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12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 4.00

Tk 330 cr road

development

programme

By Staff Correspondent

taken a massive programme, with a Tk 330 crore outlay, for

the development of roads and

highways in the country's

officials said that the Progra-

mme with "the single biggest

allocation in the road sector"

was conceived keeping the

construction of the Jamuna

Bridge in view and being im-

plemented with World Bank

Communications Ministry

northeastern region.

The Government has under-

Inside Today -

Article

Environmental and Social Concerns Must be Recognised Page 4

#### International



Bosnia-Croatia military accord against Serbia Page 5

#### Business

Local industries to face crisis for cuts in import duty Page 7

#### Supplement

A two-page supplement on the occasion of the National Day of Egypt Pages 8,9

#### Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Asian Monsoon and its Fluctuations Page 3

#### **NEWS BRIEFS**

#### ALPP meets today

A meeting of the Awami League Parliamentary Party (ALPP) will be held today at 9 am at the office of the Leader of the Opposition in the Sangsad. Chief whip of the Opposition Mohammad Nasim has requested all party MPs to attend the meeting on time, reports BSS.

#### DESA snaps 1868 illegal lines

A mobile court of Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) conducted a raid in different places of Mirpur area of the city yesterday and snapped 1868 illegal electricity connections. The mobile court, led by first class magistrate M Zahurul Huq Khan, also arrested 5 people and filed cases against 18 others, reports UNB.

#### Australian aid for Rohingya children

Australia flew 50 tons of high energy biscuits to Bangladesh yesterday to provide supplementary feeding for Rohingya children in the refugee camps. Another 50 tons of biscuits will be sent on July 28, said a press release of the Australian High Commission here. The decision to provide emergency supplies of biscuits was made by the Australian Minister for Trade and Overseas Development, John Kerin, responding to a call from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), reports UNB.

#### Five arrested in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, July 22: Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) in a special drive today arrested five persons including one notorious terrorist wanted in connection with murder of Jubo League leader Kazal, from different parts of the city, a CMP press release said. Mizanur Rahman Mizan, an absconder, was arrested from Helishahar area. He was allegedly connected with killing of Kazal, reports BSS.

### Stern warning to UP govt

# Halt temple construction in 24 hrs: Supreme Court

NEW DELHI, July 22: India's Supreme Court today ordered an 'unconditional halt' to all construction by radical Hindus of a temple at a site near a disputed Islamic shrine in the northern Indian town of Ayodhya, reports AFP.

A two-judge bench put the suspension of the Hindu project as a precondition for reviewing any proposal to settle

the explosive issue, the Press Trust of India said.

"We want total compliance with the orders of the court, otherwise we know how to secure that compliance," PTI quoted Judges MN Venkatachallaiah and GN Ray as saying in the Supreme Court.

The order was directed to the government of the northern state of Uttar Pradesh

which is run by the Hindu-revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The BJP is backing the construction drive which has lasted two weeks.

the Uttar Pradesh government until Thursday to implement the unconditional stoppage of

Only then we would pass the order,' PTI quoted them as

Meanwhile, PTI adds, the arrival of six CRPF (Central Reserve Police Force) companies on the outskirts of Fatzabad has The court said it would give triggered speculation about imminent action by the Centre on the Ayodhya issue but official sources maintained that these forces were brought for

routine replacement'. See Page 12 Col 7

## JS Public Accounts body feels its advice ignored

By Mahfuz Ullah

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Accounts. which has exposed irregularities and corruption in different government offices, feels that its recommendations are not properly implemented.

The Committee further feels that such lapses, to a great extent, are frustrating the commitment of accountability. The observations of the Committee are expected to be placed in the House in the

form of a report, next week. Committee sources told The Daily Star that cases of many financial irregularities had been brought to the notices of the Committee and the formation of an audit cell for every ministry or divisions had

been recommended. The Standing Committee on Public Accounts was formed during the second session of the present Parliament on July

The rehabilitation and development of the 160-kilome-See Page 12 Col 3

See Page 12 Col 7

Opposition MPs and leaders led by Abdus Samad Azad called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office - PID photo yesterday.

### PM, Opposition leaders discuss rule of law

A delegation of opposition political leaders led by Abdus Samad Azad, Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad, called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday, reports BSS.

They exchanged views on various matters including socio-political situation in the

The Prime Minister observed that concerted efforts must be made by all quarters to maintain peace and discipline in the universities and other educational institutions. She sought cooperation of all opposition political parties in wiping out terrorism and

maintaining peace and order in the society and academic atmosphere in the educational

Begum Khaleda Zia said everybody should be respectful to the rule of law for institutionalising the democracy.

Tofael Ahmed, MP, Begum Motia Chowdhury, MP, Samsuddoha, MP, Rashed Khan Menon, MP, Suranjit Sen Gupta, MP, JSD leader Hasanul Huq Inu and NAP Secretary General Pankaj Bhattacharya attended the meeting.

Minister Education Jamiruddin Sircar was pre-

### dissolution of SSF

assistance.

