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# The Daily Star

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Erosion hits 225 families

SIRAJGANJ, July 24: Some 225 families at six villages of Kazipur thana were rendered homeless due to erosion by the river Jamuna as its water level started to recede. With the fresh ones the number of homeless families in the thana rose to 3,000 during the current rainy season, according to Water Development Board. The affected villages are: Khashpara, Kazipurpara, Beer Singrapara, Patagram and Bedgari, reports UNB.

### Three shops looted in Pabna

PABNA, July 24: Burglars forced open three shops in the town Thursday midnight and decamped with goods and cash worth about two lakh taka, shopowners said. The three shops at Abdul Hamid Road were a grocery, a confectionery and a shoe store. Police today arrested three night watchmen of the area—Afzal Hossain (35), Mahbul Alam (40) and Mohammad Sadek Ali (35)—on suspicion of complicity. They were later sent to jail hajat, reports UNB.

### S. Africa bans Jackson's video

JOHANNESBURG, July 24: The government Friday banned Michael Jackson's "In the Closet" video and the "Use Your Illusion" double album by the popular rock band Guns N' Roses, reports AP.

## Olympic Games begin today

BARCELONA, July 24: An archer will send a flaming arrow soaring through the air to light the Olympic flame in a spectacular start to the Barcelona Games on Saturday, reports Reuter.



Barcelona '92

Announcement

Today's issue of The Daily Star contains a 16-page tabloid 4-Colour Special Supplement on the Barcelona Olympics—at no extra cost.

—Management

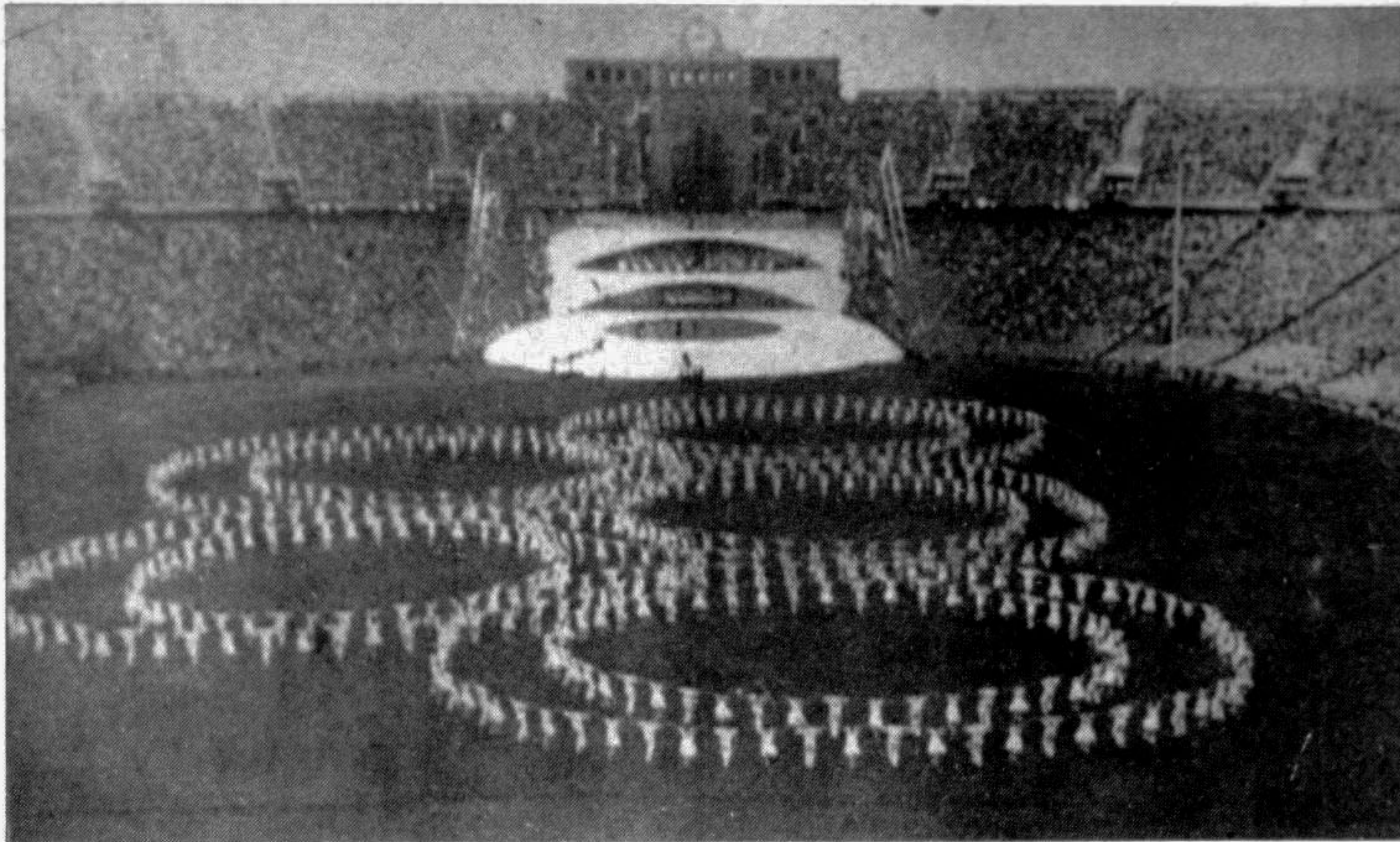
After the showbusiness razzle of Los Angeles and the Asian folklore splendour of Seoul, Spain presents three of the world's most famous opera singers as the main act at their lavish opening ceremony. Jose Carreras cured of leukemia and certain of a rapturous welcome in his home town, will sing with Placido Domingo and Montserrat Caballe. They are backed by 350,000 watts of amplifier power.

