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VOL. III NO. 215 REGD. NO. DA 781

The Daily Star

BHADRA 12, 1400 BS,

DHAKA FRIDAY, AUGUST 27, 1993

RABIUL AWAL 8, 1414 HIJRI

12 PAGES: PRICE TAKER CA 4.00

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NEWS BRIEFS

AL presidium meets tomorrow

A meeting of the Awami League presidium will be held tomorrow at 29 Minto Road at 11 am with party president Sheikh Hasina in the chair. Members of the party's advisory council will also be present in the meeting, reports UNB.

BNP bodies meet today

A meeting of the entertainment sub-committee of BNP's national council preparatory committee will be held at the party central office at 5 pm today with its convenor Lt Gen (Retd) Mir Shaukat Ali in the chair. All members of the sub-committee have been requested to attend the meeting. The management sub-committee will also meet today at 4.30 pm at Sugandha. Dhaka city unit of Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal will hold an emergency meeting today at 7 pm at the BNP central office, reports UNB.

Six dacoits held in B'baria

BRAHMANBARIA, Aug 26: Police arrested six dacoits with arms and ammunition from Kulkanda Bazar in Nasiragar thana of the district today. Acting on a tip off, police raided the area and nabbed them while they were preparing for committing a dacoity, reports UNB.

Shonekan sworn in as head of interim govt Babangida steps down leaving Lagos tense



Ibrahim Babangida

ABUJA, Aug 26: Nigerian military leader Ibrahim Babangida stepped down today after eight years in power and industrialist Ernest Shonekan was sworn in as head of interim govt, reports AFP.

Shonekan's nomination was announced earlier by a member of the Transitional Council after a farewell military parade in Babangida's honour.

Shonekan was sworn in by Chief Justice Mohammed Bello at a ceremony in the presidential villa in the capital Abuja.

General Sani Abacha was sworn in as defence secretary in the interim government and businessman Don Ete Bet as new oil secretary.

The other members of the 18-person transitional government were not yet known.

Shonekan, 57, who studied law in Britain, was chairman of the United Africa Company (UAC), black Africa's biggest private firm. He has chaired the Transition Council since last January.

The interim government is expected to rule until the end of 1994 and then hand over power to an elected civilian administration, it was announced here earlier.

President Ibrahim Babangida said in a speech prepared for broadcast to the nation later today that he and his top generals were stepping down after eight

years in power. He said they were leaving the interim administration to complete his promised transition to civilian rule.

The parade got underway in the presence of Babangida, his family and senior military officials.

Junta critics accuse the military of wanting to cling to power by behind-the-scenes manipulation of the interim administration.

Babangida had repeatedly pledged to step down by Friday, the eighth anniversary of his accession in a bloodless coup.

Some 60 diplomats arrived from Lagos aboard a special

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Kamal's convention begins today

Star Report

The much talked about National Grand Convention (NGC) sponsored by Dr Kamal Hossain and his political allies begins at 9:30 this morning at the Institute of Engineers.

The three-day affair will adopt a document containing guidelines and programmes on national issues for a new political party which is expected to be launched.

Over 5000 delegates and observers from all over the country have already registered for the convention. Dr Kamal's followers in the Awami League (AL) and leaders and activists from a number of other parties will assemble at the venue today.

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB-reformist), the National Awami Party (NAP), the JSD (Straj) and the Gano Azadi League will attend the NGC officially while some leading political workers, particularly from the district units of the Ganatantri Party, the JSD (Inu)

and the BSD will also participate.

The NGC organisers said the convention will be inaugurated with a welcome address from Dr Kamal Hossain, the convenor of the preparatory committee.

Begum Sufia Kamal, Justice Debesh Bhattacharya, Dr Mohammad Yunus of the Grameen Bank and National Professor Abdur Razzaque are among the luminaries invited to speak at the opening session while Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina and leaders of other pro-liberation political parties have also been invited.

