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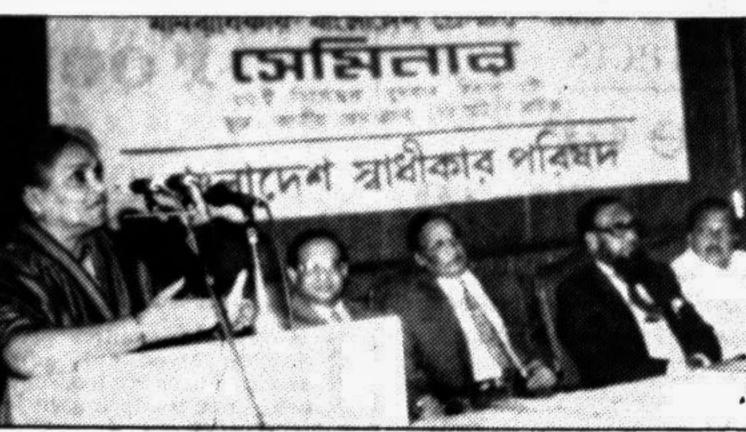
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Dr Razia Khan Amin speaking at a discussion organised by Swadhikar Parishad in observance of the World Human Rights Day at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday. From left: Dr Irshadul Bari, Prof Emajuddin Ahmed, Justice Abdur Rouf and Col(rtd) Akbar Hossain, MP. - Star photo

## 'Govt plans to eliminate child labour by 2010'

State Minister for Labour and Manpower M A Mannan told a regional conference in Bangkok yesterday that Bangladesh, which had almost eliminated child labour from readymade garments indus-tries, plans to abolish child labour from hazardous industries by the turn of the century. according to a message received here, reports BSS.

"Bangladesh plans to end all forms of child labour by 2010," Mannan informed the 12th Asian regional meeting of the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

The three-day regional meeting began in the Thai capital.

Mannan said Bangladesh respects fundamental workers rights and so far ratified 6 core ILO conventions reflecting country's commitment to the principles of freedom of asso-

### British MP arrives

British Member of Parliament Ms Oona King arrived in the capital yesterday on a weeklong first ever visit to Bang-

ladesh, reports UNB. Ms King was elected on the ruling Labour Party ticket from the Bethnal Green and Bow constituency of London in the general election last May.

Bangladeshi origin Britons are majority in this con-stituency. She has succeeded former British MP Peter Shore. Senior officials of the Parliament Secretariat and the

British High Commission in Dhaka received her at the air-During her stay, Ms King will call on Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, Foreign

Minister Abdus Samad Azad

LGRD and Cooperatives Minis-

ter Zillur Rahman.

ciation and collective bargain-ing, prohibition of forced labour and non-discrimination. Though the other conventions are yet to be ratified, those have seen substantial implementation and reflection "in our laws and practices," he

The international programme on elimination of child labour (IPEC) has been under effective implementation with donor assistance since 1995, the minister said, adding the programmes are to put an end to the last vestige of child

labour from Bangladesh. The labour minister said despite substantial improvement in the employment situation, Bangladesh has 11 million unemployed. To overcome the problem, the government has accorded priority to the expansion of vocational and technical education for skill development, the minister said. Such programme will continue in

While emphasising that social progress cannot be achieved without employment, Mannan dwelt on government's policy of planned development which envisages employment generation and poverty alleviation. Achieving gender equity in the development of human resources is the socio-economic policy of the government since 50 per cent population are women, he said.

The minister, who arrived in Bangkok Monday to attend the conference, is leading a fourmember Bangladesh delegation which includes representatives from government, employers and the labourers.

Mannan discussed matters of mutual interests with his counterparts from other countries attending the conference and met trade union leaders from many countries.

