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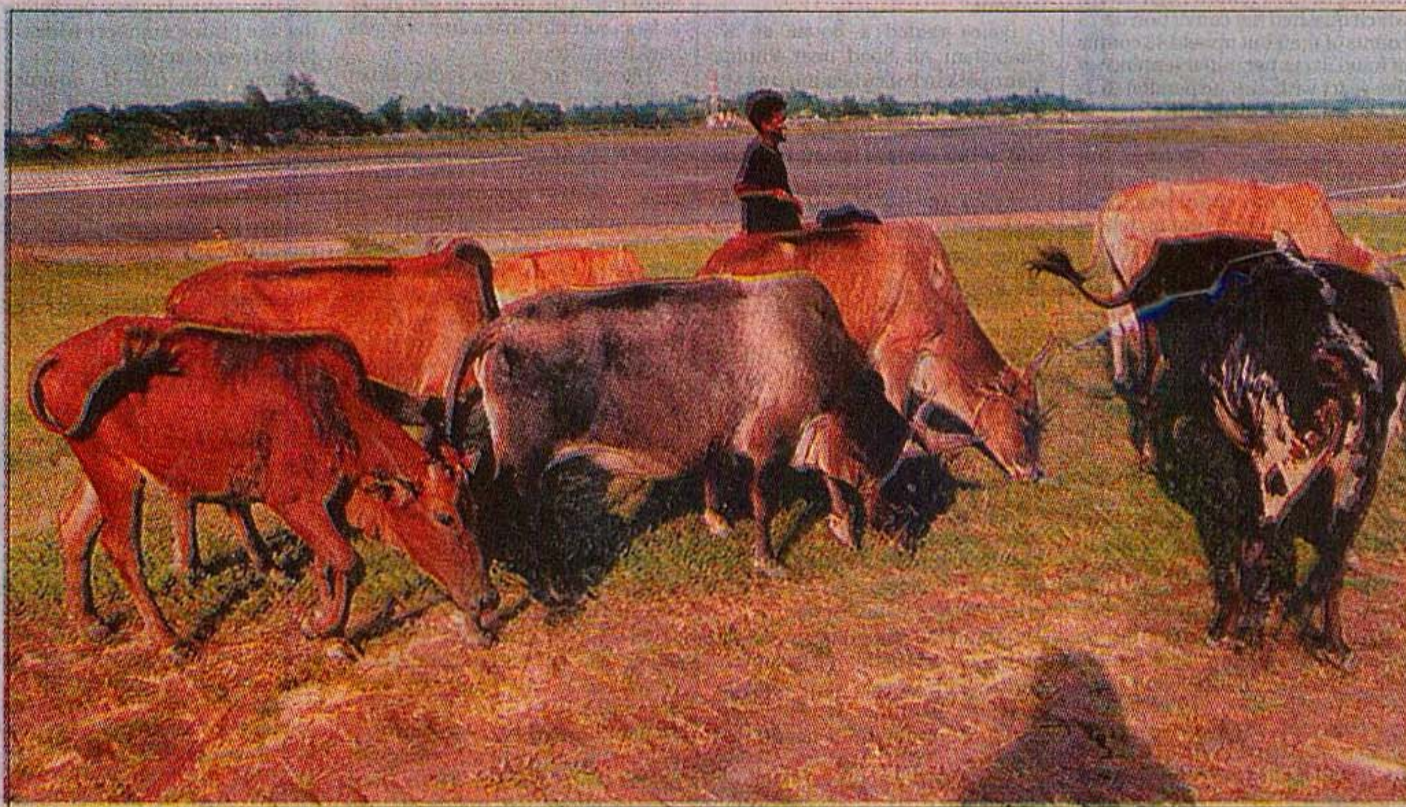
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PM wants stricter security for VVIPs

UNB, Dhaka
Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday suggested an integrated security system for the dignitaries through coordination among the relevant institutions.
She said security of VVIPs (very very important persons) in the fast-changing world has turned into a multi-faceted task.
The prime minister was addressing a 'darbar' of officers and members of President Guard Regiment (PGR) on the occasion of the regiment's 29th founding anniversary at its headquarters at Dhaka Cantonment.
This day in 1975, the elite military regiment was formed with smart and skilled members of the army to provide security to very, very important persons from home and abroad.
Ministers, MPs, chiefs of the three services and high civil and military

officials attended the function.
The prime minister, who also holds the charge of defence ministry, appreciated efficient performance of such onerous duty by the PGR for nearly 30 years.
"You also earned equal success in professional excellence being engaged in the important responsibility like security and protocol activities," the prime minister told the rank and file of President Guard Regiment.
She asked the PGR members to show sincerity, sense of discipline and professionalism in performing their assigned duty of ensuring security of important foreign personalities, including heads of state and government.
The prime minister said the efforts of the government for enhancing the professional skill and standard were continuing as various programmes are already underway

in this regard.
She recalled with deep respect the PGR personnel, including Captain Hafiz Naik
Taher, soldiers Kashem, Shah Alam and Rouf, who sacrificed their lives trying to protect the life of President Ziaur Rahman on May 30, 1981 and set a unique instance of embracing martyrdom in performing responsibilities.
She prayed for peace of the departed souls and conveyed sympathy to the families of the martyred PGR members.
The prime minister distributed gifts among the family members of the slain PGR personnel.
Earlier, a guard of honor was accorded to the prime minister by the PGR members on her arrival at the venue. Army Chief Lt General Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury and other senior officers received her.



