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WTO talks: Dhaka rejects inclusion of new issues

SEATTLE, Dec 1: Bangladesh today rejected the idea for inclusion of new issues in the agenda for new round of trade talks, reports UNB.

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed made his statement in the afternoon session that started under tight security after 30 minutes behind the schedule. Demonstrators disrupted the opening session.

Tofail said the next negotiations, which is supposed to start from January 1, 2000, should be on "implementation issues" and built-in issues, as agreed by the WTO members in the second ministerial declaration.

"Therefore, there is no need for holding a new or comprehensive round of multilateral trade negotiations."

Elaborating pictures of LDC economies due to globalization and liberalization, the minister regretted that the share of LDCs in global trade declined to less than 0.4 per cent in 1998. He said the share of LDCs in the total global flows of FDI in 1997 was as low as 0.5 per cent.

He said although Bangladesh posted the highest growth in export and FDI inflow due to government's special measures and initiatives, most of the LDCs were affected by globalization.

Overseas development assistance flow to LDCs has also declined sharply. He noted that LDCs had signed the Uruguay Round agreement with the hope that the expected global trade liberalization would enable them to raise their incomes and thereby improve the lot of 600 million people.

"We have faithfully followed the liberalisation agenda of the Uruguay Round at the cost of further marginalization."

To get rid of this unbecoming situation, the minister forwarded 8-point comprehensive new plan of action on behalf of LDCs for implementation by WTO members.

These are: 1) provide duty-free market access to LDC products, 2) ensure balanced implementation of existing WTO agreements, 3) strengthen special and differential provisions to specific needs of LDCs, 4) extend transitional periods of different agreements under WTO for LDCs, 5) grant free movement of natural persons, 6) enhance technical assistance and technology transfer initiatives, 7) increase ODA and FDI flow to LDCs and expedite debt-relief programme, and 8) simplify accession procedures for LDCs to the WTO.

The minister stressed "market access" issue saying that it has been restricted by tariff peaks and tariff escalation as well as by non-tariff barriers.

He said majority of tariff peaks of developed countries in textile and agriculture sectors where LDCs and developing countries have comparative advantage.

"To compensate the deprivation we want duty-free market access," he told the ministerial conference of the highest regulatory body on global trade.

He said compensatory measures should be provided to LDCs after quotas would be phased out to protect their interest.

"Unilateral imposition of non-tariff barriers by developed and higher developing importing countries in the form of health, safety, social and environmental standards are unfair and deprive the LDCs of the opportunity to derive the full benefit of liberalization."

Tofail informed the forum that Bangladesh had taken export-diversification measures that could be geared up by increased technical assistance and technology-transfer initiatives from developed nations.

The ministers of Australia, Canada and EU in their speeches endorsed the justification of providing the LDCs with duty-free market access.

Discussions on Dr. Akhter Hameed Khan, Founder of the World Famous "Comilla Model" of Rural Development

Date : 4 December, 1999
Day : Saturday
Time : 10:00 A.M.
Venue : LGED Auditorium, Agargaon, Dhaka.

Dr. Khan's Former Colleagues, Friends and Admirers are Cordially Invited to Attend the Meeting.

Courtesy : Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) Organizers

বাংলাদেশ ভাষাবৈজ্ঞানিক সমিতির ৪১তম বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভা ও নির্বাচন

স্থান : প্রমোদিত বি.আই.এইচ.এস প্রাঙ্গণ, দারুস সালাম রোড (পুলিশ বস্ত্র-এর বিপরীতে), মিরপুর, ঢাকা।

সময় : ৩রা ডিসেম্বর, ১৯৯৯, শুক্রবার, বিকাল ৩টা।

অধ্যাপক এ.কে.আজাদ খান মহাসচিব

টেকনিক্যাল কলেজ গাবতলী পুলিশবস্ত্র

দারুস সালাম রোড, মিরপুর-১

মিরপুর রোড বি.আই.এইচ.এস প্রাঙ্গণ (সভাস্থল)

