

US warns India, Pakistan against arms race

NEW YORK, Oct 2: Emphasising the role that regional organizations play in reducing tensions and promoting economic development, Secretary of State Christopher warned Pakistan and India on September 29 against the dangers of a nuclear arms or missile race in South Asia, reports BSS.

"We hope that India and Pakistan will engage in direct discussions on nuclear and missile non-proliferation," Christopher said while hosting a meeting with leaders of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), says a USIS press release yesterday.

"We believe that regional organisations are especially well attuned to help reduce tensions. To bolster stability, and to promote constructive relations within your region," the Secretary told his audience of senior officials from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

He cited the return to democracy in Bangladesh and the transition to democracy in Nepal, noting that they have touched more people than the return of democracy to Eastern Europe although the latter is much more talked about.

The Secretary said the Clinton administration is committed to strengthening its partnership with South Asia, an area he described as one of intense economic growth and development. US investment in India has increased more in the past year than in the preceding four decades of Indian independence, he said, and Pakistan, too, has undertaken a long-term economic reform programme.

"We all know that sustained

development cannot take place unless there are stable foundations of peace," Christopher pointed out, calling for redoubled efforts to tackle long-standing differences between the two countries.

"America will work with you in dealing with the critical issues of the deployment of weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles," he said.

"The fact is that a nuclear arms race or a missile race in South Asia would jeopardize not just stability in your region, but could affect nuclear proliferation all over the globe," the Secretary said. "So we share a responsibility to address together these problems of nuclear expansion."

He said the United States is committed to working with India and Pakistan on a comprehensive test ban and a fissile materials cutoff. "Meeting challenges like these will require a lot of resolve and a lot of determination on the part of your nations and your people," Christopher said, pledging to work with both nations to build a relationship that is constructive, balanced and mutually beneficial.

He told Bangladesh Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman that his country "has eloquently demonstrated its commitment to democracy" by joining the coalition of multinational forces that is engaged in returning democracy to Haiti.

"For years you have demonstrated a global view toward peacekeeping," Christopher said. "You and other South Asian states have been among the major contributors to UN peacekeeping forces around the world."

No report of plague

From Page 1 Col 7 Hospital (IDH).

Meanwhile, two more people were admitted to the IDH yesterday after they returned from India with mild fever and cold. Nazmul Haq and Munni, who came by a Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight, were isolated and later hospitalised. They had not developed any symptoms other than fever and cold, the IDH doctors said.

The Chittagong port authority has also decided not to allow the berthing of ships coming from India until they are checked and found plague-free.

Meanwhile, the Chittagong City Corporation has started a massive campaign to create public awareness about plague. As part of the campaign, the students of Chittagong Medical College organised a rally today.

The rally was inaugurated by principal of the college Dr Nurjahan Bhuiyan.

Meanwhile, the city markets are facing an artificial crisis of onions as its price doubled in the past two days with the imposition of a ban on its import from India.

Market sources said, a section of traders started hoarding onions and spices.

Onion now sells at Tk 24/- per kg as against Tk 12/- two days ago.

Fresh clash in N'ganj: 10 hurt

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Oct 2: At least ten people were injured, six of them seriously, in a fresh armed clash here today.

The violence was a sequel to clashes between two groups of youths of Khanpur and Missionpara during the last two days.

They fired gunshots and exploded crackers while police lobbed teargas shells and used clubs to bring the situation under control.

During the one and a half hour clash which began around 2:45 in the afternoon, the youths went on the rampage in Missionpara Mosque, Don Chamber and Nagar Khanpur areas. They also enforced a shut-down in the locality.

JMB won't affect wildlife

From Page 1 Col 4 the area having impact on the ecological condition. Alteration in the ecosystem would obviously affect the food grains and alter the faunal composition.

2) Construction embankments and approach roads would destroy much of the human settlements along with the planted trees, bushes and jungles also the birds and other animals living there would lose their shelter and breeding grounds.

