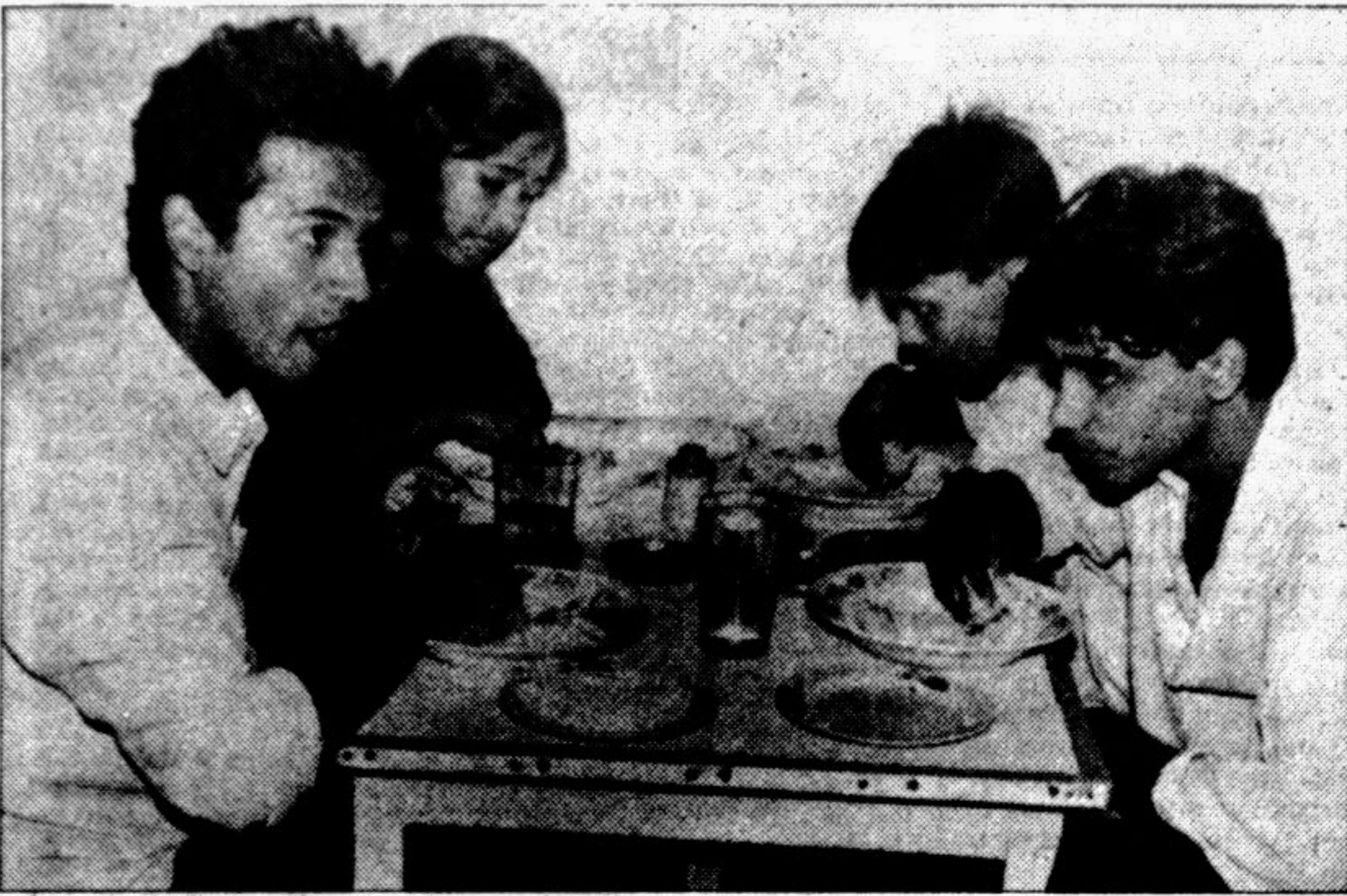


Dhaka Day by Day

Lure of Gourmet Restaurants

by ASM Nurunnabi



Eating out

Eating out has come into vogue among elite sections of city dwellers. Satisfying the palate with tantalising cushion is a general human weakness. To satisfy this longing, quite a number of high-grade restaurants have come up particularly in the posh areas of the capital. A leading daily of the city carries attractive advertisements of some of these restaurants. These restaurants serve delicious cuisine of various countries, such as Indian, continental, Thai, Far Eastern, European, Indonesian, etc.

