



Inside Today

Article

Let There be Light

Column: Beneath the Surface
by Abdul Bayes
Page 4

Star Literature

The horse rider's ambition; The photographic message; Paintings to suit your pocket; and Second Thoughts by Syed Manzoorul Islam
Pages 6 & 7

International

Peruvian rebels free Guatemalan envoy as talks seem at standstill
Tropical storm lashes Malaysia: 106 dead
Page 8

Supplement

One-page special supplement on the birthday of King Birendra of Nepal
Page 9

NEWS BRIEFS

Proposed strike in jute mills called off

The proposed strike in the jute and spinning mills on December 29 has been postponed after a meeting of the labour leaders of the mills with Minister of State for Labour and Manpower M A Mannan and on the basis of the ministers' assurance for fair disposal of their demands, an official handout said on Thursday, reports BSS.

Prisoner dies in Sylhet jail

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, Dec 27: An under-trial prisoner died in the Sylhet District Jail yesterday morning, official sources said.
The prisoner was identified as Abdus Shahid, 45, of Bani-bazar thana. He fell sick on the previous day, sources added.

Body to probe 'manipulations'

35 brokers in DSE, CSE shortlisted

By Shehab Ahmed and Inam Ahmed

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has short-listed at least 35 brokers in Dhaka and Chittagong stock exchanges whose volume of trading had been unusually high during the recent upheavals in the capital market, highly placed sources in the SEC said.

"We are investigating those on the basis of certain information as part of routine monitoring of the capital market," one source said.

Meanwhile, the SEC constituted a five-member committee, headed by Vice-Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Prof Amirul Islam, on Thursday to probe the alleged irregularities and manipulations in the market.

The investigation by the SEC and formation of the committee came in the wake of a probe by Special Branch police who had

reportedly found underhand dealings involving certain foreign traders eager to make a 'quick kill' in the booming market.

The SEC recently sent a notification asking brokers to submit detailed statements

Ordin amending 'Artha Rin Adalat Ain' promulgated

The President has promulgated an ordinance amending the 'Artha Rin Adalat Ain, 1990' for bringing dynamism in loan recovery and ensuring proper enforcement of the law, reports BSS.

The ordinance promulgated on December 17 would incorporate a new Section '6 Ka' followed by the Section 6 of the Act of 1990.

concerning their trading between July and November 15, it considered to be the most volatile period when prices rose sharply and slumped.

It had been looking for irregularities in the trading that might have led to the feverish trend in the market, even pushing prices of moribund company shares to their peak.

Shares of certain companies rose steeply, whose fundamentals were not strong enough to justify the dizzying heights they reached.

Some companies also saw a quantum jump in their prices even though they were out of production, without any assets and future, the sources added.

The murky situation was attributed to manipulations by certain unscrupulous traders by the kurb market dealers who staged demonstrations and dis-

See Page 12 Col 7



CRICKET ON A STICKY WICKET: National vice captain Aminul Islam Bulbul having an unprecedented batting practice on the street in front of Jatiya Press Club while fellow cricketers look on during their demonstration yesterday, protesting the controversial allotment of the Dhaka Stadium to football in the middle of cricketing season. (Detail on page 11).

3-day fifth SAARCLAW confce opens

Legal system must take care of social objectives: PM

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said a society does not have moral right to penalise those who are found to have violated its penal code in a process where opportunities bypassed them.

"To my mind, a society unable and unwilling to equalise opportunities in fields of education, healthcare and inheritance does not have a moral right to penalise those who are found to have violated its penal code in a process where opportunities bypassed them," she said.

Sheikh Hasina was inaugurating the three-day Fifth

SAARCLAW Conference at the International Conference Centre in the city yesterday morning. Bangladesh chapter of SAARCLAW, a forum formed in October, 1991 in Colombo, organised the conference with the core theme 'Development Through Law'.

