

## Bubonic plague kills 3 in Mozambique

MAPUTO, Oct 5: Three people have died from suspected bubonic plague in central Mozambique, the health ministry said today, reports Reuters.

It said 127 suspected plague cases had been reported between September 21 and 29 in Tete province's Matarara district bordering Malawi. Three people had died.

In Delhi a senior Indian health official today declared the plague crisis nearly over, saying that only a fraction of the suspected cases tested positive for the disease.

Several Gulf States, meanwhile, were expected to resume flights to India this week after severing air and shipping lines, said Civil Aviation and

## Romena confesses crime

From Page 1 Col 7

Later, Romena cleaned the blood stains and waited for the mother whom she murdered for scolding her for the bad quality of the fried fish in the day's menu, she confessed to police.

Romena said she committed the twin-murder because she was fed up of being frequently scolded by mother and daughter. But, she said, she was never physically assaulted by them.

Referring to Romena's statement, the DC of the DB said, "The motive behind the

## BMA decision

From Page 1 Col 7

BMA, only said: "We are respectful towards the rule of law. The decision on the strike will be taken tomorrow at the central council meeting."

Asked if the BMA was continuing the strike in violation of the court order, he said again: "We respect the rule of law. Please don't ask me to make further comments."

On September 21, the BMA called the strike by some 8,000 government doctors for an indefinite period demanding the implementation of its 21 point demand.

Meanwhile, the BMA's 13th national council begins in the city today at the Engineers Institution and it would be followed by the annual general meeting the next day.

In a separate statement yesterday, the BMA strongly condemned the alleged attack on Tuesday evening on Dr Syed Moinul Hassan, consultant at the Bogra Muhammad Ali Hospital and the district organising secretary of the BMA, by a group of miscreants. Dr Hassan was working in his chamber at the time, it said.

The BMA demanded punishment of those responsible.

## Suspected plague sufferer dies while escaping hospital

NEW DELHI, Oct 5: A suspected plague sufferer died while trying to escape from a state-run New Delhi hospital where patients are being isolated, newspapers reported today, reports AFP.

## Hartal observed in Islampur of Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Oct 5: A half-day hartal was observed in the Islampur area of Sylhet today in protest against the hooliganism, terrorism and illegal collection of tolls by some organised gangs.

## Dhaka's call

From Page 1 Col 8

sure in the wake of developments that have taken place after the adoption of the programme of action at the Rio Earth Summit and Uruguay Round agreement.

The Bangladesh delegation made specific suggestions for strengthening the text including on structural adjustment measures.

The meeting agreed to take up at a future meeting Bangladesh proposal to establish a centre for LDCs.

## Dialogue

From Page 1 Col 4

from September 14 to 19, the Commonwealth Secretary General had a series of talks with the principal parties concerned.

A release from the Commonwealth Secretariat said, Chief Emeka believed there was sufficient common ground which would permit a dialogue between the government and opposition parties in Bangladesh and put forward his three-point plan which both sides accepted.

Chief Emeka's proposals are:

i) The governing party and the principal opposition party agree to commence a dialogue in good faith and on the basis of an open agenda, which would include any topics raised by either side such as strengthening the Election Commission, the question of a caretaker government, and proposals for an overall code of conduct to guide political activity.

ii) On the commencement of such talks, and given the intensity of feelings on this matter and as a confidence-building measure, the parties agree that at the conclusion of each session of their talks they should issue to the press and public an agreed joint statement only, with the participants otherwise refraining from further public comment.

iii) For his part, the Secretary General undertook to dispatch to Bangladesh his envoy who would be available to facilitate discussions between the parties in any way that might be necessary.

Bangladesh's current political impasse stems from the opposition's demand for a caretaker government for conducting national elections, due in early 1996.

## Rape victim gets legal aid

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Jatiya Mahila Ainjibi Samity, a forum of women lawyers, is to provide legal aid to a young girl, Nazma, who was allegedly raped by a group of people in Feni on September 28.

Following the incident Nazma reportedly attempted to commit suicide.

The Samity members will oversee the conduct of the case in the court of the First Class Magistrate, Feni, on October 4.

Nazma identified one Nurul Islam as one of the culprits involved in the alleged crime. Islam was arrested on October 1.

The Samity in a press release yesterday alleged that the local police station had initially refused to register the case despite a specific allegation and traces of injury on the victim's body. On the contrary, the police even filed a charge against Nazma under Section 290 of the BPC accusing her of being involved in unsocial activities.

