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PHILIPS

DHAKA MONDAY, JULY 8, 1996

12 The Baily Star

Presidential polls **CEC-Speaker** meet sought

By Staff Correspondent

The Election Commission (EC) has requested the Parliament Secretariat to arrange a courtesy meeting between the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and the Speaker on July 15, EC sources said.

The CEC, as required by law would discuss matters relating to the presidential election before announcing its schedule the sources said.

"We think that a new Speaker would be in the office on the day and in addition to the serious discussions on the election the CEC would also exchange views on other mat ters", an EC source said

As per law, the CEC would consult the Speaker before announcing the schedule of the presidential election.

Earlier, the EC sources indicated that the presidential election may be held in the first week of August just before the cut-off date of August 9. President Abdur Rahman

Biswas took oath of office on October 9, 1991, so his fiveyear tenure expires on August 8 this year and the election must be held, under the exist ing law, sometime between July 10 and August 9, the sources said.

Looting of shops in Ctg: Arrested JCD activists remanded From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 7: The four JCD activists who were ar rested in connection with the looting of four shops at the Apollo Shopping Centre on Friday, were brought under three days' remand today for interrogation, police said.

Meanwhile, police recovered one LG and some ammunition from the residence of one of the arrested person Nurul Alam, as per his confession today.

Burglary From Page 1

About three burglers cut down the kitchen window grill of the house at Jigatola, a around 2:30 am and entered

the house, they said. Before entering they had locked up all the exit doors of other apartments in the five

storied building, they added. "About three men entered the house and opened up the steel almirah and took orna ments worth about Tk one lakh and Tk 20,000 in cash,' said a family member of the

When contacted, the duty officer of Dhanmondi thana said that a case had ben filed in this connection. He said no arrests were made in this connection.

Snatched

From Page 1 and Sabujbagh areas within an hour after the robbery, says a police press release.

The police recovered Tk 4,58,000 from the arrested persons identified as Shahana Kabir, Motaleb, Mohammad Jumman, Arfan and Babul.

One foreign made gun, 3 billets, 5 knives two briefcases and some documents were also recovered from their posses-

The arrested persons were being interrogated last night. Meanwhile, Uttara thana police last night arrested another person in connection with the robbery from Mirpur area and recovered Tk 60 thousand from him. The arrested was identified as Javed.

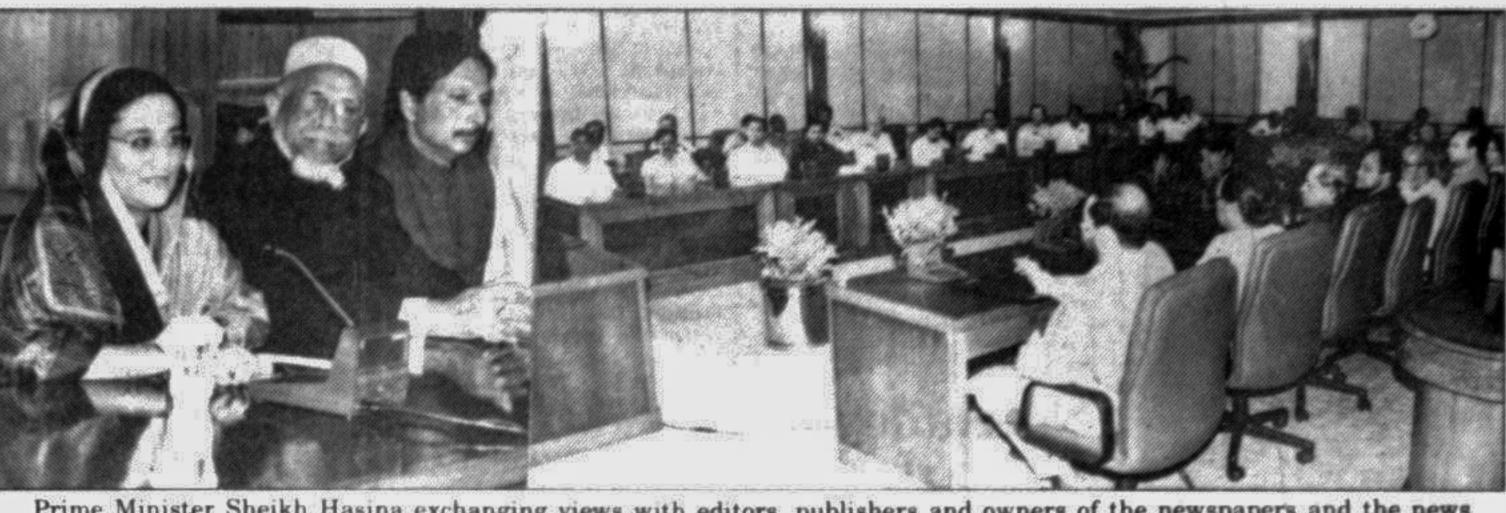
Razzak From Page 1

hold seminars and symposia to seek experts opinion to find out ways of a permanent solu-