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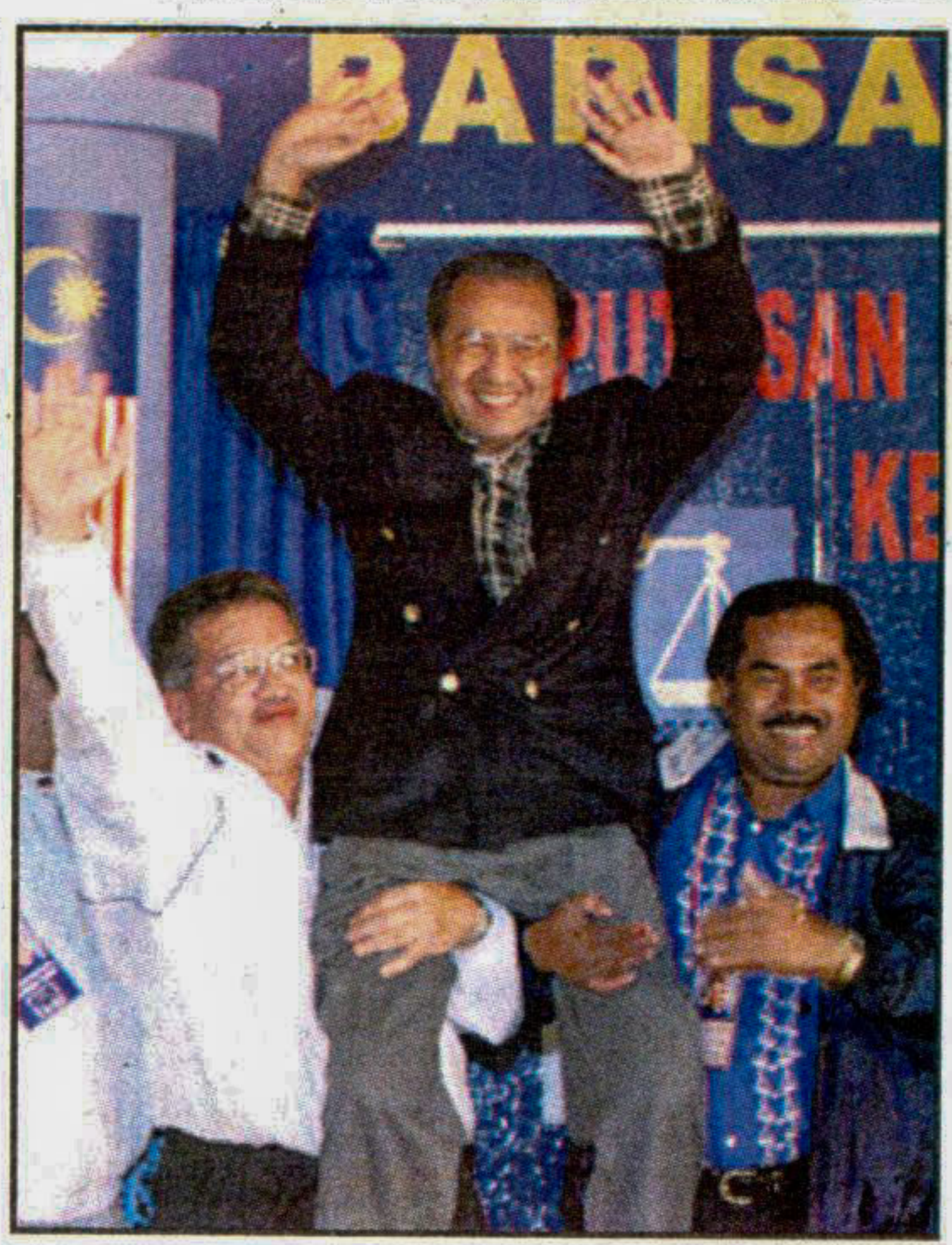
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Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad is carried by supporters on Tuesday after his ruling coalition won the election by a two-thirds majority. — AFP photo

Temple calls on Shahabuddin

World Bank Country Director Frederick T Temple called on President Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

Temple apprised the President of the preparation of the judicial and legal capacity building project, being financed by the World Bank.

He also referred to the Bank-financed judicial officers' training institute, which started functioning in the old High Court building.

