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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.

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 Venkatachalliah 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 court said it would give the Uttar Pradesh government until Thursday to implement the unconditional stoppage of work. "Only then we would pass the order," PTI quoted them as saying.



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

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.

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 country. 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 arena.

Seizure of power by Ershad was unconstitutional: Mizan

By Staff Correspondent

Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, 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.

The JP leader said that the politicians of the country should have the courage to call a spade a spade. The country has not succeeded 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 country's War of Independence.' But, how could one brand the teenagers belonging 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.

Joynal Hazari threatens to boycott JS

By Staff Correspondent

Joynal Hazari, an Awami League (AL) MP, yesterday 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.

Businessman robbed, shot dead

By Staff Correspondent

A businessman, Fazlur Rahman Mena, well known as Ebnudullah Mena, 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 Mena, 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.

Lawyer tells court Constitution protects Azam's citizenship

Defence 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.

Shibir murder charge Jahanara Imam, 4 others get bail, 10 absent

By Staff Correspondent

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 Saturday.



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

Israel assured 'severe' cut in settlements, says Baker

CAIRO, July 22: US 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.

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

Mubarak said Rabin's stance on settlements, one of the key issues in Mideast peace talks, "is a very good step forward" for peace.

Mubarak said he had temporarily suspended all building activity and ordered a review of settlements that were approved by the outgoing government.

He also urged that Rabin be given time, saying: "The man is only one week in office. What do you expect him to do? Miracles?"

Rabin's government, has temporarily suspended all settlement activity, but has said it will continue to build settlements in areas considered vital to Israel's security.

Tk 330 cr road development programme

By Staff Correspondent
 The Government has undertaken a massive programme, with a Tk 330 crore outlay, for the development of roads and highways in the country's northeastern region.

AL demands dissolution of SSF

By Staff Correspondent
 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.

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.

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 UNB.

Tiger skins recovered

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

Jamuna erosion leaves 450 families homeless

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