


Come to-CHITTAGONG Come to
BANGKOK THAI RESTAURANT
 The only place for ORIGINAL THAI FOOD & SEAFOOD
 in CHITTAGONG (NO BRANCH). Please try us and you
 will love BANGKOK THAI RESTAURANT more than
 ever before.
 1443 ASIAN HIGHWAY, OPPOSITE Y.M.C.A. NASIRABAD,
 CHITTAGONG. TEL: 226603. Fax: (880) (31) 223238

Inside Today

Article

Let's Keep the Options Open
Page 4

International



OIC to seek western military intervention in Bosnia
Page 5

Business

Year-end review brings no hope for stock market investors
Page 7


Feature

Development

How famine is caused and tackled
Page 8

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



A Painter with a Perceptive Insight
Page 3

'Discussion on Babri Mosque in JS to delay normalisation of situation'

Bhatia blames absence of 'peace in region' for Summit postponement



Bhatia at Zia airport yesterday. — PID photo

Indian State Minister for External Affairs R.L. Bhatia has said the SAARC summit should be called at the convenience of all as soon as the 'dust was over and peace returned in the region', reports BSS.

Bhatia was speaking to a group of newsmen upon his arrival at the Zia International Airport yesterday as the special envoy of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao to discuss issues related to the SAARC summit.

Bhatia said the situation in the region after the 'Ayodhya incident' had not fully subsided and serious discussions about the SAARC were perhaps not possible at this stage.

The member states are committed to the development of the SAARC and the atmosphere now is not right to hold the summit and deliberate on serious issues, he said.

Responding to a question on discussions on the 'Babri

Mosque' issue in Bangladesh Parliament, the Indian Minister said his country was capable of tackling any situation and discussions and activities on the issue outside India would only delay the process of normalisation of the situation in India.

He told newsmen that he would like to explain the situation under which the Indian government sought the postponement of the seventh SAARC summit that was scheduled to begin here on January 13.

He said he would also discuss the probable next dates for the summit which has been postponed twice.

The Indian minister was received at the airport by Foreign Minister A.S.M. Mostafizur Rahman.

Bhatia would call on Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and hand over a message from the

Indian Prime Minister.

Asked whether the postponement of the SAARC last month and again this month would cast any shadow on the future of the organisation, he replied, "I do not think so."

Asked whether threats by religious groups in Bangladesh against the arrival of the Indian Prime Minister contributed to the Indian decision for seeking the postponement, the special envoy answered in the negative.

"We have been assured by the Bangladesh government that all the security measures were there," Bhatia said.

Asked about the new dates of the postponed summit, he said the issue would be discussed with the Bangladesh side.

"Dhaka is the birthplace of the SAARC and we are keen to see that SAARC moves forward from here," Bhatia said.

See Page 12 Col 2

40 more killed in Bombay despite army action

BOMBAY, Jan 10: Toll in the renewed wave, of Ayodhya-related violence here and in Ahmedabad rose to 186 today as unabated riots claimed 43 more lives despite army and police patrolling and shoot at sight orders, reports PTI.

Bombay bore the brunt of the violence with 40 deaths taking the total toll in the city to 141. Three people were killed in the Gomatipur area of Ahmedabad when police fired on a rampaging mob while other areas of Gujarat's capital remained tense but under control.

Looters went on a rampage in Bombay pillaging shops and burning the loot on the roads. Shanties and vehicles in several areas were also set alight as the orgy of violence spread to more localities with police and army patrols continuing to be the targets of firearms, acid

and petrol bombs.

AP adds: More than 1,200 people were killed nationwide in week-long clashes after the 16th century mosque was razed in the northern town of Ayodhya. Police were at a loss to say why violence flared in the past five days after three weeks of relative calm.

At least 116 people have died in Bombay where violence spread Sunday to 18 posh neighbourhoods and arson and rioting intensified in the nine areas where a curfew was already in force, said Police Chief Shrikant Bapat.

Mobs ransacked goods from shops, heaped them on the streets and set them on fire before police arrived. In Tardeo district, three huge bonfires that included a pickup truck raged right in front of a police station.

