

DOWN TO EARTH

Coaching Centres Proliferate in City

By A. S. M. Nurunnabi

Coaching centres are a new development in our educational system. They proclaim their existence with such fervour that there is hardly a thoroughfare in the city which does not carry their publicity banners and posters. It is widely held that they are the natural outcome of a general fall in the standard of education imparted in our educational institutions, just as deterioration in the standard of treatment and facilities in government hospitals has given rise to private clinics. The new development poses a number of issues, viz, whether the coaching centres are really needed in the context of the present quality of education; whether there is scope of malpractice in this field and whether the students attending such centres get real benefit or do they attend them just out of a current craze for them.

On account of the high growth of the student population, it has become extremely competitive to get admission in the limited number of good schools in the city. For the larger majority of students, the alternative is to seek admission in institutions without the tradition of good name. Here also, admission is no less difficult. One of the inevitable results of the high pressure of admission seekers is the overcrowding of classrooms. In such a situation, it becomes practically impossible for the teachers to give individual attention to students.

The concept of coaching classes is new in its organisation and scope. In some coaching centres, the pressure of students is so heavy that the frequency of the coaching sessions has to be increased to cope with the situation. On

this account, it is alleged that some centres resort to improvisation of easy ways, such as distribution of photo copies of ready-made notes and answers. Some go to the length of recording the teacher's lectures on the tape recorder and playing them back to the students as and when necessary.

When the number of students in a coaching class is large, it becomes inevitable that the attention of teachers for individual students, as in a present day school class room, tends to be scant. In such a situation, the benefit, if any, derived by the students may be marginal.

One of the strong points of objection relating to the coaching classes is that a student's initiative and individual efforts are likely to be eroded when in most cases his problems are solved in a ready-made manner by coaching centres. Whatever its drawbacks, the system is catching on. Students, by and large, seem to harbour the feeling that if they do not attend coaching classes, their objective of doing well in examinations will not be attained.

Most of the coaching centres are manned by teachers of government and private schools and colleges where, it is generally held, they fail to do justice to their duties in the manner expected of them. On this account perhaps there was a move some time ago by government for banning private tuition by government teachers at coaching centres. The fate of that move is now uncertain. It may, however, be recalled that in the sixties, the South Korean government imposed a ban on private tuition by teachers of government institutions.

In October last, the Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) conducted a survey of guardians of students reading in 30 schools in 20 areas. The results of the survey are worthy of note. The survey shows that 59.77 per cent of the guardians are not happy with the existing system of education. For this reason, 35.47 per cent of guardians have engaged private tutors; 21 per cent engage them so that their wards may do better in examinations and 17.47 per cent say the private tutors help their wards in better preparation of their lessons.

The above picture relating to schools shows why the guardians favour private tuition for their wards. There are other coaching centres dealing with post-HSC and post-graduate students. Their courses mainly put emphasis on admission tests on various disciplines such as medicine, engineering, architecture, etc. Some of the coaching centres at this level enjoy popularity among the students from which it seems that the students find them useful.

There is a consensus of opinion among educationists and guardians that there is some need for the coaching centres in view of the present education scene. However, what they do not look upon with favour is their mushroom growth which sometimes allow existence of coaching centres of questionable quality. In this context, it is felt that the education authorities should consider the question of regulation of their activities, particularly on such aspects as qualification of teaching staff, maximum number of students in a class room and fees to be charged by them.



SKOP leaders called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at Sugandha Office yesterday. — PID photo

Criminal suits

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Mahe Alam (55) is another share cropper in Nabagram. He is one of the accused in four criminal cases. Out of the four, two cases have been dropped by the plaintiffs while the rest were under trial.

Alam said, "we give tax to the government for cultivating its land... Why should we give tolls to the jodars? But they lodge false cases when we refuse."

He alleged that "police and a section of Revenue Department Tahsildars also join the jodars because they receive a share in the money collected as tolls."

The fight of the landless peasants for survival is twofold: they fight the land-grabbers to keep the possession of the piece of land they cultivate and, again, they fight against the criminal cases in the court.

The landless peasants allege that when the jodars or boyas fall to grab the land, they go to the court claiming the land as theirs.

They get stay order from the court banning all activities in the land of dispute, the peasants say.

The jodars then use the court order in their own interest, they say.

When police go to a piece of disputed land, they become puzzled when the jodars show the court order and the landless farmers present their receipt of the government

taxes, explained one senior police official at Majdee.

