World Habitat Day observed

Nat'l Housing Authority to be floated soon: Mosharraf

The government is contem-plating formulation of a Natinal Housing Authority to establish housing estates in municipalities, districts and thana headquarters for all income groups and professionals

in the country, reports BSS.

Minister for Civil Aviation. Tourism, Housing and Public Works Engr M Mosharraf Hossain said this while addressing as the chief guest the inaugural function of a national seminar on "Cities for All," organised by RAJUK yes-terday to mark the World Habitat Day.

He said particularly the low and middle-income groups would get priority in these housing estates which would in fact lessen the pressure on the crop lands being used for new housing at individual levels in rural Bangladesh.

The proposal for the National Housing Authority will be placed in a cabinet meeting soon following which it would be presented in the next session of Jatiya Sangsad for framing a law he said adding, laws will also be enacted to protect the river Buriganga

from illegal occupation.

Chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on the Ministry of Housing and Public Works Akhtaruzzaman was the special guest while secretary-in-charge of the Ministry Sohel Ahmed was the guest of honour on the occasion. on the occasion.

Rajuk's former chief town planner Shawkat Ali Khan placed the key-note paper while its chairman Md Azizul Huq was in the chair.

In support of the theme of the seminar, the minister announced several ambitious

plans of the present govern-ment which would implement massive housing programmes in Uttara (3rd phase), Purbachal, Jhilmil and Mirpur,

among other places of the city.
"We will build 40,000 apartments in Uttara (3rd phase), 50,000 in Purbachal, 10,000 in Jhilmil and 15,000 in Mirpur to provide housing to all income groups, especially the low and middle-income groups which would also include journalists and artists," he said.

Besides, he said, the government is devising plans through amending the National Housing Policy to rehabilitate the slum dwellers in proper places in the outskirts of the city with all possible facilities for them. "We need active help from all concerned including NGOs in this regard," he said.

Engr Mosharraf Hossain referred to Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna cities and said these cities could be built as good living places for all income groups due to the prevailing good condition there. "If the city authorities there do not commit any mistakes as the RAJUK did in the past in Dhaka city. I must say these three cities will grow as very sound

s for all," he said. The Minister also said that the government would undertake due action against RAJUK for allowing unplanned growth of various establishments in Dhaka city being influenced by certain quarters in the city in

the past.

He said the past governments had even committed unpardonable criminal offenses against environment by re-claiming lakes in Gulshan-

Banani area in the capital city to allocate plots leaving no breathing space at all for the residents there.

"That past regimes benefited a particular class of the society with those plots," he said and asked the RAJUK authorities to change their mindset since the present government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was committed to providing proper housing despite the land constraints.

Akhtaruzzaman MP was also highly critical about the activities of RAJUK saying there was no adequate open space like parks in the country's capital city except the Ramna Green. "What five or six Suhrawardi Hospital can not do for the people, one Ramna Green alone is doing so but we want to know what the RAJUK has ensured for the movement of our kids," he said.

He asked the RAJUK authorities to actively consider future planning of buildings in Dhaka city since, he quoted experts, Bangladesh along with some other neighbouring countries have fallen within the seismic

"Your area of work is not limited within Dhanmondi, Banani, Gulshan and Baridhara when you are designated to look after the whole capital city," he said calling for re-evaluation of the past activities of the Ministry itself in this regard

Secretary in-charge of the Ministry Sohel Ahmed said, the nation has the right to know what DIT or RAJUK had in fact done over the last five decades after 1947.

Office Space Wanted

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FIRST AGM OF BANGLADESH SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS (BSME)

The First Annual General Meeting of Bangladesh Society of Mechanical Engineers (BSME) will be held at BUET Auditorium on Friday, October 8, 1999 at 3:45 PM with Prof. Nooruddin Ahmed, Vice-Chancellor, BUET as the Chief Guest.

Prof. M Anwarul Azim of Department of Industrial & Production Engineering (IPE) will present a paper on "Engineering Aspects of Development in the New Millennium and the Bangladesh Perspective" in place of Dr Fasihuddin Mahtab who has regretted to present a paper in the technical session due to his personal problem.

Revised Programme of the AGM is as follows:

