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NEWS BRIEFS

ADB team to visit CEPZ July 19

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, July 14: A high powered team of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) is expected to visit the Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ) on July 19, official sources said.
The 7 member team will explore the possibilities of further expansion and development of the CEPZ.

Move to revise banks' classification of loans

By Inam Ahmed

The government is planning to upgrade loan classification system of the banks to bring it at par with international standard, according to authoritative sources.

Experts believe the financial health of the commercial banks may give a radically different look if the planned move becomes a reality.

The system, if introduced, might show the amount of 'bad debts' of the banks to be much higher than estimated at present while their 'profit figure' might look inflated, the sources said.

"These implications are keeping the government from going for any immediate actions in this regard though the

policy makers are fully 'in favour of it'."

But the current 'dismal asset situation' of most of the commercial banks, specially the nationalised commercial banks (NCBs) and the possible tremendous impact of such a move have put the government in a dilemma, according to the sources.

"The Finance Ministry is fully convinced of the need for standardising our loan classification," said a ministry source. "But the possible implications of such measures are far-reaching, both good and bad."

"The banks are already grappling with the existing problem of non-performing loan loss provision," said K A

Mazid, Managing Director of National Bank Ltd (NBL), when contacted. "Further stringent loan classification rules will make it difficult for banks to comply with those and may have adverse effect on our banking system as a whole."

"The commercial banks had embarked on a massive exercise to identify their non-performing loans since the government had initiated its current loan classification system under the BCD Circular 34 in 1990."

But policy makers now feel that the classification criteria are too outdated and need to be upgraded to keep Bangladesh's banking system at par

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Agreed minutes signed

Pakistan promises to reduce trade gap

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh and Pakistan yesterday agreed to expand economic cooperation, particularly in an effort to reduce the existing bilateral trade gap favouring Islamabad.

This was stated by V A Jafarey, Adviser to the Pakistan Prime Minister on Finance and Economic Affairs, while addressing a joint press conference with Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam at the end of the Joint Economic Commission meeting yesterday. The two led their respective sides at the fifth meetings of the Commission that began in the capital on Tuesday.

Earlier, the two sides initialled an agreed minute on trade, economic and technical cooperation between the two countries. Islam and Jafarey signed the agreed minute.

The Commerce Minister noted that efforts would continue to bring the existing trade gap between the two na-

tions to a minimum level. "A new vista of economic relation between the two countries will open up after this meeting," the minister maintained.

Describing the existing bilateral economic ties between Dhaka and Islamabad "excellent", Jafarey, however, said there is no doubt that the economic exchanges between the two countries have remained far below the potential.

He hoped that economic ties between the two nations would be further deepened with the expansion of cooperation in new areas. "We are not happy at the growth of trade between the two countries diversification is needed to increase bilateral trade."

Bangladesh had an unfavourable trade balance of about 65 million US dollars in 1992-93 with Pakistan and the gap showed a widening trend in recent years.

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Saifur urges ADB to be firm on its aid pledges

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday blasted 'unrealistic and irrelevant' conditionalities of the donors and urged the Asian Development Bank to be firm on its aid pledges, reports UNB.

"Putting up unrealistic and irrelevant conditionalities after committing funds for a particular project not only unnecessarily wastes time, money and energy on part of the recipient country but also contributes a lot in creating misunderstanding and confusion between the recipient country and the bank," he said talking to a visiting high-power ADB mission which called on him at his office.

Executive Director of the Bank Peter Mecquley is leading the seven-member delegation.

During the discussion, the Finance Minister urged more ADB assistance in education, rural electrification and rural infrastructural development sectors of Bangladesh.

Saifur Rahman was also critical of consultancy and

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Degree exams '93 results

By Staff Correspondent

The results of Degree (pass and subsidiary) and certificate course examinations of 1993 held under the National University were published yesterday.

