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The Decontamination Process**Column : As I See It  
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secondary schools to  
quash more protestsNaga tribals kill 30 bus  
passengers  
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delegates not willing to  
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at DSE  
Pages 8, 9**DSE MARKET**DSE price index 2619.47  
Market capital Tk 18708.61 cr  
Transactions in volume 112307  
Transactions in value Tk 4.58 cr**CSE MARKET**CSE price index 13204.48  
Market capital Tk 15393.48 cr  
Transactions in volume 4215  
Transactions in value Tk 1515867**Supplement**Today's issue of The Daily  
Star contains a two-page  
supplement on IDLC  
Pages 6 & 7**NEWS BRIEFS****Commemorative  
stamps**Bangladesh Post Office will  
release a set of two commemorative  
postage stamps valued at Tk 4 and Tk 10, and a first day  
cover valued at Tk 6 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary  
of UNICEF. A special canceller  
will be used on the occasion.   
See a press release yesterday.  
reports UNB.**AL city bodies  
meet today**A joint meeting of city and  
district committee presidents  
and secretaries of Awami  
League and its front organisations  
will be held at its central  
office in the city at 5 pm today.  
says a press release. reports  
UNB.**Japanese envoy  
hosts reception**The Ambassador of Japan to  
Bangladesh held a reception in  
the city yesterday evening in  
celebration of the birthday of  
the Emperor of Japan. The  
reception was attended by ministers,  
politicians, diplomats,  
journalists, high officials and  
elite of the city. reports BSS.**Norwegian grant**Bangladesh will receive 14.8  
million Norwegian kroner,  
equivalent to Tk 10.00 crore,  
from Norway as grant under an  
agreement signed in the city  
yesterday. The fund will be  
utilised for development of rural  
electrification programme  
in Bangladesh by way of supplying  
wooden poles to the Rural  
Electrification Board (REB).  
Joint Secretary of Economic  
Relations Division AB Chowdhury  
and Norwegian Ambassador in Dhaka Nans Fredrik  
Lehno signed the agreement on  
behalf of their respective  
governments. reports UNB.**Cold wave claims  
25 in Pakistan**KARACHI, Dec 10: At least 25  
people have died during the past  
two days as a severe cold wave  
gripped southern Pakistan's Sindh  
province. officials and  
residents said today. Seven  
people, including five heroin  
addicts, died in Karachi while  
another five died in Hyderabad.  
160 kilometres northeast of  
here, social welfare officials  
said. Another 13 people, including  
gypsies and drug addicts,  
were reported dead in various  
towns and villages in Sindh  
province. reports AFP.**6 arrested for  
hunting deer**KHULNA, Dec 10: Police on  
Dec 1 arrested six persons,  
seized five live deer, fifteen  
kilograms of deer meat and  
four guns, at Kotkhai under  
Shyamnagar thana of Satkhira  
district, about 100 kms  
from here, according to a report  
received here. reports BSS.**Draft accord ready : Guaranteed quantum during dry season**

## 25-yr water accord likely

From M Anwarul Haq

NEW DELHI, Dec 10: Dhaka is optimistic about clinching a long-term Ganges water-sharing agreement with Delhi for at least 25 years that would ensure a guaranteed quantum during the dry season, according to highly placed Bangladeshi official sources.

The draft of the agreement is now ready to be signed by Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart Deve Gowda on Thursday.

Sheikh Hasina, on arrival at the Delhi airport this morning was received by Indian External Affairs Minister I K Gujral and Jyoti Basu and Dr Ashim Dasgupta Chief Minister and Finance Minister respectively of the Indian state of West Bengal. They briefed her on the draft agreement at a closed-door meeting at the airport, the sources added.

She later left for Ajmer in a special aircraft of the Indian Air Force.

Indian premier Deve Gowda and Jyoti Basu had earlier held one round of discussion yesterday, in which I K Gujral was also present.

The draft has been finalised after hectic rounds of parleys and telephonic conversations in Delhi, Dhaka and Calcutta, the sources said.