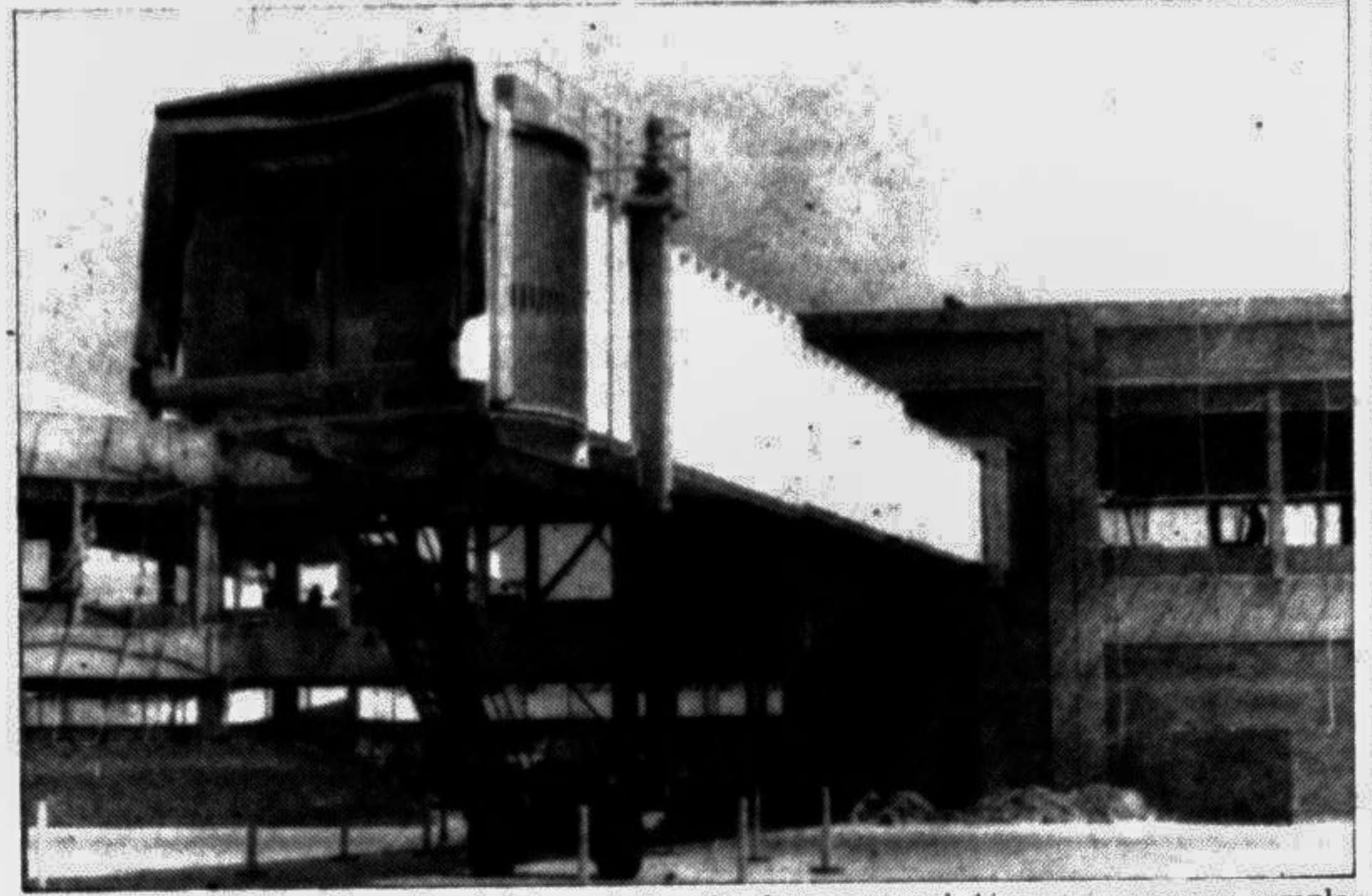
3) Proposed dredging operation from the bridge site for maintaining a navigable dry season channel for carrying heavy machinery would perhaps eliminate many of the chars of the Jamuna along with Kash bushes which provide breeding grounds for spottail for grey duck. As a result, this duck would suffer the most.

Other birds like the small pratincole and a number of warblers would also be affected.

4) Noise created by the machinery during the construction and also the presence of hundreds of people would have adverse effect on wildlife.

The team pointed out that the Dhaleswari eroded many areas and dries completely in the winter. The birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians recorded in the area were thus generally adapted to bushes, jungles and small forests near the human settlements.

So these birds and other animals would find shelter outside the impacted areas while the waders would take shelter in the lower Dhaleswari or in the nearby Jamuna.



