

Inside Today

Article

Rice : Susceptibility, Supply and Security

Column : Beneath the Surface
by Abdul Bayes
Page 4

Star Literature

Poetry sets out with no mission; December musings; Throwing light on a convoluted territory; and Second Thought by Syed Manzoorul Islam
Pages 6 & 7

International

Indo-China amity vital for world peace

US troops in KSA must remain on high alert : Perry
Page 5

Business

Weekly review: Bourses plunge into crises

Renewed international commitment to full employment is needed: ILO
Page 8

NEWS BRIEFS

AL rally in city tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent
Awami League will hold a grand rally in the city tomorrow in celebration of the silver jubilee of the Independence and the Victory Day. AL chief Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to preside over the rally to be held at Manik Mia Avenue at 2 pm. Central leaders of the party will address the rally.

Border talks begin in Agartala

COMILLA, Nov 29: A two-day border meeting between Bangladesh and India began today at Agartala in the Indian state of Tripura, according to Comilla district administration sources. The meeting will discuss the maintenance and construction of the border pillars, curbing of smuggling and law and order situation. Deputy Commissioner of Comilla KM Nurul Huda is leading the Bangladesh side while Deputy Magistrate of Tripura state Shishu Kumar is heading the Indian side, reports BSS.

Bus services resume in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, Nov 29: Bus and minibus services resumed in Sylhet today as the transport leaders withdraw their strike after six days. They went on strike after a mob damaged some vehicles on November 23 protesting two deaths in road accidents. Following a meeting with the Deputy Commissioner today, the transport leaders called off the strike.

Shahjalal university admission tests

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, Nov 29: Admission tests for the first year Honours courses (1995-96) in the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology will be held on January 29 and 30, a university official said today. The decision was taken at a meeting of the academic council of the university yesterday, the source said, adding application forms will be distributed and received from January 4 to January 20. Tests for 'Ka' unit (Science) will be held on January 29 while the tests for the 'Kha' (Arts and Commerce) unit on January 30.

Khulna dist AL committee

From Staff Correspondent
KHULNA, Nov 29: Former MP Sheikh Harun-or-Rashid has been elected president of Khulna district committee of Awami League. He polled 121 votes out of 218 against his rival Advocate Nurul Haq MP who bagged 91 votes. Whip Mostafa Rashidi Shuja has been elected general secretary unopposed.

Indo-China accord to scale down forces along border



Chinese President Jiang Zemin (L) and Indian Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda confer during a signing of agreements ceremony yesterday in New Delhi. — AFP/UNB photo

NEW DELHI, Nov 29: India and China today agreed to cut troops on their border, reports AFP.

The border has been disputed since they fought a brief but bitter war in 1962.

PTI said the two nations agreed to scale down their forces to 'minimal levels,' reduce armaments, stop large scale military manoeuvres in the border region and avoid the use of force against each other.

The accord came on the second day of a three-day visit to India by President Jiang Zemin of China, who watched the signing with Indian Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda.

China also said it had not and would not supply nuclear weapons or technology to India's arch-rival Pakistan, a official spokesman said.

Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman, Shen Guofeng, said Beijing would not sell nuclear weapons to "any region or country."

He added: "I reiterate the

Chinese government is responsible toward (its) weapons transfer. China has not, does not and will not transfer or sell nuclear technology or nuclear weapons to any region or country."

The Chinese spokesman, however, said Beijing was assisting Islamabad in its civilian nuclear programmes under the supervision of international atomic regulators.

Four agreements were signed in all, one dealing with terrorism and drug trafficking, after an hour of negotiations between the two delegations.

An Indian Home Ministry spokesman called the deal co-ordinating action against drug trafficking and terrorism "a major breakthrough."

Other agreements covered maritime traffic and the maintenance of India's consulate in Hong Kong after the territory reverts to Chinese rule on July 1.

A fifth agreement on providing...

Depression likely to intensify further

The deep depression over west central Bay and adjoining south Bay moved north-north-eastwards and lies over west central Bay and adjoining east central Bay, reports UNB.

It was centred at 9 last night about 1,000 kms south-south-west of Chittagong port and about 920 kms south-south-west of Khulna city.