She was then sent to court which, after recording her statement, ordered a police inspector to investigate.

murders seemed too trifle... We're still looking into the matter... the autopsy reports are yet to reach us and we might bring Romena for further interrogation."

Romena was arrested from the house of her step-sister Jamila Khatun at Char Govinda village in Manikganj.

Police also recovered gold ornaments weighing about 20-25 tolas and Tk 8080 in cash that she had taken away from the Chowdhury's residence when she fled after committing the murders.

Romena said that she had gone straight to her step-sister's house at around 7:30 in the evening the same day, but she did not tell her sister anything about the murders.

Meanwhile, *qul khuan* of Nilufar Chowdhury, who was an Assistant Professor at the city's Home Economics College, and her daughter Shoma, a second year student of the My-mensingh Medical College, were held at Nilufar's parents' house in Dhanmondi Road 8 after Asr prayers yesterday.

## Demolition of tilted bldg begins

By Staff Correspondent

Demolition of the tilted six-storey building at Kalyanpur in the city began yesterday morning.

A number of labourers engaged by the owner of the building demolished the water tank on the roof of the building and a portion of the top floor on the first day.

The building - Nandan Apartments - tilted suddenly by several centimetres Sunday. Engineers of the Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) thought that the building tilted because it was constructed on the basis of improper soil test.

There are 12 apartments in the building with a floor space of 2400 square feet in each storey. Ten of those sold to different families while its owners, Siddique Rahman, kept two for themselves.

"I am ready to bear the losses. I have already talked to seven of the 10 owners of the flats and promised to build them apartments with similar features in the near future," Siddique Rahman told The Daily Star last night.

"I am not going to blame the engineers responsible for the faulty soil test because I believe it was my fate that I had to incur such a huge loss," he said, when contacted.

He further said that he had decided to demolish another two-storey apartment building - "Nandan Apartments-2" in the same premises since it also was being constructed as per the same plan, approved by the Rajuk for the tilted one.

## Monsoon

From Page 1 Col 3

in Rajshahi, 110mm to 130mm in Khulna and 180 to 200mm in Barisal divisions.

A depression may also form over the Bay at the end of this month.

The monsoon had set over Bangladesh in early June. "Activity of the monsoon and monsoon depression are the two major sources of rainfall in this season," a Met official noted.

In September, Dhaka Division experienced only 13.6mm of rainfall as against the normal 252mm. It was 46 per cent below the normal. In Chittagong the rainfall was 45 per cent below the normal while in Rajshahi, Khulna and Barisal divisions, the rainfall was 26 per cent, 50 per cent and 60 per cent respectively below the normal.

The rainfall recorded in July and August was almost similar but it was a little higher in June.

Met office sources said that in 1992 the monsoon rainfall was 30 per cent below the normal. In 1979 also, a failed monsoon was recorded.



Indonesian child artists and members of the juvenile organisation Kachi Kachar Mela, presenting a dance at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium in the city on the occasion of the organisation's 38th founding anniversary yesterday.