See Page 12 Col 7



Greens go down to Koreans

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Greens, the juniors of the two national selections, lost to Houshing Bank of South Korea by a solitary goal in the seventh President Gold Cup football tournament at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Choi Tae-Ho scored the decisive goal in the 41st minute.

FC Ploesti of Romania and FC Tatran Presov of Czechoslovakia shared points in a one-all draw in the other match of the day.

Simon put the Romanian side ahead in the 53rd minute while Vidumsky restored parity for the Czech club in the 71st minute from a penalty.

Detailed reports on Page 10.

Delhi says interference in internal affairs prompted Rao's 'No'

Star Report

In a subtle reversal of earlier statements, India is now insisting that Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's decision not to attend the seventh SAARC Summit and its subsequent postponement for the second time in a month were prompted by a "vitiated regional atmosphere" due to "public demonstrations and acts amounting to interference in the internal affairs of India."

An Indian External Affairs Ministry statement released Saturday sharply contradicted the previous statements on the situation that led to the postponement of the annual summit twice.

The statement officially announcing that Prime Minister Narasimha Rao "will not be able to attend" the summit, said, "It is felt that the political directions, which are needed at this stage to provide greater substance and content to the functioning of regional cooperation in South Asia, could not be achieved under the present circumstances."

However, New Delhi had cited widespread "communal disturbances" in the country to cancel Rao's trip when the Indian officials communicated to their Bangladesh counterparts the Cabinet political committee's late Friday night decision that the Prime Minister would not be able to attend the SAARC summit rescheduled for January 13-14.

Accordingly, the Bangladesh

Joshi, Advani released

MATA TILA (UP), Jan 10: Six top leaders of BJP, VIIP and Bajrang Dal including the party chief, Dr M.M. Joshi and L.K. Advani were ordered to be released unconditionally by the chief judicial magistrate R.R. Yadav here today, reports PTI.

Yadav pronounced the operative part of the six-page judgement at 1630 hours.

The court, whose proceedings started at 1500 hrs and continued till 1555 hrs, had earlier adjourned hearing the arguments till 1430 hrs due to delay in reaching of some prosecution counsels and officials.

All the six arrested leaders were present at the court during the proceedings which were held at the lawns outside the irrigation guest house under a Shamiana.

