



BNP chairperson Begum Khaleida Zia addressing a public meeting at Devishahar in Satkhira Saturday. — Star photo

**Nat'l Mourning Day
Bangabandhu
Parishad announces
3-day programme**

Bangabandhu Parishad has announced a three-day programme to observe the 23rd death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and National Mourning day August 15, reports BSS.

The Parishad will hold a rally at Gulshan No 1 Square at 3 pm tomorrow. It will bring out a mourning procession towards the Banani Graveyard after the rally and place wreaths on the graves of the martyrs of August 15.

A discussion will be held at the Engineers Institution auditorium at 4:30 pm on Aug 14. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will attend the meeting as chief guest.

On August 15, the Parishad will garland the portrait of Bangabandhu at bangabandhu Bhaban at 7:30 am. It will distribute food among the destitutes at Kalabagan Cricket field, hold a milad mahfil and arrange a blood donation programme at 2 pm. The Parishad will join the mourning procession towards Bangabandhu Bhaban at 3 pm.

Earlier, a meeting was held at the central office of the Parishad with presidium member Justice KM Solhan in the chair. General secretary of the Parishad and Political adviser to the Prime Minister Dr SA Malek addressed the meeting, highlighting the importance of the day.

Meanwhile, Dhaka City Awami League has called an emergency extended meeting at the party central office at 6 pm today to chalk out programmes for observing the day.

**New president of
Rotary Club of
Dhaka North East**



Khurshid Ahmed Khan, Executive Vice President of Pragati Insurance Limited, has been elected president of Rotary Club of Dhaka North East for the year 1998-99, says a press release.

National Professor Dr Nurul Islam, district governor Mohammed A Awwal, past district governors Magfur Uddin Ahmed, Prof Jalal Uddin Ahmed, Mosharrif Hossain, Azizul Huq, M A Wahab, Prof Moniruzzaman, Iqbal Ansari attended the installation ceremony held at a local hotel recently.



BCL brought out a mourning procession in the city yesterday to mark National Mourning Day on August 15. — Star photo

**BNP spreading propaganda
against govt: Zillur**

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman yesterday accused the opposition BNP of spreading false propaganda against the government for achieving narrow political gains, reports UNB.

"The BNP, as part of its conspiracy against the government, is using false propaganda to misguide the people on various national issues, even capitalising on the natural calamity like flood, for achieving narrow political interest," he said.

The minister was addressing the newcomers who joined Awami League from different political parties in Barguna district at his official residence in the city.

The newcomers, included UP chairman of Athabaria Golam Sarwar, chairman of Gulshakhal ABM Siddiqui Rahman, chairman of Haldia

Moazzem Hossain, former chairman of Amtoli TCSC Mostafizur Rahman Babul, Commander of the Muktojuddha Sangsad Abul Kalam Shamsuddin, businessmen Makbul Ahmed Khan, Haji Humayun Kabir, Dr M Shah Alam and MA Mannan.

The minister said a vested quarter has become jealous of the government's success, such as Ganges Water Sharing Treaty, CHT Peace Accord, construction of Bangabandhu Bridge, setting up of Employment Bank and introduction of old age allowance.

The Awami League general secretary alleged the BNP is trying to create artificial political crisis in the national life.

He urged the party leaders to work together with the countrymen for their welfare by foiling BNP's conspiracy.

**'Parliamentary training
instt to be set up'**

Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Matin Khasru has said that reforms are being carried out in the Jatiya Sangsad at the direction of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to establish the parliament as the centre of democratic practice and good governance, reports BSS.

Presiding over the concluding session of a two-day workshop of parliamentary scholars and parliamentarians in London on Sunday, the law minister said that a plan had been taken up to set up a parliamentary training institute for capacity-building in parliamentary practices in the country, according to a message received in the city yesterday.

He also mentioned the introduction of Prime Minister's question time in the Sangsad. Earlier, participating in the opening day discussion, the minister highlighted the Bangladesh experience of how legislation and administrative measures are being undertaken

for creating an atmosphere to attract foreign investment in Bangladesh.

The workshop, jointly sponsored by the University of Hull and the International Parliamentary Union (IPU), was attended by academics and parliamentarians from all over the world.

