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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**AL mass contact tour from July 16**

Awami League leaders will go for a 2-day country-wide mass contact tour from July 16 to campaign against corruption, terrorism, politicalisation, repression and price-hike of essentials. During the tour, the party's central leaders will address public meetings at 20 district headquarters, a press release said yesterday, reports UNB.

**Train derails**

CHITTAGONG, July 12: Train services in the Dhaka-Chittagong-Sylhet route and other branch lines remained disrupted for about 7 hours following derailment of a passenger train today. Railway control room sources said the Akhaura-bound 204 down train from Dhaka derailed at Arikhola in Ghorasal at about 8 am. A relief train salvaged it at about 3 pm restoring the train communication. No casualty was reported, reports UNB.

**Works Minister sued**

CHITTAGONG, July 12: A case was filed with the CMM court here today against Works Minister Bariur Rahman Islam Miah for instigating communalism. Local leader of Hindu-Buddha-Christian Othyo Parishad Advocate Rana Das Gupta filed the case saying that the minister had made provocative remarks in a seminar organised by Mukto Forum on 'The Tragedy of Plessey, Our Liberation Struggle and Today's Context' at the National Press Club in Dhaka, reports UNB.

**OIC confce begins in Islamabad**

## Bosnia calls for urgent dispatch of troops

ISLAMABAD, July 12: Bosnian Foreign Minister Haris Salajdzic called today for the urgent dispatch of Islamic troops to his beleaguered country subjected to "broad daylight genocide," reports AFP.

Speaking at a two-day conference of 16 Muslim countries opened here by Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to coordinate troop deployment in Bosnia's six designated areas, he urged the participants to send "as many troops as possible and as soon as possible."

"This conference is very important. We hope it will produce not only paper but some action this time," the foreign minister said.

Hamid Al-Gabid, Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), in his speech stressed that "time is of the essence" to mitigate the tragedy in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

As well as host Pakistan, foreign ministers or representatives from Egypt, Iran, Senegal, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Uganda, Tunisia, Palestine,

Algeria, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Djibouti, Brunet and Morocco are attending the meeting.

Salajdzic lashed out at the UN arms embargo slapped on Bosnia saying that it reflected Europe's "anti-Muslim policy."

He vehemently opposed those who consider the Bosnian conflict a civil war, stressing that his country was "victim of aggression committed by Belgrade."

The Foreign Minister said some 200,000 civilians have

**Plan to send 7600 troops**

ISLAMABAD, July 12: The countries of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) are planning to send 7,600 troops to Bosnia for protection of 'safe areas' as required by the UN, reports Xinhua.

The number was preliminarily estimated and the troops finally to be decided to be contributed could be even more than that, Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman Munir Akram said at a press conference here this evening.

The United Nations has required a maximum of 34,000 troops for the purpose, he said. The participants also discussed air cover and some technical questions such as deployment of troops in Bosnia and command structure, he added.

**Move to avert 48-hr hartal Dialogue with TU leaders today**

A meeting between the Jute Minister Brig (retd) ASM Hannan Shah and trade union leaders will be held today to discuss the problems in the jute sector, officials sources said, reports UNB.

The meeting is aimed at continuing a dialogue with the trade union leaders to avert a planned 48-hour strike called by the SKOP from July 19, the sources indicated.

The SKOP has called for the strike and a road-rail barricade programme throughout the country to press for the implementation of the agreements signed by the government last year.

The demands include declaration of minimum wages and the National Wage Commission award, halting of privatisation and retrenchment of workers and reopening of all closed and laid-off mills and factories.

Trade union sources said that the SKOP is determined to observe the strike and continue the action programmes until fulfilment of the demands.

But the government was reportedly determined not to bow to unjustified pressure from the SKOP.

An earlier UNB report said, the government had already initiated dialogue with the trade

**Talks tomorrow PM discusses CHT issues with top officials**

A high-level special meeting to discuss matters relating to the Chittagong Hill Tracts was held with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair at the International Conference Centre (ICC) in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

The meeting discussed the issues of the forthcoming dialogue between the committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts and the Jana Sanghaty Samity scheduled to be held on July 14 next.

Convener of the committee Communications Minister Oli Ahmed apprised the meeting of the developments and outcome of his tour to the refugee camps

**Soccer fans clash with police**

By Staff Correspondent

A violent clash between football fans and police in and around the Dhaka Stadium last evening left seven people injured.

Their identities could not be ascertained since most were released after first aid at private clinics.

The mob also damaged a few shops and vehicles at the parking lot adjacent to the stadium.

The clash occurred after the Star Premier Division Football League encounter between Abahani Krira Chakra and Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society ended in a goalless draw.

Police resorted to baton charge and lobbed tear-gas shells to disperse the crowd.

Match report on Page 10.

**29 killed as US rockets meeting of Aideed's men**

MOGADISHU, July 12: US helicopters killed at least 29 people today when they rocketed a meeting of aides of Somalia's main warlord, his supporters said, reports AFP.

The raid sparked the revenge killing of at least two foreign journalists.