Construction of four boarding bridges at the Zia International Airport is nearing completion. — Star photo

8 get life term for double murder

From Page 1 Col 4 BARISAL, Oct 2: Eight people were today sentenced to life term rigorous imprisonment and seven others acquitted in a sensational double murder case, reports UNB.

Court sources said Fazlul Haque Sarder, Shamsu Dhal, Ameer Hossain, Delwar Hossain, Mokhes Dhal, Monir Hossain Howlader, Alauddin Gazi and Mohiuddin Malabbar were also fined Tk 2,000, in default to suffer one month more RI.

According to the prosecution, the accused beat to death Belayet Hossain and Sunnu Chowkider after kidnapping them from a local market on December 8, 1991.

Monoara Begum, wife of Belayet Hossain, had filed a case against 15 people with the local police.

The District and Sessions Judge S M Abdus Samad sentenced the eight and acquitted seven others.

1 killed, 6 hurt in Cox's Bazar clash

From Our Correspondent COX'S BAZAR, Oct 2: One person was killed and six others were injured in a clash over land at Shipahapur village under Moheskhalhi thana today.

Local people said, Haru Mia, 70, was stabbed to death allegedly by his younger brother Golam Kuddus when the two brothers and their supporters clashed following a family feud over the land.

Golam Kuddus and his son were arrested.

The injured were admitted to Moheskhalhi Thana Health Complex.

Saifur

From Page 1 Col 7 with a good opportunity to play a major role.

About the post cold-war situation Saifur said halt to competition between Washington and Moscow would not be harmful for the developing countries since there will be more resources available to invest now that military competition is over.

The Finance Minister said the rate of economic growth in the developing countries was better than that of the industrialised nations.

In South Asia, the average growth rate is more than five per cent. China is even going to control expansion to avoid inflation with 13 to 14 per cent growth.

Referring to the critical situation of Africa, Saifur said he did not foresee any change unless the industrialised countries go out of their way and relieve them of past debts.

The countries concerned with good governance, good institutions, capable civil administrations, favourable policies-projects and programmes have obtained better results," he added.

Saifur Rahman, current Chairman of the WB-IMF Board of Governors, pleaded more investment by the Bank in human resource development, and noted that over the last 50 years it followed a uniform approach, the same policy for all countries.

Plague cases in Maharashtra

From Page 1 Col 8 Pakistan and Bangladesh also reported suspected plague cases in their countries.

In the first organised evacuation, Qatar evacuated 125 of its citizens from Bombay, United News of India reported. Gulf Air, the Manama-based airline, will operate special flights to evacuate Bahrain citizens from India Monday, United News reported from Dubai.

Gulf Air later announced it was resuming flights to India today and said Bahrain will serve as a transit point for passengers traveling to and from the Subcontinent.

Indian authorities tried to persuade citizens that there

Murders in the city

From Page 1 Col 4 floor and informed the landlady. Then both ladies went up the stairs and turned the doorknob which gave way.

Upon entering the Chowdhury's flat they switched on the living room lights and immediately screamed out in horror after noticing the bloody, lifeless figure of Nilufar in the adjacent dining room. They raised an alarm and soon informed the police. It was for the police to discover the corpse of Shoma in the bedroom.

The bodies were sent to the DMCH morgue after midnight for autopsy.

Detective police who also rushed to the spot were searching for clues.

When asked by this correspondent, Assistant Commissioner of DB Humayun Kabir said it was still too early to say anything about the motive or the identity of the murderer/s. DB experts were taking fingerprints of all inmates of the four-storied building and others they felt necessary till writing of this report around 1:00 am last night.

'Reform must direct resources to rural areas'

Time has come for the World Bank to consider making the NGO network an element of the structural adjustment advocated by the Bank, said F H Abed, Executive Director of the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), reports UNB.

He was addressing the 50th anniversary conference of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in Madrid, Spain, on Friday.

According to a message received in Dhaka yesterday, Abed said an authentic reform must direct resources to the rural areas, empower the poor and democratise the purchasing power.

"The NGOs can be effective partners in the task of such reforms because successful ones among them have developed mechanism to reach the poorest section of the community,"

He pointed out that the East Asian countries have been successful in reducing poverty only in societies where egalitarian and agrarian reforms preceded present growth oriented model of development.

"Those reforms destroyed the power of the landed elite and thus created the ground for sustainable poverty reduction."

The BRAC executive said the main thrust for development of a country must come from within where the poor and the deprived are empowered to alleviate their poverty.

