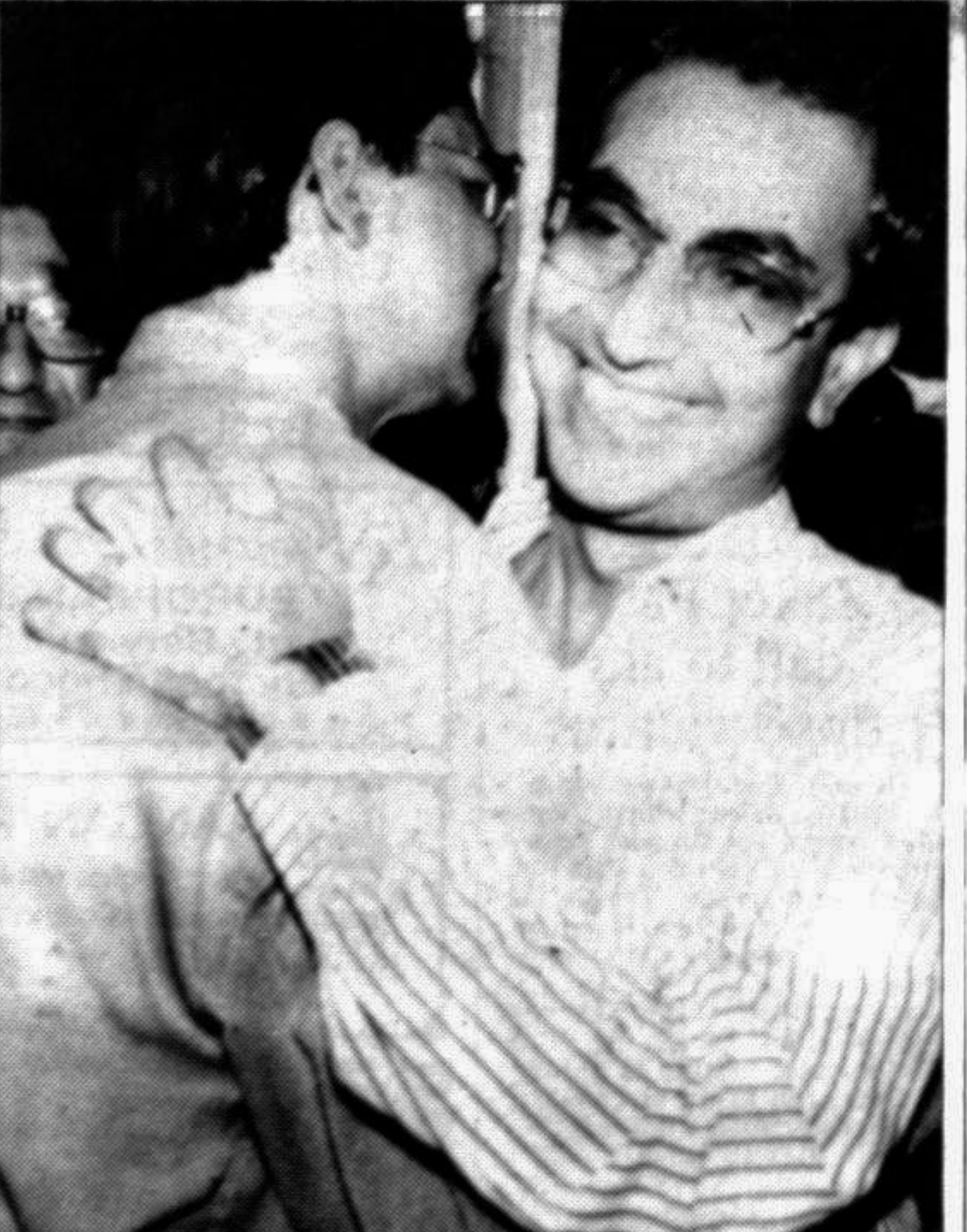
By Staff Correspondent  
Flood is likely to hit Dhaka in a day or two as the Ganges swelled further yesterday inundating low-lying areas in the surrounding districts.  
The Ganges at Bhagyakul (Munshiganj) was due to cross danger mark yesterday evening flooding different areas of Lauhajong and Tongibari thanas in Munshiganj, Dohar, Nawabganj and Keraniganj in Dhaka, and Naria and Palong in Shariatpur districts.  
Low-lying areas in some of those districts have already been inundated, according to reports received here last night.  
The overall flood situation worsened in the northern region, but slightly improved in north-eastern parts of the country yesterday.  
The situation in Sirajganj, Pabna, Gaibandha, Bogra, Rangpur, Jamalpur and Sherpur deteriorated as major rivers flowing through these districts swelled further.  
In Sylhet region, flood situation remained unchanged in many areas while in some areas worsened due to onrush of waters from the upperstream, according to our staff correspondent.  
The Kushiya and Surma were still flowing above danger-level at points yesterday.  
The situation in Companyganj, Gowainghat and Jaintapur with recession of rain while new areas in Kanaighat, Beani-bazar and Jakiganj thanas have been inundated.  
Flood waters were still flowing at least at 3 points on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway  
Gushing waters from the upperstream caused breaches at many points on the 22-mile Kushiya dyke. Breaches have developed at Amolshid, Khadiman, Rarai, Manikpur, Dakshin, Sabria, Haidrabad, Bhuyarmura Bijori, Barap-athar, Pirnagar, Ujirpur Bara Chhalka and Chhalia inundating at least 35 new villages in Jakiganj and Beani-bazar thanas.  
About 300 feet on the Khowal embankment had been eroded at Ratanpur of Makrampur union in Bani-chang thana in Habiganj district inundating several villages of 4 unions.  
In Jamalpur, eight more unions of the district marooned as the river Brahmaputra further swelled and was flowing 13 cm above its danger mark at Bahadurabad point at 6 pm yesterday.  
The unions are Char Ankhawa and Par Rampur of Dewanganj thana, Belgachha and Binatal of Islampur thana, Ballajuri in Madarganj thana, and Pogoldigha, Awola and Pingna in Sharishabari thana.  
District administration sources said Harindhara embankment in Dewanganj thana See Page 12 col 7

