

Delhi education summit

7 out of 9 heads of state or govt aren't coming

NEW DELHI, Dec 13: The education ministers of nine high population countries with the maximum number of the world's illiterates began a three-day meeting here today in a bid to find a common strategy to remove illiteracy by the year 2000, reports BSS.

The education ministers, at the conference hosted by India and jointly sponsored by the UNESCO, UNICEF and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), explained how they were attaching importance to primary education in their efforts to achieve the goal of making their countries free from the curse of illiteracy.

The education ministers' conference was originally fashioned as a pre-summit meeting as the heads of state and government of the nine countries were expected to meet in a one-day summit on December 16. But except for the Indonesian President Soeharto, no other head of state or government is coming. The education ministers are now likely to make up for the summit.

The Bangladesh delegation at the conference while the other delegation leaders are Vice Premier of the state council of China Li Lanqing, the Minister of Education Prof Hussein Kamal Bahaael-Din of Egypt, the Minister of Education and Culture Prof Dring Wardiman Djonegoro of Indonesia, the Minister of Human Resources Development Arjun Singh of India, the Deputy Minister of High Education and Scientific Research Javier Barros Valero of Mexico, the Minister of Education and Youth Development of Nigeria Driyorchia Ayu, and the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister of Pakistan for Social Welfare and Education Shahnaz Wazir Ali. The minister of the host country is chairing the meeting.

Half-day hartal in Sylhet for Illyas' release

From Our Correspondent
SYLHET, Dec 18: A peaceful half-day hartal was observed in Sylhet and Habiganj today to press for the release of Illyas Ali, former general secretary of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD).

The hartal was called by the 'Illyas Mukti Parishad'. All kinds of vehicular traffic were off the streets, and some trains, including the inter-city expresses, were detained for several hours during the hartal.

Police arrested an activist of the JCD from Sylhet town. The hartal was also observed in Golapganj, Biswanath, Fenchuganj, Kanaighat, Beanibazar, and Zakiganj thanas.

Arafat: Peace process

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of at least 10 days in a timetable in Palestinians had insisted was sacred.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation gave up its last remaining weapon before it signed the September declaration of principles, renouncing the use of violence and so abandoning the six-year-old 'intifada' (uprising) against Israeli occupation.

AP adds: An Arab suicide bomber crashed a stolen ambulance into an army jeep Monday, adding to fears that the delay in starting the Israeli withdrawal will intensify bloodshed in the occupied lands.

The bombing, which killed the Palestinian driver and wounded an Israeli soldier, was the fifth such attack since the Israel-PLO peace accord was signed Sept 13. The militant group Islamic Jihad, which opposes the PLO autonomy pact, claimed responsibility.

AFP says: Palestinians were angry but not surprised today when Israel failed to start withdrawing its troops on schedule. 'The people are very disappointed and depressed,' said

Sufian Abu Zaydah, an official of Arafat's Fatah faction in charge of liaison with the Israeli army.

Abu Zaydah said the failure of Arafat and Rabin to agree on implementing self-rule, during last minute talks in Cairo on Tuesday, would also hold up the release of Palestinian prisoners.

'We did feel that Israel would not meet its commitments,' said 18-year-old student Mohammad Abdel Kader in the Jabalia refugee camp of the occupied Gaza Strip, from where the army was to have begun pulling out on Monday.

'This delay may put an end to our hopes, but it's just as well because the 'intifada' will restart,' he said.

Soldiers in Jabalia shot and wounded a young Palestinian on Monday in clashes with demonstrators.

Khaled Hindi, a supporter of the Muslim fundamentalist Hamas, warned that anger would spill over into more violence, which had already spiralled ahead of the December 13 deadline.

Martyred intellectuals

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Dr Mostafa Muhammad Sadek, Santosh Banerjee, Nazimuddin Ahmed, Abul Bashir and Abul Kalam Azad.

Different political parties and socio-cultural organisations have planned programmes to observe the day. Radio Bangladesh and BTV will put out special programmes.

The day's programme begins at the Martyred Intellectuals' Memorial at Mirpur, where wreaths will be placed. Discussion meetings will be held and special prayers will be offered for salvation of the departed souls.

In separate messages, President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia have urged the people to consolidate the hard-earned democracy and independence to show proper respect to the martyred intellectuals.

The Prime Minister said the murderers tried to cripple the intellectual pursuits and democratic values of an independent Bangladesh.

Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina, in her message, urged all to be imbued with the spirit of the Liberation War to combat the growth of anti-liberation forces and fundamentalism.

