

# Janata Tower Case Judgement June 7

The judgement in the Janata Tower case against deposed President H M Ershad and 19 others will be delivered on June 7, reports BSS.

Additional Judge and Special Judge Md Anwaruddin Sikder, after hearing the prosecution and defence arguments over seven days, fixed June 7 as the date for delivering judgement.

This is the first case in which both Ershad and his wife have been charged with wrongdoing.

Other accused in this case are former minister M A Sattar, former MP Al-Haj Abdul Wadud Khan and former Rajuk Chairman M M Rahmatullah.

The special court took up the case in February last year and till yesterday had a total of 76 hearings. More than a dozen lawyers appeared on both sides. The prosecution produced 35 witnesses.

The case relates to misuse of their position by Ershad and Rahmatullah in the allotment of four plots (measuring 2 bigha 2 katha) in the Kawran Bazar Commercial Area (KCA) to Sukkur Pradhan and 12 others (all accused in this case). Subsequently, one of the plots (No 49 KCA) was transferred in favour of Janata Publishers Limited (JPL) where a multistoried building — the Janata Tower — was constructed. Begum Raushan Ershad is the chairperson of JPL.

Three accused remained absconding from the very beginning of the trial which was going on in the first floor of an old building facing the Dhaka Central Jail's entrance. Winding up his argument, Attorney General Aminul Haq said the "expedient way of allotment, transfer and mutations of land clearly demonstrate the connection of the principal accused with the beneficiaries."

He said although documents proved the claim of Sukkur Pradhan and others as false, yet Ershad ordered allotment of the plots, which Rahmatullah executed as Chairman of Rajuk by taking "extraordinary" efforts.

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# 7 killed, 7 injured in road accidents

By Staff Correspondent

Seven persons were killed and as many injured in separate road accidents in the city and other places in the country Saturday.

Of the seven dead, four were killed in the city and one each in Sherpur, Savar and Narayanganj.

Our Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) Correspondent reports two persons died on the spot and seven others were injured when a minibus collided with an auto-tempo near the Rajbari Police Lines in the capital at 6.30 am yesterday.

Abdul Aziz, 45, and another unidentified passenger of the auto-tempo were killed on the spot, while the helper of the three-wheeler Harris Mia, 25, was admitted to the DMCH in a critical condition. The other injured were released after first aid.

A 55-year-old man was hit by a speeding vehicle at Saat Rasta crossing, Tejgaon in the city yesterday afternoon.

He died on arrival at the DMCH. Police, however, failed to trace the killer vehicle. The victim was identified as Allah Bux, 50.

# Obituary



Mr A K M Aulad Hossain, Senior Product Manager, Pfizer Lab (Bd) Ltd expired 22nd May '93 at the NICVD, Dhaka at 6 pm. (Inna ...Razeun).

He was 55. He hailed from village Kandail of Kishoreganj district. He left behind his mother, wife and three sons to mourn his death.

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Facts suggest that these persons abetted Ershad and Rahmatullah to allot land illegally for pecuniary advantage and therefore committed offence under Section 5 (1) D of the Prevention of Corruption Act of 1947, he added.

The Attorney General stated that he wanted to dispel some incorrect statements about the facts of the case brought by the defence. He noted that if facts are construed, misinterpreted and wrongly expounded, those are part of law and he was entitled to explain those.

Referring to the contention of the defence on the authority of DIT-Rajuk, the Attorney General said they are not bound to allot land even to ex-owners of the said land which has been acquisitioned. He said neither the court nor the board (DIT-Rajuk) is under any obligation to allot land to those from whom it was acquired. He read out the judgements of some cases in support of his contention.

