

Notices for tax from 2 cos Showcouse on Tongi Poura Administrator

The High Court yesterday served a show cause notice on the Administrator of Tongi Pourashava, and three others for demanding Poura tax from Tampaco Coatings Ltd, Tongi, reports UNB. The court issued a Rule on the four upon a writ petition challenging the Notice of Demand for Tk 5,19,970 as Poura tax for the years 1980-81 to 91-92 from the petitioner Tampaco Coatings Ltd, Tongi, claimed to have been issued without lawful authority and of no legal effect. The bench comprised Justice M A Jalil and Justice Ruhul Amin. The operation of the impugned order pending disposal of the Rule was stayed for six weeks and the Rule was made returnable within four weeks. Another writ petition of a similar nature was moved before the same bench where the petitioner Sudhir Basu, proprietor of Bosco Laboratory, Tongi, a pharmaceutical industry, was asked by the administrator of Tongi Pourashava to pay an amount of Tk 1,12,465 as Poura tax for the years 1980-81 to 91-92. A similar rule was issued and the operation of the impugned order was stayed for six weeks pending disposal of the rule and the rule was made returnable within 4 weeks. The counsel appearing for the petitioner in both the cases submitted that the industries located in the Tongi Shilpa Nagari (Industrial estate) had paid all taxes due to the BSIC on different heads including service charges. And if they are again required to pay the same tax to the Tongi Pourashava (municipality) they would be subjected to double taxation. Moreover, the matter is now under consideration of the respective ministries. The government had asked the Tongi Pourashava authorities not to demand any taxes or attach any property, until the matter is settled with the individual industries. Dr Ahmed Hussain, Barrister and Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court, appeared for the petitioner in both the cases.

Ban on 'gewa' lifted for two years KNM to be modernised

The government has undertaken a project to install new machinery to modernise the Khulna Newsprint Mills for using alternative raw materials, Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan told Parliament yesterday. The government has, meanwhile, also rescinded an earlier order banning the supply of "gewa" wood from the Sundarbans to allow the uninterrupted running of the country's only newsprint mills, he said. Making a statement in reply to a call attention notice on the matter of public importance from his party colleague Begum Selina Shaheed, the minister said that without replacing the obsolete machines, it was not possible to use alternative raw materials like sugarcane waste or paper scrap. He said that it would take one-and-a-half to two years to complete the new project and therefore the wood supply arrangements have been extended for another two years. In reply to another question, the minister said that under the new industrial policy, anyone can establish a newsprint mills in the country in the private sector. The minister said the country's newspaper industry was totally dependent on the mills which produces some 48,000 metric tons of newsprint annually. The minister said 90 per cent of raw materials for the mills were supplied from the Sundarbans. The Ministry of Forest and Environment, under a previous regime had informed the mills authorities by an order dated 11-9-90 that from July 1993 wood supply from the Sundarbans would be stopped and had asked the mills to make arrangements for alternative sources of raw materials. The mills would need a massive overhauling to use alternative raw materials like sugarcane waste and paper scrap which too, were unavailable for the desired demand. West Bengal Governor dead CALCUTTA, July 12: The West Bengal Governor, Prof Syed Nurul Hasan died at the SSKM Hospital today at 1642 hrs, after a prolonged illness. He was 72, reports PTI. He is survived by a son and a daughter. The governor, who was suffering from serious cardiac and lung problems and renal failure, was in a critical condition since Sunday morning, according to the Surgeon Superintendent of SSKM Dr B K Sanyal.

