

Democracy, economic reforms interdependent: Saifur

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman Wednesday reiterated that the objectives of the economic reforms undertaken by the government are growth, job creation and poverty alleviation through efficient utilisation of resources, reports BSS.

Democracy, development, human rights and economic reforms, Rahman said are interdependent and interrelated and the present responsive, responsible and democratically elected BNP government is pledged bound to fully protect people's rights within the framework of the Constitution.

The Finance Minister was addressing as chief guest the inaugural ceremony of the three-day national tripartite workshop on social dimensions of economic reforms in Bangladesh in Dhaka yesterday morning at a local hotel. Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, ILO Director (Dhaka) Werner K Blenk and ILO Director (ARTEP) Dr Rizwanul Islam spoke while Labour Secretary Dr Shah Md Farid presided over the function organised jointly by the Labour Ministry and the ILO.

Rahman said, ours is a very caring and people oriented government where people are the centre of all development activities. Rahman made it very clear that the on-going reform programmes are concerned with

the people aimed at creating a harmonious society free from friction.

The minister laid paramount importance on promoting industrial peace through better labour-management relationship for proper and steady production oriented activities in the industrial sector.

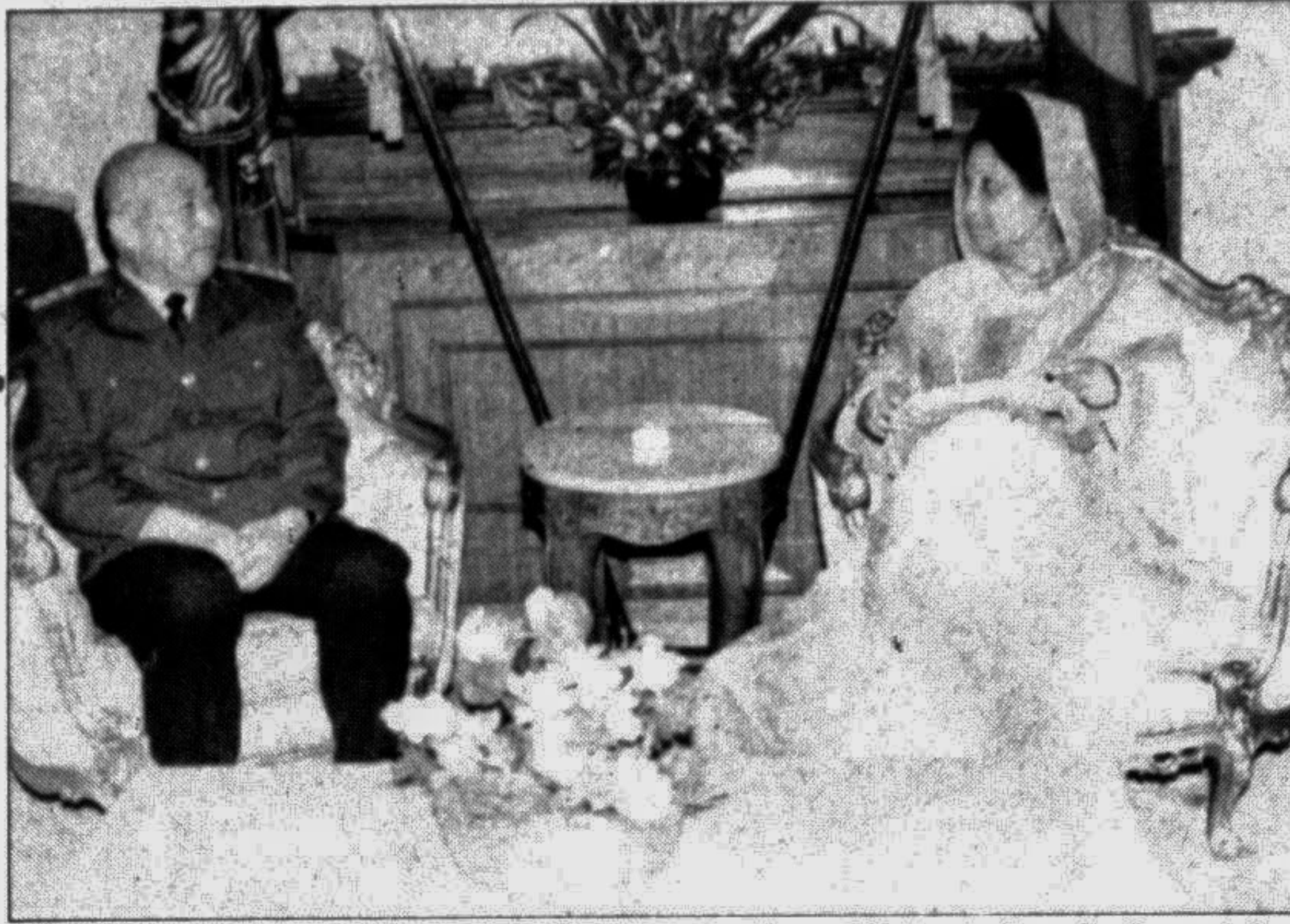
He said an efficient and skilled management was the prime need of the hour which would pave the way for an excellent labour management relationship.

