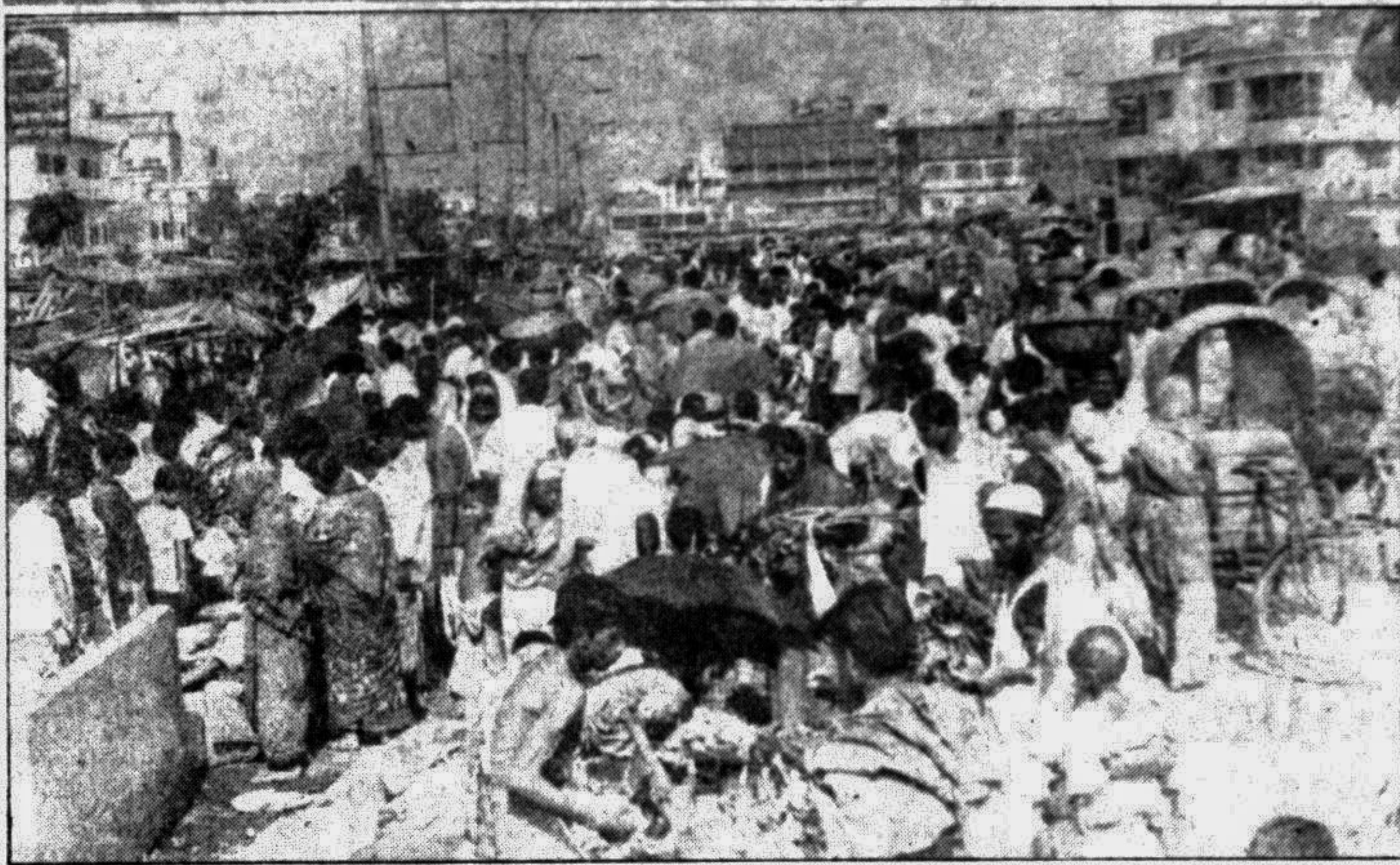


SAVE DHAKA



Unauthorised *kutch* markets have sprung up on important roads in various parts of the capital causing serious traffic problems. This picture was taken at Malibagh Chowdhury Para near the level-crossing yesterday. —Star photo

Fertiliser

From Page 1

a judicial commission. But he assured the House that details of the issue would be made available once the commission finalises its report.

The ruling party members who raised questions and supplementaries on the fertiliser issue included Nizamuddin Khan, Mohammad Niamatullah, Maolana Ataur Rahman Khan, Nurul Islam Moni, Abu Yusuf, Khalilur Rahman and ATM Alamgir.

