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SC verdict on detention of Ershad: Review petition likely

By Gobinda Chandra Jagore
Attorney General K S Nabi is consulting eminent legal experts regarding filing of a review petition against the recent Supreme Court judgement which declared that detention of former President H M Ershad after his fall was illegal.

The government may file a review petition with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court against the judgement.

The Attorney General on Wednesday consulted Dr Kamal Hossain about the review petition. He later told The Daily Star that he would also consult senior advocates S R Pal, Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed, Khandker Mahbubuddin Ahmed, Barrister Md Amir-ul-Islam and others.

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Saudi Prince calls on President, PM

The visiting chairman of Dar Al-Maal Al-Islami in Geneva, Prince Mohammed Al-Faisal Al-Saud, made a courtesy call on President Jang Bahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports UNB.

Welcoming the Saudi Prince, President Shahabuddin said that the relations between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia are very close and friendly which based on common faith and tradition.

Shahabuddin appreciated the generous and kind care and attention of the government of Saudi Arabia for the large number of Bangladeshi people working there. He also stressed the diversified economic cooperation between the two countries.

Prince Saud thanked the President for receiving him and the members of his delegation. He apprised the President of the formal inauguration of the Faysal Islamic Bank of Bahrain in Dhaka yesterday and said that the bank operates strictly on Islamic principles.

The Prince handed over a See Page 12 Col 5

3 new DCs of DMP

Three deputy commissioners have been appointed in three zones of Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday, reports UNB.

They are Hasna Mahmud Khandaker (south), PR Chando (north) and Sirajul Islam (west).

Earlier, they were transferred to the DMP from outside the capital, but they could not join their post as their predecessors didn't leave the station.

Following a stand release order on Wednesday, three DCs of DMP left yesterday to join their new posting outside Dhaka.

DNC did it to harm reputation: Albert David

By Staff Correspondent
Albert David Pharmaceutical (Bangladesh) Company in a clarification to a report carried in our February 25 and 26 issues said the seizure of the 'Dangerous Drug' two millilitre ampoule pethidine injections — by the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) was an attempt to tarnish the good name of the company and destroy its public standing by the DNC.

Terminating the confiscation by the officials of DNC 'illegal', the company authorities, in a written statement sent to The Daily Star yesterday, said, "The DNC in an intention to harm the reputation of the company filed the case without checking the valid papers and also arrested two of the company officials."