The official, who demanded he not be named, also pointed out that different loopholes in the land laws and a large number of forged documents also confuse the law enforcing people.

The Superintendent of Noakhali Police Syed Strajul Islam said that violence increased particularly in the harvesting season when different interest groups through the char land and conflict starts.

"We try to solve all problems through negotiations," he said, but rejected allegation of taking large-scale bribe and brutalizing the landless.

OMC students, internes call off strike

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Nov 27: The students and interne doctors of the Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College called off their indefinite strike yesterday following a fruitful discussion with the principal in-charge of the college.

The strike began from the November 21 to press for publication of the MBBS professional examination results.

The students today joined the classes, and the interne doctors also joined their duties.

SKOP

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union bodies.

The both sides decided to form a strong committee with the concerned minister as its chairman and which will comprise the representatives of SKOP, concerned setups and the ministries to solve the prevailing crisis in different industries. The committee will submit its recommendations to the Prime Minister for her consideration within the next three months. The suggestions of the labour leaders of jute, textiles and other sectors would be taken into consideration, the meeting agreed.

According to the sources, the meeting also decided that administration of all strata would be instructed to play a complete neutral role and not to be influenced by the trade unions. They will also be instructed to refrain from any kind of harassment, motivated transfer and repressive measures.

The government will give due instructions to take proper measures against the trouble making activities and concerning the trade unions and their leadership irrespective of political affiliation.

The meeting came to the consensus that the SKOP will continue its due role for rapid industrialisation, economic emancipation, increased production, developing the standard of the lives of the labours and employees, ensuring the right to conduct trade union activities and the overall development of the society.

The Midnight File

Venezuelan coup leaders surrender

CARACAS, Nov 27: Venezuelan Interior Minister Luis Pinerua Ordaz said in a televised statement that the leaders of the rebels who tried to overthrow the government of President Carlos Andres Perez had surrendered, reports Reuter.

Germany bans National Front

BONN, Nov 27: The government moved Friday to crack down on neo-Nazi attacks on foreigners by banning a right-wing extremist group called the National Front, reports AP.

Quake rocks Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, Nov 27: An earthquake measuring about 5 on the Richter Scale and strong enough to rock 30-storey buildings was felt in central Los Angeles today, authorities said, reports Reuter.

Nirmul : Commentary

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talizur Rahman whose concern for the success of the Summit is second only to that of the Prime Minister has been already in touch with some important members of the Nirmul Committee pleading for a postponement of the hartal. Let the Foreign Minister continue with his efforts and also take an early chance of briefing leaders of the opposition on various issues relating to SAARC.

This is the time to set aside all internal divisive bickering and make the SAARC Summit a total success. The nation, as a whole, deserves this success, as an honour for Bangladesh.

Milon

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benefits of democracy restored by supreme sacrifices of Milon and other martyrs of the anti-autocracy movement. Democracy could not be protected without establishing rule of law in the country, he said adding trial in any murder including that of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Ziaur Rahman and Dr Milon was a must to uphold the rule of law.

Zillur alleged that investigation into the Milon murder case was not done properly and demanded retrial in the case.

Hasanul Huq Inu called for solid unity of social forces that intended to gain the objectives, Dr Milon and other sacrificed for.

Saifuddin Ahmed Manik emphasised on reaching national consensus on the fundamental issues to nurture and flourish the hard-earned democracy.

The shelterers of Milon's killers were demanding trial of the murderers, he commented.

Jahanara Imam observed democracy was only achieved in papers, it was not being practised. People had to be united once again to demand elimination of the '71 killers despite an elected government was in power, she added.

Khalequzzaman Bhuiyan said people's struggle would not be ceased until an exploitation-free society was established. Selina Akhter said it was a shame for the nation that the killers of Milon were not tried. "Martyrs don't belong to any particular party or group and their dignity should be upheld by all quarters," she added.

The parties and organisations that placed wreaths at Milon's grave and monument included: BNP, Awami League, Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA), Doctors Association of Bangladesh, Doctors Forum, Patriotic Democratic Front, Dhaka Medical College Central Students Association, DMC Teachers Association, Awami Jubo Dal, different factions of Chhatra League, Gonotantrik Chhatra Oikya, Jubo Dal, Chhatra Dal, CPB, DUCSU, Chhatra Union and SSMC Student Union.



Nirmul Body brought out a procession in city yesterday demanding ban on Jamaat-Shibir politics and to implement 'people's court' verdict on Golam Azam. — Star photo

Nirmul body

From Page 1 Col 4

preparations for the December 8 and 10 programmes. Chaired by Jahanara Imam, the meeting termed the FM's request as an act to confuse the people.

