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NEWS BRIEFS

Biswas assents to four bills

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday gave assent to four bills passed in the current session of the Jatiya Sangsad, an official handout said. The bills are: Brick Firing (control) (amendment) Bill, 1992, Rajshahi Metropolitan Police Bill-1992, Commercial Court for Recovery of Financial Loan (amendment) Bill, 1992, and the Presidential Security Force (amendment) Bill, 1992, reports BSS.

95 arrested on various charges

Police arrested a total of 95 persons from different areas of the metropolis during the last 24 hours on various offences including possession of illegal arms, heroin and contraband medicines. According to a press release of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, 116 bottles of phenisidyal syrup and 270 grams of opium were recovered last night from in front of the site of Basundhara Adarsha Prakolpa under Cantonment thana. Three persons were arrested, reports BSS.

Samad Azad greets Sharma

Deputy Opposition leader Abdus Samad Azad Friday congratulated veteran Congress leader Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma for being elected the ninth President of India, reports UNB.

UP gov't orders halt to construction

Delhi rushes troops to temple site

NEW DELHI, July 17: Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao's government today has rushed troops to a disputed site in a northern town where Hindu hardliners are bent upon building a temple, reports Reuter.

Meanwhile, the Uttar Pradesh government today ordered stoppage of construction activities near the Ramjanambhoomi-Babri Masjid Complex in Ayodhya.

A Home department spokesman said the order, in compliance with the July 15 order of the Lucknow bench of

the Allahabad High Court, was sent to the Faizabad district magistrate through a special messenger.

Security had already been tightened around the mosque after the High Court ordered a halt to construction of the temple on Wednesday.

More than 2,000 people have been killed in the past three years in riots sparked by the dispute. At least two national governments have had to resign because of the tensions it has stoked.

UP Minister of State for

Home Affairs M M Jacob said the state administration had assured it would comply with Wednesday's state High Court order forbidding the construction, according to AFP.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Kalyan Singh in a letter to the federal Home Ministry said he had ordered the administrators of Ayodhya to comply with the state High Court, Jacob told Parliament.

The large province is governed by the Hindu-revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). See Page 12 Col 7

Rao survives no-confidence

NEW DELHI, July 17: India's minority government survived a no-confidence vote today after Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao defended his handling of radical economic reforms and a festering religious dispute, reports Reuter.

Rao's Congress Party mustered 267 votes to the opposition's 215. Ten members of parliament abstained and 42 were absent.

In an hour-long speech, delivered in a monotone, Rao said the attack on his government during the debate was 'sterile.'

"Whatever problems we have had, we have been able to solve," he said.

He referred only briefly to tensions in the Hindu pilgrim town of Ayodhya, where militant Hindus have begun building a Temple beside See Page 12 Col 8

Commentary

Ominous signals from Huda cause new concern

By S M Ali

Information Minister Nazmul Huda has issued a couple of new ominous signals which will cause concern among journalists, in all different ranks, in this country. In the light of these signals, we should be worried over the possibility that a new media policy is under preparation.

Speaking at the Jatiya Sangsad on Thursday, Huda made two startling disclosures.

First, he said, legal measures "are in the offing" to cancel accreditation of journalists for "misreporting." There was a hint that this authority might be entrusted to the Press Council under a new bill for the body, which is also in the works.

In the second disclosure, the Minister said that the government had "decided" to See Page 12 Col 4

Myanmar has agreed to resume talks, says official

By Farid Hossain

Myanmar has agreed to resume official-level talks with Bangladesh to discuss repatriation of a quarter of a million Rohingya refugees this month, a Foreign Ministry official said on Friday denying any information about Yangon's fresh troops build-up along the border.

"We have got a positive response from Myanmar about resumption of the talks," the official said on the fate of bilateral dialogue between the two countries. Repatriation talks scheduled for last Thursday was postponed by Myanmar on the plea that its senior officials See Page 12 Col 3

Delhi, Calcutta talk Indo-Bangla exchange of enclaves

CALCUTTA, July 17: Senior officials of the Centre and the West Bengal Government met here today to discuss the issue of the exchange of enclaves between India and Bangladesh under the Indira-Mujib Pact of 1974, and to review the current situation in the Tinbigha corridor, reports PTI.

