

## Chittagong AL rally today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong city Awami League is expected to launch a 'campaign programme' at a mass rally at Lalghati Maidan from today, in a bid to aware people against the

terrorism and 'negative politics' of BNP-led opposition parties.

The rally will begin at 3.00 pm today. Leading party leaders including AL president, Ministers will address the rally.

## Qulkhwani

The qulkhwani and doa mahfil of Shayesta Begum, mother of Alhaj Mofazzal Hossain, chairman of Esquire Group of Companies will be held today (Monday) after Asr prayers at House No: 56, Road No: B/A (New), Dhanmondi, says a press release.

## Maternal mortality down to 3 per 1000: Selim

BSS, Dhaka

The present government's various health programmes, especially the nutritional projects, have led to a commendable progress at all levels including maternal and child deaths which have now come down to 3 and 57 per thousand from the earlier 4 and 87 respectively.

Minister for Health and Family Welfare Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim talking to BSS yesterday said that nutritional projects being imple-

mented by the present government after coming to power in 1996 has also contributed enormously towards raising the overall per head calorie intake from 2,234 in 1996 to the current 2,283.

"As a result, the current average life expectancy has risen to 60.8 years," he said, adding that government with the experiences from the Bangladesh Integrated Nutrition Project (BINP) has launched the National Nutrition Project (NNP) for the period 2000-2004 to further improve the health

status with special emphasis on the nutrition.

Sheikh Selim said that the NNP programme with nearly US dollar 125 million (about Taka 734 crore at the current exchange rate), the second after the BINP, would hopefully yield a better result in the overall nutrition status by further reducing the maternal and child deaths as well as improving their health status by the year 2004.

According to the World Bank Dhaka Office, there will be a series

of investments under the NNP throughout the country to support the government's 15 year vision to extend community nutrition services to all so that malnutrition no longer remains a public health problem in Bangladesh.

The WB officials said that the NNP programme by the year 2001 will cover one-third of the country with its direct approach of improving nutrition status to benefit more than five million children and one million pregnant and

lactating mothers. Besides directly improving nutrition status, such activities will also improve health, increase demand for family planning and raise children's ability to learn.

The 2000-2004 period being regarded as the NNP's first phase will incur a cost of US dollar 124.46 million including 92.0 million from IDA, 12.0 million from Netherlands, 6.30 million from CIDA and the rest 13.66 million from Bangladesh government.