The BNP and Awami League leaders and workers will assemble separately at the Mirpur memorial at 8 am to place wreaths.

The BNP will hold a discussion meeting on the significance of the day while the Awami League will hold a rally at Bangabandhu Avenue in the afternoon.

The other political parties,

including the JSD, the CPB, the Jatiya Party, Gano Forum, the National Awami Party and the Gano Azadi League have chalked out separate programmes to mark the day.

The Bangla Academy, the Shilpakala Academy, the Nazrul Academy, the Nazrul Institute and the Shishu Academy and other organisations will also observe the day through their own programmes.

The national and black flags will fly at half mast on government and private buildings.

The Zia Parishad will place wreaths at the Martyrs' Memorial at 8 am.

A discussion meeting will be held on December 15 at the Diploma Engineers' auditorium at 4 pm.

The Jatiya Press Club will hold a discussion meeting commemorating the shaheed journalists today at 3 pm at the Press Club.

Half-day hartal at Tongi

From Our Correspondent
GAZIPUR, Dec 13: Seventeen inter-district routes connecting Dhaka remained blocked near Tongi for an hour this morning as the Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) called a half-day hartal in the Tongi municipal area today.

However, the hartal call, demanding immediate reopening of the Tongi Government College and holding of college students union elections, was partially observed.

No major incident was reported except some picketing on the highway where the pro-hartal supporters damaged five vehicles.

PM opens victory festival in city

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday inaugurated a four-day National Victory Festival at the Ramna Batamul in celebration of the 23rd anniversary of Victory Day, reports UNB.

The Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha (JASAS), the cultural wing of the ruling BNP, has organised the 'Bijoy Utsab '93 to mark the day when the nation wrest the victory of the 9-month Liberation War against Pakistani occupation forces in 1971.

Begum Zia also opened the 'Bijoy Mela '93 at the same venue in the lush green Ramna Park by releasing coloured balloons.

CIRDAP meet begins today

The 9th regular meeting of the Governing Council of the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific begins here today, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the two day meeting at the Sheraton Hotel at 9:30 am.

The ministers concerned of about 14 countries, including the regular member countries of CIRDAP will attend the meeting.

Delhi, Calcutta most polluted cities in S Asia

NEW DELHI, Dec 13: India's capital New Delhi and its biggest city Calcutta are among the most polluted cities in South Asia, a World Bank report said, reports Xinhua.

If some action is not taken immediately it will be a disaster, the report warned.

The level of environmental degradation in East and South Asia is rapidly approaching thresholds of unacceptably high social and economic costs, the World Bank report said.

Pressler in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Dec 13: The US Senator who crafted legislation blocking US aid to Pakistan arrived here from New Delhi today on a three-day visit to Pakistan, officials said, reports AFP.

Senator Larry Pressler, author of legislation banning more than 500 million dollars in annual aid to Pakistan since 1990, was accompanied by senators Thad Cochran and Hank Brown.

They will have formal meetings with Foreign Minister Sardar Assef Ahmed Ali, Defence Minister Aftab Shabaan Mirani and Foreign Secretary Shaharyar Mohammed Khan on Tuesday. The Associated Press of Pakistan said they would also call on Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and attend a dinner hosted by President Farooq Ahmed Leghari Wednesday.

Pressler was snubbed when he visited Pakistan early last year, his meeting with former President Ghulam Ishaq Khan being cancelled at the last minute. [Earlier Story on Page 5]



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia inaugurating a four-day 'National Victory Festival' organised by the Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha (JASAS) in celebration of the 23rd Victory Day at the Ramna Batamul in Dhaka yesterday. — PID photo

Year of indigenous people 45 communities to attend Dec 18 programme

By Staff Correspondent
The indigenous people of the country will observe the International Year of the World's Indigenous People 1993, declared by the United Nations, by holding a day-long programme on December 18.

The celebration committee for the 1993 International Year of the World's Indigenous People, Bangladesh and the Bangladesh Human Rights Coordination Council will jointly hold the programme at the Engineers' Institution.

At a press conference yesterday, the organisers said the representatives from all the 45 indigenous and other tribal communities of the country were likely to attend the programme which would be the first of its kind in Bangladesh.

The press conference, addressed by the joint convener of the committee Dipankar Talukder MP was also attended by joint conveners Brother Jarlad D'Souza, Promod Mankin MP, the chairman of the Tribal Welfare Association, Michael Mritunjaya Rema, the general secretary of the council M A Matin, Santosh Saren and Sanjiv Drolg.

'The indigenous people have their own culture and identity which are fading away due to the negligence of the government,' they said.