The meeting, lasting three hours, was attended among others by the Special Secretary of the Union Home Ministry, P P Srivastava, the Joint Secretary of the External Affairs Ministry, R Bhatia, the West Bengal Chief Secretary, N Krishnamurthy and the State's Director General of Police, Archisman Ghatak.

Krishnamurthy told newsmen after the meeting that the discussion would continue to- See Page 12 Col 1



Residents of Swamibagh Sweepers Colony fetching drinking water from distant places following acute scarcity of pure drinking water in the area. — Star photo



Serb and Muslim Slav fighters silenced their guns in Sarajevo as British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd (L) and Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic visit the besieged Bosnian capital Friday. — AFP photo

Toll collectors stab one, explode crackers at ZIA

By Staff Correspondent

A group of toll collectors exploded crackers at the car-parking lot at Zia International Airport Friday morning leaving several people injured.

During the attack at around 10 am, they picked up one Tofazzal Hossain from the spot, beat him severely, stabbed him, and set him free after two hours.

A source said that when Tofazzal refused to comply with their demand for money, they exploded several crackers in the area.

A case has been registered with the Cantonment police station, bringing charges against six people allegedly involved in the incident but no arrest was made, police said.

Ceasefire in Bosnia from tomorrow

LONDON, July 17: Leaders of the three warring factions in Bosnia signed a ceasefire agreement on Friday in a dramatic breakthrough at European community-sponsored peace talks here, reports Reuter.

Peace negotiator Lord Carrington later announced a 14-day truce in the fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina from 6:00 P.M. local time on Sunday.

Carrington said all three warring factions in Bosnia would explore longer-term measures to strengthen the truce.

Reading from the text of

the document signed by the Muslim, Serb and Croat representatives, Carrington said, "We hereby agree to a ceasefire, effective from 18:00 on Sunday 19 July, 1992, throughout the entire territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina."

The document said the three parties had agreed not to open fire even in response to provocation, he told a news conference.

The three parties agreed to place all heavy weapons under international supervision.

Carrington said he had spoken to United Nations See Page 12 Col 1

BNP PP discusses different aspects of budget

The BNP Parliamentary Party (BNP PP) last night held a discussion on different aspects of the proposed budget for fiscal 1992-93, reports BSS.

Leader of the House and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia presided over the adjourned meeting that began on July 14.

The five-hour long meeting held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban was addressed, among others, by Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Planning Minister M Zahiruddin Khan, State Minister for Textile Major (ret'd) M A Mannan, Whip Mahbul Alam Tara and a number of MPs.

Later the Whip, Mahbul Alam Tara, told BSS that the meeting was informed that the tariff structure in the proposed budget was being reviewed.

He said the Prime Minister, has emphasised the need for creation of job opportunities and expressed her government's determination to materialise the 19-point programme of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman.

The Prime Minister also laid stress on a disciplined trade union movement for rapid industrialisation, Tara said.

Clinton leading over Bush in opinion polls

NEW YORK, July 17: Bill Clinton, suddenly boasting a whopping 23-percentage point lead over President Bush in nationwide opinion polls, hit the campaign trail Friday on his 'great new adventure to chart a bold new future,' reports AP.

One of his first objectives: wooing supporters of Texas billionaire Ross Perot, who unexpectedly abandoned the race a day earlier.

"People want change, but government is in the way," Clinton said in an impassioned, personal speech Thursday night accepting the Democratic Party's presidential nomination. For Bush, Clinton had this simple message: "If you won't use your power to help people, step aside — I will."

Instant polling Thursday night showed Clinton with a big charge from his convention and the Perot decision — USA Today-CNN and ABC both See Page 12 Col 7

7 killed in road accidents

By Staff Correspondent

At least seven people were killed and 32 others injured in five separate road accidents in Dhaka, Tongi, Barisal and Faridpur Friday.

Our DMCH Correspondent reports: A young man died on the spot when a speeding passenger minibus ran over him near Shishu Park at Shahbag in the city at around 2 pm yesterday. The victim was a pedestrian and could not be identified immediately. He was around 20.