During the first working session, which begins at 2:30 pm, representatives from professional groups and organisations will speak expressing their solidarity with the delegates. Leaders of the parties joining the convention will also address the gathering.

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President summons JS session Sept 12

By Staff Correspondent

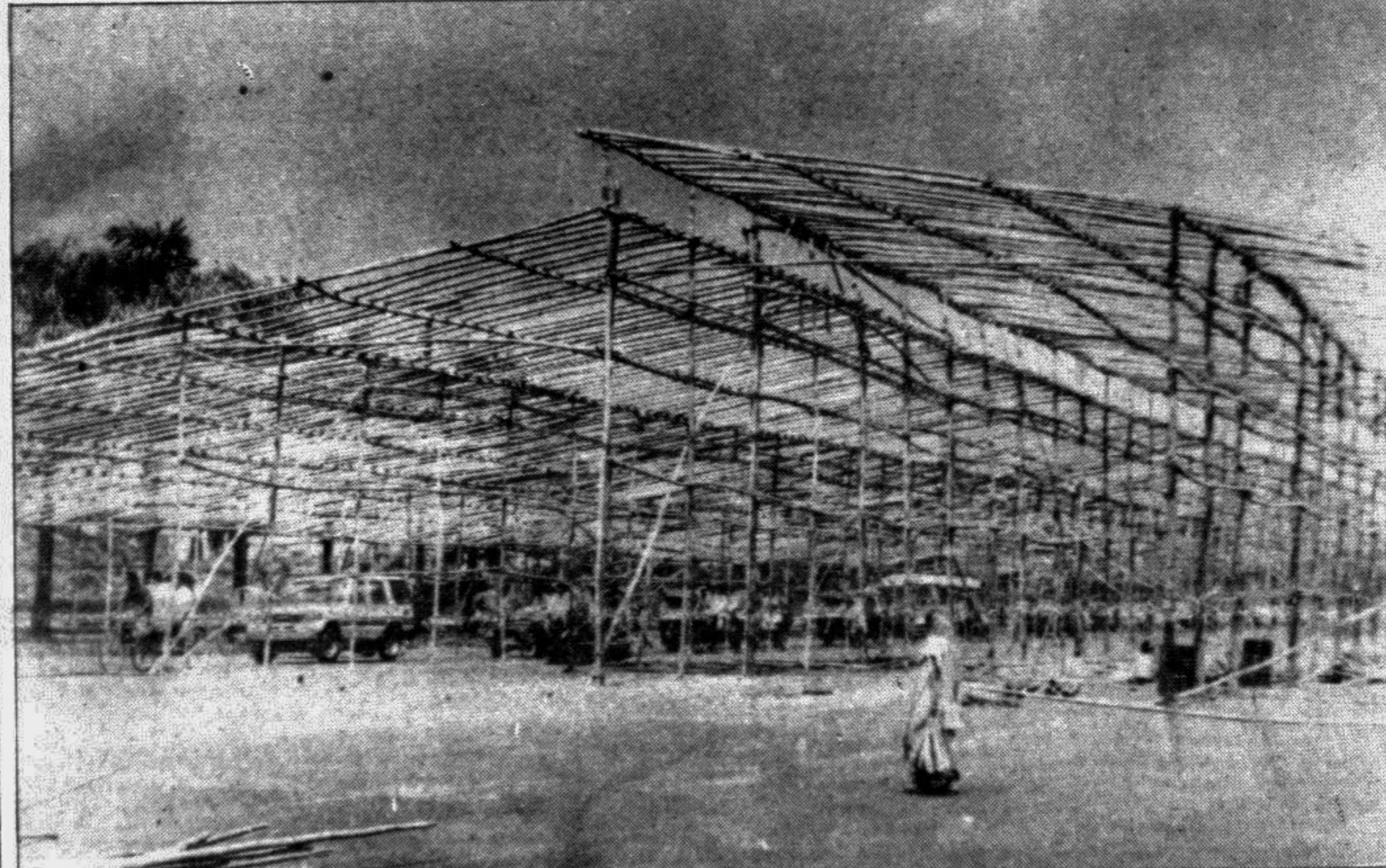
President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday summoned the Jatiya Sangsad to session on September 12 at 4:30 pm.