**Draft Agenda for Action for Paris meet WB suggests measures for macroeconomic stability**

By RM Titumir and Inam Ahmed  
The World Bank (WB) has urged the new government to limit domestic borrowing, reduce fiscal deficit, raise tax collection, introduce a smaller ADP focusing on project quality and avoid public sector wage increase and subsidies to re-establish macroeconomic stability.  
These were highlighted in the Bank's draft country document — Agenda for Action — to be placed at the September Paris Aid Consortium meeting for policy discussion.  
Quick and decisive action by the new government now would establish its clear commitment to macroeconomic stability, protect the poor from high inflation and provide a solid basis for accelerated growth, the Bank said in the report sent to the ministries concerned last week.  
It suggested four steps to achieve this: A) Improving revenue collection, B) A smaller ADP for 1996-97 with a focus on project quality, C) Instituting monetary measures to contain inflation and promote growth and D) Managing the exchange rate so as to ensure international competitiveness.  
The Bank pointed out that to avoid inflation, the government will need to limit the domestic borrowing to no more than 1.5 per cent of GDP in 1996-97 and the overall deficit to under six per cent.  
It warned that the government should avoid public sector wage increases, subsidies and any loan forgiveness scheme.  
The WB also suggested that the government should estab-

**Indian foreign secy in city: Talks today**

Indian Foreign Secretary Salman Haider arrived in the city yesterday as a special envoy of Indian Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, reports UNB.  
"As a special envoy of Prime Minister Deve Gowda of India, I am carrying a message for Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh, he told newsmen on arrival of the Zia International Airport.  
Haider will handover the Indian premier's message to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today when he is due to call on her.  
"I am also carrying a message from Indian Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral for his Bangladesh counterpart Abdus Samad Azad," the Indian Foreign Secretary said at the airport.  
Replying to a question about the talks with his Bangladesh counterpart on bilateral disputes, Haider said: "I'll have talks with my friend as I'm here, but that's not the purpose of my visit."  
See Page 12 col 6



Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Mohammad Hanif and former Mayor Mirza Abbas embraced each other at the foundation laying ceremony of the Dhaka Samity office at Nawab Yousuf Market yesterday. — Star photo

**PM visits flood-hit Gaibandha**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, visiting the flood-hit areas in Gaibandha yesterday, assured the people that steps would be taken to stop river erosion in the area, reports UNB.  
She called upon the affected people to have patience and said: "Our government will mobilise all its efforts to solve the problems of the people."  
