

International

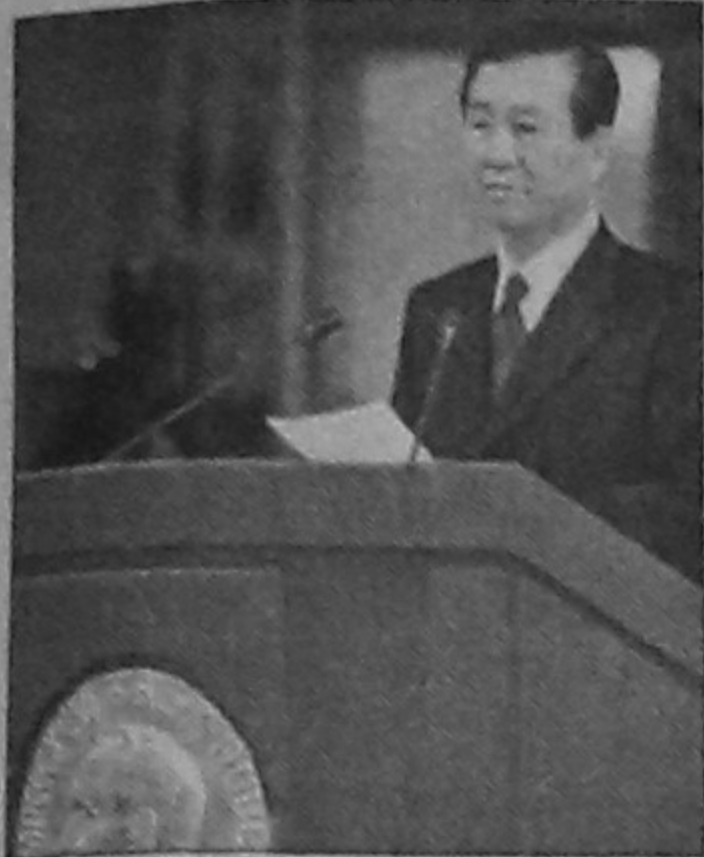
Nice summit reforms clear way for historic EU expansion

NICE, France, Dec 11: Reforms passed at the marathon EU summit here that ended in the pre-dawn hours today cleared the way for the European Union's historic eastward expansion, reports AFP.

The move is destined to take a decade or more, change the shape and face of the continent, and finally heal the wounds of the long cold war.

Last month the European Commission said it hoped to wrap up negotiations with the most advanced candidate states in 2002, making it possible for the first newcomers to accede by mid-2004.

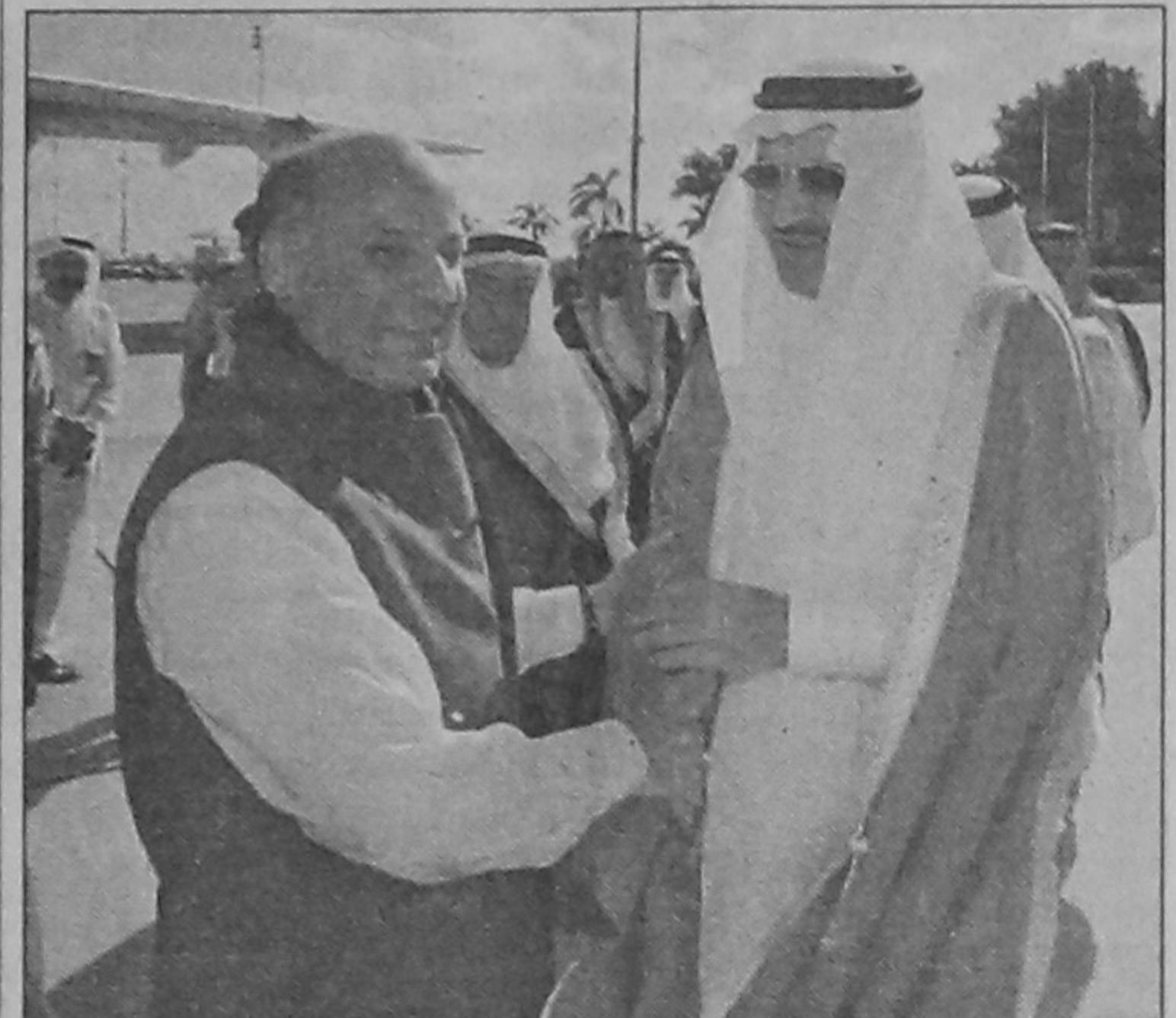
Three among the front-runners -- Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic -- joined NATO in March 1999.



