

DOWN TO EARTH

A Private Hospital With a Promise

By A S M Nurunnabi

In the prevailing situation of private clinics in the Dhaka city, one tends to lose sight that there is also a full-fledged private hospital in the old part of the city which can play a helpful role in the country's health system. The private hospital in question is the National Medical Institute Hospital, established in 1925 near the District Courts Complex, the Institute has a long history. Originally called the National Health Institute, it conducted an elementary medical course which produced a sort of village doctors. The institute was closed in 1965. In its place the National Medical Institute Hospital came into being in 1984 as a full-fledged hospital. At the initial stage, it received help from Japan by way of supply of instruments and appliances. Similar help was also later received from the American Medical Resource Foundation.

The hospital has now grown into a multi-discipline 200-bed hospital. It is run on an annual Taka 70-lakh government grant plus other incomes derived from its own sources. Forty per cent of the hospital services are rendered free for the poor. Since it is a private hospital, it depends on necessity on a system of payment. It, however, seems to have some redeeming features. The rates of charges compare favourably with those of other private clinics in the city.

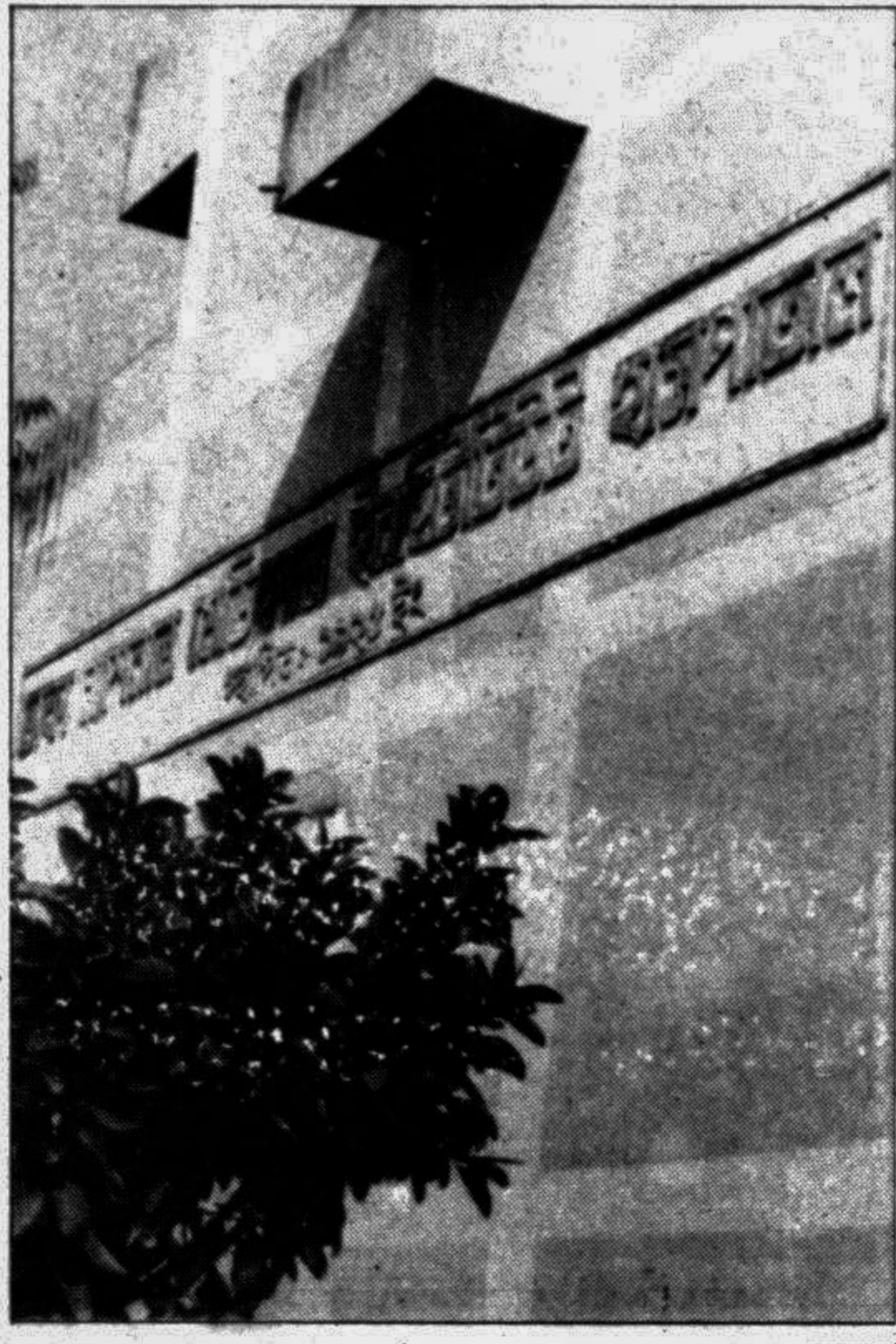
Hospital sources said that although the hospital in its present form suffers from many constraints, it has promise of developing into a dependable institution in the private sector. The constraints are mainly financial in nature. When asked how, in view of this, the hospital authorities would be able to achieve their future development goals, the sources expressed the hope that on the basis of their over-all performance, government may consider the question of enhancing their grant for them. They also feel that the tradition of service, commitment and dependability that they have so far built up might attract attention and bring in greater help from aid-giving sources

