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SPEAKERS' HOUSES ON JS COMPLEX

SC stays order declaring constructions illegal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday stayed unopposed a High Court (HC) order that declared illegal the residences of the speaker and deputy speaker in the parliament complex, as lawyers opposing the construction were boycotting the court.

The stay order issued to the surprise of legal experts cleared way for the speaker and deputy speaker to move into the new buildings that many deemed as contrary to the original design of architect Louis I Kahn's 1973 masterpiece.

The stay order will remain in force until one week into court opening after a 47-day vacation starting tomorrow.

The Appellate Division led by Chief Justice Syed JR Mudassir Husain could not hear the lawyers of the opposition side, as the Bar boycotted his court to protest the appointment of 19 additional judges to the High Court on what they said were political grounds.

The advocate on record (AOR), who coordinates between the appellant and the respondent, was also absent in court, as he was elevated to a High Court judge, Barrister Tanjib ul Alam said.

An Appellate Division rule

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Move to accommodate speakers to start now

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The authorities would furbish the houses of the speaker and deputy speaker during the Supreme Court (SC) stay order, officials said.

Officials of Public Works Department and housing and public works ministry said they would proceed to accommodate the speakers in their new houses soon.

Both speakers would be shifted to their official residences in next 30 days, they added.

Yesterday's stay order allowed the authorities to finish construction works and interior decoration for the two-storied houses, they added.

A ministerial source said household furnishings for the one-unit

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Lawyers boycott CJ's court

UNB, *Dhaka*

Leading lawyers yesterday refrained from attending the chief justice's court in accordance with the boycott decision taken by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA).

Barely two cases were heard during the first session when about a score of cases scheduled for hearing could not be taken up as the lawyers for the petitioners or respondents did not appear.

About the appearance in the chief justice's court by the attorney general violating the SCBA decision, its president Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud said: "We will see whether the attorney general appeared in court under compulsion... We will not take action against him hastily."

The boycott decision was taken at the SCBA meeting on August 29, as the chief justice ignored the lawyers' demand for cancellation of the swearing-in of 19 additional judges appointed on what they said

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Tk 225cr lost to graft in Jul-Dec 2003

Reports TIB; communications sector tops list

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government lost Tk 225 crore in just 253 out of a total 1,115 corruption incidents reported by newspapers in the last half of 2003, with the communications sector topping the graft-list, according to the Corruption Database Report of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) released yesterday.

The Berlin-based transparency watchdog observed that the masses are the worst victims of corruption, to prevent which it sought willingness of all political quarters.

The TIB underscored the needs for forming an effective and independent anti-corruption commission, prompt action against corrupt officials and instituting an ombudsman to eradicate the vice.

Noted economist and Treasurer of TIB Board of Trustees Prof

SEEPAGE 11 COL 7

FLOOD ASSISTANCE

Low response leads UN to appeal again

AFP, *Dhaka*

The United Nations appealed for more aid for Bangladesh flood victims yesterday, urging donors not to forget the disaster which killed 700 people last month.

A third of the 210 million dollars targeted has been raised but Bangladesh's worst floods in years are in danger of being overshadowed by the Darfur crisis and the grenade attack here which killed 20 people this month, it warned.

"Please do not forget Bangladesh and don't get distracted by other incidents in Bangladesh -- relief and rehabilitation are continuing despite the situation and those hardest hit by the floods, particularly the poor, are still now in grave need of help," said UN resident

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

India offers probe help, US renews proposal

Morshed rules out UN, C'Wealth-run investigation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The US yesterday renewed its offer to assist Bangladesh in investigating the August 21 grenade attacks while India made a formal offer of assistance.

In another development, Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan termed the Awami League (AL) demand for a UN- and Commonwealth-run probe 'unrealistic and impossible'.

US Ambassador in Dhaka Harry K Thomas renewed the offer during his meeting with Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan at the latter's Secretariat office yesterday.

Mannan, also the secretary general of ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), told reporters after the meeting that they discussed, among other issues, the August 21 blasts. Thomas told him that the US government is always ready to aid Bangladesh in probing the grenade blasts.

Mannan informed the US ambassador that the Interpol has already begun investigation into the incident in parallel with the police and other intelligence agencies.

"If the Interpol makes suggestion that we should seek further assistance from any other body, we will act on that and in that case we may seek US assistance as well," the LGRD minister told the ambassador.