By Staff Correspondent

AL demands

Awami League's Acting Chief, Abdus Samad Azad, yesterday accused Prime Minister Khaleda Zia of building up a one-person ruling system in the country betraying the joint declaration of the three political alliances. Parliamentary democracy

was restored in the country as envisaged in the joint declaration, he said, adding that no other commitment, the ruling BNP made in the declaration. had been fulfilled. Azad, who is also the Deputy

Leader of the Opposition in See Page 12 Col 4

#### Taka devalued by 8.13 pc

Taka was devalued by 8.13 per cent against US dollar in 1991-92, said Finance Minister Saifur Rahman in Parliament yesterday, reports UNB.

During question hour, he said, the devaluation was done in 10 instalments.

On June 30, 1991, the exchange rate of Taka against Dollar was 35.79 but after devaluation it became Tk 39 on

June 30, 1992. Replying to another question, Saifur Rahman said since 1972 Taka has been adjusted 95 times against US dollar.

Taka depreciated 76 times and appreciated 19 times. On January 1, 1972, the exchange rate for Taka against Dollar was 18.97 while on March 31, 1992, it was Tk 39.

#### No special subsidy to agri sector

Government has no plan to provide special subsidy to the agriculture sector, Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman told parliament yesterday, reports

Replying to Abu Leis Mohammad Mubin Chowdhury, the minister said the government is trying to fill up the credit funds of the banks and financial institutions, which ran short due to waiving of agricultural interest up to Tk

#### Tiger skins recovered

By Staff Correspondent Customs Intelligence Wednesday recovered tiger skin worth Taka 20 lakh from a house in the capital.

A team comprising Customs intelligence and the police raided a house a Kathalbagan area in the city and recovered six pieces of tiger skins, six of leopard's and 57 pieces of otter skins.

Another team of the customs in a pre-dawn swoop on the Bangabazar hawkers market in the capital hauled 1307 pieces of banned cotton saree worth Taka stx lakh and 30 thousand.

#### Jamuna erosion leaves 450 families homeless

SIRAJGANJ, July 22: The river Jamuna continued its erosion and forced more 450 families of six villages in Kazipur thana to become homeless during the last 24 hours, reports UNB. So far, about 2100 families

of the district have become homeless and 10,000 acres of land lost due to the erosion.

The east and west side of the Thana Health Complex including its boundary wall were also washed away by the rive during the same period.

#### was unconstitutional: Mizan By Staff Correspondent the past did not have constitu-Mizanur Rahman Chowtional sanction, Mizan argued. He added, with a reference to

dhury, Acting Chairman of the Jatiya Party (JP), yesterday admitted that the seizure of state power by General Ershad in 1982 was unconstitutional. But unconstitutional did not necessarily mean illegal, the JP leader added.

liberating on the proposed budget for the 1992-'93 fiscal year in Parliament yesterday.

The JP leader observed that national consensus, law and order and continuity of the development process was a must for democracy.

For the sake of building a consensus one should not term other regimes illegal as most of the people who came to power in

BNP and AL, 'Before terming others illegal think about itsimplications on every one of us who governed the country

Seizure of power by Ershad

The JP leader said that the Mizan Chowdhury was de- politicians of the country should have the courage to call a spade a spade.

The country has not succeed in securing progress in the last 21 years of her independence, he added.

The JP leader said, 'We have rightly identified the Jamaat as an anti-Liberation force for its role during the War country's Independence.' But, how could one brand the teenagers be-

longing to the Islami Chhatra Shibir, the student wing of the Jamaat, as anti Liberation forces, Mizan argued, adding, these boys were not even born in 1971.

He, however, said that the Jamaat must repent for its role in 1971. All these should be done for the sake of a national consensus, Mizan observed.

Mizan Chowdhury also requested both the ruling BNP and the major opposition party in Parliamentary the AL to stop accusing the Ershad regime of autocracy saying 'since we were all somehow party to it.'

The JP leader was of the opinion that the assessments of the past should be left to the next generation.

See Page 12 Col 1

### threatens to boycott JS

Joynal Hazari

By Staff Correspondent Joynal Hazari, an Awami League; [AL] MP; yesterdage threatened to boycott the House for three consecutive days if his friend and colleague, Mustafizur Rahman, another AL MP, was not produced in the House by today.

Mustafizur Rahman, the Managing Director of the nowsuspended Bank of Commerce and Investment (BCI), is now in detention under the Special Powers Act for allegedly squandering depositors' money amounting to about Taka 200

Hazari, while deliberating on the proposed budget, in Parliament yesterday, accused the government of depriving Mustafizur Rahman to represent the people who voted him to Parliament and demanded his immediate release.

See Page 12 Col 2

### Businessman robbed, shot dead

By Staff Correspondent

A businessman, Faziur Rahman Mona, well known as Ebadullah Mona, was shot dead and his car-driver was wounded at Agamasi Lane in the city Wednesday morning.

Mona was one of the two partners of M/s Ebadullah-Mona, a distributor of Bangladesh Tobacco Company (BTC). He was going to Nawab Katara branch of Uttara Bank from his residence cum office at 43 Agamasi lane, along with four of his employees by a Toyota Sprinter car to deposit Tuesday's turnover.

