

Biman will buy two French air buses

By Staff Correspondent

Biman Bangladesh Airlines has approved the offer made by Airbus Industrie of France, the manufacturer of the supply of two mid-haul Airbus 310-300 aircraft.

The Biman board, in a meeting with State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan in the chair late Tuesday, okayed the 155-million dollar offer of Airbus Industrie for supplying two air-buses by mid-1996.

The price may rise during the final agreement because the supplier would also provide training and technical support for a certain period to familiarise Bangladeshi pilots with the new plane.

The board approval has been sent to the council committee headed by the finance minister for final approval.

Three other unsuccessful firms participating in the tender were Atlas Airlines, Aerolease Group of Companies and Eagle Aerospace Consul-

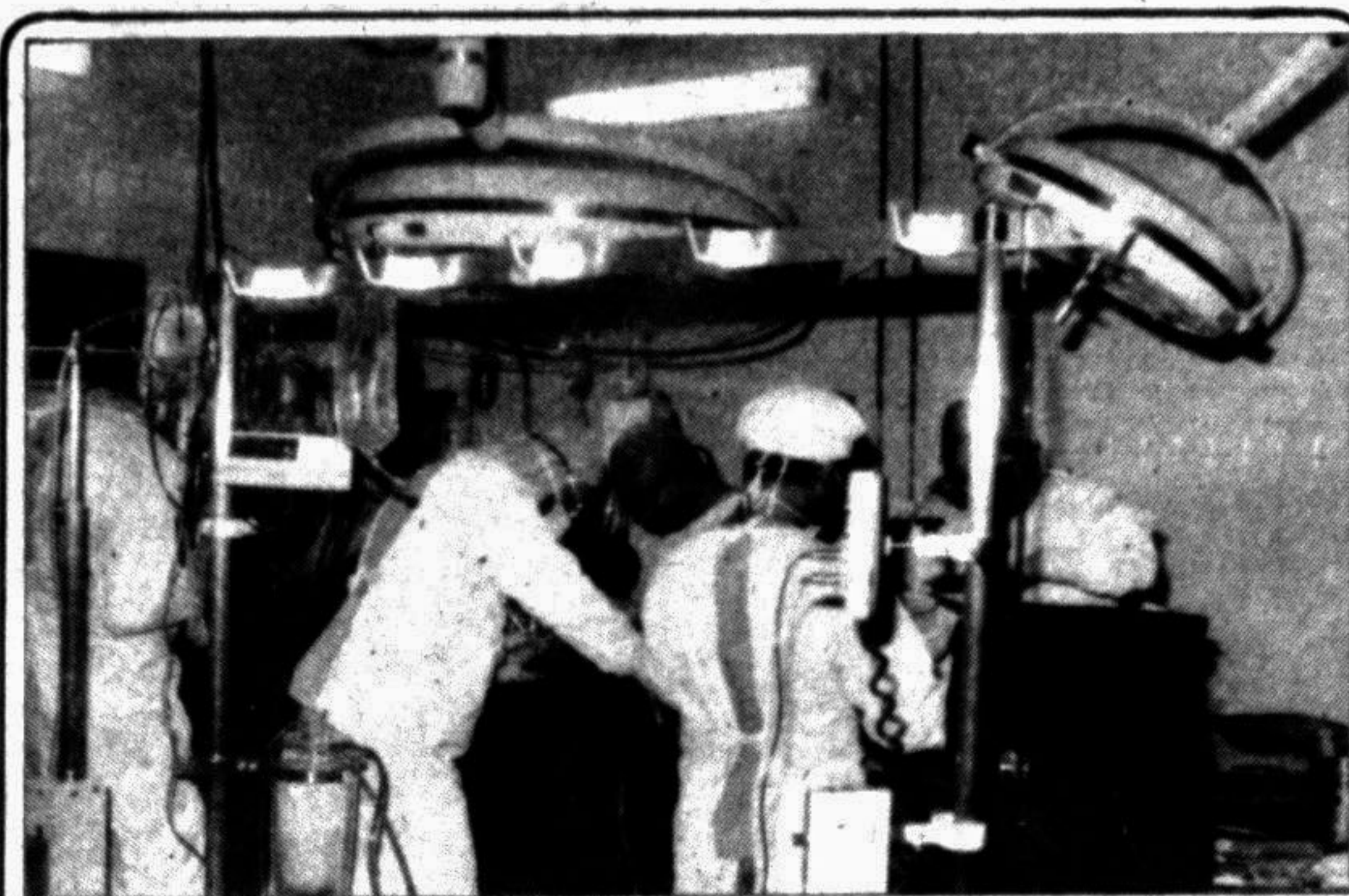
tants. The offer of Atlas Airlines was found technically fit along with that of the Airbus Industrie but the price was much higher.

