



The Daily Star

MARBLE MARBLE MARBLE
WE HAVE HUGE READY STOCK OF
ITALIAN CARRARA, PERLATO SICILIA,
BOTTICINO, INDIAN KESSWARI GREEN,
MALAYSIAN AND PAKISTANI MARBLE
OF DIFFERENT TYPES.
NIRMAN INTERNATIONAL LTD.
199, TEJGAON 1/A, DHAKA.
TEL: 605957, 607363 SHOW ROOM: 861985

VOL. VI NO. 241 REGD. NO. DA 781

ASHWIN 7 1403 BS. DHAKA SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1996 JAMADIUL AWAL 9, 1417 HIJRI

12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 5.00

Announcement

The Daily Star announces with pleasure that from tomorrow (Monday) the regular 12-page issue will be printed in imported newsprint to bring in qualitative improvement in the paper. This will entail substantial expenditure, a part of which will be offset by raising the price from Taka 5 to Taka 6 for a regular 12-page issue. We hope our valued readers and patrons will appreciate our difficulties and continue to give us their unstinted support in our quest for producing a still better newspaper.

— Editor

Inside Today

Article

Providing Transit to India: Some Aspects to be considered

by Sajjad Zahir

Page 4

Focus

Law and Our Rights

Software, law and we; The army and the rule of law; and Landscape

Page 5

International

US isn't trying to oust Saddam, says Clinton

Page 8

Business

Govt asks NCBs to release Tk 200cr for jute purchase

28-point rise in DSE index
Pages 6, 7

DSE MARKET

DSE price index 1591.04
Market capital Tk 11131.77 cr
Transactions in volume 969159
Transactions in value Tk 19.18 cr

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Target is Car
Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Jatrabari bus fire: Another arrested

By Staff Correspondent

Another accused person charged in the Jatrabari bus fire case, was arrested from Syedabad bus terminal yesterday. Demra police, during a raid in the terminal, arrested Saleh Ahmed when he was collecting toll in the area. Police sources said adding that Saleh was also wanted in several cases filed with Demra and Sutrapur thana.

Myanmar envoy meets Hasina

Ambassador of Myanmar in Bangladesh, U Tint Lwin, made a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office at the Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday. They discussed various bilateral matters of common interest of the two countries. They also discussed promotion of trade between the two countries, reports BSS.

Gowda elected MP unopposed

NEW DELHI, Sept 21: India's Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, was elected to the upper house of Parliament today. Four months after his 13-party coalition appointed him to the top job, Gowda was elected unopposed by the legislature of his home state, Karnataka. United News of India (UNI) reported, reports AP.

30,000 Bangladeshis ready to leave UAE

By M Anwarul Haq

Nearly 30,000 Bangladeshis have been issued travel documents (out passes) till yesterday by the Bangladesh embassy in Abu Dhabi and the consulate in Dubai after the UAE government had slammed a ban on unauthorised foreign workers on July 1 last and asked them to leave the country by September 30.

This was stated by Bangladesh ambassador to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Zia-ul-Shams Chowdhury while talking to The Daily Star yesterday evening over telephone. "Now the Bangladeshis are queuing up in thousands at air-

lines offices and the Abu Dhabi airport is literally swarmed with people desperately trying to purchase a one-way ticket to go back home."

"In the last few days, the Bangladesh embassy and consulate offices were literally mobbed by throngs of Bangladeshis, several thousand without passports and travel documents, for securing out-passes," the envoy said.

"Almost everyone who does not presently hold a legal resident permit or a valid stay document has been given an exit pass," the ambassador informed. The Bangladesh envoy in-

formed that he called on the State Minister for Foreign Affairs of UAE yesterday requesting for an extension of the September 30 deadline.

He said that during his yesterday's meeting like the earlier meetings between the ambassadors affected countries and UAE authorities, indications were given that the period of amnesty would not be extended.

The workers of five countries which have mainly been affected are India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, The Philippines and Bangladesh.

The UAE State Minister for Foreign Affairs and other officials met high officials at 10 am yesterday.



Stagnant water being pumped out at Kakrail in the city yesterday. — Star photo

3 killed, over 50 injured in Kashmir polls violence

SRINAGAR, Sept 21: Three people died and more than 50 people were injured, official sources said, as Kashmir's first state elections in almost a decade moved into separatist rebel strongholds here today, reports AFP.

Less than one in three of registered voters took part in the polls in Srinagar, the state's summer capital, according to the authorities, while the overall turnout was put at 41 per cent.

