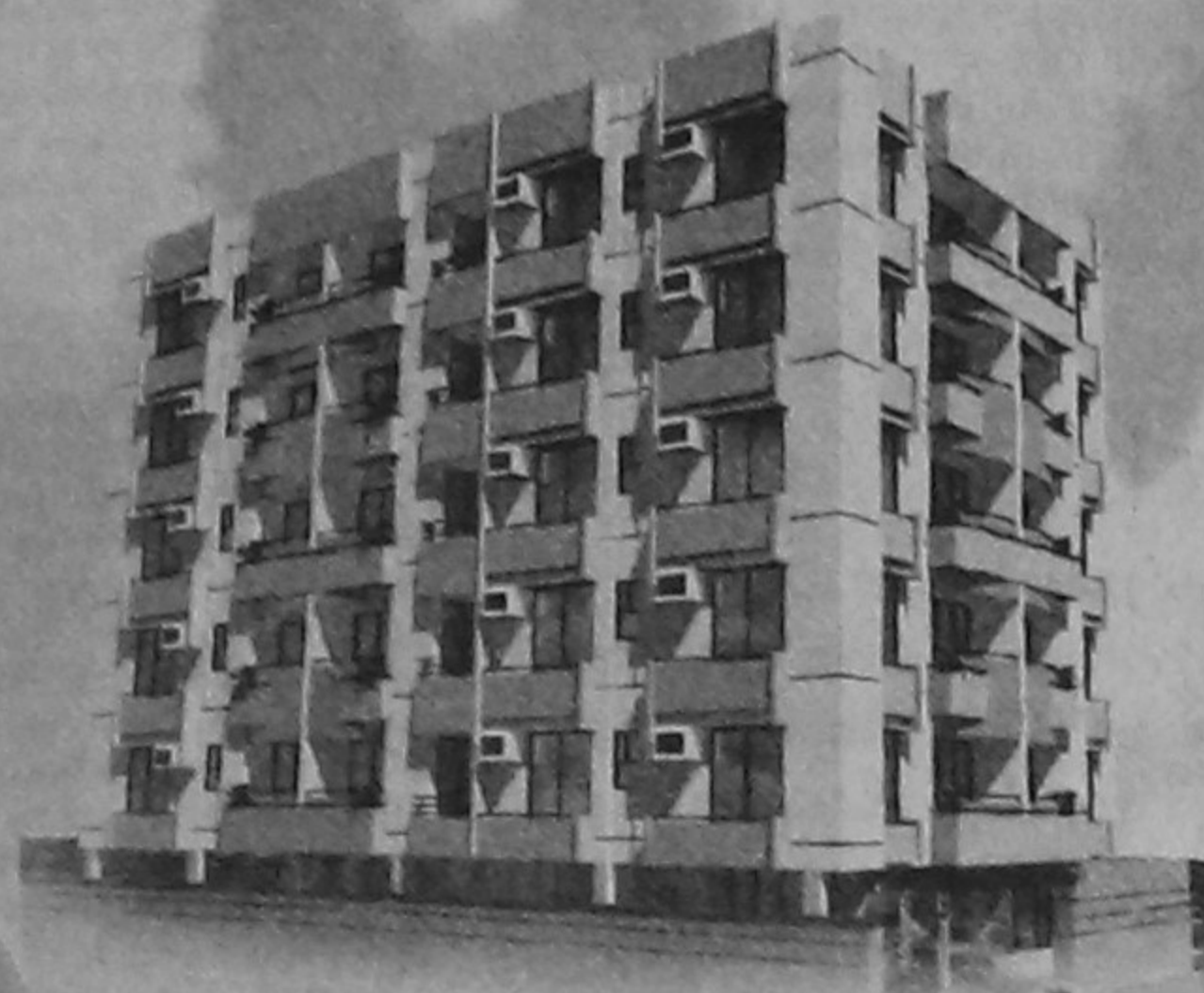


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Hasina invited to attend political parties' confce in Thailand

BSS, Dhaka

Thai Prime Minister's Deputy Secretary General for Political Affairs Suranand Vejjajive, MP, and Pramond Guna Kasem, MP, yesterday called on Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Advocate Abdul Hamid at his office at Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan here. Chief whip of the Opposition, Mohammad Abdus Shaheed, Mirza Azam, MP, Bir Bahadur, MP, Advocate Promod Mankin, MP, were present in the meeting.