Dialogue with TU

From page 1 col 7 union leaders in the jute and other industrial sectors to avert the 48-hour hartal. Disclosing this, Jute Minister Hannan Shah said yesterday that the government would continue the dialogue up to a reasonable time. In an interview with the news agency, the minister said the government would keep its options open to help maintain peace and harmony in the country in general and in the industrial sector in particular. With a tinge of bitterness in his voice, the minister noted that less than half a dozen labour leaders were now pursuing a destructive policy to cripple the jute sector which till today was the single largest export earner and employer, directly or indirectly, of more than three million workers in the country. "It will mean a total confrontation with a legally elected government", Hannan Shah said about the statement by a SKOP leader that during the 48-hour hartal they would lay siege to all industrial belts across the country, completely crippling road and railway links and bring everything to a grinding halt. "No government worth its salt can allow such a situation", he said, adding that the government would mobilise political support from all sectors of life to counter the challenge posed to its authority. The minister made it clear that the government would not hesitate to deploy its administrative machinery to meet any eventuality. In reply to a question, he said despite a bad international market for jute, Bangladesh's earning from export of 4.80 lakh tons of jute goods would exceed Tk 1,300 crore during 1992-93. Summing up his impressions of recent visits to the United States and France where he had gone to explore markets for jute goods, the Jute Minister said America would completely discard import of carpet-backing cloth made of jute in one or two years. In simple terms, it means a loss of market of 90,000 metric tons of jute goods in the United States, he said but assured that this should, however, give us no cause for concern. The Jute Minister went on to add that during his visit to the US he had explored alternate uses of jute goods as garbage disposal bags, thermal foam substitute for buildings, packing for nursery plants and reusable shopping bags, etc. Giving an example, he said New York city alone requires 100,000 metric tons of garbage disposal bags annually.

Hearing of Golam Azam's writ begins

Prof Golam Azam's counsel Barrister A R Yusuf yesterday submitted his arguments in the hearing of the writ petition, saying that the order of detention dated March 24, 1992 passed by the government on detenu Prof Golam Azam was served without grounds in violation of Clause 5 of Article 33, Article 31 and Article 32 of the Constitution, reports BSS. Yusuf argued that the stay order granted by the Appellate Division with regard to the citizenship of Prof Golam Azam did not prove that he is not a citizen of Bangladesh. Hearing resumes today. Barrister A R Yusuf, Sheikh Ansar Ali, MP, and Advocate Nowab Ali appeared for the petitioner.

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Kamal's call for consensus on basic issues

JESSORE, July 12: Democratic Forum (DF) leader and former foreign minister Dr Kamal Hossain today called upon the politicians to reach a national consensus on major politico-economic issues for accelerating the pace of development. Institutionalisation of parliamentary democracy and consolidation of rule of law in the country, reports BSS. Dr Kamal, now on a tour of the southern districts to mobilise public support for his forum to turn it into a third major political force as an alternative to the BNP and the Awami League, was addressing a workers' meeting here at the local town hall. Forum leader and former minister Sheikh Abdul Aziz, former deputy minister Barrister Amirul Islam and former Awami League leader AU Ahmed also spoke. Advocate Firoz Ahmed presided. "There is no other option but to reach a national consensus for improving the lot of the commonman," Dr Kamal said, and sounded a note of caution: "If we fail to do this immediately the development, peace and progress of the country would be disrupted." Dr Kamal stressed the need to root out corruption ad campus violence for creating a congenial investment climate in the country. Sheikh Aziz regretted that even after 22 years of independence, the country could not make any major effort to come out of the labyrinth of poverty.

Zia Fertiliser

From Page 1 Col 5 claim during filing of the case with the international chamber. The claim was further lowered to 5,040,737 US dollars during the settlement. The parliamentary committee also found that spare parts worth Tk 70 crore reminded dumped at the factory godown. The factory went into operation on July 1, 1983.

