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BSS made 'body corporate'

President Ziaur Rahman has promulgated the 'Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha Ordinance' of 1979 making the BSS a body corporate.

The Ordinance promulgated on March 30 last entrusted the BSS to carry out the responsibility of national news agency of Bangladesh by securing news from home and abroad disseminating them to the people through the mass media and organising transmission of national news abroad according to Extraordinary Gazette notification published on March 31.

The Ordinance provided that the Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) as the national news agency will undertake and promote news agency service in Bangladesh obtain international news agency service and mobilise the national news

The gazette said the Ordinance was made by the President in pursuance of the proclamations of the 20th August 1975 and the 8th November 1975 and in exercise of all powers enabling him in that behalf.

Following Independence of Bangladesh the former Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) in the country was renamed as the Bangladesh Sangbad

Sangstha (BSS) under a Government Order issued on January 1, 1972. The legal status is given to the news agency through the promulgation of this Ordinance.

Board of Directors

The Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) with its head office at Dacca may establish its branches at such other places as the Board of Directors to be appointed by the Government under the Ordinance may decide.

Functions of the Sangstha according to the Ordinance shall be (a) To carry out the

responsibility of national news agency of Bangladesh by securing news from home and abroad disseminating the same to the people of Bangladesh in general through mass media and organising transmission of national news abroad (b) to secure world wide news—political, diplomatic, financial, economic and commercial, cultural and sports from international news agencies and exchange news with national news agencies of other countries (c) to sell all kinds of news, general, economic and commercial features and photos to all mass media and news agencies within and outside Bangladesh (d) to sign agreements with international news agencies, national news agencies of other countries for securing and disseminating news and facilities for the same (e) to organise systematic programme for news agencies business and (f) to do such other acts and things as may be connected with or incidental to the carrying out of the functions of the sangstha".

The Chief Executive of the Sangstha is the Managing Director who will be appointed by the Government from amongst the journalists having (Continued on page 12 col. 6)