It is likely to intensify further and move in a north-north-westerly direction, a Met Office special bulletin said.

Maximum sustained wind within 48 kilometres of the depression centre is about 60 kph rising to 80 kph in gusts or squalls. Sea will remain rough.

Maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla have been advised to lower distant cautionary signal number one, but instead, hoist distant warning signal number two.

All fishing boats and trawlers over north Bay have been advised to remain close to the coast so as to take shelter at short notice.

AP from Hyderabad adds: The cyclone brewing in the Bay threatened India's storm-devastated eastern coast, prompting authorities yesterday to put its armed forces on alert for rescue missions.

The storm could hit tonight or Sunday morning on the same coastal area where a Nov 7 cyclone killed an estimated 1,000 people, said government officials of the Andhra Pradesh.

Hundreds of fishermen at sea were warned to return to port, and coast guard units and helicopter teams were instructed to spread the alert, said State Revenue Minister T Devender Goud.

The storm was 550 kilometres southeast of the port city of Machilipatnam and was moving northwest.

Goud said electricity to the threatened area would be shut off to avoid the risk of electrocution from fallen pylons. Road and rail traffic will be halted today, he said.

Loan against shares

BB issues 5-point guideline for scheduled banks

Bangladesh Bank has issued a five-point guidelines for the scheduled banks regarding the sanction of loans against shares and debentures of the companies enlisted with stock exchange, reports BSS.

According to the guidelines, no bank would sanction loans against shares or debentures more than ten per cent of its own liability.

The banks must review the market value of the deposited shares and debentures (against which loans have been sanctioned) once in a month. If the market value of the shares or debentures decreases, the banks will demand additional shares/debentures for proper coverage or withdraw the loan facilities.

They (banks) would take control of all shares or debentures as well as the "irrevocable authority to hand them over to the third party ahead of its own liability. The banks will have to receive the transfer

See Page 12 Col 7

PM, Jyoti may talk water issue today

By Staff Correspondent

The visiting Chief Minister of the Indian state of West Bengal Jyoti Basu will be making a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office today.

A source concerned, however, indicated that the two leaders would hold "exclusive political talks relating to finalisation of the vital aspects of water-sharing agreement" and also hold discussions on other issues like border trade, communication and business within the context of bilateral Indo-Bangladesh cooperation.

The crucial issue of quantum and nature of the water sharing agreement, among other issues, would figure at the meeting. The date for the proposed visit of Sheikh Hasina to Delhi next month for the signing of the proposed agreement may also

be fixed. The Chief Minister will also convey the position of Delhi on the water issue and other subjects, besides giving his own views to the Prime Minister. Mentionably, Basu had a telephonic conversation with Indian Prime Minister Deve Gowda prior to his departure for Dhaka.

Meanwhile, several rounds of informal meetings at different levels were held between Bangladesh Foreign Ministry officials and members of Jyoti Basu's entourage in the last three days.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad and the Chief Minister of West Bengal were also holding informal discussions.

These discussions and... See Page 12 Col 8

River cruise

Basu carried away by memories

Chief Minister of West Bengal Jyoti Basu, on the third day of his six-day visit yesterday enjoyed a river cruise in the first flash of the winter but nostalgia haunted him as the site of the journey was so familiar to him during his early days, reports BSS.

Basu and his host Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad were closed on the dock of the launch which moved through the Buriganga, Dhaleswari and the Meghna for several hours. Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak was present.

The West Bengal Chief Minister, whose ancestral home in the small hamlet, 'Barodi' in Narayanganj district is not far from the banks of the rivers, was visibly carried away by early days memories as he... See Page 12 Col 7



Visiting West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu enjoying a river cruise in the Buriganga and Meghna on board the BPC's Eagle-2 vessel yesterday. Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad and Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak are also seen. — PID photo

SEC directives for protection of investors

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has given three directives in order to provide protection to investors and ensure proper dealings in securities, reports BSS.

A press release yesterday said under the Securities and Exchange Ordinance, 1969, a listed company shall verify the signature of a transferor on any instrument of transfer of securities within three days of the submission of such instrument to the company.

