

Inside Today

Article

Democracy versus
Economic Reforms:
Lessons from the
Russian Electorate

Page 4

International

JKLF stages demon-
stration against Indo-
Pak talks



Cuban President Fidel
Castro's granddaughter
Alina Maria joins her
mother in US

Page 5

Business

NAFTA goes into effect

Europe launches
world's biggest
trade zone
Pages 6, 7

Living

Can the Single Mother
Make it? Allergies and
How to Cope with
Them; Cards for a
Noble Cause; Audrey
Hepburn's Final Per-
formance on Star
Plus: Conkers

Page 8

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



An Actress in Her
Own Right
Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

DU reopens today

Classes of the Dhaka
University will resume today
after 8 days of winter vacation.
The classes of DU remained
closed from December 25 on
account of Christmas day,
winter vacation and new year's
day, reports UNB.

Silwal takes office

KATHMANDU, Jan 1: A dis-
tinguished senior Nepalese
diplomat Yadav Kanta Silwal
took office as Secretary General
of the South Asian
Association for Regional Coop-
eration (SAARC) from today.
Silwal replaced Ibrahim
Hussain Zaki of the Maldives as
the fourth Secretary General of
the South Asian Association for
Regional Cooperation, reports
Xinhua.

Irish minister due
in city Jan 10

Irish Minister for Defence and
Marine David Andrews is
expected to pay a four day visit to
Bangladesh, beginning
January 10. Diplomatic sources
said yesterday during his stay
here, Andrews would meet
Foreign Minister ASM
Mostafizur Rahman and other
government leaders to discuss
matters of common interest, reports
UNB.

Ex-chairmen of Zila
Parishads meet today

A meeting of former chairmen of Zila Parishads will be held today at the National Book Centre auditorium at 2 pm. Former prime minister Mianur Rahman Chowdhury will attend the meeting as chief guest while former vice-president Barrister Maudud Ahmed as special guest, reports UNB.

Kashmir talks resume in Islamabad today

ISLAMABAD, Jan 1: Indian
Foreign Secretary Jyotiindra
Nath Dixit arrived here late
tonight for talks on the Kashmir
dispute, hoping to bridge dif-
ferences between the two rival
neighbours, reports AFP.

The two countries have dif-
ferent perceptions. From these,
we proceed to explore each
other's attitude," Dixit said in a
cautious statement at the
Islamabad airport.

He said his delegation would
try to reduce the distance be-
tween the perceptions on the
basis of reason.

Recognising Kashmir as a
dispute, he said, "Somebody
who says it is not is not seeing
things objectively."

Pakistan expressed pes-
simism on the eve of the talks,
but the Indian diplomat refused
to comment on 'unilateral
statement' of the Pakistani for-

ign office.

About the outcome of his
mission, he said he was neither
optimistic nor pessimistic.

