Union Parishad (Amend) Bill passed

(Tuesday) without the opposition who earlier staged walkout en masse protesting the bill, reports UNB.

collect the targeted tax was deleted on an amendment moved by four members, including two from the opposition.

theatrical shows and other enand amusements; 4) fees for lithe parishad; 5) fees (lease money) from specified hats.

Communications Minister

Col (Rtd) Oli Ahmed yesterday

expressed the hope that the

Railway would be brought to a

break-even point within next

Replying to a volley of ques-

tions in Parliament, the minis-

ter admitted the absence of ba-

sic amenities for the travellers

of railway in most cases. He

said the Railway had been

running on heavy losses which

has been brought down to 90

of railway engines is now less

than 380 as against 400 during

the end of Pakistan period. Fifty

per cent of the engines are

above 25 years old. Railway sta-

tions except 10 were built more

provement in railways was pos-

sible without raising income

and earning profit. No external

assistance will be available for

improvement of railway services

and providing additional facili-

ing Abdul Matin Khasru (AL)

and Ebadur Rahman (JP) while

From page 1 col 7

come as the first concrete step

We need these troops as

He said he hoped UN hu-

manitarian convoys would be

able to move unhindered and

the people in Bosnia would get

water. Siladjzic said 12 people

had died in Sarajevo on Monday

as Serb aggressors have started

using drinking water as a

dents of Sarajevo have gone

nearly two weeks without

drinking water, telephones,

mitments" had been made by

Bangladesh, Iran, Malaysia,

Pakistan, Turkey, Tunisia and

Iran to deploy troops in the

mitments, saying it would send

ready to dispatch "any number"

if requested by the United

sion, Kanju said the number of

troops promised by conference

participants would be more

than the so-called "light op-

tion," which would station

curity zones in Bosnia under

the UN Protection Force

Bihac, Gradze, Sarajevo,

on the UN Security Council to

"condemn" Serbian aggression,

now joined by Croat

"extremists," and demands an

immediate ceasefire prior to any

ference should seek "the rever-

sal of the consequences of ag-

gression and ethnic cleansing"

and vacating of territories ac-

quired by Serbs and Croats in

command structure" to ensure

that troops from OIC member-

states were not "exposed to

greater risk" than that faced by

Commanders in protected

any other national contingent.

areas should have the authority

to directly request air cover

from NATO aircraft in case of

The Islamic countries re-

jected any plan which erodes

the "unity, sovereignty and ter-

ritorial integrity" of Bosnia-

Herzegovina and reiterated their

attack, it said.

The plan calls for a "unified

the past 15 months of conflict.

An international peace con-

peace negotiations.

Srebrennica, Tuzla and Zepa.

The safe areas include

The OIC actions plan calls

peacekeepers at six se-

Iran topped the list of com-

Turkey has said it would be

Speaking at the closing ses-

Some reports have said resi-

Kanju said "specific com-

"political weapon".

electricity or fuel.

former Yugoslav state.

10,000 soldiers.

(UNPROFOR).

by the 51-member OIC.

quickly as possible,"

Opposition members includ-

He made it clear that no im-

than 60 years ago.

ties to the travellers.

Oli Ahmed said the number

crore taka last fiscal year.

two years, reports UNB.

bazars and ferries within the union boundaries to be determined by the government; and 6) fees (lease money) from 'jalmahals' situated entirely within the union boundaries to be determined by the govern-

The bill also provided nine wards in place of three of union parishad

Winding up the lengthy discussion on the bill, the LGRD Minister Abdus Salam Talukdar assured the House that the taxes to be levted by the union parishads will not affect the commonman.

He said union parishad used to collect taxes from time immemorial. "We have only rationalised the taxes so that it does not hurt the commonman."

Criticising the opposition for staging walkout, the minister said they came with a pre-conceived mind to play for the gallery and thus score a politi-

the democratic right to stage walkout. But the right will turn into a "malpractice" if it is used frequently, Barrister Talukder