Dacoits swoop on night coach: One killed, 3 hurt

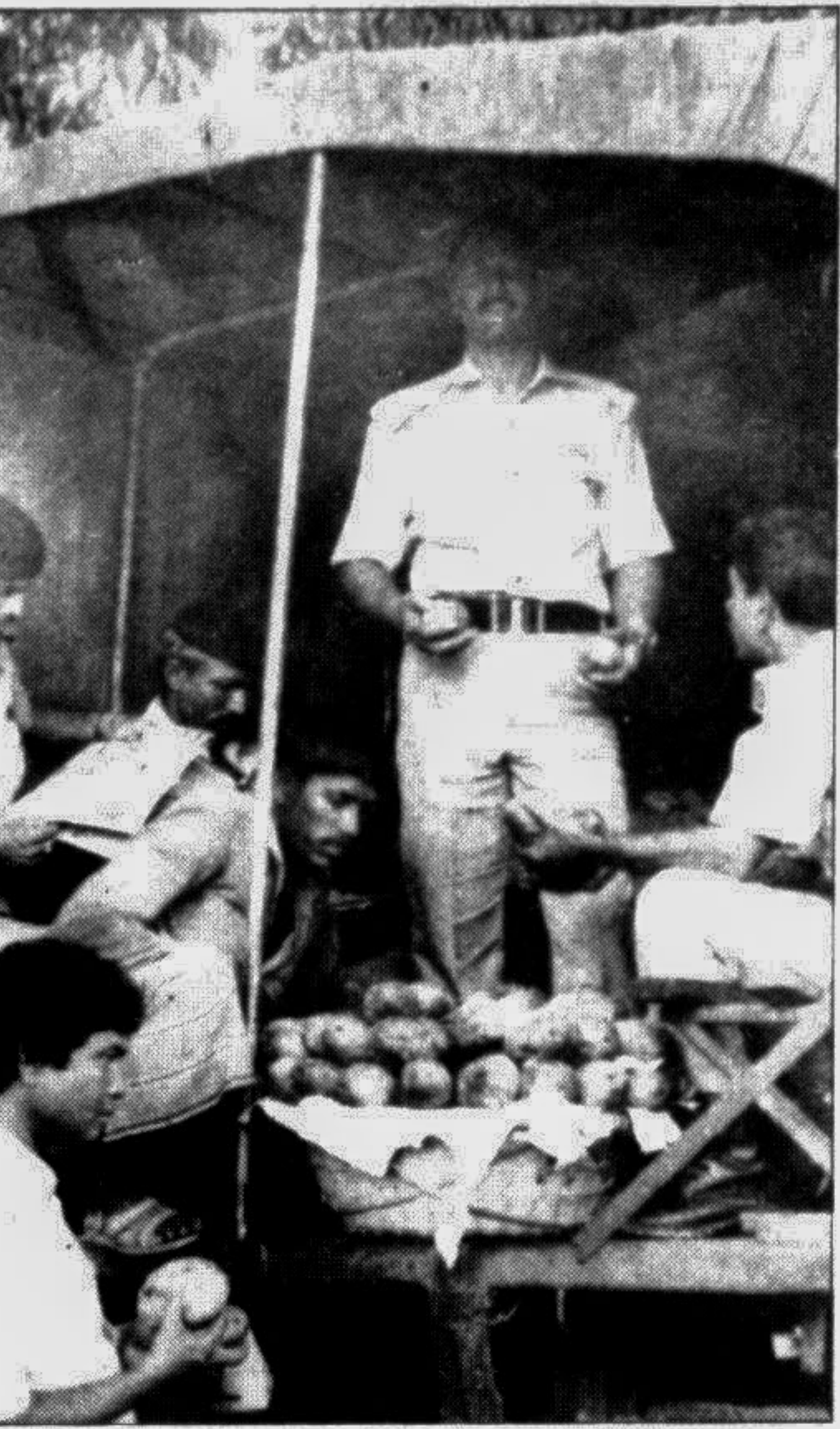
JESSORE, July 12: Dacoits killed a passenger and injured three others in a swoop on a Sathkhirra-bound night coach on the Dhaka-Jhendiadh highway early today, reports UNB. Police said Farhad Sikder, 38, a banana trader hailing from Dhalga village in Munshiganj district, died instantly as the bandits stabbed him in the chest. The driver of the bus, Moinuddin, was also injured in the late-night holdup. The two other injured were named Mohammad Sohrab Sikder, Farhad's brother, and his uncle Amir Hossain. Police and witnesses said some 10 bandits in the guise of passengers boarded "Druiti Paribahan" in Dhaka and took control of the bus when it reached Mazkhandi in Madhukhal thana at about 2:30 am.