The three-day conference's working programme includes two plenary sessions, four working sessions and a valedictory session. Besides, the second conference of chief justices of SAARC countries will also be held tomorrow at Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) in Comilla.

The Prime Minister said legal system in this part of the world would have to take increasing care of social objectives like 'equalising opportunities for all to bloom themselves as law abiding productive citizens'.

The system needs to ensure resolution of conflicts among individuals and organisations in such a way that the poor are not neglected or deprived to the benefit of the affluent, Hasina said.

"In our societies, if millions of poor do not receive due protection of law, a few hundred

See Page 12 Col 3

BM Abbas A T dead

Internationally reputed water expert BM Abbas A T died on Thursday at BIRDEM Hospital in the city. He was 85, reports UNB.

He was suffering from old-age ailments.

His namaz-e-janaza was held at Baitul Mokarram National Mosque after Zohr prayers.

Abbas served different governments as adviser or minister on water management after independence of Bangladesh in 1971.

He tried relentlessly to resolve the Farakka problem till he retired from service in 1979. He also wrote a number of books on water management.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed her deep shock at the death of BM Abbas AT.

In a message of condolence, the Prime Minister recalled his contribution to the better management of the country's water

See Page 12 Col 1

Ijtema begins at Tongi

Lakhs gather on the bank of Turag

By Staff Correspondent

Biswa Ijtema, the second biggest congregation of Muslims after the Hajj begins today on the eastern bank of river Turag at Tongi, about 25 Kms from the capital.

Although the Ijtema will be formally inaugurated today recitation from the Quran and Hadith and discussion on Islam began yesterday. Akhbari Munajaj will be held on Monday.

According to leaders of Tablig Jamaat, organisers of the Ijtema, about 60 per cent of the expected attendants have already arrived at the venue and thousands of devotees are on way. More than a million people usually gather on the occasion.

Several thousand devotees from 46 foreign countries have also arrived. The countries include India, Pakistan, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Burma, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Arab Emirates, Egypt, Turkey, US and some European countries. More devotees from foreign countries will arrive today, they said.

At least five special camps named India, Pakistan, Malaysia, English and Arabian camps have been set up in the northern side of the pandal for accommodating devotees from abroad.

The congregation will be bigger this year because of a by and

See Page 12 Col 1

John Major due Jan 10

British Prime Minister John Major will pay a three-day official visit to Bangladesh from January 10 at the invitation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, reports UNB.

He will be accompanied by Mrs. Norma Major, an official announcement said Thursday.

The visit has a special significance since this will be the first meeting between the two leaders and it takes place at a time when Bangladesh is celebrating its 25 years of independence.

The government and the people of Britain extended strong support to Bangladesh during the liberation war in 1971.

This will be the first visit to Bangladesh by a British Prime Minister in 18 years. Former British Prime Minister James Callaghan visited Bangladesh in 1978.

See Page 12 Col 1

India doesn't have enough power to sell, experts say

Star Report

Power purchase from India might not be feasible for Bangladesh since India does not have adequate power to sell, according to experts.

"It is forecast that in March 1997, India will face a power shortage of 12 per cent," one expert said. "In peak hours, this shortfall will increase to 19 per cent," the expert added.

The ruling Awami League claimed that the idea of purchase of power from India as a quick solution to the country's increasing power shortage was conceived during BNP rule. But BNP denied it.

After Awami League came to power in June, it said it will go ahead with the 'same idea' as energy experts predicted a shortfall of 450 MW power shortfall in 1997.

A feasibility study on purchase of power from India is

See Page 12 Col 6

DUTA iterates demand for trial of Nuban's killers

By Staff Correspondent

The killers of Nuban Ahmed, a young teacher of the Dhaka University, could not be identified even after one year of the murder, said the university teachers yesterday expressing deep concern.

Addressing a press conference in the city, the leaders of the Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA) reiterated their demand for the trial and exemplary punishment of the killers of Nuban and also demanded probe into the alleged negligence in his treatment.