shooting supplementaries gave

a grim picture of the Railway

and the sufferings of the trav-

ellers in the absence of basic

Qamran of BNP, the

Communications Minister said

Bangladesh Railway incurred a

loss of Taka 90 crore in the last

fiscal year (1992-93), which was

Taka 15 crore less than that of

way earned Taka 296.50 crore

against a total expenditure of

of Awami League, the

Communications Minister said

that Tk 15,86,732 was realised

as fine from ticketless passen-

He said that during the pe-

riod, Tk 5,98,858 was earned

from sale of platform tickets at

the Dhaka railway station while

Tk 1,93,750 from different rail-

Mosarraf of Awami League that

the number of diesel engines is

287, of which 241 for meter-

war crimes tribunal to proceed

Dhaka iterates

From Page 1 Col 8

leading a four-member

Bangladesh delegation, also

emphasised that in view of the

fast deteriorating situation in

Bosnia-Herzegovina, members

of the OIC contact group should

undertake trips to various

countries, particularly capitals

of five permanent members of

met the Pakistan Prime Minister

Mohammad Nawaz Sharif be-

fore the formal inauguration of

the special OIC ministerial

meeting. He conveyed greetings

and good wishes of Prime

Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to

held a meeting with Dr Hamid

Al Gabid, Secretary General of

the OIC. The Secretary General

expressed his gratitude and

deep appreciation for the

Bangladesh government's deci-

sion to contribute troops for

Detention of Azam

From Page 1 Col 8

der the Foreigners' Act. He

submitted that the detention

order passed by the government

was in violation of the

Constitution and therefore ille-

the plaintiff's counsel, Attorney

General Aminul Huq pointed

out that it was not necessary to

show any ground for detention

of a person under the

Foreigners' Act when the person

concerned is considered a for-

Huq argued that when Prof

Azam became the Ameer of the

Jamaat-e-Islami, the issue of

his citizenship came to the sur-

face. He said Azam being a for-

eigner, the entire security of the

state was seriously threatened

when he became the leader of a

political party and as such the

government had been compelled

to detain him under the

Articles 31, 32, 33 of the

Constitution are applicable only

The judgement may be pro-

to a citizen of Bangladesh

The Attorney General said

Foreigners' Act.

nounced today.

Replying to the arguments of

peacekeeping in Bosnia.

The Foreign Minister also

Nawaz Sharif.

Earlier, the Foreign Minister

the UN Security Council soon.

The Foreign Minister, who is

rent desperate situation there.

gauge and 73 broad-gauge.

embargo on the region.

against aggressors.

The Minister told Rashed

During the period, the rail-

In reply to Abul Kalam Azad

Replying to Salahuddin

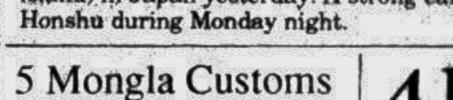
facilities in the trains.

the previous year.

Taka 386.50 crore.

gers during 1991-92.

way junction stations.



According to a Customs source, a Toyota car, model 90, brought by a crew of a Russian ship the Akademik Filatov, was unloaded at Mongla port with the collaboration of some Customs officials on June 24

Customs intelligence later seized the car in Khulna city from the possession of a stevedore who claimed the vehicle was a gift. But the stevedore paid Tk three lakh as Customs

ter primary investigation, put two superintendents, two preventive officers and one peon on suspension in this connection.

The suspended officials are: Superintendent (SPS) Ali Asgar, SPS S K Das, Preventive officers Ali Husain and SN Mandal and peon Abdur Rahim, according to Customs sources.

Housewife gang-raped in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, July 13: A housewife was allegedly gang-raped at Alamnagar under Khalispur thana last night.

According to the FIR Asma Begum, 21, was raped by nine persons who dragged her to a nearby primary school for the

Asma was admitted to a private clinic in a critical condi-

Three such rape incidents have occurred in the same area during this month but none has been arrested so far, according to residents.

dies, 70 hurt in Gopalganj road mishaps

nor boy was killed and at least 70 others were wounded in separate road accidents here today. In an accident at about

10:30 am, a head-on collision between two vehicles left Shajib. 2, dead and another 25 passengers injured.

In an other road accident, which took place at 11:00 am at Takerhat highway, 45 people sustained injuries in a collision

were admitted at the Gopalganj Hospital. Separate cases have been filed.

Four Sarbahara party men killed in gunbattle

SIRAJGANJ, July 13: Four members of an outlawed party were killed in a gunbattle when they attacked a house at village Pratap in Ullapara thana

Police and witnesses said house-owner Akbar Ali, a retired army major, and his nephew were injured in the

Mohammad Ali Hospital in Bogra with serious bullet in-

Of the dead, who were said to be activists of the underground Sarbahara Party, one die on the spot and three others succumbed to their injuries at a local clinic. Their



Islam Khan said in parliament yesterday that the government has decided to import four lakh metric tons of salt through TCB to meet the deficit caused by inclement weather this year, reports UNB.