The company shall register any transfer of securities within seven days of the submission of the duly executed instrument of transfer of securities together with the related certificate of securities.

The press release also said a listed company shall split any lot of securities into market lot as determined by the Commission within 21 days of the submission of application for such split together with the related certificate of securities and the splitting fee, if any, payable under the Articles of Association of the Company.

200 including 2 BNP MPs sued in Natore

NATORE, Nov 29: Police today sued 200 people, including two local BNP MPs, on charge of creating trouble in the town on Thursday following the death of a man of Sadar thana under police remand in Manikganj, reports UNB.

The MPs are Advocate Ruhul Quddus Talukdar Dulu of Natore-2 and Golam Morshed of Natore-3. Police also arrested BNP leader Bahim Newaz and Jubo Dal leader Golam Sarwar on Thursday night immediately after the incident.

Jainal Abedin Bepari of village Char Amhati in Sadar thana died in Manikganj jail on November 26 reportedly owing to torture by police. His body, with several injury marks, was buried today at his village.

On Thursday, several hundred angry villagers attacked a police outpost and ASP circle office in the town leaving a police constable injured. Fifteen people were also injured on that day in clashes between the protesters and ruling party activists.

Meanwhile, the half-day hartal earlier called in the town tomorrow was called off after a reconciliation meeting between the local leaders and law enforcing agencies.

India festival ends today

Usha Uthup, a noted Indian singer who will perform on the concluding day of the ongoing India Festival 1996, wants to break all man-made barriers between the people through her music, reports UNB.

My aim is to break all the barriers... and music is the strongest medium for sinking the differences of language, country, caste, creed and other man-made barriers," she told a press conference in the city yesterday.

Usha, a Madraisi by born with Tamil as her mother-tongue, knows several languages like Hindi, English, Bengali, French, Marathi and Panjabe and is famous for her stage performance. This is her second visit to Bangladesh.

"We brought for you the message of love, peace and brotherhood," said the ever-smiling multilingual singer. "I hope language will not separate us in tomorrow's programme... I hope music will bring all the people together."

Beginning her singing career in 1969, Usha and her five-member musician group, which she calls the "five-man army," have been continuing their en-

See Page 12 col 5

ADB likely to provide \$150m for PSIDP

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is likely to provide \$150 million US dollar in a World Bank designed infrastructure development project, set to provide nearly one billion dollar in next five years, reports UNB.

The ADB expressed its interest to co-finance the 300 million dollar Private Sector Infrastructure Development Project (PSIDP) through a recent aid memo to the government, official sources said.

World Bank's soft loan window, the International Development Association (IDA), has

agreed to provide up to 150 million dollar to the PSIDP, seeking co-financing from other multilateral and bilateral agencies.

The project sponsors would raise the rest 70 per cent of the required fund in the form of private equity and commercial debt which is possible in view of the interest already generated and emerging potential in terms of projects.

Predicting a number of future transactions under the PSIDP, the World Bank has advocated for the creation of an institutional arrangement, like the Power Cell, to provide facilitation for sectors other than power.

A Project Facilitation Unit (PFU) the Bank said, would house the facilitation expertise that all sub-projects of the PSIDP would need and have resources to engage specialised assistance for specific transactions.

It said the institutional arrangement of the Power Cell appears reasonable in view of the fact that the sector is likely to develop a series of private project transactions over the next 6-7 years.

Transactions in the other sectors such as ports, highway and water, however, is likely to be small and it is desirable to explore whether and institutional arrangement can be formed for sectors other than power, the Bank said.

It has been agreed that the

See Page 12 Col 3



'Reassess Hitler's role in genocide'

BONN, Nov 29: A prominent German historian has come up with a new and controversial theory that Adolf Hitler may not have initially intended to exterminate the Jews but was egged on by his entourage to order the holocaust, reports AFP.

Hans Mommsen, 66, who lectures at Oxford University in Britain and at Bochum University in Germany, said Hitler's role in the genocide of the Jews should be "reassessed" taking account of the "pressure" exerted on him by other Nazi leaders.