**Body of missing
schoolgirl found**

FENI, Aug 10: The body of a schoolgirl, who went missing nearly forty days ago, was found buried in a paddy field at Arkaim village in Sonagazi thana today, reports UNB.

Police said the body of Aklima, 15, who was missing since July 3, was recovered this morning. They said Aklima, daughter of Obaidul Haq of a nearby village, was taken by Yusuf Azad of Arkaim village on July 3 from her house on the pretext of marriage. Later, she was reportedly raped and killed.

Seventeen days after she went missing, Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association filed a case with Sonagazi thana. Police arrested three people, including the father, mother and maternal uncle of the accused in this connection. On information, police today dug out the body from the ground in presence of a Magistrate.

Death anniversary

The first death anniversary of Ahmed Ishak Abdullah (Kanak), son of Md Asaur Rahman and Hasina Rahman, who died in a road accident near Red Wings, Minnesota, USA, will be observed today, says a press release.

Kanak, 24, was studying Computer Science at Winona State University.

Seminar postponed

A seminar on 'land degradation and soil pollution' in Bangladesh, organised by the Soil Science Society of Bangladesh and scheduled to be held today at BARC auditorium, has been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances, says a press release.

A new date and venue for the seminar will be announced later, it said.

**Karpara UP
chairman urges
action against
terrorists**

By Staff Correspondent
Mohammad Abdur Rahim, Chairman of Karpara Union Parishad of Rangamati thana under Lakshimpur district, yesterday urged the Prime Minister and the Home Minister to take immediate steps against the terrorists who have created a reign of terror in his locality.

Addressing a press conference at the National Press Club, the UP chairman said he cannot return to his union because of a threat on his life by the terrorists.

He alleged that the terrorists under the shelter of the ruling Awami League have lodged a 'false' murder case against him. "Though I have been granted bail from the High Court in the case, the terrorists are threatening me with death," Abdur Rahim said.

The chairman also said that he was not in the area when the murder took place. He demanded proper judicial investigation into the case and urged the government to arrest the terrorists who have made the people's life miserable.

**Draft of shipping
policy by next
month likely**

The draft of the national shipping policy is expected to be finalised by the end of next month it was announced at the second meeting of the drafting committee in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

Presided over by Shipping Minister ASM Abdur Rob, the meeting reviewed the progress of the drafting sub-committee.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister called for developing an efficient port management system for ensuring survival of the country's trade and commercial market.

He hoped that the proposed shipping policy would embody the issues relating to marine guidelines as well as provisions for port development.

**Publication
ceremony
held**

By Staff Correspondent
The publication ceremony of 'The Novels of Tarashankar Bandopadhyaya: Society and Politics' by Dr Bhishwadev Chowdhury was held at the Bangla Academy seminar room yesterday, says a press release.

Presided over by Prof Mustafa Nurul Islam, the function was attended by Prof Muhammad Idris Ali, Prof Shantanu Kaiser and litterateur Subrata Barua, Director General of the Academy. Prof Syed Anwar Hossain delivered the address of welcome.

The speakers described Tarashankar as a 'rebel' against the social ills and an artist who portrayed political realities with a passionate and sensitive heart.

**Executive dev
programme of
CCCI begins**

CHITTAGONG, Aug 10: A six-month executive development programme under the auspices of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) began here today at the chamber house, reports BSS.

According to a chamber press release, the inaugural function was presided over by Chittagong Chamber President Kamaluddin Ahmed. It was addressed by Director of the Institute of Business Administration of Dhaka University Prof Dr Nurur Rahman and senior vice-president of the Chamber Saifuzzaman Chowdhury.

Speaking on the occasion, the chamber president said Chittagong Chamber had imparted training to some 3200 executives and business entrepreneurs of various growth sectors.

**Timber seized
at Rangamati,
Kaptai Lake area**

RANGAMATI, Aug 10: Officials of Chittagong Hill Tracts South Forest Division have seized about 485 cubic feet (cft) of timber, including 350 cft of teak, and a huge quantity of wooden furniture worth about Taka three lakh in separate raids conducted Aug 9 and 10 at Kaptai Lake area and Rangamati town, reports BSS.

An engine boat and a bus used to smuggle the contraband was seized in this connection, said Tapan Kumar Dey, Divisional Forest Officer.

Forest officials opened three rounds of blank fire Saturday night at Kaptai Lake area to overpower the smugglers, he added.