2:45—3:45 PM Registration 3:45—4:45 PM

Inauguration 5:15—6:00 PM Business/Election

6:15-8:00 PM Technical Presentation/Discussion

Dr. Md. Imtiaz Hossain General Secretary

Adhoc Committee, BSME Tel. 9665636

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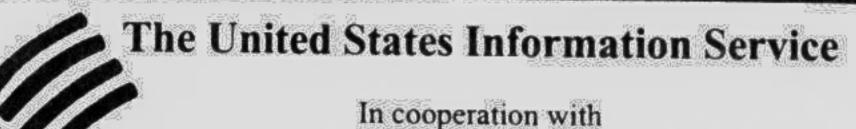
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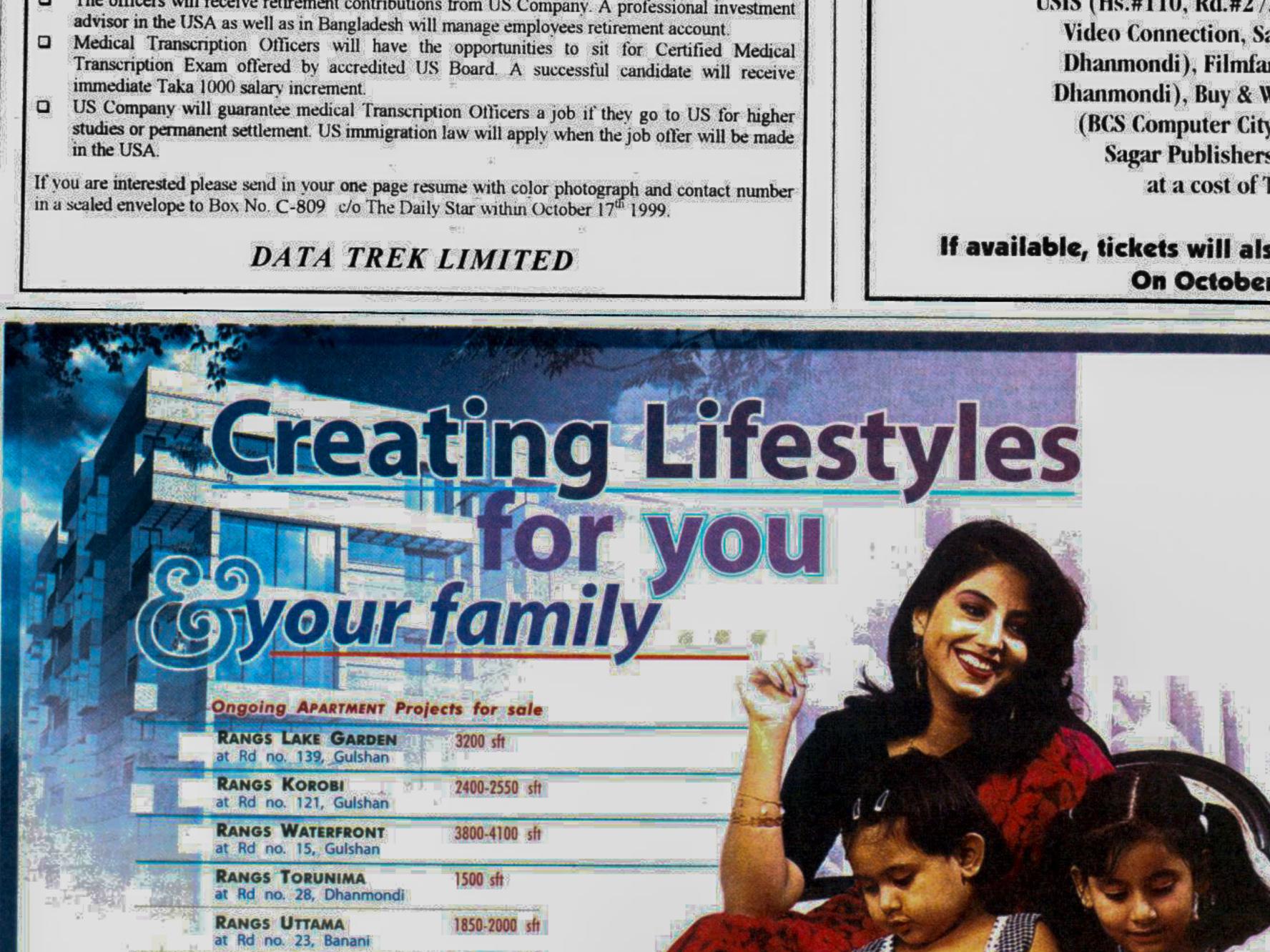
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If available, tickets will also be on sale at the door On October 8, 1999.

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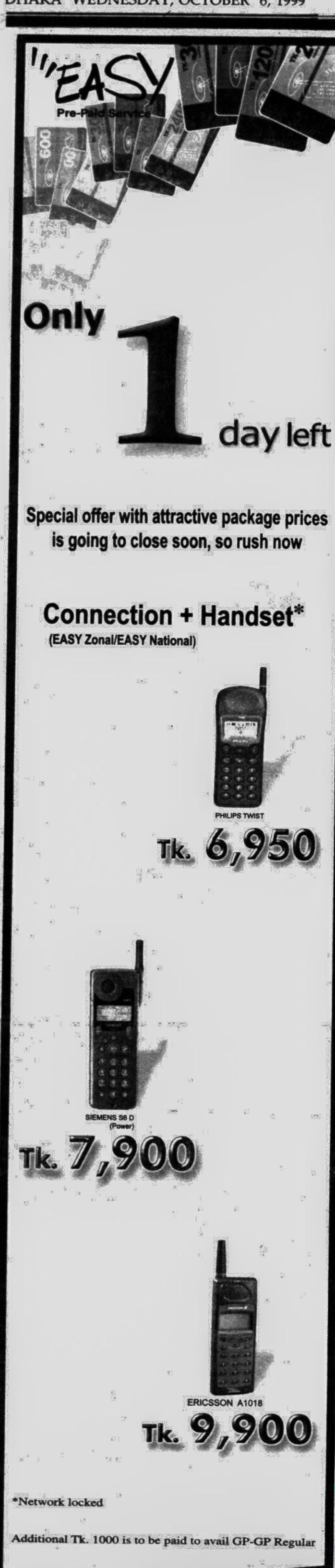
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