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VOL. II NO. 172 REGD. NO. DA 781

The Daily Star

SHRAVAN 1, 1399 BS,

DHAKA THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1992

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12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 4.00

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AL-led opposition walks out: JP, Jamaat vote against

SSF bill passed

By Staff Correspondent

With Awami League (AL) led Opposition staging a quiet walk out Parliament yesterday passed the Special Security Force (SSF) Bill, 1992, on a voice vote. The Jamaat-Islami and Jatiya Party stayed back but voted against the bill.

The Bill, an amendment of the Presidential Security Force (popularly known as PSF) Act, 1986, provides for special security arrangements to protect the Prime Minister. The Bill met with resistance when it was tabled in the House on July 1 by Abdus Salam Talukder, Minister responsible for Prime Minister's Office in Parliament.

The SSF, headed by a director who would perform and exercise all the powers and duties of the Chief of Army Staff of the Bangladesh Army.

The responsibilities of the Force include among others,

providing physical security to the Prime Minister and to very important persons in Bangladesh.

The Force shall be a disciplined force within the meaning of Article 152 of the Constitution and its superintendence and command shall vest in the Prime Minister.

The law further says that "an officer of the Force may arrest without warrant any person when there is any reason to believe that the presence or movement of such a person at or near the place where the Prime Minister or a very important person is living or staying or through which he is passing or about to pass is prejudicial to the physical security of the Prime Minister or such very important persons, and if such a person forcibly resists the endeavour to arrest him, or attempts to evade ar-

rest, such officers may use all means necessary to effect arrest, and may, if necessary and after giving such warning as may be appropriate in the circumstances of the case, fire upon him or otherwise use force against him as to cause death."

Taking part in the discussions on the Bill, the Opposition MPs, while supporting the need for a security force for the Prime Minister, opposed some of the provisions of the proposed bill.

Arguing against, the Opposition members said that people were the best security for an elected Prime Minister.

They also said that substituting the word Prime Minister for President would in essence not change the Act, rather it would put the 'garb of despotism' on an elected Prime Minister.

The Opposition observed that in the past members belonging to security force killed the presidents of the republic, so the members of the SSF should be made accountable.

Some of the Opposition members also observed that to amend the PSF Act of 1986, two-thirds of the vote would be required as the Act was ratified by Seventh Amendment of the Constitution. They further added that redesignation of the PSF would devalue the honour and prestige of the President, who continued to be the highest person of the republic even after the introduction of the parliamentary democracy.

A total of 41 Opposition MPs participated in the discussion prominent among them include Abdus Samad

See Page 12 Col 7

Delhi planning exchange of enclaves

CALCUTTA, July 15: The West Bengal government today held a high-level meeting to discuss the overall situation in the Tinbigha corridor ahead of the scheduled talks between the two secretaries of the union government and the state government officials next Friday, reports PTI.

Official sources here said that Friday's meeting would discuss, among others, the issue of the exchange of enclaves between the two countries and the 'left out issues' of the 1974 Indira-Mujib accord. The state's Home Secretary Manish Gupta told newsmen here that the actual areas and the population involved in the process of exchange would also be ascertained at the meeting.

While 110 Indian enclaves, covering 17,000 acres of land and involving 40,000 people, were still in Bangladesh, as many as 72 of them of Bangladesh with an area of 7,000 acres of land and a pop-

ulation of 30,000 were located in the Indian territory. Of the 72 enclaves, 69 were Coochbehar district and the rest in Jalpaiguri district, the sources said.

The central team, the sources said, included secretaries of the Union Home Department and the External Affairs Ministry.

Meanwhile, with the 'absolute normalcy' prevailing in the Tinbigha corridor, the district administration had decided to keep the passage open for six alternative hours every day from next month.

The Coochbehar District Magistrate Gopal Krishna, who came here in connection with Friday's meeting, told newsmen that the decision was taken at a joint meeting between him and his counterpart in Lalmonirhat recently.

The passage at present remained open for four alternative hours a day.

57 killed in plane crash near Aden

SANA, July 15: A Soviet-built military transport plane crashed in bad weather near Aden, killing all 57 people on board, an official announcement said Wednesday, reports AP.

The plane, an Antonov, crashed Tuesday while on a flight to Aden from the Yemeni island of Socatra, a former Soviet military base 500 miles (800 kilometres) off Aden, the announcement said.

