

Janata Tower case

Brig (rtd) Sharif named among 5 new PWs

An important aide of deposed President H M Ershad was yesterday named as a prosecution witness in the Janata Tower case...

Brig (rtd) Sharif Aziz, once the Private Secretary to the Supreme Commander (when Ershad had held that post), is one of the five new witnesses...

The others named to be witnesses, are Advocate Abdul Wahab, Motur Rahman, an ASP of the Bureau of Anti Corruption and Investigating officer in Ershad's money case...

Soon after the court resumed after a week, Attorney General Aminul Haq prayed to the sitting Judge to issue summons against the five mentioned above...

Ershad is charged with misuse of his official position and resorting to corrupt practices in the construction of Janata Tower...

The prosecution already named 36 witnesses and the depositions and cross examinations of 28 PWs were completed till yesterday.

After the prayer for sum-

mon of the new witnesses, the prosecution produced Mofizuddin Ahmed, PW 28 in this case. Ahmed, Nirman Finance Manager now stationed in Dubai, was brought in to make the deposition.

During the deposition, Ahmed who is the fourth witness from Nirman in this case, stated that his firm had received Taka ten crore from the former president and his wife for the construction of the multi-storied Janata Tower.

Most of his deposition were in fact corroboration of what had been stated earlier by Abdul Hye, Chief Accountant of Nirman. He testified the certified copy of the income tax return and audit report of Nirman which mentioned that the firm received Taka ten crore for the construction of the tower.

During cross examination by Khandkar Mahub Hossain, the defence counsel for Ershad, the witness affirmed that he was interrogated by members of the law enforcing agencies in 1991 about this case. He, however, rejected a suggestion that he had deposed with a political motive to serve the interest of his employer.

When cross examined by Sharifuddin Ahmed Mukul, the defence counsel of Begum Raushan Ershad, Mofizuddin Ahmed firmly stated that Nirman did receive Taka ten crore for the construction of the tower. He said it is not true that fictitious documents were prepared by Nirman in the interest of the prosecution.

Lawyers of other accused persons declined to cross examine the witness when asked by Judge Sikder.

The hearing resumes today.

Saifur on budget reforms

From Page 1 Col 4

The primary problems in finance administration were identified as: failure to properly separate audit and accounts; incomplete departmentalisation; lack of a system for monitoring budget compliance...

The draft report on "Reforms in Budgeting and Expenditure Control" suggested that, in finance administration, it is essential to modernise, translate, reprint and issue rules and regulations; bring about complete departmentalisation; upgrading the accounting offices within ministries and legislation to separate accounts and audit.

Concluding that the present accounting system has "ceased to function effectively," the report identified the problems in the accounting systems as: lack of published audited accounts since 1985-86 for appropriation and since 1987-88 for finance, failure to reconcile with Bangladesh Bank; delay in placing accounting information, which is unreliable and little used and the evolution of parallel systems requiring multiple returns.

It suggested a crash programme to bring accounts up-to-date, make proper forms available in all offices and add listing machines, provide improved training and supervision and start computerisation.

Identifying the specific problems in the food account as lack of transparency and incorrect accounting, the report suggested getting the accounting and management systems right and ensuring that donors comply with government policy.

Al-Baraka

From Page 1 Col 5

Bangladesh government, local sponsors and the general public are holding shares of the Al Baraka Bank in Bangladesh which is incorporated here with its head office in Dhaka.