M Abdur Rahim, chairman of Karpara Union Parishad of Rangamati thana under Lakshimpur district, addressing a press conference at the National Press Club yesterday. — Star photo

**Photo Journalists'
Forum submits
memo to PM**

A delegation of Bangladesh Photo Journalists' Forum called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday, reports UNB.

The delegation, led by forum president Pavel Rahman, also submitted a memorandum containing some demands.

Talking to them, the Prime Minister said, "The photo journalists take a lot of risk while covering an event... They don't care for their lives while covering the professional assignment."

She said different events could be preserved and projected through the photograph and impact of a news story is enhanced with the addition of a picture.

The Prime Minister gave a patient hearing to the delegation and assured them of all possible help in realising their demands.

The delegation members included forum secretary Azizur Rahim Piu, Monwar Ahmed, M Alam, Shambhunath Nandi, Shamsuddin Ahmed Charu, AZM Shahidullah, M Rafiqullah, Mosharrif Hossain, Jalaluddin Haidar, Yasin Kabir Joy, Shamsul Islam Tinku, Yusuf Saad and SM Gorki.

**'Abhimot' on
BTV Aug 20**

The next episode of 'Abhimot' will be telecast live on BTV on August 20 at 9 pm, says a press release.

The topic for this episode is "How to increase employment opportunities for the educated unemployed." Interested viewers have been asked to send in their views and opinions on the topic to the Producer of Abhimot, Bangladesh Television, Room No 216, Television Bhaban, Rampura, or at Fax No. 832927.

The last date for sending in opinions is August 19.

**Gazi Shamsur
Rahman
hospitalised**

Eminent lawyer and writer Gazi Shamsur Rahman was admitted to BIRDEM Hospital on Sunday night, reports UNB.

He was kept in the intensive care unit of the hospital as he was still in a coma, hospital sources said.

Gazi Shamsur Rahman went to Singapore for medical treatment on July 25 and returned home on Sunday.

**Two arrested
with firearms**

Two people were arrested along with five revolvers from the city's Joykalinmandir area on Sunday night, reports UNB. Police said they arrested the two people on suspicion and recovered the revolvers from their possessions, said a DMP press release.

**3 hijackers
held at Ctg**

CHITTAGONG, Aug 10: A special team of Detective Branch of Chittagong Metropolitan Police arrested three alleged hijackers from Korbaniganj under Kotwali thana today, reports BSS.

According to a CMP press release, the team acting on a tip-off nabbed the hijackers while they were preparing to commit a crime.

Sensing police presence, the hijackers, who were riding a scooter, threw four cocktails at them.

At one stage, police caught one of the hijackers, Kanak, a .38 Smith and Wesson handgun and one round of ammunition was found on him. They later rounded up three others of the gang.

Meanwhile, Panchlaish police with the help of local people arrested an alleged extortionist Biplob Das, from Badamtala here today and recovered a pistol from him.

**Bus service to be
introduced across
Bangabandhu
Bridge**

A double-decker bus will ply on Bangabandhu Bridge to facilitate the movement of sightseers and avert mishaps on the bridge, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) and Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authorities (JMBA) signed an agreement to this effect Sunday. Under the agreement, the double-decker will run from 6 am to 6 pm everyday, said an official handout.

A one-way ticket will cost Tk 10 and a two-way ticket Tk 15, it added.



Hamidur Rahman, a social worker, distributed relief materials among the flood victims of Sabujbagh area in the city yesterday. — Star photo

**Distribution of
flood relief
continues**

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak yesterday visited different flood-affected areas in Sariatpur district and distributed relief materials among the affected people, an official handout said, report agencies.

While visiting the flood-hit areas of Gosairhat Damuddya and Kodajpur, the minister said the government has taken all-out efforts to help the affected people.

The minister distributed relief materials including sarees, lungees and rice among the flood victims, the handout added.

Food and Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury yesterday visited different flood-hit areas in the city including Labagh, Nawabganj and Kamrangirchar and distributed relief materials.

She was accompanied by Secretary General of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin and local Awami League leaders.

While visiting the areas, the minister said her ministry has already allocated Taka 8.12 crore for post-flood agricultural rehabilitation programmes, the handout added.

Bangladesh armed forces continued their relief activities among the flood victims in the city.