One of the two bidders rejected during technical evaluation has since gone to court alleging anomalous clauses in the tender documents. The case is pending before the Additional Sub-judge, Dhaka.

Meanwhile, the national carrier, which now has a fleet of nine planes, floated another tender seeking bids for wet lease of two airbuses to cover its busy schedule until 1996 when the new aircraft would be supplied by the Airbus Industrie.

Biman is now running a risk of major dislocation in its schedule because of shortage of an aircraft.

The Biman management wants the leased aircraft by the end of January next.



A team of surgeons performing a coronary bypass operation at the newly opened unit of the NICVD at the Suhrawardy Hospital in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Coronary bypass surgery can now be performed in Dhaka at a cost of Taka 50 thousand since the National Institute of Cardio-vascular Diseases (NICVD) housed at the Suhrawardy Hospital has opened a unit equipped with modern instruments.

Director of the NICVD Dr Akhtaruzzaman, addressing a press conference yesterday, said the new unit, first of its kind in the country, was set up at a cost of Tk four crore. More instruments worth several crores of taka would be procured for the unit, he added.

A four-member US medical team, led by an expatriate Bangladeshi doctor — Alim Khandaker — is conducting a training programme for local cardiologists for running the new unit.

The team, which came to Dhaka on a month-long visit to

Coronary bypass surgery unit opens in city

By Staff Correspondent

the country, has performed 11 coronary operations since Friday last with the help of the local doctors. They are expected to conduct 30 more operations during their stay in Dhaka.

An estimated two million people are suffering from heart ailments in the country. A good number of them have to go abroad for treatment and operations at a huge cost in foreign exchange.

The Director of the NICVD said the cost of coronary bypass surgery in India is approximately Tk 1 lakh and 30 thousand and Tk 2 to 3 lakh in other countries.

Before the setting up of the

new unit, some 35 coronary bypass graft operations were performed at the NICVD in the last two years under the guidance of visiting foreign doctors, Dr Alim Khandaker said.

The other members of the US medical team, who were also present at the press conference, are Jonathan Isom and two other Bangladeshi expatriates — Dr Md Zaman and Dr Sabrina Ibrahim.

The press conference held at the conference room of the NICVD was also attended by Prof Ishtiaq Khan, Prof SR Khan, Prof Sirajul Haq and Dr Hasina Banu.

Malaysian team in city to recruit nurses

Star Report

A high-level official team from Kuala Lumpur is now in the city to interview Bangladeshi nurses for recruitment in government hospitals in Malaysia.

The seven-member team, headed by Dato Syed Sidi Iddi, Deputy Secretary General of the Malaysian Health Ministry, has been interviewing the applicants since their arrival last Monday.

The team, during its week-long stay here, will interview 193 nurses shortlisted from about 500 applicants.

"All 193 will be recruited on contract, initially for three years, if found eligible", said Dato Syed adding, "Job opportunities for more Bangladeshi nurses exist in Malaysia as 580 posts are now lying vacant in government hospitals alone."

"Private clinic owners in Malaysia are also keen to recruit nurses from Bangladesh as they are running short of such manpower", he mentioned.

The private sector employers are expected here soon to recruit nurses for the clinics in different states in Malaysia.

Recruitment of Bangladeshi doctors for Malaysia is also under process. Applications of about 1000 doctors have been forwarded by the Malaysian High Commission in Dhaka to the authorities in Kuala Lumpur for scrutiny.

A team from the Malaysian Public Service Commission along with representatives from the Ministry of Health, will visit Dhaka early next year to interview and recruit the doctors.

Diplomat sleeps among homeless

WARSAW, Nov 23: Zaire's top diplomat in Poland has been sleeping in a railway station among the homeless and refugees since being evicted from his apartment, reports AP.

By day Charge d'Affaires Emanyata Likambe works at the embassy, the Polish government said today. And he still attends diplomatic parties and other functions.

