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PHILIPS

1528 holding diplomatic passports, FM tells JS

Some 1528 people are now holding diplomatic passports in the country. Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad told Parliament yesterday, reports UNB.

A break-up of the numbers of diplomatic passport holders as given by the Foreign Minister shows that the highest 710 red passports are possessed by the Bangladeshi diplomats and members of their families followed by 615 by the category of the people's elected representatives and their spouses.

Food for Work Programme to resume soon, JS told

Industries and Commerce Minister Tofael Ahmed yesterday assured the Jatiya Sangsad that the situation arising out of the price hike of rice would come under control soon.

But the Speaker asked him to continue. Food Minister Matia Chowdhury was not present in the House when Rabbi spoke. In her absence, Tofael Ahmed took the floor. He said the government of Sheikh Hasina was a responsible one.

OMS dealers

From page 1. The government has already started OMS of rice. Food for Work programme which was suspended due to Union Parishad polls will be resumed soon.

1662 Bangladeshis

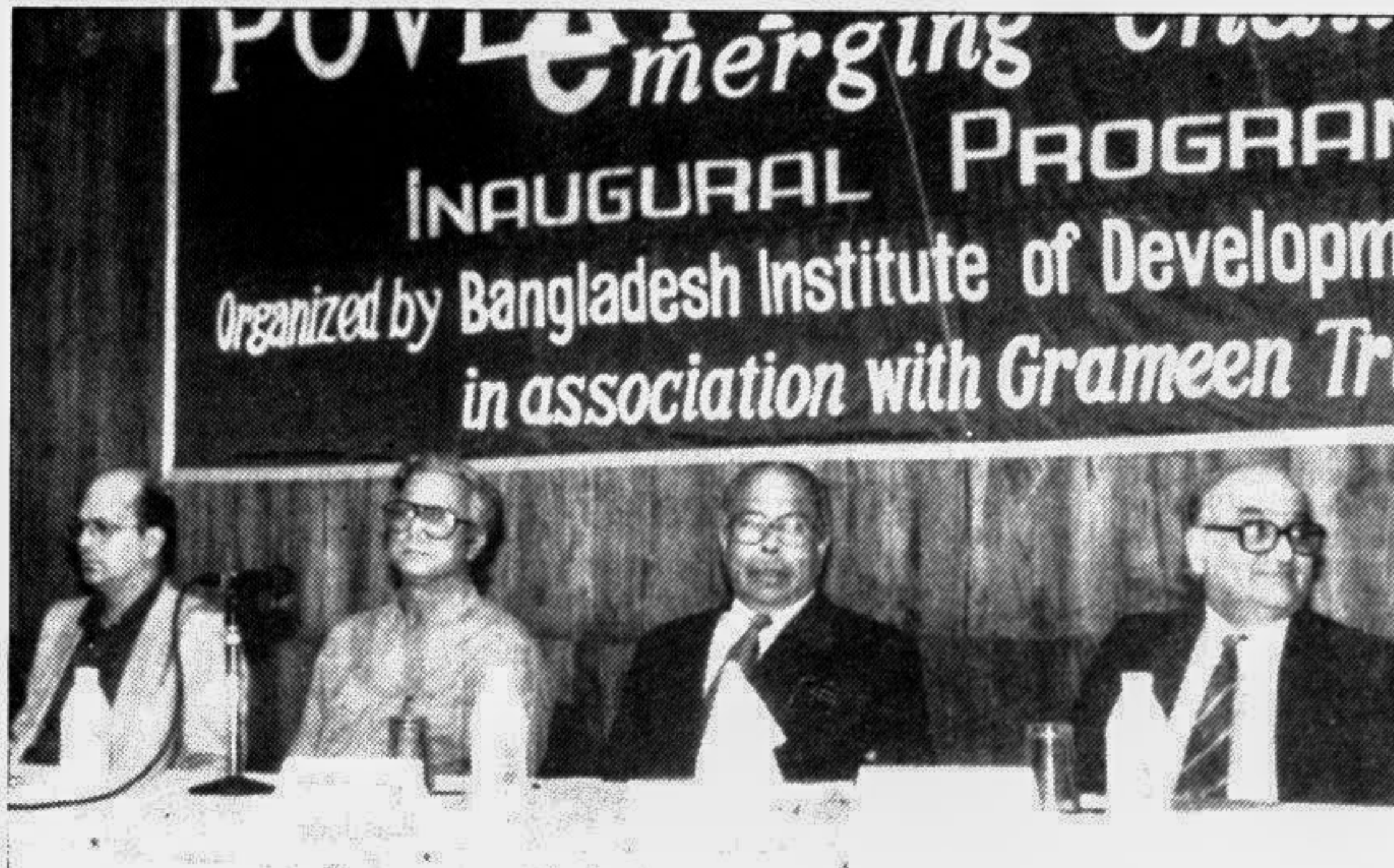
From page 1. While some detained. After the arrest of any Bangladeshi national in foreign jail, the government, he said, takes step to release the arrested person by providing necessary documents or legal aid.