State police chief Mohinder Sabherwal said the deaths and

most of the injuries had been caused by a series of shootouts and rocket and grenade attacks. Muslim separatist groups, who have been waging a guerrilla campaign against Indian rule that has cost more than 15,000 lives since 1989, were blamed for the violence.

They, however, countered by saying Indian troops and militias had forced people to vote to the authorities, while the overall turnout was put at 41 per cent.

Two policemen died in a village in the Ganderbal district after separatist rebels opened

fire. A civilian died of his injuries in a grenade attack in the same district.

State government spokesman Kulbushan Jindal said: "The militants tried their best to scare away voters. There have been blasts everywhere since late last night."

He said any accusations of coercion would be investigated, adding: "The election commission is not concerned with a lower turnout as long as elections are conducted without any major hindrance."

See Page 12 Col 3

BAEC scientists say

Various factors may cause arsenic contamination of water

By Morshed Ali Khan

Arsenic contamination in ground water might have occurred due to various reasons, some scientists of the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission said yesterday. They emphasised the need for sample tests to determine the actual cause.

They said that an unspecified quantity of crude arsenic is imported each year for use in timber processing, indigenous medicines and glass industries. Till early 70s, it was used in the soil as a component of insecticide. Many also used arsenic as a deterrent to snakes and other dangerous creepers, the scientists said.

"In order to determine the actual cause, we need to sample-test the wooden poles and the soil around those," one of them said adding that the relevant

departments should also take accountability of the use of arsenic in the industries.

It was reported yesterday by a news agency that over three crore pounds of toxic arsenic compound entered into Bangladesh through the wooden electric poles imported by the Rural Electrification Board (REB). The poles were coated with arsenic compounds, the report had said.

Citing an example of 'indiscriminate' use of arsenic, a source in the BAEC claimed that recently authorities of the Dhaka Zoo at Mirpur had sought help to get rid of a 50-kg sack of arsenic sulphide which it had acquired to keep intruding snakes and other dangerous creepers away from its compound. The zoo authorities were advised to find a glass factory

for disposing it off.

The fate of the arsenic could not be known as the curator of the zoo was not available yesterday for comment.

A top official of the REB requesting anonymity, told The Daily Star that since its inception in January 1978, the REB has imported a total of 9.5 lakh processed wooden poles from Australia, USA and Norway.

Bangladesh Forest Industries Development Corporation supplied 2.5 lakh identical poles from a local processing plant.

"These poles are used in many parts of the world including USA, Australia, Norway and Malaysia but we have no reports of any arsenic contamination," the REB official said.

In the treatment process of the poles, a hot solution of

See Page 12 Col 3

Murtaza buried at family graveyard

Nusrat blames Benazir for her son's killing

LARKANA, Sept 21: Thousands of mourners attended the burial of Murtaza Bhutto, estranged brother of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, today as Pakistan named a judge to investigate his killing with six aides by police, report agencies.

Murtaza was buried at the ancestral graveyard at Garhi Khuda Bakhsh, about 25 km (15 miles) from Larkana town, beside the grave of his younger brother Shahnawaz and near that of his father, executed former prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

More than 10,000 people turned up at the graveyard amidst rice fields and several fainted in sweltering heat as temperature soared to 37 degrees Celsius (98 degrees

Fahrenheit) witnesses said. Murtaza's sobbing widow, Ghinwa, briefly appeared among crowd before her husband's bullet-ridden body was lowered into a grave.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto wailed and prayed today over the corpse of her brother, Murtaza Bhutto.

As a mark of deep mourning, Bhutto came barefoot to Karachi's meadest hospital where Murtaza, 42, died of up to eight bullet wounds he received in the Friday night gunfight near his home in an affluent area of this violence-torn city.

She sat beside Murtaza's body for 45 minutes, wailing and later reciting Quranic verses, witnesses said. Bhutto cried loudly inside

the hospital room where the body lay and when she met Murtaza's widow Ghinwa, the witnesses said.

Her mother, Nusrat, refused to see her. She blamed Ms Bhutto for her son's death.

"If I am guaranteed justice I will register a case against Asif Ali Zardari and Benazir Bhutto for killing my son," she told reporters outside her son's home in Larkana. "They are responsible for the murder of my son."

Zardari, Ms Bhutto's husband, did not attend the funeral.

An armoured personnel carrier was parked outside the sprawling compound where Murtaza Bhutto had lived. Hundreds of police and paramilitaries were on duty.