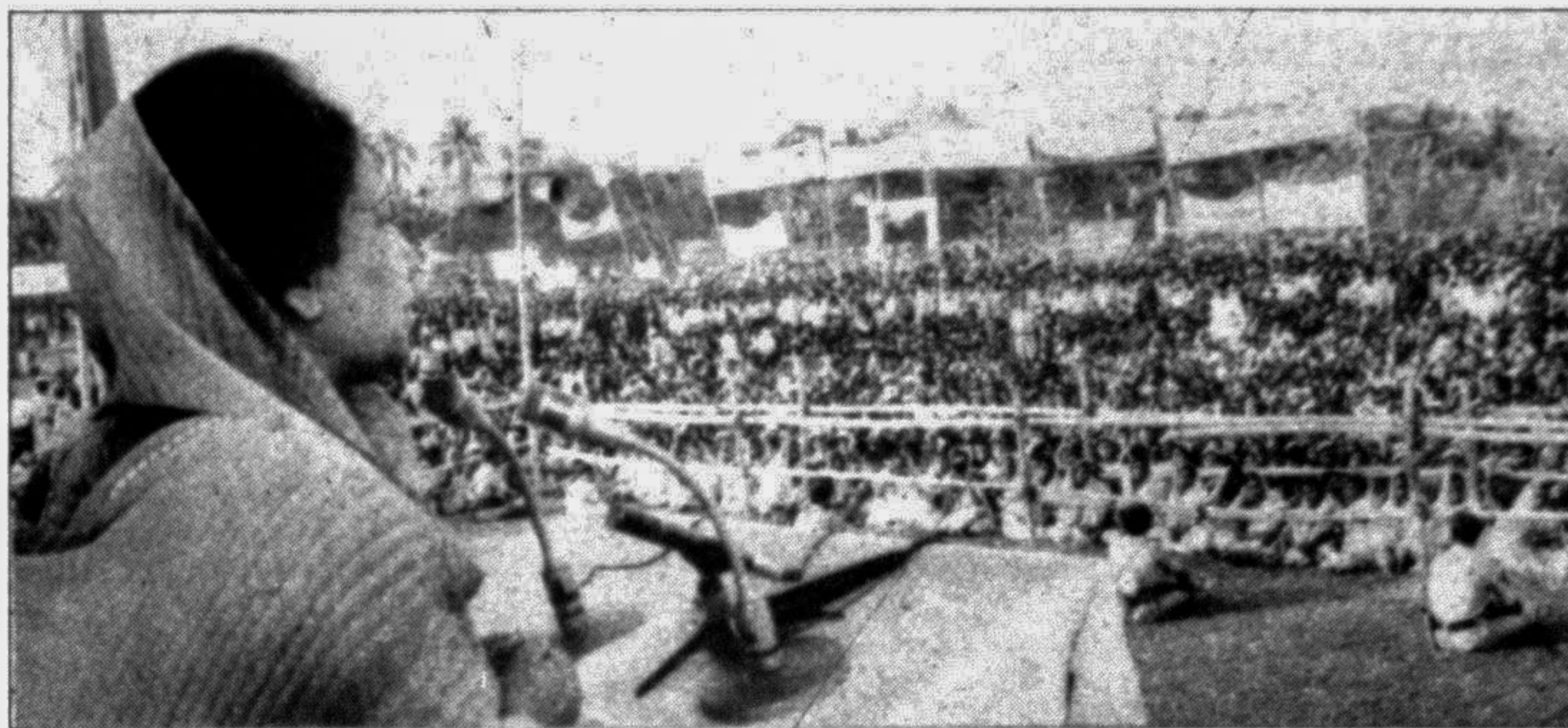
On the other hand, Al Baraka International Bank Limited, London was established as a separate bank in UK with 100 per cent ownership by Al Baraka-Dallah Group of Saudi Arabia.

The Bangladesh Bank assured that the Al Baraka Bank in Bangladesh has been under complete supervision of the country's central bank, operating its usual functions and there is no reason of anxiety among its depositors.

Violence mars Tripura assembly polls: 2 killed

AGARTALA, Apr 3: Elections for the re-scheduled assembly elections in Tripura today was marred by incidents of violence, which claimed two lives and left at least 30 others injured, reports PTI.

Polling was also marked by enthusiastic voters' response with about 50 per cent of the electorate casting their votes till noon.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a public meeting at Patgram Govt High School ground in Harirampur, — PID photo

PM opens 60-bed Islami Bank hospital

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said here yesterday that the government had adopted the policy of expansion of health facilities through introduction of modern technology, reports BSS.

Inaugurating a 60-bed hospital, financed by Islami Bank, at Rajarbagh, the Prime Minister said, "We welcome private initiatives in this field."