The 55,000-seat stadium is to be transformed into a mirage of the Mediterranean for a mock battle with Moorish invaders.

With its shimmering blues and sharp-edged line, the brilliant mosaic echoes the work of Barcelona's most famous architect son, Antoni Gaudi.

Giant human towers of gymnasts, merroring the colourful festivals of Barcelona, are to rise in each corner of

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The Olympic rings are formed by dancers during Thursday's rehearsal for the July 25 opening ceremonies of the 1992 Summer Games. — AFP photo

## UN arms inspectors leave Baghdad US, allies discussing ultimatum to Iraq

WASHINGTON, July 24: The United States and its Allies are discussing an ultimatum to use military force against Iraq unless Baghdad allows UN inspectors access to a ministry believed to house secrets about Iraq's weapons programmes, US officials said Friday, reports AP.

The ultimatum—still under discussion—could set a deadline, perhaps within days, for Iraq to back down in the tense confrontation, officials said.

Earlier, The Washington Post reported in its Friday editions that the United

States, Britain and France already have agreed to call for an ultimatum, possibly as early as

WASHINGTON, July 24: President Bush will scrap vacation plans and fly to Camp David tonight to consult with national security advisers on the crisis with Iraq, White House press secretary Marilyn Fitzwater said. Bush will meet Saturday morning with his advisers, reports AP.

this weekend. "We're talking about an ultimatum," one Bush adminis-

tration official said. "The discussions are underway with Security Council members and coalition partners. We're reviewing a number of options, diplomatic and military."

In London, a British foreign office spokeswoman said she could not confirm the call for an ultimatum. The spokeswoman said discussions were still going on among UN Security Council members to determine what the next steps will be.

An ultimatum could be issued in the name of the UN

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## US warships in Gulf

ABU DHABI, July 24: A US amphibious battle group arrived in the Gulf today to join American warships carrying out joint exercises with regional states, report Reuter.

A US navy spokesman said the arrival of USS Tarawa, an amphibious helicopter assault ship, and the three other vessels in its battle group brought to 24 the number of US warships in the region.