But at night he returns to a Warsaw railway station where he's found a home among Romanian refugees and the city's homeless, said Foreign Ministry spokesman Wladyslaw Klaczynski, confirming a report by the Rzeczpospolita daily.

Klaczynski said Likambe was forced to move out of his apartment after repeatedly failing to pay the rent.

Several telephone calls to Zaire's embassy went unanswered today.

The diplomat's problems started last year, when the government of Zaire stopped sending money for its embassy in Warsaw.

Klaczynski said Poland repeatedly sent diplomatic notes to Zaire about Likambe. He said Zaire has recently sent word that Likambe will be replaced.

Cracker blasts at construction site

By Staff Correspondent

A group of *mastans* (musclemen) exploded crackers at the construction site of a community centre in Shahid Nagar under Lalbagh thana in the city yesterday allegedly to force the contractor concerned pay tolls, witnesses said.

At least five crackers were exploded around 2 pm, they said. None was, however, hurt.

The work at site was suspended 11 days ago following threats by the *mastans*.

The community centre is a project of Dhaka City Corporation financed by the World Bank.

LDF resents diplomats' role in nat'l politics

By Staff Correspondent

The Left Democratic Front (LDF) yesterday condemned the activities of some diplomatic missions in Dhaka as 'incompatible with their normal functions'.

The central steering committee of the LDF, an alliance of eight Left-leaning parties, at a meeting urged the diplomats concerned to refrain from activities which tantamount to interference in the domestic politics of Bangladesh.

Chaired by Khalequzzaman, the meeting blamed the government and the Awami League-led Opposition for 'retrograding the diplomatic missions in the national politics despite bitter experiences from Sir Ninian Stephen's mission to resolve the current political impasse'.

The Midnight File

LTTE sends hit squad to Lankan airport

COLOMBO, Nov 23: The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has sent a hit squad to attack Sri Lanka's Katunayake International Airport, about 40 kilometres north of Colombo, according to defence sources here today. The attack planned to be launched before November 30 to mark the birth day of LTTE's top leader V Prabhakaran on Friday and the Tiger Heroes Week which follows thereafter, reports Xinhua.

GCC ready to normalise ties with Iraq

MANAMA, Nov 23: The Gulf Cooperation Council states are ready to normalise relations with Iraq once it complies with all UN Security Council Demands, Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister said today.

Asked if that was possible even if Saddam Hussein remains in power, Prince Saud al-Faisal told reporters at the end of a two-day council foreign ministers meeting that Saddam's position was an 'internal affair' of the Iraqi nation, reports AP.

Gunman kills 3 in Washington police HQ

WASHINGTON, Nov 23: A man carrying a semiautomatic assault weapon walked into the District of Columbia police headquarters, starting a shooting spree that killed two FBI agents and a city detective. The gunman also was shot to death, reports AP.

Police and the FBI had only a scant explanation for what happened in the middle of Tuesday afternoon in the crowded police headquarters.

SSC private candidate order revised

Education Minister Jamiruddin Sitar yesterday told the Jatiya Sangsad that under the revised executive order and in the greater interest of the standard of education, a student having registration number of education board and who had read in class nine for some time has been made eligible for appearing at the Secondary School Certificate examinations (SSC) as a private candidate, reports BSS.

He said the revised circular was given when it came to the notice of the Education Ministry that availing shortcomings of an earlier circular, students even reading in class six were filling up SSC examination forms as private candidates.

Making a statement on a call attention notice by BNP member Moulana Aatur Rahman Khan, the Minister said that students who had taken registration last year, but either could not appear in examinations or pass, could now sit as private candidates in the next SSC examinations after duly filling up necessary forms.

JCD activist

From Page 1 Col 4

Dipu and his friend Golam Sarwar Babu were injured on November 15 when some 'local' JCD activists attacked them near the Public Administration Training Centre (PATC) at Savar. Both were admitted to the DMCH. Babu was later released.

Dipu's body was brought to their Mirpur residence in the city from the DMCH around noon.

Vice Chancellor of the JU Prof Amirul Islam Chowdhury and a number of teachers and students went to their residence to condole his death.

Namaj-e-janaza of the JCD activist was held after Asr prayers at Monipur mosque and he was buried at Mirpur graveyard.

Meanwhile, no classes were held at the JU yesterday to mourn his death. Tension mounted on the campus following his death.