A herd of cattle blissfully graze on the forbidden landing zone at the MAG Osmani International Airport in Sylhet, raising fears of serious accident.

MV NASRIN-1 MISHAP Blast sues govt for Tk 29 crore compensation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) yesterday brought a Tk 29-crore compensation suit against the government for victims of the MV Nasreen-1 capsized in the Meghna in July 2003.
The Blast, in favour of 121 victims of the launch mishap, filed the suit with Third Joint District Judge's Court against 21 people belonging to the government, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), Sea Transport Directorate, launch company and its owner.
Blaming neglect of safety regulations and structural faults as the reason for the accident, the Blast said the victims' family members are passing their days in utmost misery as most depended on the missing or the dead. Most of the injured have become disabled, it added.
Dr Kamal Hossain, Advocates Nizamul Huq Nasim, Abdul Quatim, Farida Yasmin and Abdul
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Iraq cleric renews resistance call

Terms interim govt illegitimate; 3 killed in attacks; Saddam defence team to meet Gaddafi's daughter

AP, Baghdad, Iraq
Militant Shia cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, who led an April uprising that left hundreds dead, called Iraq's new interim government "illegitimate" and pledged to resist occupation forces to the "last drop of blood."
The cleric's comments apparently reversed earlier conciliatory statements he made to the government of Prime Minister Iyad Allawi. Members of al-Sadr's movement

had also suggested they might transform their militia into a political party.
"We pledge to the Iraqi people and the world to continue resisting oppression and occupation to our last drop of blood," al-Sadr said in a statement distributed Sunday by his office in the Shia holy city of Najaf, where his al-Mahdi militia battled American troops until a cease-fire last month.
"Resistance is a legitimate right and not a crime to be punished," he

said.
Previously, Al-Mahdi fighters accepted cease-fires in most Shia areas after suffering huge losses at the hands of the Americans.
However, in his statement Sunday, the young cleric said, "There is no truce with the occupier and those who cooperate with it."
"We announce that the current government is illegitimate and illegal," al-Sadr said. "It's generally following the occupation. We
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FOOD POISONING 4 Biman staff suspended on probe finds

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Biman authorities yesterday suspended four of its staff in the wake of Friday's food poisoning on the Jeddah-Dhaka Biman flight that left some 50 passengers sick.
A top official of Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism confirmed the suspension.
The fact-finding committee of Biman Flight Catering Service (BFCS) yesterday submitted its report, a day behind deadline.
Sources said the four suspended staff of Biman Bangladesh Airlines include the chief purser and cabin crew of the Biman flight 036 that flew in to Dhaka from Jeddah.
The committee members however declined to talk about the finds and the managing director of Biman could not be reached by phone till 10:00pm.

Floods in south take turn for the worse

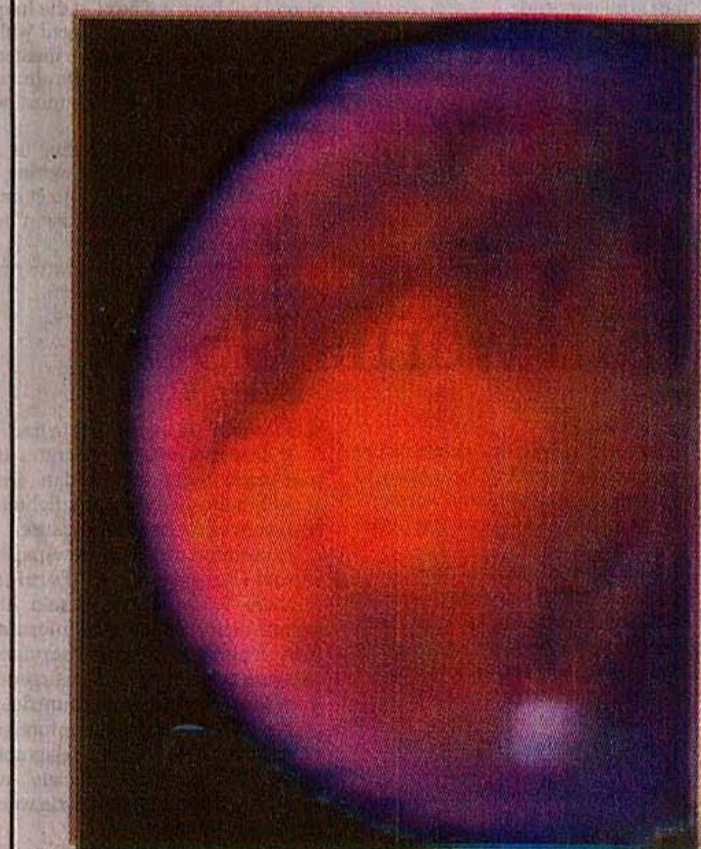
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal
Flood situation in Bhola, Patuakhali and Barguna districts has rapidly deteriorated in last 48 hours leaving thousands of people stranded in a vast area inundated under floodwater.
Over 10 thousand people of the four villages of Dhania and Kachia unions under Sadar upazila of Bhola were worst affected with their homes and crop land submerged by floodwater of the Meghna.
Ganga Kirti, Kali Kirti, Nasir Majhi and Balaram Sur under Sadar upazila of Bhola appeared to be the most affected villages, local sources said. Meghna, still turbulent with