See Page 12 col 5

Probe body report Five Rly staff responsible for city train accident

Five officers and employees of Bangladesh Railway have been held responsible for the September 14 fatal train accident on the outskirts of the city, reports UNB.

The responsibility was determined by the three-member probe body, constituted to investigate the train accident at Khilkhet, which submitted its report to the DG of Bangladesh Railway yesterday.

The committee in its report identified weak railway tracks and high temperature which buckled the line as the causes of skidding of five bogies, including a buffet car, of the intercity

See Page 12 col 6

BB employees resent removal of Dy Governor

By Staff Correspondent

Finance Minister SAMS Kibria yesterday witnessed agitation by employees of the Bangladesh Bank (BB) over the government decision making Mahbubur Rahman Khan, deputy governor of the BB, an Officer on Special Duty (OSD).

The finance minister, in his first visit to the BB head office met high officials at 10 am yesterday.

But before he reached there, employees had been chanting slogans and demonstrating on the third floor of the Bank where the office of the Governor is located. They had been demanding reinstatement of M R Khan to his former post.

Later, the finance minister arrived at the office and met the high officials in the board room. But during the meeting the employees again started agitation and chanted slogans.

See Page 12 Col 8

Two projects worth Tk 446.16 cr approved

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) has approved two development projects with a total outlay of Tk 446.16 crore, including Tk 278.65 crore in project aid, reports UNB.

The approval was given at a special meeting of the ECNEC yesterday with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

The approved projects were Jamuna Bridge Access (ADB part) at a cost of Tk 413 crore, including Tk 278.65 crore project aid, and construction of Second Dhaleswari Bridge at 18th kilometre on Dhaka-Khulna Highway at a cost of Tk 33.16 crore.

Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria, Post and Telecommunication Minister Mohammad Nasim, Agriculture, Food and Disaster Management and Relief Minister Matia Chowdhury, and Communications Minister Anwar Hossain attended the meeting at the Prime Minister's office.

18 Bangladeshis hurt in road mishap in Egypt

CAIRO, Sept 21: Five people were killed and 27 other wounded, including 18 Bangladeshi tourists, in two separate road accidents today in Egypt, police said, reports AFP.

In the first accident 21 people, including 18 Bangladeshi tourists, were injured at dawn today on the Cairo-Alexandria desert road, the Interior Minister said in a statement to the press.

The bus was apparently speeding when the driver lost control of the steering wheel. The driver, a police escort and a Syrian from the Fayza Travel Agency which accompanied the tourists were among those hurt.

Dick Cheney meets PM

Investment in oil, gas sector discussed

Visiting US business leader Dick Cheney called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office here yesterday and discussed investment in oil and gas sector of Bangladesh, reports UNB.

Cheney, the chief executive of Halliburton Brown and Root, an American oil company, discussed certain aspects of oil and gas exploration in the offshore areas of the country during his meeting with the Prime Minister.

The US oil company has been engaged in offshore drilling in Bangladesh since 1992.

It plans to invest 100 million US dollars along with a British firm, Cairn Energy PLC, in gas development beneath the Bay of Bengal.