Army personnel yesterday distributed 7,500 packets of prepared food, pure water and water purifying tablets among the flood victims at Rajar Dewri Government Primary School, Gonokoti Government Primary School, Madartek Primary School, Modhubag Kishalay Braç School and Manda College centres.

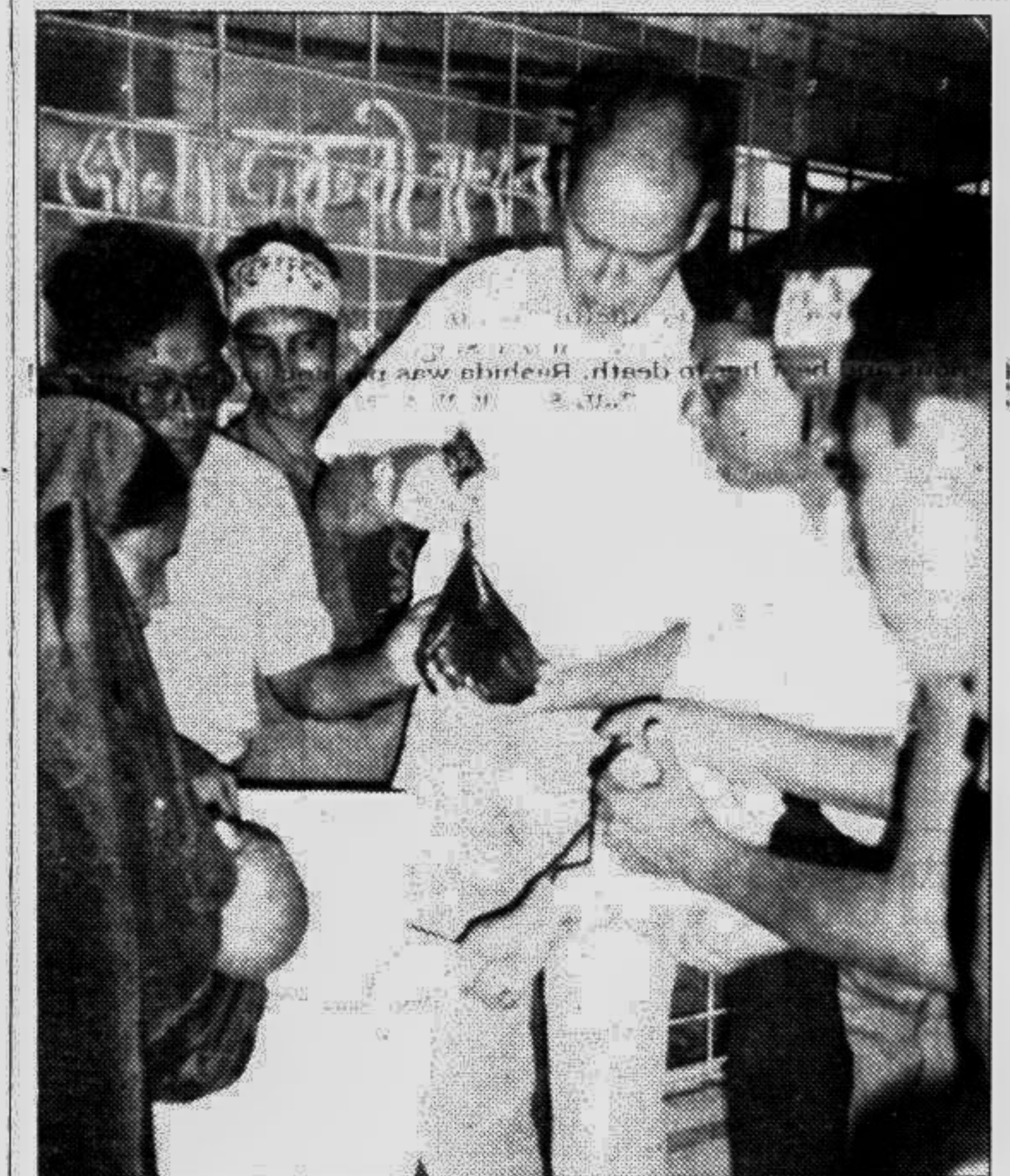
Meanwhile, Proshika, a leading NGO, has taken up a programme to distribute relief goods among 9,000 flood-hit families of Mohammadpur, Gulshan, Uttara, Demra, Tongi and Narayanganj.