Factory fire kills 60 in China

BEIJING, Dec 13: Fire spreading from a textile warehouse to workshops and dormitories killed 60 factory workers, most of them women, early Monday, the official China News Service reported, reports AP.

The dawn fire in Fuzhou, in coastal Fujian province, was the second major fire in a month. Last month, a fire in a joint-venture toy factory in the southern boomtown of Shenzhen killed 84 people.

Monday's fire started at about 5:15 am in a fourth-floor warehouse of the joint-venture Gaofo Textile Co Ltd, the report said.

Bankers

From Page 1 Col 8
Chowdhury of the BSR, Golam Mohammad of Bangladesh Krishi Bank and Golam Rabbani of the BSB.

The deputy general managers are Abdul Jalil, Mallick Ali Ahmed, Ahmedul Haq, Badsha Miah and Nadiruzzaman of the Sonali Bank, M Kobad Ali and Mohammad Shamsuddin of the Agrani Bank, A K M Shamsul Azad Chowdhury of the Janata Bank and Mohammad Saidur Rahman of the Rupali Bank.

Prokrichi letter

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vested interests within the administration which acted against all kinds of administrative reform.

The printed letter also gives a brief account of the on-going agitation by the professionals, including their April 15 meeting with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her Sugandha office.

Some 70 thousand doctors, engineers, agriculturists and members of the 26 Bangladesh Civil Service Cadres have planned to resign en masse tomorrow, December 15 to press home their 17-point charter of demands.

Prominent among the demands are: restructuring the present bureaucracy, removing service anomalies, formulating the Rules of Business and separation of the judiciary from the administration.

Explaining how the en masse resignation would take place a senior member of the Prokrichi-BCS Central Action Council said the members, after signing, will submit their resignation letters to the local units of the Action Council or their registered associations which will then submit those to the headquarters.

The Central Action Council will hand over the resignation letters to the President at the 'right time,' he added. Meanwhile, the three-day mass leave programme by the officials ended Monday.

Organisers claimed that their programme was observed throughout the country and 'it was very successful.' The professionals will join their normal duties today (Tuesday), they said.

Nirmul Committee opposes Ajker Kagoj editor's move for trial of Azam

The Ekattorer Ghatak-Dalal Nirmul Committee yesterday opposed the move for trying Prof Golam Azam for murder during the Liberation War under the existing law, initiated by the Editor of the daily Ajker Kagoj, reports UNB.

'Golam Azam may be acquitted of the charge if tried in a court under the existing law of the country and no murder case can be repeated against him,' Nirmul Committee chief coordinator Kazi Nuruzzaman said at a press conference.

He demanded that the Jamaat chief should be tried as a 'war criminal' by a special tribunal.

The Ajker Kagoj Editor announced on Friday he would file a case on December 15 in Jessore accusing Prof Azam of abetting the murder of his brother Kazi Moin who was killed on April 20, 1971.

The Nirmul Committee leader also recalled the judgement of the High Court restoring Azam's citizenship.

Opposing the move for a trial under the existing laws, he said, 'It is a conspiracy against the national agitation and the verdict of the masses against Golam Azam at the Gano Adalat on March 26, 1992.'

Monopoly law

From Page 1 Col 4
tally on technology developed in Bangladesh, the undertakings producing goods exclusively for export and the business undertakings or persons dealing in a category of products or services not included in the schedule of products or services prescribed by the government to be under the provisions of the clause.

The officials, while commenting on some reports published in a section of the press on the proposed law, said that the entrepreneurs and officials who expressed their reactions to the press did not even go through the actual draft. Such statements would confuse the business community, they added.

The Midnight File

Shuttle Endeavour lands

CAPE CANAVERAL (Florida), Dec 13: The Shuttle Endeavour landed in Florida at 12:25 am EST (0525 GMT) today with seven veteran astronauts who carried out NASA's most ambitious mission since the 1970s, a repair call to the Hubble space telescope. With commander Dick Covey at the controls, the winged ship swooped out of the darkness and glided to a touchdown without lights or power of its own 11 days after it rode a brilliant tower of flame aloft from the Kennedy space centre, reports Reuter.

Thousands protest arrest of Advani

NEW DELHI, Dec 13: Thousands of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha activists here today protested against the arrest of L K Advani, Murl Manohar Joshi and several other BJP leaders. Addressing the demonstrators the BJYM national general secretary, Vijay Goel, alleged that the centre was 'afraid of the growing influence of the BJP and had resorted to 'repressive policies' to check it, reports PTI.