Of this, two lakh tons of salt will be reaching the country within a week, the minister said responding to a call notice moved by Jamaat-e-Islami leader Mattur Rahman Nizami. Explaining the reasons of

importing salt through TCB, the Industries Minister said that the country could not achieve the production target of 7.5 lakh tons due to adverse weather and excess rainfall during the season. Only 3.2 lakh tons of salt, was produced this year, he added. He told the House that a

record 7.2 lakh tons of salt were produced in 1991-92 due to favourable weather as well as certain pragmatic steps taken by the government.

The government decision to import four lakh metric tons of salt was to meet the emergency situation and keep the price of salt within the buying capacity of commonman, Khan said.

He said the government has undertaken expansion programme for production of salt in

Faridpur districts will also be brought under the salt production programme in phases, he

Earlier, in his call attention notice, Matiur Rahman Nizami said that the government decision to import salt through TCB posed a threat to the prospective salt industry as the salt mills were facing problem for want of raw materials like boulders and uncrushed salt.

Nizami asked that why the government did not allow the salt mill owners to import salt instead of TCB?

The industries Minister said that the Salt Mill Owners Association earlier opposed the government plan to import salt boulders through TCB and crush those in their mills. Hence, the government decided to import crushed salt through TCB on emergency basis.

To a query from Nizami, minister said it would not have been possible for small millowners to import directly this big quantity of salt and the Commerce Ministry was asked to take emergency measures to import the required quantity of

US girl, Nigerian

From page 1 col 7 depressed and started weeping immediately after pronouncement of the judgement.

Her fellow accused 25-yearold Robert Blankson alias Tony reacted by shouting at the judge: "This is a wrong judgement. Because I am poor and have no lawyer I have been punished wrongly."

Vice Counsellor of the American embassy in Dhaka Andrew B Haviland was present during the judgement.

The judge, in his 35-page typed judgement in English, observed that both the accused are educated and young. It is not found that they are habitual offenders. They have committed the offence either being misguided or out of greed. Considering their young age. eduction and the circumstances of the case, they should not be awarded the death sentence," he added.

The Narcotics Control Act promulgated in 1991 provides that if any person carries, transports or possesses more than 25 grams of heroin in contravention of the provision of Section 9 (1) he/she shall be punished with death or imprisonment for life.

Eliadah McCord was arrested from the Zia International Airport on February 25, 1992 with nearly 3 kilos of heroin in four packets strapped to her thighs while on her way to Zurich.

After her arrest she confessed to the detective branch officials that she was trapped by Blankson and his gang and was forced to become a courier.

She also said that she was a school girl and was in Bangladesh on a study tour. Blankson told police that he was a motor garage worker in his country.

Blankson was arrested from the Benapole border a few days after McCord's arrest and Goody Ochendo was arrested from the Zia International Airport when he was trying to escape using Okay Goodwin's passport.

After thorough investigation police brought charges against them on November 25 last. McCord is the second among

four brothers and two sisters who live in Houston, Texas. The judge's verdict was to be conveyed to her parents Richard Milton McCord and Silvia McCord by the US embassy, McCord's lawyer Kazi Adbul Wahab told The Daily

Wahab said that following consultations with the girl's parents either the judgement would be challenged in the High Court or an appeal made to the President for clemency.

According to the jail code, life imprisonment means 20 years of confinement which again actually comes down to about 14 years with every nine months served counting as a year. A prisoner can also get a rebate for his or her good behaviour in jail.



Eliadah McCord being escorted to the courtroom yesterday

Public Prosecutor Rezak Khan and APP Moynuddin Ahmed appeared for the state. The two Nigerians, including Tony, were defended by attorneys Khorshed Alam and Ali Ahmed, deputed by the state.

Court sources said that this was the third drug trafficking case involving foreign nationals Five Pakistanis and a Nigerian were awarded death sentences in separate cases last year. Their appeals are pending before the higher courts.

Blasts, gunshots create panic

in Ctg By Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 13: A series of cocktail blasts and gunshots by a group of youths this evening rocked the Ghat Forhad Beg and Hakim Ali Road areas, sending residents running helter skelter for safety witnesses said.

