

**Come to CHITTAGONG Come to**  
**BANGKOK THAI RESTAURANT**  
 The only place for ORIGINAL THAI FOOD SEA  
 FOOD IN CHITTAGONG. **NO DRINKING** Please try  
 us and you will love BANGKOK THAI  
 RESTAURANT more than ever before.  
 10% Discount to PayLess PrivilegeCard Members  
 1443 ASIAN HIGHWAY, OPPOSITE Y. M. C. A. NASIRABAD  
 CHITTAGONG, TEL: 226803, FAX: (880) (31) 225258

# The Daily Star

**Nirman Tiles**  
 In Broken  
 Marble Tiles  
 Brighter Home  
 At Lesser Price  
 Tel: 605957, 861985

VOL. IV NO. 5 REGD. NO. DA 781 MAGH 5, 1400 BS, DHAKA TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1994 SHABAN 5, 1414 HIJRI 12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 4.00

**Inside Today**

**Article**  
**The Mayoral Elections: On a hopeful Note**  
 Column: Passing Clouds by Zillur Rahman Siddiqui  
 Page 4

**International**  
 Tension mounts as Shiv Sena militants stage arson attacks  
 Demonstration against education policy in France  
 Page 5

**Business**  
 US, China reach textile accord  
 Delhi facing uphill task of making '94-'95 budget  
 Pages 6, 7

**Supplement**  
 Today's issue of The Daily Star contains a 2-page supplement on the 38th Annual Convention of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh  
 Pages 8, & 9

**Metropolitan**  
**Dhaka Day by Day**  
  
 Translating Dream into Reality  
 Page 3

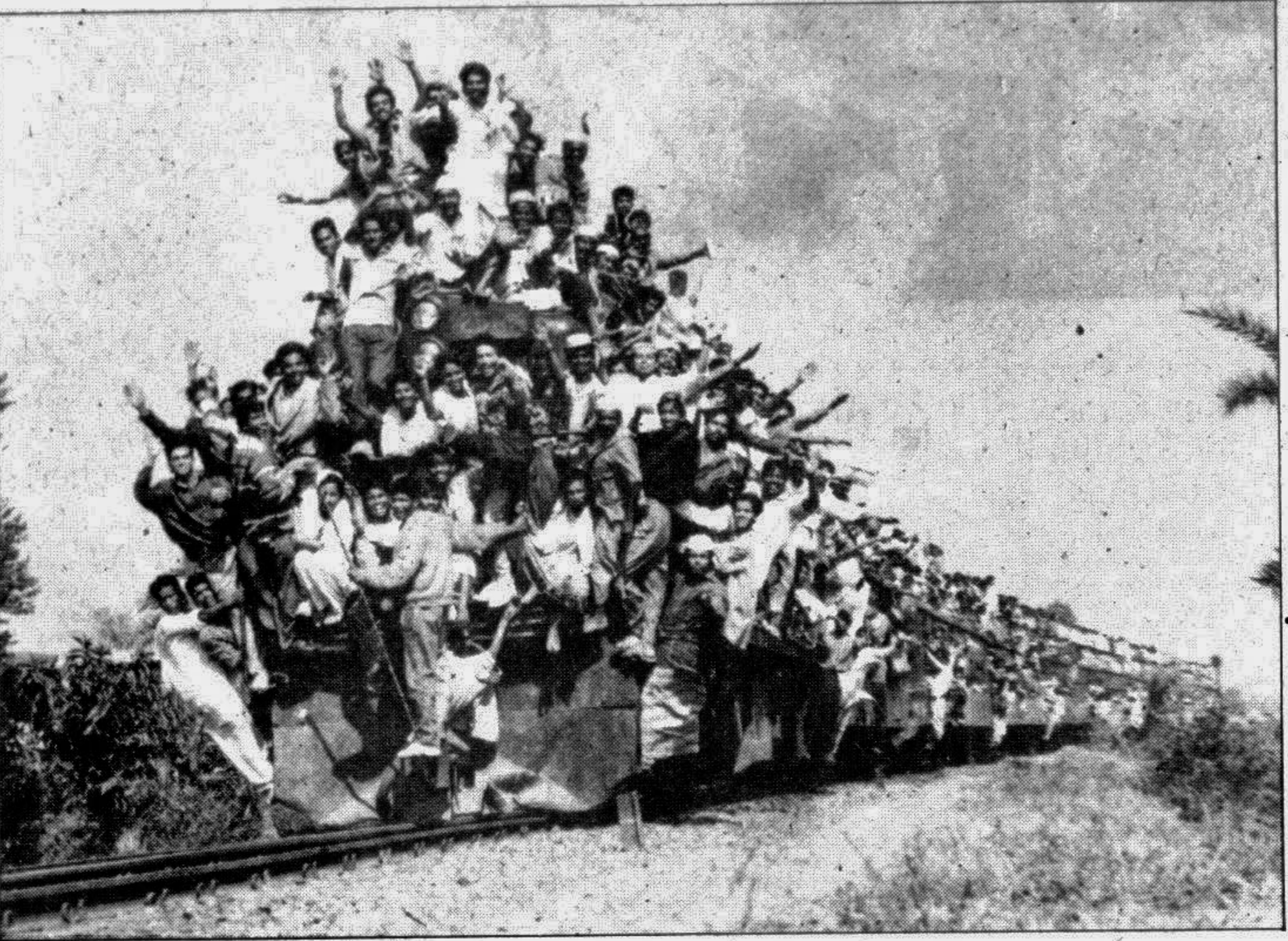
**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Day-long hunger strike in Ctg**  
 From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Jan 17: The Greater Chittagong Development Mass Action Committee today observed day-long hunger strike in front of the Chittagong City Corporation office demanding immediate declaration of Chittagong as commercial capital and establishment of a separate education board in Chittagong.