Govt bombs UNITA HQs

LISBON, Dec 13: Angolan government jets attacked the headquarters of UNITA rebel leader Jonas Savimbi and barely missed killing him, UNITA radio reported Monday. The alleged attack Sunday dealt a 'serious setback to the peace negotiations,' rebel representative Jorge Valentim told Portuguese TSF radio, reports AP.

Khaleda: SAF Games

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Referring to the preparations, Sadek Hossain said, an indoor stadium and a swimming pool were completed within only nine and a half months.

About the Bangladesh team, he said, 'This is for the first time we have taken steps to strengthen our teams. The players were given training by foreign coaches. Highest amount of money in the history of Bangladesh was spent for coaching this year.'

He said the workers' unions which had earlier called for a 48-hour action programme in the city from December 21-22 have postponed it following the request of the SAF Games committee.

During the meeting, the Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner said that 4,958 police personnel, both uniformed and plainclothes, will be deployed to maintain law and order and to ensure smooth holding of the Games.

Players will be taken to the Games venues under police escort and adequate security measures have been taken to avoid any untoward incident.

Yangon for talks with Dhaka next month

Myanmar has agreed to hold the 16th official-level meeting with Bangladesh sometime in January, three months behind the schedule, reports UNB.

A source yesterday said a specific date for the next round of talks, which was due in October, was yet to be communicated by the Myanmar side.

Foreign Secy

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Affairs Training Institute in 1983.

Osmany was also the country's ambassador to the German Democratic Republic from 1984 to 1986 and to Iraq from 1986 to 1991.

He participated in several international conferences, including the Non-Aligned Summit, CHOGM and UN General Assembly Sessions.

M R Osmany is a life member of the Institute of Engineers and the Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs. He is married and has two children.

DCC elections

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at least 45-days before the day of balloting.

Referring to the rule, an EC source explained that the DCC polls could not be held simultaneously with those in three other cities on January 30 because the announcement of the DCC polls schedule was not possible before December 16 this year.

According to the schedule announced on December 8 for the CCC, KCC and RCC polls, the Returning Officers would receive nomination papers for elections to the posts of mayor and commissioner on December 21, from 10 am to 5 pm while the scrutiny would take place the following day, December 30 has been fixed as the last date for withdrawal of nominations.

Cabinet

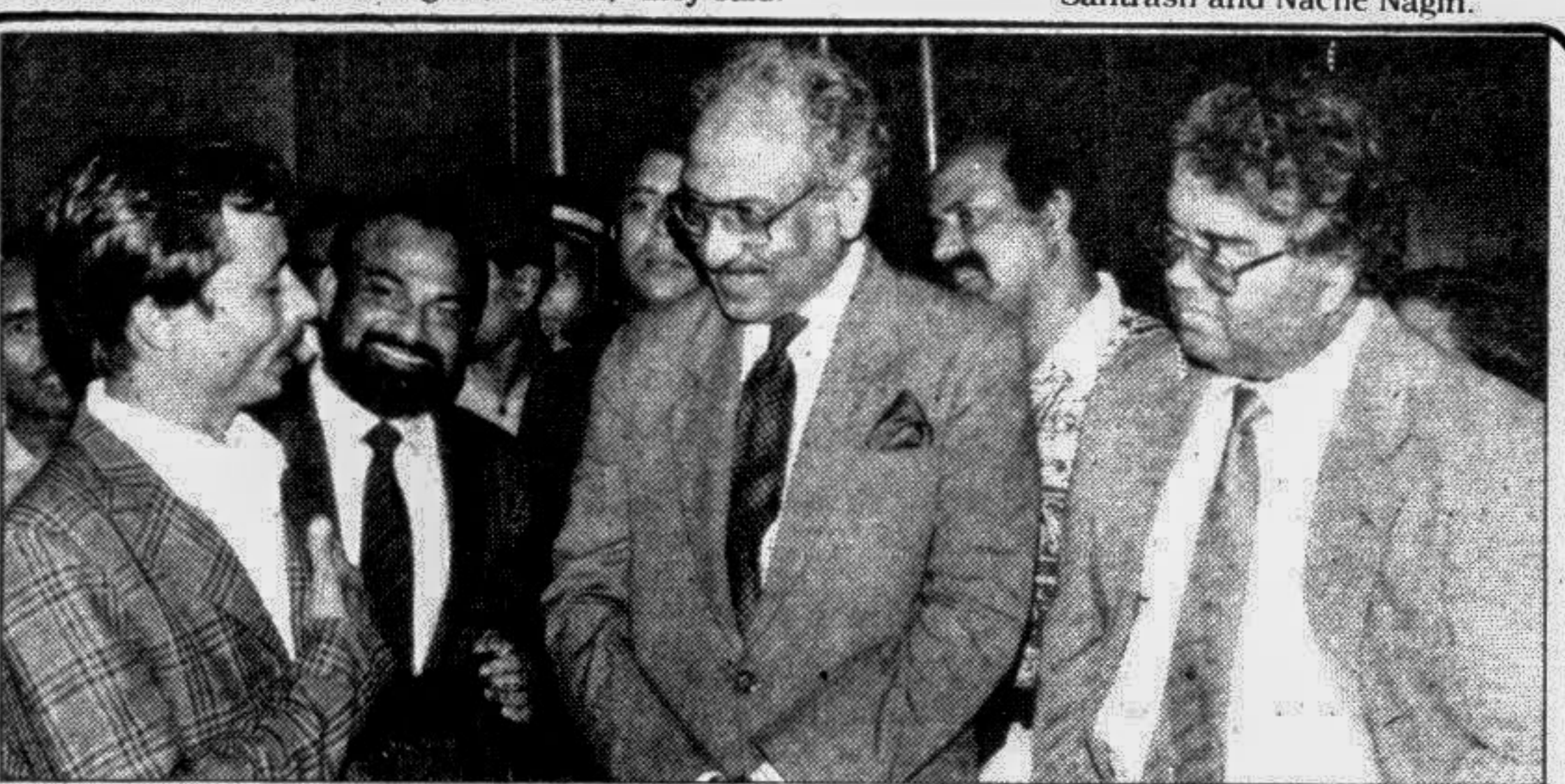
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purpose.