Our people, bred in the hoary tradition of pitha-puli and other native foods, always harbour a desire of tasting something different in food as popular in other climes and cultures. So wherever opportunity combines with financial strength warrants, they indulge in foreign cuisine.

As indicated, these restaurants mainly serve clients with financial clout. Standing head and shoulders above such fashionable restaurants are the city's leading hotels — Hotel Sonargaon and Dhaka Sheraton. The Cafe Bazar restaurant offers a wide choice of breakfast menus. It also offers eight complete service menu suggestions for lunch and dinner, besides four party menus. The hotel's Karwan Sarai restaurant offers appetisers, soups and salads carrying exotic names and made with ingredients bearing similarly uncommon connotations.

Similar elaborate arrangements also exist in Dhaka Sheraton. Its Vintage room restaurant with its Victorian decor created by adornments of antique clocks, gramophones, typewriters, brass plaques and pictures of old cars provides a charming venue for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Lately Dhaka Sheraton organised a Thai Food Festival at its Bithika restaurant in connection with the celebration of 30 years of Thai Airways. The

Thai foods made available at this festival proved extremely popular and drew large crowds of gourmets.

Foreigners and local highups frequent Sonargaon Hotel and Dhaka Sheraton. Middle class people can also afford lunch or dinner at Sonargaon's Cafe Bazar and Dhaka Sheraton's Bithika restaurants.

There are some other select establishments with less elaborate arrangements in the posh areas of the city. For example, Kinnari a Uttara and Thai House at Gulshan serve authentic Thai Cuisine. Nafia and Sajina at Gulshan are two other restaurants which serve Thai Food, Indian and continental foods. At Kinnari the menu is also adapted to customer's needs. Sky Room restaurant at Banani specialises in Indonesian and Bokhara cuisines.

However, for the common run of city dwellers with a penchant for foods out of the humdrum sphere, the so-called Chinese restaurants spread over important areas of the city hold attractions. Their menus are mostly common and their customers are largely familiar with them. Their comparatively less costly fares constitute one of the main reasons of their popularity.

For the average Bangalee palate, Biryani exercises a strong attraction. On this account, we find a growing number of Biryani Houses at some select areas of the city. Hajee Biryani still casts its spell on average Bangalee food lovers. Besides, the continuing weakness for kababs is evidenced from the large number of customers at the city's well-known Kabab houses.

By and large, the luxury of enjoying different types of cuisines is limited to the fortunate sections of society who have the necessary wherewithal.

Mere changes in polls schedule won't end crisis: Hasina

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday said without solving the main problem, mere changes in the election schedule would not put an end to the staggering political crisis, reports UNB.

"BNP is suffering from indecision. Despite deferring the election schedule repeatedly, it has proved its total failure in holding the election," she said in a reaction to the latest revised schedule of the election.

The Election Commission has changed the election schedule for the third time yesterday deferring the polling date to February 15 from February 7.

"The Election Commission and the BNP are making farce with the nation by changing the election date time and again," Hasina said. The demand of the people and all opposition political parties is the election under a neutral non-partisan caretaker government, she said.

Without a caretaker government, the opposition would not take part in the election. Hasina demanded that the Prime Minister resign forthwith to allow elections under caretaker government.

She said the Prime Minister was committed to resign before the election, but she did not keep her promise. "Obstinacy and lust for power of the Prime Minister is pushing the country towards a confrontation."

BNP has chosen the path of conflict and violence instead of resolving the crisis through discussion and understanding. Hasina said she sincerely tried to solve the crisis through discussion.

All opposition political parties including Awami League want a free and fair election while BNP wants to stay in power through rigging, Hasina said.

"We are trying our best to protect the voting rights of the people, she said and called on the people to continue the ongoing movement to force Begum Zia to resign for a neutral caretaker government and ensure participation of all parties in the polls.

Jamaat

Meanwhile, Jamaat-e-Islami said there is no scope of resolving the prevailing political crisis without the resignation of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

Giving an initial reaction to the deferment of general election for the third time, Jamaat Publicity Secretary Abdul Qader Mollah said mere changes in the election

schedule will not bring any solution.

"Consensus can only be possible after the Prime Minister's resignation," he said.

Mollah said the opposition is determined to realise its demand for non-party neutral caretaker government through movement.