Earlier, the Minister requested a committee leader Col (Retd) Abu Osman Choudhury to call off the hartal to let the SAARC summit be held smoothly.

According to meeting sources, the Steering Body emphatically said, it was impossible to withdraw the hartal without government's initiative to fulfil the demands.

The meeting decided to hold a meeting of the organisation's convening committee on November 29 to discuss elaborately the preparations for the December programmes.

The meeting further observed that the Samannaya Committee programmes were announced much earlier than that of the SAARC summit dates and viewed those would by no means harm the summit.

Hasina

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misery was further aggravated in the wake of price-hike, lawlessness, corruption and oppression by extortionists.

After losing credibility with the people, Hasina alleged, the BNP government had taken recourse to politicisation, political bribery and terrorism to consolidate its power bases.

The Awami League leader further alleged that wrong policy of the government sparked off workers unrest in industrial belts, hampered production in industrial and agricultural sectors and forced the traders to close down their businesses due to increasing demands and oppression by extortionists.

She is expected to return to the capital on December 1.

JU provosts

From Page 1 Col 3

Kazi Saleh Ahmed, however, said that the provosts and the house tutors of Al-Beruni Hall during Friday's meeting had shown no intention of withdrawing their resignation letters.

The VC said that he had not accepted the letters.

JU officials said that university Central Students' Union and JCD leaders also held meeting with the provosts Friday night.

Khulna TCB

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This was detected by a four-member audit team now visiting Khulna, according to a reliable source.

The team headed by M Akram Hussain reportedly suggested in his findings that an amount of Taka fifty lakh should be realised from the persons involved in the racket.

When contacted the regional officer of TCB Anwarul Kabir admitted the fact of the audit report and added that a high official of audit department came here from Dhaka today to investigate the report and suggest further actions.

DUTA concerned at move to amend DU Ordn '73

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) at an emergency meeting Friday expressed its concern over the move to amend the 1973 Dhaka University Ordinance.

A DUTA statement issued to the press said that a news on the November 29 meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on amendment to the ordinance had concerned the university teachers community.

The statement said that a DUTA meeting on November 18 decided to invite specific suggestions from the university teachers for updating the ordinance which was still under process.

Market survey

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Expressing concern about the large trade gap, the two delegations agreed that more concerted efforts should be made to narrow down the gap. The Indian side requested the Bangladesh delegation to identify additional items that could be exported to India. In this regard both sides agreed to undertake a joint market survey in Bangladesh to identify new items for Indian joint venture, investment and export to India. The two sides were of the opinion that such a survey could significantly help to increase opportunities for both countries.

Both sides noted with satisfaction their respective governments' liberalised policies, especially in joint ventures and foreign investment. It was also noted that more importance was given to the growth of private sector by both the governments. Both sides concurred that the business communities in the two countries would increase efforts to strengthen their trade and industrial ties.

Both sides laid considerable emphasis on the potential for technology transfer and joint venture opportunities. In particular, the Indian side expressed its keenness for active involvement in Bangladesh's industrial development plans.

Emphasising the potentiality for joint advancement into third countries, both sides agreed to step up efforts to jointly participate in third country projects. Both sides agreed to identify possible areas of cooperation as an initial step in expediting the process by Indian and Bangladesh companies entering third countries. Both sides agreed in principle to discuss further for new areas of cooperation.

It was agreed that CII and MCCI would cooperate with the world economic forum to promote and encourage foreign investment in Bangladesh.

Indian Commerce Secretary AV Ganesan and CCI President Dhruv M Sawhney said Bangladesh's Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's recent visit to India followed by Finance Minister Saifur Rahman, Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman and Commerce Minister MK Anwar's trips to New Delhi had laid the foundation for a greater and very closer bilateral relations between the two neighbouring countries.

Bangladesh High Commissioner Ferooz Sobhan and member SOF the trade delegation requested the Indian side to facilitate duty-free export by Bangladesh for joint venture project for reducing the yawning trade deficit of Bangladesh with India.

Father, son

From Page 1 Col 6

lice charging the other members of the cooperative. Once a murder took place in Nabagram, it would wipe out the cooperative activities in the whole area, he explained.

The son informed that, earlier, Siddiqur-Rahman himself was the leader of one landless farmers' association but had deserted the organisation, having been heavily bribed by the landowners.