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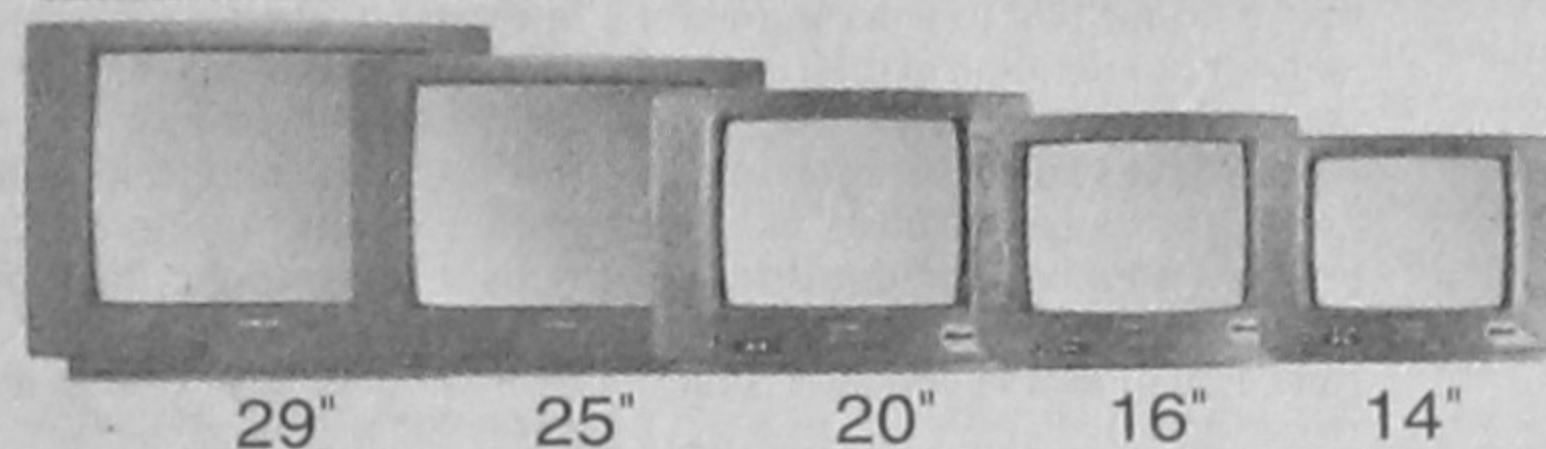
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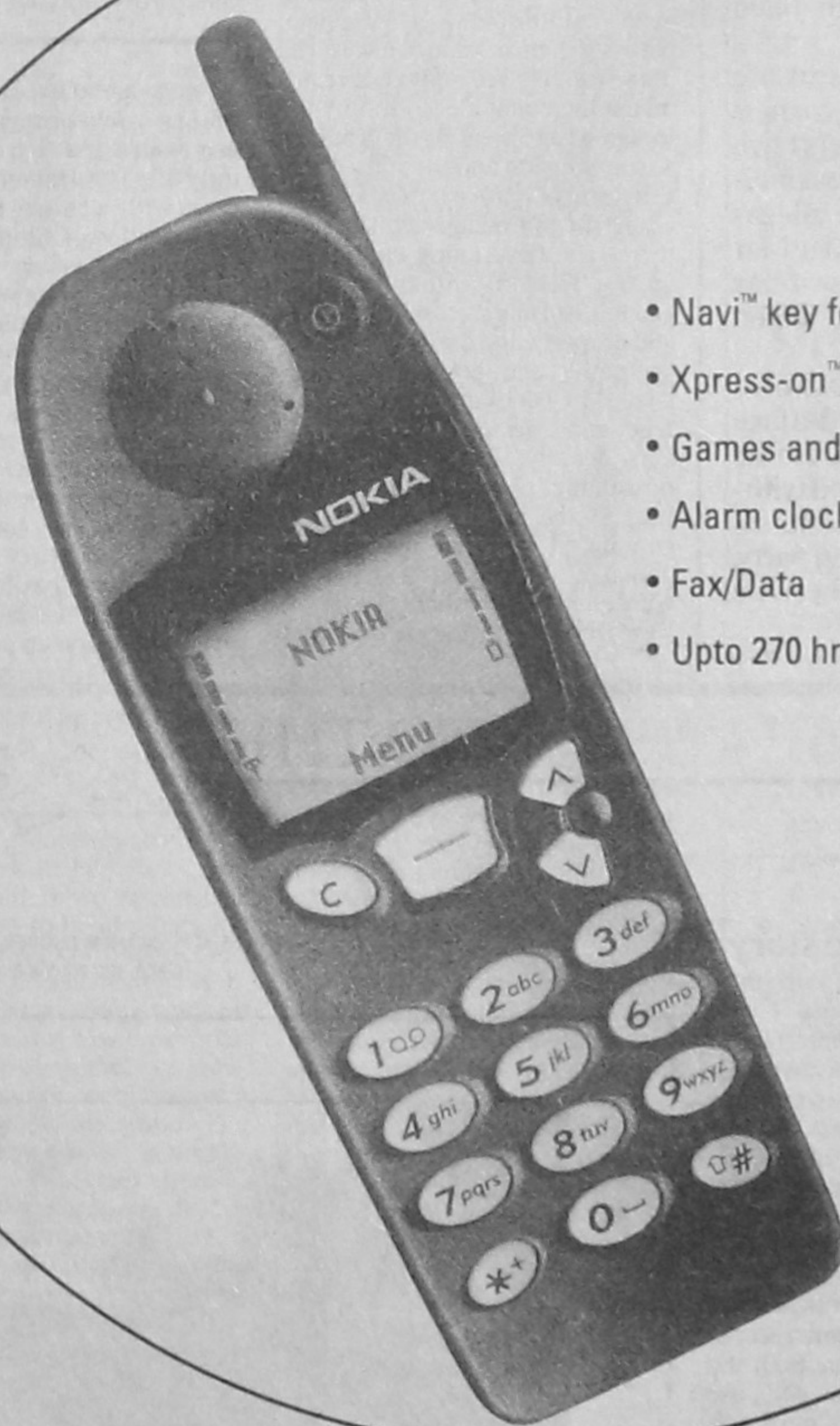
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