

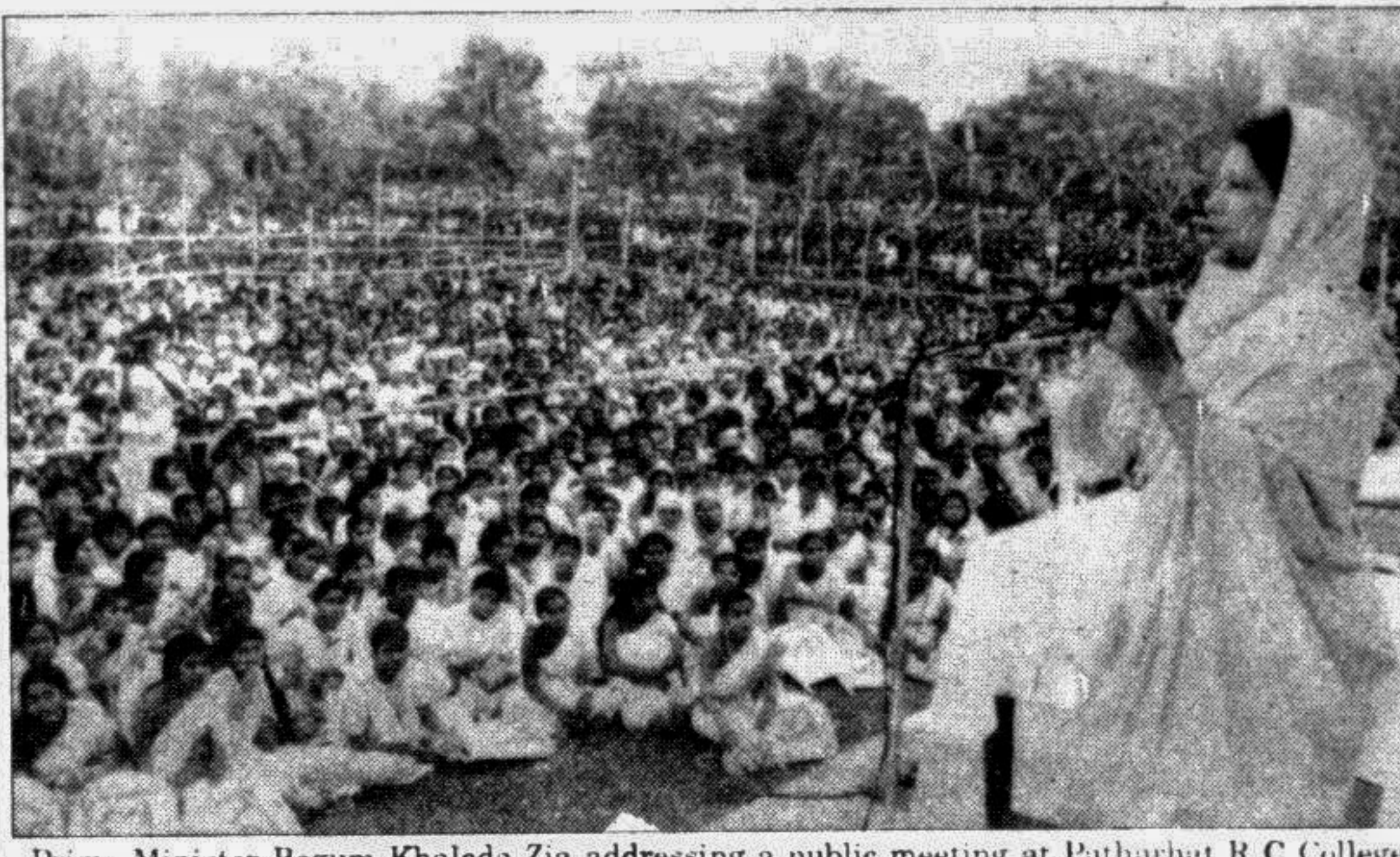
Janata Tower case

Ershad's aide paid Tk 75 lakh to Nirman on behalf of boss

A close aide of the deposed President H M Ershad yesterday told a Special Judge's Court that he had handed over Taka 75 lakh on behalf of his boss for the construction of the multi-storied building, Janata Tower, in the capital's Kawran Bazar Commercial Area, reports BSS.

Brig (ret) Sharif Aziz, who served as Private Secretary to President Ershad (who was also the Supreme Commander of Armed Forces) between April 1987 and January 1990, told the Special Judge's Court of his role in the transaction of money to Nirman International Limited for the construction of Janata Tower. Begum Raushan Ershad is the Chairman of Janata Publishers Limited, which owns the Janata Tower.