See Page 12 Col 1

3-week exhibition begins

Nat'l art gallery to be set up at Shilpakala

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called for ensuring a creative future for the country through united efforts by the government and the artist community, reports UNB.

She was inaugurating the three-week long 12th National Art Exhibition, 1996, organised by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in observance of the Silver Jubilee of Independence and the War of Liberation.

"Government can only create favourable atmosphere for nurturing arts and help remove the obstacles in its practice," the Prime Minister said, pledging the government's commitment to be 'always active in flourishing arts'.

A national art gallery will be established at the Shilpakala Academy premises, the Prime Minister said, responding to the demand voiced

earlier by artist Quyum Chowdhury and Director General of the Shilpakala Academy Shamsuzzaman Khan.

She said keeping the Independence Monument at the Suhrawardy Udyan and the Shilpakala Academy at the centre, the surrounding area would be built up as rendezvous of art and culture-loving people.

She recalled the contribution of the country's great artists and sculptors, including Kamrul Hasan, S M Sultan, Hamidur Rahman, Abdur Razak, Syed Mainul Hossain, Tawfik Karim, Murtaza Bashir, Abdullah Khalid and Nitun Kundu.

In this regard, Hasina spoke of the famous sketch drawn by Late Kamrul Hasan during the anti-autocracy movement, just a few moments before he

See Page 12 Col 2

Hundreds pay last respect to Subinoy Chakma

RANGAMATI, Dec 27: The mortal remains of late Subinoy Chakma, secretary general of the Chittagong Hill Tracts National Coordination and Peace Council (CHTNPC) was cremated at Rajbari here yesterday afternoon, reports BSS.

Hundreds of tribal and non-tribal leaders from three hill districts including Chairman of Local Government Council Rajendra Lal Chakma, local MP Dipankar Talukdar, Chakma King Devashish Roy, President of CHTNPC Saiful Islam Dildar, Chairman of Rangamati Pourashave Mani Swapan Dewan, Region Commander Brigadier A T M Zahurul Haq,

deputy commissioner and police super attended the cremation ceremony and paid their last respect to late human rights activist Subinoy Chakma.

Chakma was assassinated by armed miscreants at Chamapankar, Rangamati here Wednesday evening.

Meanwhile, a press release of CHTNPC said as part of a four-day long mourning programmes black flag was hoisted at all thana headquarter of the districts, special prayers were also held in all places of worship seeking salvation of the departed soul of late Subinoy.

See Page 12 Col 4

ICD expansion work still stalled: Talks with protesters today

By Reaz Ahmad

Work for the expansion of Inland Container Depot (ICD) of Bangladesh Railway (BR) at Kamalapur station in the city remained suspended for the fourth consecutive day yesterday as a scheduled meeting between BR officials and representatives of the people of nearby localities was not held on Thursday.

According to BR sources, if the ICD expansion work continued to remain suspended, congestion at Chittagong Port

would worsen. Chittagong Port Authority gave Tk 50 crore to the BR for quick expansion of the ICD to ease the congestion at the port.

