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# The Daily Star

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## Saidabad water plant: WB gives go-ahead

The loan agreement with the World Bank for the 4th Dhaka Water Supply Project titled "Saidabad Water Refinery Construction Project" came into effect yesterday, reports UNB.  
Upon completion of the project, the water supply in the city will be increased by 22.5 crore litres everyday, said a WASA press release.  
To implement the project, a loan agreement of 80.3 million dollars equivalent to Tk 336.45 crore was signed between Bangladesh and International Development Agency of the World Bank on January 8 this year.  
The agreement could not be made effective as the Bangladesh government and Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) had to fulfill some conditions, the press release said.  
With the fulfillment of the preconditions, the World Bank has given the go ahead signal to implement the project.  
Earlier, the government had signed another agreement of Tk 137.83 with the French government.

## Removal of ASPs HC rejects all writ petitions

The High Court yesterday summarily rejected all six writ petitions filed challenging the removal of six Assistant Superintendents of Police (ASPs) from their services.  
The Division Bench of the HC comprising Justice Mainur Reza Chowdhury and Justice M M Ruhul Amin observed in their order that these are the matters of the Administrative Tribunal.  
Zillur Rahman, Monir Hossain, Ali Hossain Khan, Mosharraf Hossain, Masudul Hasan and Kazi Fazlul Karim filed separate writ petitions challenging their removal from the office of Assistant Superintendent of Police.  
In the removal order dated 5 June, 1997 it was stated that their conduct during training in Sarda Police Academy appeared to be contrary to discipline and Service Rule.

## Rickshawpullers block Dhaka-Aricha highway for 2 hrs

SAVAR, July 7: Traffic on Dhaka-Aricha highway halted for about two hours from 6 pm today as rickshawpullers blocked the highway at Savar, reports UNB.  
Witnesses said some 500 rickshawpullers from Savar Bazar area blocked the busy road after a police constable beat up one of their colleagues, Monir, at the bus stand at about 6 pm.  
Movement of vehicles on the highway returned to normalcy at 8 pm after senior police officials assured them of taking legal action against the accused.

## Mahbub's body may arrive tomorrow

The Saudi authorities are expected to send the body of Mahbub, who died in the wheel carriage of a Biman Airbus in May, from Riyadh within a couple of days.  
A senior official of Bangladesh Biman said last night that they did not receive any specific date for the arrival of the body. He, however, added that there was a Biman flight which was scheduled to arrive in Dhaka at about 8 am tomorrow.  
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## Principal witness tells court Huda, Noor, Dalim used to visit residence of Bangabandhu

By Staff Correspondent  
Cross-examination of the complainant and principal prosecution witness in the Bangabandhu murder case, A F M Mahitul Islam continued for the second day yesterday in the Court of District and Sessions Judge, Dhaka.  
All the 14 state defence counsels for the 14 absconding accused completed their cross-examination of Mahitul Islam. The defence counsel of one of the six arrested accused also began his cross-examination of Mahitul.  
Judge Kazi Golam Rasul adjourned the day's proceedings within 15 minutes after the defence lawyer started his cross-examination of Mahitul Islam. Hearing will resume at 10:30 am today.  
Before adjourning the day's proceedings the judge asked the witness are you tired? When the witness replied in the affirmative, the judge adjourned the proceedings. Mahitul Islam, during the cross-examination said he knew Maj (ret'd) Md Bazul Huda, Lt Col (ret'd) S H M B Noor Chowdhury, Lt Col (relieved) Shariful Huq Dalim. He said he saw these people visiting the residence of Bangabandhu.  
He said he did not know the eleven others, but might have seen them during the incident.  
He told the court that he worked as an office assistant at the PM's Secretariat in December 1972 and joined a resident PA to the then President Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.  
He said he is now working as Section Assistant at the Directorate of Relief and Rehabilitation.  
Mahitul told the court that he had made attempts earlier to See Page 12 Col 1