The percentage of pass in the Bachelor of Arts (BA) examinations is 45.34, Bachelor of Science (B.Sc) exams 56.20, Bachelor of Commerce (B.Com) exams 49.60, Bachelor of Social Science (BSS) exams 45.59, Bachelor of Music 73.61, Degree subsidiary exams 66.86 and the Certificate Course exams 51.

This is for the first time the Degree (pass and subsidiary) and certificate course examinations were held under the newly established National University. Earlier, these exams were held by the universities of Dhaka, Chittagong and Rajshahi.

Established in late 1992, the National University conducted the Degree exams in accordance with separate syllabuses designed by the Dhaka, Chittagong and Rajshahi universities and the results were published in three separate

lists — one for Dhaka and Barisal divisions, one for Chittagong division and another for Rajshahi and Khulna divisions.

A total of 1,27,865 candidates from 582 degree colleges appeared in the examinations held during December '93-February '94.

Of 41,600 successful candidates in the BA exams, 61 passed in the first division, 15, 225 in the second division and 26,284 in the third division.

In the B.Sc exams, 146 secured first division, 2367 second division and 1185 third division. Thirteen students got the first division, 2,619 the second division and 5,328 the third division in the B.Com exams. Of the successful candidates in the B.S.S exams, only one obtained first division while 1175 second division and 2181 third division.

Twenty eight out of 38 students passed the B. Mus. exam. None of them got first division while 21 got second division and 7 third division.

In the Degree subsidiary exams, 3,517 out of 5,260 can-

didates came out successful and 431 out of 843 students passed the Certificate Course exams.

Merit list

Mohammad Fateh Khan of Tejgaon College, Dhaka topped the combined merit list of this year's B A (pass) examinations securing 651 marks.

He was followed by Shahnaz Akhter and Lutfun Nahar of Badrunnessa Government Women's College, Dhaka who scored 647 marks each. The third position went to Mohammad Zafar Alam of Chittagong College. He obtained 646 marks.

Mohammad Abu Sayeed Sobel of Government Haraqanga College, Munshiganj secured the first position in the combined merit list of the B Sc (pass) exams with 630 marks.

Mohammad Zillur Rahim and Mohammad Maksudur Rahman of the Khalilur Rahman Degree College got joint second position with 616 marks each. Mirazuddin Ahmed of the Malika Science

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Makings of a dream final

UNDATED, July 14: Brazil hope it's a repeat of 1970, when they crashed Italy 4-1 in the World Cup final. Italy want it to be another 1982, when a 3-2 victory over the Brazilians late in the competition was a major step toward their third cup title, reports AP.

Soccer fans just want a classic game.

A repeat of the poor-quality

lem with that is that if their opponents do, too, the game can be a little dull.

At least Brazil are unlikely to do that.

They will provide their top-quality strikers, Romario, and Bebeto, with enough possession to pull the Italian defenders apart.

Romario, with five goals, and Bebeto, with three, have

already shown they can give defenders nightmares.

With Rai, Zinho, Dunga and Mazinho prompting from behind, Brazil will provide enough ammunition for their strikers to shoot at an Italian defense that won't be anywhere near full strength.

Mauricio Tassotti has been banned for eight games and

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final between Germany and Argentina four years ago would be a major letdown for the first World Cup in the United States, where soccer is trying to emerge as a high-profile sport to match basketball, baseball, football and ice hockey.

The ingredients for an entertaining final are all there. Brazil have an almost infectious enthusiasm for skillful soccer and style comes before method. Outrageous shots on goal from all angles and distances, sweeping four of five-man moves that leave defences in embarrassed heaps.