A woman was smashed under a train — Surma Express near Tongi Station at around 8:30 am yesterday. The unidentified victim was aged about 35.

Both the bodies of the man and the woman were sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue.

In another accident in the city, a rickshaw passenger and a rickshaw-puller were injured at Manik Mia Avenue when an auto-rickshaw knocked down their rickshaw at around 6 am.

Mohammadpur police seized the auto-rickshaw but its driver managed to escape, police said.

Our Correspondent from Barisal reports: A nine-year old boy, Nasir Uddin was killed on the spot when a rice-loaded truck ran over him on the Barisal-Faridpur highway at around 10 am.

Following the accident, angry mob barricaded the road at Kashipur, seven kilometres off from the town, and disrupted transport communication until the police brought the situation under control at around 1 pm yesterday.

Our Correspondent from Faridpur reports: Four people were killed and another 30 injured when a Nagarkanda bound bus skidded off the Faridpur-Nagarkanda highway and fell into a ditch near Jongurudi, about four kilometres from Faridpur town.

Persons who met instant death were identified as Jafar, 21, Miran Matabar, 19, Tawhid, 22, and Taibur Rahman, 25.

All the bodies were sent to the Faridpur Sadar Hospital for autopsy. Four of the injured were admitted to the Nagarkanda Thana Clinic.

Deputy Commissioner of Faridpur district and police superintendent visited the spot.

A case has been filed with Nagarkanda police.

Robbery in two city houses

By Staff Correspondent

Two houses, one at Malibagh and the other at Kathal Bagan in the city, were robbed early Friday. The robbers de-camped with cash and gold ornaments worth about Taka 1,75,000.

A group of robbers stormed into the house of one Abdul Gafur at Malibagh Chowdhury Para at around 3:30 am and looted 17 tolas of gold ornaments and Taka 15,000 in cash.

In another incident, a group of robbers broke into the house of one Mahbulul Haq at Free School Street, Kathal Bagan, at around 2:30 am Friday, and looted gold ornaments weighing about five-and-a-half tolas and Taka 20,000 in cash at gun-point.

Saddam's fresh call for 'holy war' against US, allies

BAGHDAD, July 17: In a speech targeting the Gulf War allies, President Saddam Hussein called today on Arabs to overthrow their leaders and launch a "Holy War" against the United States, reports AFP.

Hussein, whose speech marked the 24th anniversary of the coup which brought the Baath Party to power, singled out Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, and also swiped at Syria.

He also announced that there would be a referendum on a new constitution introducing multi-party politics.

He predicted that the UN Security Council would not lift the embargo imposed on Iraq after it invaded Kuwait in August 1990, even if Iraq "does everything it can do, in addition to what it has already done."

However, "scientific and economic accomplishments" by the Iraqis would diminish the effects of the embargo and it would "crumble," he said in the speech carried on Iraqi Radio and Television.

He accused the United States and its "accomplice in crime" Britain of wanting to

"colonise our country" during the Gulf War.

Kuwait's ruling Sabah family and the Saudi and Egyptian governments had committed treason and "crimes against Arabs" on behalf of the United States.

He called on "children of the Arab nation to clear Arab soil of the traitors, then declare a Jihad" against the Americans, whose forces are still deployed in the Gulf.

The Saudi people could not accept seeing "American forces on their land and hearing spy planes take off from

the Holy sites for Iraq."

He also accused foreigners of using oil to corrupt "small Arab countries" — the oil-rich Gulf emirates.

Without naming it, he also swiped at Syria by criticising "those who have weakened the nation while shouting revolutionary slogans."

Syria was part of the US-led coalition that drove Iraq from Kuwait.

He said Iraqis would be able to vote on the constitution, which was however being held up by the "international and internal situation." The referen-

dum would be hampered because Kurdish areas of northern Iraq are controlled by opponents of the Baghdad government.

He slammed the United Nations for being under "American hegemony" and serving as an "advertising hoarding for the interests and will of the United States."

Hussein hailed the "enormous achievements" of the Baath Party's 24 years in power and said it would not give up the "principles and aims of the revolution."

