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NEWS BRIEFS

Opposition parties in JS meet tomorrow

A joint meeting of the opposition parties in parliament will be held on Saturday at 9 am at the Sangsad Bhaban conference room of the opposition. Meanwhile, Awami League Parliamentary Party met at Sangsad Bhaban Thursday with Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad in the chair. The meeting decided that Azizur Rahman will be acting as Opposition Chief Whip and Sheikh Harunur Rashid as Whip during the absence of Mohammad Nasim and Abul Hasan Chowdhury, reports UNB.

Egyptian envoy hosts reception

Egyptian Ambassador Mohammad Kamal Elmiligly held a reception on the occasion of the National Day of the Arab Republic of Egypt at his residence here yesterday evening. Leaders of political parties including members of the parliament, diplomats, senior journalists and elite of the city attended the reception, reports BSS.

One shot dead in Comilla

COMILLA, July 23: Armed miscreants shot dead one official of a mill in the BSCIC industrial area here Wednesday night, police said. The victim, identified as Bilal Hossain (30), was the manager of a flour mill. He was shot when he disagreed to give toll demanded by the miscreants. Bilal was rushed to a local clinic where the doctors declared him dead, reports UNB.

Nasim brings allegation over Khaleda's US visit Private company brokered invitation for PM?

By Staff Correspondent

An Opposition MP Thursday alleged that the Prime Minister's week-long visit to the United States in March was arranged by an American private company for US dollar 2.50 lakh.

Chief Whip of the Opposition in Parliament Mohammad Nasim produced a copy of the company's letter in Parliament

which asked the Foreign Minister A.S.M. Mostafizur Rahman to pay 2,50,000 dollar for "services rendered by our office for obtaining an official invitation from the White House for the Premier of Bangladesh."

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali asked Nasim to submit the copy of the letter to the House.

The letter from Maniruzzaman and Associates of Port Jefferson, New York said, "Honourable Foreign Minister, as per your authorization dated November 12, 1991 enclosed is the bill for services rendered by our office for obtaining an official invitation from the White House for the Premier of Bangladesh. The time

and travel expenses over a period of three months is \$ 2,50,000. Please remit immediately."

Dated March 13, 1992, the letter was signed by Molvin P Strauss, Director of Administrative Affairs of the company.

Separate copies of the letter were also said to have been

2 DAGs, 14 AAGs terminated

By Staff Correspondent

The authorities terminated 16 government Attorneys Thursday creating a dislocation in the Supreme Court's functioning.

Informed sources said that two of the nine Deputy Attorneys General (DAG) and 14 of the 18 Assistant Attorneys General (AAG) were terminated Thursday under the Presidential Order No-6 of 1972, Section 4 (i).

The Two Deputy Attorneys General were Shahabuddin Ahmed and A F M Shaheed and the 14 Assistant Attorneys General were Gazi Abdul

Mannan, R I Bakshahi, Shah Azizur Rahman, Syed Mokaddes Ali, Sajjad Hossain Chowdhury, M A Hassan, Fazlul Huq, Kazi Akter Hossain, Fakrul Islam, Obaidur Rahman Mostofa, Delwar Hossain, Faruk Ahmed, Mokbul Hossain and Hosne Ara Ahsan.

"I have no comment," Attorney General (AG) Aminul Huq said confirming the terminations last night.

"But it should immediately be replaced for the sake of normalcy in the courts," he told The Daily Star adding, "he

High court orders release of BCI chairman

A High Court Division Bench yesterday ordered release of the detenu Mustafizur Rahman, Chairman of Bangladesh Commerce and Investment Limited (BCI), if not wanted in connection with any other case, reports BSS.

The bench comprising Justice Anwarul Haq Chowdhury and Justice K M Hasan delivered the judgement on a writ petition against his detention under the Special Powers Act, 1974.

Mustafizur Rahman went into hiding soon after the Bangladesh Bank suspended operations of BCI. Bangladesh Bank had lodged a case against

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Militant Hindus and Hindu school children carry gravel to the construction site of a disputed temple project in Ayodhya, India yesterday. —AFP photo

VHP likely to shift temple site

NEW DELHI, July 23: A breakthrough to resolve the impasse created by the UP govt's non-compliance of the court order prohibiting construction work in the Ramajambhoomi-Babri Masjid Complex appears to be in sight following talks between the Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad leaders and saints, reports PTL.