**Queen Elizabeth breaks her wrist**  
 LONDON, Jan 17: Queen Elizabeth II broke her wrist in a riding accident this weekend. Buckingham Palace said yesterday. A palace spokesman said the Queen broke a bone near the top of her left hand on Saturday when her horse tripped during a ride at her Sandringham estate, 70 miles north of London. The spokesman said the Queen's lower arm would be in a cast for several weeks. She is right-handed, the spokesman said, reports AFP.

**3 found dead in Satkhira**  
 SATKHIRA, Jan 17: Three youngmen were found slain and dumped under straw in Sreerampur beel in Ashashumi thana on Sunday. All three were beheaded and their both legs were chopped off, police said today. Police visited the scene, but could not ascertain causes of the killings and identities of the victims, reports UNB.

**400 join BNP**  
 RAJBARI, Jan 17: More than four hundred leaders and workers of different political parties of Rajbari district joined BNP, expressing their solidarity with the leadership of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, reports BSS.



**PERILOUS RIDE:** Returnees from the Biswa Ijtema in Tongi make the best (?) use of an incoming Bangladesh Railway train to Dhaka yesterday. — Star photo

## 'Accountability' still an undefined concept

**Star Report**  
 Accountability of the civil servants and the elected representatives at all levels is in a 'diluted, diffused and fuzzy state', observes a recent report on accountability in the Bangladesh Civil Service.  
 "In fact, the question of accountability still remains unresolved; it is not fully clear who is accountable to whom and how the results of development activities are to be measured," the report adds.  
 Co-authored by Ekramul Ahsan and Syed Naqib Muslim, both senior civil servants themselves, the report was presented at the 5-day ASEAN-SAARC Conference on Administrative and Financial Accountability, which began in the capital on Sunday. It is being jointly organised by the Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre and the Asian and Pacific Development Centre.  
 Identifying the absence of accountability as the most dominant problem faced by the government, the report elaborates on the existing mechanisms to ensure accountability, pin-points the problems and strongly advocates upgrading the present system, allowing more free-flow of information, appointing an ombudsman as per constitutional provision and setting up special courts to adjudicate administrative wrongs.  
 "The main challenge for the Bangladesh Civil Service today is to prove its accountability and to demonstrate its capability to run in a parliamentary democracy established in 1991," it says, referring to the Twelfth Amendment.  
 Noting that the civil service is often criticised for its colonial attitude, corruption, inefficiency, delay, waste, extravagance and arrogance, the report states: "A state of maldevelopment is prevailing in the country. The organisations and reforms introduced earlier do not seem to have delivered the fruits of development to the people."  
 Elimination of corruption is an 'important' challenge before the civil servants, it says, and scathingly remarks "Corruption is the chief barrier to development and unless it is checked, welfare of the common people cannot be ensured."  
 The Bangladesh Civil Service currently consists of 32,590  
 See Page 12 Col 1

## Ijtema ends with prayer for Muslim solidarity

**From Our Correspondent**  
 GAZIPUR, Jan 17: The three-day Biswa Ijtema, the second largest Muslim congregation after the Holy Hajj, ended here at Tongi today with the Aikher Munajat or the concluding prayers.  
 The prayers sought divine blessings, peace, prosperity and greater solidarity of the Muslim ummah.  
 During the 20-minute munajat, Amir of the World Tablig Jamaat, Maulana Enamul Hossain called upon the Muslims to follow the path of Islam and restore its ideals in every sphere of life.  
 The prayers also sought blessings for the progress and prosperity of the people of the world.  
 The Amir, in his prayers, See Page 12 Col 4