He assured the ambassador that the government would ensure a neutral investigation and exemplary punishment to those responsible for

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

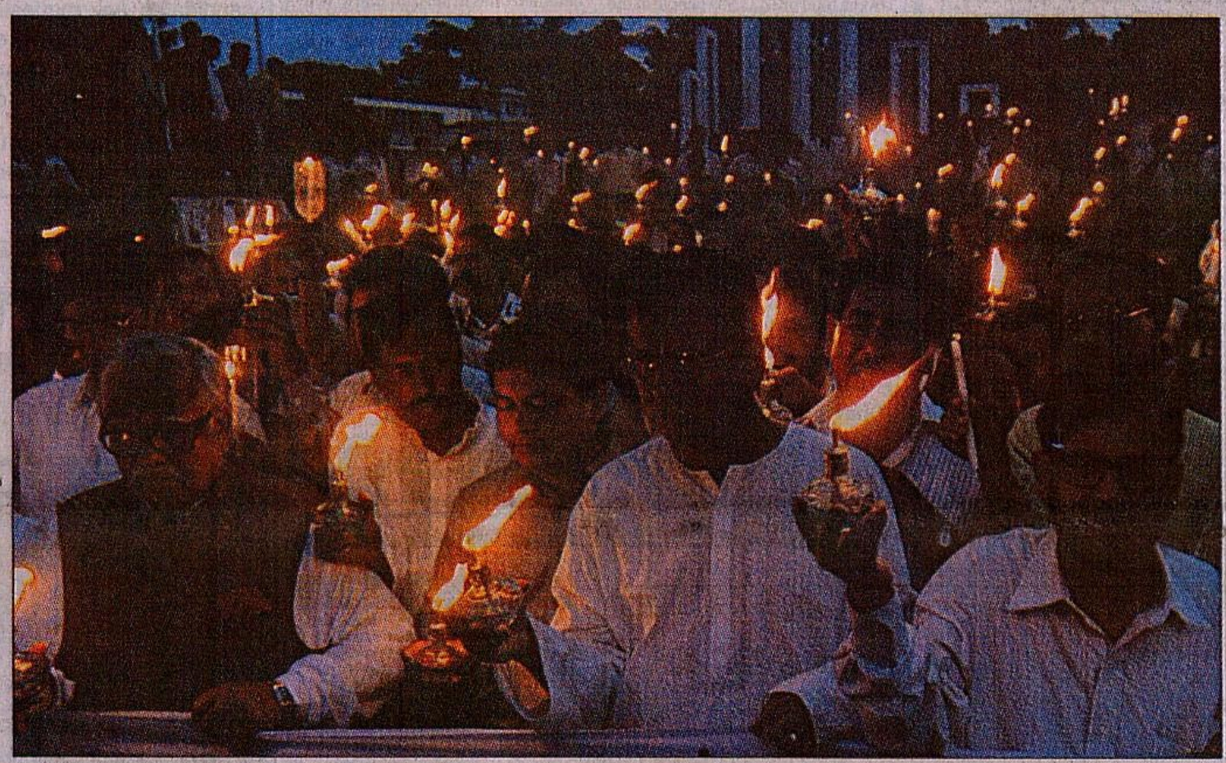

PHOTO: STAR

In front row from left, Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil, Sammilito Sangskritik Jote President Nasir Uddin Yusuf Bacchu and AL Publicity Secretary Asaduzzaman Noor lead a candlelight vigil at the Central Shaheed Minar protesting the August 21 grenade attack on an AL rally.

Twin bus blasts in Israel kill 15

AP, *Jerusalem*

Palestinian suicide bombers exploded two buses almost simultaneously in southern Israel yesterday, killing at least 15 people and wounding more than 80 in the first major Palestinian attack inside Israel in nearly six months.

The Islamic militant group Hamas claimed responsibility for the attacks, saying they were revenge for Israel's assassinations earlier this year of its spiritual leader, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, and his successor Abdel Aziz Rantisi.

The buses burst into flames near a main intersection in the center of Beersheba, the largest city in southern Israel, 25 miles west of Gaza City. Israel TV showed the two burned-out buses, flames shooting through the roof of one of them. At least two bodies, covered in white sheets, lay on the ground-- apparently those of the attackers.

Israel police said at least 15 people were killed, and the death toll could rise, but it was not

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Nine-day opposition agitation from today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Key opposition parties yesterday declared nine-day simultaneous agitation until September 9 to galvanise people into the one-point movement to unseat the government in a major shift in Awami League's stand on hartal.

The main opposition AL, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) and Workers Party (WP) hinted that the anti-government programmes,

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নিজের একটি বাড়ি থাকা মানেই মাথা গোঁজার নিশ্চিত ঠাঁই। কিন্তু সেই সাথে আপন ঠিকানায় নিজ পরিবারের সুখ-স্বাচ্ছন্দ্যের জন্যে চাই আরো অনেক কিছু। এবার আপনার পারিবারিক সকল চাহিদা আর স্বপ্ন পূরণ করতে এলো ডিবিএইচ ফ্যামিলী লোন।
নিজের বাড়ির বিপরীতে আপনার ব্যক্তিগত বা পারিবারিক যে কোন প্রয়োজনে যখন তখন সশ্রয়ী সুদে* দীর্ঘমেয়াদী ডিবিএইচ ফ্যামিলী লোন সুবিধা গ্রহণ করুন। আর উপভোগ করুন জীবনের সকল স্বাচ্ছন্দ্য।
*শর্তাবলী প্রযোজ্য।
বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্য আজই আমাদের যে কোন অফিসে যোগাযোগ করুন:
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PROTISHABDA/SAATCHI & SAATCHI/DBH/2004

PHOTO: SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

Shameem Hossain lies on a bed in Ward 33 of Dhaka Medical College Hospital with injuries all over his body and in utter uncertainty whether he would ever be able to walk normally again.