Hartals, Rahman said are unrealistic in political, social and economic context of the present Bangladesh as these are disrupting public and private life.

Pointing to the monumental losses of the public sector enterprises the minister regretted that public sector corporations like the Bangladesh Jute Corporation (BJC) are incurring losses of Taka hundred crores every year whereas people of the country are paying for the losses.

The money can be diverted from the loss making sick public sector units to small scale productive units for creating millions of new jobs, he added.

Labour Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in his address said economic reforms have to be closely knit with social goals and the social goals are coterminous to the development facilities.



The Commander of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) air force Lt General Cao Shuangming called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday. —PID photo

12-hr hartal in Pabna

PABNA, May 18: A dawn-to-dusk hartal was enforced in the town today by Awami League protesting Sunday's killing of a Chhatra League leader in a gunbattle with BNP activists, reports UNB.

Police today arrested two student leaders — one for damaging a shop during the hartal and another in connection with Sunday's stabbing of a police officer. Local BCL leader Hafizur Rahman Rose was picked up along with a knife from Abdul Hamid Road at noon for allegedly damaging a shop. Jatnyatabadi Chhatra Dal leader Rafiqul Islam Babu was arrested from his residence at Abdul Hamid Road at about 3

pm for allegedly stabbing Sub-inspector Mohammad Mohsin during Sunday's violence.

A 48-hour hartal was called by AL at a public meeting at Town Hall on Monday to protest the killing of BCL (M-I) leader Rashedul Hasan Manju and press demand for punishment of those responsible.

The district Awami League withdrew tomorrow's shutdown programme in view of difficulties of HSC candidates, ensuing Eid-ul-Azha and other public interests.

Transport were off the roads and educational institutions closed during the hartal hours today.

Attendance in government offices was, however, satisfactory, officials said.

ALWC meeting

From Page 1 Col 8
The meeting will also discuss the ruling party's "repressive" measures on its political opponents, abuse of power, politicisation, patronisation of anti-liberation elements and dilly dally in rescinding the "infamous" Indemnity Ordinance.

"Certainly, we will discuss party's future action programme against the backdrop of the prevailing situation," Rahman said.

Meanwhile, the Advisory Council and the Presidium of Awami League are meeting at the party central office today. The party chief, Sheikh Hasina, is expected to preside over the meetings.

DU to honour Salam

From Page 1 Col 7
held due to sudden illness of Prof Salam, the world famous physicist.

University sources said that the DU administrative bodies are busy preparing for the occasion.

The red-brick Curzon Hall building which houses the Science faculty, has been getting a facelift for the last couple of weeks for the May 23 special convocation.

The first Chancellor of Dhaka University, the Rt. Hon'ble the Earl of Ronaldshay received the first honorary Doctor of Laws (D Laws) degree in 1922.

The first Vice Chancellor of the university, Philip Joseph Hartog, was the second recipient of the honorary D Laws degree in 1925.