President Shahabuddin appreciated the steps taken by the World Bank and hoped that these projects would lead to increase the efficiency of the judicial officers and help proper dispensation of justice in the country.

HC injunction on election of Administrative Service Assoc

The High Court yesterday issued an injunction on the election of the Administrative Services Association.

The Court also issued a rule asking why the order given by the tenth Additional District and Sessions Judge, Dhaka, on November 28 regarding the election would not be declared cancelled.

A single bench of the HC comprising Justice Mahfuzur Rahman issued the injunction after primary hearing of a revision submitted by Zakirul Islam, private secretary to the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament.

British Parliament approves power transfer to N Ireland

LONDON, Dec 1: The British Parliament paved the way for devolution of power to Northern Ireland early today by an overwhelming vote of 318 to 10, reports AFP.

Members of the lower house of parliament approved the order implementing the Devolution Act which transfers powers to the Northern Ireland assembly at Stormont.

The act will put traditional foes from Northern Ireland's republican Roman Catholic and loyalist Protestant communities in joint control of many important portfolios in the Belfast government.

The act will take effect Wednesday after Queen Elizabeth II formally signs the law granting semi-autonomy to the British province.

Opening the debate on the order, Britain's Northern Ireland Secretary Peter Mandelson called it was a "momentous occasion" after years of conflict and division had blighted the lives of everyone in both communities.

"After 30 years of violence, the people of Northern Ireland can at last look forward to a future of hope and confidence."

"For the first time, all shades of political opinion in Northern Ireland will have a stake in the future."

"After a quarter of a century the curtain is finally coming down on direct rule," he said.

The new government, whose 10 ministers were chosen Monday, will take charge of the economy, agriculture, education health and transportation under the leadership of First Minister David Trimble, a Protestant.

Second anniversary of CHT peace accord today

By Special Correspondent

The second anniversary of the signing of the historic peace agreement ending decades of insurgency in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of the country will be celebrated by different organisations today.

On this day, after a protracted negotiation, a national committee on CHT signed the agreement with the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) in Dhaka. Under the terms of the agreement about 2,000 armed cadres of the PCJSS had laid down their weapons later in February 1998.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in a message on the eve of the second anniversary of the peace accord on Wednesday, called upon fellow countrymen to join hands to build up a prosperous Bangladesh free from hunger and poverty in the next millennium.

She pointed out that the peace accord on CHT had helped open a new vista in our national life and added a glorious chapter to our national history.

The Prime Minister in her message said: We have undertaken massive programmes, including short, medium and long term ones to build up the scenic Chittagong Hill Tracts as an ideal place for all round development.

The tribal people of CHT were rehabilitated under an amnesty programme with cash grant of Tk 50,000. A number of them were absorbed in police and in other jobs.

Thousands of refugees also returned home shortly after the peace accord went into effect. They were helped with cash grants, building materials, cattle and farm inputs to help begin life anew.

However, a chill frosted the initial warmth between the government and the PCJSS over the procedural delay in implementing the peace agreement.

It delayed formation of the Regional Council for the CHT, key to run the CHT affairs under the CHT ministry.

In May this year PCJSS supreme Jyotirindyo Bodhipriyo Lama, also known as Shantu Lama, agreed to take charge as its first Chairman for an interim period until elections.

The government also formed a Land Commission to carry out the survey of land, another key element of the agreement. A chairman was also appointed. But his death had so far stalled the commission's functioning.

The peace agreement, however, is holding despite complaints from the PCJSS, which held its first congress in public in October. Shantu Lama has

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Pink Panel sweeps CUTA election

From CU Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 1: Professor Dr Anupam Sen of Sociology Department and Dr Ishtiaq Kamal Khan of Economics department have been elected president and General Secretary respectively of the Chittagong University Teachers' Association (CUTA) today.

Two panels — Awami League backed Pink and BNP-Jamaat backed White contested the election. Pink Panel bagged nine out of 11 posts while White Panel got the rest.

The elected office-bearers are Professor Dr Amin Uddin Mridha of Botany department (vice-president), professor Dr Nurul Anwar of Micro-Biology department (Treasurer) and AKM Tazafat Huq of Management department (Joint secretary).