The state radio quoted a government announcement as saying 68 people were killed in the accident. But a second announcement carried by the official news agency Saba revised the death toll to 57, and said the victims were all Yemenis.

The passengers included civilians and military personnel, Yemeni officials said. They could not provide a breakdown.

The Yemeni air force's An-12, An-24 and An-26 transport planes often are put into commercial use during the stormy monsoon season in the Indian Ocean.

The government announced
 See Page 12 Col 8



Rush for Nikunja plot forms at Rajuk office yesterday.

— Star photo

Bill for recovery of financial loans passed

An amendment bill seeking to provide for measure for early disposal of cases and recovery of financial loans was passed in the Jatiya Sangsad last night after about two hours of discussion, reports BSS.

The Commercial Court for Recovery of Financial Loans (Amendment) Bill, 1992, piloted by State Minister for Finance Mujibar Rahman, provides that a defendant willing to appeal against ex-parte decree of the Court is to attach with application a bank security of at least half of the money decreed without which the application will not be acceptable.

The Bill further provides that a defendant desiring to appeal to the high court against the final verdict of the Commercial Court is to deposit at least half of the money decreed on him.

Explaining the objectives of the amendment bill, the State Minister for Finance said it would help inject dynamism to the country's economy.

He said the present government wants to realise money from the defaulters to reinvest those in setting up new industries with a view to generating employment opportunities for the unemployed.

See Page 12 Col 7

Allahabad HC stays temple construction

LUCKNOW, July 15: The special full bench of the High Court hearing Ramjanabhoomi-Babri Masjid cases today restrained the opposite party including the state of the Uttar Pradesh from carrying out any construction activity on the acquired land, reports PTI.

The bench further observed that the interim order would be subject to the order passed by the Supreme Court in the matter pending before it for hearing today.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court will decide today on sending an independent commissioner to investigate the nature of ongoing construction activity in the Ramjanabhoomi-Babri Masjid Complex at Ayodhya after the Uttar Pradesh government gives a clear picture on whether the structure being put up is permanent or temporary.

A Division Bench comprising Justice M N Venkatachaliah and Justice G N Ray gave the indication while hearing three contempt petitions against the state government, the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, Kalyan Singh, and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad for allegedly violating court orders by putting up a permanent

construction on the acquired land.

AFP from Delhi says: Hindu militants pursued for a seventh straight day Wednesday their explosive campaign to raise a temple for their God Rama near a Muslim shrine in northern India.

Men, women and children proceeded with the construction of an elaborate 'Singh Dwar' (lions gate) for the proposed temple in the Hindu pilgrim town of Ayodhya, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said.

Hindus have laid the corner stone for the proposed Rama Temple just 100 feet (30 metres) away from the sanctum of the 16th century Babri Mosque in the town located in Uttar Pradesh state.

The building work, which started July 9, proceeded under tight security enforced near the site by the Uttar Pradesh government, controlled by the pro-Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party), PTI said.

Thousands of volunteers are involved in the construction sponsored by the militant Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP or World Hindu Council), which today rejected outright

See Page 12 Col 6

IDB to build camp for Rohingyas

By Farid Hossain

Islamic Development Bank (IDB) has agreed to construct a camp that will provide shelter to nearly 50,000 Rohingya Muslim refugees who have fled to Bangladesh to escape persecution in Myanmar, a senior official said Wednesday.

Khaddaker Shahidul Islam, Relief Commissioner for Rohingya Refugees, said in Cox's Bazar that work on building the camp at Jummapara in Ukhaia upazila will start soon.

Islam said that the camp would almost solve the housing problem for 264,864 refugees living in the hilly Cox's Bazar-Teknaf region. Currently 59,000 refugees do not have tin-shed huts and canvas tents.

The planned shelter would raise to 23 the number of camps built for the refugees who depend on rations provided by the government.

Islam said that the government had food stocks for only two months for the refugees. The stocks comprise 9010 metric tons of rice, 1080 tons of lentils, and 349 tons of oil.

"We have enough food for 68 days," he said, adding the government is negotiating a deal with the World Food Programme for new supplies.

The government gives 500
 See Page 12 Col 6

10,000 try luck for 398 Nikunja plots

By Asiuzzaman

Some 10,000 people have purchased forms for 398 plots at the new housing project of the Rajdhani Unnayan Katripakha (Rajuk) near Joarshara near the old airport.