Lutfar Rahman Khan said 24.52 lakh metric tons of urea, TSP, SSP, ammonium sulphate and gypsum were produced by the different fertiliser factories during fiscal 1993-94. Of this, 16.65 lakh MT had been sold from the mills until March 31.

To a question regarding the filing of cases against dealers who failed to distribute the fertiliser they were sanctioned, Khan said this matter was not under his ministry's jurisdiction.

The minister told another questioner that the production of urea and ammonium sulphate were sufficient to meet local needs while the deficit in TSP and SSP have been met through imports.

Sindhi leader GM Syed dead

KARACHI, Apr 25: Pakistani separatist politician Ghulam Murtaza Syed (G M Syed) died today after a prolonged illness, family members said. He was 92, reports Reuter.

Syed, the chief of Jiye Sindh Movement, died in a Karachi hospital and will be buried at his home village of Sann in southern province of Sindh on Wednesday, the family said.

Syed, Pakistan's oldest well-known politician, campaigned for a separate 'Sindhudesh' homeland in the volatile Sindh province, of which the industrial port city of Karachi is the capital.

He was the author of 45 books, some of which remain unpublished and some banned by authorities for his separatist views.

The Jiye Sindh Movement had a strong following in the Sindh countryside as well as among the intelligentsia, but never gained enough support to win an election.

DU 'Kha' unit

From Page 1

The committee, in the report, said there was scope of doubt about the leakage of question papers though it was not proved undoubtedly.

The admission test held on April 21 was cancelled to uphold the sanctity of examinations and dispel doubt among the people in this regard, the press release says.

The authorities are taking necessary steps for further in-depth investigation of the allegations of question paper leakage by competent agencies.

Aid Club concerned at political uncertainty

Bangladesh Aid Consortium has expressed concern at the country's political uncertainty which, they said, has slowed down the reforms programme in the country, reports UNB.

On the inaugural day of the two-day meeting in Paris yesterday, the Aid Group members expressed the hope that the people of Bangladesh would be able to find a solution to problem that is vitally necessary to lead the country to the desired path of growth.

According to a message received in Dhaka last night, the donors were worried that reforms, in many areas remained incomplete, and insisted on pursuing those further.

They suggested that the government should capitalise on the opportunities created out of the macro-economic stability to achieve a higher growth and thus reduce poverty.

The meeting, due to end today, is being attended by 26 donor countries and interna-

tional organisations. World Bank Vice President Joseph Wood is chairing the moot.

In his opening statement, Finance Minister M Saffur Rahman reiterated the government's commitment to further liberalise the economy in order to enable the private sector to play a greater role.

Highlighting the poverty alleviation efforts, Rahman referred to various targeted programmes, and increase in public expenditures for social sectors, including education, health, family planning, women's development and rural infrastructure.

The Finance Minister apprised the consortium members of reforms implemented during the last four years and its positive impact in the economy.

The minister pointed out that the growth rate would have been higher unless there were political problems and shortfall in cereal production due to a prolonged drought.

Export target for '96-98

From Page 1

analysis of world trade under WTO. Both the FBCCI and the MCCI assured financial and technical assistance for such study.

The business leaders also insisted on "economic diplomacy" and argued that the country's missions should concentrate on trade promotion functions.

A number of chamber leaders strongly resented India's import restrictions while Bangladesh has opened up its market to the giant neighbour.

We have given enormous benefit unilaterally to India when they are still protecting their industries... this has resulted in an embarrassing amount of trade imbalance between the two countries," said MCCI President Anis Ud Dowla.

The Commerce Minister sought specific recommendations from the private sector on the country's trade policy with India.

Representatives of exporters' associations and chambers also expressed their dismay at non-implementation of different policy decisions.

There are instances that decisions coming from the level of Prime Minister have been flouted at desk level of ministries... if you can't implement, please don't take decision," said Dr Afabuzzaman, President of Bangladesh Frozen Foods Exporters Association.

At the meeting, business leaders called for taking special measures to retain markets for jute goods, but were found sharply divided on the use of green jute for pulp.

While the FBCCI President viewed using green jute for pulp as a "golden opportunity" jute traders and jute goods manufacturers strongly opposed the idea, arguing that such attempt will squeeze the yield and supply of jute for industrial use.

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BSAF concerned at role of US Child Rights Network

The Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF) yesterday expressed 'serious concern' over the role of the United States Child Rights Network, reports UNB.