tion to the problem." The minister, however, told this correspondent it is true that a devastating flood severely affects the lives of the people. But flood could also appear to be a blessing especially for the peasants if it remained within a certain limit. he observed. "We should not forget the positive aspects of the flood while finding out

measures to control it.' Turning to the politics of the country, the minister, who is also a presidium member of the ruling Awami League, said that his party really wanted to run the government on the basis of a national consensus.

When asked whether the Prime Minister's call to the largest opposition party in the Jatiya Sangsad (JS) to join the government was contradictory to the concept of parliamen-tary democracy. Razzak said the BNP was free to take part in running the affairs of the state while also preserving its right to play the conventional role of a parliamentary opposi-



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina exchanging views with editors, publishers and owners of the newspapers and the news agencies at her office in the city yesterday. - PID photo

PM: Editors

From Page 1 month and provide opportuni ties to all reporters to have access to the Prime Minister's news coverage

The editors brought to the notice of the Prime Minister that various terrorist activities including dacoity and killing that had taken place over the last few days in various parts of the country and urged her to take due measures to stop them and arrest those imme diately who were responsible for those heinous acts.

The Prime Minister told the editors that her government was well-aware of those incidents." "There is a con spiracy to prevent her government from attaining success in its efforts to establish a society free from terrorism. she said and urged the editors to expose those forces which were behind all these anti people activities in the coun

Sheikh Hasina said the suggestions and proposals from the newspaper editors and publishers would help her government take objective measures for the national benefit.

On a query, the Prime Minister said that about 15,000 crore taka were borrowed from banks which were not paid back before the taking over of her government.

"So, you can easily realise what is the situation we are facing now," she said.

An editor of a daily suggested the Prime Minister to implement what she pledged earlier for the national welfare on priority basis. "It will help uphold the credibility of the government," he said.

Another editor suggested holding press conference with question and answer through live broadcast from television and that would help government's transparency and accountability to the people.

The editor of another daily suggested assessment of the property of ministers and MPs every years in a specific time which would be immensely helpful for the government to have transparency and accountability in every sphere of the administration.

The editors urged the Prime Minister to take the press into her confidence

BNP may offer

From Page 1 three constituencies she was elected from in the June 12 polls. During the trip, she will unofficially campaign for her party for the by-elections, the sources said.

For the two other BNP-vacated seats — one by Saifur Rahman in Sylhet and the other by Oli Ahmed in Chittagong - the party is discussing names of leaders of some other parties in addition to those of its own, party leaders engaged in the task said.

In the first meeting of the BNPPP on Saturday Begum Zia explained the role to be played by her party's lawmakers to establish the BNP as a "strong and effective" opposition in the parliament, meeting sources told The Daily Star. In this regard, the former Prime Minister also instructed the BNP legislators to follow the conventional ways of protests-staging walkout, moving cut-motions and submitting notices on various issues under the

Rules of Procedure. Other BNP lawmakers, speaking on the occasion, also shared the views of the party chief and suggested that the proposed 'shadow cabinet' be formed immediately.

The proposed 'shadow cabinet' would monitor ministrywise performances of the government and project "its mistakes and misdeeds" in the House as well as outside, said a

top leader of the party.

The BNP policy-planners want to lay special emphasis on monitoring the performance of the Home Ministry because "this ministry is responsible for the on-going 'repression' on the party activists across the country. "Repression on and harassment of the pro-BNP political activists throughout the country is our prime concern now", said another senior BNP

Awami League city unit at Bangabandhu Avenue here, he demanded immediate arrest and trial of the persons responsible for act under law of the land.

Several socio-political and cultural personalities and groups yesterday expressed strong indignation at the incident.