Witnesses said, the killers first exploded crackers to scare off the people in the street and then shot at the wind shield of the car. The killers also fired another two shots which pierced Mona's body, they added.

# The attackers before de-

camping with Taka 3,60,000, his car and licensed revolver wounded the driver Ansar Ali who went to save Mona at

around 10.30 am Wednesday. The murder occurred at the entrance of Agamasi Lane - 50 yards from the victim's residence- within 100 yards between Kayektuli and Babupura police outposts.

A cashier, Fazlul Haq, a driver Mostaq and a worker Jahangir, who were along with Mona in the car during the incident fled away to escape from the killers.

Some relatives of Mona who were following him in another car also fled unharmed from The wounded driver Ansar

Ali was admitted to the Dhaka See Page 12 Col 4

#### Lawyer tells court

## Constitution protects Azam's citizenship

Desence lawyer Barrister AR Yusuf yesterday pleaded that the law which was applied to disqualify Golam Azam to be a citizen of Bangladesh is unconstitutional, reports UNB.

Golam Azam's citizenship is protected by Article 122 of the constitution and clause 3 and 8 of the President's Order No. 104 of 1972, Yusuf argued during the hearing of the Jamaat leader's writ petition that continued for the fourth day Wednesday.

Disqualification implies that Golam Azam was a qualified eitizen, he said referring to

the government notification. Placing his submission, Yusuf told the court that government cannot disqualify a person unless he is a Bangladeshi national. A loreigner cannot be disqualified, he pleaded.

Golam Azam was a citizen of

this country, enjoying all constitutional rights, until the notice was served on April 18, 1973, the defence lawyer submitted.

He argued that constitution is at the top and then comes laws, rules and notification.

Referring to President's Order 149 of 1972, Barrister Yusuf said that a person is 'deemed to qualify as a citizen from the commencement of the order on March 26, 1971.

He further submitted that clause 1 of Article 2 which says that who or whose father and grandfather were born in the territory now comprising of Bangladesh and who was a permanent resident of such territory on the 25th day of March 1971, continues to be a

Golam Azam left Bangladesh on November 22, 1971 and Sec Page 12 Col 7

#### Jahanara Imam, 4 others get bail, 10 absent

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) on Wednesday granted bail to five of the 15 persons including Jahanara Imam accused of murdering two Shibir activists and inciting violence in the capital last

CMM Shahiduddin Ahmed granted batl to Jahanara Imam, Lt Col (retd) Kazi Nuruzzaman, Sadek Ahmed Khan, Nayem Jahangir and Abul Hashem when they appeared in his Court as a preemptive bid to avoid arrest. The rest of the

Taka one-lakh bond and guarantees from two lawyers and one elite of the area," Ahmed said in the decision after a See Page 12 Col 8

## Shibir murder charge

By Staff Correspondent

Saturday.

accused were absent.

Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) filed the case with Motifheel police claiming the two violence-victims its workers. "They are being bailed on a



Jahanara Imam talking to her lawyers in CMM's Court before getting bail yesterday. - Star photo

# Israel assured 'severe' cut in settlements, says Baker

Secretary of State James A. Baker said Wednesday that Israel has assured him of a 'severe and substantial' cutback of Jewish settlement construction in the occupied territories, reports AP.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak praised the new Israeli government's plans, but said "much more" is needed from Israel to revitalize Midcast peace efforts.

The Israeli government, which took office last week,

government. Baker and Mubarak spoke at

a news conference after meeting in Cario, the latest leg of Baker's Mideast tour. Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's newly elected Prime Minister, met with Mubarak in Cairo on Tuesday, Jerusalem.

fresh from talks with Baker in "The discussions that I had orously in the peace process," with Prime Minister Rabin

Israel. I can confirm that," said Baker. Mubarak said Rabin's stance on settlements, one of the key

issues in Mideast peace talks, "is a very good step forward" But "what has been offered go quickly and much more vig-

committed to his proposal that the Arabs suspend their economic boycott of Israel if Israel freezes all settlement activity. He also urged that Rabin be

tlement activity, but has said it

the philosophy and orientation

of this new government in Israel toward the question of settlements," said Baker. "All the details have not been worked out," he said, but

the new Israeli approach " is one, frankly, that pleases the United States because as you know, we think settlements are obstacles to peace."

Asked whether the Arabs

ple, he said: "I hope you will see after the parties get together at the table some concrete progress. Baker meanwhile, told re-

porters Wednesday they "ought not to believe" reports that he was stepping down to run President Bush's re-election campaign.

**Editorial on Page 4** 

#### will continue to build settle-CAIRO, July 22: US have responded to Rabin's has temporarily suspended all Mubarak said. have satisfied me that there is moves, Baker replied: "I think He did not spell out what ments in areas considered vital building activity and ordered a going to be severe and substanthey have," asked for an examreview of settlements that tial reductions and curtailment further concessions he sought. to Israel's security. "I am really ... satisfied with But he said he remained were approved by the outgoing of settlement activities by

for peace. still needs much more so as to persuade the Arab countries to

Miracles?" Rabin's government, has temporarily suspended all set-

given time, saying: "The man is

only one week in office. What

do you expect him to do?