Gujral, talking to this correspondent this afternoon, sounded optimistic and said, "Yes, the water agreement is going to be signed." Asked for details, the seasoned politician replied, "I will not tell in now."

The proposed "breakthrough water accord" is being possible due to the vision and efforts of the leaders of the two countries, the sources said adding, it will usher in a new horizon of good neighbourliness between Bangladesh and India.

Although the contents of the proposed agreement are being kept secret at the moment, like many landmark treaties, the sources said that Bangladesh's expectations for a long-term accord of at least 25 years is going to be met and that a 'sufficient quantum' would be ensured during the dry season from January-May.

According to the sources, the quantum of water would be decided on a percentage basis based on the availability of water at Farakka point during the dry season and the lean period.

The draft envisages that Bangladesh would receive much more water than what is actually received under the minimum guarantee clause signed in 1977 Water Agreement, the sources said.

The Ganges water flow is going to be charted out in 15 cycles of 10-day periods for a total of 150 days that comprise the dry season. The 10-day cycle of the leanest period, during the month of April will receive special mention in the proposed agreement so that Bangladesh can be ensured of a stable flow every year during the tenure of the proposed agreement.

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### Hasina-Gujral talks at Delhi airport

NEW DELHI, Dec 10: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina arrived here this morning on a three-day visit at the invitation of Indian Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda, reports BSS.

She was received by Indian External Affairs Minister I K Gujral at the Indira Gandhi International Airport.

Chief Minister of West Bengal Jyoti Basu and Finance Minister of West Bengal Dr Ashim Das Gupta, were also present at the airport to greet the Bangladeshi leader.

Shortly after arrival, Hasina and Gujral held talks on bilateral issues.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Water Resources and Flood Control Minister Abdur Razzaq were present during the meeting.

Jyoti Basu and Dr Ashim Das Gupta were also present.

A Bangladesh official described the hour-long meeting held at the VVIP lounge at the airport as "friendly and cordial".

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was received by Indian Minister for External Affairs Inder Kumar Gujral (R) and West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu (L) yesterday on her arrival at the Indira Gandhi International Airport near New Delhi.

APP/UNB photo

## Gorai now a virtual sand bed

From Our Correspondent

KHUSTIA, Dec 10: Ferry service between Kushertia and Rajbari has been suspended as the Gorai river, a tributary of the Padma, has dried up.

The ferry service came to a halt following a notification issued by the Roads and Highways Department. It said that a Bailey bridge would be installed soon to resume traffic movement.

With the advent of the dry season and the falling water level of the Padma, the Gorai has turned into a virtual sand bed.

For the past few years the problem compounded with the GK project unable to provide enough water for farmers dur-

ing the dry season.

Even the ground water level declined in the area forcing farmers to burrow deeper into the aquifer to irrigate their lands.

Salinity in river waters in the Khulna and Jessor region increased with the drying up of the Gorai.

Besides the Gorai, the Mahananda, Boral, Korotia, Atrai, Punarbhaba, Pagla and Nagar rivers, which depend on the Padma for their flow, also dried up forming shoals on their beds.

### Suranjan asked to maintain 'low profile'

From Staff Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Dec 10: Commissions by Suranjan Sengupta, MP and Parliamentary Affairs Adviser to the Prime Minister, has raised controversy in political circles here.

Suranjan, who had earlier led a six-member parliamentary delegation to Canada and the United Kingdom arrived here Saturday night. Suranjan has been asked by the government to maintain a 'low profile' here.

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### 25,000 tonnes of urea to be imported this month

The government will import 25,000 tonnes of urea in the current month through international tender, reports BSS.

Another 1,80,000 tonnes of urea will arrive in the country during January and February next, a BCIC press release said yesterday.

The government will get 1,55,000 tonnes of urea from Karnafuli Fertiliser Company (KFCO) under two contracts signed recently to meet the requirement in the coming peak season.

The import decision has been taken to meet the peak season demands as government-owned Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Factory Ltd (CUFL) has suspended its production due to severe gas shortage at Bakhrabad gas field, the press release said.