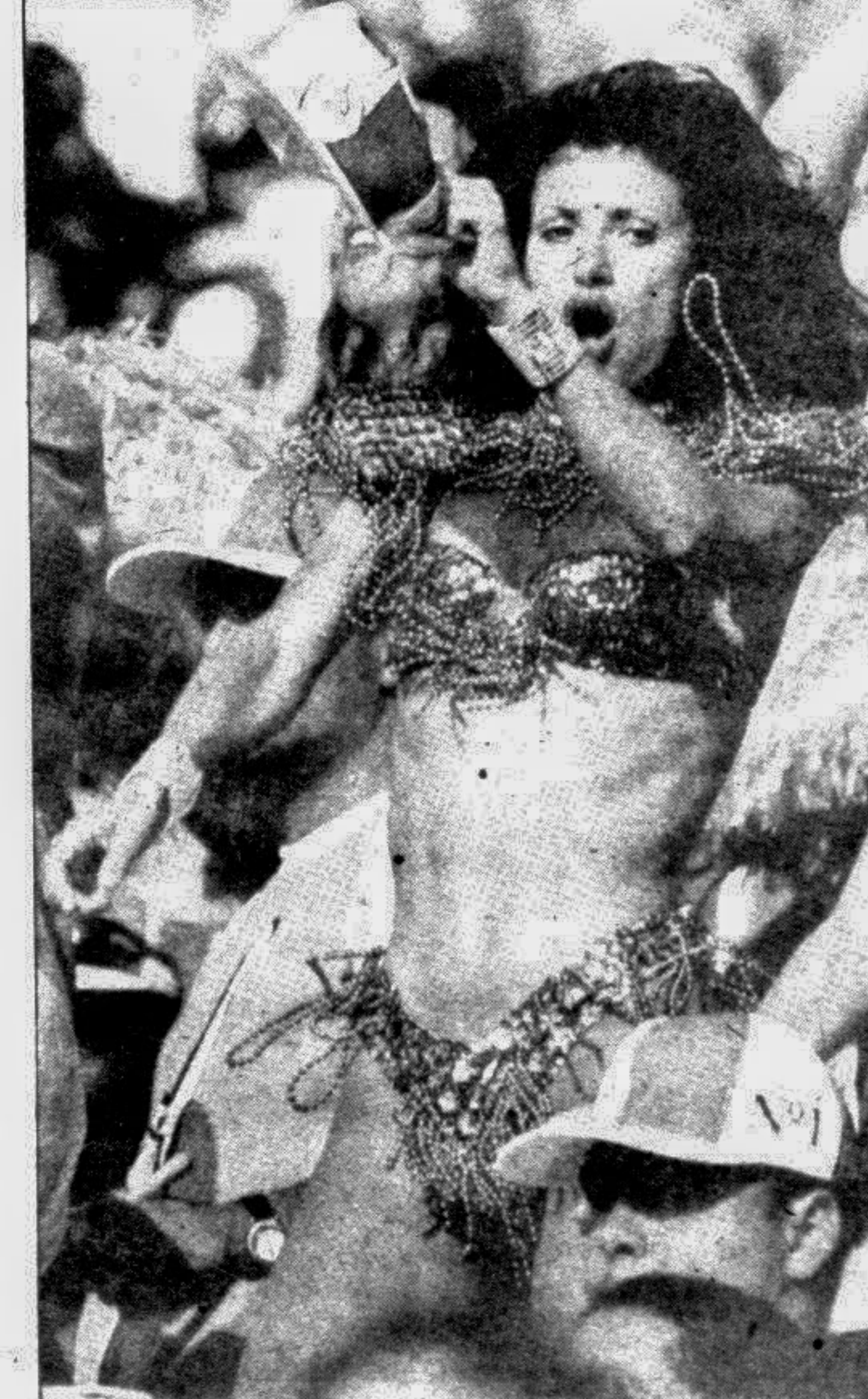
Brazil and their noisy fans provide much of the colour of the World Cup.

The Italians are the soccer establishment. They have been winning World Cups almost since the competition started. While Brazil's first of three triumphs was not until 1958 and the Pele era.

Italy have a high-profile league with most of the highest earners. Its game are shown live across Europe and also in the United States.