The members are Professor Kazi Mostain Billah of English department, professor Dr Golam Kibria Bhuiyan of Islamic History and Culture, professor Anwarul Azim Arif of management department, professor Hasanzaman of Sociology department, Dr Md Harunur Rashid of Physics department and Professor Dr Siddique Ahmed Chowdhury of Political Science department.

The election was held at the Science faculty gallery from 9 am to 1-30 pm and 417 teachers out of 503 cast votes in the election.

Saudi Deputy FM arrives: Official talks today

Saudi Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Ismail Shourra arrived in Dhaka yesterday on a three-day official visit to Bangladesh, reports BSS.

He was received at the Zia International Airport by Additional Foreign Secretary Mahbubul Alam and Director General (West Asia) Razul Hasan.

Shourra who is accompanied by two top officials of the Saudi Foreign Ministry will lead his government at the official talks with Bangladesh today.

Bangladesh side, will be headed by Foreign Secretary C M Shafi Sami.

The Saudi Deputy Minister is expected to reaffirm his country's support to Bangladesh candidate Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury for the post of OIC Secretary General.

Bangladesh side will request the Saudi government to recruit more Bangladeshi workers and technicians and ensure adequate facilities to the Hajj pilgrims from Bangladesh.

Khulna Jubo League activist held with arms

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Dec 1: Police today arrested Rajiv Shaikh, 22, an activist of city Jubo League and recovered a pistol from his possession.

He was allegedly taking preparation for mugging in Tootpara area, police said.

Remembering Dr. Mohiuddin Farooque
the Founder of BELA
on his 2nd Death Anniversary

You are eternal in the truth, We hold the truth in our soul.

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(পেট্রোলিং এর একটি কোম্পানী)

১০৫, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ
কাওরান বাজার বা/এ
ঢাকা-১২১৫

ফোনঃ ৯৫৬৩৬৬-৬৮, ৮১১৯২৫৯, ৮১১২১৩৫-৮২, ৮১১৯২১০

গ্যাস সরবরাহ বন্ধ সংক্রান্ত জরুরি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

তিতাস অধিকারভুক্ত এলাকায় গ্যাসের নিম্নচাপ সমস্যা দূরীকরণের লক্ষ্যে জয়দেবপুর, টঙ্গী এবং আভুলিয়া ১২" ব্যাস ও ১৬" ব্যাস গ্যাস পাইপ লাইনের অন্তঃসংযোগ কার্যক্রম পরিচালনার জন্য নিম্নলিখিত স্থানসমূহে নিম্নে বর্ণিত তারিখ ও সময়ে গ্যাস সরবরাহ বন্ধ থাকিবে।

তারিখ ও সময়

৩-১২-৯৯ রোজ শুক্রবার সকাল ১১.০০ ঘটিকা হইতে পরদিন ৮-১২-৯৯ রোজ শনিবার সকাল ১১.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত

স্থানসমূহ

মিরপুর, শ্যামলী, হাজারীবাগ ও পাশ্বেবতী এলাকাসমূহ।
টঙ্গী শহর ও শিল্প এলাকা।
জয়দেবপুর রাজেন্দ্রপুর সেনানিবাস ও মেশিন টুলস ফ্যাক্টরী এলাকা।
সাতার শহর ও শিল্প এলাকাসহ মানিকগঞ্জ ও আরিচা এলাকা।