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Inside Today

Article

Extinction is forever

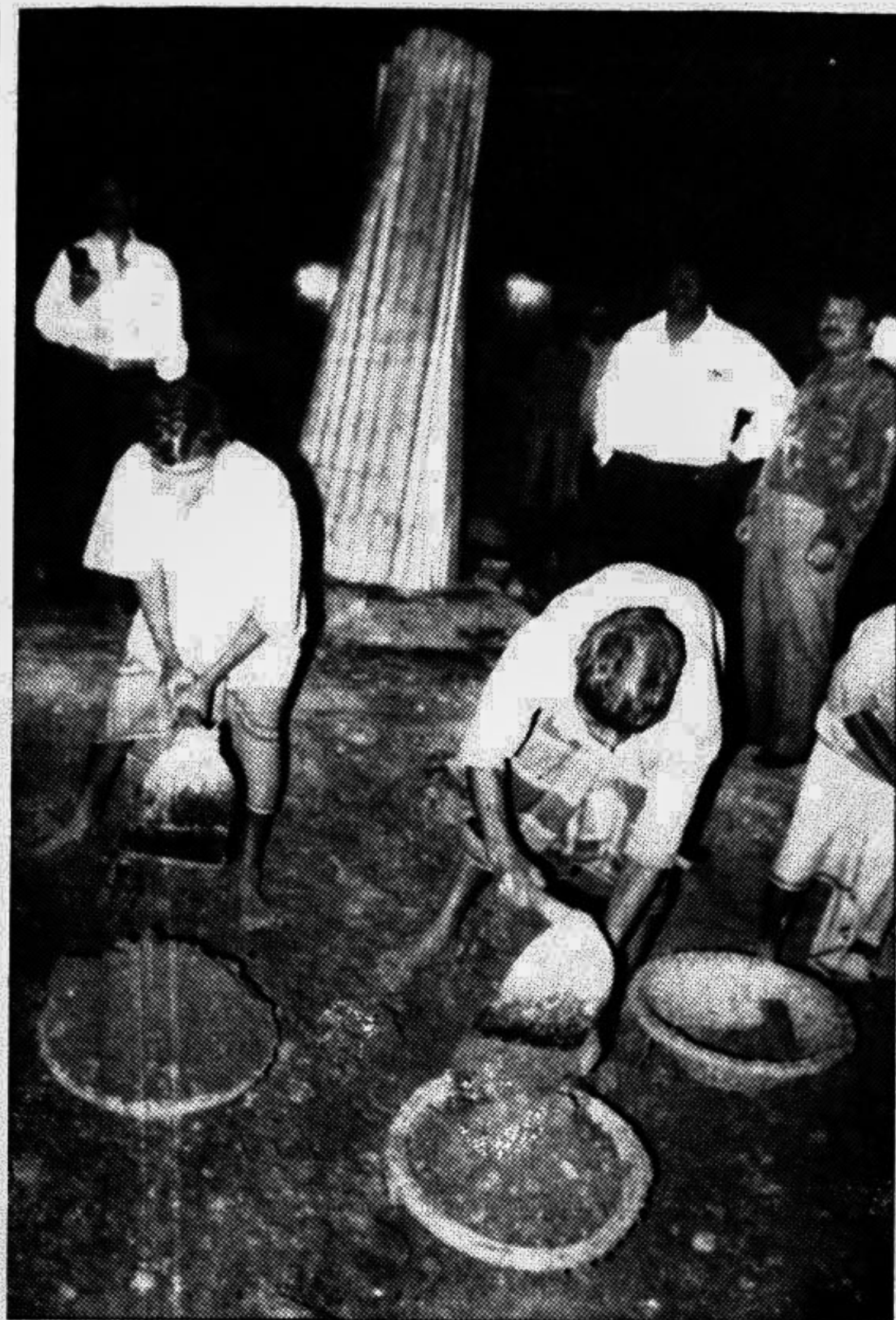
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Setting own house on fire to frighten mice; and Democracy—new area of attention
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Business

BAPA launched: 'Agro-processing can surpass garments'
DSE index falls by six points
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(Left) Workers digging around the leakage of Titas gas distribution line at around 9:30 last night. (Middle) The DCC excavator that went out of order at the site. (Right) A rush for stoves at different city markets.

Main transmission line at Rampura damaged City goes without gas

Star Report

Gas supplies to most city homes, hotels, restaurants and industries came to an abrupt halt, and flows ebbed in other areas since 2 pm yesterday, when construction workers reportedly drove a pile on a 12-inch diameter main transmission line at Rampura.

The incident took place at around 7:30 am when the piling work was being done for a residential building of Bangladesh Television adjacent to the TV Bhaban.

Sources in the Titas Gas and Transmission Company said they had to switch-off the gas supply on Demra-Gulshan main distribution line to avert a major accident as leaking gas threatened to explode when the line was rammed with a heavy pile 22 feet underground.



Half of the city's gas supply of 140 million cubic feet per day was shut and supply on other lines were disrupted.

State-run Bangladesh Television in its English news bulletin said "it is feared that the incident might have been an act of sabotage."

But it did not elaborate and assured people that supplies would be restored within 24 hours and urged citizens to keep their stoves switched off where pressure was low.

Police said at 10:30 pm that they were yet to file any case in this connection but deployed police at the site.

Supplies were disrupted in a vast area stretching from Gulshan, Badda to Tejgaon industrial area, Rampura, Basabo.

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—Star photo.