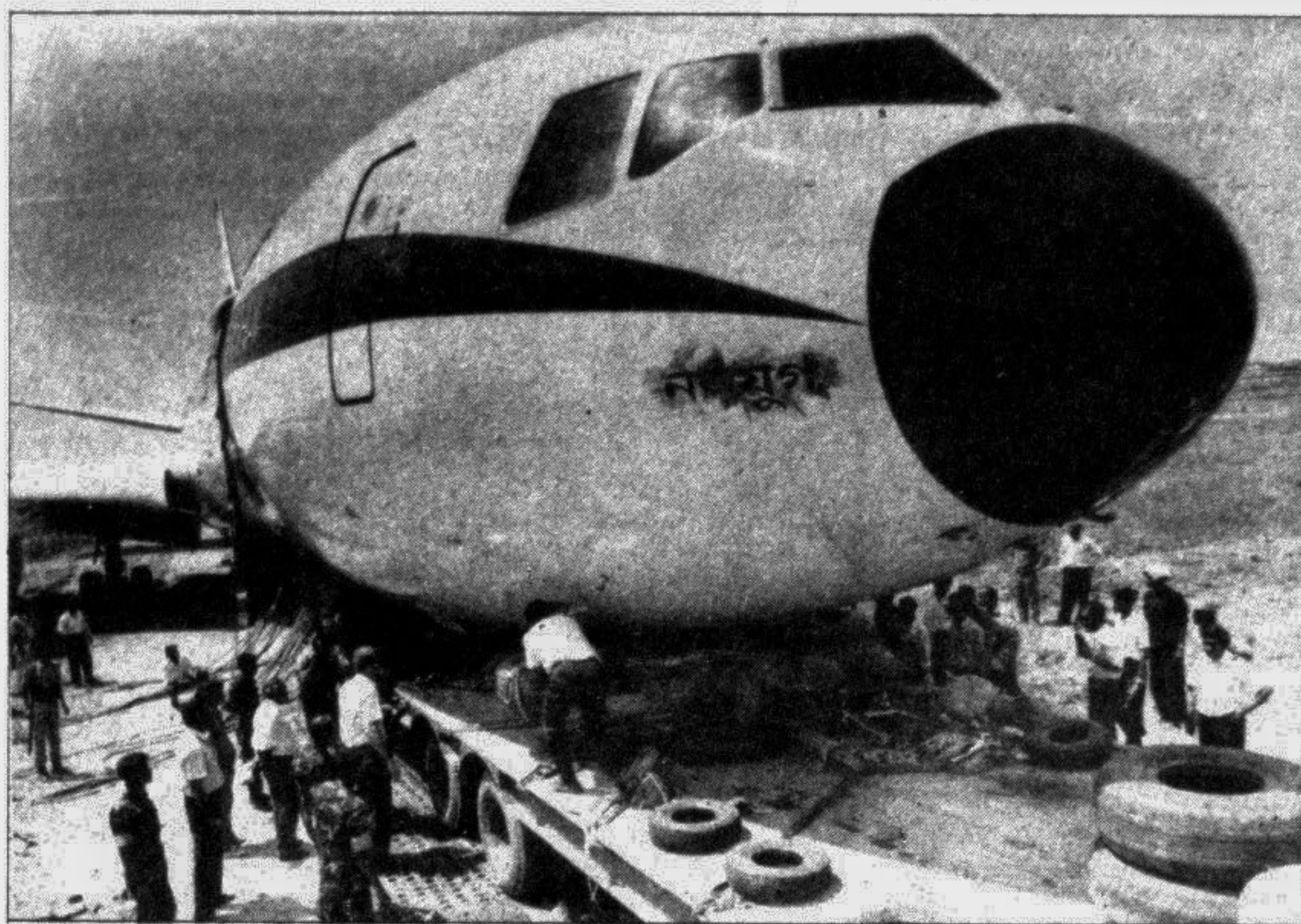
The Attorney General also refuted the "contradictions" of the defence argument that since final notification was still to be made, DIT-Rajuk does not yet own the land in question.

Khondkar Mahbub Hossain, Chief Defence Counsel for Ershad, in a brief statement, said the allegations of Taka 6.5 crore against his client had not been proved beyond reasonable doubt. In such a situation, presumption should not prevail, he added.

Khan Saifur Rahman, defence lawyer for Sattar and Wadud Khan and three others, and Sharfuddin Khan Mukul, defence lawyer for Begum Raushan Ershad, also added some points to their arguments. Before the recess, the court witnessed a brief encounter between the Attorney General and defence counsel Mukul.

# 8 Jatiya Party MPs granted bail

Eight Jatiya Party MPs yesterday surrendered before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate and got bail in a defamation suit, reports UNB.