A huge contingent of police has been deployed on the campus to avert any untoward incident.

Two Indians granted bail

By Court Correspondent

Two Indians — teenager Meena Malik and her uncle Ashfaq Hossain — arrested at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban last Thursday, were granted bail yesterday.

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM), Dhaka granted the bail and ordered them not to leave the country until disposal of the case.

Security personnel arrested Meena and Ashfaq after the girl was found carrying a six-inch knife in her bag while entering the Sangsad Bhaban Thursday evening.

The two Indians who came to Dhaka last month and were staying with their relatives at Mohammadpur in the city.

Power station

From Page 1 Col 7

seeking bilateral foreign aid and loans. He noted that the country is already burdened with 14 billion dollars in loans and the annual debt servicing totals Tk 2,500 crore from a revenue earning of around Tk 10,000 crore.

The meeting also decided to set up a 40-acre 'Benarasi Estate' at Mirpur at a cost of Tk 20 crore.

A 100-bed hospital at Mirpur at a cost of Tk 13.2 crore was also approved.

The ECNEC yesterday gave the go-ahead to raising the capacity of the Jessore Hospital from 100 beds to 250 beds at a cost of Tk 12 crore.

The government will bear all expenses for these two hospitals, to be funded by the Health Ministry from its own resources.

The 60mw power plant, to be set up near the Shambhujan bridge, would also have the provision to be gradually upgraded into a 180mw combined-cycle unit in phases, Energy Ministry sources said.

The Rural Power Company (RPC) would be incorporated as a public limited company and the 30 per cent equity would be held under a 51-49 split by REB and the five participating PBSs. Provisions would also be kept to float shares of the company through the stock market, which would come from the REB's share of the equity, the sources added.

Describing the move to form the RPC as 'historical with far-reaching implications', an authoritative source at the Energy Ministry earlier said: "this project fits in perfectly with the government policy to reform the power sector and to encourage private sector participation in the field."

The proposal to float the company is now expected to be sent to the Prime Minister's Office for approval soon.

An ADB appraisal mission for the project is expected to arrive in the capital soon while the loan negotiations are likely to be completed by January with the physical work of the power plant beginning in February, the sources said.

Opposition explains

From Page 1 Col 3

tween Commonwealth Secretary General Chief Emeka Anyaoku and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina, Samad Azad said that the Opposition had consistently underlined the necessity of a 'neutral caretaker government' for fair polls.

Commonwealth emissary Sir Ninian was not supposed to put forward any proposal, Samad Azad said, adding Sheikh Hasina had made it a point with the Commonwealth chief during their pre-dialogue correspondence.

Quoting what he said part of Hasina's letter to Emeka, he said, the Leader of the Opposition had clearly informed the Commonwealth chief that she did not expect the envoy to get involved in the dialogue itself.

Samad Azad distributed among the newsmen a copy of the opposition formula of a non-partisan caretaker government.

The formula was handed over to Sir Ninian on November 17.

Following is the text of the opposition proposal:

A. The Leaders shall agree that:

1. Seventy-five days before the general election, the incumbent Prime Minister shall:

(a) Resign from office together with the entire cabinet.

(b) Following the resignation of the cabinet, the President will appoint, on the basis of joint recommendation of the outgoing Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, a new Prime Minister who will not belong to any political party. He may be a Judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court or a retired Judge of the Supreme Court or a distinguished person, who has earned the respect of the nation by virtue of his service to the country.

(c) The new Prime Minister

will be the head of the neutral, non-party caretaker cabinet consisting of 11 members, of whom five will be nominated by the outgoing Prime Minister and the other five by the Leader of the Opposition. Decisions of the cabinet shall be made by a majority.

2. The caretaker government's main duty, in addition to discharging the routine duties of the government, will be to assist the Election Commission in holding a free and fair general election.

3. The caretaker Prime Minister and ministers in the cabinet must not be members of any political party and they shall not seek election to Parliament.

4. The caretaker Prime Minister and his cabinet shall continue in office until the outcome of the general election is known officially and shall thereupon resign. Whoever may thereafter be appointed the Prime Minister by the President pursuant to the Section 56(3) of the Constitution shall then proceed to designate cabinet members, ministers of state and deputy ministers.

Part B of the Revised Proposal: The proposal remains unchanged except that the National Consultative Committee of 10 members may invite eminent persons who are not members of parliament to assist the committee as advisers. Such advisers may take full part in the deliberations but without the right to vote. Their number shall be determined by the Committee.