More than 200 teachers of different universities in a joint statement termed the incident

Ministerial-level, JEC meets shortly: Haider

A ministerial-level meeting between Bangladesh and India will be held shortly in quest of quick solution to the outstanding bilateral disputes, reports

This was stated by Indian Foreign Secretary Salman Haider addressing a news conference at the state guest house Padma in the city yes terday afternoon prior to his departure for New Delhi concluding a three-day visit

Haider said his Bangladesh



Salman Haider at - Star photo conference.

capital in the first half of next month to resume the talks he opened here with the later on Saturday

The Indian Secretary of External Affairs made it clear that he was basically sent here to deliver a message of goodwill from the Indian Prime Minister. HD Deve Gowda, to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh

Haider told reporters that he had also handed over a message of goodwill from Indian Foreign Minister. IK Gujral, to his Bangladesh counterpart, Abdus Samad Azad,

He described his meetings with other officials and ministers in Dhaka as courtesy calls which, he said, demonstrated readiness, goodwill and friendship of India to address all bilateral disputes".

From Page 1

Parliamentary Party sharply re-

acted to the removal of Banga-

bandhu's portrait from the cab-

inet room of Parliament House

and described it as 'extremely

of the party Abul Hasnat Abdul-

lah yesterday said it only be-

trayed a defeatist mentality

which would certainly impede

the process of imparting an in-

stitutional shape to democracy.

Besides, he added, it is ultra

vires of the parliamentary code

with deep anguish that the in-

cident was not only indecorous

but also in clear contravention

of democratic culture and

would be taken against those

involved in Saturday's incident.

Rahman in a statement yester-

day described the incident as a

conspiracy to destroy democ-

racy, democratic values and

national glory, heritage and

history in the name of new

trial of those responsible for

the heinous incident and

urged the countrymen to re-

main vigilant against the con-

President of Dhaka City unit

of Awami League and Mayor of

Dhaka Mohammad Hanif ter-

med the incident as 'audacious'

and observed that 'by lowering

the portrait they have defamed

At a protest meeting of the

the holy Constitution.'

He demanded arrest and

He made it clear that action

AL General Secretary Zillur

Abul Hasnat Abdullah noted

Talking to UNB, Chief Whip

painful.

of conduct.

rules of procedure.

type of politics.

spiracy.

Meanwhile, Awami League

Responding to a question. Haider described Joint River Commission (JRC) as an established mechanism" to

develop the relations between the two countries He, however, did not reply to a question on the 25-year Indo-Bangladesh treaty, which expires on March 19 next year

Salman Haider admitted that India had sought the support of Bangladesh for Indian candidature for the non-permanent seat of the UN Security Council.

Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan, who was present at the press conference, said Bangladesh had received a similar proposal from Japan. We are carefully examining

the proposal, Faroog Sobhan

Another report says, the Indo-Bangla Joint Economic Commission (JEC) will meet shortly against the backdrop of widening trade imbalance be-

tween the two countries This was observed during a meeting between Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed and the Indian Secretary of External Affairs, Salman Haider, official sources said. The last JEC meeting was

held in 1993. Some changes in admin

By Staff Correspondent Director General of Anti-Corruption Bureau, Mafiz Uddin Shikder, and Director General of Immigration and Passport Directorate, Md Mokbul Hussain, have been transfered to each others post and their services were set on deputation till further order.

says a PID handout yesterday. Director of the Board of Investment (BOI) Abdus Sattar Mia was transfered and his service was vested at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) for appointing him on deputation as Secretary of the BOI till further order.

Service of Md Aziz Ullah, a deputy secretary previously serving in the Ministry of Establishment as officer on special duty (OSD), was vested at the PMO for appointment as Director of BOI.

tional consensus.

mul Haq.

of perversion."

Ojayer Faruq.

political culture."

condemned the incident and

demanded punishment to those responsible.

Flood

From Page 1 In Jamalpur, about 100metre portion of a diversion road at Mahmudpur bridge was washed away, snapping road communication between Jamalpur district headquarters

and Madarganj thana. Fresh areas of seven unions in three thanas of the district were inundated. With this, the total affected unions stood at 28 and about two lakh people of 150 villages in these unions have been marooned. Standing crops on 15,000 acres of land have been damaged in the flooding.

In Sirajganj, the river Jamuna and its tributaries continued to swell yesterday worsening the flood situation in the six thanas of the dis-

The affected thanas are Sadar, Kazipur, Belkuchi Chowhali, Shahjadpur and Tarash

About 200 families of 15 villages of Maijbari, Fuljore. Chargram unions of Kazipur thana and Kawakola union of Sadar thana have been rendered homeless due to erosion by the river Jamuna, Most of them have taken shelter on the flood-control embankments and flood centres.