According to Kotwali police and witnesses, the trouble began at the Ghat Forhad Beg, located in the heart of the city, when an armed group tried to kidnap a young boy as a sequel to an old rivalry. The shooting continued for about half an hour and the shops were also shut, witnesses added lowever, no casualties were reported. Police were later deployed in the area.

Ex-commissioner murdered in Cox's Bazar

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, July 13 Former Cox's Bazar poura commissioner Reaz Mohammad Igbal (38) was stabbed to death by some unidentified miscreants in the Ghonartara area of the town this afternoon.

Witnesses said, the incident occurred around 3:00 pm when Reaz was arguing with some of his rivals. The rivals attacked Reaz with knives, stabbing him on his chest and abdomen.

He was taken to the Cox's Bazar Sadar hospital immediately but the doctors there sent him to the Dhulahazara hospital. Reaz succumbed to his in-

Meanwhile, the incident heightened tension in the town. Protest processions were brought out demonstrations staged by Reaz's supporters.

juries on the way.

Agitated people of the town held a rally at the Lal Dightrpar in the evening demanding immediate arrest of the killers The speakers also declared a half-day hartal in the town to-

No case has been lodged in this connection till filing of this report at 9:00 pm. The police, however, were investigating.

dacoits held from night coach: Arms recovered

From Our Correspondent JHENIDAH, July 13: Kalig-

anj police arrested seven dacoits from a Dhaka-bound night coach of Balaka Paribahan and recovered huge quantities of arms and ammunition at Barobazar in Kaligani thana Monday night. Police stopped the coach at

11:00 pm and arrested Seraj, 21, of Beparipara, Jhenidah, Kamal, 23, of Jessore, Sazad, 22, of Gaibandha, Forhad Alam, 23, of Daulatpur, Mujahid, 21 and Alal, 23, of Sreepur (Magura) and Nayan, 23, of Kaligani.

Police recovered four pipeguns, one revolver, ten bullets, one axe, one dagger and three cocktails, police

Another source said all the arrested were the armed activists of an underground political party.

A case was lodged with Kaliganj thana in this connec-

Sharif

From Page 1 Col 8 to storm the capital and the Chief Minister and the Governor of this province will lead the march and the whole scheme to destroy the fabric of the federation is being chalked out in the Governor's house," he said.

The mass march is aimed at overturning the government and forcing general elections. Punjab officials, who side with the President in the row with the Premier, are engaged in its organisation, sources say.

PM: Women MPs From Page 1 Col 8 portunities in strengthening the party.

The MPs observed that they could play a vital role in implementing socio-economic uplift programmes like tree plantation, child and mother health care, mass and compulsory primary education and family planning.

They also observed that the women MPs should be given the chances to work for encouraging more women to take part in the specific uplift programmes initiated by the government.

The MPs, who took part in

the discussion included, State Minister for Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Sarwari Rahman, State Minister for Cultural Affairs Jahanara Begum, Seltma Rahman, Begum Shamsunnahar Ahsanullah, Farida Rahman, Kurshid Jahan Huq, Rabia Chowdhury and Aysa Khatun.

The Midnight File

Russia may pull out of rocket deal with India

MOSCOW, July 13: Russia could soon pull out of a controversial deal to supply India with space rocket engines, Interfax News Agency said today. The United States has imposed sanctions on a series of Russian firms in a bid to block the deal, which it says violates rules intended to stop the spread of missile technology, reports Reuter.

Scam: JPC asks for Rao's diary

NEW DELHI: July 13: 'A parliamentary committee investigating India's worst financial scandal has asked for the diary of Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao to see whether he met a stockbroker who has accused him of accepting a bribe. Chairman of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) Ram Niwas Mirdha said he had also asked nine people, including Rao's personal secretary RK Khandekar, to reply to JPC queries about the 1.2 billion US dollars securities scandal by July 20, reports Reuter.

JS probe body

From Page 1 Col 5

House over the past few days. Terming the proposal a 'historic' one, Opposition lead ers observed that formation of the committee would definitely help strengthen democracy in the country.

The Opposition members who spoke on the occasion included Abdus Samad Azad, Moudud Ahmed, Matiur Rahman Nizami, Suranjit Sengputa, Shahjahan Siraj and Maulana Obaidur Rahman.

They all congratulated the government for the move and repeatedly requested Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali to head the committee.

The Speaker had proposed a committee and its terms of ref-

Kader Siddiqui's parents held, out on bail

Police early Tuesday arrested the parents, two sisters and some relatives and associates of Awamt League leader Abdul Kader Siddiqui from the premises of a disputed house, reports UNB.

