



Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed speaks at a convention styled 'Right to Information for a Democratic and Corruption-free Bangladesh' at Hotel Sheraton in the city yesterday. Sitting from right are MJF Chairperson Syed Manzur Elahi, Ain o Salish Kendra Executive Director Advocate Sultana Kamal, MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam and Research Institute of Bangladesh Chairman Dr Shamsul Bari. (Story on Page 1)

'Maintain adequate stock of staple grains'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday underscored the need to maintain an adequate stock of staple food grains to sustain the people during the national crisis such as cyclone and flood.

As a short-term measure, grains can be procured from both the local and foreign sources to maintain a national buffer stock, they said, adding that the government should provide policy support to raise local production as a long-term measure.

The two-day workshop titled

'Informed Policymaking Food Security: Research in Support of the National Food Policy' began at the Rural Development Engineering Centre (RDEC) conference room in the city yesterday.

Food Planning and Monitoring Unit (FPMU) of the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in association with the European Commission and USAID organised the workshop.

The government should adopt policies to help increase production

of principal grains in order to ensure food security as well as to reduce dependency on international sources," Mohammad Ayub Miah, secretary of food ministry, said at the launching ceremony of the workshop.

Such trainings and workshops will help develop the capacity of the policymakers to boost food security, he added.

Ambassador of the European Commission Stefan Prowein said the commission supports interventions covering the three dimensions of food security -- availability, access and

utilization with enabling policies.

"It is only by embedding policies in sound and clear analysis, based on relevant analysis, research that Bangladesh will be able to reinforce an enabling environment for sustainable food security in the country," he added.

The objectives of the workshop are to present and discuss the research projects, facilitate dialogue among the researchers and policymakers, share findings of a Benchmark Survey (BMS) on food security literature in Bangladesh and to discuss the findings of an evaluation study of research institutions in Bangladesh.

The National Food Policy Capacity Strengthening Programme of the FAO is a project to strengthen the government's capacity to effectively implement the National Food Policy (NFP) 2006.

Salman gets bail for two months

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday granted bail for two months to industrialist Salman F Rahman in a land grabbing case filed with Gazipur police station in May.

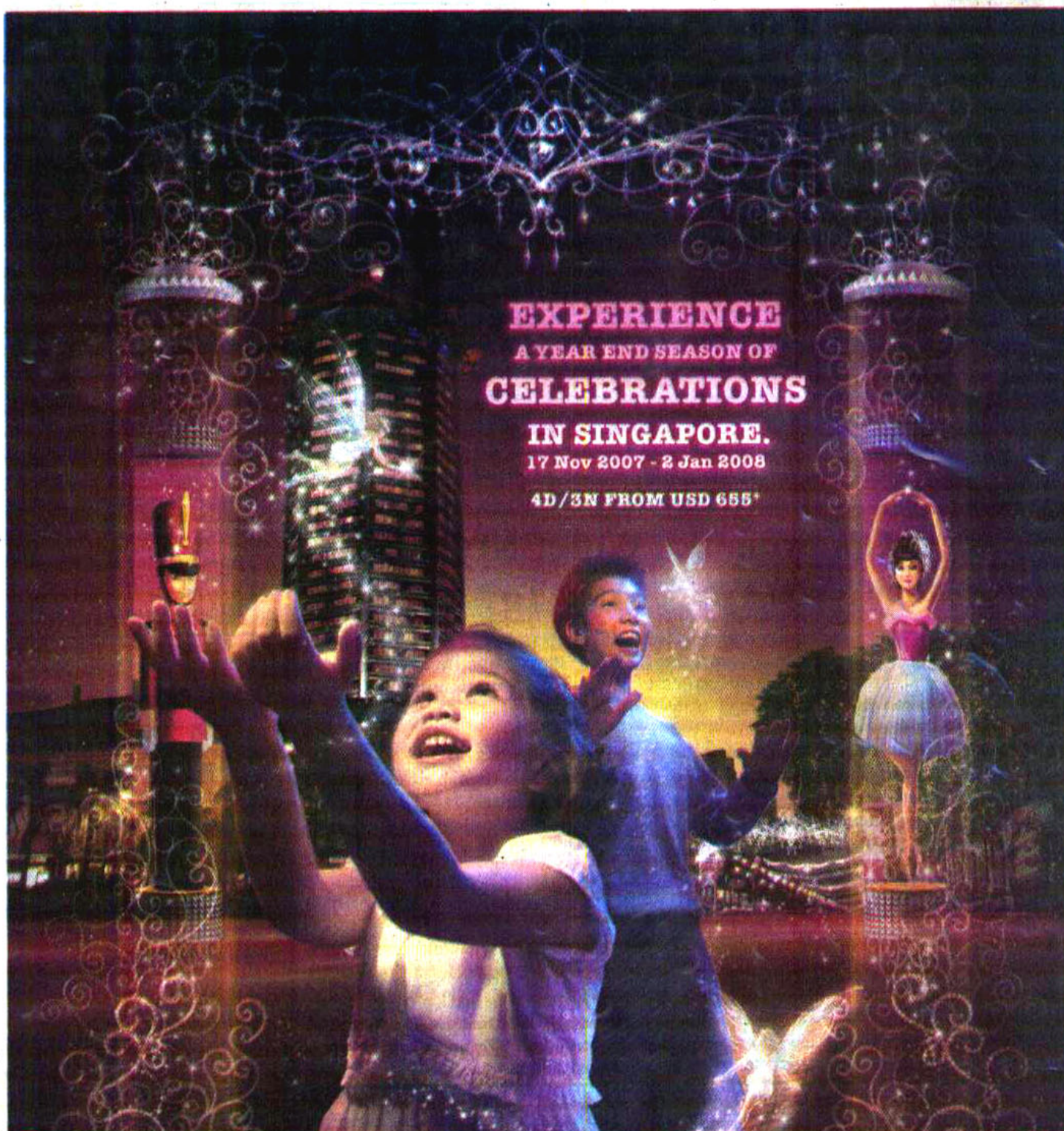
Responding to a petition, a division bench comprising Justice Syed M Dastagir Husain and MA Hafiz passed the interim order of bail to the detained business baron.

The court also stayed the proceedings of the case and issued rule upon the government to explain why the case "should not be quashed."

Barrister Rafique-ul Huq appeared for Salman, also an adviser to Awami League, who was arrested on February 4.



Leaders of Awami League offer munajat after placing wreaths at the mazar of Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy in the city yesterday on the occasion of his 44th death anniversary.



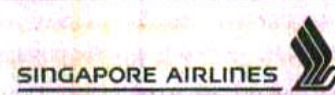
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