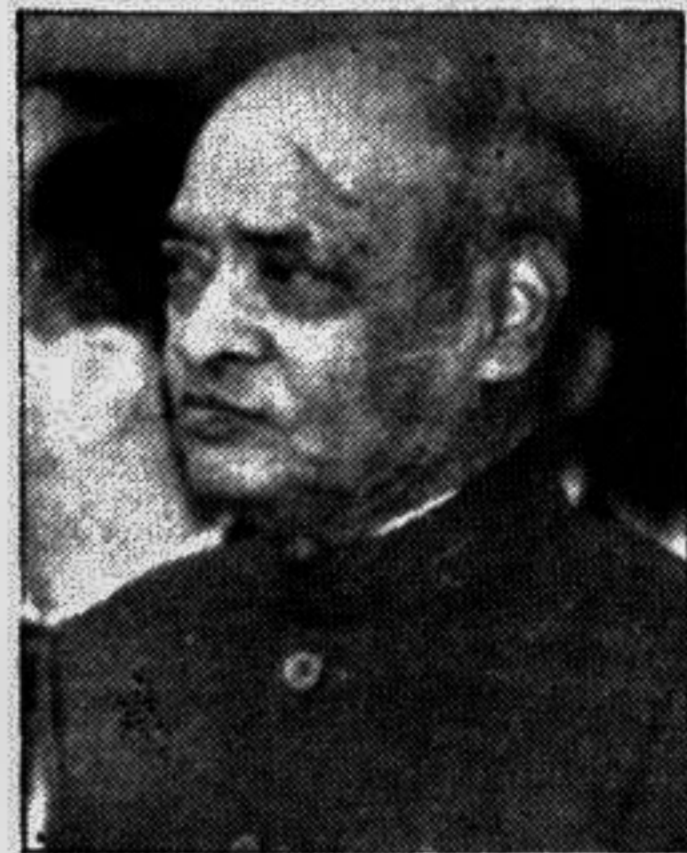
Rao quits as Cong Party president

NEW DELHI, Sept 21: Former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao Saturday resigned as president of the Congress (I) Party after he was named co-accused in a 100,000-dollar fraud case and asked to appear in court on September 30, report agencies.

The order was passed by Judge Ajit Bharihoke in a special court here trying the case.

London-based Indian businessman Lakhubhai Pathak had accused Rao and controversial Hindu mystic Chandraswami of defrauding him of 100,000 dollars, promising lucrative newsprint and paper contracts which never materialised.

"If charges are framed in the case, Narasimha Rao will have to appear in person at least on



the day of the framing the charges even if he is exempted

See Page 12 Col 1

BB Dy Governor removed in nat'l interest: Kibria

Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria yesterday said the government action concerning the removal of a deputy governor of Bangladesh Bank was taken in the interest of the country, reports UNB.

Kibria said Deputy Governor Mahbubur Rahman Khan was made an officer on special duty as he had given licences to a number of non-banking financial institutions without consulting the ministry or the Governor of Bangladesh Bank.

"He (Khan) acted very fast in giving licences without assessing whether the country has so many entrepreneurs to give permission at a time for such institutions," he said after meeting the senior officials of the central bank yesterday.

The minister said the former deputy governor gave permission to 14 non-banking financial institutions and issued letter of intents — a very advance step to give licence — to another four institutions within a very

short span of time. Of the licences already given, 12 were given recently, one on June 24, just a day after the assumption of the present government, and another licence in last few days.

Moreover, applications for another 21 non-banking financial institutions are now under process, he said with a note of anguish that the government was kept in total dark about the approval of a large number of non-banking financial institutions.

"We were not even informed about the central bank's criterion of giving permission to the non-banking financial institutions which ultimately will deal with public money," Kibria said.

He said a committee, headed by Mahbubur Rahman Khan, gave the approval to the institutions, but in most of the cases the board of governors of Bangladesh Bank or its govern-

See Page 12 Col 7

Solution to water issue with India FM seeks cooperation of opposition parties

By Staff Correspondent

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad said yesterday his government was committed to finding a solution to the Ganges water-sharing problem with India before the next dry season and was taking all necessary initiatives in that direction.

The foreign minister sought the cooperation and understanding of the people, the press and the opposition parties including the BNP in finding a solution to the issue "which concerns the whole nation."

Addressing a press conference at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Samad Azad said Bangladeshis "seeking both accord and quantum of water and you will know it in due course."

Responding to questions on the outcome of talks with West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu whom he met in Calcutta on September 17 and 18, the foreign minister said the meeting was "definitely a positive step forward in the efforts of the

See Page 12 col 6

Biggest ever gold haul at ZIA

By Staff Correspondent
Smuggled gold worth about Tk seven crore was seized at the Zia International Airport (ZIA) yesterday afternoon in the biggest ever haul of the precious metal in the country.

A total of 1175 gold bars, weighing 10 tolas each, were kept in two cartons of electronic goods. These were sent to a business firm in Dhaka from Singapore by a Bangladesh Bi-man flight that landed at ZIA at 1:51 am on Thursday. Customs sources said.

The cartons came from Bridge Road in Singapore to reach Hossain & Sons, at 41

See Page 12 Col 2

Hasina to address UNGA session October 24

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will address the current session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on October 24, Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad told a press conference in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

"The day coincided with the United Nations Day," he said adding that the occasion will be important as the Prime Minister will spell out the views of the new government of the country before the world body on different issues.

The foreign minister said he himself is leaving for New York in the early hours of today leading the Bangladesh delegation to the current session of the UNGA.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury and Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan were present at the press conference.