Rickshawpullers observe hartal in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, July 12: Rickshaw-pullers observed an eight-hour hartal here from 6 am today to protest the alleged killing of a fellow puller, Babul, by a rickshaw garage owner at the town's Hospital Road on Sunday. Meanwhile, the proprietor of the garage, Mosharrif Hossain, was taken on a three-day police remand yesterday. He was arrested by the police Sunday. Babul was reportedly beaten to death by Hossain for allegedly stealing an audio-cassette and some other valuables. Police recovered Babul's body from the garage Sunday midnight.

Dhaka must act soon

From Page 1 Col 4 sexual intercourse, Dr. Merson called for changing sexual behaviour, especially for youths, and for early diagnosis and treatment of conventional STDs such as syphilis, gonorrhoea and chancroid which facilitate HIV infection. Regarding use of condom for safer sex, he pointed out it was a sensitive issue in societies like Bangladesh yet it was vital that people in risk situation should have ready access to them. Addressing the seminar, the Health Minister announced that the government had decided to go for a plan of action by the end of this month and a separate directorate would be set up for AIDS by the end of August. Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury Deputy Leader of the House, said the government had a firm political commitment for the prevention of the deadly disease. He also stressed the need for spread of sex education and the promotion of condom use for safer sex.



Police whisking away an unauthorised mango seller from the pavement near the Press Club yesterday. — Star photo

PLO, Israel held secret talks, admits Arafat

TUNIS, July 12: PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat confirmed today that high-ranking Palestine Liberation Organisation and Israeli officials met on two occasions. There were two meetings last month in Washington, during the (Middle East peace) negotiations rounds, and they were unsuccessful, Arafat told Reuters. Arafat's adviser Nabil Shaath told Reuters in Cairo earlier that there had been contact with Israel but declined to say where or when or who had been involved. In Israel, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's spokesman, Gad Ben-Ari, denied there had been any meetings with the PLO. But Foreign Minister Shimon Peres appeared to sidestep a question on the issue, saying: "I cannot respond to every statement from anyone in the PLO or elsewhere else." Israel has been negotiating peace with Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip since October 1991. But it has always refused to talk to the PLO on the grounds that it is a terrorist movement dedicated to destroying the Jewish state. The newspaper quoted "an important political source in Israel" for the front-page story. The secret talks were concentrating on the question of Jerusalem, the stumbling block at the latest round of official peace negotiation and the legal powers devolved to the Palestinians for an interim autonomy period in the occupied territories, Haaretz said.

Sharif, Ishaq meet

From page 1 col 7 Shujaat said, is determined to maintain law and order situation in Islamabad and will take all measures to check any untoward incident. The government will not give in to the opposition's blackmailing tactics as it is its prerogative to decide when to hold elections in the country," he said. The call for Friday's demonstration has raised the political temperature in the country increasing further the expectation that the army, which has ruled Pakistan for 25 of its 45 years, will step in again. Public opinion is becoming more and more exasperated over the powerlessness of the politicians to control the course of events. The planned demonstrations have also made more difficult attempts by Prince Tuqi al-Faisal, head of Saudi Arabia's information services, to mediate in Islamabad.

Cut in perks

From Page 1 Col 5 dissatisfaction at the increasing expenditures in different government offices on miscellaneous heads, particularly fuel. The meeting decided to retain drivers only on the basis of number of vehicles in all government offices. Different departments have been instructed to get rid of surplus drivers by sending them on retirement after 25 years in service. Decision has also been taken to slash the fuel expenditure to a minimum level. Larger departments such as Health, Food, Agriculture Extension and Education have been asked to provide the Finance Minister with full description of the number of vehicles at their disposal, number of drivers and their salary and monthly fuel bills. The meeting also decided to reduce the allocation on miscellaneous head and travelling allowance in the police department.

House rent

From Page 1 Col 5 The minister sought a retrospective effect of the bill since July 1, 1991. Salam Talukder said that he did not introduce the bill to give ministers additional financial benefits but to remove discrepancies in the previous act. He said that under the 1973 act, ministers who have been living in their own houses are facing problems regarding maintenance allowances. Objecting to the bill, Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury of the Jatiya Party termed it "anti-people" and regretted that while the government was campaigning for austerity its ministers were looking for ways to take more money from the public exchequer. The objection was, however, rejected by voice vote. Discussion on the bill would be held later.