Amendment to the Constitution: Following agreement on the above proposals, the ruling party and the Opposition will appoint a committee to draft an appropriate amendment to the Constitution to give effect to the changes agreed upon by the two sides. The passage of the amendment will be deemed to be the final step of the negotiating process of the dialogue initiated by the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth.

Rooms ransacked

By DU Correspondent

Some unidentified youths ransacked the rooms of the teachers of the Institute of Social Welfare and Research of Dhaka University yesterday afternoon.

According to sources, a group of honours final year students of the institute, damaged the rooms after hearing that one of their classmates, who expected first class, had failed to obtain that position.

at Farakka was having disastrous effects in Bangladesh.

"Bilaterally, we are trying to reach an agreement with India for a fair and equitable sharing of the Ganges water," she said.

At the same time, Begum Zia said, Bangladesh also counts on the support, solidarity and understanding of its friends like the Maldives on this vital issue.

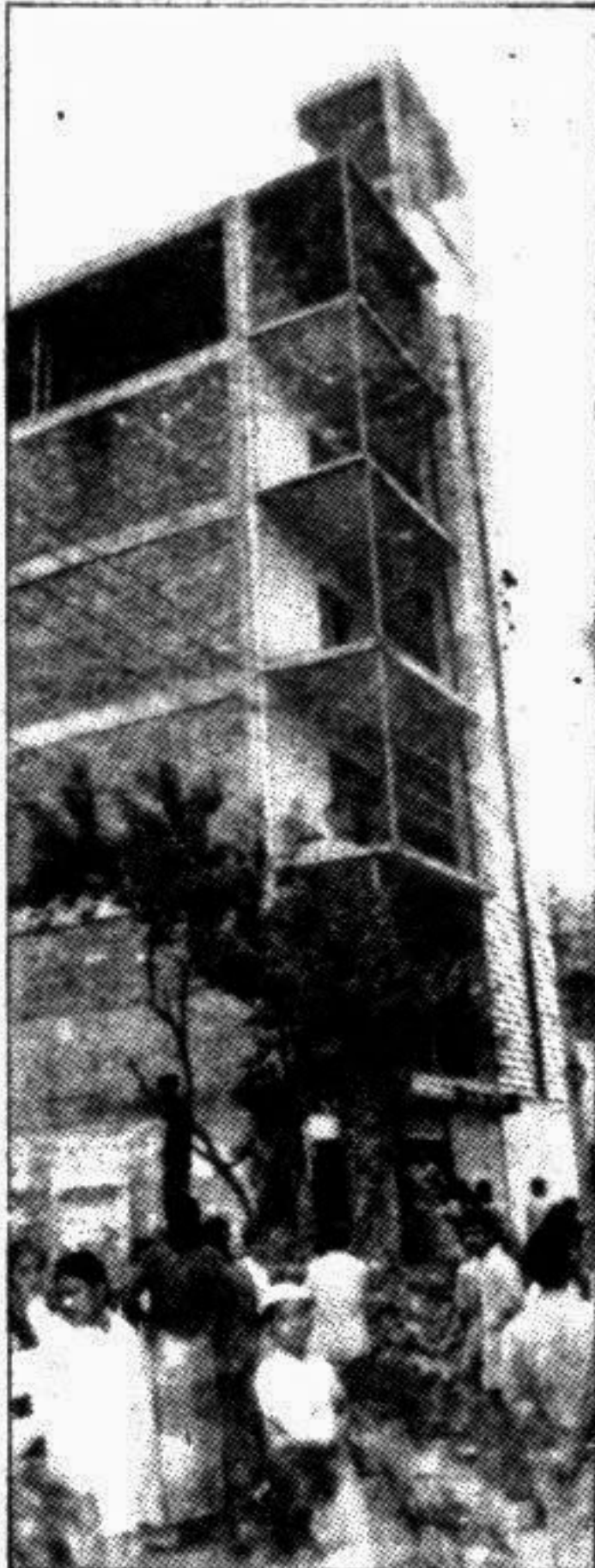
The Prime Minister appreciated the leadership of President Gaiyoom for achieving remarkable socio-economic progress by the Maldives.

Earlier, Begum Zia was accorded a hearty red-carpet welcome when she arrived here this afternoon on a two-day official visit.