But the spokesman, Lt Rob Raine, said its arrival was not related to any increase in tension between the United States and Iraq over Baghdad's compliance with the terms of the Gulf war cease-fire.

US warships in Saudi Arabia were admitted to the MMCH. Of the dead, only Abdul Aziz could be identified. Details of the accident was not immediately available.

## 6 killed, 60 hurt in boiler blast

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, July 24: Six people were killed and another 60 injured, 24 of them critically, when a boiler of a rice mill burst at Natunbazar of Raghunath Thana, three kilometres north of Muktagachha this afternoon.

Five died on the spot while another succumbed to his injuries at the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH).

All the 24 seriously injured were admitted to the MMCH. Of the dead, only Abdul Aziz could be identified. Details of the accident was not immediately available.

Our DMCH Correspondent

adds: Three people, including a BDR personnel and a police constable, were killed in three separate incidents in the city Friday.

Angry people nabbed a young man suspecting him to be a pickpocket and beat him to death on the spot at Gabtoli bus terminal at around 9:30 am Friday. The victim was about 30 years old.

A case has been registered with Mirpur police in this connection but no arrest was made till late Friday night.

Mohammad Ali Chowdhury (40), a Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel, was found dead

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## Discussion on budget in JS

## Revise duties to protect local units: Shawkat

By Staff Correspondent

Mir Shawkat Ali of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) yesterday said agricultural and industrial base of the country would have to be expanded to bring economic liberation of Bangladesh.

Shawkat, participating in the general discussion on the national budget in parliament, further said that the proposed tariff and duties on items like CI sheet, cement, newsprint, table fan, TV, diesel engines, power tillers should be revised to protect the local industries.

The session, which began at 6:30 pm with Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni in the chair, was a departure from the usual routine of holiday on Friday. For the first time in the history of Parliament in Bangladesh a session was held on Friday, yesterday. Earlier, the Speaker agreed to the request from the Opposition bench to hold session even on Friday so that members could finish their deliberations on the budget.

Participating in the discussion for about an hour Shawkat referred to the existing system of Bank loans and alleged that

the present system bred corruption. He commented that if a project was approved by the Board of Investment it should get loan without any hindrance.

The Treasury bench further pointed out that in Bangladesh industries grew up without any consideration for viability or market. To facilitate further utilisation of the present industrial projects he outlined the importance of research facilities. Hitting hard at Opposition criticisms, Shawkat said that BNP was a political party committed to the land and people of the country for which it was thrice voted to power.

In an oblique reference to Jatiya Party and Awami League, he said that there were parties who either carried the plough in a Mercedes Benz car or tried to pull the boat on dry lands.

He said that BNP expected to manage the affairs of the country for five years after which we would sit for the examination. And if we fail we would change sides.

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## Special cabinet meeting on economic issues held

A special cabinet meeting was held last night in the International Conference Centre with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair and discussed various economic issues, reports BSS.

The meeting was attended by the cabinet ministers and state ministers. Cabinet Secretary, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister and the concerned secretaries were present.

## Do away with SSF: AL

By Staff Correspondent

The Awami League at a meeting of its central executive committee yesterday demanded the scrapping of the Special Security Force (SSF) bill without further delay.

The meeting, chaired by the party's acting chief and Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Abdus Samad Azad, in a resolution said that the 'black' bill was not adopted for the welfare of the state and the people.

It had created a parallel army by giving the Force's chief the rank and status of Army Chief, the resolution said.

Through the passage of the bill, the meeting viewed, auto-cratic Ershad's forces had been turned into Khaleda Zia's forces only changing the title.

Terming the law a 'black' one and which was opposed to the rule of law, humanity, people's basic rights and a barrier in the way of institutionalising democracy, the meeting called upon the people to unitedly protest and resist operation of the SSF.

The SSF bill was passed in Parliament ignoring strong protests and walk-outs by the opposition, the meeting said adding "only an autocratic gov-

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## High tariff for raw materials to cripple local industries: FBCCI

By Staff Correspondent

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) yesterday published a list of 33 items of imported industrial raw materials citing them as "glaring examples of distortions in the tariff structures in the 1992-93 budget."