"We will announce an all-out action programme on Wednesday if Prime Minister Begum Zia does not resign by tomorrow (Tuesday)," the Jamaat leader said, adding the opposition will not sit with the government till the Prime Minister resigns.

Jatiya Party

The Jatiya Party Secretary General Anwar Hossain Manju said that the Election Commission had once again

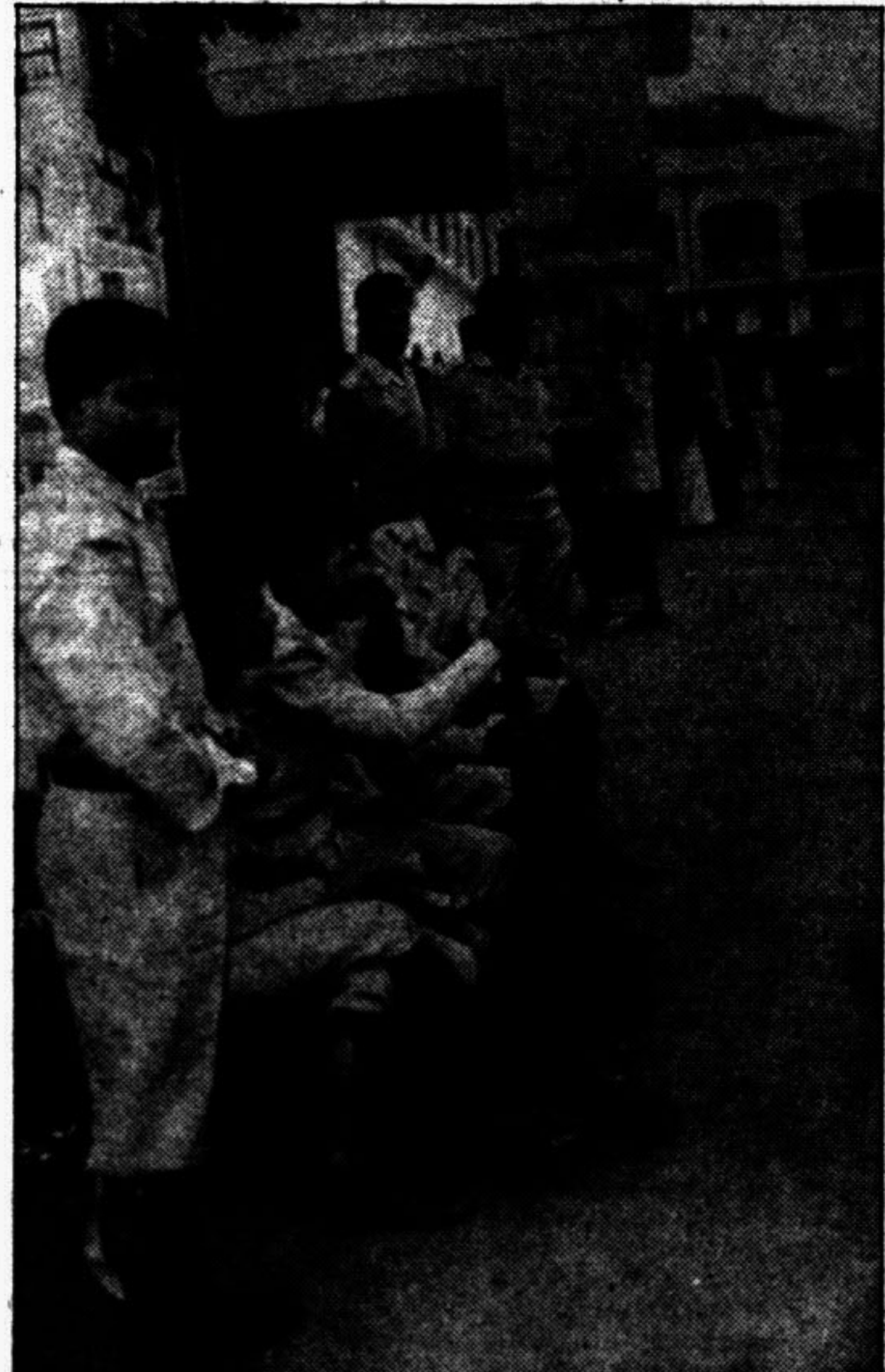
shifted the date for general election at the behest of the government.

"If the shifting of election date can't bring any solution to the crisis, there is no point in doing so time and again," Manju said giving his initial reaction to the latest rescheduling of the polls.