He also rejected defence suggestion that he made the deposition for the twin objective of safeguarding his valued property and also to be relieved of legal complications arising out of a litigation against allotment of plots including his own one.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a public meeting at Patharhat R C College ground in Mehendiganj, Barisal yesterday.

Bankers asked to expedite recovery Saifur sees favouritism in loan disbursement

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday asked the bankers to expedite the processing of loan-default cases, specially those involving Taka 25 lakh or more, reports BSS.

Khaleda

The Prime Minister urged the people from all walks of life to resist those who are hatching conspiracy against development and existence of the country.

Promotion of Sub-judges

tioners, pleaded with the court on the need to take immediate effective measures to stem the deteriorating judicial environment.

"An environment has been created among the sub-ordinate judges under which judges have become scared as they have been made to feel that their promotion and matters relating to their discipline lie with the law ministry," he said, adding "that ought not to have been the case."

Article 116 of the Constitution, which calls for consultation with the Supreme Court regarding promotion of sub-ordinate judges, should be interpreted in such a manner so that consultation with the Supreme Court becomes not only effective but also meaningful, the counsel for the petitioners pointed out.

Malpractice

ladesha garments in USA. The firm had managed clearance from the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) by showing forged bill of landing and invoice, the sources said.

8 nor'westers likely this month

Noth-eastern region of the country and Khulna, Barisal and Dhaka divisions are likely to experience 6 to 8 moderate nor'westers during the current month, reports UNB.

Professionals

newly achieved democracy was not safe in the hands of a section of bureaucrats who connived with the autocratic regime.

Malpractice

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Opposition call

March 26 and 28 by resorting to police action. This government does not believe in spirit and values of the liberation war, it has become the subservient of anti-liberation evil forces."

Blasts, looting

House members said that the men who hurled the cracker at the house escaped immediately.

SAARC summit

the summit was called off at the last moment. When late Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman mooted the idea of the Seventh South Asian Economic Cooperation, the concept was greeted with a large degree of scepticism by different quarters.

\$ 1.6 b US aid package

signalled it would support Moscow's long pressed plea to become a member of the international trading organization, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Water talks: Govt failed to realise rights, says JP

Earlier, the Prime Minister planted a sapling at the college premises. The Presidium of Jatiya Party at a meeting Saturday expressed grave concern at the situation arising out of unilateral withdrawal of water by the Indian government from the Ganges.

2 killed as rival Sharbahara parties clash

JHENIDAILI, Apr 4: Two activists of Sarbahara Party Kamrul group were killed last night in a gunbattle with its rival Huq group of Purbangal Communist Party.

Lanka

From Page 1 Col 3. Communal tension in one country could have repercussions in a number of neighbouring countries and such a situation could lead to outside interference in the region, a senior official said.

The Midnight File

Relief airlift to Sarajevo resumes. SARAJEVO, Apr 4: The humanitarian airlift to Sarajevo resumed today with a Canadian C-130 arriving from Ancona on Italy's Adriatic coast, at 7:59 am (0559 GMT), reports AFP.

Diarrhoea takes 7 more lives. DIARRHOEA claimed seven more lives and attacked 1,534 people in 24 hours till 9 am yesterday, reports UNB.

Sharif supports Ishaq's move for reelections. ISLAMABAD, Apr 4: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif agreed Sunday to support President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's bid for re-election, hoping to settle a political impasse that threatened to topple his government, an aide said, reports AP.

BJP renews campaign for fresh polls. NEW DELHI, Apr 4: Indian Hindu revivalists, buoyed by a court verdict quashing the recent dismissal of one of four Hindu nationalist state governments, have renewed their campaign for new elections, reports AFP.

FM inaugurates Diplomats' Assoc. The Foreign Minister, Mostafizur Rahman, yesterday inaugurated 'The Diplomats' Association of Dhaka' at a function here, reports BSS.

Slum fire. spread rapidly in the whole slum area, built 40 years ago. Some influential people had built 167 houses on the land named Lalmath Slum, Pearsabagh, and the slum dwellers had to pay Taka 150 to 250 per house as monthly rent, slum dwellers said.

Fire caused an estimated loss of about Taka five lakh, Fire Service source said. The cause of the fire was not immediately known.

Chittagong Newspaper Hawkers Multi-purpose Cooperative Society leader Monir Ahmad in a separate statement said Sunday night that 19 newspaper hawkers were affected in the fire incident at Momin Road. These hawkers have lost everything as their dwellings have been gutted, he added.

Four people, including a woman received burn injuries in the fire that originated from a lamp, witnesses said. Of the injured Juikha Begum (60) was admitted to Sadar hospital with serious burn injuries. Fire Brigade personnel rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control after an hour-long effort.