## Transportation

From Page 1 Col 8

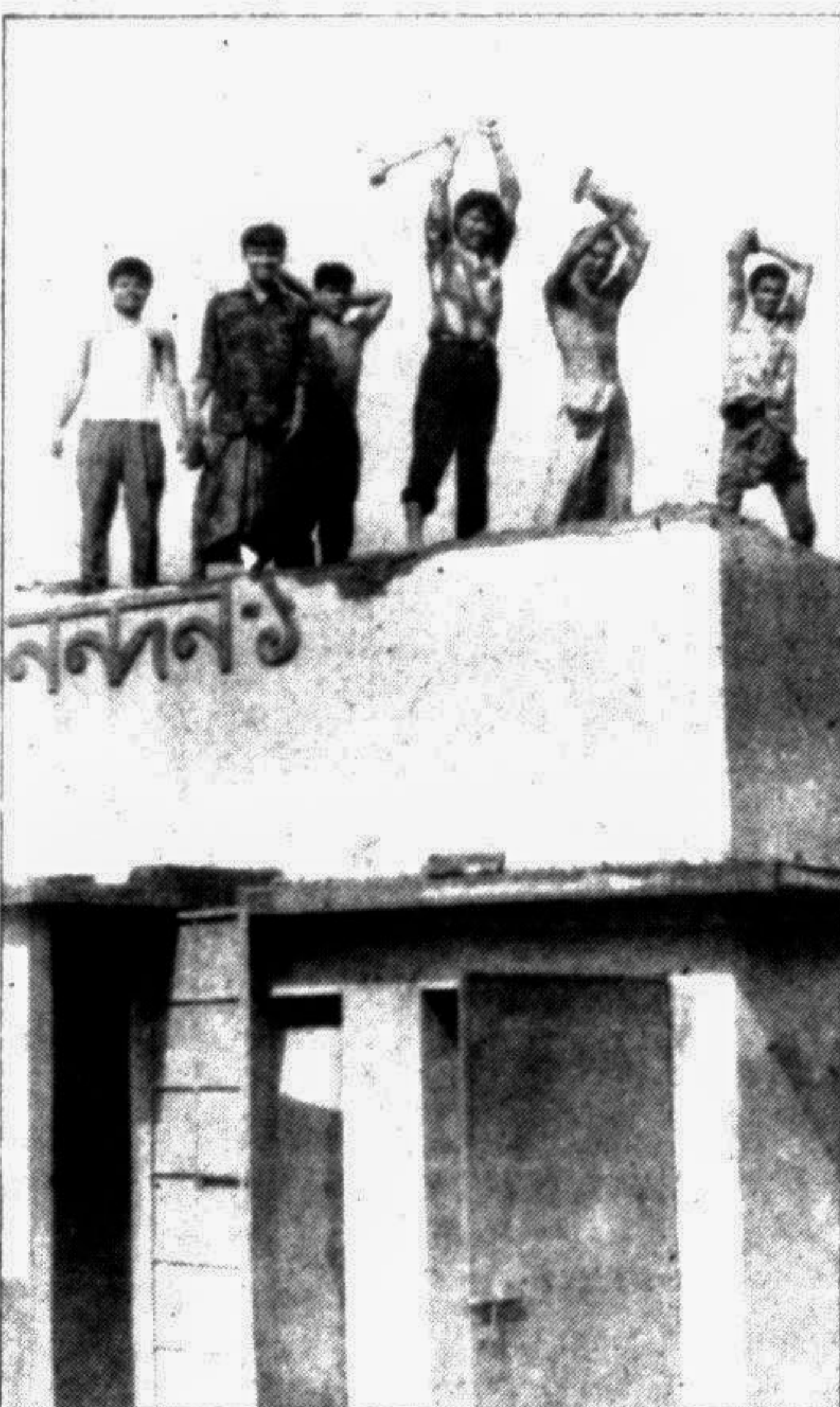
for identifying problems for the solution of present chaotic city traffic problems into immediate, medium-term and long-programmes.

The immediate action programmes such as low cost foot over bridges, improvement of signal lights, pedestrian crossing facilities, road signs, road marking, regulation of proper bus stoppages and parking in some selected locations, improvement of enforcement capability of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police and a project in this connection have been undertaken for immediate implementation.

Two working groups have been formed - one for monitoring the implementation of immediate action programmes and another for formulation of medium and long-term investment programmes - for the overall improvement of the city's traffic problems.

The minister suggested that implementation of action programmes must take cognizance of the prevailing socio-economic conditions and realities. He stressed the need for immediate implementation of the action programmes.

"We are afraid of the move. We are already choked by the rampant leakage of fabrics from the garments sector. The plight of the textiles sector might aggravate because of the



The demolition of the precariously tilted six-storey Nandan Apartments building at Kalyanpur in the city began yesterday. The building inclined to one side earlier this week due to faulty construction.

## Bangladesh troops start leaving for Haiti

Bangladesh contingent to the Multinational Force (MNF) for the restoration of democracy in Haiti started leaving Dhaka yesterday, reports UNB.

On the first day of the transport schedule, 490 officers and troops left the Zia International Airport (ZIA) in the morning, according to ISPR sources.

Four C141 aircraft of the United States Air Force (USAF) carried 440 troops while one C5 cargo plane took 50 troops and military equipment of the contingent.

All flights will transit the Pacific with a brief stop-over in Hawaii on the way to their destination at the MNF staging area in Puerto Rico.

Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Abu Saleh Mohammad Nasim saw-off the officers and troops of the first flight at the ZIA.

Talking to them, General Nasim said members of the



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## Textile mills owners

From Page 1 Col 5

Li Col (rtd) Selimuddin Ahmed, President of the Bangladesh Specialised Textile Mills Association.