It will be the 11th session of the country's fifth Parliament.

According to a press release of the Parliament Secretariat, the notice office of the secretariat would be kept open from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon today for the convenience of the Parliament members.

Meanwhile, Speaker Shaikh Rezaque Ali, who is now in Britain for medical treatment, is likely to return home by August 31, his family sources said.

The Speaker was scheduled to attend a conference of the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) to be held in Cyprus in the first week of September. He has already cancelled the programme to return home soon, sources close to the Speaker's family told The Daily Star last night.



A massive bamboo-and-tent canopy is being rigged up on the city's Manik Mia Avenue for holding the opening session of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party's national council on Sept 1. —Star photo

BNP standing body okays SG's report

By Staff Correspondent

The ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) will appeal to all the opposition political parties to help consolidate the nascent democracy in the country.

This call will be included as one of the political resolutions of the party's national council Sept 1-2 next. The draft of the resolutions was finalised at a meeting of the national standing committee held at Sugandha with party chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair last night.

The powerful 15-member committee also approved the report of the Secretary General which will be placed before the councilors.

The report emphasises on materialisation of the 19-point programmes of late President Ziaur Rahman and the 'dal-bhat' slogan of Begum Zia.

Standing committee members Abdus Salam Talukder, Chowdhury Tanvir Ahmed Siddiqui, Nazmul Huda, Rafiqul Islam Miah, ASM Mostafizur Rahman and Saifur Rahman

were present, among others, in the meeting.

Meanwhile, the various cultural programmes planned in connection with the council were finalised Wednesday.

On September 1, a one-and-a-half hour cultural function will be held at the Sugandha office of the Prime Minister for the councilors and foreign guests starting at 9 pm. Noted singer Runa Laila will be one of the star attractions.

Singers of the Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sanskritik Sangstha (JASSAS), the BNP's cultural front, will render a song written by former state minister for Establishment Nurul Huda and dedicated to late President Ziaur Rahman just before the start of the business session.

Begum Zia will inaugurate a three-day photo exhibition at the Shilpakala Academy on Aug 28. A cultural soiree will be organised the following day.

The three-day pre-council programme will be rounded off with a milad at the mazar of Ziaur Rahman near the Sangsad Bhaban.



Anniversary of Nazrul's death today

By Staff Correspondent

The 17th anniversary of death of national poet Nazrul Islam will be observed across the country today with due solemnity.

Wreaths will be placed and fataha offered at the mazar of the rebel poet near the Dhaka University Central Mosque early in the morning. Discussions on the life and works of the poet and cultural functions based on his works will also be organised at different parts of the country, including the capital.

Various political and socio-cultural organisations have drawn up programmes on this occasion.

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Major changes in NBR

By Staff Correspondent

There have been some major administrative changes in the National Board of Revenue (NBR).

Nasiruddin Ahmed has been appointed Member, (Customs), Saifur Rahman Khan, Member, (VAT), Golam Sarwar, Member, (Appeal arid Revision) and Kazi Anwar Hussain, Member (Co-Ordination). MSI Chowdhury who was the Member, VAT, has been appointed Member, Administration.

Earlier two members — Abdul Latif Sikder and GM Rahman — were appointed OSDs while another — Mujibur Rahman — was sent on retirement.

Finance Minister Saifur Rahman and Mujibur Rahman Khan, State Minister for

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Pakistan also comes under US sanctions

WASHINGTON, Aug 26: The United States applied limited sanctions against China and Pakistan on Wednesday after concluding that China had sold missile technology to Pakistan in violation of an international arms control agreement, reports AP.