"We are trying to read if there is any inner message," the JP leader said without elaborating further.

The real issue, Manju said, was to hold a meaningful election with the participation of all and towards that direction — directly or indirectly — parleys were on.

Shifting of the election date would not solve the crisis, he said adding that the impasse would continue unless there was a political settlement on the issue of holding election.



Tight security measures were taken yesterday at the Dhaka District Commissioner's office on the last day of filing nominations for the forthcoming Jatiya Sangsad elections. — Star photo

Bar Council viva-voce Feb 3

The next viva-voce exam for advocate enlistment of the Bangladesh Bar Council will begin on February 3, says a press release.

Those who have failed in the previous test may appear for this test and those who can sit directly are requested to register at the Bar Council by January 25, the release added.

TUTOR

ENGLISH MEDIUM V-IX, MATHS, SCIENCE, III-VII ALSO ENGLISH. 15 YRS EXPERIENCE TUTOR. ENGR. HOQUE. TEL : 810665, 813428.

WE ALL REMEMBER AND MISS YOU ON YOUR BIRTHDAY



SOFIA SULTANA CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN

The British Council

GCE Exams:

Tuesday 9 January 1996

Due to the hartal, "O" Level Maths Paper-1 scheduled to be held at 1.30 pm on 9 January will now be held at 7.30 pm.

Arrangements have been made to enable examinations to go forward in safety.

Please note that if the hartal is postponed the examination will start from 1.30 pm as scheduled originally.

New fax machine at Press Club

A new ISD-fax was installed on Saturday at the T and T booth of the Jatiya Press Club to enhance further the facilities to the journalists representing the foreign media to send their despatches quickly, reports BSS.

The chairman of the T and T Board, M H Chowdhury, formally inaugurated the fax machine at a simple function.

Digital exchange in Sylhet

The country's newly formed divisional headquarters, Sylhet, has been brought under digital telephone service, reports UNB.

The exchange was launched Friday.

After opening of the digital exchange, the four-digit analogue numbers have been transformed into six-digit numbers.

Top insuranceceman Mostafiz dies

Mostafizur Rahman Khan, a pioneer of the insurance profession in the sub-continent died of respiratory complication Sunday night at his Swamibagh residence in the city. He was 86, reports BSS.

Khan, was the principal advisor of the Bangladesh General Insurance Company. He was the former chairman of Karnafuli Bima Corporation.

A social worker and educationist Khan was a member of the Dhaka University and Jahangirnagar University senates.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held on January 12 at the Baitul Mukarram mosque after Zohr prayers. He will be buried at the New Azampur graveyard beside the grave of his wife. His body has been kept at ICDDR at Mohakhali.

Meanwhile, 25 elected representatives of registered graduates of the Dhaka University Senate in a joint statement condoled his death.

USTC MBBS exams from tomorrow

CHITTAGONG, Jan 8: First professional MBBS examinations of University of Science and Technology, Chittagong (USTC), will begin from Wednesday, reports UNB. This will be first examination under the university.

BNP leader Sikder dead

Former State Minister and BNP leader Abdul Mannan Sikder died of jaundice yesterday. He was 67, reports BSS.

He left behind his wife, a daughter and two sons.

Biswas

Meanwhile, President Abdur Rahman Biswas has expressed his deep sorrow and profound shock at Sikder's demise.

In a message the President said that Sikder was a devoted lawyer, dedicated politician and renowned social worker, who always tried to uphold the cause of the people.

President Biswas conveyed his sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Khaleda

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia expressed her deep shock and profound grief at the death of the former state minister.

In her message, the Prime Minister recalled the dedication of Sikder to the welfare of the people and said he had served the cause of Bangladesh nationalism.

Begum Zia said the death of this dedicated politician is a great loss to the nation.

Salam

BNP Secretary General and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Salam Talukder expressed his shock at the death of the former BNP leader.

Nizami urges PM to step down

Jamaat Secretary General Moulana Matlur Rahman Nizami yesterday renewed his appeal to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to step down to pave the way for a caretaker government for holding a free and fair election, reports UNB.

Addressing a rally at the north gate of Baitul Mukarram, he said the demand for a caretaker government has turned into a national issue as the whole country is united about it.

Nizami urged Begum Zia to show respect to the people's sentiment by accepting the caretaker government to conduct the coming parliamentary polls.

He warned that one-party election would lead the country to violence.

Conference on parasites Jan 11

The Third annual conference and seminar of the Bangladesh Society for Parasitology will be held on January 11, says a press release.