News Analysis

AL-BNP accord: A win for political process, not parties

By Nurul Kabir

With the recent two-point accord signed between the ruling Awami League and the opposition BNP, those willing to see the country's present parliamentary system functioning smoothly have heaved — at least for the time being — a sigh of relief. The accord has paved the way for Bangladesh Nationalist Party, the main opposition party in the Jatiya Sangsad, to return to Parliament six months after it had walked out of the House on August 30 last year. Under the agreement, BNP is now scheduled to go back to Parliament by March 8.

The political camps concerned, and the media as well, however, are now busy determining who has won in the four-day grueling negotiations that eventually produced the accord on March 2.

Before one draws a conclu-

sion as to the win or defeat of the political parties involved, one has to take a look at the content of the agreement, the circumstances under which the agreement was signed and the possible implications of it.

The preamble of the two-point agreement said that the Speaker, while conducting the business of the House according to the dictates of the Constitution, Rules of Procedure of the Jatiya Sangsad and the conventions, would maintain total neutrality.

Clause 1(a) of the accord says that the 'government will withdraw, subject to investigation, the cases and allegations framed to harass the BNP leaders and activists by March 31 this year.'

Clause 1(b) of the accord says: All the 113 BNP legislators will be accommodated in the 35 parliamentary standing

committees on ministries, while the committees constituted earlier will be reconstituted in consultation with the opposition.

Clause 1(c) of the agreement asserts the 'neutral coverage' of parliament proceedings by the state-run electronic media. Especially, the question-answer sessions, proceedings of the JS Business Advisory Committee meetings and the parliamentary debates will be broadcast directly, giving equal importance to both the Treasury and the Opposition benches. In case of any dispute, the Speaker would take necessary steps in consultation with the whips of both the benches, the clause said.

The second clause of the March 2 — treaty says that the government will lift restrictions on street rallies on either

See Page 12 Col 3

All but one JS resolution deferred

By Staff Correspondent

All but one resolution on the Private Members' Day yesterday in the Jatiya Sangsad were deferred due to absence of the ministers concerned and lack of preparations by the members themselves.

Jalal Uddin Talukdar, MP, was the lucky one yesterday as Home Minister Rafiqul Islam was in the Jatiya Sangsad to reply to a resolution the lawmaker moved in the House.

Four resolutions were deferred due to absence of the ministers concerned in the House. Two other resolutions were deferred on request from the MP concerned while another resolution was not moved due to absence of the MP concerned.

The sitting of the day began more than an hour after the scheduled time of 10 am due to lack of quorum. At 2 pm, when the session was adjourned for resumption at 4 pm on Sunday, the entire front row of the treasury bench was empty.

Meanwhile, as per an agreement reached between the ruling Awami League and the main opposition BNP on Monday, lawmakers belonging to BNP are scheduled to return to the House on Sunday.

Cong urges Sonia to take over party leadership

NEW DELHI, Mar 5: India's Congress today appealed to the Italian-born widow of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to take over the leadership of the party, reports AFP.

It said her "herculean efforts" during the election campaign had won back estranged voters.

The party think-tank, in a resolution adopted here today, said the Italian-born Sonia Gandhi had rejuvenated the party during the February-March national elections.

"It was her tireless and strenuous campaigning across the length and breadth of the country which galvanised all Congress workers to join the election campaign and the Congress party owes all its electoral gains to her," it said.

2-decade old armed insurgency in CHT comes to an end

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Mar 5: The last batch of tribal guerrillas who fought a bush war for over two decades in Chittagong Hill Tracts, returned to normal life today with the laying down of 55 arms to the government.

The batch comprising 222 tribal guerrillas including the leaders of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), the parent body of Shantibahini, was ceremonially received by Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mosarraf Hossain and other government officials at the Dudukchhari border village under Khagrachhari hill district today.

Jagodish Chakma, a leader of PCJSS, handed over an AK-47 rifle at 12:20 pm today to the Civil Aviation Minister to initiate the arms surrender ceremony formally that lasted for

45 minutes.