The Forum, a network of 60 international and national NGOs working for child-rights in Bangladesh, also criticised the proposed Harkin's Bill in the US Congress that could adversely affect the country's burgeoning garments sector.

The BSAF, which favours gradual elimination of child labour through an effective as well as systematic method, has called upon the international community to consider the child labour situation of Bangladesh with a humanitarian approach.

In a statement, BSAF also proposed a four-point suggestion for gradual elimination of child labour in Bangladesh.

Those are: Arranging non-hazardous jobs for the children, ensuring employments for the parents of children retrenched from the garments factories, arranging general educational and vocational training facilities for the child-labourers at their work-places and taking essential socio-economic measures to ensure survival of the children.

Sher-e-Bangla

From Page 1

milad mahfil at 8 am and a discussion on the life and activities of the late leader at 8:30 am tomorrow.

Awami League leaders Abdus Samad Azad and Abdul Mannan will attend the meeting as the chief guest and main speaker respectively. President of the Memorial Council Justice Ruhul Amin will preside.

USAID predicts

From Page 1

would be 2.22 metric tons per hectare (MTPH).

In Khulna division, where the boro land increased by 10 per cent this season, the yield would drop by 20 per cent and actual production would fall by 12 per cent. The study projects that 253 thousand hectares in this division would produce 506 thousand MT of rice for an average yield of 2 MTPH.

Production in the Dhaka division, where boro land decreased by 3 per cent this season, would drop by 18 per cent while the yield rate would drop by 15 per cent. About 821 thousand hectares of boro fields would produce 1.855 million MT rice at a rate of 2.26 MTPH.

The least affected area in Bangladesh would be Chittagong division, where boro land had decreased by 3 per cent and the yield rate would most likely fall by 6 per cent and actual production reduce by 8 per cent. Some 1.6 million MT of rice would be produced on 714 thousand hectares at a yielding rate of 2.16 MTPH.

The study points out that farmers were using lesser amounts of urea due to its tight supply and price — 25 to 40 per cent higher than last year — since December and serious shortages of urea during the last half of March.

Most early and mid-season boro did not receive the last top dressing (three are required) of urea and earlier applications were reduced," it said. "The late-planted crop may get very little urea, and is already showing nitrogen-deficiency symptoms although farmers are applying any fertiliser available, including manures," it observes.

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International jute accord extended

The International Jute Organisation (IJO) will organise a workshop to discuss the ways to stem the declining trend of consumption of the natural fibre which is 'environment-friendly', reports UNB.

K M Rabbani, Executive Director of the Dhaka-based organisation, said paucity of funds hampered the campaign to promote jute which faced a severe competition against synthetics in the world market.

A four-day session on the IJO council which concluded in Dhaka yesterday has approved the decision to hold the workshop on Jute and Environment aimed at giving a shot in the arm to the campaign to promote the natural fibre.

The IJO Executive Director said current International agreement on jute and jute products which would expire in April 1996 has been extended by two years up to April 1998.

The IJO council session was attended by five jute exporting countries and 22 importing countries. Besides representatives from the FAO, UNIDO and relevant trade associations of the member states were present.

Addressing a press conference at the end of 23rd session, Road accidents

From Page 1

Our DMCH Correspondent adds, one unidentified male, 22, was killed and 12 others were injured when a bus overturned at Monohordi in Narsingdi at 6:30 am.

Another unidentified man, aged 35, was killed and five others were injured in a head on collision between a truck and a tempo at Fatulla in Nayanganj at 11 am.

A minibus killed one person near Shahbagh in the city.

Dhaka, Islamabad

From Page 1

mon South Asian approach for the upcoming Beijing conference on women.

The two sides agreed that these proposals, if adopted, would accelerate the pace of regional cooperation.

The two leaders, while discussing the role of SAARC Secretariat in promoting the objectives of organisation observed that there was need to strengthen its capability.

On the usefulness of SAARC's collective position before the international conferences, they observed that the decisions should be made through ministerial level meetings. This would strengthen the common position of the organisation in the global context, the two leaders observed.

tion of the IJO Committee on Projects (COP) and the International Jute Council held during April 19, 20, and 22-24. Rabbani said the theme of the workshop will be 'Jute is Environment-Friendly'.

The IJO council during its meeting also approved some six project proposals for development and promotion of jute and kenaf and their products.

He said the IJO had managed to arrest the declining trend of jute consumption in Japan and helped raise its use in the West European countries by 15 per cent.