Smugglers will face a maximum fine of 50,000 ringgit (20,000 dollars), imprisonment between two to five years as well as six strokes of the cane, the New Straits Times reported.

The move is part of a national crackdown on the growing number of illegal immigrants, most of them from Indonesia, the Philippines and Bangladesh. The government fears the immigrants could bring social problems and disease.

Those found guilty of forging or altering a visa, permit, pass or certificate will face a minimum five-year jail term, a fine of 30,000-100,000 ringgit (12,000-40,000 dollars) and six strokes of the cane.

There are about 2,000,000 immigrants in the country, most of them illegal.

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## Crackdown on illegal immigrants begins in Malaysia Jan 1

grants would begin on January 1.

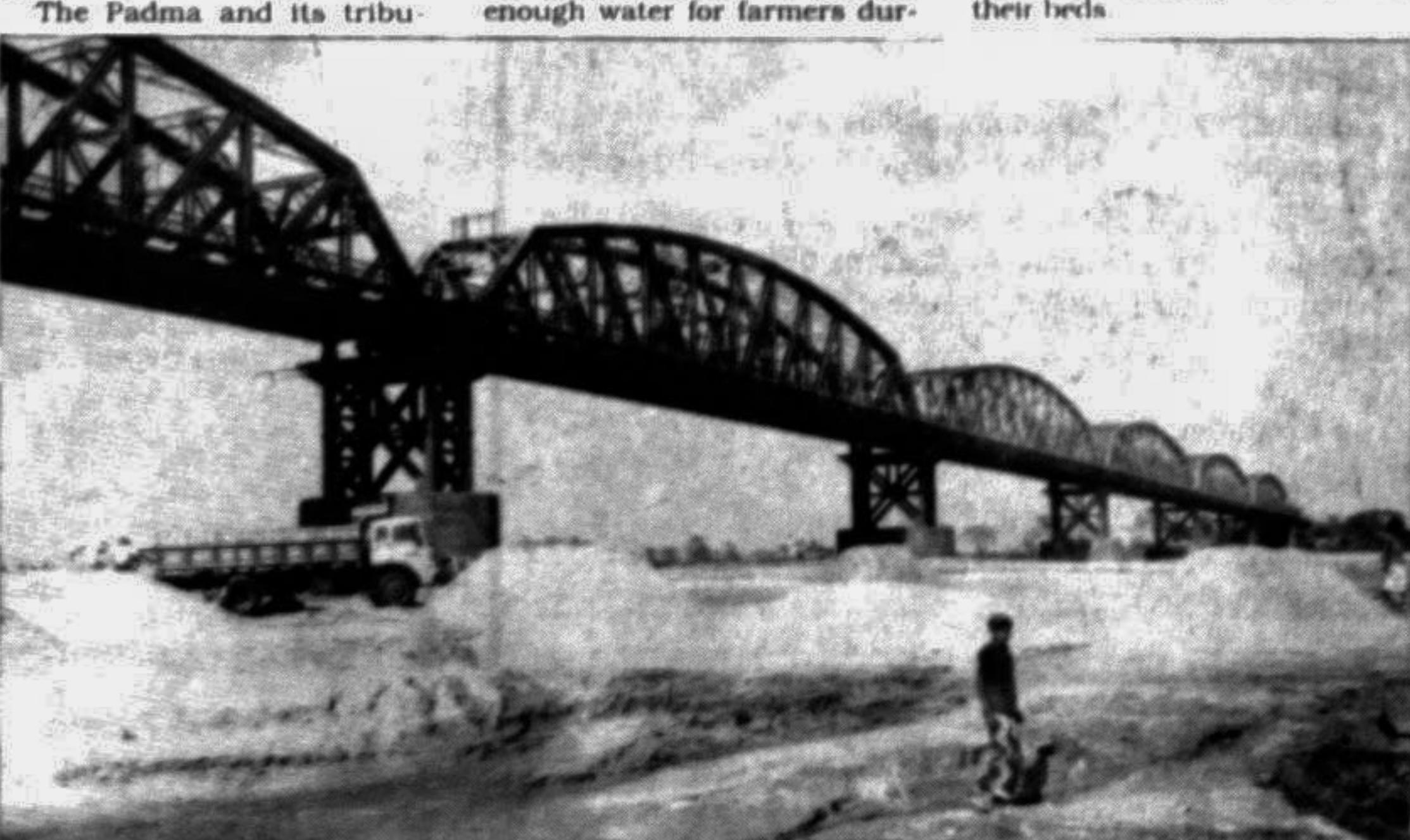
The Immigration Act will be amended in the current sitting of parliament to require smugglers to pay for the immigrants' maintenance and deportation, the New Straits Times reported.