Later, in 1927 the second Chancellor of the DU, the Earl of Lytton got the D Laws degree and in the same year Mahamahopadhyaya Haraprasad Shastri, the first Professor of the Department of Sanskrit and Bengali of the university, received the honorary Doctor of Literature (D Litt) degree.

In 1932 Sir Francis Stanley Jackson, former Chancellor of the university, got a D Laws and Sir Chandrasekhar Venkat Raman received the Doctor of Science (DSc) degree.

Eight persons — the highest number of recipients in a single year — were conferred honorary degrees in 1936. That year, Sir John Anderson, former Chancellor of the DU and Sir Abdur Rahim received D Laws, Sir Jagadish Chandra Bose and Sir Prafulla Chandra Roy received DSc, Sir Jadunath Sarkar, Rabindra Nath Tagore, Sir Muhammad Iqbal and Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyaya received D Litt degrees.

In 1937 Sir A F Rahman and in 1949 Khawaja Nazimuddin, former Governor General of Pakistan, were awarded D Laws degrees.

Sir Muhammad Shah Aga Khan and Dr Abdul Wahab Azam received D Laws degrees from the DU in 1951 and 1952 respectively.

In 1956 the Dhaka University awarded D Laws degrees to Major General Iskander Mirza, former Governor General and President of Pakistan, Sher-e-Bangla A K

Fazlul Huq and Madame Sung Ching Ling.

Field Marshal Mohammed Ayub Khan, the then President of Pakistan, received a D Laws in 1960 while Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Naser and Chinese premier Chou En Lai received D Laws degrees in 1960 and 1965.

Again, in 1974, the DU awarded eight honorary Doctorates. The privileged recipients were Professor Satyendra Nath Bose, Dr Hir Lal Dey, Dr Muhammad Qudrati-Khuda and Dr Qazi Mutaahar Hussain who received DSc, while Dr Muhammad Shahidullah, poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, Professor Abul Fazal and Ustad Ali Akbar Khan received D Litt degrees.

Another DC-10 is now in hangar for a routine check-up which will take some days. Thus the number of widebody aircraft available to Biman for its international routes now comes down to two, thereby creating a serious dislocation in its flight schedules.

Moreover, Biman has been operating special hajj flights since May 1 which have further taxed Biman's small fleet. Biman authorities told The Daily Star last night that under the present circumstances, they have rescheduled flights for the next 15 days. A number of low-density flights will remain suspended until the fleet position becomes normal.

After yesterday's accident, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan, Secretary of the Ministry Habibur Rahman, Biman's Managing Director Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury, Chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority Air Commodore Shamsher Ali and high-ranking officials of Biman and Civil Aviation visited the place of occurrence to assess the situation.

Barrage will save 15 dists

By Staff Correspondent

The Flood Action Plan (FAP) study findings Tuesday suggested construction of a barrage inside Bangladesh to save 15 south western districts from a long-term economic and environmental disaster.

The South West Area Water Resources Management Project under FAP-4 warned that the controlled discharge of water from the Ganges during dry season would have disastrous impact on Khulna, Satkhira, Bagerhat, Projpur, Gopalganj, Jessore, Narail, Magura and Jhenidah districts.

The situation might go beyond control within 10 years if timely steps were not taken, observed discussants on the FAP study.

A three-day conference of the FAP, began Monday in the capital, will end today at the International Conference Centre.

The south western region of the country, with a population of over two crore and 60 lakh, suffering from a serious shortage of water in the dry season and intrusion of salinity, the study identified.

It observed that the world's largest mangrove forest, the Sundarbans, is on wane. The people of the area are drinking three times more polluted water than the World Health Organisation (WHO) prescribed limit.

The FAP study cautioned that if no step was taken to augment the flows of the Goral, a spill river from the mighty Ganges, it would be detached from its source.

If the Goral river dries, there would be no way for the monsoon waters to enter into the south western region of the country, creating ecological catastrophe.

The study also pointed out that reduction in the dry season flows the Ganges have caused salinity move inward the coastal areas pushing down the capacity of irrigation in the region.