The Thai lawmakers invited Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina to the Second International Conference of Asian Political Parties scheduled to be held in Bangkok from 22-24 November.

Advocate Abdul Hamid assured the Thai lawmakers of participating a High-powered Bangladesh Awami League delegation in the conference.

Hamid said warm relation between the ruling party and the opposition is a must for development of any country.

He expressed hope that the existing cordial relations between Bangladesh and Thailand will be bolstered in the coming years with frequent exchange of parliamentary delegations.

16 weapons seized

BSS, Dhaka

Police recovered a huge number of weapons and ammunition under its ongoing countryside operation in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning.

They seized 16 weapons, including 15 firearms, 12 bullets and arrested 1,566 people, including four alleged criminals whose names figure on their list, a Police Headquarters press release said yesterday.

The alleged criminals included two extremists, they added. Giving details of the arrests, they said 10 people were held in connection with the arms and ammunition seizure and 781 under warrant orders.

Besides, 771 people, accused in under-investigation cases, were held during the period.

The alleged criminals rounded up in the operation are; outlawed Sarbahara Partymen A Samad and Moktar Hossain of Pabna, Azizul Chowdhury of Khulna and Abu Taher of Leni.



The Bangladesh Paribesh Andolan took out a procession in the city yesterday demanding steps to contain pollution.

Preserve all parks, playgrounds

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolan held a rally in the city yesterday demanding planned development and safe preservation of all parks and playgrounds of the country.

The city-dwellers, school students and representatives of different socio-cultural organisations assembled at Battala in front of the National Museum, carrying banner and placards inscribed with 'We want to visit the parks safely', 'We want beautiful parks', 'Return all occupied parks', 'We want proper management of playground'.

While addressing the rally, Paribesh Andolan vice president Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed said, A syndicate of national criminals, who are engaged in a culture of plundering over the last few decades, grabbed the water-bodies, parks, playgrounds and a good

chunk of open lands of the country, and turned the cities' environment unhygienic, unliveable, and 'slums full of high-rise buildings'.

Economist Dr Atiar Rahman urged the hundreds of participating youths to join environment movement to form a concerted effort against environment disaster.

Other speakers demanded of the government to take immediate steps to recover the parks, playgrounds and open fields from the illegal encroachers and ensure proper preservation of those.

Paribesh Andolan General Secretary Abu Naser Khan, Khairul Alam Sabuj, Mahabubur Rab Sadi and representatives of different organisations also addressed the rally.

The rally was followed by a procession.

Govt plans guidelines for reconditioned car business

UNB, Dhaka

The government has initiated comprehensive measures to ensure discipline in driving training centres and reconditioned car business.

Official sources said Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) in a recent meeting decided to formulate specific guidelines for the two sectors, as there are widespread allegations of gross indiscipline.

The BRTA board found that the government has no control over reconditioned car traders as they do not have specific addresses unlike local agents and dealers of new vehicles who have showrooms and service centres.

"As a result, quality and post-sale service by the reconditioned car sellers are not ensured," observed a BRTA board member, who is a pioneer in importing reconditioned vehicles.

He told the BRTA board meeting that chances are there by unscrupulous businessmen to be engaged in illegal business.

The BRTA board member also observed that many of the reconditioned car traders are bringing vehicles using false addresses and selling those in the market.

He suggested enlisting reconditioned car importers under the BRTA and fixing a separate fee for the used cars.

The BRTA meeting decided to formulate a guideline to ensure transparency and accountability in the business of reconditioned car traders.

It also decided to formulate a separate guideline to regulate the country's driving training institutes.

The decision came as another BRTA board member informed the meeting that a lot of motor driving centres are operating across the country in an unrestrained way.

The meeting also decided to restructure the motor driving school selection board.

Body to conduct Book Fair 2003

BSS, Dhaka

A 26-member committee has been formed to conduct the ninth Dhaka Book Fair-2003 in a wider scale and colourful manner.

The committee will organise inaugural function of the book fair, implement policies and ensure security.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is expected to inaugurate the fortnight long book fair on January 1 next at the west side of the National Parade Square at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar here.

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1. Tender should be submitted in sealed cover in Bank's approved schedule.
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3. The tender must be dropped on or before September 29, 2002 by 11:00 a.m. in sealed cover in the Tender Box kept at the General Services Division, Head Office, 6th floor and shall be opened at 11:30 a.m. on the same day in presence of Tenderers or their representatives, if any.

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