Official sources here indi-

cated that after the hour-long deliberations, the meeting "ended on a hopeful note."

The Bharatiya Janata Party leader, L K Advani, expressed similar sentiments when newsmen approached him at the farewell reception of the outgoing president, R Venkataraman at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

VHP sources said that the present kar seva might be

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Ola Adefemiwa

Nigeria keen to buy disinvested jute mills

By S Y Bakht

Nigerian investors may be interested in acquiring disinvested jute mills in Bangladesh, the newly appointed Nigerian High Commissioner Ola Adefemiwa said here on Thursday.

In an interview with The Daily Star, the New Delhi-based High Commissioner, who presented his credentials to President Abdur Rahman Biswas on the same day, added that there was "tremendous" scope for enhancing the cooperation between his country and Bangladesh.

Pointing out that Nigeria imports jute products from Bangladesh and also imports raw jute for its lone jute mill, he said that investors in his country might become interested to own jute mills here and export the finished products to meet Nigeria's internal demand.

High commissioner Adefemiwa

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Hearing of Azam's Writ on

Principle of natural justice violated

"No person should be condemned unheard", Barrister AR Yusuf pleaded yesterday referring to the principle of natural justice which, he said, had been violated in case of Golam Azam, reports UNB.

Prof Golam Azam was not served with any show cause notice nor any notice was published in any newspaper, it neither came through gazette notification before the government stripped him of his citizenship, said the defence lawyer during the hearing on the controversial Jamaat leader's writ petition.

"It is a clear violation of the principal of natural justice" Yusuf said adding that the petitioner thus was not given any opportunity to clear his position. Without serving any show cause notice the government

cannot take any action, he said.

The hearing on the Golam Azam's writ continued at the High Court Bench comprising Justice Ismail Uddin Sarkar and Justice Badrul Islam Chowdhury for the fifth consecutive day Thursday.

The defence lawyer submitted to the court a copy of the government notification issued on April 18, 1973 taking away the citizenship of Golam Azam and 38 others.

"Whereas it appears that the persons have been staying abroad since before the liberation of Bangladesh and by their conduct cannot be deemed to be citizen of Bangladesh. And whereas the said persons have continued to be citizens of Pakistan. Now, therefore the government declares under

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'Iraq ready to face threat'

NICOSIA, Cyprus, July 23: A top Iraqi official said Thursday that Iraq is prepared to face the consequences of its latest standoff with the UN Security Council, which has threatened to lead to an allied air strike, reports AP.

The statement by Deputy Premier Tariq Aziz came as French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said the Security Council would meet within hours to deliver an ultimatum to Baghdad.

The United States and some of the council members have not ruled out military force to compel Iraq to allow

UN inspectors into a government building suspected of containing material related to weapons programmes.

Aziz said at a Baghdad news conference that Iraq was defending its sovereignty and guarding its internal affairs, the official Iraqi News Agency reported.

"Iraq will never abandon its sovereignty and will never accept any insult and will never allow a UN inspection team to threaten its internal security," Aziz was quoted as saying.

He said no threat would change its mind.

"Iraq is sticking to its rejection

stand concerning any demand that will involve an insult to Iraq, and the Iraqi people and Iraqi command are ready to face all consequences," Aziz said.

Dumas told French radio that France's UN delegation had instructions "to work with our allies in preparing and issuing an ultimatum to Iraq to comply with the orders of the UN representatives and let the experts do their work."

He said the discussion would take place "in the hours to come."

Related news on page 5

Dhaka, Yangon agree to create atmosphere for repatriation

COX'S BAZAR, July 23: The 7th Bangladesh-Myanmar official level meeting held at Mangdow-Arakan today agreed to continue meetings and create congenial atmosphere for voluntary return of the Rohingyas to Arakan, reports BSS.

Briefing newsmen here tonight the leader of the 12-member Bangladesh team and Chittagong Divisional Commissioner, Omar Faruk, said that he and the members of his team found a quite congenial condition for safe return of Rohingya refugees to their ancestral home in Arakan.