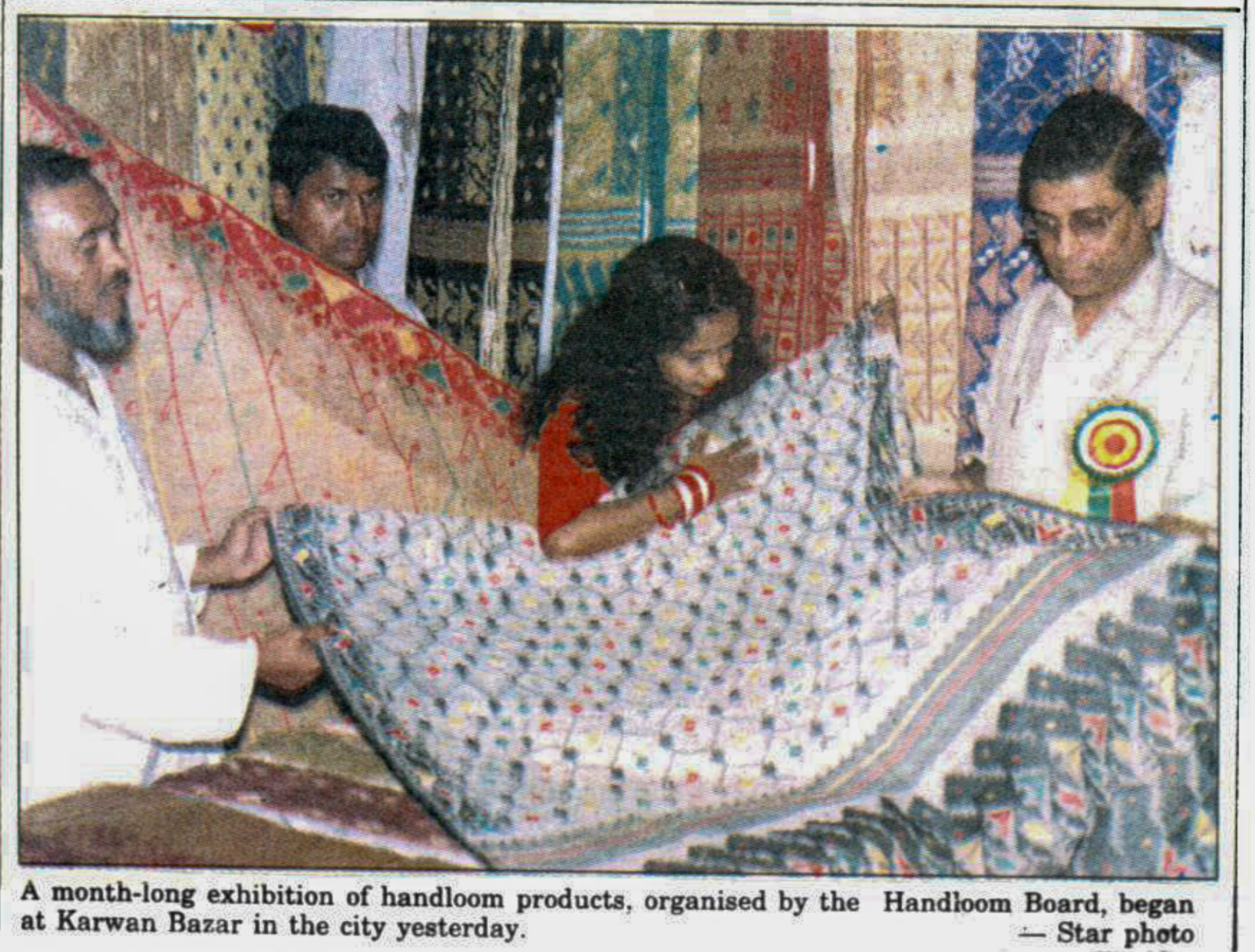
উল্লেখিত সময়ে সকল গ্যাস সরঞ্জাম ব্যবহার বন্ধ রাখা ও উক্ত কাজে সহযোগিতা করিবার জন্য সম্মানিত সকল গ্যাস গ্রাহকবৃন্দকে অনুরোধ জানানো যাইতেছে। গ্রাহকবৃন্দের সাময়িক অসুবিধার জন্য কোম্পানী দুঃখ প্রকাশ করিতেছে।

সাতার শহর ও শিল্প এলাকাসহ মানিকগঞ্জ ও আরিচা এলাকা।

অকারণে গ্যাসের চুলা জ্বালিয়ে রাখবেন না।
আপানী প্রজন্মের জন্য গ্যাস ব্যবহারে সতর্কতা হোন

তিতাস/জনসংযোগ-৫৭/৯৯-২০০০
জিডি-১১৪০

কর্তৃপক্ষ



A month-long exhibition of handloom products, organised by the Handloom Board, began at Karwan Bazar in the city yesterday. — Star photo