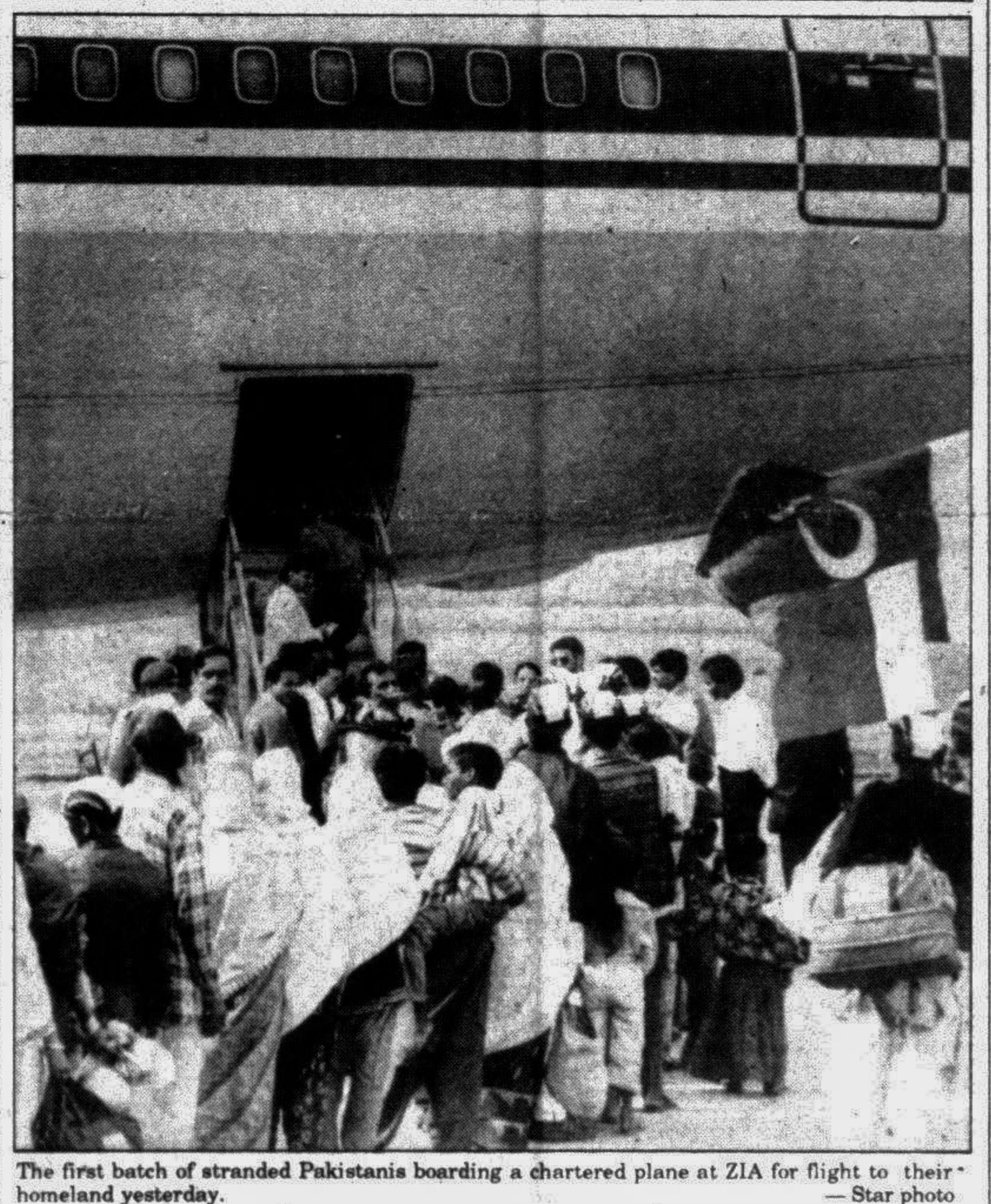
The prosecution counsel, who presented the case diary to the court, made no formal appeal for further extension of the judicial remand.

They told the court that the investigation had been completed and the evidences given by 45 witnesses had been recorded.

The prosecution counsel said sufficient evidence had been gathered against the accused and the prosecution would be filing chargesheet against the leaders as soon as possible but within the stipulated time period.

The counsel said they will also proceed for trial of the accused.

The counsel said the court should ensure that the accused persons were available for investigations and for appearing before the court as and when required.



The first batch of stranded Pakistanis boarding a chartered plane at ZIA for flight to their homeland yesterday. — Star photo

Law and order situation caused postponement of summit: Hasina

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina Sunday slated the government for what she said its failure in holding the seventh summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

"How can a government run the country which cannot hold an international conference," Hasina asked several thousand supporters at a rally at the Bangabandhu Avenue organised to commemorate the "home coming day" of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman after the Liberation War in 1971.

She said that the summit

325 stranded Pakistanis flown home

By Staff Correspondent

Leaving the country they refused to accept as their homeland for 21 years, the first batch of 324 stranded Pakistanis returned home Sunday.

A wide-bodied chartered Pakistan International Airlines aircraft airlifted the refugees from the Zia International Airport (ZIA) in Dhaka at about 11:45 a.m. for Lahore, Pakistan.

Chief Minister of Punjab Golan Hyder Wane is expected to receive the returnees at Lahore airport.

Foreign Minister A.S.M. See Page 12 Col 7

JCD demands review of expulsions

Gunshots, blasts rock JU campus

By JU Correspondent

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists of the Jahangirnagar University yesterday ransacked office rooms of several teachers protesting 'reluctance' of the Syndicate to review punishment to two of its leaders for insulting a teacher.

Tension ran high as some 50 rounds of gunshots were fired and several crackers were exploded, allegedly by the JCD activists during the incident.

The agitated students stopped all scheduled examinations including Honours examinations and normal classes.

They also blocked the university transport and locked its office, witnesses said.