With that end in view, he informed, the BRAC set about designing a strategy to group the landless for their self-sustaining personal development through training, credit and income generation as well as through education for their children.

Abed said the BRAC has emerged as the largest national NGO in the Third World implementing several development programmes all over Bangladesh in rural development, primary education and women's health sectors.

Habitat Day

From Page 1 Col 5 said it is possible to solve the housing problem through a planned approach.

A family can take up initiatives to fulfill its future demands and build a happy family life, she added.

"Family has proved to be the nucleus around which other institutions have grown for thousands of years. A society draws its strength from it and builds its future through the family," the Prime Minister observed.

Tariff Commission

From Page 1 Col 3 iff value of 2,000 items included in the operative tariff schedule for 1993-94.

Of them, 1,062 items were related to capital machinery and spare parts and the commission suggested that the tariff value of these items should either be kept at zero or at a minimum to encourage investment in the country.

Of the remaining 938 items, the recommendations on 309 items were fully implemented while that for another 228 items were partially accommodated in the 1994-95 budget.

The commission had also suggested lifting the existing ban on the import of newsprint by fixing a 75 per cent import duty on the item, but it was not accepted by the Finance Ministry.

The commission also formulated the 'request' and 'offer' lists to be forwarded to other member-nations of the South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) and helped in the final stages of the GATT negotiations last year.

It recommended reducing tariff on particular items from Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Argentina under the Global System of Trade Preference (GSTP). But it gave its views against similar requests from Brazil and North Korea. The GSTP was formed in 1988 by 48 developing countries and Bangladesh, receives some tariff concessions from 10 member countries under the programme.

Bangladeshi dies in accident in Saudi Arabia

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, Oct 2: A Bangladeshi was killed in a road accident in Saudi Arabia on September 25. He hailed from village Palarchak under Biswanath thana of Sylhet district.

The victim, Nurul Islam, 30, who had been in Salyara, Jeddah for two years met the tragic end of his life while crossing a road. The body would be reaching Sylhet soon, a telephonic message said today.

JS team leaves for Toronto today

By Staff Correspondent A Parliamentary delegation headed by Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali leaves the city today for Toronto, Canada, to attend an international seminar sponsored by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA).

The five-day seminar is scheduled to begin October 7. The Speaker would also attend a two-day meeting of the CPA executive committee beginning October 5.

Shaikh Razzak Ali was elected a member of the CPA central body last year.

The Parliamentary delegation, comprising members from both the treasury and the opposition benches, include Whip Abdul Karim, Prof Abdullah and Rasheed Khan Menon.

Minor girl raped at Osmany Hospital

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, Oct 2: An under-treated minor girl was allegedly violated by an interne doctor in the Sylhet M A G Osmany Medical College Hospital last night.

According to a complaint registered with the Sylhet Kotwali police station, the victim, Selina, 12, was admitted to the hospital on Saturday. At 10 pm she was taken to a nearby room of the ward by interne doctor Abdul Hannan who then allegedly raped her.

After sometime, she made a hue and cry and informed the matter to those present. The hospital authorities shifted her to another ward the same night.

The victim's father, Abdun Noor of village Durgapasha under Sunamganj Sadar thana, lodged a case with Sylhet Kotwali thana today.

The Human Rights and Legal Aid Committee, Sylhet is providing legal aid to the victim.

30 lawyers held in Karachi

KARACHI, Oct 2: Pakistani police fired tear gas and arrested 30 lawyers today after a clash during a protest demonstration in Karachi in which four policemen and four lawyers were wounded, police said, reports Reuter.

Police dispersed more than 100 lawyers protesting outside city courts against a government decision to shift some courts to the newly created Malir district in eastern Karachi.

Hasina: Drought

From Page 1 Col 7 immediate succour to the affected people.

The Opposition leader, now visiting the drought-affected areas in Kurigram and Lalmonirhat districts, said the people's right to vote and food are not ensured under the present government.

Hasina addressed wayside rallies at some 15 places, including Nabadiganj, Kaunia, Teesta, Barabari, Mirerbari, Nayarhat and Dakbangla in Kurigram district.

Hundreds of men and women — scrawny and hungry — flocked around Hasina at the drought-hit areas when she distributed sarees, lungis and rice among them.

She will visit Lalmonirhat tomorrow.