The Prime Minister directed the authorities concerned and the Awami League leaders and workers to help the distressed people and stand beside them in this hour of need.  
The present government is See Page 12 col 6

**President lauds role of PGR**

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday called upon the Armed Forces to acquire professional skills through constant training with complete adherence to leadership and existing rules of discipline, reports BSS.  
Speaking at the 21st raising day ceremony of the President's Guard Regiment (PGR) at its headquarters at the Dhaka Cantonment the President expressed satisfaction that the success of the mem-

**Mohammad Nasim tells The Daily Star Telecom policy being drafted for pvt sector participation**

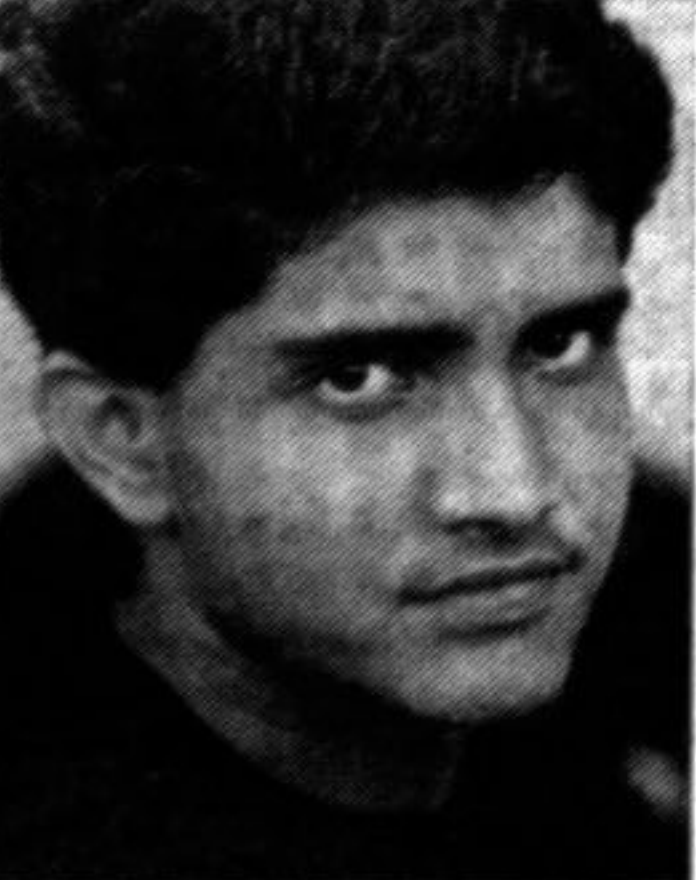
By Sharier Khan  
A new telecommunication policy providing for private sector participation in the sector is being drafted, Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim has said.  
"But the T&T (Telephone and Telegraph Board) will not be privatised," Nasim said in an interview with The Daily Star yesterday.  
The draft policy, when completed, will be placed before Parliament and adopted after discussion, the minister said.  
The government's main thrust in the telecommunication sector will be to improve its services by creating competition between the public sector and private companies, Nasim said. This will also widen the scope for more employment, he added.  
"The T&T which contributes Tk 600 to Tk 700 crore annually to the public exchequer, will not be privatised. Companies will be allowed to grow in the private sector to create a competition for better service."  
"Those who will be able to meet the demand of the people will survive in the competition, Nasim said. There is no possibility of retrenchment of workers of the T&T. Rather, allowing private companies will create new job opportunity," the minister said.  
The Telecommunication Ministry will soon take decision regarding allowing more private companies in cellular telephone system, he said.  
"There will not be monopoly in the cellular system. The T&T will also sell cellular phones."  
"We will announce necessary steps to eliminate monopoly in this sector," Nasim added.  
"We have a lot of complaints against the telecommunication system which includes false billing, inefficient handling of out-of-order phones, bribing and so on. To remove these flaws, we will have to improve the efficiency of the officials and workers of the T&T as well as modernise the system," Nasim said during the interview at his official residence.  
"We have some specific proposals to improve the services," he said. "The proposals include improved billing system and setting up of six to seven one-point service centre for prompt dealing with clients complaints," he added.  
The government is not thinking about changing the telephone charge. It may come down when there will be competition, Nasim hoped.  
"Only a flawless telecommunication system can ensure an efficient and corruption-free organisation. We can not depend only on employees to remove flaws. In the developed See Page 12 Col 3