According to Mommsen, Hitler did not go into politics with the intention of exterminating the Jews and he said "it is extremely difficult to at-

See Page 12 Col 4

Hasina warns at meeting of mid-level leaders

AL to expel anyone involved in intra-party conflict, terrorism

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the Awami League leaders and workers not to show arrogance of power, rather demonstrate utmost restraint in dealing with the people, reports UNB.

Addressing a meeting of her party's mid-level leaders at the International Conference Centre (ICC) in the afternoon, Hasina said people saw misuse and vanity of power by previous regimes in last 21 years. She called on her partymen to refrain from following suit.

The meeting was aimed at discussing various steps to make a success the Awami League's grand rally at the Manik Mia Avenue on December 1 and Victory Day programmes.

Leaders of different tiers of City Awami League including members of the Advisory Committee, MPs, ward commissioners, thana and ward presidents and general secretaries attended it.

Hasina urged party members to devote and dedicate themselves to the welfare of the people as they did in most crucial days in last 21 years.

The Awami League president said her party had received people's mandate to serve the nation because of love and confidence the party gained through sincere and dedicated struggle for the cause of the people.

"Never do anything which

may hurt the people," she said and urged them to work hard to fulfill the Awami League's election pledges.

"You will commit a great mistake, if you think there is no need for the party as we are now in power," she said, adding "We have been able to establish the rights of people through a long struggle because our party was there."

The Prime Minister said people's right to vote has been achieved, now our struggle is to attain economic freedom.

Hasina warned that "any intra-party conflict, sabotage or terrorist acts by any Awami League would not be tolerated. If there is any, one will face expulsion."

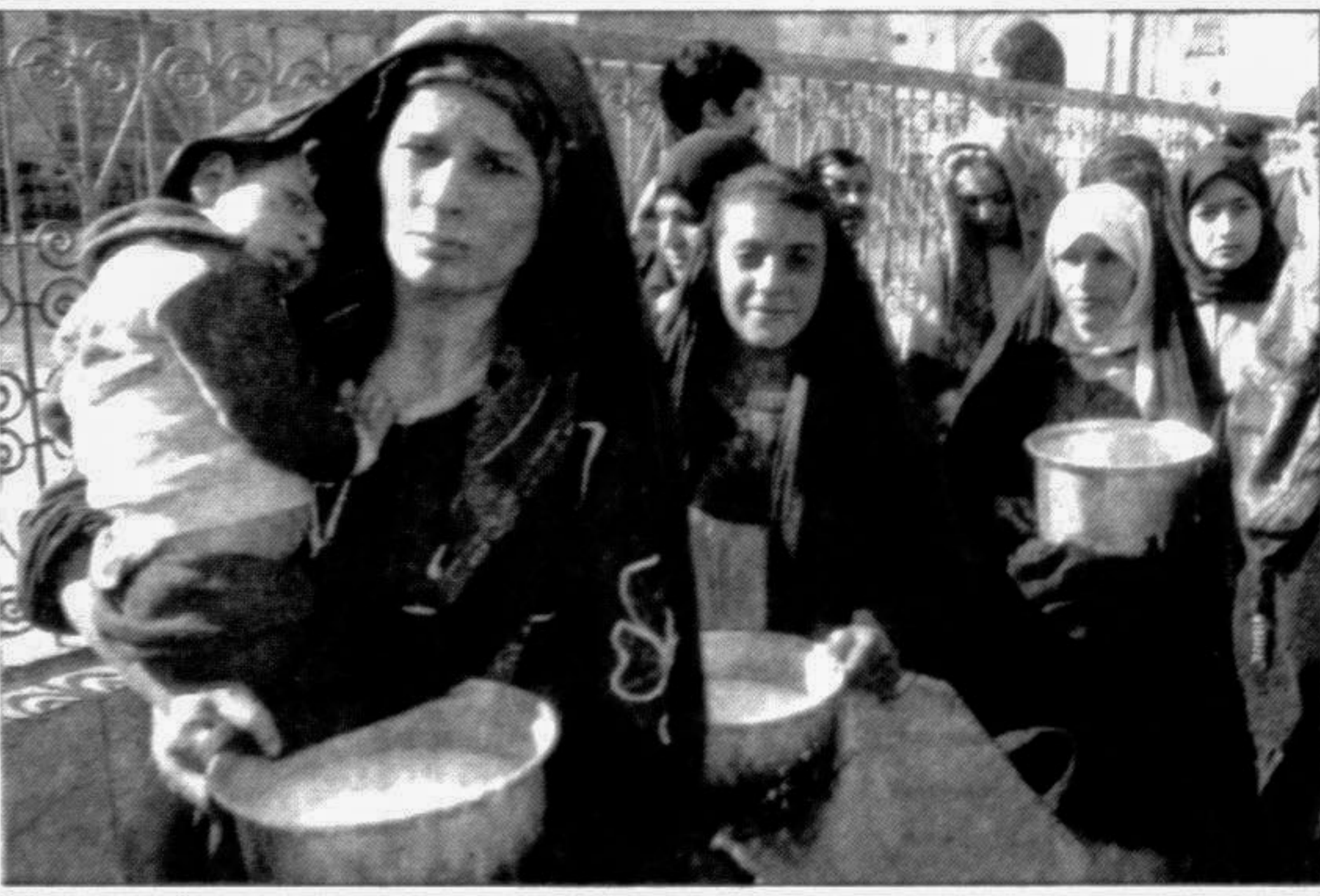
The Awami League chief asked all units of Awami League and front organisations to chalk out elaborate programmes to observe the silver jubilee of independence.