Presenting a comparative statement of customs duty and tariff value for the previous and current financial years, the FBCCI list showed that the tariff value for all 33 items had been increased. In case of aluminium hydroxide, the raise was as high as 617.39 per cent for one metric ton of the material.

The customs duty was increased on some of these listed items while it was also reduced in a number of others.

Noting the sharp increases of tariff values the FBCCI warned: "as a result of fixation of unrealistic tariff value of industrial raw materials the local industries will virtually collapse."

The FBCCI list of imported items will high tariff values include aluminium hydroxide, manganese dioxide, phenolic moulding compound, calcium

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## VHP announces suspension of temple construction

AYODHYA, July 24: A militant Hindu group today announced an implicit suspension of its controversial campaign to build a grand temple which threatens an ancient mosque here, but said the shrine would be constructed eventually, reports AFP.

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) said the 16-day-old campaign to erect a concrete platform would be finished by Monday, and added it would then concentrate instead on building another temple.

Another report adds, Radical Hindus raising a temple adjacent to a mosque here said today their crusade would go

on, dashing hopes that a way to end the crisis had been found in talks between the militants and New Delhi.

Their warning caused an uproar in the federal parliament as MPs shouted for Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao to make a statement on his overnight talks with leaders of the radical Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP).

Thousands of Hindus continued pouring cement for the first phase of the four-part grand temple, yards from the heavily-guarded mosque site and heedless of the talks and a curfew, witnesses and officials said.

The six-member VHP returned here Friday from the talks in New Delhi, saying construction would continue.

The temple construction is not going to stop but Hindu saints will meet and take a decision today or tomorrow on the drive," said a Hindu VHP priest, Paramhans, in this temple town 700 kilometres (435 miles) from the capital.

Other VHP activists here said the decision would only be on whether to 'suspend' the 16-day-old construction drive.

Paramhans said the 'first phase' of the Rao-VHP talks were 'satisfactory' adding that

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## Mona murder case: Judge Mia taken on police remand

By Staff Correspondent

Judge Mia who was arrested in connection with the murder of Fazlur Rahman Khan Mona was taken on three-day remand by Kotwali police Friday.

Police yesterday produced all the four people arrested in connection with the murder before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court and prayed for seven-day police remand for each, said police.

However, the magistrate granted only three-day police remand for Judge Mia for questioning and ordered to send the other three arrested persons to the Dhaka Central Jail custody.

Three other arrested per-

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## Govt decides to slash export earnings target

By Nazmul Ashraf

The government has decided to slash the export earnings target by Taka 1,244 crore for the 1991-92 fiscal year, apparently to project success in the export sector at least on paper, official sources said.

The move came reportedly after the failure in achieving the export earnings target during the first eleven months of the fiscal year, sources added.

The government had announced a two-year export policy prior to the 1991-92 fiscal year, envisaging an export earnings target of Taka 7,744 crore for the first 11

months (July '91-May '92). In view of an achievement much below the stipulated target, the authorities have planned to reset it at Taka 6,500 crore to show a surplus in the target.

After the revision, export earnings exceeded the target of the first year by Taka 425 crore.

According to sources at the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), export earnings during the first eleven months of the last fiscal (July '91-May '92) was recorded at Taka 6,150 crore, showing a shortfall of 7.86 per cent against the set

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## Next round of Dhaka-Yangon talks in Aug

The next round of Bangladesh-Myanmar DG level repatriation meeting will be held at Cox's Bazar next month, according to an official source here yesterday, reports BSS.

The decision was taken at the 7th meeting of Bangladesh-Myanmar DG level repatriation meeting held at Maungdaw Thursday.

The meeting, held in a cordial atmosphere, made progress in creating congenial situation for easing the process of repatriation of Rohingya Muslim refugees to Myanmar soon.

It agreed upon the regular visits of repatriation centre

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