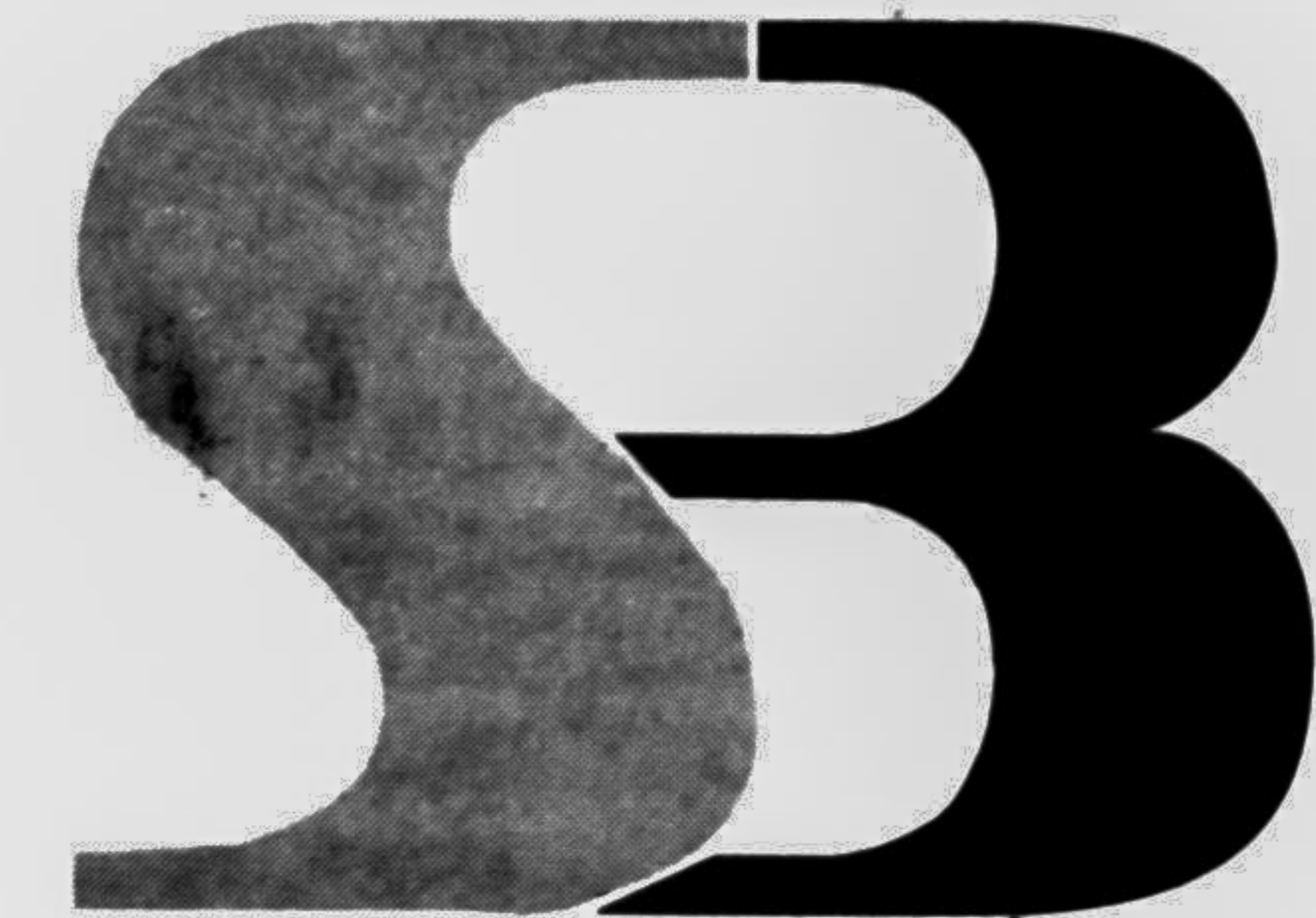
In a violent refusal to sacrifice a 30-year old road linkage between through Kamalapur station for the sake of ICD expansion, hundreds of people from the areas forced labourers to stop work on Tuesday after two weeks of spade work.

A representative of the Committee for Resistance to

Closure of Mugda-Kamalapur Road told The Daily Star yesterday that they did not join a meeting on the issue with BR officials as BR had not invited them formally.