The seminar of 'Strategies in Controlling Parasites of Economic Importance of Human and Domestic Animals in Bangladesh' will be held at the auditorium of the Institute of Epistomology Diseases Control and Research (IEDC&R), Mohakhali.

Enayetullah to head SAMA

By Staff Correspondent

Enayetullah Khan, the Editor-in-Chief of the weekly Holiday, has been selected to head the newly-formed South Asian Media Association (SAMA), says a press release.

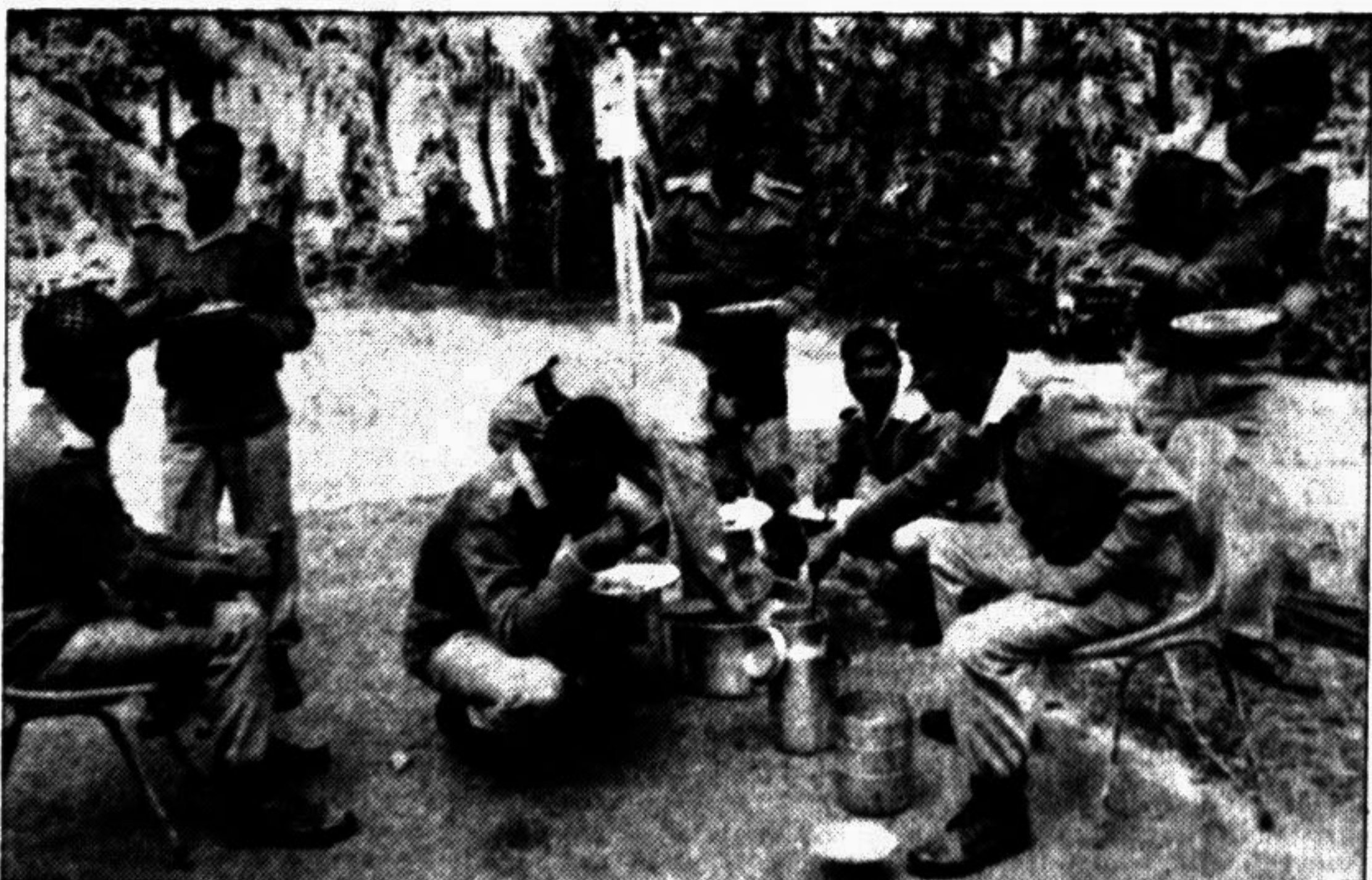
At a SAMA South Asian regional round table conference, held in Lahore, Pakistan December 27-28, Khan was unanimously elected the chairman while Mana Ranjan Josse, Consultant Editor, People's Review, Nepal, and Dr Abdur Rahim, Professor, Hyderabad Osmania University, India were elected secretary general and treasurer respectively.