Mirpur police said they had detained and later sent to court Abdul Ali Siddiqui (83) and Latifa Siddiqui (72), the parents of freedom fighter Kader Siddiqui, along with 13 other people from a house in East Sheorapara in the early hours Tuesday.

They had allegedly occupied the house tilegally from the possession of one Mohammed Mohsin, who had been living there before.

The arrested persons were sued by Mohsin on charge of illegally occupying his resi-

They were later released on bail by the court of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate.

Seminar on CHT July 18 The Council of Hill People

(Parbatya Gana Parishad) will hold a seminar on the "Chittagong Hill Tracts and Conspiracy" at the National Press Club on July 18 at 4:00 pm. Justice Abdur Rahman Chowdhury will attend as the chief guest, reports UNB.

erence on July 6 . But the Opposition rejected that proposal, alleging that the terms were planned to 'protect' the ruling party's interest. On July 11 Razzak Ali said he would not sit on the committee since his integrity had been questioned.

All Opposition leaders yesterday urged him to forget the past and set a glorious precedent in the country's parliamentary annals. They observed that without Shaikh Razzak Ali, the probe would not be able to function effectively.

Visibly moved, Shaikh Razzak Ali eventually consented to chair the committee.

He also said that he was very hurt following the Opposition allegations of partiality against

"But since I consider myself one of the 330-member JS family, and since you all have requested me to chair the committee, I accept the proposal," the Speaker said to the relief of the House at 9:53 pm.

The whole House cheered and passed the proposal unanimously at 9:55.

Two hacked to death at Keranigani

By DMCH Correspondent

A father and a son were hacked to death and another son was seriously injured when a group of miscreants attacked their shop at Keranigani on the outskirts of the city early Tuesday.

The victim identified as Mohammed Sharif Hossain, 50, and his son Khokon, 9, died on the spot. The injured Shahjahan, 12, was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in a critical condition.

The victims' relatives alleged that Sharif and his sons Khokon and Shahjahan were sleeping inside their shop at Barisur, Mowlapra in Keraniganj Monday night. At about 3 am Tuesday, a group of miscreants attacked their shop and chopped them severely.

Sharif and Khokon died on the spot while Shahjahan was seriously injured. The victims were residents of Madaripur, Keraniganj.

DESA'S URGENT NOTIFICATION

Have you paid all arrear Electricity Bills?

If not, please pay all the bills tomorrow alongwith the current one.

Please pay your bills within specified period to avoid interest.

Please refrain from any kind of illegal use of Electricity.



D-493

DHAKA ELECTRIC SUPPLY **AUTHORITY**

Editor: S. M. Ali

Executive Editor: Mahfuz Anam Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motifheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at The Sangbad Ltd., 36

Purana Paltan, Dhaka. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No. 11; Road No. 3; Dhanmondi R/A., Dhaka-1205. PABX 500092-4. Advertisement: 500091 (Direct) Fax No. 88-02-863035. GPO Box No. 3257. GRAM: DAILY STAR DHAKA

The Union Parishad (Amendment) Bill 1993 was passed in parliament yesterday night

The provision for dissolution of a union parishad if it failed to

The area of tax was also reduced to six from the 14 proposed in the original bill on an amendment moved by government party Whip Mahbubul

The amended area of taxes, which may be levied by union parishads, are: 1) tax on the annual value of homestead or union rate to be levied in the prescribed manner; 2) tax on the professions, trades and callings; 3) tax on cinemas, dramatic performances and tertainments of similar nature cences and permits granted by

Minister on Rly Condition

without raising income

He said the opposition had

men suspended No improvement possible

From Munir Ahmed

KHULNA, July 13: Five Customs officials, including two Superintendents of Khulna Sea Customs, were put under suspension for negligence of duty

duty later. The Customs authorities, af-

OIC confce ends demand for lifting the UN arms Demanding war preparation, it also called for reactivating a

From Our Correspondent GOPALGANJ, July 13: A mi-

Ullapara on the Gopalganj-

between two BRTC buses. Three critically wounded

Monday night, reports UNB.

They were rushed to the

identities could not be known. The incident, said to be a sequel to past enmity, lasted for about an hour.

imported thru' TCB Industries Minister Shamsul Satkhira and Khulna districts. To meet the domestic requirements, Bhola, Barguna and