## Bill to rename President's Award: BNP walks out of parliament

By Staff Correspondent  
Opposition BNP staged a walk out from the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday protesting the introduction of a government-sponsored bill seeking to rename the President's Award Fund Ordinance, 1976 as the Bangabandhu Award Fund (Amendment) Act, 1997.  
Referring to the objective of the bill, Agriculture Minister Matla Chowdhury argued that the amendment had been proposed to inspire all concerned to use modern technology and thus expedite the agricultural production.  
Objecting to the introduction of the bill, M K Anwar of the BNP said since introduction of the President's Award in 1976, agricultural production has so far been doubled. "It should not be changed now, although any party is free to introduce separate award for the peasants after the name of the party's leader," the BNP legislator said.  
He further argued that "according to the Constitution, the President is placed above all persons, and replacing the President in the nomenclature of the law with any other person would eventually belittle the institution of the President itself."  
M K Anwar also pointed out some technical mistakes in the wordings of the proposed bill and opposed introduction of the bill. He announced the walkout by the BNP MPs saying: "We know that the Awami League would get the bill introduced by the strength of its sheer majority in the House."  
Then the agricultural minister took the floor to tell the House that the award was introduced in 1973 and it was originally named as Bangabandhu Award.  
See Page 12 Col 6

## JMB project Accord to pay compensation to the affected

The Jamuna Multi-purpose Bridge Authority yesterday signed an agreement with the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) under which the authority would make available a fund of Taka 10 crore for the rehabilitation of the affected people living on both sides of the river, reports BSS.  
Under the agreement, BRAC would provide compensation to the land owners or occupants living within 8 km upstream and 10 km downstream whose lands are being eroded in the river due to the impact of the project.  
The BRAC has already prepared a list of 28033 families in the areas through a survey and distributed identity cards among the families.  
The families who will lose their land due to the impact of the Jamuna Bridge till the year See Page 12 Col 7

## DSE appoints audit firm to probe 'irregularities'

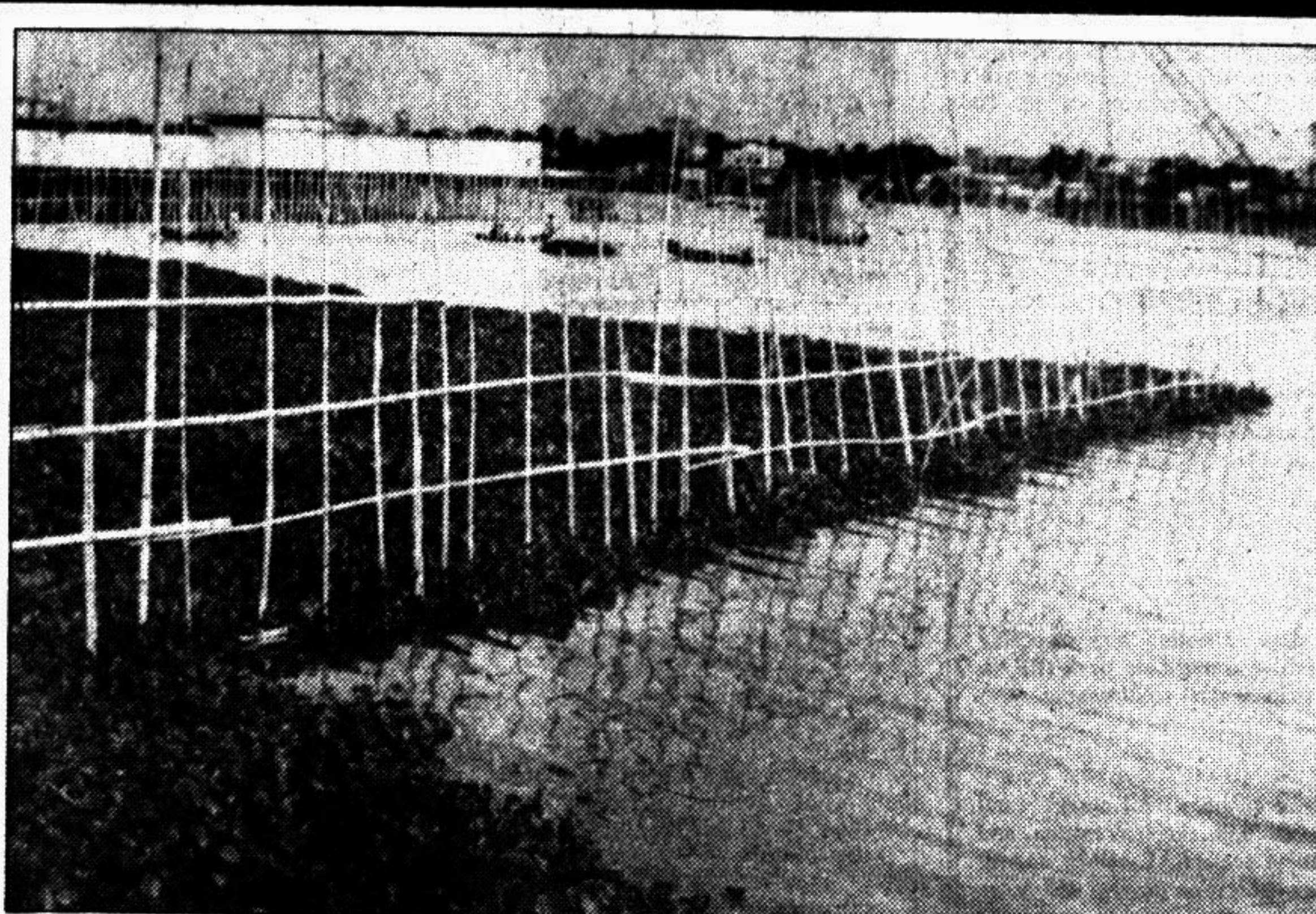
By Rafiq Hasan  
The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) has appointed an audit firm to investigate "irregularities" in its accounts during the last financial year, particularly between September and November when the bourse experienced unusual boom, DSE chairman Abdul Haq Howlader said yesterday.  
"We are investigating the matter to bring transparency in the DSE and restore people's confidence in the country's capital market," he said.  
S F Ahmed and Company was appointed last week, to examine day-to-day accounts of the clearing and settlement department of the exchange. It will submit its report within three months, he told The Daily Star.  
Appointment of an audit firm for investigation followed complaints of irregularities and non-payment against settlement during the period.  
A large number of shares exchanged on Delivery Versus Payment (DVP) basis are yet to be settled. The actual number and amount of unsettled DVPs will be known after the audit report, Howlader said.  
Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) still owes the DSE large payments for at least 10 months from August last year. Five influential DSE members allegedly kept the money at their disposal and utilised it in their personal business during the booming period.  
Though, the DSE returned half of the money amounting about Tk 68 lakhs before the end of the last financial year, the rest of the money still remains unpaid.  
Howlader blamed former chairman of DSE, Imtiaz Hossain for the alleged irregularities.  
When contacted over telephone, Imtiaz Hossain denied the allegation. Rather, Imtiaz proposed an open debate on the issue.  
Howlader also alleged that during Imtiaz's tenure, a section of general employees of the DSE were involved in various irregularities and corruption including taking huge amounts of advance and loans from office without prior approval of the DSE Council.  
"I did not sign on any check regarding advance and loan," Imtiaz said.