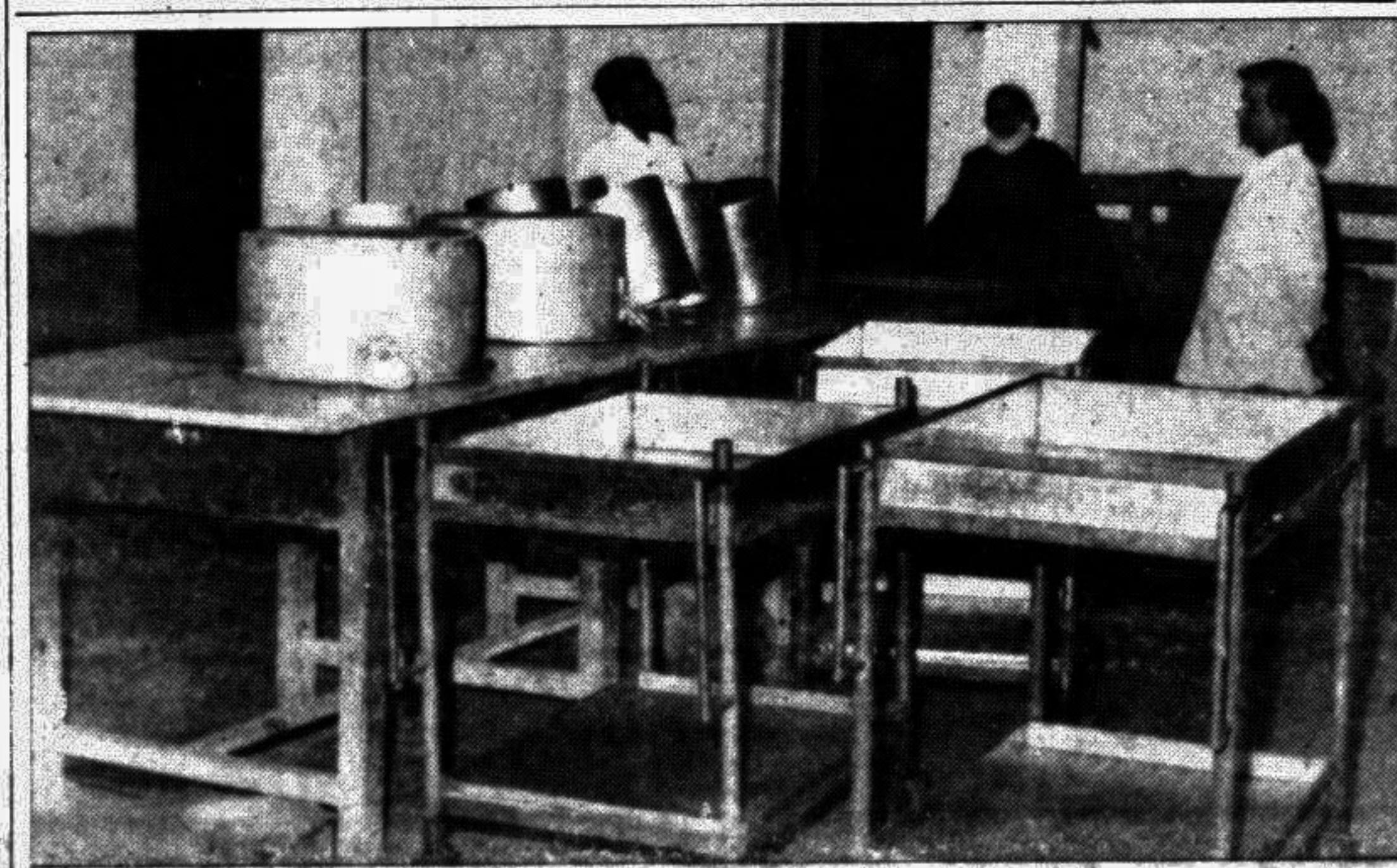
An earlier PTI report from
Islamabad said: Pakistan has
hardened its stand, setting cer-
tain preconditions, to keep alive
the dialogue with India as the
crucial Foreign Secretary-level
talks between the two countries
on Kashmir and other outstand-
ing issues begin here Sunday
amidst cautious optimism.

See also page 5

The seventh round of talks,
resuming after a 16-month in-
terval, is significant from
Islamabad's point of view as
this is the first time that
Kashmir has been included as a
separate agenda item.

Dixit, who is expected to
leave Islamabad on January 3,
would call on the President
Farooq Ahmed Khan Leghari

See Page 12 Col 8



EMPTY KITCHEN: Caterers of the Mitford hospital yesterday went on strike demanding payment of arrear bills. As a consequence, no food was supplied to the patients. — Star photo

Prokrichi defers its programme till April

By Staff Correspondent

Some 70 thousand profes-
sionals of the country have de-
cided to take a respite, deferring
their agitation until April 7,
highly placed sources said Sat-
urday.

However an official an-
nouncement deferring the em-
masse resignation programme
would be made at a press con-
ference tomorrow, they said.

The programme for a re-
newed agitation in April would
be declared at a grand confer-
ence of the professionals on April 8, the leaders said.

The 24-day agitation of the
professionals, led by the
Prokrichi-BCS Central Action
Council, was stalled in view of
the government's latest decision
Wednesday night to transform
50 per cent posts of the Na-
tional Pay Scale-9 to Scale-7 as
selection grade and upgrade the
posts of nine cadres at the dis-
trict level and its equivalent to

See Page 12 Col 6

Yunus invited to serve on UN body

By Staff Correspondent

The Managing Director of
the Grameen Bank, Professor
Mohammad Yunus has been in-
vited by the United Nations
Secretary General Boutros
Boutros-Ghali to serve as a
member of an UN Advisory
Group.

The International Advisory
Group of eminent persons is
being formed by the UN Secre-
tary General as part of the
preparatory process of the
Fourth World Conference on
Women scheduled to be held
in Beijing, China from
September 4 to 15, 1995.