The Syndicate, highest body of the university, met Saturday at a special session and dropped the agenda for re-considering the punitive measures on two JCD activists for their misdemeanour with a teacher on November 27, 1992.

See Page 12 Col 1

Menon calls on PM

Workers Party leader Rashed Khan Menon, MP, yesterday made a courtesy call on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office, reports UNB.

Menon, who returned home Saturday after more than four months of treatment of his grievous bullet wounds in London and Bangkok, expressed gratitude for the Prime Minister's personal concern about his health and government support for his medicare.

The left-wing political leader survived assassins' bullets fired at him near his party office August 17 evening last year.

During the meeting, Begum Zia enquired about the present condition of Menon's health.

Workers Party leader Haider Akbar Khan Isono was also present during the meeting.

Menon later went to see the doctors for routine checkup at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) where he was treated before being flown to London.

Russia to buy 75,000 tonnes of jute

By Nazmul Ashraf

A Russian trade delegation is scheduled to arrive in Dhaka January 18 to negotiate purchase of 75,000 metric tons of jute and jute goods from Bangladesh, a top official in the Ministry of Jute said yesterday.

This quantity covers almost 50 per cent of Russia's annual requirement of jute and jute goods.

The six-member delegation to be headed by V. Shivayev, the Deputy Minister for See Page 12 Col 6

Sick industries owners' memo to PM

Owners of sick industries held a rally, brought out a procession in the city and later submitted memorandum to the Prime Minister demanding removal of the constraints which bled their units white, reports UNB.

The Prime Minister has assured of discussing with them within 15 days for resolving the problems, said a statement issued to the press by Secretary General of Bangladesh Sick Industries Association Sarkar Abdus Sattar.

Baghdad denies backing down but offers 'peace' talks

BAGHDAD, Jan 10: Iraq said today it had not backed down in its crisis with the West over missile deployments, reports Reuters.

An official statement given to foreign journalists said the United States was "depicting the situation in an incorrect way... as if Iraq gave in to threats from (President George) Bush's administration."

US officials said on Saturday that Baghdad had heeded an ultimatum to move anti-aircraft missiles from positions in the south where they were considered a threat to US warplanes patrolling a no-fly zone decreed by the West.

The Iraqi statement followed a joint meeting of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council and the leadership of the Baath Party. The meeting was chaired by President Saddam Hussein.

"The reality is that our planes and our anti-aircraft weapons at the moment are in the same security position, to secure the requirements of confronting any hostile attempt," the statement said.

"The situation does not imply any retreat from our position," it said.

"If the purpose of the American statements, which describe the situation as a retreat from the Iraqi side, was

missiles from the southern no-fly zone but offered to hold talks on "peace."

"American statements that Iraq gave in to the (allied) threats are wrong," said a spokesman quoted on Radio Baghdad.

"We did not reverse our position" over the missiles, he said, describing their deployment as "Iraq's legitimate right."

But he said that "Iraq is ready for a dialogue to make peace free of any threat," in a change of tone from the belittling messages coming out of Baghdad for the past week.

The United States, Britain, France and Russia had given Iraq an ultimatum to move its anti-aircraft missiles stationed below the 32nd parallel by late Friday or face possible military strikes.

The White House warned Baghdad Saturday that though Iraq removed surface-to-air missiles from the no-fly zone

in its south, Washington and its allies would act to end any future threat without warning.

"Once again (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein has backed down in the face of coalition solidarity," said White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater. "No further warning will be issued if Iraq violates the requirements of the January 6, 1993 demarche."

On the date, the United States, Britain, France and Russia gave Iraq 48 hours to move its anti-aircraft missiles stationed below the 32nd parallel.

One Bangladeshi executed in UAE

ABU DHABI, Jan 10: A Bangladeshi man was executed in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) today for murdering a local woman, the Interior Ministry announced, reports AFP.

Mohammed Shah Rahim Baksh killed the woman last year. The sentence was upheld by the Federal Supreme Court and ratified by President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahayan, said the statement carried by official WAM news agency.

It did not say how the execution was carried out but the UAE has used firing squads in the past. The agency gave no details of the murder.