"There were rampant manipulation in the import of duty-free fabrics and their leakage even when the Customs was the sanctioning authority, but now that the garments people are both users and controllers... one can imagine the consequences if there is no strong monitoring."

The export-oriented garments sector enjoys the facility of importing fabrics and accessories without duty only against export LCs.

According to a rough estimate of the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA), duty-free fabrics, leaked from the garments sector, meet 40 per cent of the country's total clothing requirement, estimated at some 130 crore metre a year.

"We are afraid of the move. We are already choked by the rampant leakage of fabrics from the garments sector. The plight of the textiles sector might aggravate because of the

## Plastic surgery hospital to be set up: Huda

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Oct 5: Information Minister Nazmul Huda has said a plastic surgery hospital would be set up in the country. Necessary cooperation and assistance from abroad would be sought for the purpose, he added.

The information minister was inaugurating a ten-day plastic surgery camp at a private clinic here this afternoon.

A 13-member British team of plastic surgeons is performing operations in the camp jointly sponsored by Dudu Miah, a Bangladeshi community leader living in the UK and the Noorjahan Poly Clinic, Sylhet. Patients are being operated upon free of cost.

The minister also said the government was trying its best to meet the five basic needs of the people. It was also working hard to ensure the minimum health facilities for the people.

Lauding the endeavours of the sponsors, the minister assured of all possible help in future for such humanitarian purposes anywhere in the country.

The function was also addressed by Dr Naseem Ahmed and Saleem Ahmed of the Noorjahan Poly Clinic, community leader Dudu Miah, Dr Maniruzzaman Chowdhury of the Stone Crush Hospital, Dhaka, Professor Golam Kibria, Principal, Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College, presided.

## A lost canine cause

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 5: Malaysian dog-lovers today lost their fight to save a Rottweiler which attacked and killed a 70-year-old woman without provocation two weeks ago, reports AFP.

A local Malaysian Court ordered three-year-old Le Roc to be put to sleep and fined the owner 3,500 ringgit (1,400 dollars) or five months' jail.

The owner, Chew Cheng-Mooi, 45, pleaded guilty to allowing the dog to run loose and attack 70-year-old Neoh Kim-Lean while she was on her morning walk on September 21. Chew paid the fine.

The attack provoked heated debate among those who thought Le Roc had done no wrong and others who saw the dog as a deadly menace.

The 13.5-kilogramme (30-pound) Rottweiler had been alternately described in news reports as a gentle pet and a beast which terrorised passersby.

Chew said the dog was trained and had never attacked anyone.

## Newsprint

From Page 1 Col 4

ercise books made of newsprint containing 120 sheets is being sold at Tk eight to Tk 10 each.

According to sources, newsprint is being smuggled in through different routes along the border under the district.

When contacted, police officials said they were not aware of such smuggling.

## Khaleda-Mahathir

From Page 1 Col 8

has already reduced the tariff on Malaysian palm oil.

During the visit, the two prime ministers are expected to review the outcome of the Joint Commission meeting held in the Malaysian capital from August 17 to 19. The Bangladesh side was led by Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman.

The Bangladesh Prime Minister will convey her personal thanks to her Malaysian counterpart for agreeing to take 50,000 skilled and semi-skilled workers from Bangladesh annually. An agreement to that effect was reached on September 25 by Malaysian Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Dato Megat Junid and Bangladesh Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury. Malaysia currently employs over one lakh Bangladeshi workers.

During the visit, there would be a follow up of sharing experiences between the two countries on drug detection, prevention and treatment of addicts.

Begum Zia is also scheduled to visit the factory of Proton Saga, Malaysia's world class car manufacturing plant.

The Prime Minister will also visit the famous tourist resort at Langkawi and spend a night there.

Begum Zia will have an audience with the King.

The entourage of the Prime Minister will include Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Special Envoy to the Prime Minister Moshed Khan, Principal Secretary A N M Yusuf, Additional Foreign Secretary Mohiuddin Ahmed, the DG of the Foreign Ministry, Far East Anwarul Alam. A media team will also accompany the Prime Minister.

## The Midnight File

### US ready to send troops to Golan Heights

WASHINGTON, Oct 5: The United States is prepared to send troops to the disputed Golan Heights once Syria and Israel reach a peace agreement. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said here. Christopher, speaking to journalists late Tuesday following talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, said the troops would be sent as part of an international peacekeeping force, reports AFP.