Mohammad Nasim

**Armed gang gheraoes Ctg market, loots shops**

From Staff Correspondent  
CHITTAGONG, July 5: Armed miscreants looted four shops including three jewellery shops at Apollo Shopping centre in the heart of the city this afternoon, police said.  
The terrorists decamped with Taka 55 lakh in cash and valuation including gold ornaments and readymade garments, police said.  
Police arrested two persons in this connection.  
Witnesses said a gang of about 25 dacoits, equipped with firearms, launched the attack on the shopping centre at Kazir Dewri, one kilometre off Dampara Police Headquarters, at about 2:35 pm, according to UNB.  
The miscreants, who came by autorickshaws, gheraoed the market amidst indiscriminate firing and bomb explosions. Some of them went upstairs and snatched 700 grams of gold ornaments from four jewellery shops and looted a big ready-made garment shop.  
Shopowners said the dacoits also took away Tk five lakh from New Venus Jewellers, Sejuti Jewellers, New Janata Jewellers and Hena Garments.  
Hriday Ranjan Das (40), a salesman of Sejuti Jewellers, was bullet-hit and another employee, Karim, was stabbed by the dacoits when they tried to resist the dacoits. They also beat up Kajal, an employee of New Apurupa Jewellers, with rifle butt.  
The injured persons were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital in critical condition, shopowners said.  
During the half-an-hour operation, witnesses said, the dacoits fired more than a hundred gunshots and blasted innumerable home-made bombs to scare away the people.  
Shopowners alleged that a group of four patrol police — an ASI, two constables and one Ansar — were present at the shopping complex during the dacoity, but they did not try to resist the dacoits or inform the police headquarters through walkie-talkie.  
Apollo Shopping Centre Business Samity President Mahabubur Rahman and General Secretary Rezaul Karim in a joint statement said police did not try to resist the dacoits even after the shopowners had repeatedly requested them to chase the gang.  
Chittagong Metropolitan Police Commissioner Modabber Hossain Chowdhury ordered suspension of the on-duty policemen for negligence to duty.  
In two other incidents yesterday, miscreants looted Tk 1.90 lakh from two businessmen and a tailoring shop in the city.  
Police said a group of snatchers robbed two businessmen — Mohammad Alam and Mohammad Hamid — at city's Love Lane area at about 11 am soon after they reached there from Cox's Bazar.  
The armed group snatched Tk 80,000 from Mohammad Alam and Tk 10,000 from Mohammad Hamid.  
They stabbed Mohammad Alam indiscriminately when he See Page 12 col 8