Wednesday was the last date for taking application forms for the Nikunja project and the authorities had to print additional forms as the previously supplied 8,000 were exhausted, official sources said.

The Rajuk branch of Agrani Bank distributed forms until midnight Wednesday, witnesses said adding that both men and women were seen waiting in the queue since

down to procure the forms. Police were deployed to maintain peace.

The sources said that although several thousand forms were sold, only about 500 were submitted until Wednesday.

The authorities, however, extended the last date of submitting forms to July 30 to facilitate the people, a source said and added that "no form will be distributed during the extended period."

Bank sources said that they opened 10 additional counters to remove the tremendous pressure.

See Page 12 Col 8

Transport workers clash again

Clashes between two rival groups of transport workers in the busy Gulistan area of the capital yesterday left at least two people injured, reports UNB.

Witnesses said Billal Hossain, a bus conductor on the Sadarghat-Rampura route, was injured when a cocktail was hurled at the bus at Kaptan Bazar crossing last afternoon.

Another unidentified man sustained injuries when the two feuding groups clashed at Gulistan over the control of the bus terminal.

Both the groups fired gunshots and exploded bombs.
 See Page 12 Col 2

Nirmul Body rally to protest 'flag tearing' July 20

By Staff Correspondent

The Ekatturer Ghatok-Dalal Nirmul Samannay Committee will hold a public meeting on July 20 at Bangabandhu Avenue to protest the Kushtia incident in which the National Flag was "desecrated."

The decision was taken at a general meeting of the committee which was presided over by its Convenor, Jahanara Imam, and attended by Abdur Razzak MP, Kazi Aref Ahmed, Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, Syed Hassan Imam, Mirza Sultan Raza, Nirmal Sen, A F M Mahbulul Huq, Mofazzel Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Mustaq Hossain, Advocate Z I Khan Panna and Nayeem

See Page 12 Col 5

Bosnian leaders meet Carrington

LONDON, July 15: A Bosnian Muslim leader said Wednesday he would not meet the head of the Serbian delegation, who earlier had offered a unilateral cease-fire and a guaranteed corridor to supply relief to the people of the embattled republic, reports AP.

Bosnian Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic said the Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, had declared war. "I am not prepared to sit with child-killers. Never," he said after a one-hour meeting with European Community mediator Lord Carrington.

Silajdzic accused Serbs of trying to "ethnically cleanse" opponents. "Ethnic cleansing

we felt was a thing of the past, it's not. Hitler is not history, Hitler is living right now."

Carrington was meeting representatives of Bosnia's three warring factions separately at Christie's auction house in central London Wednesday morning before formal peace talks open at a London hotel around 1330 GMT.

Karadzic and Silajdzic used different entrances at the auction house for their meetings with Carrington, chairman of Christie's.

Carrington was scheduled also to meet separately with Mate Boban, the leader of a Croat army who earlier this

month declared a new republic of Herzeg Bosnia. Boban was expected to arrive in London at mid-afternoon.

Silajdzic told reporters that Muslims, who have sustained heavy casualties in Bosnia's 4 1/2 month civil war, felt they were being forced into negotiations.

"We are committed to the talks. But meaningful talks cannot be held at gunpoint. The killing must be stopped," Silajdzic said. He called for international control of Serbian heavy weapons across Bosnia.

He dismissed Karadzic's offer of a unilateral ceasefire. "We have had that before... these unilateral promises...