In his letter to the Man-
aging Director of the Grameen
Bank, Boutros Ghali said, "I am
pleased to invite you to serve as
a member of the UN Advisory
Group and would greatly value
your participation in this

See Page 12 Col 4

Govt orders curb on excess spending

By S Y Bakht

Alarmed at the cost esca-
lation exceeding the budgetary al-
locations in a number of areas,
the government has asked all
departments to initiate imme-
diate short and long-term non-
development cost reduction and
austerity measures.

In a letter, addressed to all
secretaries heading different
ministries, the Finance Secre-
tary Nasiuddin Ahmed on De-
cember 5 expressed concern at
the continuously bulging re-
venue expenditure account.

Referring to a government
circular on reducing revenue
expenditure, issued last Octo-
ber, he said, there should be
"significant reduction of mis-
cellaneous expenses and other
costs and also outlined a num-
ber of decisions in this regard."

"In some cases, specially the
expenses of entertaining foreign
guests are far exceeding the

See Page 12 Col 1

3 students get 12 yrs' RI in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Jan 1: The
Anti-Terrorism Tribunal and
Second Additional Judge here
Sayed Enayetullah today sen-
tenced three students to 12
years Rigorous Imprisonment
and fined Taka 3,000 each in
default to suffer more nine
years' RI on charges of vio-
lence, assault and indiscipline
in the examination hall, re-
ports BSS.

The prosecution story, in
brief, is that a group of angry
students in protest against the
expulsion of 22 students of the
Anwara College ransacked the

See Page 12 Col 7

EC warns against premature start to campaigning

Candidates who have al-
ready started campaigning for
the four city corporation elec-
tions will be deemed guilty of
'corrupt conduct,' says the
Electoral Commission, reports
UNB.

Such offence, under Rule
57 of the City Corporation
Rules, entails two years' im-
prisonment at the minimum
and seven years' at the maxi-
mum.

Moreover, a court may de-
clare the election of a candi-
date committing such an of-
fence null and void, the EC
says.

**Siraj Sikder's
anniversary of
death today**

By Staff Correspondent

Different socio-political or-
ganisations will observe the
nineteenth anniversary of the
death of Siraj Sikder today.

Siraj Sikder, founder chair-
man of the underground
Sarbaraha Party, was killed on
January 2, 1975, while under
police custody.

Meanwhile, Shamim Sik-
der, a sister of the late Siraj
Sikder, is to be honoured.

See Page 12 Col 7

T&T bonds highly over-subscribed

By Inam Ahmed

The T&T bonds put on sale
by the Bangladesh Bank have
been over-subscribed in a
sweeping rush by the com-
mercial banks, according to
central bank sources.

Eight banks have already
submitted applications for
purchasing the bonds and
Bangladesh Bank will shortly
issue the bonds to the applic-
ants.

The Bangladesh Telephone
and Telegraph Board (BTTB)
had floated bonds worth Taka
275 crore from December 29.
The money acquired through
the sale of the bonds will be
used for installing 1.30 lakh
new telephones next year.

The eagerness of the
commercial banks is under-
standable because of the
liquidity position of the banks,
a high Bangladesh Bank official
said. They are all over stocked
with cash which they have to
invest. On the other hand, govern-
ment securities have gone down."

The T&T bonds will bear
five per cent interest for the
buyers. According to sources,
the banks have diverted their
requirement for liquid assets
to the bonds because of short-
age in securities.

For a long time, the banks
were being compelled to
maintain their requirement
with the Bangladesh Bank in
cash for which they do not get
any interest. If they maintain
this deposit in securities, they
get four per cent interest.

See Page 12 Col 8

WAUKESHA DRESSER 1000 RPM GAS ENGINE GENERATOR HAS PROVEN TO BE YOUR TRUSTED PARTNER IN POWER GENERATION



There's less Stress on the Engine,
so there are fewer service calls
and less maintenance

LOWER RPM ENSURES BETTER RELIABILITY

The brute power of a 1000 RPM **Waukesha** natural gas engine ensures efficient and reliable operation day after day, month after month and year after year.

Dana Engineers International Limited has the proven application experience to offer you the best Waukesha Engine value for your installation. They have the most gas engine generating sets running with most diverse installations in Bangladesh.

Waukesha (DRESSER) ENGINE POWER WORLDWIDE
SINCE 1906



DISTRIBUTOR IN BANGLADESH
Dana Engineers International Limited

56 Dilkusha C/A, GPO Box 914, Dhaka-1000
Phones: 248280, 235026, 285620. Telex: 642952 DANA BJ