Japan is now importing 50,000 metric tons of jute annually, imports by the US remained at the level of 100,000 metric tons a year.

Rabbani said that various market promotional programmes could not be undertaken due to lack of funds which had been previously provided by the jute consuming countries in West Europe. But they have recently stopped providing such promotional funds.

But Japan came up with a pledge of 90,000 for co-financing the projects in jute market promotion in that country. Japan also offered support for the project on application of biotechnology in the improvement of jute, kenaf and allied fibres.

Rabbani gave a list of nine projects which are now in the pipeline, but for which the required funds are still to be lined up.

The projects include: Support for varietal improvement of jute and kenaf for increased productivity, high yield cultivation technology development for jute and Kenaf and environmentally safe production and primary processing technologies.

Commitments

From Page 1

The two prime ministers exchanged views on regional and international issues of common concerns and the forthcoming UN-sponsored conference on women to be held in Beijing.

In response to Begum Zia's invitation to visit Bangladesh, Benazir said she would visit Bangladesh at a mutually convenient time.

Begum Zia hoped that the forthcoming SAARC summit would provide them an opportunity for further discussions on bilateral issues.

Minister in waiting Golam Mustafa Khar, Pakistan Foreign Secretary Najmuddin A Shaikh, Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan were present.

BNP MP's demand action

From Page 1

curity, Khalilur Rahman urged the Home Minister to take necessary action against those who made such implied threats.

Rahman was supported by two other treasury bench members — Mohammad Ali Jinnah and Maj (ret'd) Hafizuddin Ahmed. Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury remained silent when the party MPs sought remedy from him.

A number of other MPs raised their hands seeking permission to speak on the issue of the sit-in programme in front of the Speaker's office organised by the resigning MPs of three major political parties. But instead, Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni gave the floor to the Minister for Law Mirza Golam Hafiz for introducing a bill.

During Monday's sit-in, Shamsul Haq, elected in 1991 from Phalpur, Mymensingh on an Awami League ticket reportedly told his fellow colleagues that the Speaker of this Parliament might face a consequence similar to that of Shahed Ali.

The opposition sit-in was designed to protest the ruling by Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali rejecting all 147 resignation letters. They also demanded dissolution of the Fifth Parliament to make way for general elections.

Khalilur Rahman, elected from Joyprhat, said that at least 17 MPs of the AL spoke during the sit-in inside the Parliament building which is highly against parliamentary norms.

Three discredited parties have formed an unholy alliance to disrupt the development activities of this government," Rahman alleged.

Mohammad Ali Jinnah said the opposition MPs had been enjoying all privileges as members of Parliament while publicly claiming that they had resigned.

"How then did they enter the Sangsod Bhaban yesterday? Did they collect visitors' passes?" Jinnah questioned.

He said that a large number of opposition MPs stayed in the hostel adjoining the Parliament while a number of

others sought and got clearance from the JS secretariat for importing duty-free cars.

Maj Hafizuddin enquired about the fate of a Bill he had submitted three years ago seeking to constitute a law against the contempt of Parliament.

He said Monday's incident reminded him of the necessity for such a law empowering the Speaker to issue a warrant of arrest against a contemner.

He said that the opposition MPs had earlier brandished shoes inside the House and once had even tried to reach the Speaker's chair, apparently to assault him.

"The latest incident is nothing but a premonition of unpleasant happenings," Hafizuddin said, seeking protection from the Chair.

The question-answer session took up most of the time yesterday. At 6:30 pm Humayun Khan Panni adjourned the House till 4 pm today.

Mahathir's party wins majority

KUALA LUMPUR, Apr 25: Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's National Front coalition won Malaysia's general elections on Tuesday and was heading for a two-thirds majority in Parliament, reports AP.

According to partial results, the National Front, a coalition of 14 ethnic parties, got a simple majority in the 192-member Parliament after winning 97 seats of the 114 results announced.

BANDUNG, Indonesia, Apr 25: Bosnia-Herzegovina has put in an application to become a full member of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) but the NAM Coordinating Bureau wants more time to consider it, a senior NAM official said here today, reports AFP.

Chairman of the ministerial meeting of the NAM Coordinating Bureau, Indonesia's Foreign Minister Ali Alatas had said that Bosnia's application was on the agenda for discussion at the ministerial meeting today.

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Do You Know? (Health Message)

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OR

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Printed & Published by A. S. Mahmud, Managing Director, on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, from City Publishing House Ltd, 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No 11, Road No 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA.