

## Hindus to build temple defying court orders

NEW DELHI, Dec 1: A leader of a major Hindu party said Tuesday thousands of supporters will ignore court orders and begin building a Hindu temple near a Muslim shrine, reports AP.

About 20,000 people have gathered in Ayodhya, 500 kilometres (310 miles) east of New Delhi, to start the construction on December 6, a date pronounced auspicious by Hindu saints.

Tuesday's developments heightened fears of fresh clashes between Hindus and Muslims over the disputed site. In 1990, 1,000 people were killed in riots across northern India.

The government has sent thousands of paramilitary and riot troops to prevent the construction on a plot in front of the mosque in Ayodhya, a Hindu pilgrim town in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh.

There are tens of thousands of people in Ayodhya and if any blood is shed, it will create a frightening situation in the country, Vinay Katyar, the Hindu leader, told reporters in Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh.

Katyar, a member of Parliament from the Ayodhya region, belongs to the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, which is sponsoring the temple construction plan.

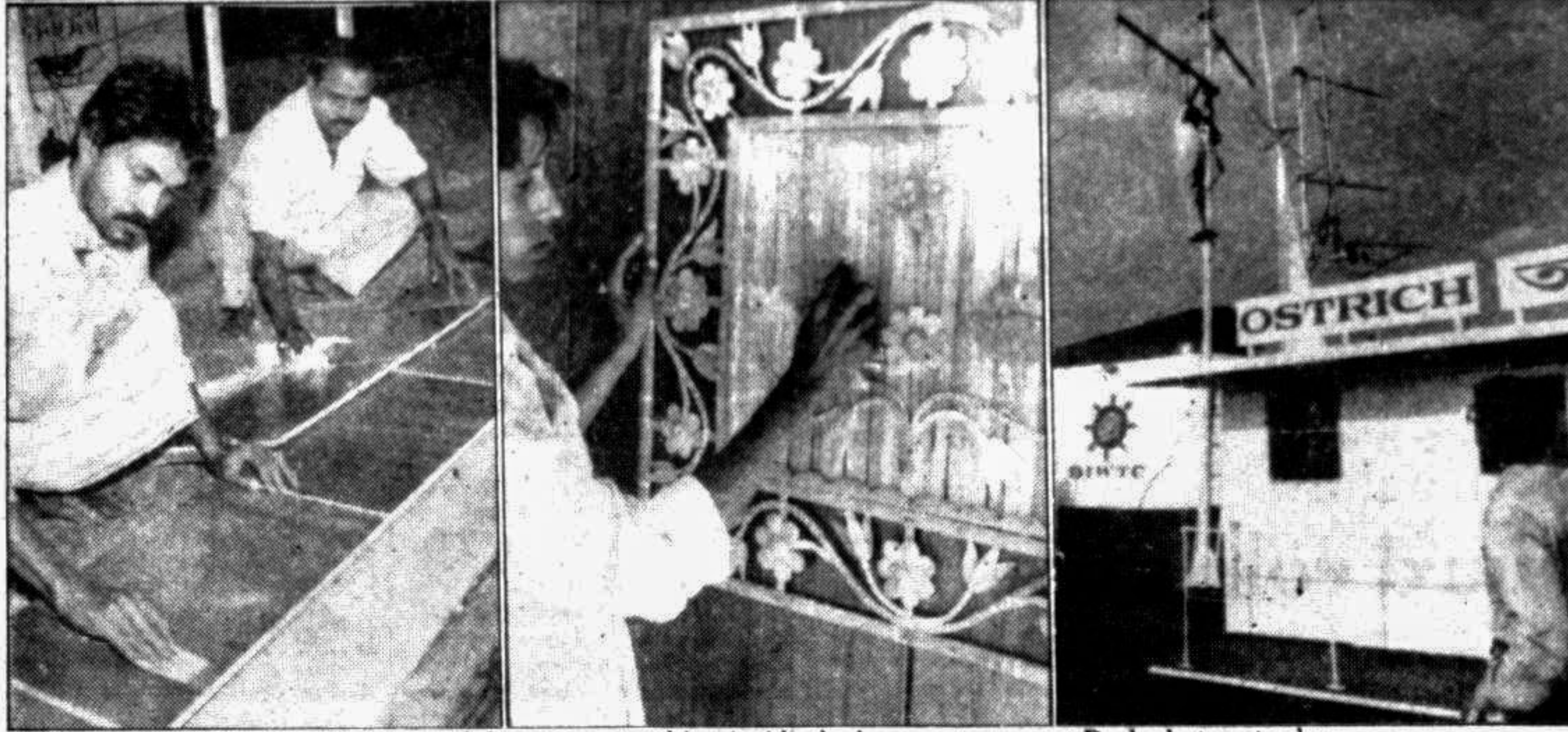
In New Delhi, the two top leaders of the Hindu party, L K Advani and Murali Manohar Joshi, boarded trains for Ayodhya, saying the dispute was a religious issue that cannot be determined by the courts.

Devotees believe the site is the birthplace of Rama, one of the most important Hindu gods, and say 16th-century Moghul invaders destroyed a Ram temple at that place and built the mosque. Experts are divided on the issue.

In July, volunteers built a platform in front of the Babri mosque, in the first stage of a project that calls for tearing down the mosque.

Construction was halted while representatives of the government, the Bharatiya Janata Party and Muslim parties held talks to resolve the issue.

The talks broke down, but the Supreme Court last week forbade the Hindu party from resuming work.



Outside view of the Ostrich (top) and decorators working inside the luxury steamer at Paglaghat yesterday. — Star Photo by Mohsin

## Ostrich getting ready to receive summiteers

By Assiuzzaman

Ostrich, the luxury paddle steamer, which took the SAARC heads of state and government to a river cruise during the South Asian body's launching is undergoing intensive renovation for taking the summiteers for rounds in the rivers this time too.

The engine of the 63-year old 235 feet long vessel was overhauled and modernised at the BIWTC dockyard in Narayanganj, official sources said adding that one-and-a-half-month renovation work would be completed by next Friday.

After completion of the work it will be floated in the river Buriganga and Prime

Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is likely to visit it at Pagla Ghat on Saturday.

Ostrich has a speed of 9 knots and can carry 900 passengers and 150 tons cargo.

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation has five other paddle steamers, two of which ply between Dhaka and Khulna.

The Ostrich has a meeting room, individual rest rooms for seven heads of state and government, a large dining room and also seating arrangement on the deck.

It will also have ISD telephone facilities, television and video cassette recorded entertainment.

Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) is doing the main interior decoration. Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation is carpeting the vessel. The Telephone and Telegram department has provided the telephone system. Hotel Sheraton would serve food for the guests on board the vessel. Some 40 people will be engaged to look after and entertain the SAARC guests.

Some 30 policemen are now guarding Ostrich but when the vessel will take the guests four Navy gunboats will escort it.

One BIWTC vessel with engineers and technicians will follow the boat for any emergency repair work during the cruise.

Ostrich will start the cruise with SAARC guests from Meghnaghat, near the Japan-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge, and sail towards the confluence of Meghna-Sitalakha-Dhaleswari rivers, seven miles downstream. The vessel will move further down the river in south-eastern direction and reach the confluence of the mighty Ganges and the Meghna near Mohanpur. It will then reverse its course. Master Officer Syed Mahub Alam will operate the steamer. The SAARC leaders will reach Meghnaghat in a helicopter.

## OIC FMs' confce

From Page 1 Col 4  
The meeting is expected to put more pressure on the UN to intervene militarily to stop the Serbia aggression. According to OIC sources, a number of Islamic countries have expressed the desire to provide men and money for a UN military force if the Security Council gives the go ahead.

Speaking after King Fahd, the President of Bosnia-Herzegovina Ali Izetbegovic said his people had 'duel-faced friends' and determined enemies which has produced only empty words in his people, while the enemies have got modern arms to undertake what he termed as 'ethnic cleansing' of former Yugoslavia.

He said two million people linked to the East by faith and to the West by education and civilization, was faced with a 'pre-planned' attempt to wipe them off from the face of Europe. Izetbegovic openly called for armed intervention by Muslim countries to help 'stop the genocide, either by peace or by war'.

In an emotion choked voice he appealed 'lift arms embargo to bring in limited quantity of defensive weapons. Either defend us, or equip us to defend ourselves.'

Sala Bressia, President of Albania, which is expected to be granted OIC membership during the session, termed the activities of the Belgrade government as 'mockery of our civilization' and said the argument of rising Muslim fundamentalism in Europe was a ploy to create suspicion between the Muslims and Christians.

He warned that a new Balkan war may be triggered unless the genocide against the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina was brought to an immediate halt.

Welcoming his countries prospective membership of OIC he said 'it was an historic event, re-establishing our traditional ties with the Muslim world.'

Speaking to the press after the inaugural session, David Owne, co-chairman of the UN-sponsored Geneva Conference on former Yugoslavia defended the UN actions and said the world body was doing whatever it could. He did not support

## Aman procurement drive begins

NATORE, Dec 1: The country wide Aman procurement drive began today with an objective to build buffer food stock in the country and to ensure fair price of produced crop to the farmers, reports BSS.

## JP: Press Club

From Page 1 Col 5  
Club employee Mashur Rahman Khokon is one of those who were harassed in the hand of JP workers, the statement said.

At one stage, the statement said, the JP leaders entered the Club Bhaban forcibly and took setze of the hall room and held a press conference there illegally.

At that time, the JP leaders ousted the leaders of Uttarabanga Chaul Kal Malik Samity who were holding their press conference at the same place as scheduled.

The JP leaders also misbehaved with the general members of the club when they raised objection against such behaviour, the statement said.

the idea of using force against the Serbians, but said, efforts should be made to diffuse the explosive situation rather than add fuel to it.

He, however, said he had seen instances of 'ethnic cleansing' and had condemned it. 'We have to introduce the process which will enable people to reclaim their land, their homes.'

In Sarajevo, Reuters says, heavy fighting overnight in Bosnia buried the latest truce as moderate Yugoslav premier Milan Panic prepared to stand for the Serbian presidency offering some hope of an end to the carnage.

Bosnian radio reported heavy fighting in a corridor in northern Bosnia disputed by Serbs and Croats, both of whom need it to link areas under their control.

Fighting was reported to be particularly intense at Gradaca, with both artillery and infantry attacks.

There were similar reports from other Croat and Muslim-held towns in northern Bosnia — Brecko, Maglaj, Bihac, Doboj and Tesanj — blocking the Serbs from forging an unbroken supply corridor from Serb-held areas in Croatia to Serbia itself.

Meanwhile, NATO plans to tighten the naval blockade of the rump Yugoslav state in the Adriatic by deploying warships in Albanian territorial waters for the first time, alliance sources told agency today.

The sources, who asked not to be identified, said a formal decision was expected later this week and that NATO officials were being sent to Tirana to make final arrangements.

'The idea is to make the UN embargo (against Serbia and Montenegro) water tight by closing off the few miles of Albanian territorial waters,' said one source.

A NATO spokesman declined all comment.

Some 35 ships have been stopped and searched in the Adriatic by naval forces of NATO and the Western European Union (WEU) defence grouping since inspection procedures against suspected sanctions busters were tightened earlier this month.

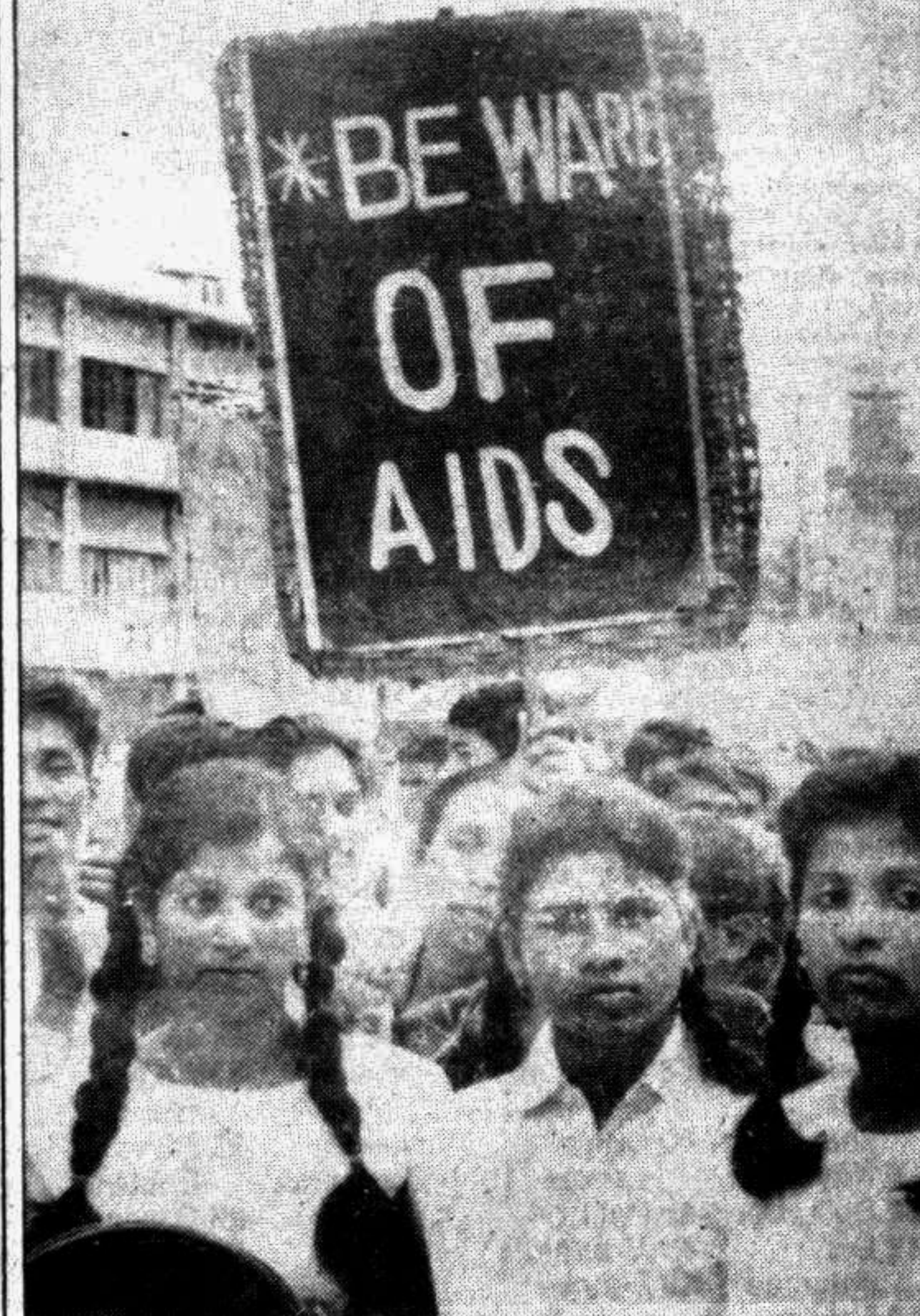
## Rohingyas

From Page 1 Col 8  
touch with Myanmar officials in this connection, the sources said.

The sources said a large number of refugees from 20 camps has expressed their willingness for immediate repatriation to Myanmar. The sources further said that a third transit camp will be opened soon at Tunbra of Naiknchari to facilitate repatriation of increasing number of Rohingya refugees. Raingakhali and Nayapara are the two existing transit camps.

The sources further said that Bangladesh officials are having increased contacts with their counterparts in Myanmar, for expediting the repatriation of the Rohingya refugees.

Bangladesh has so far handed over list of 171,275 refugees to Myanmar, of whom 36,347 have been given approval by the Myanmar authority. The sources expressed the hope that the list of unapproved refugees will soon get approval of the Myanmar authority.



Bangladesh AIDS Prevention Committee brought out a procession in the city yesterday in observance of World AIDS Day. — Star Photo

## RUCSU polls postponement

## Hasina blames govt

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday blamed the government for postponement of the RUCSU election, forcing the students of Rajshahi University to take the path of agitation, reports UNB.

She alleged that the election was postponed as the pro-government Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal failed to nominate its candidates for the VP post due to intra-party conflict.

This incident once again proved to the people that BNP is out to implement its policy of politicisation and forcible occupation of educational institutions,' Hasina said in a statement.

Hasina's allegation came when more than 100 girl students of Kuwait Motry Hall of Dhaka University along with

the Chhatra League leaders of the hall met her at 29 Minto Road in the afternoon.

She said BNP was trying to suppress the students movement for realisation of their just demands.

'Hasina also held BNP responsible for campus terrorism. This continued violence and terrorism backed by the government party threatened the future of the student community, she added.

Appreciating the role of girl students during anti-autocracy movement, the Awami League President said they will have to play a similar role in launching a movement against 'neo-autocracy' of BNP and for realisation of 10-point demand of the students.

## SAARC priorities

From Page 1 Col 4

Unless the anti-Indian lobby in the region or the anti-Indian-neighbour lobby within India can be contained through political measures... I'm afraid that SAARC will achieve nothing substantial, Prof Huq, Foreign Minister during the association's formative years, said speaking on the 'most important impediment to any cooperation' in the region.

A K H Murshed, a former Foreign Secretary and Chairman of the BIIS, suggested something like GSP or GSTP arrangements for less advanced countries like Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and the Maldives.

Dr Shaikh Maqsood Ali, former Member of the Planning Commission, pleaded for the 'recognition of the rights of the poor.'

'In Bangladesh, the poor provide 50 per cent of the GDP... We're not giving them even 20 per cent (of total resource allocation),' Ali, a member of the 15-member South Asian Independent Commission on Poverty Alleviation, said.

'Are we prepared to reduce defence expenditure?' Fakruddin Ahmed a former Foreign Secretary posed a question, to divert funds for poverty reduction.

High Commissioner K Raghunath of India remarked that political obstacles should not be overemphasised to forge effective cooperation.

High Commissioner Anwar Kemal of Pakistan suggested setting up of a peace research centre under the umbrella of SAARC to initiate long-term collaborative research and studies on ways to achieving peace, stability and mutual trust among member nations.

Invoking statements of President Ranasinghe Premadasa, High Commissioner Alfred K David of Sri Lanka somewhat vaguely advocated for the inclusion of bilateral and contentious issues in the summit deliberations. 'The vital question facing SAARC leaders in the nineties is whether they should not face and resolve bilateral issues within the framework of

## JU tense

From Page 1 Col 3

fourth day following the resignations of the hall officials. Provosts, house tutors, assistant house tutors and wardens of the seven dormitories of the university resigned following the 'indecorous behaviour' of a section of students with the Provost of Al-Beruni Hall Friday.

The Vice Chancellor Prof Kazi Saleh Ahmed, expressing concern over the prevailing situation, urged the hall officials to resume their duties.

The hall officials were however reluctant to commence work until their demands were met, official sources said.

Besides punishing those involved in Friday's 'untoward' incident, the hall officials have demanded recovery of arms and the ouster of outsiders from the halls.

General secretary of the JCD Aminul Islam Alam however told The Daily Star that there were no outsiders and no weapons on campus.

Pointing to the posting of police forces he said that normalcy was prevailing on campus and that there was no need for it. The disciplinary committee headed by the Vice Chancellor and comprised of the Deans of the faculties, Provosts of the halls, and Proctor will check the statement submitted yesterday by the two students allegedly involved and take action accordingly, sources said.

Sources inside the JCD however said that they would launch action programmes if punitive measures were taken against their leaders.

The Vice Chancellor has summoned an emergency Syndicate meeting today (Wednesday) to resolve the problem.

## 4 killed, 20 hurt

From Page 1 Col 7  
Dhaka in critical condition while the others were rushed to the hospitals at Kaliganj and Tongi.

Our DMCH Correspondent adds: Six victims in the accident were rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors on duty declared Jasmuddin and Nil Mohon Das dead.