## Talks fail: Crisis at Ctg port deepens

From Staff Correspondent  
CHITTAGONG, July 7: The crisis created at Chittagong Port due to merchant workers' wildcat strike deepened on the fifth consecutive day today as a seven-hour meeting among port officials, leaders of the striking workers and hatch workers ended at 2:30 last night without any tangible results, port sources said.  
The merchant workers started the strike Thursday afternoon in protest against engagement of hatch workers in lighterage of cargo from ships anchored at the outer anchorage.  
Acting Chairman of Chittagong Port Authority Julfiqar Haidar Chowdhury, talking to this correspondent, said "We tried in last night's meeting to find out an acceptable formula to break the stalemate, but the meeting ended inconclusively".  
He said that with the suspension of delivery of import cargo, there had been a space congestion in the port sheds halting cargo handling in the ships anchored at the jetties. Shipment of export cargo also has been affected.  
According to port officials, over 30 ships including nine ships at the outer anchorage got See Page 12 Col 6

## Ctg port deadlock 11 BNP MPs demand judicial enquiry

Eleven BNP lawmakers yesterday demanded judicial enquiry into the deadlock at Chittagong port for greater interest of the country and the nation, reports UNB.  
In a joint statement, they blamed the ruling party's local leaders and several officials of the port authority for the deadlock and condemned the "conspiracy to sell out the country's interest".  
The statement was signed by BNP MPs Jainal Abedin Faruk, Abu Hena, Barkatullah Bulu, Giasuddin Quader Chowdhury, Afzal H Khan, Shamsuzzaman Dudu, Mohammad Ali, Prof Shahidul Islam, Nazimuddin Alam, Salahuddin Ahmed and Alamgir Mohammad Mah- See Page 12 Col 6