Under the relief operation, being implemented by the Urban Poor Development Programme (UPDP) of Proshika, each family will get 10 kg of rice, one kg lentils, baby food and other daily essentials as well as emergency medicines.

The programme was formally launched at the Shyamoli Ring Road office of UPDP Sunday through distribution of relief materials among flood victims of Mohammadpur



Major (Retd) M Atiqur Rahman, executive committee member of Dhaka Club Limited, handed over Tk 50,000 on behalf of the Club to Abul Kalam Azad, MP, on Aug 2 for distribution of relief materials among the flood-affected people of Dewanganj and Bakshiganj areas of Jamalpur district.



Den Hartog of the Netherlands Embassy in Dhaka distributing relief materials during the formal launching of Proshika's relief operation at Shyamoli in the city Sunday.

**Vajpayee blasts
US denial of
visas to Indian
N-scientists**

BOMBAY, Aug 10: Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee complained Monday the denial of visas to Indian nuclear scientists by the United States and Britain was "unjustified and futile," reports ANI.

"It is not going to discourage the Indian scientists in pursuit of research and development," Vajpayee said in a speech marking the 50th anniversary of the Bhabha Atomic Research Center.

More than 75 Indian scientists working in US laboratories on fellowship and exchange programmes were asked to leave by the Clinton administration after India carried out five nuclear tests in May. Four Indian nuclear scientists also were denied visas to attend scientific meetings in the United States and Britain.

India, the prime minister said, was prepared to participate in a nondiscriminatory treaty on nonproliferation and nuclear disarmament. India says the existing treaty protects the arsenals of the five recognised nuclear powers.

"They key word is collective endeavor. A few nations are sitting on huge stockpiles," he said. "As a nation of one billion people, India cannot be party to an unfair world order," Vajpayee said.

He referred to the growing power shortage in India and promised to accelerate the long-stalled nuclear power programme. "In the last seven years, only two nuclear power plants have gone critical," he said.

**Clinton urged to address nation
Call for speedy resolution
of Monica Lewinsky case**

WASHINGTON, Aug 10: Both President Bill Clinton's supporters and detractors called Sunday for a speedy resolution of the Monica Lewinsky affair that has distracted the White House since January, reports AFP.

The President is to testify on August 17 by closed-circuit television before a Grand Jury originally called to look into a 1970s land deal that has now turned its attention to a sex-and-perjury scandal.

Senator Arlen Specter, a Pennsylvania Republican told CBS News that he had asked lead investigator Kenneth Starr for a report very soon that includes a determination whether or not the President perjured himself in denying an affair with a former White House intern, Monica Lewinsky, or encouraged her to lie.

"I hope that Starr submits his report before the end of August," said Specter.

"In my letter to judge Starr I said, make a report if there's something and make a report if there's nothing," he said.

"Let's get along with the business of the country." "There's inevitably a worldwide response of wonderment as to what goes on in Washington. But I think these terrorists are pursuing a very deadly line," he added, referring to the twin bombings of US embassies in Africa. "I would discount miss Lewinsky as being a cause of distraction."

Senator Orrin Hatch, a Republican from Utah, said there was need to find a speedy end to the Lewinsky affair. Earlier Reuters says, the

head of a leading women's activist group urged President Bill Clinton on Sunday to address the nation about the White House sex-and-perjury scandal, as a new poll showed support for Clinton wavering among women.

The programme reported that its own poll found that Clinton's favourable rating among women — whose votes were instrumental in Clinton's presidential victories fell to 53 per cent at the end of July from 60 per cent in January.

A Grand Jury is investigating allegations Clinton had sexual affairs with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky and then urged her to lie about it under oath.

**China scales back
flood diversion
activities**

BEIJING, Aug 10: Officials scaled down plans to dynamite dikes and divert flood waters into farmland as the level of the swollen Yangtze fell slightly on Monday, reports AP.

But urban areas remained on high alert as another flood crest, the fourth this summer, roared past Wuhan this afternoon, forcing residents to stack more sandbags atop dikes that have been constantly reinforced and raised over past weeks.

Flood officials blasted dikes at Jianli county in Hubei on Sunday to divert flood waters and lower the river by 10-25 centimetres along its middle and lower reaches.