Five vice-chairmen were also elected during the concluding session of the two-day meet.

They are: Sayed Kamaluddin, President, SAMA-Bangladesh chapter, Ajit Bhat-tacharya, Director, Press Institute of India, Prabha Thaker, Director, Manushi of Nepal, Victor Guneswardena, President, SAMA-Sri Lanka chapter and Syed Jawed Iqbal, President, SAMA-Pakistan Chapter.

The conference was participated by nearly 55 media delegates from Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal, India, Sri Lanka and host Pakistan.

Media personalities from newspapers, television, cinema, advertising, communication and academicians also attended.



IT'S TIME FOR LUNCH: Members of the law enforcing agencies take time-out for their mid-day meal on the lawn of the Jatiya Press Club during hartal hours yesterday. — Star photo

Government of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD Road Division, Kurigram Notice Inviting Tender of RHD

- Tender Notice No : 14-KRD/1995-96
- Name of work : Construction of Remaining Portion of 12.20 meter (40'-0") Span RCC bridge over well foundation at 5th KM of Patgram-Dhahgram-Angapota Road under Road Division, Kurigram during the year 1995-96.
- Estimated Cost : Tk 25,89,000/=
- Earnest money : Tk 51,500/=
- Time allowed : 120(One hundred twenty) days
- Head of Account : 266 ADP
- Eligibility of Contractor : 'A to D' Class special category of RHD.
- Name of offices where tender documents can be purchased : Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Kurigram/Rangpur/Bogra/Gaibandha/Planning & Design Division, RHD, Rangpur/ Planning Division (Road & Bridge) Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka/Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Road Sub-Division, Kurigram/Lalmoharhat.
- Name of offices where tender will be received : 1. Additional Chief Engineer, RHD, Rangpur Zone, Rangpur.
2. Superintending Engineer, RHD, Rangpur Road Circle, Rangpur/ Monitoring & Evaluation Circle, RHD, (Road & Bridge) Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka.
3. Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Kurigram/Rangpur/Bogra/Gaibandha.
- Last date for selling of tender (Within office hours) : Up to 21-1-96 Eng/8-10-1402 Beng.
- Date and time of receiving of tender : Up to 12:30 PM on 22-1-96 Eng/ 9-10-1402 Beng.
- Date and time of opening of all tenders by the U/S : At 12:45 PM on 25-1-96 Eng/ 12-10-1402 Beng.
- Date & time of Lottery (if required) : At 12:00 Noon on 27-1-96 Eng/ 14-10-1402 Beng.

Md. Abdul Halim Talukder
Current Charge
Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Kurigram

DFP-179-4/1
G-56

Tender Notice No. 9/1995-96

Sealed tenders are hereby invited for the following work under Nature W. D. Division, BWDB, Nature during the year 1995-96.

The tenders will be received during office hours on 14-1-1996, 15-1-1996 and up to 12-00 hours on 16-1-96 in presence of the Contractors who wish to be present. The enlisted 'A' Class Contractors under BWDB for the year 1994-95 are eligible to submit tender, but they shall have to submit the receipt of renewal fee of 1995-96 along with the tender.

The tender documents can be purchased from Sonali Bank, WAPDA Building Branch, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka, Pubali Bank Ltd. Sericulture Branch, Rajshahi, Agrani Bank, WAPDA (Irr.) Sopura, Rajshahi, Agrani Bank, Naogaon & Pubali Bank Ltd. Nature during banking hours up to 15-1-1996.

Tender No.	Name of work with location	Estimated Amount	Earnest Money	Class of Contractors eligible to submit tender
9/1995-96	Construction of 2 (two) vents, size 1.50Mx1.80M Drainage-Cum-Regulator at Patkol in P.S. Singra, Dist. Nature in connection with Chalan Deel Project, Polder 'C' during the year 1995-96.	Tk. 58,42,153/=	Tk. 1,46,054/=	'A' Class.

PANI-297/95-96
DFP-262-4/1
G-57

Md. Harun-or-Rashid Khan
Executive Engineer
Nature Water Dev. Division,
BWDB, Nature.