



VOL. VIII NO. 327 REGD. NO. DA 781

INTERNET: <http://www.dailystarnews.com>

POUSH 8 1405 BS

DHAKA TUESDAY DECEMBER 22, 1998

RAMADAN 2, 1419 HIJRI

16 PAGES : PRICE TAKA 6.00

Mild cold wave likely next week

By Special Correspondent

A mild cold wave is likely to make the winter more biting next week and in early January as it settles down late unlike in the past year. Meteorological Department said yesterday.

There is a possibility of another bite of cold, a little stronger in the second week of January.

So far the winter is yet to make any impact in the country excepting in the north, northeast and north-western parts where minimum temperature ranged between 13 degree Celsius to 10 C yesterday, it said.

The day's minimum temperature, 10 C was recorded at Srimangal. In Mymensingh it was 10.7 C, Dinajpur 11.7 C, Sathkhira 11.8 C, Ishurdi 12.8 C, Dhaka 12.2 C, Tangail 12.5 C, Rangpur 13 C, Bogra 13.5 C and in Madaripur 13.5 C.

Met Office said the temperature is not falling at the level of last year's as the western jet stream is staying at 24,000 feet and above.

It came down slightly sometimes but is staying higher, leaving far less impact on the temperature.

There had been some variations as a result of which the northern part had lower temperature than the south and south-eastern parts of the country.

Cabinet okays proposed nat'l water policy

The cabinet yesterday approved the proposed national water policy, reports APB.

The approval came at a regular weekly meeting of the cabinet with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

The policy aims at development and proper use of the country's water resources — both surface and underground water — through efficient management as well as ensuring its availability for all, specially the poor and disadvantaged section of the society.

Beware of strangers'

By Staff Correspondent

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has urged people not to travel with unknown persons by rickshaws and autorickshaws.

In a press release, DMP said that a section of autorickshaw drivers and rickshaw pullers, in connection with muggers, lure people to travel with co-passengers in their vehicles at a cheaper fare.

The rickshaw pullers or the autorickshaw drivers take muggers as co-passengers in their vehicles who snatch everything from the passenger's release added.

OMS of rice launched in city

The government yesterday launched Open Market Sale (OMS) of rice in the capital for keeping the price of foodgrains stable and removing the sufferings of the low-income groups, reports UNB.

Per kg rice is being sold at Tk 13.50 and each person will be allowed to purchase three kgs of rice, said an handout.