Other Shantibahinim then deposited their arms at the function though their arms were received by security forces at 10 am today to make them ammunition-free, officials attending the function said.

The minister presented a bouquet of flowers to Jagodish and congratulated him for returning to normal life.

Minister without portfolio Kalpa Ranjan Chakma and the president of PCJSS Jotindriya Bodhipriya Larma alias Shantu Larma were present on the occasion. A large number of tribal people from the nearby locations also gathered to witness the historic event.

Today's batch also included a woman leader of PCJSS named Madabi Lata Chakma, officials said.

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Both Cong, BJP face problem Now it all depends on TDP support

NEW DELHI, Mar 5: The parties determined to keep the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party from forming India's next government faced the possibility today of losing crucial support from a regional leader, reports AP.

The Congress party and the 14-party United Front could join to challenge the BJP's claim on forming the government. But not if United Front member the Telugu Desam Party switches support to the BJP or opts to keep its 12 national legislators neutral because of its dislike of Congress.

After huddling all evening, leaders of the Congress Party said the group is keeping its options open. In a statement

adopted after a three-hour meeting, the Congress said it will play a constructive role in the process of formation of a stable government ... to enable all secular forces to work together.

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Rohingyas agitate at Kutupalong camp, 30 hurt in fire

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Mar 5: At least 30 people including five policemen were injured in a fire at Kutupalong Rohingya refugee camp in Ukha thana this evening.

Some refugees allegedly set fire to one of the three sheds at the camp following a feud with some Ansar guards on duty there at about 7 pm.

The fire gutted two of the three sheds at the camp, accommodating 9,727 refugees, and another was partially damaged.

The refugees were agitating against their repatriation to Myanmar and tension at the camp mounted following the death of an elderly refugee on Thursday last. The refugees claimed he was beaten to death by police, but police and UN-HCR denied this and said he died of heart failure.

Those injured in the fire were rushed to Ukha Thana Health Complex.

The fire could not be brought under control till the filing of his report late at night.

Two fire tenders were engaged in taming the fire. Besides, three more units from Chittagong were expected to join those.

None was arrested and no case was lodged till the filing of this report. A big contingent of riot police was deployed in the area.

Pro and anti-CHT accord groups clash in Rangamati

RANGAMATI, Mar 5: When the last group of Shantibahini members laid down their arms, pro and anti-CHT accord groups clashed at Gilachhari in Ne-niarchar thana today, leaving at least two people injured, reports UNB.

The injured — Ripon Chakma, 20, and Gyanranjan Chakma, 22 — were admitted to local hospital.

Police picked up one Soheli Chakma, 25, from the scene on charge of violence.

Both sides used lethal weapons during the clash.

Meanwhile, a supporter of the peace treaty was kidnapped from village Ghagra in Kawkhali thana allegedly by the rivals who are protesting the agreement describing it as a 'compromise'.

When contacted police confirmed the abduction of Shuvash Chakma, 23.

One stabbed to death in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Mar 5: One Golam Kibria was stabbed to death today by some miscreants at Halihsahar 'K' block under Doublimooring police station, reports BSS.

According to police and eyewitnesses, the miscreants numbering about four attacked Golam Kibria while he was returning from his relative's house.

The miscreants stabbed him indiscriminately and he died on the spot.

The reason behind murder could not be known immediately.

Police recovered the body and handed it over to his relatives after autopsy.

A case was registered with Doublimooring police in this connection.

Uttara Bank's letters to Home Ministry, police Help recover jute goods 'looted' from mortgaged godown

By Inam Ahmed

Uttara Bank (UB) management has written letters to relevant authorities, including the Home Ministry, to help recover the jute goods mortgaged to it and allegedly taken away by Sonali Jute Mills Management and workers, breaking open the godown of the mills on February 16 in Khulna.

The UB alleged that the jute goods were mortgaged to it and that the mills management in collusion with workers took those away breaking open the godown to pay workers' wages.