BR sources said, an invitation letter was now sent to convenor of the resistance committee Advocate Shahajuddin Sarkar giving a fresh date. The meeting between Divisional Railway Manager Saleh Ahmed and representatives of local

See Page 12 col 5



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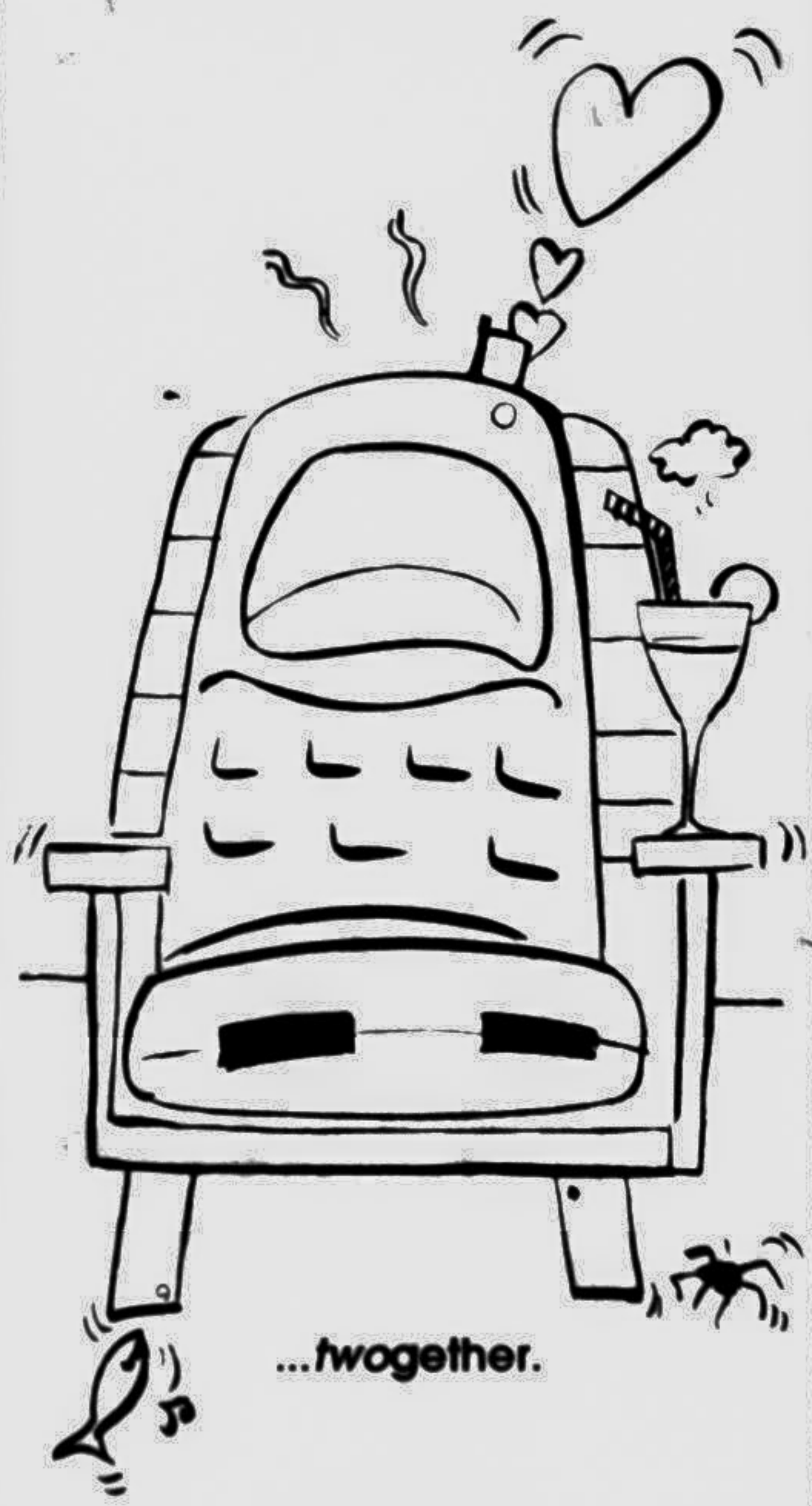
Branch in greater Sylhet opens today



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