At today's official level meeting the 10-member Myanmar team was led by Director General of Immigration, Maung

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Road links with Sanamganj still snapped

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, July 23: The Road communications between Sanamganj and Sylhet and also with other places of the country still remained snapped. The situation has prevailed since Tuesday morning.

The disruption started after the burning and ransacking of passenger coaches and microbuses by agitated students as a sequel to the death of a school student.

One more robbed of Tk 1.24 lakh, stabbed

By Staff Correspondent

In another daring incident Thursday, muggers snatched Taka 1.24 lakh and stabbed one person in the city.

The latest incident took place barely 24 hours after the killing of a city businessman following robbing of Taka 3.60 lakh in the capital Wednesday.

Witnesses said that Hannan Mia, cashier of the BCC Road Electric Goods Shop Owners Association, was stopped by the muggers near the Star Hotel at Thatar Bazar and was stabbed Thursday morning.

The muggers snatched a packet containing Taka one lakh 24 thousand and 500.

The cashier was carrying the money to the association office at 132/1, BCC Road.

The victim was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Mona murder case: 4 held

By Staff Correspondent

No significant headway was made into the investigation in Wednesday's murder of a city businessman and robbing of Taka 3.60 lakh.

Police Thursday rounded up four members of the city's notorious "skin head" group for interrogation. The members are Gawhar, Abdul Kader alias Judge Mia, Mostakim and Akter Hossain.

The police also recovered a country-made revolver from Judge Mia.

A businessman Fazlur Rahman Mona, well known as Ebadullah Mona, was shot dead by a group of muggers Wednesday. They also looted Taka 3,60,000 from his possession.

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Nothing to learn from Opposition: FM

Foreign policy under fire

By Farid Hossain

The Opposition outshone the treasury bench Thursday as the House for the first time discussed the government's foreign policy for more than four hours. Though Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, who initiated as well as concluded the lacklustre debate, said he gained nothing new from the opposition. He offered no specific replies on the issues his critics raised.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and most of her ministers were absent in the House as the Foreign Minister

opened the debate in a 30-minute written speech that focussed on the current global scenario and the foreign policy achievements of the BNP government.

The number of ministers who heard Mostafizur swelled beyond eight. Agriculture Minister Maj Gen (ret'd) Majedul Huq provided silent company to the Lt Col turned politician Foreign Minister sitting next to him. Retired Colonel OI Ahmed, now the Communications

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Public commercial banks may be privatised

By Inam Ahmed

The government may of-flood all the public commercial banks excepting Sonali Bank if these banks continue incurring losses, according to an official source.

On the otherhand, floating of new banks in the private sector is now government's "lowest priority."

There are now about 30 applications lying with the Finance Ministry for approval

to set up new banks.

Meanwhile, the ministry has already finalised the sub-committee for approval of banks. The sub-committee may have a review of the applications "as soon as other priorities of the banking sector are settled", according to a reliable source.

Sources said the World Bank (WB) and the United

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Heroin smuggling Eliada wants to be approver

By Staff Correspondent

The lawyer of teenage American girl Eliada McCord Thursday submitted a petition in the Court of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate seeking an order to make her an approver in the heroin smuggling case.

Former Deputy Attorney General Kazi Abdul Wahab filed the petition and pleaded that

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DO NOT MISS IT

**Let The Daily Star
 be your Olympic Guide**

The Greatest Show on Earth—Games of the XXV Modern Olympiad—begin in Barcelona tomorrow. Men and women from around the globe will be putting in their best to uphold the Olympic motto of "Citius, Altius, Fortius" (Faster, Higher, Stronger) in their passionate pursuit of gold and glory.

Starting with a Bumper Supplement on the biggest sporting spectacle tomorrow, *The Daily Star* will be devoting 3 (three) pages—and even more—to keep its valued readers informed with gripping details of the action right through the length of the Games until the Olympic flame is extinguished at Montjuic Stadium on Aug 9.

The highlights of the daily coverage, illustrated with striking photographs, will include detailed reports on the major sporting activities of the day, previews, reviews, records and profiles of the stars. Stories of human interest that transcend mere winning and losing. Stories of human character.

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