BNP supporting

From Page 1 Col 8

"BNP went to power with the promise to implement the joint declaration of three political alliances," they said, "but it has now forgotten all about the promises and has exceeded Ershad's autocratic activities."

They said that the government had totally failed to control the deteriorating law and order situation and arrest price hike. Living had become intolerable, they added.

The Midnight File

UN may return weapons to Cambodian factions

UNITED NATIONS, May 18: Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said Tuesday the United Nations was considering returning weapons to the three Cambodian factions supporting the upcoming elections because the vote is likely to be marred by violence. In a report to the Security Council, Boutros-Ghali repeated his position that despite the violence the elections must be held as scheduled. He said the vast majority of the Cambodian people want to cast their votes and postponement would not improve the situation, reports AP.

56 pc Danes vote to ratify EC's Maastricht Treaty

COPENHAGEN, May 18: A majority of Danish electors voted to ratify the European Community's Maastricht Union Treaty today in the country's second referendum on the pact, according to exit polls given on Danish television. Television said that a second exit poll said that 56 per cent voted "yes" and 44 per cent "no". An earlier poll showed 55 per cent of Danes supporting the treaty for EC economic and political union and 45 per cent opposed, reports AFP.

BTV: Biman mishap

From Page 1 Col 5

fact, that is the very reason why the news of the accident and the fact that there were no deaths or injuries should have been extensively covered by the audio-visual medium. Imagine the anxiety of thousands of relatives and friends of the 135 passengers and crew of the jet who must have been desperately waiting for details of the accident. Not to mention the right of the general public to know about such an important event.

What sort of news judgement could have prompted the TV news people to black out this occurrence? We know that TV news is under strict guidance and scrutiny of the Information Ministry, which ensures that nothing much against the government finds air time. But how could there possibly be any negative reflection on the government for this accident? It was obvious that our mentality of news control has risen to absurd proportions. Ironically, courtesy BBC and CNN, perhaps the whole world came to know about the Biman accident, except our own citizens, who are concerned the most. And to think that every newspaper the following day will treat the incident as the lead item!

When contacted at 11.05 pm the BTV newsroom informed The Daily Star that people in charge of the 8 O'clock and 10 O'clock bulletins had all gone home, and therefore no explanation could be given. An official of the BTV,

on condition of anonymity, informed The Star that they received the news through the UNB wire service. Since there was no BSS news, and no information from Biman or from the Information Ministry, BTV news decided to black out the event.

This was the strangest possible comment we expected, for the BSS item reached this newspaper's desk at 7:15 pm and Biman's press release also came around the same time.

To the question that since the accident had occurred at 7.05 in the morning, within a few kilometers of BTV's Rampura studios, what was the need to wait for BSS, Biman or the Information Minister's guidance in the matter, he replied: "We go by directives in such matters". The State Minister for Civil Aviation, the Secretary of the ministry, Biman's MD, all visited the site of the accident.

Is there any need for further comments on the state of BTV news?

In case we forget, BTV is run by public money, and this is how public interest is served!

Khaledur Rahman Tito freed

Khaledur Rahman Tito, Secretary General of the Jatya Party was released from the Dhaka central jail on being granted bail by the Anti-Terrorism Tribunal yesterday reports BSS.

Janata Tower Case Defence arguments continue

Khan Saifur Rahman, defence counsel of former minister M A Sattar, Abdul Wadud Khan and three others, yesterday strongly refuted the charges of abetment against his clients in the Janata Tower Case, reports BSS.

"There is nothing in the record of the case to show that my clients had done anything for which they can be said to have committed any offence," Khan Saifur Rahman argued in the court of the Additional Sessions Judge and Special Judge Anwaruddin Sikder.

Deposed president H M Ershad, his wife and 18 others are accused in the Janata Tower Case. Former minister M A Sattar, former Rajuk Chairman M M Rahmatullah and former parliament member Abdul Wadud Khan are among the prominent accused.

Ershad and Rahmatullah are the principal accused in this case. Begum Raushan Ershad, Sattar and others have been charged with abetment of the principal accused to gain pecuniary benefit.