within and outside the country.

In our country, we have few private hospitals as distinct from private clinics. If the private hospitals are efficiently run, they can be models for other hospitals, including government hospitals. Judged by this criterion, the National Medical Institute Hospital appears to be a well-managed hospital. Though it is located in a congested part of the old city, observers feel that, since in this area there is only one major hospital, the Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital at Mitford, there are good grounds for encouraging it to grow into a dependable medical institution. The hospital has already got depart-

ments of major disciplines such as medicine, surgery gynaec, ENT, Eye, Coronary care, Dental, Pathology, X-Ray, Ultrasonography, Endoscopy, Skin, Physio-therapy, etc. Further development and expansion in these and other new spheres may contribute to the health welfare of the large segment of population living in this area.

It is held, by and large, that there is a necessity for the existence of private hospitals and private clinics as supplements in the country's health system. But it is also felt that in a poor country like ours, there is a need for their becoming more welfare oriented and open to easy reach of common people.



Clinton's setback

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of the controversy, telling Senate Judiciary Committee members, "I don't believe that would be appropriate."

At the hearings, she apologised for breaking the law when she and her husband, Yale University law professor Paul Gewirtz, hired two illegal aliens from Peru in 1990 to work in their home.

They also failed to pay required social security taxes on the couple's wages until after her nomination.

"I've done something I deeply regret," she said, "I have paid the penalty. I made a mistake. I don't excuse myself."

But she added, "I think my overall record gives me the potential to be a great Attorney General."

Baird and Gewirtz paid a 2,900 US dollar fine last week to the immigration and naturalisation service for hiring the Peruvian couple as household help without proper documentation and for failing to pay social security and other taxes for them.

AP adds: Clinton watched Friday the ceremonial swearing-in of his Cabinet and other top appointments — minus an attorney general — and praised the Senate for speeding the

confirmations, saying "I am ready to go to work."

Clinton called his new team a Cabinet of talented, diverse and seasoned leaders" at the brief ceremony in White House.

A total of 16 Clinton nominees — including 13 members of his Cabinet — were sworn in at the same time by Chief Justice William Rehnquist.

Clinton made no mention of the Cabinet member of his team conspicuously absent: Zoe Baird.

The president was scheduled to hold his first Cabinet meeting following the ceremony and a reception.

"Today I am proud to present to you and to the American people a Cabinet of talented, diverse and seasoned leaders," Clinton said, "I am deeply gratified to the United States Senate for a quick confirmation... only two days after the inauguration," Clinton said.

The Senate acted with historic dispatch because it recognized the nation needed action now on our nation's problems."

As the officials took the oath, they all said their own names simultaneously, Clinton joked: "I'm glad no one said I, 'blank...' There will be time enough for those blanks in the time ahead."

Ctg Killing

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jointly organised by Chittagong Metropolitan, North and South Districts Awami League. She will also address a rally of the lawyers arranged by Chittagong District Bar Association. The Awami League chief will also visit the recently damaged locality of Potenga.

Party central leaders will accompany Sheikh Hasina.

Benazir

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mentary watchdog committee that oversees Pakistan foreign policy.

Some of her closest supporters have threatened to split her People's Democratic Alliance. They argue that her acceptance has jeopardized their efforts to force Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to call fresh elections.

Ms Bhutto had called a Feb 3 meeting of her left-leaning Pakistan People's Party and the three smaller moderate parties that comprise the alliance to resolve the crisis.

It was uncertain whether Ms Bhutto now will be able to attend.

Muggers stab two, snatch Tk 3000

By DMCH Correspondent

Muggers stabbed two persons and snatched Taka three thousand from them in the city during last two days.