Alam also accused his father of bungling the funds of the cooperative he once led.

He said that Rahman had employed killers who follow him wherever he goes.

The son said earlier Rahman tried to persuade him to join the joddar's group.

"I said 'You may betray the poor, landless people but I cannot.'"

This led the father, Siddiqur Rahman (60), to disown his eldest son, Shah Alam.

Talking to The Daily Star, he said, "Shah Alam is no longer my son. The name of my eldest son is Abul Kalam."

"I do not own him as my son, because he does not work the way I want him to", Rahman replied when asked why he wanted to kill his own son.

PM : Zia Parishad

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involve people in the programmes of mass literacy, family planning and canal digging, she said.

Those who addressed the gathering included Prof Antsur Rahman, Vice Chancellor of Rajshahi University, Prof Abul Kashem Chowdhury, Proctor of Chittagong University, Prof Ershadul Bari, President Zia Parishad, Dhaka University Unit, Dr Ashraf Ali, President Zia Parishad Islamic University Unit, Prof Mahfuzur Rahman, Convener Agricultural University Unit, Prof Salimullah Khan, President Jahangirnagar University Unit, Prof Sohrab Hossain, Acting President Rajshahi University Unit, Dr Enamul Huq, President Chittagong University Unit, Prof Abdul Gafar, and Abu Saleh, Advisors of Zia Parishad, Kabir Murad, President Zia Parishad, Syed Meshbaudul Ahmed, Vice President Zia Parishad, and General Secretary Taranga Anwar.

Freedom Fighters' Welfare Trust godown gutted

A devastating fire at a godown in the city's crowded Wari area yesterday damaged huge quantity of old books and cutting papers but none was reported hurt, says UNB.

The cause of the fire and the extent of loss could not be ascertained immediately, fire brigade sources said.

They said the fire at the Wari godown of Bangladesh Freedom Fighters' Welfare Trust broke out at about 9am.

Talks uncertain

From Page 1 Col 8

logue to submit it within ten days after the talks and hold the second round of dialogue within this month, highly placed sources said.

The November 5 dialogue at Khagachhari Circuit House between the 5-member team of PCJSS was led by its president JB Larma alias Shantu Larma and the 9-member parliamentary committee was headed by the Communications Minister Col. (Rtd) Oli Ahmed. It was the first of its kind under a democratic government. The govt was trying to find a political solution across the table abandoning the path of military action.

Meanwhile, the leader of the Liaison Committee Hangshadoz Chakma today has received a letter from Shantu Larma, President of PCJSS. The letter carried the message that the list of Shantibahini's demands to be submitted to parliamentary committee, is still under preparation. Shantu Larma asked the leader of Liaison Committee to send another courier by the first week of December to bring the same list for parliamentary committee, sources said.

But the letter has no mentioned anything about holding the next round of talks, sources added.

However, analysts believe the Shantibahini leaders by making such unexpected delay in responding to talks proposals are actually buying time to strengthen their position for the next course of actions.

Apart from these, despite the announcement of ceasefire upto December 31, the Shantibahini men in plain clothes have been continuing toll extortion in three hill districts, sources reported.

The armed Shantibahini have been fighting an 18-year bush-war to press home their demands that mainly includes CHT autonomy and expulsion of Bengali-speaking settlers.

Zero tariff

From Page 1 Col 5

MCCI former president S H Kabir pointed out to the Indian State Minister that Bangladesh having 1700 miles border with India had also informal trades and Indian eggs, sugar, yarn and other items smuggled into Bangladesh were destroying local infant industries and help reduce the trade deficit against Bangladesh. He also requested Prof Kurian to provide tariff and non-tariff incentives for Indian joint ventures in Bangladesh. The Indian State Minister assured Khan to consider these positively.

Bangladesh High Commissioner Ferooz Sobhan also requested Prof Kurian to use his good offices to help solve the outstanding trade issues. Sobhan said India was now offering zero tariff for Nepali goods and should extend it also to Bangladesh without reciprocity.

৬৩% নতুন প্রিমিয়াম বৃদ্ধি
২৯% রিনিউয়াল প্রিমিয়াম বৃদ্ধি

১৯৯১-৯২র তুলনায় এ বছর সেপ্টেম্বর পর্যন্ত ১ম বর্ষ প্রিমিয়াম আয় বেড়েছে ১.৮৬ কোটি টাকা (৬৩%) রিনিউয়াল আয় বেড়েছে ৪.২১ কোটি টাকা (২৯%)।

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