### 12 killed in Pak bus mishap

ISLAMABAD, Oct 5: At least 12 people were killed and 26 injured in a head-on crash between two passenger buses in the Pakistani province of Punjab today, an official report said. The collision occurred near the village of Lak in Phalia district, the report said, adding that seven injured people were in serious condition in hospitals, reports AFP.

## Opposition: Khaleda

From Page 1 Col 3

Referring to the post-independence political scenario, Begum Zia said, "The party which was in power had grabbed the people's rights by killing democracy. They kept the people starving while they themselves looted the national wealth."

Without mentioning its name, she accused the Awami League of joining hands with the ousted autocrats to destroy the democratic process.

About the Opposition's boycott of Parliament, Begum Zia said the people had elected them to highlight their problems and enact laws for their welfare. She called upon the opposition MPs to join the House and resolve all problems through discussion.

The Prime Minister urged all to work unitedly for strengthening the democratic process. "If you have responsibility to strengthen democracy, let us work unitedly."

She also stressed the need for educating the people and creating awareness among them for ensuring overall development of the country.

Begum Zia said the BNP government has given importance to women's development and provided loans to them to attain self-reliance. She urged the rural women to avail the loans and build poultry and dairy farms.

Referring to manpower export, the Prime Minister said this government - has sent about 7.50 lakh Bangladeshis abroad.

### China: Missile

From Page 1 Col 7

global ban on such technology exports and to consider joining the international accord, which it claims to observe.

"The two countries agreed to work together to promote missile nonproliferation through a step-by-step approach to resolve differences over missile exports," the announcement said.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who signed the agreement for the United States, called it "a very important step forward."

"This is a global and verifiable ban on Chinese exports of all missiles within the 300 kilometre range and a payload of at least 500 kilograms," he said.

Christopher said US monitoring of China's compliance would be easy, and that China had made an unambiguous commitment.

Qian insisted, as Beijing has consistently, that China had not violated the international accord in the first place.

"China does not engage in proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, including missiles outside the MTCR regime," he said.

## বাংলাদেশ তার ও টেলিফোন বোর্ড গ্রাহকদের সহযোগিতা কামনা

- ডিজিটাল টেলিফোনে দেশে/বিশে/কথা বলার সময় হঠাৎ করে টেলিফোন বিকল হয়ে যায় এবং ২/৬ ঘণ্টা বা ২/১ দিন পর টেলিফোনটি এমনিতেই ভাল হয়ে যায় গ্রাহকদের নিকট থেকে সম্পূর্ণ অভিযোগ টি এন্ড টি বোর্ডের নিকট আসছে।
- উদ্ভূত অভিযোগের প্রেক্ষিতে টি এন্ড টি বোর্ড কর্তৃপক্ষ সন্দেশ করছে যে, কিছু অসুখ গ্রাহকটি এন্ড টি-র কতপয় অসুখ কর্মচারীর যোগসাজশে কল চলাকালীন সময় অথবা আই এস ডি সুবিধা খোলা অবস্থায় টেলিফোনে ত্রুটি থাকলে টেলিফোন লাইন ভাঙা করে অন্যত্র কথা বলার সুযোগ করে দিচ্ছে।
- এ অবস্থায় অতিরিক্ত বিলের সম্ভাবনা এড়ানোর জন্য সম্মিলিত গ্রাহকগণকে অনতিবিলম্বে সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ ডিজিটাল এক্সচেঞ্জের সুইচরুম অন্য যে কোন টেলিফোনের সাহায্যে যোগাযোগ করে তার আই এস ডি/এন ডব্লিউ ডি সুবিধা বন্ধ করার আবেদন জানানোর জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।
- এই সুযোগ নেয়ার জন্য নিম্নে প্রত্যেকটি ডিজিটাল এক্সচেঞ্জের এবং সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ সহকারী বিভাগীয় প্রকৌশলী/সহকারী প্রকৌশলীদের ফোন নম্বর নিম্নে দেয়া হলোঃ

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□ উপরোক্তিত অসুবিধা রোধকল্পে সম্মিলিত গ্রাহকগণের সহযোগিতা টি এন্ড টি বোর্ড একান্তভাবে কামনা করছে।

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বাংলাদেশ তার ও টেলিফোন বোর্ড

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