high tidal water and a strong current, has eroded a mosque, three educational institutes and a number of houses in Nasir Majhi village.
Meanwhile, floodwater continued to enter the town of Bhola through the cracks in the embankment. Ring Embankment was facing a grim prospect of erosion, said Bahadur Ferdous, UP chairman of Dhania.
Sonarpur and Chandpur union and Char Jahiruddin in Tajmuddin upazila of Bhola too were freshly flooded in last two days.
An 11-member town protection committee has been formed in Bhola. The committee includes representatives from political par-

ties, socio-cultural and professional organisations and students.
A meeting of the Bhola Town Protection Committee on Saturday demanded a large-scale project to protect the Bhola town.
News from Patuakhali said the district town, along with the riverbanks and low lying areas of the district, has been flooded. Many roads of the district town have gone under three to four feet water disrupting communications.
If this condition lingers on, newly constructed and repaired roads at the cost of Tk 20 crore under a project of DANIDA will be badly damaged.
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KU Teachers Association begins class boycott

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna
Khulna University Teachers Association (KUTA) yesterday decided to boycott classes until unruly students who went on rampage at the vice-chancellor's (VC) house Sunday are brought to book.
President of KUTA Prof MA Rahim at a press conference condemned the assault on the VC and rampage at his residence.
The KUTA president also demanded to identify those who are instigating students to mar academic atmosphere under the guise of agitation against the VC. He blamed the prevailing situation on conflict between the VC and the pro-VC.
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Saturn's moon Titan appears dry

AP, PASADENA, California
Scientists released what they called the best pictures yet of the frozen surface of Saturn's enormous moon Titan but said they were puzzled that the Cassini spacecraft hadn't glimpsed any evidence of liquids.
The latest images of Titan, released Saturday, revealed a single set of clouds about the size of Arizona and dark and light shapes across the moon that the imaging team continued to analyze.
The shots of the moon's surface features were taken during Cassini's first pass Friday at a distance of about 200,000 miles.
"It's different from anything we've ever seen before," imaging scientist Elizabeth Turtle said. "We're still trying to understand the surface of Titan."
One indistinct circular shape could be a huge crater, and a linear shape could be a hydrocarbon river or a fault
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2007 WORLD CUP ICC leaves out United States

REUTERS, London
The United States will not host any of the matches in the 2007 World Cup in the West Indies, the International Cricket Council said on Monday.
The US, using a venue in Florida, had bid along with 12 other venues to host matches in the competition but failed to be one of the eight grounds chosen by the ICC and West Indies Cricket Board.
"By the venues that met the criteria it was eliminated," ICC chairman Ehsan Mani told a news conference in London. "The United States will be one of the venues considered for the warm-up matches."
He said security concerns and visa difficulties had also played a part in the decision.
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Prayer Timing		
July 6		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	4-10	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-55	7-00
Esha	8-17	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation



Thanks to hawkers and mindless car parking, students of Willes Little Flower School and their guardians have to fight their way through a human congestion along the footpath every day.

CTG ARMS HAUL Hearing on charge-framing adjourned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
The hearing on charge-framing of the largest ever arms haul could not be held yesterday due to reported illness of the investigating officer (IO) of the case.
Judge Fazul Karim of the Court of Metropolitan Sessions Judge fixed July 15 as the next date of hearing.
The court fixed fresh date for hearing as IO AKM Kabir Uddin, additional superintendent of police of the CID, in a petition expressed his inability to show up on account of an ache in his waist and prayed to adjourn court proceedings.
Earlier on June 13, the IO pressed charges accusing 39 people and showing 71 people as prosecution witnesses -- about two and a half months after the arms haul at Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Ltd. (CUFL) jetty on April 2.

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Iran warns US of global retaliation if attacked

AFP, Tehran
Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei warned the United States yesterday that any attack on the Islamic republic's interests would be met with a global response.
"If the enemy attacks our scientific, natural, human or technological interests, the Iranian people will cut off its hand without hesitation and place in danger the interests of the aggressor everywhere in the world," he told a gathering in the western city of Hamedan.
According to the official news agency IRNA, the all-powerful guide was responding to US allegations that Iran was damaging Washington's interests.
The United States, often simply
SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

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