South Korean President Kim Dae-Jung, giving his lecture after accepting the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo City Hall on Sunday.

Clemency for Zardari possible: Pak minister

ISLAMABAD, Dec 11: Pakistan's military government could consider releasing former prime minister Benazir Bhutto's jailed husband if he surrenders his assets, Interior Minister Moinuddin Haider said today, reports AFP.



Ousted Pakistani prime minister Nawaz Sharif (L) is greeted by Saudi Arabian governor of the Makkah region, Prince Abdul Majid bin Abdul Aziz, upon his arrival in Jeddah on Sunday.

'Sharif's exile can pave way for democracy'

KARACHI, Dec 11: The exile of ousted Pakistani prime minister Nawaz Sharif sparked a clamour of calls today for the military government to restore democracy as soon as possible, reports AFP.

Local elections are scheduled to begin later this month under a bold devolution plan designed to bring democracy to the village level.



French President Jacques Chirac, flanked by French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin and European Commission President Romano Prodi, answers newsmen during a press conference in Nice yesterday.

Exit polls Ilescu elected president of Romania

BUCHAREST, Dec 11: Leftist leader Ion Ilescu was elected president of Romania with 70 per cent of the vote in run-off elections held Sunday, defeating hardline nationalist Corneliu Vadim Tudor, according to the results of two exit polls, reports AFP.