Inside Today

Article

First US President in Palestine

Column : The Horizon This Week by Arshad-uz Zaman

Page 4

Focus

Do we need a new system of government in Bangladesh? Page 5

Business

Govt plans Apparel Board to keep RMG sector on track

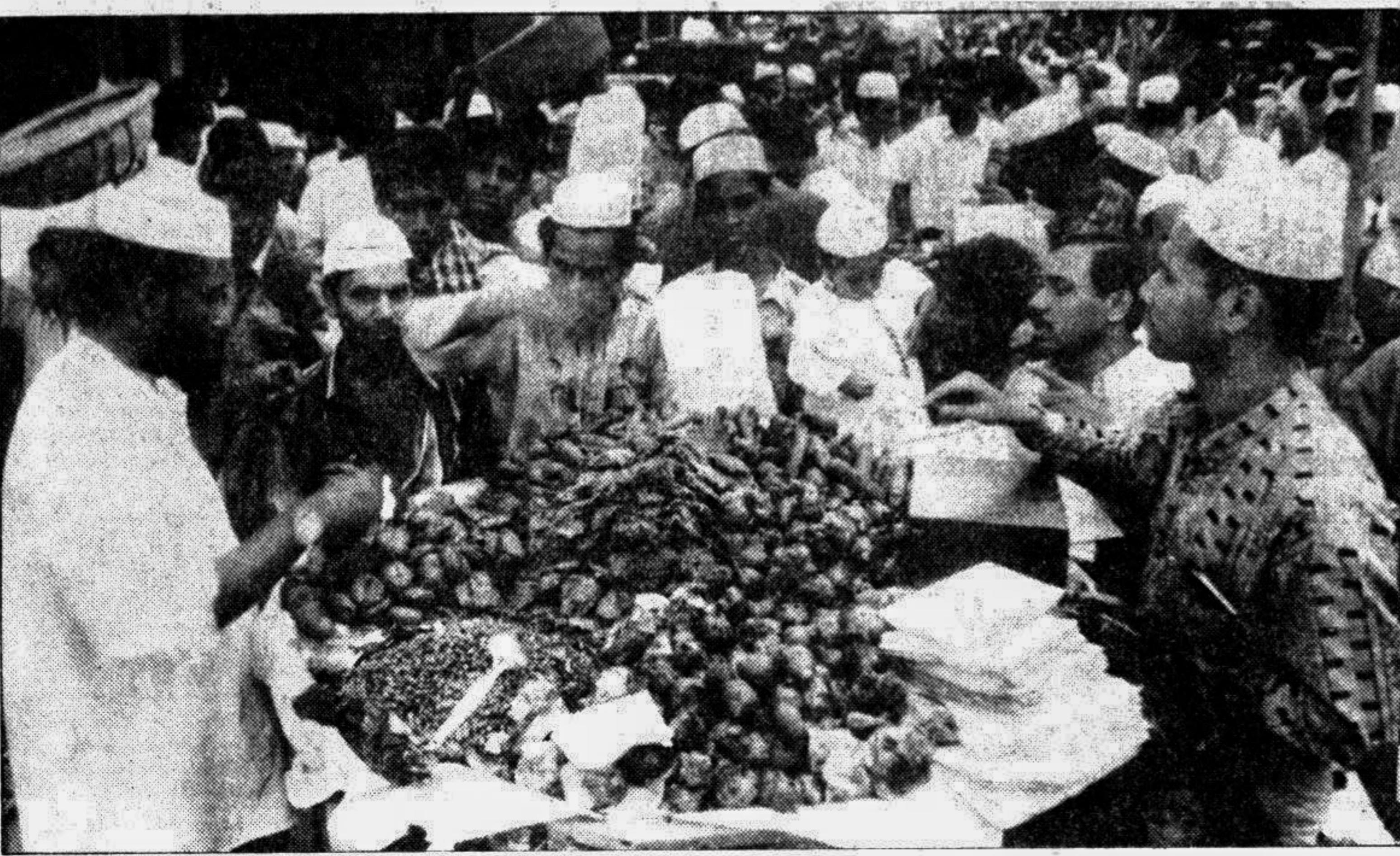
Indo-Lanka free trade accord gives rise to apprehensions

DSE, CSE price quotations

Pages 6, 7, 8

Sehri, Iftar timings

Ramadan	Dec	Sehri	Iftar
2	22	5:12	5:20
3	23	5:13	5:21
4	24	5:13	5:21



A wide variety of iftar items were on sale in the city yesterday, the first day of Ramadan. This photo was taken from Chawkbazar.

— Star photo

Land development work for Meghnaghat plant

Final negotiations with Chinese firm open ignoring protests

By Sharier Khan

The Power Development Board has started final negotiations to sign an agreement with a Chinese firm, CWHEC, for the 140 crore taka land development work for the 450 MW Meghnaghat Power Plant with our clearance from higher authorities.

Sources said that the PDB "hurriedly" started the final negotiation with the Chinese firm by "vaguely announcing" it the lowest bidder late last week.

However, the consultant of the project said that more than one firm could be the lowest bidder. As a result, bidders are protesting the PDB decision.

Usually, such negotiations require prior 'green signal' from the Cabinet Purchase Committee or the ministry concerned.

The PDB is however saying that it was not a final negotia-

tion meeting but a "clarification meeting". Sources said, only the consultant of the project is supposed to hold such "clarification meeting" at this stage.

The bid was participated by four companies - China National Water Resources and Hydropower Engineering Corporation (CWHEC), China Harbour Engineering Company, Hyundai Engineering and Construction Co of South Korea and Kumpulan Muda Liza Berhad of Malaysia.