Of the injured, four were admitted to DMCH. They were Shirin Akhter, 28, Johra Begum, 25, Sabuj Mia, 20 and Vulu Mia, 20 were admitted to the DMCH. Two other injured persons were also admitted to the Pongu (orthopaedic) Hospital in Dhaka.

## The Midnight File

### Indian troops open fire on UN observer in Kashmir

ISLAMABAD, Dec 1: Indian troops opened fire on a United Nations military observer investigating ceasefire violations in disputed Kashmir state, the official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) said today. The agency said Indian troops fired Monday with light machine guns at the UN observer who escaped unhurt. It did not identify the officer by name or nationality, reports APP.

### Heavy fighting in Angola

LUANDA, Dec 1: Fighting continued in northern Angola on Tuesday as government troops sought to regain control of military bases in two towns attacked by rebels over the weekend. Angolan state radio said government soldiers used long-range artillery against rebels holding Uige, a provincial capital 250 kilometres (150 miles) north of the capital Luanda, reports AP.

## BBC: Live broadcast

From Page 1 Col 4  
capital this week to provide live radio coverage in both Bangla and English languages.

The English-language programme will be aired on the South Asia report of the BBC World Service aired twice daily seven days a week, he added. New Delhi-based BBC correspondent Mark Tully will also be here to report on the summit.

BBC World Service, Crawley said, is planning a programme entitled 'South Asia Season' in February which will include a series of international phone-in programmes with South Asian heads of state and government.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, Indian Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao and Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala will take part in the programme, he added.

BBC will also organise a seminar in Dhaka on the impact of satellite television programmes in the South Asian region.

Crawley expressed his optimism of signing a contract on hiring an FM-band with Radio Bangladesh soon.

Pointing out that this medium was a 'valuable resource in broadcasting which is underused in Bangladesh,' he said that BBC was planning to broadcast 18 hours of English and Bangla language programme everyday including educational programmes in Bangla.

He said BBC had approached the government for telecasting the World Service TV programmes in Bangladesh but was turned down because

## BNP CEC meet

From Page 1 Col 7  
an yesterday Tuesday.

Under the programme, the BNP would hold a series of public rallies, arrange discussion meetings and sponsor a countryside drive to recruit new members, insiders said.

The scheduled CEC meeting on the other hand, is also likely to discuss various political issues including the strains that have already surfaced in the relationship between the Opposition and the government, the political unrest arising out of the Jahanara Imam led movement to try Jamaat chief Golam Azam as a war criminal and the Jamaat bid to resist it and the social impact of the anti-terrorism act enacted by Parliament two months ago.

## JP rallies

From Page 1 Col 7  
shells to disperse them.

JP acting chief Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, Parliamentary Party acting chief Moudud Ahmed, acting secretary general A B M Shahajahan, city unit chief Col (retd) M A Malek, former foreign minister Anisul Islam Mahmud, and other leaders including Tajul Islam MP, Monirul Huq Chowdhury MP, Fazle Rabbi MP, Major General (retd) Shamsul Huq, Sirajul Hossain Khan and Razia Foyez were present on the rostrum during the incident.

Most of the JP leaders took shelter inside the Press Club where they held an unscheduled press conference.

A number of female supporters were injured and their sharees torn when they tried to cross the barbed wire fence over the club boundary railings.

Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury told newsmen at the Club conference room that 'the government ordered police to break up the rally' in gross violation of democratic norms.

'We desperately tried to get permission from the authorities but were refused,' Chowdhury said, adding that 'the premises in front of the Press Club was free for all until this morning but we were obstructed from using microphones.'

Moudud Ahmed quoting a discussion he had with the Home Minister over phone said that the minister had told him that the government banned all sorts of rallies at the major streets.

The Home Minister was quoted as saying that the meeting would also be barred from the Bangabandhu Avenue and the Press Club where the North Bengal Rice Mills Owners Association had held a rally in the morning.

'We will rethink about our proposed rally on December 6 at the Gulistan crossing,' the minister also said referring to the BNP's planned rally.