**Saurav's fabulous feat**

Sports Reporter  
Indian batsman Saurav Ganguly hit the headlines once again when he scored an elegant 136 against England in the third Test at Trentbridge on Thursday.  
Editorial on page 4  
Ganguly, in the second Test of his just-started career, carved a niche in the record books with his second successive ton to become only the See Page 12 Col 3

**DSE sets another record Boom in share trading**

By Rafiq Hasan  
Share trading in the Dhaka Stock Exchange surged again last week when the DSE All Share Price Index set another record and other market indicators also went up.  
The DSE share price index rose by 38.25 points and reached 989.40 points on Thursday, breaking all previous records.  
Earlier, the highest price index rise was recorded at 977.13 points on June 22.  
The market capitalisation and other indicators also went up during the 5 days brisk business in the week.  
There was no share trading in the DSE floor on July 1 as banks remained closed on the day.  
The market capitalisation increased by Tk 259.70 crore, reaching Tk 6718.03 crore which was also the highest in the Dhaka Stock Exchange.  
Of the 110 issues traded on an average daily, 53 issues gained and 49 suffered losses while 8 remained unchanged.  
As many as 12 lakh 44 thousands shares and debentures worth more than Tk 31 crore exchanged hands. The average transaction in volume was 2 lakh 48 thousand and in value, Tk 6.40 crore.  
Talking to The Daily Star, Imtiaz Hossen, Chairman of the DSE said, the capital market witnessed a steady growth because people are showing much interest in the security market in absence of alternative investment opportunity in the country.  
Although, the price index of the DSE rose due to heavy speculation about some 'blue ship share', the overall development of the capital market is steady, he observed.  
Imtiaz termed the booming trend in the market as positive and said, "people's expectation from this government is very high."  
If the present government does not make any major change in the country's economic policy, there is hardly any chance of drastic fall in the share market in near future, the DSE chairman said.  
Regarding further inflow of foreign direct investment, Imtiaz who returned home recently after joining a seminar on capital market abroad, said, "May be, they (foreign in-

**Street agitation if repression continues, says Khaleda**

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday said her party would play a positive opposition role in parliament, but threatened street agitation if repression on her party activists continued, reports UNB.  
"Our offices have been ransacked and our party leaders and activists harassed. If this situation continues, we'll be compelled to take to the street," she said after her swearing-in as an MP in the Sangsad Bhaban.  
Talking to newsmen at the Speaker's Chamber, Begum Zia claimed that the people had elected BNP in the June 12 general election, but the "victory was snatched away."  
"We have struggled for democracy and restored parliamentary democracy. So, whatever responsibilities we have been given, we will perform," she said.  
See Page 12 col 7

**8000 vehicles stranded at 3 ferry ghats**

ARICHA, July 5: Traffic jam at Aricha, Nagarbari and Daulatdia ghats further worsened with more than 8,000 vehicles stranded at the three ghats today, reports UNB.  
BIWTC sources said 4,000 of the vehicles which were given serial numbers were stranded at the three ghats due to less number of ferries and delay in loading and unloading caused by river erosion and rise in water level of the Padma-Jamuna.  
Among the stranded vehicles are 1,000 buses and 3,000 trucks.  
Besides, some 2,500 buses and trucks made a two-kilometre See Page 12 col 7

**Dhaka, Jessore Boards' SSC exams results today**

Results of the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) Examinations of Dhaka and Jessore boards will be announced today at 4 pm, simultaneously from the respective examination centres, reports UNB.  
After the announcement of results, head masters/teachers of all the schools under the centre would be able to collect results of their respective schools from the centre officials concerned.  
An official announcement yesterday said the examinees would have to collect the results from their respective centres of schools.  
Results will not be available from the education board, the education ministry or newspaper offices, the announcement added.