The Buriganga river is being choked by unauthorised bamboo structures for expanding the Kamalbagh slum onto the river in Lalbag area of the city. — Star photo: Amran Hussain

## Tokyo has endorsed importance of Ganges barrage project: PM

By Staff Correspondent  
The Japanese government was to attract increased Japanese investment and seek assistance for some development projects. These are: The Ganges Barrage Project, Rupsha Rail-cum-Road Bridge Project, Padma Bridge Project and projects for development of international airports at Chittagong and Sylhet, the prime minister said.  
The finance minister substantiated the Prime Minister's observation providing figures of Japanese financial assistance. He said that Bangladesh had received only 170 million US dollars from Japan in fiscal 1995-96. In 1996-97 the country got 313 million dollars from that country.  
Kibria said apart from seeking assistance for 17 projects, approved by the ERD, financial assistance from Japan was also sought for big projects like Ganges Barrage, Rupsha Bridge and Padma Bridge. If Japanese assistance is available, other donors including the World Bank (WB) will also come forward, he added.  
See Page 12 Col 7

## JS bodies: Parleys on for accord

Star Report  
Backstage parleys were on between the ruling Awami League and the Opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) till late last night to reach an agreement on the composition of the parliamentary bodies, sources in the parties said.  
Some influential leaders of the parties including Mohammad Nasim of the AL and Khandaker Delwar Hossain of the BNP had a meeting last night in a bid to resolve the crisis.  
The outcome of the meeting could not be known as the leaders were discussing the issue till writing of this report at 11:30 pm. However, leaders of both the camps told The Daily Star that they were optimistic about resolving the deadlock on the formation of parliamentary bodies.

## JS standing bodies shortly Enough time given to BNP, says Hasina

By Staff Correspondent  
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said yesterday that parliamentary standing committees on different ministries would be constituted today or tomorrow.  
Talking to newsmen at a press conference at the Prime Minister's Office, Hasina said that several letters were sent seeking names of the Opposition lawmakers to represent their parties in the committees. "Enough time was given to them. Still, if they didn't give us the names, we will have to constitute the standing committees See Page 12 Col 4

## Mongla customs employees' ultimatum

By Staff Correspondent  
The Mongla Customs House Employees' Coordination Committee threatened to take up an action programme if their demands for transfer of a number of preventive officers were not met by July 10.  
The leaders of the committee in a written statement said that the transfer order of a number of preventive officers from Mongla Sea Customs to Chittagong Sea Customs awaited clearance of the National Board of Revenue.  
They said transfer of some fourth class employees from Mongla Customs House to Chittagong Customs House also awaited clearance.  
The leaders said such transfers were carried out earlier. There are a few posts of preventive officers lying vacant at the Chittagong Customs House.  
"Our colleagues in Chittagong enjoy a better life living next to the port right in the heart of the city. Maybe that's See Page 12 Col 4

## 2 killed as gas line explodes in Sitakunda

CHITTAGONG, July 7: Two persons were killed in a gas line explosion today at a ship-breaking yard at Sonachhari under Sitakunda thana, some 30 km off here, reports BSS.  
According to Sitakunda police, the gas line exploded when two workers were welding an old pipeline at Kabir Steel Ship-Breaking Yard. Both the workers were burnt to death.  
The victims were identified as Abdul Kader, 27, and Fazlul Haq, 30. Police recovered the bodies.

## Dhaka-N'ganj train service in private sector begins

By Staff Correspondent  
Passenger train service in private sector began in the country on experimental basis yesterday with operation of train in the Dhaka-Narayanganj section of Bangladesh Railway (BR).  
A private company, HA International will run the service for two years on the basis of a lease given by the BR for Tk 65 lakh per year.  
A simple handing over ceremony was held at the Kamalpur railway station to mark the occasion.  
HA International took over the charge of running 14 local passenger trains in this route.  
Operation and maintenance will be conducted by Bangladesh Railway while the commercial side will be looked after by the private company.