PM for positive OIC steps to stop oppression in Bosnia

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said in Dhaka yesterday that Bangladesh was observing with deep concern and sorrow the oppression on the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina, reports BSS. "The Muslim countries have to sit for consensus to stop the oppression on Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina and protect the interest of Muslim world," Begum Zia said while talking to the newly-appointed Turkish Ambassador Kutlu Ozgucene who called on her at her office. She expressed her concern over the situation in Azerbaijan and Armenia relating to Nagorno-Karabakh and hoped that the OIC would come up with positive steps to solve the present problems and crisis in Muslim countries. Welcoming the New Turkish Ambassador Begum Zia assured him of all possible support and cooperation from her government in discharging his duties. Begum Zia underlined the need for expanding trade relations between Bangladesh and Turkey and said setting of a joint chamber of commerce by the two countries would further strengthen the existing relationship. The Prime Minister appreciated the initiatives of the Turkish Government for introducing Bengali language course in Ankara University. The Ambassador underlined the need for strengthening the existing relationship especially in the field of economic cooperation. He said "Turkey believes in peace at home and abroad." He also stressed the need for establishing a joint chamber of commerce. Brothel madam out on bail From Our Correspondent. NARAYANGANJ, July 12: Police today arrested Rita Khanam, a brothel madam and reported leader of prostitutes of local Tanbazar from the Deobhog area of the town for allegedly forcing an underage girl to engage in immoral activities, according to police sources. Police appealed to the Narayanganj Thana Magistrate's Court for permission to bring her under seven days remand. But the court denied permission and released her on bail. According to police, Rina, 11, was recovered from the room of Rita Khanam at the Tanbazar brothel on June 22 and on the basis of her allegations police filed a case against Rita under the articles 4 and 5 of the law against repression on women. Rina alleged that "Rita had brought her to Narayanganj from Bhola with the assurance of providing her a job. She was tortured severely by Rita Khanam when she refused to have sex with the clients. Rita Khanam had attained some notoriety when she emerged as the leader of the Tanbazar prostitutes during a police campaign to evict them in late 1991."

The Midnight File Peace march to end war in Bosnia

LYONS FRANCE, July 12: Thousands of peace activists from Europe, the United States and Mexico have been called to march on Sarajevo August 4 to press for an end to more than a year of brutal factional fighting among Serbs, Croats and Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Planners have said nearly 10,000 people have already pledged to take part in the demonstration. The march is being organized by humanitarian association linked together in the committee for the Sarajevo gathering, based in Geneva, reports AFP.

Israel-Vietnam diplomatic ties

JERUSALEM, July 12: Israel and Vietnam have established full diplomatic relations, the foreign ministry said today. "From our point of view it's a major Asian country on the brink of a major economic jump forward," ministry spokesman Evistar Manor said. The announcement coincided with a visit to Israel by Vietnamese deputy foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien, who arrived on Sunday for a four-day stay, reports Reuter.

Audit objections

From page 1 col 7 make the system more accountable and transparent," he added. The report also noted that extra-budgetary expenditures are not being sent for approval by the House despite constitutional requirements to do so. Noting that the committee is unable to function properly due to lack of logistic support, Awami League member Shudhangshu Shekhar Haldar objected to the tabling of the report as a final one, insisting that it should be treated as only a preliminary report. The report also recommended amending the rules of procedure to enable the committee to look into more current audit objection reports, if needed, even before the Audit Department's report is placed in the House. The report suggested placing the internal audit departments of sector corporations under the directors of the corporations. The report noted that audit objections raised in 1976 relating to the shortfall of taka seven crore of wheat during transportation to the Narayanganj silo, still remains to be resolved and the money collected. It also pointed out that no annual inventory is taken at the nearly 1,000 godowns of Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation. The government suffered a loss of Tk 25,48,675 as the Dhaka City Corporation failed to deduct income tax from the bills of contractors, it added. The committee recommended that both the Dhaka and Chittagong water authorities, collect arrears to the tune of Tk 8,63,91,327, and also asked both government and non-government organisations to pay the rental and demurrage charges owed to the BIWTC, which stood at Tk 9,45,15,993.