The Bangladesh Samannaya Abriti Parishad brought out a colourful procession in the city yesterday to mark the start of the fourth national recitation festival. — Star photo

**Bill in JS to raise ministers' house rents**

By Staff Correspondent

A bill proposing a house rent allowance of Tk 17,500 for a minister and Tk 15,000 for state and deputy ministers was introduced in Parliament yesterday.

The Ministers, Minister of State and Deputy Ministers (Remuneration and Privileges) (Amendment) Act 1993 was placed by Local Government Minister Abdus Salam Talukder, who also proposed a lump sum grant equivalent to three months' rent for annual maintenance of their residences.

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**Govt to reduce officials' perks**

The government has decided to reduce ancillary expenses of government officials as a measure to minimise expenditures in the new fiscal year, reports UNB.

Official sources said there would be cuts specially on the heads of telephone bill, entertainment allowance and fuel cost.

A recent pre-budget inter-ministerial meeting with Finance Minister Saifur Rahman in the chair expressed

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**JS body faults Zia Fertiliser's compensation claim**

By Staff Correspondent

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Accounts has asked the concerned authorities to explain why it had settled for only 5 million US dollars against a compensation claim of 43 million US dollars from a British firm which constructed the Zia Fertiliser Factory.

The authorities filed a case with the Paris-based International Chamber of Commerce on February 26, 1985 against the construction firm Foster Wheeler Ltd of England, claiming compensation of 36,505,249 US dollars for failing to complete the works of the factory in Ashuganj as per agreement with the government, committee chairman L K Siddiqui told newsmen Monday.

The committee, which placed a report covering the period 1983-84 before Parliament, found that the Zia Fertiliser Factory authorities initially demanded a compensation of 43,367,308 US dollars in 19 demand notes from Foster Wheeler Ltd but reduced the

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## Sharif, Ishaq meet twice as Benazir plans long march

ISLAMABAD, July 12: Pakistan's President and Prime Minister met twice today to discuss the political crisis in the country following the opposition's call for a long march on Friday in an attempt to force fresh elections, report PTI, Reuter.

President Ishaq Khan and Premier Nawaz Sharif discussed various aspects of the current political situation during the two meetings and considered ways to defuse it, according to a statement issued from the President's office.

The statement said the two leaders had agreed to meet again and continue talks, indicating a thaw in the relations between the two which had deteriorated following Sharif's ouster by Khan on April 18 under the eighth amendment.

While today's first meeting lasted 90 minutes, the second in the evening, described as a one-to-one session, took an hour. The last time the two had met was on June 29.

Sharif expressed optimism over the talks and told reporters that he was making his 'best efforts' to steer the country out

of the present political impasse. Asked about the 'long march' call by the opposition, the Prime Minister said he did not believe in such methods and it was up to the opposition to decide its course.

Opposition leader Benazir Bhutto will lead tens of thousands of supporters in a march on Islamabad on Friday to try to topple Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, her spokesman said on Sunday.

The marchers would lay siege to the capital, Nasrullah Khan told reporters. "We will march from all four provinces. We will stay in Islamabad until all our demands are met."

Bhutto has been threatening to march unless Sharif agreed to a national government, constitutional reforms to slash the power of the President to dismiss parliament, and fresh elections.

She says mid-term elections, 32 months into Sharif's five-year term, are the only way to end a paralysing power struggle between Sharif and President Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

Nasrullah Khan appealed to

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**Munir's father not aware of rejection of mercy petition**

By Staff Correspondent

The family of Munir Hossain Suruj, convicted and sentenced to death for murdering his wife, has not been informed of the President's rejection of their mercy petitions.

In a letter to The Daily Star, Munir's father Dr Abul Kasem said that the fates of their appeals were not officially conveyed to them till date.

They came to know the matter through various newspapers, he added in his brief letter.

A senior, government official, however, said that the President's Office had conveyed the rejection to the Ministry of

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**4-man body to identify reasons for BIDS crisis**

By Staff Correspondent

The Board of Trustees of the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) yesterday constituted a four-member committee to identify the reasons behind the present crisis in the institution.

The 15-member trustee board, headed by Planning Minister Zahiruddin Khan, met yesterday afternoon at the Planning Commission.

The deadlock began on June 27 when the Planning Minister announced the name of Dr Latifur Reza, a Professor of Economics of the Dhaka University, as the Director General of the institution.

Research fellows and other staff members rejected the appointment.

The board yesterday recognised the stalemate in the BIDS and admitted that the crisis had sprung from the appointment of the new DG.

The board, however, passed the minutes of its previous

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**Ministries shy to settle audit objections**

By Staff Correspondent

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Accounts Monday observed that different ministries show 'serious reluctance' to settle audit objections, despite repeated directives to do so.

"The ministries give very low priority in dealing with audit objections," noted L K Siddiqui, MP, chairman of the 15-member committee, in a press briefing immediately after tabling the third report of the committee in the House.

The Public Accounts Committee report was placed during the evening session of the Jatiya Sangsad chaired by Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni.

Detailing a series of serious audit objections in various ministries up to 1984-85, the report recommended setting up of a system in each ministry, with adequate manpower, to settle audit objections expeditiously.