The nose of the ill-fated Biman DC-10 being placed on an army tank carrier for being taken to the hangar at the Zia International Airport yesterday. — Star photo



Biman has chartered this Aeroflot aircraft to carry Bangladeshi workers to Malaysia following the damage to one of its DC-10s last Tuesday. — Star photo

# 132 new textile industries to be set up

The 17th Parliamentary Standing Committee meeting of the Ministry of Textiles was held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan here yesterday with State Minister for Textiles Abdul Mannan in the chair, a PID source said, reports BSS.

It was informed in the meeting that 132 new entrepreneurs are going to set up textile industries at the initiative of the Ministry of Textiles. The meeting also examined the important role of the Department of Textiles and recommended that the department should be given back the responsibility of registration of newly installed textile factories.

# DUCSU welcomes

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Dhaka University is only upholding its glorious tradition. The leaders said that they were welcoming Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to the campus because she was the uncompromising leader during the anti-autocracy movement, which resulted in the restoration of democracy. Therefore, they said, the arrival of the Prime Minister to the university campus in a democratic atmosphere is a matter of great pride to the student community, who had played the vital role during the anti-autocracy movement.

Meanwhile, the five DUCSU representatives in the Dhaka University Senate yesterday protested against the statement of Awami League backed Chhatra League (M-I) regarding the visit of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to the University campus Sunday to confer an honorary DSc to Prof Abdus Salam.

The leaders urged all students of the university irrespective of party affiliation to make the event a success.

They also called upon the Chhatra League (M-I) workers to refrain from their provocative activities to uphold the heritage of the Dhaka University as well as the prestige of the country.

The signatories of the statement were, Rafiqul Islam, Habibun Nabi, Shirin Sultana, Ali Akkas and Shahiduddin Choudhury.

# Trade Centre

From Page 1 Col 3

The Export Promotion Bureau is implementing the prestigious project. The centre will also accommodate the offices of the Export Promotion Bureau with a permanent trade fair complex, besides providing modern facilities for international seminars and conferences. The centre will also provide telephone, telex, photocopy, computer and secretarial facilities to the clients on payment.

The meeting also discussed various issues relating to the audit reports on the Karnaphuli and Rupali insurance companies. A number of irregularities were detected in the activities of the two companies. The controller of insurances explained the measures taken against the companies.

# Efforts on to take DC-10 to hangar

By Staff Correspondent

The salvage operation of Biman's damaged DC-10 aircraft stumbled yesterday afternoon when the flank wheels stuck deeper into the mud and had to be pulled free by an army tank.

However, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan, while talking to newsmen at the site of the accident yesterday evening, said that the damaged aircraft was expected to be towed to the hangar Saturday night for necessary repair.

However, the operation remained incomplete till the filing of this report late Saturday night.

During the day the front portion of the damaged 125-ton aircraft, lifted by air-cushions, was placed on a French-made, Renault 26-wheeler tank carrier the flank wheels sank deeper in the soft soil. The bogged DC-10 was immediately pulled from its rear by an army tank, engineers said.

Engineers and workers are trying to place bricks under both the flank wheels, witnesses said. The aircraft skidded off the runway on Tuesday during landing in bad weather but all the 123 passengers and 12 crew coming from Jeddah survived unhurt.

Meanwhile, because of the accident Biman's summer schedule has suffered a major breakdown with cancellation of a number of regular flights. The authorities, however, chartered a wide-bodied aircraft from the Aeroflot to cover the schedule, especially to ferry Bangladeshis working abroad.

# DU special convocation

From Page 1 Col 8

Professor Salam will be the 33rd recipient of this honour. The first Chancellor of the Dhaka University, the Rt Hon'ble the Earl of Ronaldshay received the first honorary Doctor of Laws degree in 1922.

The DU authorities have already completed all preparations to stage the ceremony successfully. Tight security measures have been taken in and around the venue.

Some hall student unions have put up welcome banners at the entrances of the Curzon Hall.

The special convocation was scheduled for last February but could not be held for sudden illness of Professor Salam.

According to sources, the Department of Physics of the Dhaka University first took the initiative to award the honorary Doctor of Science (D. Sc) degree to Professor Salam in the middle of last year.

Later, the department placed the proposal before the Academic Council of the university. The Academic Council forwarded the proposal to the Syndicate which finalised it and decided to confer the degree early this year.