Muggers stabbed Nur Karim, 36, and snatched Taka one thousand in front of the Motijheel Bank Colony mosque at about 11 pm Thursday.

Nur Karim, cashier of Central Club of Savar was returning to his residence at the bank colony when he was waylaid by a group of muggers.

The muggers stabbed him on his left hand and snatched Taka 1000.

In another incident a businessman was stabbed by a group of muggers at Shahidnagar, Lalbagh, Friday morning. The victim Kanchan Miah, 35, received stab injury in his right hand. Muggers snatched Taka Two thousand and fled the place immediately.

Both the victims were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Cold spell

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small number of people and traffic on the move.

The Met office forecast Friday that the cold wave might end within another 36 hours from 6 am today.

Weather experts at the Met office however, said, another cold wave with stronger intensity might sweep over the country at the end of the month.

The existing cold wave has affected North Bengal the most where a number of people were reported to have been killed in the spell. The regions of Ishurdi, Panchagar, Rajshahi, Dinajpur and Rangpur had not seen the face of the sun most of the times in this season. The temperature hovered between 24 degree Celsius at the highest while the lowest remained around 5 degree. At place the temperature was 6.5 degree below the normal.

In Dhaka, the temperature went down to 7.2 degree Celsius yesterday, while the highest temperature was 22.6 degree.

"The temperature did not fall below 10 degree Celsius in the city last year," said a weatherman, but this year's weather is not anything abnormal. Cold waves do often sweep over the country."

During the last few years, the lowest temperature of 3.6 degree was reported from Panchagar.

"But, definitely there are colder regions in the country where there are no Met offices to record the temperature," the official said.

The cold waves that visit Bangladesh usually originate from Siberia where the air pressure remains high in winter. The wave follows a path to low pressure regions like Bangladesh.

"But the Himalayas save us from that severe cold wave," the official said, "blocked by the wall of this great mountain, a very mild version of the original cold wave reaches Bangladesh..."

"If there were no Himalayas," he added, "the average temperature of Bangladesh would have been no less than 5 degree Celsius."

Low pressure and self-confidence

LONDON, Jan 22 : Low blood pressure can reduce the risk of heart disease and stroke but according to a report by Swedish researchers published on Friday it can also undermine your self-confidence and sense of well being, reports Reuter.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia speaking at the Bangladesh Film Award-1991 distribution ceremony held at the Osmany Memorial Hall in city yesterday. — PID photo

Depict life of people : PM

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the government had already taken up different steps to lead the film industry towards right direction. The import of foreign films have been restricted showing respect to the demands of the Producers' Association.

She said low standard and copying of films had been discouraged and patronisation of films in private sector encouraged. Khaleda said during the last year about 70 films had been made and new capital investment had created enthusiasm in the filmdom.

The function was also addressed by Information Minister Nazmul Huda, association's president Ziaur Rahman Buli, Secretary General Nasiruddin Dilu, Senior Vice President Ashraf Uddin Ahmed Ujjal and eminent journalist and Jurce Board Chairman Obaidul Huq.

The Information Minister said the government was working for distributing the national film award which were not given for the last three years within the next three months.

Later, the Prime Minister formally distributed the awards to the recipients.

Alamgir and Shabana have been awarded as the best actor and actress. Others who received the awards for their

significant contribution are best film 'Santras', best director Kazi Morshed, best story writer Al Masud, best script writer Jalaluddin Rumi, best dialogue writer Jalaluddin Rumi, best music director Khondoker Nurul Alam, best lyricist Nazrul Islam Babu (posthumously), best side actor Ali Raj, best side actress Aruna Biswas, best villain Humayun Faridi, best comedian Dildar, best child actor Jaision, best special effect Dildar Hasan, best singer Andru Kishor, best play back singer Runa Laila, best editor Nurunnabi, best photographer Z H Mintu, best art director A Sabur, best sound recorder Mofizul Huq, best make-up man Abdur Rahman, best costume designer Begum Nutan, best action director The Action Warrior, best dance director Amir Hossain Babu, and Aziz Reza, best cinema hall in Dhaka Madhumita and outside the capital Banani Complex in Chittagong and best poster Avera Bibi Pala by B K D.

Special awards were also given to Khan Ataur Rahman for his overall contribution to film media and posthumously to SM Farvez for his contribution to the cine journalism. Late Zafar Iqbal was given award (posthumously) of jurce board.

US jet fires missiles

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In Baghdad, the Iraqi government insisted the ceasefire remained in effect and denied the Pentagon's version of Thursday's events. It said in a statement attributed to an unidentified spokesman that no radar had been turned on and that US bombs set afire a fertilizer storage area and damaged crops.