The consultant of the project, Mott MacDonald, itself did not determine the lowest bidder. An official said, "The consultant refrained from taking a clear stand on the lowest bidder issue. Instead, it confused PDB in bid documents and sat with bidders in clarification negotiations," said an official.

"Determining the lowest bidder in this project is a very complicated issue and it's the task of an independent consultant."

In August last, PDB invited tenders for the design and build-turn-key contract for land reclamation and embankment protection work at a 100-hectare site on the north bank of river Meghna.

The CWHEC proposed to develop 80 hectares of land at a

Earlier, one of the bidders had lodged a protest with PDB saying that the bidding procedure was not transparent and fair as the same company represented the consultant and the CWHEC here.

A wide variety of items including *pyajau*, *beguni*, *chhola*, *pakura*, *ponir*, *sanucha*, *jalapi*, *halim*, vegetable and potato chop, roasted *hilsa*, roasted chicken, chicken fry were on sale in the city on the first day of the holy Ramadan yesterday.

Piyajau, a preparation of pulses and onion fried in oil, the most popular iftar item, was found selling at Tk one and Tk two depending on the size.

"We are using less onion in *piyajau* to keep the price low," said Ashraf Ali, a seller at Chawk Bazar.

"If you taste, you will find the difference in almost all common items because we are using less spices," another seller said.

Prices of all most all fruits including date, orange, banana, papaya and grapes also rose slightly.

Date, an imported item, was selling at between Tk 40 and Tk 100 per kg. A special variety of date, which is dried with sugar juice was selling at Tk 120 per kg.

Prices of all most all fruits including date, orange, banana, papaya and grapes also rose slightly.

Date, an imported item, was selling at between Tk 40 and Tk 100 per kg. A special variety of date, which is dried with sugar juice was selling at Tk 120 per kg.

Prices of all most all fruits including date, orange, banana, papaya and grapes also rose slightly.

Date, an imported item, was selling at between Tk 40 and Tk 100 per kg. A special variety of date, which is dried with sugar juice was selling at Tk 120 per kg.

Prices of all most all fruits including date, orange, banana, papaya and grapes also rose slightly.

Date, an imported item, was selling at between Tk 40 and Tk 100 per kg. A special variety of date, which is dried with sugar juice was selling at Tk 120 per kg.

Prices of all most all fruits including date, orange, banana, papaya and grapes also rose slightly.

Date, an imported item, was selling at between Tk 40 and Tk 100 per kg. A special variety of date, which is dried with sugar juice was selling at Tk 120 per kg.

Prices of all most all fruits including date, orange, banana, papaya and grapes also rose slightly.

Date, an imported item, was selling at between Tk 40 and Tk 100 per kg. A special variety of date, which is dried with sugar juice was selling at Tk 120 per kg.

Prices of all most all fruits including date, orange, banana, papaya and grapes also rose slightly.

Date, an imported item, was selling at between Tk 40 and Tk 100 per kg. A special variety of date, which is dried with sugar juice was selling at Tk 120 per kg.

Prices of all most all fruits including date, orange, banana, papaya and grapes also rose slightly.

Date, an imported item, was selling at between Tk 40 and Tk 100 per kg. A special variety of date, which is dried with sugar juice was selling at Tk 120 per kg.

Prices of all most all fruits including date, orange, banana, papaya and grapes also rose slightly.

Date, an imported item, was selling at between Tk 40 and Tk 100 per kg. A special variety of date, which is dried with sugar juice was selling at Tk 120 per kg.

Prices of all most all fruits including date, orange, banana, papaya and grapes also rose slightly.

Date, an imported item, was selling at between Tk 40 and Tk 100 per kg. A special variety of date, which is dried with sugar juice was selling at Tk 120 per kg.

Prices of all most all fruits including date, orange, banana, papaya and grapes also rose slightly.

Date, an imported item, was selling at between Tk 40 and Tk 100 per kg. A special variety of date, which is dried with sugar juice was selling at Tk 120 per kg.

Prices of all most all fruits including date, orange, banana, papaya and grapes also rose slightly.

Date, an imported item, was selling at between Tk 40 and Tk 100 per kg. A special variety of date, which is dried with sugar juice was selling at Tk 120 per kg.