The move constituted another setback to US-Chinese relations, which have been plagued by differences over human rights and China's weapons exports.

State Department spokesman Mike McCurry said the sanction bans the sale of sensitive high technology equipment to the Chinese entities responsible for the sale to Pakistan.

"It's our estimate that somewhere between 400 million dollars and 500 million dollars year of commercial activity will

be affected by the sanctions that are imposed today," he said. Those figures are less than 10 per cent of US exports to China last year. The impact on trade with Pakistan is expected to be minimal.

At issue is US evidence suggesting that China transferred to Pakistan technology for the M-11 surface-to-surface missile, the export of which violates the Missile Technology Control Regime.

China has denied selling the weapons to Pakistan. In Pakistan, a Foreign Ministry spokesman Munir Akram said Wednesday that Pakistan bought short-range missiles from China, but not the M-11. He did not address the question whether Pakistan had bought M-11 missile technology.

Pakistan already is prohibited from receiving most US aid

because of a US law that bars aid to countries developing a nuclear weapon.

US officials said part of the case against the two countries was based on satellite photographs of a Chinese shipment which arrived last year at the Pakistani port of Karachi.

Lynn Davis, undersecretary of state for international security, informed the Chinese and Pakistani ambassadors of the US decision Wednesday morning.

Reuters adds: Beijing responded angrily today to Washington's imposition of new economic sanctions on China for its alleged global arms control violations, calling the US action absolutely unjustifiable.

Senior Pakistani officials were unavailable for comment third morning.

Gold haul in Ctg 2 Filipino crew in police remand

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 26: The two Filipinos caught with 1500 tola of smuggled gold worth Tk one crore by the security personnel of Chittagong Port Wednesday night were sent to police remand by a court here.

The two nationals of the Philippines, identified as Jonathan A Tubang and Wilfredo M Rosales, were the crew of MV Meng Dec, a Singapore flag-carrying container feeder vessel, which arrived here at 6 pm Wednesday at Jetty No. 12 with general import cargo, port sources said.

The ship, captained by Nelson Escobin, has 24 crew, all of them Filipinos, its local agent Aquamarine Limited said.

The port security staff challenged the two sailors at the port's Gate No 5 when they attempted to go outside after ob-

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Khaleda urges FFs Serve nation with spirit of Liberation War

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday asked the freedom fighters to lend a hand to the government's development efforts aimed at the socio-economic emancipation of the people, reports UNB.

"With the same spirit that you fought the Liberation War, you have to take up the responsibility of implementing the development programmes aimed at the people's welfare," she said.

Begum Zia was addressing the inaugural session of the two-day Jatiya Protidinhi Sammelan '93 (National Representatives' Conference) of the Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Muktiyoddha Dal at the Shilpakala Academy yesterday morning.

The Jatiyatabadi Muktiyoddha Dal, formed last year, was

Thursday formally made a front organisation of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

Begum Zia said the post-independence government had failed to fulfil the dreams for which the Liberation War was fought.

"We did not fight the Liberation War for merely a flag. It was aimed at ensuring socio-economic development as well as democratic and political rights of the people," she added.

The face of the country could have been changed if the post-independence government had utilised the services of the freedom fighters and properly rehabilitated them, she pointed out.

The Prime Minister said Shaheed President Ziaur

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Abdel-Rahman 'led war against US'



Omar Abdel-Rahman, the blind Egyptian Islamic fundamentalist leader. — AFP photo

NEW YORK, Aug 26: A radical Muslim cleric was the guiding hand behind a terrorist organisation that bombed the World Trade Center, plotted to blow up other New York landmarks and planned a host of other violent acts, prosecutors say, reports AP.

Sheik Omar Abdel-Rahman was accused in a federal indictment Wednesday along with 14 followers of conspiring to wage a "war of urban terrorism against the United States."