Begum Zia said in an independent country none should expect the government to do everything. She said collective effort is essential for welfare of the people and national uplift. She said the government wants to create a broad based national consensus for progress and prosperity through united efforts.

Presided over by Chairman, Islami Bank Foundation, Commodore (Retd) Ataur Rahman, the function was also addressed by Member Secretary, Islami Bank Foundation, Meer Kashem Ali. The function was attended, among others, by ministers, parliament members, diplomats and members of the business community.

Begum Zia had words of appreciation for the Islami Bank not as a commercial/organisation but as a welfare oriented institution. She said the bank has set an example in creating religious values in different fields including education, health, relief and rehabilitation. She said others could follow the steps of the bank in helping the distressed humanity.

Maintain peace: PM

From page 1 col 7

democratic atmosphere saying certain quarters were out to create indiscipline and disorder at a time when the BNP government was carrying out development programmes.

Begum Zia described the country's people as peace-loving and patriots and said they (the people) were showing their willingness to get themselves involved in the development pursuits instead of responding to the opposition's destructive activities.

PM invited

From Page 1 Col 8

exploitation of Madhyapara Hard Rock Project.

Li expressed solidarity on behalf of his government and people in the struggle of Bangladesh in consolidating democracy under the leadership of Begum Zia. He said, we are happy to see the holding of the SAARC summit. He said, we are hopeful that SAARC will make significant contribution in the development of the region.

Li informed Begum Zia about the process of reunification of Korea.

Welcoming the visiting special envoy of the DPRK President, Begum Zia recalled the traditional relationship between the two countries. She was thankful to the DPRK President for the invitation. She expressed the hope that her visit to DPRK would take place at a mutually convenient time.

Falls from 22nd floor and walks away

MANCHESTER (England), Apr 3: Christopher Sagers fell 200 feet (60 meters) from a 22nd-story apartment, crushing a parked car. Then he brushed himself off and walked away, reports AP.

Sagers, 26, suffered a broken elbow, a neck injury and bruises Thursday, police reported. He was in comfortable condition Friday at Salford's Hope Hospital, a hospital statement said.

The reason for Sagers' fall was not known, and his father seemed to rule out a motivation for suicide.

"He has a job and lives at home and seems happy enough to me. So far he has given me no good reason why this happened. He has never expressed to me any problems that he might have had," Les Sagers told the Daily Mail. He didn't specify his son's job.

A passer-by saw Sagers fall, hit the roof of the car, lie on the vehicle for about 15 seconds and then start to brush himself off. Sagers was later found wandering in the street.

Heroin worth Tk 1 cr seized

LALMONIRHAT, Apr 3: BDR today recovered 930 grams of heroin worth about Tk 1 crore from the house of a union parishad member of Barakhat. The residence of Abdul Mannan was raided at 3 pm and the heroine was recovered. The packets of the heroine bore the mark "made in Thailand" in Thai language, police said, reports UNB.

Earlier, the Prime Minister inaugurated the newly constructed 31-bed Harirampur Thana Health Complex.

She said the people of the locality would get medicare facilities with the completion of this health complex.

Cabinet body

From Page 1 Col 8

justice, and proper law and order situation equal to basic needs and was told that the present accountable government would do everything possible to ensure these.

The meeting emphasised analysing the law and order situation from the point of view of present socio-political-economic situation and felt it urgent that political unrest should be removed and socio-economic condition should be improved side by side with proper execution of law.

Illegal arms in the hands of the anti-social elements, population explosion, unemployment, underground armed cadres, illegal activities of armed cadres of political parties, hartals, gherao, siege, inadequacy in manpower and logistic supports of the law enforcing agencies, delay in the investigation and settlement of cases were identified as main reasons for the deterioration of law and order situation.