Prices of all most all fruits including date, orange, banana, papaya and grapes also rose slightly.

Date, an imported item, was selling at between Tk 40 and Tk 100 per kg. A special variety of date, which is dried with sugar juice was selling at Tk 120 per kg.

Prices of all most all fruits including date, orange, banana, papaya and grapes also rose slightly.

Date, an imported item, was selling at between Tk 40 and Tk 100 per kg. A special variety of date, which is dried with sugar juice was selling at Tk 120 per kg.

Prices of all most all fruits including date, orange, banana, papaya and grapes also rose slightly.

Date, an imported item, was selling at between Tk 40 and Tk 100 per kg. A special variety of date, which is dried with sugar juice was selling at Tk 120 per kg.

Prices of all most all fruits including date, orange, banana, papaya and grapes also rose slightly.

Date, an imported item, was selling at between Tk 40 and Tk 100 per kg. A special variety of date, which is dried with sugar juice was selling at Tk 120 per kg.

Prices of all most all fruits including date, orange, banana, papaya and grapes also rose slightly.

Date, an imported item, was selling at between Tk 40 and Tk 100 per kg. A special variety of date, which is dried with sugar juice was selling at Tk 120 per kg.

Prices of all most all fruits including date, orange, banana, papaya and grapes also rose slightly.

Date, an imported item, was selling at between Tk 40 and Tk 100 per kg. A special variety of date, which is dried with sugar juice was selling at Tk 120 per kg.

Prices of all most all fruits including date, orange, banana, papaya and grapes also rose slightly.

Date, an imported item, was selling at between Tk 40 and Tk 100 per kg. A special variety of date, which is dried with sugar juice was selling at Tk 120 per kg.

Prices of all most all fruits including date, orange, banana, papaya and grapes also rose slightly.

Date, an imported item, was selling at between Tk 40 and Tk 100 per kg. A special variety of date, which is dried with sugar juice was selling at Tk 120 per kg.

Prices of all most all fruits including date, orange, banana, papaya and grapes also rose slightly.

Date, an imported item, was selling at between Tk 40 and Tk 100 per kg. A special variety of date, which is dried with sugar juice was selling at Tk 120 per kg.

Prices of all most all fruits including date, orange, banana, papaya and grapes also rose slightly.

Date, an imported item, was selling at between Tk 40 and Tk 100 per kg. A special variety of date, which is dried with sugar juice was selling at Tk 120 per kg.

Prices of all most all fruits including date, orange, banana, papaya and grapes also rose slightly.

Date, an imported item, was selling at between Tk 40 and Tk 100 per kg. A special variety of date, which is dried with sugar juice was selling at Tk 120 per kg.

Prices of all most all fruits including date, orange, banana, papaya and grapes also rose slightly.

Date, an imported item, was selling at between Tk 40 and Tk 100 per kg. A special variety of date, which is dried with sugar juice was selling at Tk 120 per kg.

Prices of all most all fruits including date, orange, banana, papaya and grapes also rose slightly.

Date, an imported item, was selling at between Tk 40 and Tk 100 per kg. A special variety of date, which is dried with sugar juice was selling at Tk 120 per kg.

Prices of all most all fruits including date, orange, banana, papaya and grapes also rose slightly.

Date, an imported item, was selling at between Tk 40 and Tk 100 per kg. A special variety of date, which is dried with sugar juice was selling at Tk 120 per kg.

Prices of all most all fruits including date, orange, banana, papaya and grapes also rose slightly.

Date, an imported item, was selling at between Tk 40 and Tk 100 per kg. A special variety of date, which is dried with sugar juice was selling at Tk 120 per kg.

Prices of all most all fruits including date, orange, banana, papaya and grapes also rose slightly.

Date, an imported item, was selling at between Tk 40 and Tk 100 per kg. A special variety of date, which is dried with sugar juice was selling at Tk 120 per kg.

Prices of all most all fruits including date, orange, banana, papaya and grapes also rose slightly.

Date, an imported item, was selling at between Tk 40 and Tk 100 per kg