Various defendants were also implicated in the 1990 slaying of militant Rabbi Meir Kahane, plans to attack US military sites and kill FBI agents, and a conspiracy to assassinate Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

The indictment marks the first time federal prosecutors have linked those alleged plots.

Rather than being charged with any specific act, the 55-year-old blind Egyptian cleric

was charged under a rarely used sedition law as the leader of a conspiracy who was "consulted in pursuing and planning bombings, murders and other acts of terrorism."

The indictment said Abdel-Rahman "provided instruction regarding whether particular

FAYOUM (Egypt), Aug 26: Egyptian followers of Abdel-Rahman threatened Thursday to strike American targets if any harm comes to the cleric, accused of ordering terrorist acts in the United States, reports AP.

acts of terrorism were permissible or forbidden, served as a mediator of disputes among members of the organisation and undertook to protect the organisation from infiltration by law enforcement authorities."

The Sheik, known for his fiery Islamic sermons, has denounced the Trade Center at-

tack and the alleged bombing plot, and denied any involvement.

All of the defendants were to be arraigned later Thursday.

The indictment had been promised a month ago by prosecutors who were transcribing hundreds of hours of recordings captured by a government informant who had become a confidant of Abdel-Rahman.

Where the government saw a vast and complex terrorist plot, defence lawyers saw a case of paranoia.

"This is the closest I've ever seen to using the criminal justice system to indict a religious group for religious teaching," said one defence attorney, Ron Kuby. "That kind of action poses a much greater threat to democracy than the people who throw the bombs."

Abdel-Rahman has been in federal custody since July 2, fighting deportation to Egypt.

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন

আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিষ্কার রাখুন

আপনার শিককে টিকা দিন

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের লোকস্বাস্থ্য সঞ্চালক বাবসা প্রতিষ্ঠান, সোকাপার্ট/কলকারখানা/টিকাদার/সরবরাহকারী/কমিশন এজেন্ট/ব্যাংক/বীমা কোম্পানী/পেশাজীবী এবং অন্যান্য সকল ব্যবসা প্রতিষ্ঠানের মালিকগণকে জানানো যাইতেছে যে, তাহাদের স্ব-ব্যবসা প্রতিষ্ঠানের জন্য প্রদত্ত ট্রেড লাইসেন্স নবায়নের কাজ আপাতী ১লা সেপ্টেম্বর/৯৩ হইতে ঢাকা মহানগরীতে অবস্থিত সোনালী বাজারের সকল শাখার মাধ্যমে সম্পন্ন করা হইবে। এতদসঙ্গে লাইসেন্সধারী সংশ্লিষ্ট সকল ব্যবসা প্রতিষ্ঠানে ট্রেড লাইসেন্স বিলি করবার কাজ হইতেছে। কেহ বিলি না পাইলে তাহাকে সংশ্লিষ্ট আঞ্চলিক নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তার দপ্তরে যোগাযোগ করিয়া বিলি বাহি সরবরাহ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাইতেছে। ব্যাংকের মাধ্যমে ট্রেড লাইসেন্স নবায়ন পদ্ধতি চালু হওয়ার সঙ্গে সঙ্গে ট্রেড লাইসেন্স নবায়নের প্রাপ্তি পদ্ধতি বাতিল বলিয়া লগ্না হইবে।

উল্লেখ্য, ১৯৮৩ সনের সিটি করপোরেশন অর্ডিন্যান্স এর ৬৭ (৭) ধারানুযায়ী সকল ব্যবসা/পেশার জন্য ট্রেড লাইসেন্স প্রদান/নবায়ন বাধ্যতামূলক এবং ইহা অমান্য করা উচ্চ অর্ডিন্যান্সের ১৫০ ধারামতে দণ্ডনীয় অপরাধ।

অতএব, সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে আইন মন্বিয়া চলিতে অনুরোধ করা যাইতেছে।

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ডি-৬১৬