The programme, including BBC World Service News Bulletin in Bengali and English, will be clearly audible within a radius of 25 miles from the transmitting point.

The Cabinet has also approved the National Housing Policy, 1993 after necessary amendment envisaging optimum utilization of land for housing, providing assistance to the members of low income-group, adopting appropriate technology for the purpose and encouraging rural housing.

The policy is aimed at achieving the goal specified in the UN-Resolution of 1988 to ensure Shelter For All by the year 2000.

The Cabinet also approved the list of the public holidays for the year 1994.



Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman (Centre) listening to Abdul Momin, who won the first prize of Tk 10 lakh in the National Sports Fund lottery, after the presentation ceremony in the city yesterday. Information Minister Nazmul Huda (Right) and State Minister for Sports and Youth Sadek Hossain (Left) are also seen. — Star photo

Momin—the lucky millionaire!

A poor electrician became a millionaire by a stroke of luck as he gleefully clutched a cheque for Tk 10 lakh won in the country's biggest lottery sponsored by the National Sports Council yesterday, reports UNB.

'I'm happy, very very happy... please, pray for me,' said a beaming Mohammad Abdul Momin, who came from the far-flung Sunamganj town, as crowds in the jam-packed defence room of National Sports Council greeted him yesterday afternoon on the overnight change of his lot.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, also Chairman of the 6th SAF Games Organising Committee, confirmed the ticket number with its counter foil and handed over the cheque to the lucky winner of the first prize of the Sports Development Fund Lottery.

A large number of people gathered in the room to have a glance at the fortunate young man, and many of them hugged him and touched their fore-

heads with his forehead. The 32-year-old Momin, who won the lottery with a ticket he got as remuneration for some repairing work, flew in the capital yesterday morning from Sylhet in his life's first flight.

A resident of Hazipara in Sunamganj town and son of late Abdur Rahim, he got the ticket from the owner of a shop adjacent to his remuneration of Tk 10 for repairing electric line. That shopowner bought some tickets in a serial. After the draw of the lottery on December 7, he came to know that the ticket he gave to the electrician earned the first prize.

'Then the man called me, confirmed the number and informed me that I got the first prize that carries Tk 10 lakh,' the star-favoured Momin told the curious audience.

Handing over the cheque, the Finance Minister hoped that the winner would utilise the money as a source of permanent income. 'I'm greeting and felicitating him from the core of my heart.... I think he will use

the money in a proper way,' said Saifur Rahman.

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda, who was present at the function as special guest, said Momin won 'the game of chance. Let's all hope that he will be able to use the money for honest purposes.'

Barrister Huda appealed to the Finance Minister to give the winner exemption from income tax, which is Tk 4 lakh — 40 per cent of the lottery money.

The income tax law is rigid and mandatory regarding prize money winning, Saifur Rahman said, but assured that he would try to give him exemption within the framework of the law.

Wearing an old check-coat over a white shirt, and black pants and keds, Momin said he would use the amount for purchasing land. He will invest rest of the money in business.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain and senior officials of the National Sports Council were present during the handover of the cheque.