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— Star photo

Padma at Hardinge Bridge during dry season.

### Jai Jai Din HC asks Editor not to repeat such comments

By SC Correspondent

The High Court yesterday admonished the weekly Jai Jai Din and asked it not to repeat such editorial comments and to publish the entire judgement within 15 days after receiving it.

The High Court discharged the rule issued against the editor of the weekly Shafiq Rehman in the contempt case.

The division bench of the HC comprising Justice Md Moazzam Hoque and Justice Md Abdul Matin by their judgement also gave importance on separation of the judiciary from the executive.

The court observed that since Shafiq Rehman was harassed several times in the past, ousted from the country, his weekly was banned and he expressed remorse and sorrows for publishing the editorial and

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### Radar Purchase Case HC upholds rejection of Ershad's bail

A High Court division bench yesterday upheld the order of rejection of bail by a special tribunal in a criminal case against deposed President HM Ershad, reports BSS.

The special tribunal had rejected accused-prisoner Ershad's bail petition apprehending that if the former chief executive of the republic was enlarged in bail he might temper evidences in the instant criminal case known as the Radar Purchase Case.

Ershad, now the leader of JP parliamentary party, was accused in the case of ordering the purchase of three radars for the air force from an American company at exorbitant price during his regime causing loss of Tk 34 crore to the national exchequer.

The High Court bench comprising Justice Badru Islam

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## Rise above partisan interests

**25th V-Day**

By Staff Correspondent

President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday regretted that no healthy political culture had been developed in the country.

"With great regret, we see that no healthy political culture has grown in the country," he said adding that the political leaders and their supporters are wasting their energy bickering over each other's pasts.

They can't rise above partisan interests to concentrate on the future of the country all the time," the President said. "If they cannot reach a consensus on major problems of the country, it would hamper the progress of the nation."

The President was addressing the inaugural session of the week-long "Bijoy Utsab" (Victory festival), organised by Sammilito Sangskritik Jote at the Central Shaheed Minar in celebration of the Silver Jubilee

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## Restructure JS Task Force, demands BNP

By Staff Correspondent

BNP has demanded restructuring of the Jatiya Sangsad Task Force (JSTF) to ensure "proper representation" in it and enable the main opposition party to play its due role in its functioning.

The demand was made at a press conference addressed by some top leaders of the party yesterday. It was held at the Minto Road official residence of the Leader of the Opposition.

The speaker constituted it (JSTF) in consultation with the leader of the House and the ruling party. "Chief Whip of the Opposition" in Parliament Khandaker Delwar Hossain said at the press conference which was also addressed by Deputy Leader of the Opposition

in the Houses Prof A G M Badruddoza Chowdhury and BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan.

Neither the opposition leader nor her deputy or myself or any lawmaker of our party was aware of the formation of the JSTF. By doing so, the JSTF has been made partisan and people of their choice are being sent abroad on study tour. Besides, people are also being recruited for the project without holding any meeting of the JSTF," Delwar said.

The JSTF was formed earlier to study functioning of parliaments of some countries and suggest measures for better functioning of the Jatiya

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**Body to prepare  
draft bill for  
introducing  
Grameen Court  
Star Report**

The government has set up a nine-member committee headed by Law Secretary Aminullah to prepare a draft bill for introducing Grameen Court at the union and village levels, according to official sources.

The other members of the committee are: Khandaker Muhammed Abu Bakr, solicitor, Abul Bashar Bhui