Corruption trial of Estrada Witness says she delivered \$100,000 in bribe

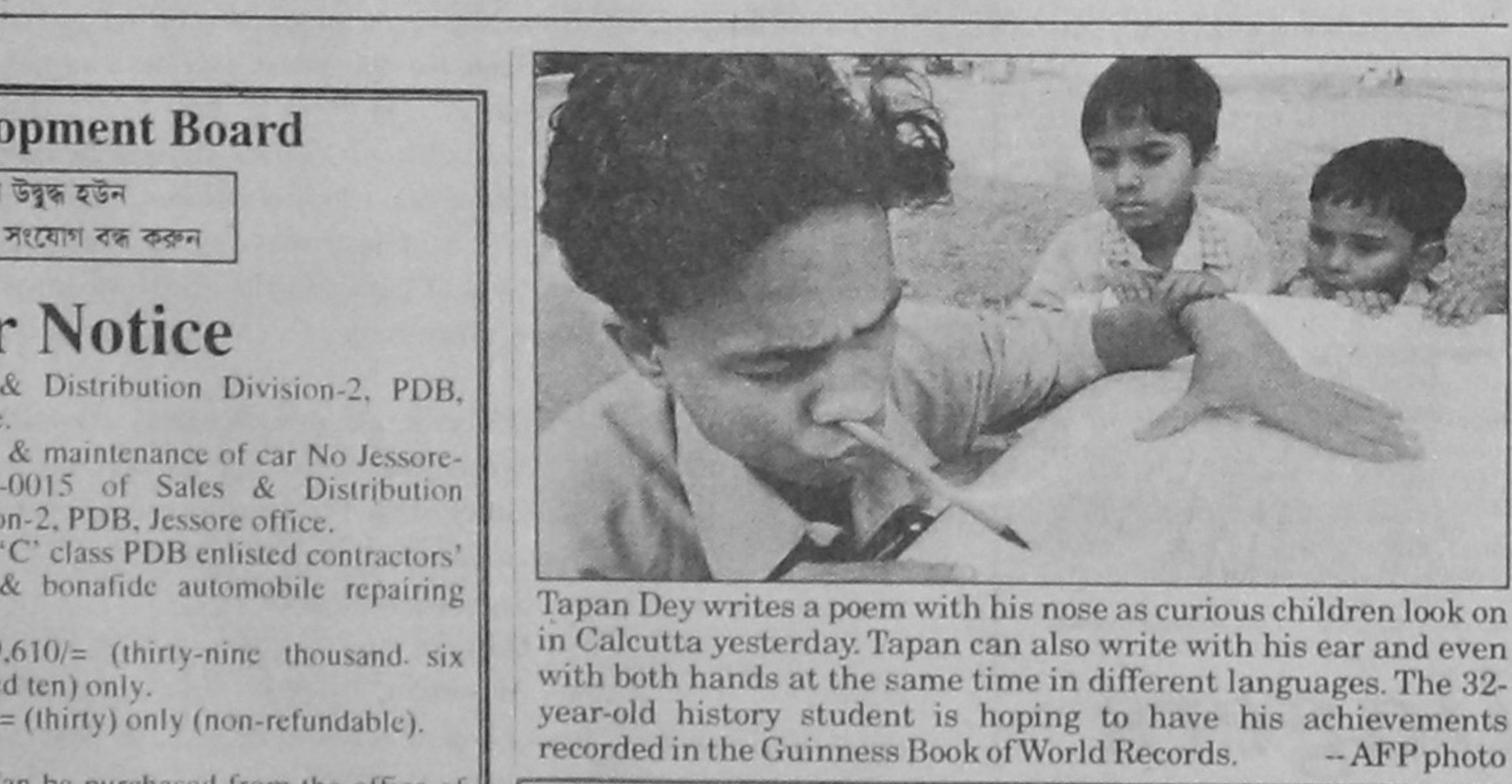
MANILA, Dec 11: A witness testified at Philippine President Joseph Estrada's corruption trial on Monday that she personally delivered five million pesos (100,000 dollars) in illegal gambling bribes to the leader, reports AFP.

The testimony of prosecution witness Emma Lim was the first at the three-day trial to directly link the president and supposed payoffs from operators of the popular but illegal lottery called 'jueteng'.

Lim told the Senate tribunal that she carried a 'black bag' filled with bundles of thousand-peso bills to Malacanang presidential palace sometime in 1999 on the orders of her employer, provincial governor Luis 'Chavit' Singson.

Pak woman killed for contesting elections

LAHORE, Dec 11: A woman, who wanted to be a candidate in Pakistan's local elections was allegedly killed by her husband, who objected to her candidacy, an English-language newspaper reported, says AP.



Tapen Dey writes a poem with his nose as curious children look on in Calcutta yesterday.

US-led panel probes Mideast violence

JERUSALEM, Dec 11: A US-led commission of inquiry began its investigation today into the spiral of Middle East bloodletting two months after being set up amid deep divisions between Israel and the Palestinians over its mission, reports AFP.

The five-member panel, headed by former US senator and Northern Ireland mediator George Mitchell, held talks with Prime Minister Ehud Barak in Jerusalem and is due later to meet Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in Gaza City.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Comilla (TLM Section) Re-Tender Notice

Afghan civil war enemies meet in Turkmenistan

ASHKHAHAD, Dec 11: The two sides in Afghanistan's civil war came face to face for the first time this year for talks with UN mediation in the Turkmen capital Ashkhabad, negotiators from the United Nations said late Sunday, reports AFP.

The atmosphere was relaxed, people were friendly to each other, they spoke quite openly. They talked like people sitting around the table for dinner, not wanting to end up throwing the cutlery at each other, he added.

Power Development Board Tender Notice 1. Name of : Sales & Distribution Division-2, PDB, Jessore.

US to ease asylum for victims of domestic violence

WASHINGTON, Dec 11: The administration of US President Bill Clinton is proposing to make it easier for victims of domestic violence abroad to win asylum in the United States, reports IPS.

many women in societies where they lack the ability to gain redress or protection from their abusers.

Bangladesh Power Development Board Tender Notice Sealed tenders in PD Board's T-2 form are invited from contractors as per terms & conditions mentioned in this notice.