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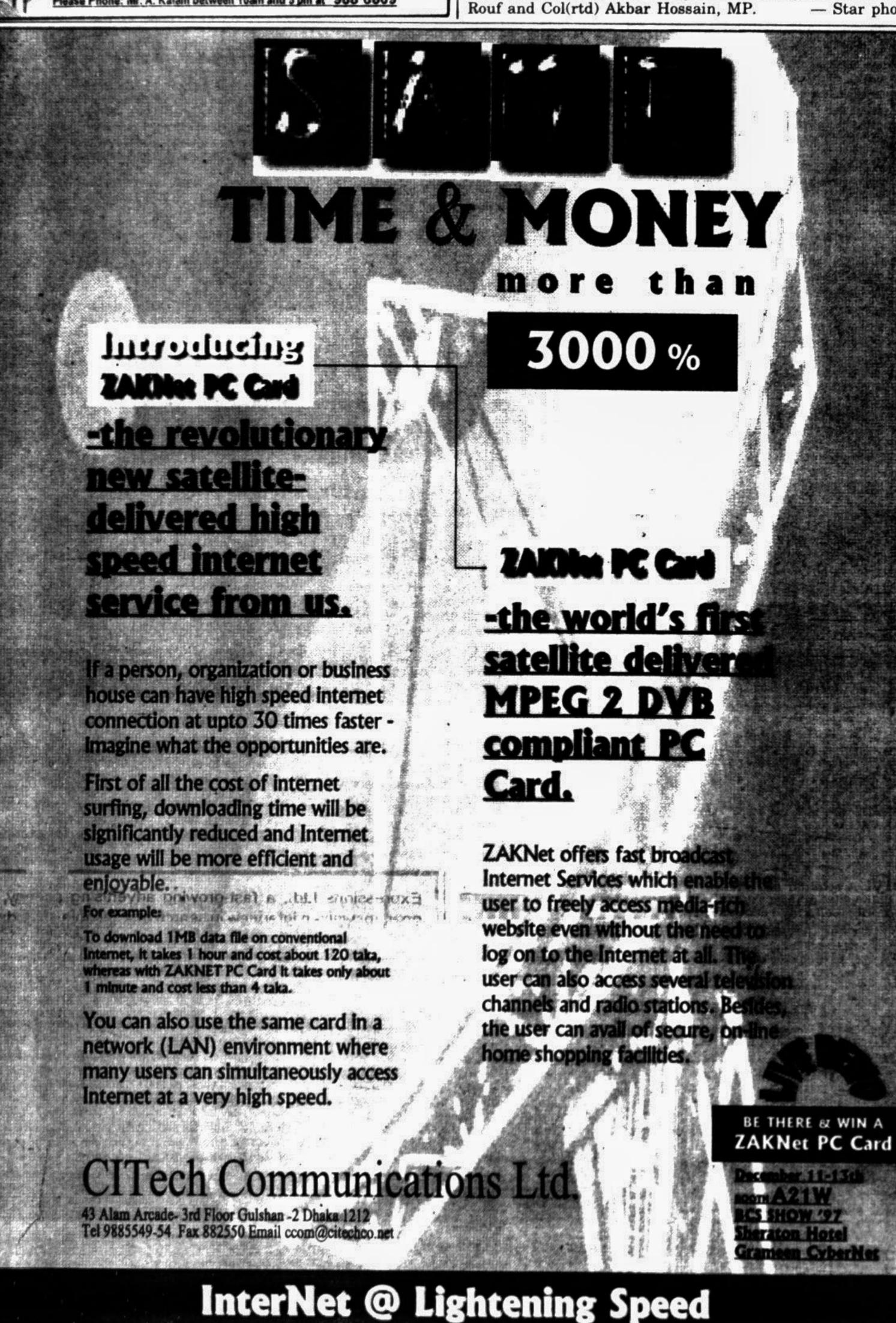
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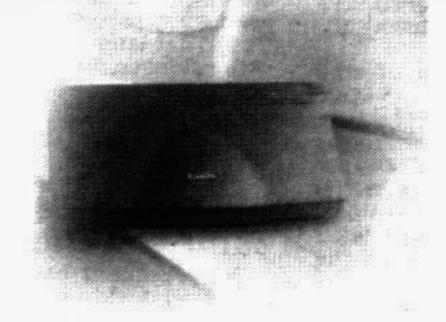
Ms.Sumedha Sen, General Manager in Dhaka on 18th, 19th, 20th & 21st December 1997. Contact: IR Traders

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