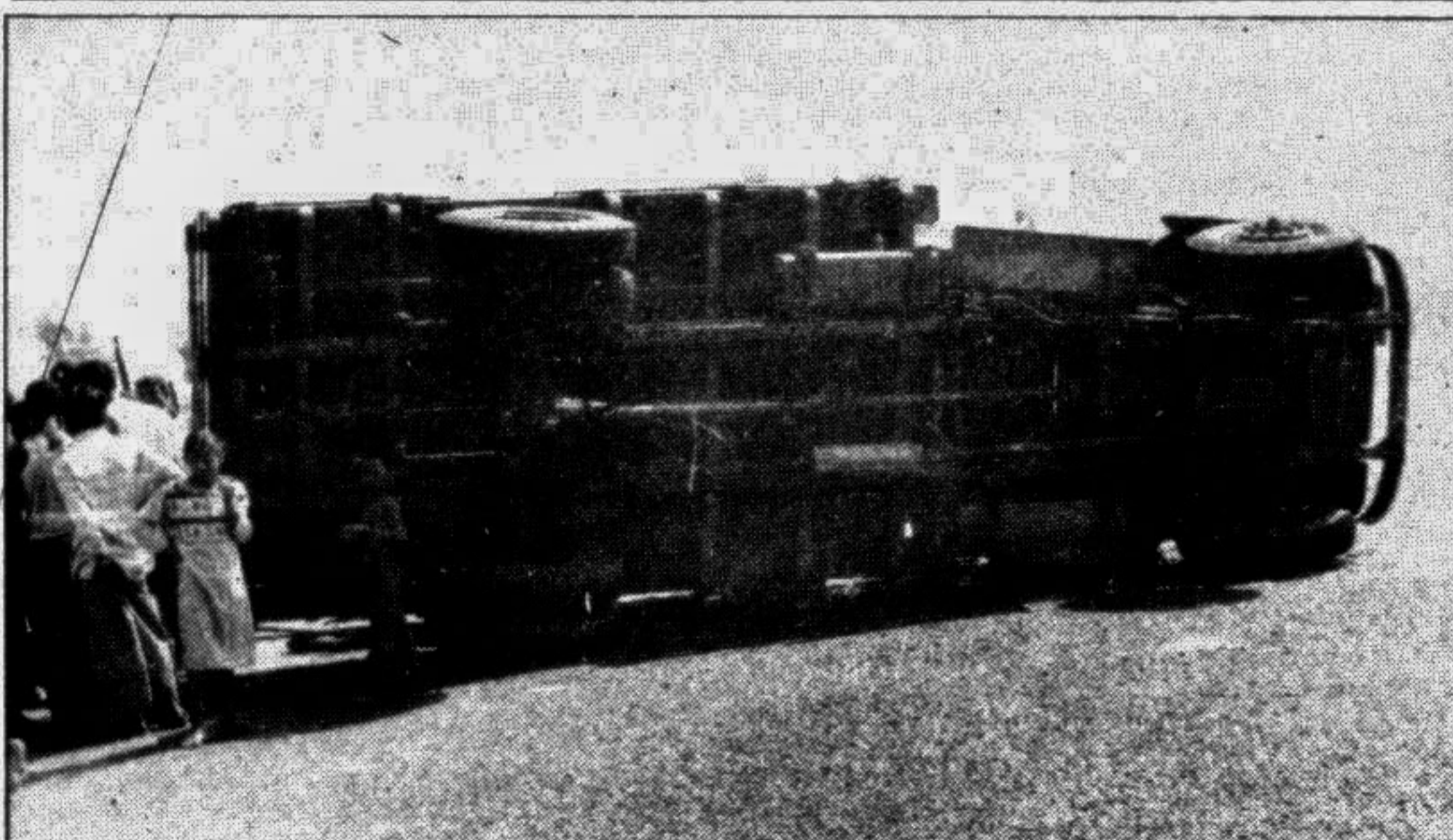
The meeting proposed for increasing manpower and logistic supports and modernisation of the law enforcing agencies, establishment of thana and police posts in accordance with the continued demands of different areas and ensuring quick disposal of cases and accountability for improvement of the situation.

It also decided to take measures after reviewing terrorism in the educational institutions, hijacking, extortion, smuggling, dacoity on the highways and in the water ways and traffic jam in the populous cities.

The meeting was informed that 692 police personnel were given major punishment including dismissal of 300 in 1992. Besides, 7,760 police personnel including two SPs and three ASPs were given minor punishment during the period.

It was also informed in the meeting that 600 cases were filed and 1,157 persons were arrested till March 31 under the anti-terrorism law since its inception from September 15 last year, the handout said.

The meeting was also attended by Cabinet Secretary M Ayubur Rahman, Home Secretary Azimuddin Ahmad, Law Secretary, Inspector General of Police, Director General of BDR, Director General of Ansar and VDP and high officials of the concerned departments and agencies.



A Dhaka bound truck yesterday fell from the Kanchpur Bridge after colliding with another coming from the opposite direction. — Star photo

Bosnian Serb Parliament rejects peace plan

BILECA (Bosnia), Apr 3: The Bosnian Serb Parliament today overwhelmingly rejected an international plan to end the year-old civil war in Bosnia that would strip them of captured territory, reports Reuter.

Serb leader Radovan Karadzic told journalists that plans to redraw the ethnic map of the former Yugoslav republic, reducing the Serb share of land, directly endanger the survival of the Serb people in this territory.

He added "We are in favour of maps but not at the cost of the catastrophic disappearance of the Serb people, the signing of the maps would be suicide for the Serb people."

Momcilo Krajisnik, the Parliament's President, said 68 of the 81 legislators voted against the UN-sponsored plan accepted by their Muslim and Croat foes.

There was one abstention and no votes against as hard-liners brushed aside attempts by their leaders including Karadzic to avert outright rejection which would court the west's wrath.

Not all deputies were present at the decisive session which lasted for only 60 minutes. Serdjanarzo, a legislator

from Prijedor in northern Bosnia, told journalists: "Now we have snubbed the western pressure I can go back to my fighters with my head high and look them in the face."

Meanwhile, an aid convoy bound for the eastern Bosnian town of Srebrenica turned back today 10 kilometres (six miles) from its destination, a UN spokesman said.

He said the convoy of 16 trucks—eight of them empty—turned back at the town of Bratunac, close to the border with Serbia, on orders from UN High Commissioner for Refugees officials.

The convoy had been due to take food and other aid in and evacuate civilians, but UN High Commissioner for Refugees spokesman John McMillan said earlier that if fighting continued in the area the convoy would probably not go in.

UN Protection Force spokesman Barry Frewer termed clashes Friday and Saturday around Srebrenica, where some 60,000 Muslims are surrounded by Bosnian Serb forces, a flagrant violation of a ceasefire throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina which was declared March 28 and has been generally holding.

Meanwhile, in Rome, Italian prime minister Giulio Amato on Friday gave the green light for Italian bases to be used by NATO aircraft to enforce a no-fly zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina, a government official announced.

Under Secretary of State Fabio Fabbrri said Amato made the decision after consulting with the defense and foreign ministers.

Informed sources said Italy would provide logistic support for NATO flight that would operate out of several Italian bases, possibly Aviano near Udine, Vicenza, Ghedi near Brescia, Pisa, Gioia Del Colle near Bari, Brindisi and from Singonella on the island of Sicily.

All bases are regularly open to NATO forces.

Some 30 ships under the command of the western European Union and NATO are already on patrol in the Adriatic Sea to enforce a UN embargo on former Yugoslavia.

NATO's decision to enforce the no-fly zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina was the West's first direct military action in the battlefield former Yugoslav republic.

The Midnight File

Govt crackdown kills dozens of Togolese soldiers

ABIDJAN, Apr 3: A government crackdown that followed a rocket attack on the official residence of Togolese President Gnassingbe Eyadema left several dozen soldiers dead and triggered a wave of desertions, several sources said today, reports AFP.

22 Chinese miners killed in gas explosion

BEIJING, Apr 3: A powerful gas explosion ripped through a coal mine in northeastern China, killing 22 miners and leaving one missing, provincial radio reported today. The disaster took place on Friday in Sujiatun near Shenyang, Liaoning Provincial radio said in a broadcast monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, reports Reuter.

Gunshot marks DU reopening

By DU Correspondent

A gunshot marked the reopening of Dhaka University on Saturday following 18 days of Ramadan and Eid-ul-Fitr vacation.

The shot by an unidentified gunman in the Arts Faculty however did not disrupt the classes which were held peacefully, campus sources said.

It was not immediately known who fired the gun and why.

There was no injury reported.

Students in large number exchanged greetings among themselves and also with teachers to mark their reunion following the vacation.

Meanwhile, the Faculty of Commerce will publish the results for 1992-93 Honours admission tests for GA unit today.

BDRCS Secy

From Page 1 Col 8

crore without any tender violating the existing rule and misappropriated Taka 50 lakh. He also incurred a loss of Taka two lakh of the society by using the society car beyond his entitlement. In addition to misappropriated Taka 2,94,862.21 of the society for visiting abroad and did not adjust it, the case noted.

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Rabbani's ally

From Page 1 Col 4

Although he repeatedly expressed the need for consultations between the leaders as mutually agreed, Sayyaf gave no satisfactory explanation why those necessary meetings did not take place.

"Unfortunately I did not meet Hekmatyar. I was ready to meet him but his place was not proper for the gathering of all leaders," said Sayyaf.

Hekmatyar met with only one leader, his ally Ayatollah Fazil of the Shi'ite Hezb-i-Wahdat faction, all other parties sent only their representatives to Hekmatyar's Charasiab headquarters, 15 kilometres (nine miles) south of the capital.

Except for Rabbani, Hekmatyar, Sayyaf and Fazil, the other faction leaders were not even resident in Afghanistan, let alone Kabul.

Sayyaf said Rabbani has the legal right of approval, and the right of change, to Hekmatyar's list of cabinet nominees.

"But before he does this, I think he should consult with the party leaders," said Sayyaf.

Bangla-Japanese Floor-crossing

From Page 1 Col 5

Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Meanwhile, the inaugural session of the meeting of the Joint Committee will be opened by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

The 66-member Bangladesh team led by the President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), Mahbubur Rahman will hold four sessions with the visiting Japanese delegation.

During the sessions, papers will be presented on the economic realities and investment environment of Bangladesh by different chambers presidents, and experts from both the delegations.

On April 7, an agreed minutes of the sessions will be signed by both the sides.

During its stay in Bangladesh, the Japanese delegation will also meet the President, Industry Minister, Planning Minister and the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh.

Pak role in blasts becoming clear: Pawar

NEW DELHI, Apr 3: The Pakistani intelligence was involved in explosions that killed some 300 people in Bombay on March 12, the administrator of a Western Indian province said today. Chief Minister Sharad Pawar of Maharashtra State, of which Bombay is the capital, said Pakistan's Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI) was definitely linked to the deadly blasts which also injured more than 1,400 others.

"The Pakistani involvement in the blasts is becoming increasingly clear" with the arrests of more than 50 suspects, he told reporters here. "Many of the boys were trained in Pakistan," he added, referring to the arrested men.

Indian investigators say Muslim gangsters were responsible for carrying out the bomb attacks. New Delhi has said six key suspects, at least two of whom are linked to the underworld, have fled the country.

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Muktijodha

From Page 1 Col 8

The PM's repeated extension of the council session's schedule has angered the Ahad group.

According to sources in the Sangsad, the PM's step was followed by submission of reports by 10 teams, formed by the preparatory body, after their February 9-20 organisational tour across the country.

With the formal split of the Sangsad—one led by Ahad and the other by Mahfuzur Rahman, known as pro-government, in early 1991, the rival groups fought for control of the organisation's central office at Eskaton Road in the city.

The unty process began later when the PM was made the Chief Patron who met leaders of both groups at the BARC auditorium September 30 last year. The joint meeting formed the Council Preparatory Committee entrusting it with the sole responsibility of holding the council session to elect the central body in a neutral manner. The preparatory body included leaders from both the sides.

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