The DU authorities have requested the invited guests to enter the convocation hall through the north gate of the Curzon Hall and to park their vehicles at the Shishu Academy premises. The mem-

Biman operates in 29 international and seven domestic destinations with its four DC-10s, two Fokker F-28s and three ATP Turbo Props. Witnesses said that a 1,200x 58 ft lane has been constructed to link the accident spot to the main runway as part of the salvage operation. Some 2,000 PSP steel sheets were used to carpet the newly constructed patch.

Replying to a question the State Minister said that the cost of the salvage operation would not exceed Tk 50 lakh and the extent of damage would be ascertained only after examination by the experts at the hangar. Representatives from the manufacturers McDonell Douglas, insurers Lyvods and engine-makers General Electric Company were also present at the site.

The minister said that he had been personally supervising the salvage operation since Thursday and everything was going smoothly. Replying to a question on the accident he said that a six-member team was working to find out the causes.

The minister, a former Biman Managing Director said that he owned full responsibility for the accident but did not resign since there was no death or casualty. "I am mentally prepared to resign but there is no record anywhere in the world that a minister resigned over such a minor accident," he told reporters.

Commenting on the opposition demands, a disappointed Barrister Rafiq commented: "Eighty-five per cent of our population, living in the villages, don't agree with and are even unaware of the issues the AL, the Nirmul Committee and others are fighting for."

# SPGRC

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Sources said that the repatriation had become uncertain following the sacking of former Pakistan premier Mian Nawaz Sharif, who promised to take back all the citizens of his country stranded in Bangladesh since 1971.

The first batch of 325 Urdu-speaking refugees, better known as Biharis, went home on January 10 last.

The symbolic return took place after a joint announcement by Sharif and his counterpart Begum Khaleda Zia during the latter's visit to Islamabad last year.

Pakistan President Ghulam Ishaq Khan sacked Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on April 18 on charges of corruption and malpractice.

Meanwhile, the delay in repatriation has sparked off conflicts among the stranded Pakistanis.

Renewed clashes between two rival factions of the Stranded Pakistanis General Repatriation Committee (SPGRC) Saturday left at least 30 people wounded at the Mohammadpur Geneva Camp in the capital.

At least 20 stranded Pakistanis were injured Friday when the supporters of the two SPGRC factions clashed in a take-over battle.

A delegation of the stranded Pakistanis led by the veteran Muhammad Nasim Khan called on Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury Saturday and submitted a memorandum.

SPGRC chief patron Nasim Khan, in a statement issued to the press, demanded judicial enquiry into the incidents on Friday and Saturday.

# ALWC meet

From Page 1 Col 4

speakers felt that a unity with other opposition forces could be forged provided it did not cost the AL any seats in the next parliamentary polls.

The speakers felt that the party high command should proceed on the path of forming any political alliance 'very carefully'.

On the Dr Kamal Hossain issue, the district leaders strongly felt that it was now imperative for the party to take disciplinary action against him.

The leaders argued that any further hesitation in taking disciplinary measures against Dr Kamal would affect discipline at all levels of the organisation.

# BNP: Opposition

From Page 1 Col 3

people's mandate. Therefore, it's not afraid of opposition threats. We'll also announce political programmes to counter those reportedly being worked out by the opposition.

Replying to a query, Barrister Rafiq informed this correspondent that his party leaders were continuing regular tours to their respective areas at the directive of the Prime Minister.

"We are taking stock of the current political situation, and discussing our role in the wake of the opposition's move to strengthen their agitation", said the Works Minister, remarking, "I don't think there is any scope for the opposition parties to go for any anti-government agitation at this particular moment."

Commenting on the opposition demands, a disappointed Barrister Rafiq commented: "Eighty-five per cent of our population, living in the villages, don't agree with and are even unaware of the issues the AL, the Nirmul Committee and others are fighting for."

# The Midnight File

## Myanmar minister due today

The Home Minister of the Union of Myanmar, Lt General Mya Thin, arrives Dhaka today on a four-day official goodwill visit. During his stay here the visiting Home Minister will have informal talks with his Bangladesh counterpart Abdul Matin Chowdhury on matters of bilateral interest including the on-going repatriation of the Myanmar refugees, reports BSS.

## Mya Thin leaves Myanmar for Bangladesh

BANGKOK, May 22: Myanmar's Home Minister Mya Thin left Yangon today for an official goodwill visit to Bangladesh, state-run radio Yangon reported. Mya Thin was accompanied by senior Myanmar officials including the Deputy Police Chief, the head of the Immigration Department and Foreign Ministry officials, the radio said in a broadcast monitored here, reports AFP.