Boat capsized in Jamuna-Padma confluence: 14 bodies recovered

PABNA, July 12: Rescuers today recovered 14 bodies of the victims of Sunday's boat capsizing here at the confluence of the rivers Jamuna and Padma, reports UNB. Bera police said some 25 people were feared drowned as the engine boat with 60 passengers overturned and capsized amid strong winds at about 8 pm Sunday. The boat was proceeding towards Godabarizpur in Rajbari district from Mirpur of Bera thana in Pabna when the mishap occurred.

Munir's father

From Page 1 Col 8 Home Affairs through which the appeals were processed. There are no rules that the President's decision must be conveyed to the family. Munir, now in a condemned cell, is due to be hanged on July 26 for killing his wife Sharmin Sultana Rima. Meanwhile, Amnesty International and 200 employees of Munir's garments factory, National Apparel Co Ltd, have appealed to the authorities to commute the death sentence. But four non-government organisations campaigning for women's rights, protested the Amnesty International's appeal. The Narigantha Prabartana, Ubinig, Gonatantrik Narj Andolon, and Resistance Network, in a joint press statement yesterday, said "It is very surprising that an internationally reputed human rights organisation like Amnesty International has chosen to come forward with the argument of right to life for somebody who brutally killed another person violating her right to life."

PM: CHT talks

From Page 1 Col 8 in the Indian State of Tripura. The meeting also reviewed the 13-point demand put forward by the Tribal Refugees' welfare Association during the Communications Minister's visit to Tripura. Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz, LGRD Minister Abdus Salam Talukder, Finance Minister Saifur Rahman, Home Minister Abdul Mattin Chowdhury, Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan, the Cabinet Secretary, the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, the PSO, concerned officials and members of the committee were present. Preparations on Meanwhile, our Chittagong correspondent adds: Preparations are afoot for holding the fourth round of peace talks between the Shantibahini leaders and the parliamentary committee headed by the Communications Minister Col (Rtd) Oli Ahmed on July 14 at the Khagrachhari Circuit House. The Shantibahini team in the dialogue will be led by Shanto Larma, president of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), the parent organisation of the tribal rebels. The authorities, as per conditions placed by the PCJSS, withdrew eight security outposts and have kept five others inoperative at the frontier villages five days ahead of July 14 talks. This will remain valid until three days after the talks, authoritative sources said. The withdrawal outposts include one army camp at Chikan Chand Karbari Para and seven BDR camps located at Kedaraachhara, Dain Chandra, Bari Rupsen Para, Nandakumar Para, Chankola, Kachuchhara and Kestomoni Para under Panchchari and Dighinala thanas. The five inoperative camps include to army and three BDR outposts. According to sources, special emphasis is likely to be given in this fourth round of talks by the parliamentary committee to find out a political solution to the CHT issue. However, the third round of talks between the Shantibahini team and the committee was held on May 22. In those talks both parties agreed to extend the ceasefire upto August 31.

OIC confce

From Page 1 Col 3 been killed, 1.5 million have been displaced, adding "there are concentration camps and rape camps. Bosnia is subjected to an organised and systematic destructions." Some 800 mosques, several dating back to the 15th and 16th centuries, had been destroyed by those hoisting the banner of "might is justice," he said. This was being done with "tacit approval" from outside under the so-called pretext of maintaining a "neutral attitude."

IDB to provide aid for four sectors

Islamic Development Bank (IDB) will provide assistance to Bangladesh for development of road infrastructure, telecommunication, rural electrification and primary and secondary education, reports UNB. The assurance came from the visiting IDB Vice-President, Enam Ahmed Chowdhury, who called on Finance Minister Saifur Rahman at his office yesterday. The IDB Vice-President outlined the strategic planning focuses in the IDB.