But it is the imported stars who tend to shine while much of the Italian national team's soccer is not pleasing to the eye.

They like to defend in numbers and strike out quickly in counterattacks. The prob-



A Brazilian fan celebrates in the stands after her team moved into its first final for 24 years defeating Sweden by a solitary goal at the Rose Bowl, LA on July 13. On July 17 Brazil and Italy, the two three-time World Cup champions, clash at the same venue to re-enact the finale in Mexico 24 years ago.

— AFP photo

Flood situation in Pabna worsens

PABNA, July 14: Flood situation in the district worsened today as the Jamuna and Padma rivers swelled following incessant rain in past few days, reports UNB.

Official sources said nearly 3,000 people in 25 villages of Sadar, Shujanagar and Bera thanas were marooned and standing crops on vast track of land washed away by the flood waters in last 24 hours.

They said the Jamuna rose by 6 cm at Nagarbari point while the Padma by 11 cm at Hardinge Bridge point in 24 hours till 10 am today (Thursday).

Meanwhile, 200 people of 40 families in Bera thana lost their homesteads due to erosion by the Jamuna during the period. They took shelter on flood protection embankment and were passing hard days without relief materials.

Officials said about 4,000 people were rendered homeless by the river erosion last month.

13 bids for Biman DC-10 maintenance contract

By Asiuzzaman

Thirteen foreign firms are bidding for a million-dollar maintenance contract for Biman's four DC-10-30 aircraft.

The firms are: MS Aero-tech, Commodore Aviation, MTU, Swissair, Allied Signal, Sabena, Dowty, Alitalia, AAR, UNC International, Canadian Service, AOM Industries and Caribe Aviation.

According to Biman sources, the tenders for the three-year maintenance contract were opened on July 2. Four of the firms offered technology transfer for D-check in Dhaka.

The other firms are bidding for the overhauling of the auxiliary power unit (APU).

The tender documents clearly mentioned that the D-check of the first two DC-10, due in 1996 would be done under the contractor's supervision at the Biman hanger while that of the third DC-10 must be done in 1997 by Biman engineers with transferred technology.

So far A-check and C-check have been conducted in Dhaka but D-checks were carried out at Alitalia's workshop in Rome.

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Star Quiz 6 prizes handed over

By Staff Correspondent

The prize distribution ceremony of The Daily Star World Cup Quiz No 6 was held at the newspaper's office premises yesterday.

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Five killed in separate incidents

By DMCH Correspondent

Five people were killed in separate incidents in the Capital yesterday.

In a tragic incident, three members of a family died when they came in touch with a live electric wire at a house at Pollabi in the city around 9 in the morning.

Alauddin, 30, was electrocuted when he touched a live electric wire and his sister-in-law, Sufia Begum, 32, and nephew Sajib, 12, also died when they went to save him.

Pollabi police sent the bodies to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy.

An auto-rickshaw driver, Mohan, 20, died on the spot when his vehicle collided with a speeding truck at Bijoy Sarani around 2 pm.

Police seized the truck and arrested its driver Nuru Mia.

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Ziaul Haq Mollah takes oath as MP

Dr Ziaul Haq Mollah, elected in Bogra-4 by-election on BNP ticket, took oath as Member of Parliament at Sangsad Bhaban yesterday, reports UNB.

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali administered the oath to Mollah, the eldest son of late Azizul Haq who was a ruling party MP from the seat.

LGRD Minister Abdus Salam Tahukdar, Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni, Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain and Whip Abdul Karim were also present on the occasion.

Cargo handling at Ctg port suspended for 11 hours

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 14: Container handling at the Chittagong port was suspended for about 11 hours today following the tragic death of a labourer.

Port police say, Md Hashem, 28, a merchant labourer, died at around 9:00 am today when he suddenly fell under the wheel of a velmet which was handling containers at M-shed of the port.