The case relates to allotment of the Rajuk land to Sukkur Pradhan and 12 others (all accused persons) by Ershad and Rahmatullah by misusing their official position and causing huge financial loss to Rajuk.

Begum Raushan Ershad is the chairman of Janata Publishers Limited, which owns Janata Tower. Sattar is one of the directors of JPL.

By referring to Section 107 of the penal code, the defence counsel said that in case of abetment an offence must first have been committed. He claimed there is nothing in the records to that end.

Yesterday was the sixth day of arguments.

The court was adjourned till

May 22.

Counsel Khan Saifur Rahman pointed out that criminal offence acts in personem and that the JPL is a juristic person with a management of its own. He pointed out that there is no identification of any overt act of the directors of JPL to fix them with charge of abetment.

The counsel argued that if there was any abetment because of the JPL's purchase of Rajuk land, then the principal offence goes in the sky and that if the principal offence was committed before the JPL's purchase of the land, there cannot be any abetment charge subsequent to the commissioning of the principal offence.

Referring to the allegation against the JPL as being a company only on paper, he submitted that there is no allegation by the prosecution touching the office of the joint stock companies and that none of the public servants of the said office are accused in this case. The charge that the JPL is a fake company does not make any sense for the purpose of the case, he added.

Khan Saifur claimed that his client Abdul Wadud is still the rightful owner of the land in KCA proposed to be acquired by the government on account of Rajuk. He further said his clients title in the Rajuk's KCA still subsists and is not extinguishable by a fiction of law. Rajuk legally has no land in the area because necessary formalities to own the land have not yet been completed, he said, adding that in such situation a claim of causing loss to the Rajuk through such allotment does not arise. Moreover, Rajuk is not a profit-making body so the question of loss is irrelevant, he added.

what they said snatching of their nomination papers, termed "farical" the election scheduled for today.

Tejgaon thana area includes the busy Farmgate and Tejgaon Industrial Area. And if the hartal is enforced, road traffic in the entire city will be disrupted.

The BCL unit leaders at a rally yesterday said election cannot be held without Chhatra League participation and called upon all to resist such "farical" poll.

Manjurul Islam Asru, President of the Dhaka City (North) unit of BCL, alleged that activists of the pro-government student organisation had snatched the nomination papers of their candidates on May 3.

He lauded the role of police for arresting two "JCD armed hooligans" and recovering arms from the institute yesterday.

Rally over, BCL activists submitted a memorandum to the Home Minister urging him to help restore academic atmosphere in educational institutions in the area by arresting the "terrorists."

Raid on Polytech hostel

From Page 1 Col 5
union and a Jatnyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader of the institute, was murdered in his hostel room on June 24 last year.

Police said, Tipu has been eluding arrest since being accused of the murder in the case lodged with the Tejgaon police station.

Police recovered a foreign-made Five-Star pistol, a single barrelled 12 bore sawn-off gun with 13 cartridges, nine magazines and 19,303 rifle bullets from the hostel.

The raid began at around noon and continued for one and a half hour, said police.

The arrested persons were detained at the Minto Road office of the Detective Branch and are likely to be produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate today.

Meanwhile, UNB adds: Dhaka city (north) unit of the pro-Awami League Chhatra League yesterday called for a half-day hartal in the Tejgaon thana area today in a bid to resist Tejgaon Polytechnic Institute student union election.

The Chhatra Leaguers, who could not file nominations for

Editor: S. M. Ali
Executive Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at The Sangbad Ltd., 36 Purana Paltan, Dhaka. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No. 11; Road No. 3; Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4. Advertisement: 500091 (Direct) Fax No. 88-02-863035. GPO Box No. 3287. GRAM: DAILY STAR DHAKA.

MITSUBISHI LANCER '93

FEELING IS SIMPLE MAGIC

/// RANGS LIMITED
113-116, OLD AIRPORT ROAD, TEJGAON, DHAKA-1215
PLOT # 3, CDA AVENUE, SHOLSHAHAR C/A, CHITTAGONG

MITSUBISHI MOTORS
CREATING TOGETHER