Chairman of UB, M Anisuzzaman, narrating the incident in letters to the Governor of Bangladesh Bank, I G of Police, Home and Jute Ministries, demanded immediate action to retrieve the goods and prevent recurrence of such incidents in future.

The incident has caused quite a stir in the government level and the issue was raised in the cabinet meeting on February 23.

The mills have been enjoying loan facility from UB's Sir Syed Road branch in Khulna, mortgaging its movable and immovable property, raw jute and jute goods to the bank.

The mills owe Tk 65 crore to the Bank, including Tk 31 crore loan and working capital taken under the World Bank's jute sector restructuring programme. The Bank had em-

ployed its own officials and employees in the mills to supervise the project.

As the mills management faltered in payment of salaries and wages to workers and employees recently, there had been strong resentment among the workers.

On February 16, agitated workers reportedly prevented the bank-appointed personnel to enter the mills premises and staged violent protests inside the factory. UB informed the Home Ministry.

The mills management, allegedly in collusion with the workers, had planned to break open the warehouse and take

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Orbis ends its 3-week 'skill exchange' programme

By Staff Correspondent



Doctors and staff of Orbis held a press briefing aboard their DC-10 aircraft at Zia International Airport yesterday. —Star photo

Orbis, a fully operational eye hospital on board a DC-10 aircraft, has completed a three-week ophthalmic skill exchange programme yesterday.

"The noble cause of the educational tour was well served," said the mission chief, Peter Ramrayka, while briefing a group of newsmen on board the Orbis DC-10 aircraft parked at the Zia International Airport.

During the three-week programme, over a hundred ophthalmologists from around the country attended the training programme organised in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ophthalmological Society of Bangladesh.

The participants attended various lectures, workshops and surgeries that took place on board the aircraft and at Islamic Eye Hospital, Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Institute of Post-Graduate Medicine and Research, BIRDEM and National Institute of Ophthalmology.

During the programme, the

Orbis medical team of experts provided relevant training to the local doctors on cataract, corneal transplant, sclera, buckle, glaucoma and ophthalmic surgeries.

"It has really been a team work," said Aynna Merchant, a Pakistan national. "We had fantastic cooperation from our counterparts here in Bangladesh and they seemed very enthusiastic about learning skills," she added while showing the journalists around different sections of the aircraft containing the medical devices used for the purpose of teaching.

During the teaching programme, the ophthalmologists carried out 55 surgeries and 17 laser procedures for demonstration purposes assisted by local surgeons.

Some local ophthalmologists also performed a number of surgeries as a return demonstration of techniques learnt under the supervision of the visiting experts.

The Orbis nursing team See Page 12 Col 8

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চলতি আর্থিক বছরের তৃতীয় কোয়ার্টারের জন্য অগ্রিম আয়কর প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ১৫ই মার্চ, ১৯৯৮ইং। সংশ্লিষ্ট করদাতা কর্তৃক দেয় অগ্রিম আয়কর ফরম নং আইটি-৩১(বি)(সেহসাহিত) চালান ফরমের মাধ্যমে পরিশোধ করতে হবে। এই ফরমের যে যে স্থানে '৭৪(১)' সংখ্যাটি উল্লেখিত আছে তার স্থলে '৬৪' সংখ্যাটি প্রতিস্থাপনপূর্বক চালান ফরমটি যথাযথরূপে পূরণ করে করদাতাগণ অগ্রিম কর পরিশোধ করবেন। উল্লেখ্য, সকল শ্রেণীর করদাতার জন্য অগ্রিম আয়কর প্রদানের ক্ষেত্রে মোট আয়ের আর্থিক সীমা বর্তমানে ১,০০,০০০/- (এক লক্ষ) টাকা। সংশ্লিষ্ট সকল করদাতাকে ১৯৯৮-১৯৯৯ অব বছরের জন্য চলতি আর্থিক বছরের তৃতীয় কোয়ার্টারের অগ্রিম আয়কর ১৫ই মার্চ, ১৯৯৮ইং তারিখের মধ্যে এই পদ্ধতিতে প্রদানের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

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