Plan to introduce

From page 1. Commonwealth Secretariat, separate legislative drafting divisions under the ministry concerned have been functioning.

Ruling party MP

From page 1. The local US mission had released the report through the press conference on February 4 last, while the Foreign Office summoned US Ambassador John C Holzman to protest against the gesture inconsistent with diplomatic norms.



An international conference on 'Poverty: Emerging challenges' began at the LGED auditorium in the city yesterday. From right are Prof Rehman Sobhan, Finance Minister SAMS Kibria, Prof Md Yunus and BIDS DG Abu Abdullah.

Aftershock kills 250 more in Afghanistan

DUSHANBE, Feb 8: Some 250 people were killed and 50 injured in an aftershock that hit the same area of northern Afghanistan today where thousands may have died in a mid-week earthquake, the Afghan embassy said.

AP adds, A Red Cross plane packed with emergency medical supplies managed to land today near the quake site in Takhar province, after an earlier plane had to return to the Afghan capital, 150 miles (240 kms) to the south, because of bad weather.

Day night with a magnitude of 6.1 in the isolated Rustaq district, nestled at the junction of the Hindu Kush and Pamir mountain ranges.

Biman floats

From page 1. March 30 and the offers for the F-28-4000 by March 10, Biman officials said.

CHT insurgency

From page 1. Deposit their guns and ammunition to the security forces today, according to highly placed sources here.

Rice stock sufficient: PM

From page 1. "People want peace and stability for which the government is striving hard, but certain quarters are trying to create unrest opposing the peace," she said.

JS discussion

From page 1. Nurul Islam Nahid, who was the lone speaker on the presidential speech yesterday, thanked the President for a "constructive speech that reflected both the activities of the government and its future priorities for the welfare of the people."

HC order

From page 1. The HC also directed the government to allow him to join his service and to give him all back salaries with seniority, increment and promotion with attending benefits within 60 days from May 12, 1997.

Greater cooperation between SAARC, ASEAN stressed

Foreign Minister of Indonesia Ali Alatas yesterday underscored the need for increasing cooperation between ASEAN and SAARC to face together the forces of globalisation and increasing international competitiveness.

The time has come for us to begin moving in earnest towards a partnership. When cooperation takes place between two regional organisations that represent one-third of the human race, the positive impact can only be tremendous.

and scholars and foreign ministry officials. Ali Alatas said that a comparison of the strategies, activities and programmes of SAARC and ASEAN "shows a remarkable similarity and correspondence which means that we are driving towards the same goals using approaches that are similar."

Jute Spinners Ltd reopens today

The Jute Spinners Limited in Khulna reopens today. The decision was taken at a meeting between the authorities and leaders of the workers union on Sunday.

New thana to be set up in city, JS told

Home Minister Major (ret'd) Rafiqul Islam (Bir Uttam) informed the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday that a new police station with parts of the Dhanmondi and Mohammadpur police stations will be set up in the city, reports BSS.

Four killed in Tamil Nadu blast

NEW DELHI, Feb 8: Four people were killed and three injured when a bomb exploded in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said today, reports AFP.

Decision on Tullow

From page 1. The government offered Tullow both the blocks in October, but it is also trying to get Tullow a 'big' partner in these two blocks.

JS discussion

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Akhtruzzaman MP

From page 1. conviction. She questioned how a member of parliament could be convicted when the parliament is in session.

Poverty alleviation

From page 1. Prof Teodor Shanin of the University of Manchester, who later joined the ceremony, made a brief speech. It was also addressed by Dr Abu Abdullah, Director General of BIDS, and Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman of BIDS.

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