## Cricketers off to Colombo

An 18-member national cricket team left Sri Lanka yesterday to take part in the sixth Asia Cup Cricket scheduled to begin there from July 14, reports UNB.  
State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader saw the team off at the airport. BCB President Saber Hossain Chowdhury MP was also present.  
The minister expressed his high hope that the cricket squad would be able to show its excellence of world standard in its encounters with the three World Cup champions — India, Pakistan and host and holder Sri Lanka.  
He requested the countrymen to pray for the players and their success.  
Bangladesh cricket team had taken part four times earlier in the Asia Cup, excepting the first one, but this time the team is See Page 12 Col 5

## BNP criticises new security measures for PM, President

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has said the Prime Minister is beefing up her own security leaving the countrymen in the hands of terrorists, reports UNB.  
He also criticised the Prime Minister for reducing the security opposition leader Begum Khaleda Zia by withdrawing security while stepping up that of her own.  
Addressing a reception accorded to him at Palpara Bazar of Shibpur thana in Narsingdi district, Bhuiyan said whenever a terrorist incident takes place, the government tries to involve the BNP in it instead of bringing the terrorists to book.

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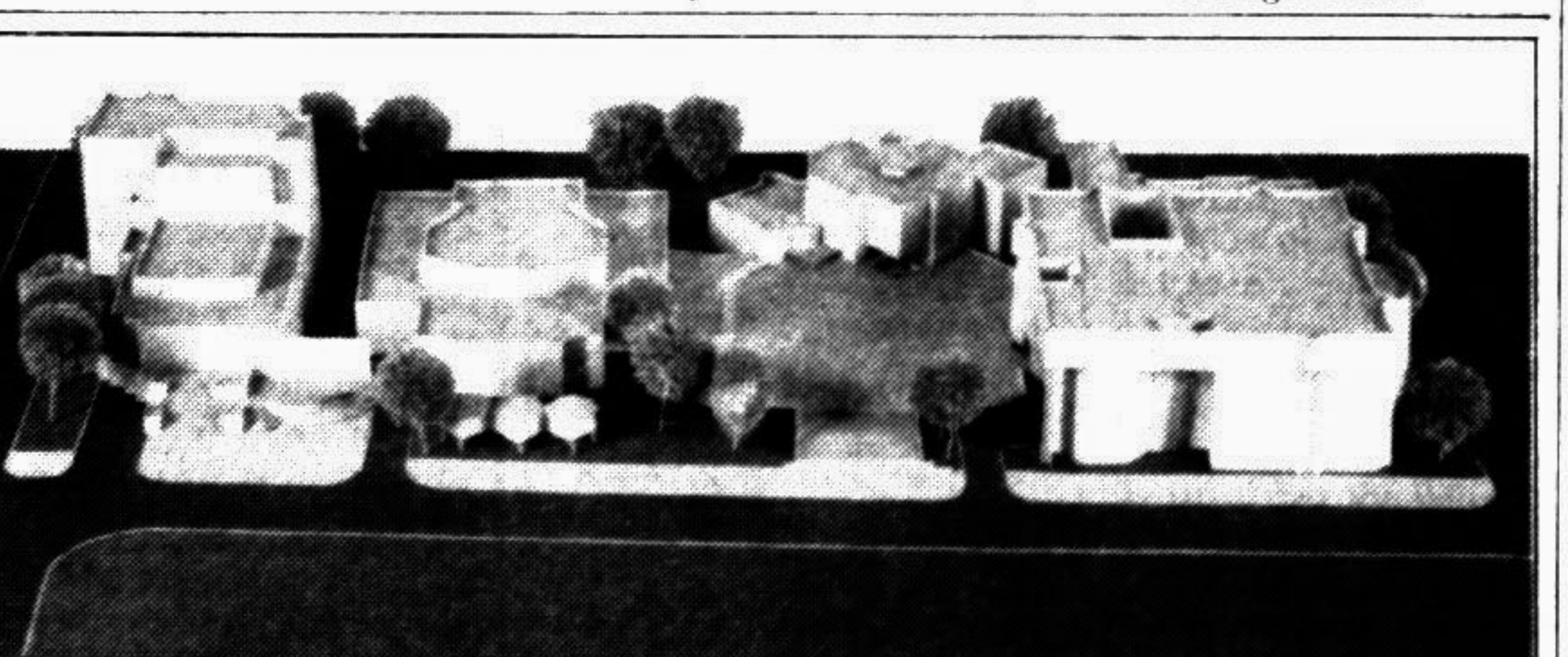
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**PM lays foundation of nat'l cultural complex today**  
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will lay the foundation stone of the national cultural complex, art gallery and music and dancing centre in the premises of Bangladesh Shilpa kala Academy (BSA) this morning. Renowned artist Safi uddin Ahmed and noted singer Kalim Sharafi will be present as guests of honour on the occasion, reports BSS.