## 14 killed, hundreds injured Severe quake jolts LA

LOS ANGELES, Jan 17: Up to 25 people may have been killed and hundreds injured when a major earthquake struck Los Angeles before dawn today creating panic and chaos in the nation's second largest city, reports Reuter.  
 The Red Cross said it has received reports of up to 25 people killed but city officials said the confirmed death toll was 14. There were reports of whole houses being blown apart in gas explosions and cars being hurled off freeways.  
 The quake, measuring 6.6 on the Richter scale, buckled freeways, ruptured gas and water lines and triggered scores of fires that destroyed dozens of homes.  
 A spokesman for Cedars Sinai Hospital said two people died there and mayor Richard Riordan said a third person was killed on one of the city's many damaged freeways.  
 The Cedars Sinai spokesman said "the hospital was filled with scores of walking wounded."  
 There were isolated reports of looting, and among the dead was a motorcycle policeman.  
 A multi-story apartment building in the suburb of Northridge partially collapsed and fire fighters freed a number of people who had been trapped in the rubble.  
 "We live on the second floor. We ran out on the balcony and climbed down. It was really frightening, a teenage girl said."  
 A number of people were trapped in their cars when the antelope valley freeway collapsed at the highway's intersection with the golden state free way.  
 Emergency crews tried to reach them, but had to cross a moonscape of damaged roads.  
 The police said the quake literally threw cars from elevated freeways onto streets below.  
 Mayor Riordan declared a state of emergency and President Clinton, who just returned from a European visit, was being kept posted on a minute-to-minute basis of the damage, federal emergency officials said. The President ordered that all aid that was humanely possible to be rushed to the area.  
 Government Pete Wilson also ordered a state of emergency, saying the quake had caused major structural damage.  
 The quake struck at 4:30 am local time — two hours before the morning rush hour was to begin.

## Eight die in Pabna Coldwave to persist for few days

The coldwave now sweeping the country is likely to continue for another 3-4 days with the mercury falling to 8 degree Celsius in the country's northern region, reports UNB.  
 Meteorology experts said yesterday afternoon that north-eastern part of the country — Sylhet-Comilla region — might also come under the grip of the biting cold.  
 "The moderate coldwave may continue through the first or second week of February, and after that, warmer weather will prevail," said a weatherman.  
 Explaining the reason for the sharp fall in temperature, the experts said the coldwave was due to Saturday's rainfall caused by what they called "western disturbance."  
 See Page 12 Col 7

## OIC urges Ghali to okay air strikes against Serbs

GENEVA, Jan 17: The Organisation of the Islamic Conference called today for UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to authorise air strikes without delay against Bosnian Serb forces, reports AFP.  
 Foreign ministers from leading nations of the OIC met here with Boutros-Ghali to urge the UN to follow through on a pledge at the NATO summit to use air strikes if necessary to ensure the passage of aid and the safety of UN troops.  
 "We hope that this NATO declaration will not be construed as an empty threat and that it will not be the subject of procedural wrangling," said OIC Secretary General Hamid Algabid.  
 "We request that the UN Secretary General authorise such strikes without delay", Algabid said after a meeting with the Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic.  
 Boutros-Ghali said through a spokeswoman that his meeting with the foreign ministers was very positive and that the ministers had expressed their profound concern about the human tragedy in Bosnia-Herzegovina.  
 Algabid also urged the lifting of the arms embargo on the Muslim side to allow them a greater chance to defend themselves against the better-armed Serbs and Croats.  
 AP adds: UN Secretary Boutros Boutros-Ghali discussed possible NATO air strikes against Serbs with top aides Monday, the eve of talks aimed at stopping fighting in Bosnia.  
 Top UN official also met in Geneva with key foreign ministers of the 51-country Organisation of the Islamic Conference, who were demanding protection of Muslims in Bosnia.  
 Boutros-Ghali met with envoy Yasushi Akashi, whom he commissioned last week to study how to implement NATO proposals for the air strikes. UN spokeswoman Therese Gastaut declined to say what Akashi's recommendations were.