The foreign minister said he would meet his counterparts

See Page 12 Col 3

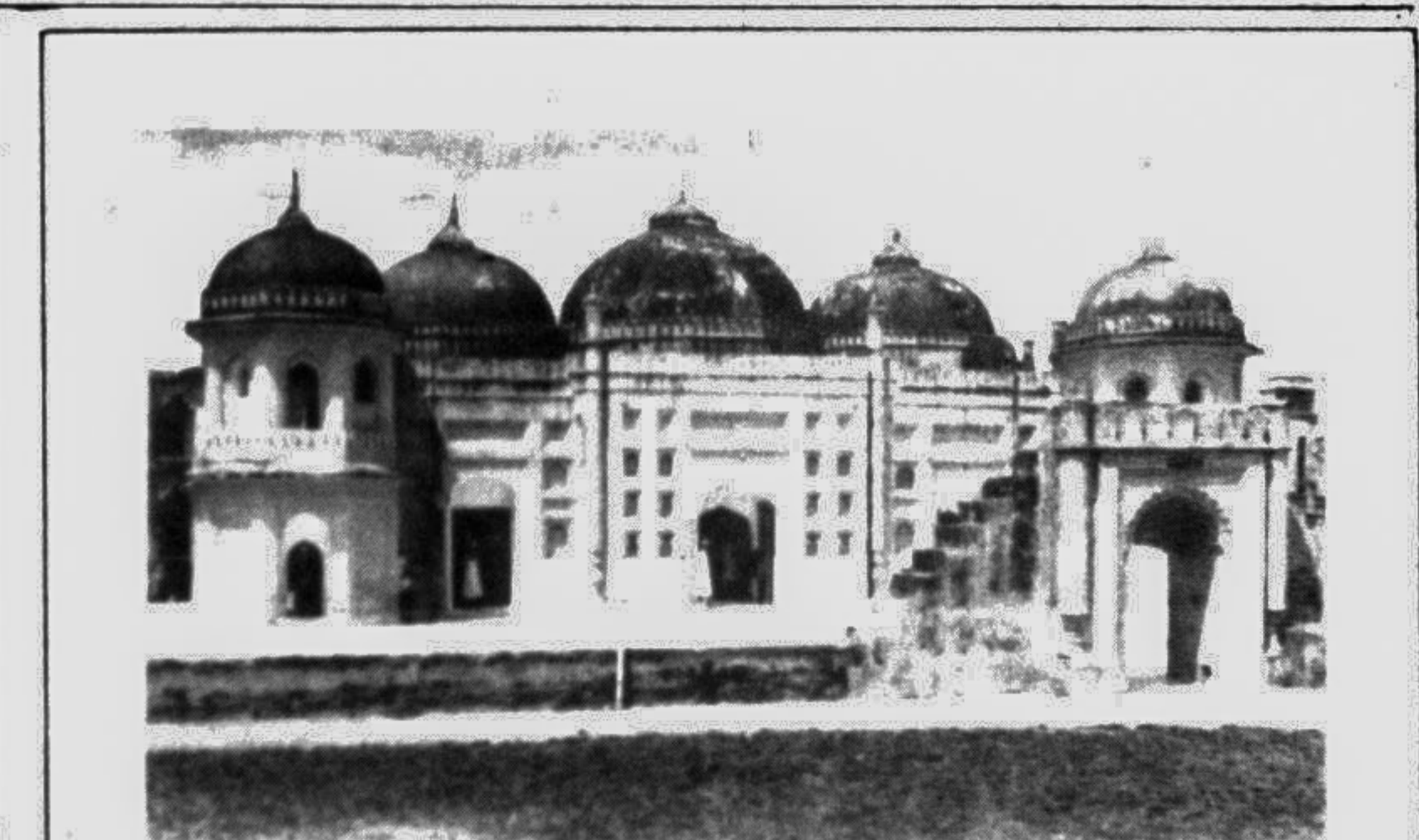
Water sharing issue 3-member team of experts leaves for Delhi this week

By Staff Correspondent

A three-member delegation, including two water resources experts headed by Additional Foreign Secretary Ahmed Tariq Karim, will leave Dhaka for New Delhi on Wednesday, according to diplomatic sources.

This would be the first expert level meeting following a consensus reached between the governments of Bangladesh and India during Indian External Affairs Minister I K Gujral's visit to Dhaka to resolve the Ganges water sharing issue.

See Page 12 Col 1



Another step towards expansion

National Bank Limited's 63rd Branch goes into operation from today 22nd September '96 at 774, Sat Masjid Road Dhanmondi.

Locker facility is available in this Branch



National Bank Limited
A Bank for performance with potential

Head Office: 18, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh
Tel: 9563081-5, Fax: 880-2-9563953,
Telex: 642791 NBL HO B1