Immediately, after the tragic death thousands of port workers stopped work in protest against the accident causing dislocation in loading and unloading of container cargo.

At one stage, the workers started agitating in front of the port office and demanded steps to stop the recurrence of such accidents.

Later the port authorities held a meeting with the labour leaders and gave the assurance of due compensation and other financial help to the family of the victim.

The workers joined their duties at 8 tonight, port officials said.

92 UN observers leave Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE, July 14:

Ninety-two UN observers flew out of Haiti late Wednesday, ordered out by the army-backed government, reports AP.

At the airport, US ambassador William Swing praised the team, which monitored human rights abuses. "Their absence is going to be palpable to the human rights scene and we hope to have them back," he said.

Lt Gen Raoul Cedras, the leader of Haiti's 1991 military coup, said the UN workers had been ordered out because they had not respected "legal norms."

The expulsion of the observers is certain to increase the pressure on Haiti's military leaders. US President Clinton recently raised the possibility of an invasion to depose the government and reinstate ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Eric Walt, a spokesman for the observers, told British Broadcasting Corp radio the monitors had seen increasing repression in Haiti, including politically-motivated rapes and hundreds of abductions and beatings.

The team left on the same day as US Embassy officials, investigating a reported massacre: poked through blood-soaked grass and freshly dug soil in Morne a Bateau to find a dozen corpses. The seaside resort is 20 miles (32 kilometers) west of the capital.

Countless thousands of Rwandans flee into Zaire

GISENYI, Rwanda, July 14: Countless thousands of Rwandan refugees poured across the border into the Zairean town of Goma today and Hutu government ministers said rebels had captured a key garrison town, reports Reuters.

"They have taken Ruhengeri and are now within 25 km reach of Gisenyi," Minister of Planning Augustin Ndirabwire told reporters on the border.

"There is lots of fighting taking place on the road between Gisenyi and Ruhengeri and the situation is confusing," he added.

Minister of Works and Social Affairs Jean-de-Dieu Habimana said the rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) began shelling the outskirts of Gisenyi at 5:00 am (0300 GMT) sending tens of thousands of refugees fleeing into Zaire.

"As you can see the people are fleeing, they are fleeing the RPF because they know their levels of brutality," he added. The ministers said interim

President Theodore Sinduku bwabo and Prime Minister Jean Kambanda and other ministers were still in the Meridien Hotel in Gisenyi where the Hutu government is making its last stand just on the border with Zaire.

They said the army would continue to fight but there was no hope.

Tens of thousands of refugees milled through Goma's streets, overwhelming international aid agencies and the French army.

The refugees, mostly Hutus, have arrived on the doorstep of France's "Operation Turquoise", launched after an estimated 500,000 people, mostly Tutsis, died in three months of war.

Aid agencies have a few small refugee camps in Goma and France has its main military base at the airport but aid workers said they were only able to cope with about 50,000 refugees.

"We will try to help people with humanitarian aid with

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A woman sits amongst the ruins in Kigali, capital of Rwanda, having lost all means of subsistence in the civil war. According to the World Food Programme, 700,000 Rwandans will depend on international food aid during the next six months.

— AFP photo

BLUE CROSS

SCORE BOARD

SEMI-FINAL RESULTS

Bulgaria 1 - Italy 2 Italy in final

Scorers: Italy — Roberto Baggio 21st and 26th; Bulgaria — Hristo Stoitichkov 44th

	Bulgaria	Italy
Goals	1	2
Shots on goal	11	11
Fouls	15	20
Corners	2	2
Offsides	4	2
Yellow cards	2	2
Red cards	0	0

	Sweden	Brazil
Goals	0	1
Shots on goal	3	26
Fouls	11	15
Corners	9	4
Offsides	4	1
Yellow cards	2	2
Red cards	1	0

Sweden 0 - Brazil 1 Brazil in final

Scorers: Brazil — Romario 81st

100% FULL CREAM SWEETENED CONDENSED MILK