More areas in Sherpur went under water due to rain and swelling of river Brahmaputra, our correspondent said.

Khaleda

From Page 1 "BNP will give a befitting reply with the help of the people if the government is engaged in any anti-people ac-tivities," the BNP chairperson

she expressed concern over deterioration of the law and order within 15 days of the new government's takeover. "A reign of terror has gripped the country with killings, hijackings, lootings and dacoities taking place ev-

Begum Zia said, there is nothing called 'government of national consensus in the democratic world or in the country's constitution. "They just want to revive BKSAL in the name of national consen-

sus," she added.
The opposition leader said the BNP had introduced multiparty democracy through the 12th amendment to the Constitution and accordingly there must be an opposition in the parliament. "Having no op position in parliamentary democracy is absurd," she said

The BNP chief criticised the renaming of Radio Bang ladesh as 'Bangladesh Betar and said that "they (ruling party) are creating a hotchpotch after assuming power.

She alleged that the people in the present government were not uttering Bismillah the name of Allah, before starting any work, which was given constitutional recognisa tion during the regime of Shaheed President Ziaur

The Leader of the Opposition said her party would play an appropriate role in parliament with the aim to carry on the development programmes and fulfil its pledges to the people, made in its election manifesto.

Begum Zia said BNP's victory in last month's parliamentary election was snatched away, but its popularity could not be taken away Barrister Moudud Ahmed

who recently joined the BNP Khairul Anam MP. Poura Chairman of Laxmipur Hasanu zzaman Chowdhury Mintu Chhatra Dal Leader Abdul Khair Bhuiyan, Krishak Dal leader Khorshed Alam and district BNP president Shamsul Alam also addressed the meetings.

DSE price index crosses 1000-mark

The key indicator of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), the All Share Price Index, crossed the 1000-mark yesterday, reflecting the buoyant market trend following the last month's parliamentary elections.

The index rose to an alltime high of 1016.35 from Saturday's 998.81, setting a new record in the country's main bourse that witnessed brisk trading for last few days. The DSE All Share Price

Index gained 43 points to reach 989.40 on Thursday, ending a five-day week of bullish trading when most of the issues traded saw increasing prices. DSE chairman Imtiyaz Hos-

sain told UNB lastnight that he considered the rise in price. index as the reflection of confidence of the general vestors on the market, the economy of the country and the new government. He hoped that the index

would stabilise around the 1000-mark at the end of the year while the market capitalisation, now at 1.78 billion US dollar, would reach nearly 2 billion US dollar by December. "But the real test will be

the next budget. The whole economy will depend on it, Hossain said of the budget for 1996-97 fiscal, which is ex-

Autorickshaw falls into canal in Ctg: 3 killed

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, July 7: Three persons were killed when an autorickshaw fell into a canal this morning at Nazirhat under Hathazari thana, police The dead were identified as

Emdad, 15, Abbas, 16, and Jakir, 20 and they were workers of a local auto-workshop. Police said the autorickshaw was on a trial drive and it fell into the canal from a bridge at Nazirhat. Police re-

covered the bodies later.

pected in the first session of the 7th parliament that begins July 14.

The DSE chairman suggested curbing inflation, reducing public expenditure and budget deficit, and lowering taxes, particularly corporate and individual income taxes, to increase the rate of savings.

The increased savings will help in capital formation and will ultimately generate investment," he said.

Transit From Page 1

nal Affairs minister in V P

Singh's cabinet, said in the interview. "What is the harm if you allow the use of Chittagong port for transit of goods to eastern India ? You will definitely be benefited by the revenue earnings, if you extend this facility Mentioning that transit fa-

cilities, if given, "would help us get closer to you," Gujral added. "Let Bangladesh calculate how much it can augment its income through giving port and transit facilities. You definitely can demand from us the rates you want. However, you have every right to deny us the facilities, which you have done till now. Diplomatic observers, how-

ever, feel that the present Indian Prime minister. Deve Gowda, may be genuinely responsive to Bangladesh's need for water. As former chief minister of the Indian state of Karnataka, he had ordered the release of 6000 million cubic metres of water to Tamil Nadu. The decision created controversy in his home state but it was brushed aside with empathy by Gowda in a display of political adroitness. Both I K Gujral and Deve

Gowda may decide in their political wisdom to opt to settle the issue of water sharing with Bangladesh with fairness in the interest of good neighbourliness pending a decision on the transit question, at least upto a desirable point, commented an observer of Indo-Bangladesh relations.



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