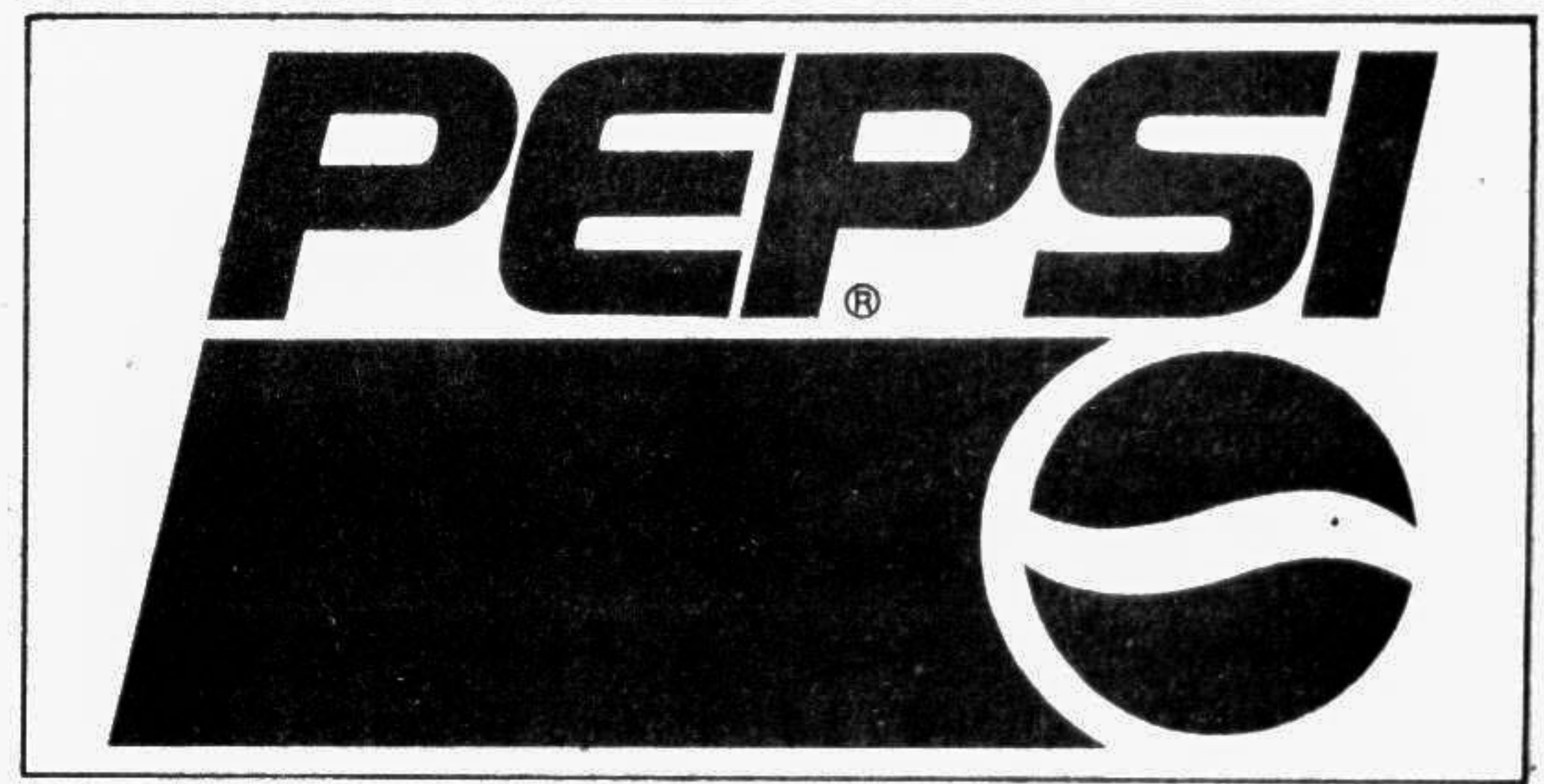
have brought more destruction, killed more people."

After an earlier meeting with Carrington, Karadzic said he had agreed to guarantee a ground corridor for humanitarian aid to stricken Bosnia.

"We have accepted to guarantee (a) ground corridor for humanitarian aid and to guarantee also (an) airlift for humanitarian aid," Karadzic said.

He said talks had progressed: "We have found some good signs that we are going to make an advancement."

The Foreign Office said the formal talks will be chaired by Portuguese diplomat Jose Cutileiro.



পেপসি সামগ্রী বিক্রেতাদের জন্য আকর্ষণীয় বোনাস

বিশ্ব বিখ্যাত কোমল পানীয় পেপসি, মিরিগা ও সেভেন-আপ বোতলজাতকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান এর পক্ষ থেকে সম্মানিত বিক্রেতাদের অধিক মুনাফা লাভের কথা বিবেচনা করে আকর্ষণীয় বোনাস ঘোষণা করছে।

আপনার ব্যবসায় অধিক লাভ প্রদানের লক্ষ্যে কোম্পানী প্রতি কেইস পানীয় ক্রয়ের সাথে ২ (দুই) বোতল শুধু পানীয় বিনা মূল্যে প্রদানের সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণ করেছে।

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আজই পেপসি সামগ্রী দিয়ে আপনার ভাগ্য ভরে তুলুন এবং অধিক মুনাফা অর্জন করুন।

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