They won't return to normal life

MIZANUR KHAN

Most victims of the August 21 grenade attack on an Awami League (AL) rally are unlikely to return to normal life as they will carry splinters in their sensitive organs, health experts said.

Many of the seriously injured are writhing in hospital beds in pain from blown off limbs, damaged kidneys and livers, lost eyesight and impaired hearing.

Most of them will survive as handicaps, the experts feared.

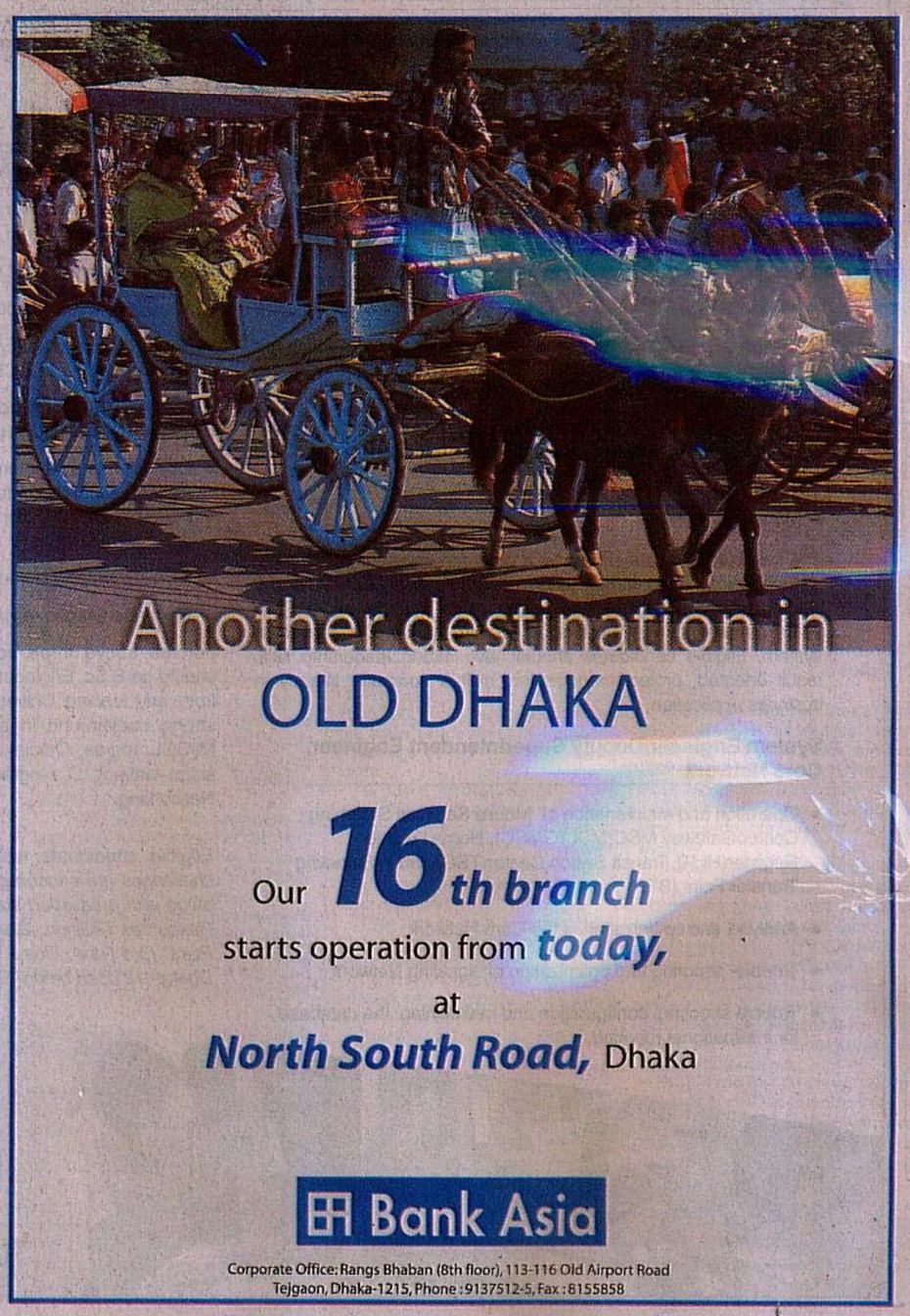
A series of grenade explosions at the rally near the main opposition party's headquarters on Bangabandhu Avenue in Dhaka killed 19 people, including AL Women's Affairs Secretary Ivy Rahman, and injured over 200 others.

The patients will not fully recover from the injuries if shrapnel remains lodged in their sensitive and vital organs, said N K Alam, consultant of the Casualty Department of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Doctors fear multiple surgeries needed to remove the shrapnel from the patients' bodies may deteriorate their condition and even threaten their lives.

"Splinters have already caused the damage. If we now try to take them out it will be more dangerous," said Dr Saiful Islam, emergency medical officer at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University and Hospital (BSMMUH).

Brigadier General Nazmul Huda, director of the DMCH, also echoed the same view.

"It is not be possible to take out all the splinters from their bodies as any such attempt will

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