She also called for making the December 1 rally a success. President of Dhaka City Awami League and Dhaka city Mayor Mohammad Hanif and Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya MP also spoke briefly on the occasion.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman, Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim, Abdul Jalil, Abdul Mannan, Moqbul Hossain MP, Rahmatullah MP and Haji Mohammad Selim MP were among others present at the meeting.

BSS adds: Turning back to organisational matters Sheikh Hasina called upon party workers to be more active specially to make party's forthcoming national conference a total success.

She said that the persons from defeated and condemned political parties would not be given any room in the party at any level.



An Iraqi poor woman carries her child after receiving food aid for the needy at the Baghdad mosque yesterday. Some 2000 poor people were supplied with food. — AFP/UNB photo

Tk 67 cr Ctg TV centre opens Dec 16

CHITTAGONG, Nov 29: The 67 crore taka full-fledged television centre in Chittagong is expected to be opened on the Victory Day on December 16, reports BSS.

Being built on ten acres of land at the Pahartali hill top adjacent to picturesque Foy's Lake the TV centre, first of its kind outside the capital, is aimed at projecting the traditional and cultural heritage of Chittagong.

The triangular-cum-circular shaped four storey TV centre will have self-supported tower, one main studio, one news studio, five editing rooms, two rehearsal rooms, two make up rooms, entrance lobby, reception and security. Besides, it will have police barrack, rest house, security guard posts, general manager's quarters, officers quarters, emergency staff dormitory, rest house and canteen.

An engineer of PWD who is

See Page 12 col 5

SAARC nations begin talks on tariff cuts

KATHMANDU, Nov 29: Negotiators from South Asian nations today began talks on tariff cuts intended to boost trade in the region, officials said today, reports Reuter.

"This is an effort to go into significant tariff cuts in order to make SAPTA (South Asian Preferential Trading Agreement) an effective vehicle to increase intra-regional trade in South Asia," an official of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) said.

He said the meeting would also end the second round of negotiations on trade liberalisation under SAPTA, which allows concessional trade among the seven SAARC countries under the first round concluded last year.

Ashok K. Attri, director of the Kathmandu-based SAARC Secretariat, told Reuters the current round of negotiations has a two-pronged objective.

Negotiators will enlarge the

schedule of concessions by widening the list of items and deepen tariff cuts both on the existing and new products," Attri said.

Member countries of SAPTA have agreed on a list of 226 items for tariff concessions. The least-developed member countries are entitled to additional tariff concessions.

SAARC was formed in December 1985 to improve the economies of the more than one-fifth of the world's population that lives in South Asia. It groups Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

SAPTA, whose member countries provide tariff concessions for imports from within the region, was incorporated within the SAARC framework in 1993 and came into force in December 1995.

Negotiators said they would concentrate on bilateral talks and complete the consolidated

See Page 12 Col 6