President of the Maldives Maumoon Abdul Gayoom and Madame Gayoom were at the Male International Airport to greet her.

A tiny tot presented bouquet to the Bangladesh Prime Minister.

President Gayoom then took Begum Zia to the saluting dais and the national anthems of Bangladesh and the Maldives were played. Begum Zia took salute from a smartly turned-out contingent and inspected the guard.



The 7 storied building which tilted at Tajmahal Road in the city. The picture was taken yesterday. — Star photo

Hasina

From Page 1 Col 4

Hasina said that the BNP had offered sharing of power during the election period. "We don't believe in power-sharing but in guaranteeing people's franchise."

The AL chief said her party wanted polls under a non-party government because no fair elections were possible with the BNP in power.

She also termed the present government a corrupt, inefficient and terrorist one and alleged that during its rule murders, hijackings and nepotism have posed a serious threat to the nation.

The opposition leader blamed the government for 'failing to develop vital sectors like agriculture and education. "If voted to power, we shall eradicate illiteracy in 10 years and take all steps to develop agriculture," she added.

Chaired by Principal of the college Khiddir Rahman Mollah, the function was also addressed by, among others, local MP Kazi Abdul Rashid, and district AL general secretary Mohammad Abdullah.

Youngman killed

From Page 1 Col 6

The feuding sides fired at each other and exploded crackers creating panic in the area.

Police said the half-an hour long violence stopped when the men in uniform they went to the scene and brought the situation under control. Police also picked up one person from the area.

Sumon was hit while returning home from the Mohakhal Model High School. Gulshan police said deceased Hamid was wanted in three criminal cases.

ADB expresses concern

From Page 1 Col 3

On the positive side, the ADB delegation leader said, Bangladesh has made progress in at least three areas. "The country has achieved macro-economic stability and near self-sufficiency in food grains — a feat which would have been considered unattainable even a decade back."

He also identified 'encouraging improvements in some social indicators including decline in the population growth rate, substantial increase in access to safe drinking water and the 'rapidly' increasing level of primary school enrolment and access to health services.

Terming these significant achievements he, however, said much more remains to be done. "Poverty remains acute. While the incidence of poverty is declining, there is scant comfort in the fact that about half the population is still poor, of which one-half are very poor. Poverty reduction is by far the most critical development challenge."

To meet this challenge, he said, the ADB emphasises accelerated economic growth to generate employment and increase per capita income; well-focused poverty reduction projects; a sound business environment for the private sector and enhancing the government's capacity to implement development projects more effectively and efficiently.

Horayangura underlined that reforms would be needed in virtually every sector to achieve the above objectives. "In today's tightening aid climate, Bangladesh has to compete with other countries in the region for concessional funds," he said. "Good performance is the key — only high quality projects should be undertaken. Projects will succeed only if their policy environment is sound and executing agencies are capable."

Responding to a question

EU envoys

From Page 1 Col 8

the situation and also exchanged views about the political situation. He, however, added "no concrete consensus was arrived at."

Meanwhile, a scheduled 'political lunch' meeting of the donor countries, which was due to be held yesterday afternoon, was postponed. A new date was not fixed till yesterday evening.

The regular monthly meeting of the European Union countries is due to be held shortly where the political situation is expected to top the agenda. Salman Rahman, chief of FBCCI is being invited to attend the meeting as special guest, a EU diplomat said.

Jon J Scott, Canadian High Commissioner in Bangladesh, giving his impression of the Commonwealth envoy's mission, said "We see value in the proposal of Sir Ninian. It contains all the elements for a constitutional solution. The Opposition is quite aware of our views. I think Sir Ninian has been misunderstood by the parties concerned. We support his position."

ইস্টার্ন হাউজিং লিঃ এর আবাসিক এলাকা মাহানগর

রামপুরা ওয়াপদা রোডের শেষ প্রান্তে উলন পাওয়ার ষ্টেশনের উত্তর পাশে অবস্থিত প্রকল্পটির "C", "D" ও "E" ব্লকে নতুন কিছু প্লট বরাদ্দ চলছে।

আগ্রহী ক্রেতাগণ সড়ক যোগাযোগ করুন।

ইস্টার্ন হাউজিং লিঃ
ইসলাম চৌধুরী (৪র্থ তলা)
১২৫/এ মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০
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