## Further deregulation of banking soon

**By Soheli Manzur**  
 Some steps for further deregulation of the banking sector are likely to be taken soon by the government, according to sources concerned.  
 The measures include withdrawal of the stipulations regarding forward contracts in foreign exchange dealings, waiving the provision of government registration while opening letters of credit (L/C), and withdrawal of the passbook system in the import process.  
 According to sources, a circular will be issued by the Bangladesh Bank within a couple of days formally withdrawing all the regulations regarding forward contracts. Of course, a number of such regulations had become redundant immediately after the announcement of the convertibility of the Taka in current account transactions last year.  
 According to the previous rules, the commercial banks were not allowed to sign forward contracts in foreign exchange dealings beyond some specific fields. The periods of contract validity for specific items or commodities were also specified by the central bank.  
 Such regulations, which are still effective, would, however, be withdrawn by the central bank through the imminent circular.  
 Besides, the provision or scope for extending the period of contracts, which has been fixed at six months in the code of conduct for the exchange market, would also be removed by the central bank through the circular, the sources said, and added that the banks would be required to sign fresh forward contracts if they feel the period should be extended.  
 The other regulations, which became ineffective after the Taka was made convertible, would also be removed.  
 Meanwhile, the Ministry of Commerce is considering to remove the provision of issuing passbook from the office of the Controller of Capital Issues (CCI) to the importers. The provision of taking registration from the CCI while opening a letter of credit for imports would also go.  
 At present, the allocation of bill amount for import of certain items are being specified by the ministry. The importer also has to mention the name of the bank from which he would buy the foreign exchange. All these are incorporated in the passbook and the importer is neither allowed to enhance the amount of the bill nor is he allowed to change his bank in import dealings.  
 See Page 12 Col 8

## Move to involve private docs in strike

**By Staff Correspondent**  
 The sufferings of patients mounted further yesterday as the government doctors stopped private practices in the city besides continuing their on-going indefinite strike at the call of the Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA).  
 The central committee of the BMA last night held a meeting to discuss ways to further intensify their action programme by involving all private practitioners across the country in the strike.  
 The doctors yesterday held demonstrations and rallies in different areas of the city in  
 See Page 12 Col 6

## Talks on Chakmas' return end without accord

**From Staff Correspondent**  
 CHITTAGONG, Jan 17: The 13-member tribal refugee delegation returned back to the Tripura state of India today without any agreement with the Bangladesh team on the repatriation of Chakma refugees, official sources said.  
 The delegation, including three Indian officials, headed by Upendral Chakma, chairman of the Refugee Welfare Association, left Ramgarh of Khagrachhari hill district, for Tripura at 10.30 am today after a informal discussion with the members of the Bangladesh team.  
 See Page 12 Col 7

## 'Propaganda' by Indian press regretted

A Foreign Office spokesman yesterday described as "totally fictitious" and "motivated propaganda" the recent publication of reports in a section of Indian media which alleged that Pakistani intelligence agencies were operating from Bangladesh soil, reports BSS.  
 Asked for his comments, the spokesman regretted that such totally fictitious reports should have been appearing in the Indian press at a time when Bangladesh and India were working towards better understanding.  
 Such motivated propaganda, he said, could only stand in the way of cordial relations between the two neighbouring countries.  
 Such undesirable moves, he hoped, would be avoided.  
 See Page 12 Col 8

## Situation satisfactory: Minister Aman procurement remains slow

**By Special Correspondent**  
 Despite an increase of price the government's aman procurement drive continues to move at snail's pace.  
 In more than two months since the drive began on 15 November, the government could buy only about 9000 tonnes of rice while the procurement target for the season remains at two lakh tonnes. The ongoing drive is scheduled to continue until April, but the trend indicates the target is unlikely to be achieved.  
 Aman procurement for the current season began initially with the price fixed at Tk 200 per maund of paddy and Tk 310 for rice. However, in view of the comparatively higher prices in the market, the government increased its own rates on 21 December to Tk 210 for a maund of paddy and Tk 325 for rice to boost procurement, but to little effect.  
 However, the authorities are not too worried about the slow procurement since, according to them, it would not affect the country's overall food situation.  
 When contacted, Food Minister Mir Shaukat Ali said the objective of the current season's drive has already been achieved.  
 "The purpose of the government's procurement is to ensure fair price for the farmers — and they are already getting it from the market," said the minister. He added that the government also has a satisfactory food stock to meet  
 See Page 12 Col 8

**malaysia AIRLINES ANNOUNCEMENT**

**WE ARE OPERATING FOUR SCHEDULED CHARTERED FLIGHTS WEEKLY. WEDNESDAY ■ THURSDAY ■ SATURDAY ■ SUNDAY**

**TIME SCHEDULE**

MH	4838	ARRIVAL AT DHAKA	1050 LT	THR SUN
MH	4839	DEPARTURE FROM DHAKA	1150 LT	THR SUN
MH	4836	ARRIVAL AT DHAKA	1050 LT	WED SAT
MH	4837	DEPARTURE FROM DHAKA	1150 LT	WED SAT

**FOR FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT YOUR AGENT OR US**

**malaysia AIRLINES ENCHANTMENT WHEREVER YOU FLY**

**G. S. A.**

**Shahjalal Aviation Systems Limited**  
 A UNIT OF SHAHJALAL GROUP

SONARGAON HOTEL DHAKA BANGLADESH  
 TEL: 326461 815113 813112 811641 EXT - 4268  
 TLX: 642504 SALT B.J. GPO BOX NO. - 3589  
 FAX: 880-2-813429