The Midnight File

10 shot dead in India

LUCKNOW, Oct 2: Ten people were killed and 10 seriously wounded when Indian police opened fire on protesters heading to a New Delhi rally today, a leaders said. "We have seen ten bodies ourselves," Satish Joshi, a leader for the Uttarakhand Sangharsh Samiti (Uttarakhand Agitation Committee), told Reuters after police fired on a 7,000-strong crowd at Muzaffarnagar, 150 km (91 miles) from Delhi.

6 killed in Pak blast

ISLAMABAD, Oct 2: Six people were killed and 20 wounded today when a bomb exploded in a bus near the town of Lalamusa about 150 km (94 miles) southeast of Islamabad, the private Pakistan Press International (PPI) news agency said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility and it was not clear what had motivated the attack.

Opposition reaction

From Page 1 Col 8 ministers at the Manik Mia Avenue rejecting the issue of a caretaker government.

The statements and actions of the BNP leaders prove that they were not at all sincere about the proposed dialogue, Nasim said. He, however, made it clear that "there will be no election under Begum Zia's government."

Whatever efforts the government may make, it will have to concede to a neutral non-partisan caretaker government — the core issue of the current agitation of the Opposition, the Opposition chief whip said.

He added that the present problem could have been resolved peacefully through discussion, but the 'intransigent attitude of the government' leads the settlement of the issue to a confrontational atmosphere on the street.

Nasim said the Opposition will not contact the government on its own volition regarding the Commonwealth-brokered dialogue.

Jatiya Party leader Maudud Ahmed said Saturday's statement of the Prime Minister "reconfirmed the fear that the government has no honest intention" of holding any fruitful dialogue to resolve the present crisis centring round the interim government.

Her (PM) statement has

Doctors' strike

From Page 1 Col 5 strike anyway.

Some 17 patients left the DMCH voluntarily while five died yesterday. Five emergency operations were performed but all scheduled routine operations remained suspended as usual for the twelfth consecutive day.

With the senior or specialist government doctors abstaining from private practice as a mark of solidarity with the BMA strike yesterday, suffering of the patients aggravated further. However, a few specialised doctors, along with some BMA leaders, yesterday evening provided free treatment for the poor at the DMCH, IPGMR, the Institution of Engineers and other hospital premises.

According to our SSMCH correspondent, the number of patients at the Mitford Hospital has declined below the number of available beds, a really rare phenomenon given the country's poor healthcare facilities.

Normally the 400-bed Mitford Hospital remains overcrowded with nearly 650 patients daily. Yesterday the number was 397. Some six patients left the hospital of their own choice while two died.

However, the doctors at the hospital conducted four scheduled operations defying the BMA directive.

Meanwhile, the BMA leaders held rallies and demonstrations in different hospital premises of the country, BMA secretary general Gazi Abdul Haq told The Daily Star last night.

The BMA again called upon the government to implement the 21-point charter of demands immediately.

গোড়ান

ইস্টার্ন হাউজিং লিমিটেড-এর আবাসিক প্রকল্প

মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা থেকে ২ মাইল দূরে এবং বাসাবো-মাদারটেকের শেব প্রান্তে অবস্থিত সুশীল প্রকল্পটিতে ইতিমধ্যে প্রায় ৭৫০টি প্লট উন্নয়ন করে সম্মানিত গ্রাহকদেরকে হস্তান্তর করা হয়েছে। বর্তমানে প্রকল্পটিতে নতুন জমি উন্নয়ন ও প্লট বরাদ্দ চলছে। গোড়ানে প্লটের আয়তন: ১.৭৫, ২.০০, ২.৫০ ও ৩.৫০ কাঠা। প্রকল্পটিতে প্রয়োজনীয় সব ধরনের নাগরিক সুবিধা থাকবে।

আপনার পছন্দের প্লটটির জন্য যোগাযোগ করুন।

বিত্ত: ঢাকার বাইরে অবস্থানকার অগ্রাধী ক্রেতাদের পত্র মারফৎ নিম্ন ঠিকানায় যোগাযোগ করতে পারেন।

যোগাযোগের ঠিকানা:

ইস্টার্ন হাউজিং লিমিটেড

ইসলাম চেম্বার (৪র্থ তলা)

১২/এ মতিঝিল কমার্শিয়াল এরিয়া, ঢাকা-১০০০, বাংলাদেশ

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