## Allied FM's agree to set up safe area in Bosnia

WASHINGTON, May 22: Allied foreign ministers agreed Saturday to set up safe areas in Bosnia and to try to stop fighting from spreading into other areas, but stopped short of endorsing President Clinton's proposal to use military force. US Secretary of State Warren Christopher said he and representatives of Spain, France, Britain and Russia had also agreed to "rigorously enforce" existing sanctions against Yugoslavia and increase the international presence in the former republic of Macedonia, reports AP.

## PM: Ecological balance

From Page 1 Col 7

policy on science and announced a balanced environment policy.

The present government aims at building a self-reliant economy which, she said, depends on achieving appropriate scientific and technological capabilities.

The Prime Minister concluded her speech quoting the 67-year-old Nobel winning physicist, Prof Salam, portraying a tragic Third World scenario: "War is evil, war is cruel, war is inhuman. Still more evil, still more cruel and still more inhuman is the slow and agonising death of daily hunger."

Prof Salam, who arrived here Friday on a five-day visit to receive an honorary Doctor of Science (DSc), to be conferred by Dhaka University at a special convocation on Sunday, expressed his deep pleasure over the government's assistance in setting up the ICSTED.

The renowned scientist of the sub-continent expressed optimism that the research centre would contribute in a major way to tackling the problems of densely populated regions, including Bangladesh. Mentioning the importance of women's participation in development of science and technology, Prof Salam said "Women after often tend to do much better than men to better the condition of themselves and their families. This is a hidden force for the developing countries that must not be ignored."

The biggest hurdle to science for women in developing countries arises from the fact that the door of education is closed to them, he pointed out.

Prof Salam, President of the Italy-based Third World Academy of Sciences, assured that the ICSTED would not only be concerned with its own charter which does not discriminate on the basis of sex, but will concern particularly the problems of women for betterment of their condition through utilisation of science and technology. Pointing out that

team was flown back by helicopter to Dudukchari, a frontier village under Panchari thana of Khagrachhari hill district, for their return. The team was picked up by helicopter from the same place and brought to the venue of the dialogue at Khagrachhari Circuit House before 10 am.

The other members of the PCJSS team who attended the talks were Sudhasindhu Kisa, Raktuptal Tripatha, Rupayan Dewan and Gaium Chakma while the nine-member parliamentary committee included Syed Wahidul Alam, Barkat Ullah Bhulu, Rashed Khan Menon, Md Shahjahan, Mostaque Ahmed, Kalparanjan Chakma, Shahjahan Chowdhury, MPs and Salim Ullah, Director, Special Affairs.

However, the demands of the Shantibahini which came up for discussion today included creation of a 'Jummaland', the status of a 'specially administered area' for the CHT, granting of autonomy under a 'regional council' formed by elected representatives and creation of a police force with 'permanent residents of the area', etc.

The current ceasefire was scheduled to end May 31.

The first and the second rounds of talks between the government committee and the PCJSS were held on November 5 and December 26 last year.

# মুহুর্তা

ইস্টার্ন হাউজিং লিমিটেড-এর  
অভিজিৎ আর্থনিক স্কল

মহানগর : রামপুরা ওয়াশপা রোডের  
শেখ প্রান্তে উলন পাওয়ার স্টেশন সংলগ্ন  
২½ এবং ৩ কাঠা পরিমাণের মটগুলি  
এখনই বাড়ী করে বসবাসের উপযোগী।

- ✓ বনভী : রামপুরা টিভি ভবনের উত্তর-পূর্ব দিকে।
- ✓ গোড়ান : মাদারটেক-এর শেখ প্রান্তে।
- ✓ পল্লবী বিত্তীয় পর্ব : পল্লবী প্রধান সড়ক থেকে ১ কিলোমিটার, বোটনিক্যাল গার্ডেন সংলগ্ন।
- ✓ নিকেতন : গুলশান মডেল টাউন সংলগ্ন।

যোগাযোগের ঠিকানা : ইস্টার্ন হাউজিং লিমিটেড (লাভ)  
ইসলাম চেম্বার (৯ম তলা)  
১২৫/এ মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা।  
ফোন : ২৩৫৬৬৮, ২৪১২২৭, ৮৬২৫২১-৩