The reluctance of the ministries to settle audit objections is also slowing down the scope

of work of the committee, which is already lagging by nine years, the report noted. Siddiqui said the committee is facing difficulties in dealing with old audit objections as most of the officials involved in the incidents are no longer in those position or have retired.

"We are not seeking to punish anyone but we are trying to

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**WHO's global AIDS director at city seminar**

## Dhaka must expedite preventive steps

By Staff Correspondent

Executive Director of the WHO's Global Programme on AIDS (GPA) Dr. Michael H. Merson warned that AIDS could be another catastrophe for Bangladesh which is accustomed to natural disasters.

"Like flooding, for example, AIDS is not inevitable. You have the chance to invest in AIDS prevention and deny the virus (HIV that causes AIDS) a foothold at a time when the benefits for you are immeasurable," he told a seminar in the capital.

Saying there was no vaccine yet, Dr Merson underlined the need for information, education, condom promotion and improved treatment of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

To avoid a major epidemic in Bangladesh, he felt the need for renewed individual and collective commitment for a national response that embraces all sectors including health and non-health, public and private, secular and religious, communities and individuals.

The seminar on "Comprehensive AIDS Prevention and Control in Bangladesh," was jointly organised by the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organisation (WHO) while NORAD, an NGO, sponsored it at Hotel Sheraton.

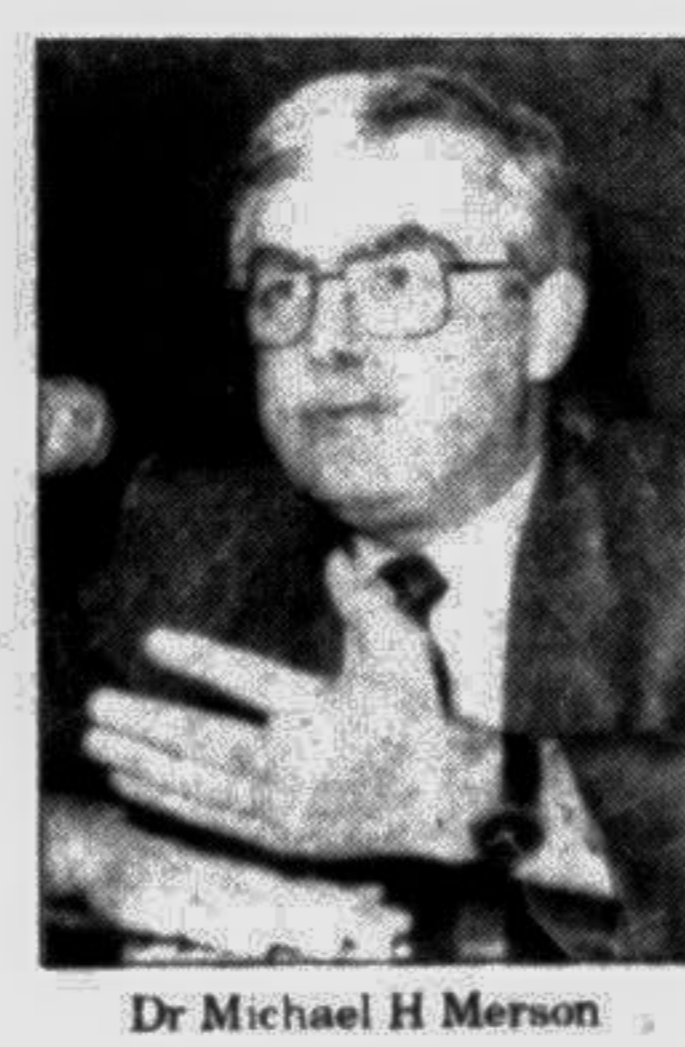
Chaired by the Chairman of the National AIDS Committee, Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury, the seminar was also addressed by the Health Minister

Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Deputy Minister Sirajul Haque, WHO Representative in Dhaka Dr. ANA Abeyesundere, Health Secretary Syed Ahmed and others.

Calling for timely action to prevent the HIV infections, spreading fastest in Asia, Dr Merson said the preventive measures needed financial resources and political commitment to work.

Citing his experiences from the AIDS pandemic, the GPA director said, "The greatest mistake is not to do enough soon enough. This mistake has been made so many times, in so many places."

In his keynote paper, pre-



Dr Michael H Merson

**RAJUK COMMERCIAL PLOT AUCTION NOTICE**

South facing Commercial-Cum-Residential Plot No-36A of Road No-45, Gulshan North C.A. (Southern side of Water Tank) measuring more or less 468.40 Sqr Metre (7 Kathas) will be allotted for 99 years lease, on open auction.

Applications on prescribed form to be obtained with terms and conditions from Janata Bank, Rajuk Bhaban Branch, Dhaka on payment of Tk 200/= (Taka two hundred) only in cash (non-refundable) and will be received by the Deputy Director (Estates) from the intending bidders up to 1.00 PM of 25-7-93.

The auction will be held on 26-7-93 in the Conference Room, 3rd floor of the Rajuk Bhaban, Dhaka at 10.00 A.M.

**Chairman**  
Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha  
Dhaka

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