"Iraq still abides by its declared ceasefire despite the behaviour of the US plane, which was aggressive and provocative," the statement said.

At the Pentagon, a spokesman dismissed the Iraqi claim.

"We stand behind our report," Lt Cdr Joseph Gradisher said.

Col Dave Burpee, head of the Pentagon's directorate for defense information, said US patrol planes were continuing to fly surveillance missions over the northern and south-

ern zones that are off limits to Iraqi aircraft.

Burpee said it was too early to know whether Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was again actively challenging the no-fly zones, which his government considers illegal.

Meanwhile, another 19 UN weapons inspectors arrived from Bahrain on Friday, joining 52 who reached the Iraqi capital the day before after a more than two week hiatus caused by the confrontation with Saddam Hussein.

The trip was quiet, without incident," said Paul Brough, the American head of a 25-member chemical weapons destruction team, some of whose members arrived Friday to join those already here.

There was no major work for the inspectors during the day, which is the Muslim Sabbath. Resumption of the destruction of chemical weapons was to begin Saturday. Earlier story on page 5.

Hasina

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pressed sympathy for the bereaved family.

On the incident at Chhoto Kamaldaha Bazar in Mirersarai, the Awami League chief said a group of armed Jamaat-Shibir activist dragged Arefin and Alauddin to a slaughter house at gun point in daylight.

Narrating the incident, she said, the Chhatra league leaders were mercilessly beaten, tendons and veins of their legs and hands cut and finally shot at to be killed.

The attackers fled away leaving Arefin and Alauddin wounded when local people rushed to the spot hearing the sound of firing. The protesting people put road barricades on Dhaka-Chittagong highway disrupting communications, Hasina added.

She alleged that the Jamaat-Shibir terrorists in Mirersarai thana, under protection of the government, have kept the entire area hostage for a long time.

Despite complaints lodged earlier by the local people, the administration had failed to arrest the identified terrorists and control the situation, Hasina said.

The Awami League leader called for building effective resistance unitedly against armed, miscreants of anti-liberation Jamaat-Shibir.

Nurses

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leaders of the nurses' organizations are expected to sit with the authorities today (Saturday) at 2 pm.

Patients have kept leaving hospitals as they are not getting any service because of the strike.

In the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) 24 patients willingly left the hospitals Friday. Only 70 nurses were working in the DMCH under the emergency squad Friday, reports our DMCH correspondent.

Central president of the DSNU Sultana Shahana Hena, while talking to The Daily Star last night, said, unless the government met the demands they would continue the programme.

"Earlier following a commitment by the government we withdrew our non-stop strike on October 5 last year, but the government is yet to fulfil it," said Hena adding "this time we will continue until our demands are met."

The Midnight File

7 CIS states sign draft charter

MOSCOW, Jan 22 : Seven of the 10 members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) today signed a draft charter, a first step towards redefining the loose union of states born on the ruins of the former Soviet Union. Only Ukraine, Moldova and Turkmenia, who objected to some of the charter's points, refused to sign, according to a press conference from the summit in Minsk broadcast by central television, reports AFP.

9 Palestinian deportees to be returned today

GENEVA, Jan 22 : Nine Palestinians expelled in error by Israel to south Lebanon will be returned by helicopter late Saturday morning, the International Committee of the Red Cross announced here today. The nine were among 415 Palestinians suspected of links with radical organisations who were deported to a freezing no man's land between Israeli and Lebanese forces after a wave of killings of Israeli soldiers.

CSD workers clash in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Jan 22: About 5,000 gunshots were fired and more than 2,000 crackers exploded during a series of clashes between two conflicting groups of CSD workers at Boira here today, according to witnesses.

The eight-hour-long clashes, continued until 9 am today left many injured. However, none was reported admitted to hospital, sources said.

In the afternoon, police arrested two persons in connection with the incidents.

Sharif

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ing the Bangladesh Independence War.

The arrival of the first batch of Biharis in Pakistan on January 10 triggered protests in Sind by natives worried about possible erosion of their majority if the new comers were moved south.

The repatriation is, however, supported by Sind's Mohajirs who are Urdu-speaking like the Biharis and constitute the second-largest community in the province.

The fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami party also supports the transfer, but the main opposition Pakistan People's Party of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto opposes it.

Sharif received a warm welcome as he toured Bihari quarters named Watan (homeland) colony at Okara in his home province, and asked about the facilities provided by the government, AFP reported.

He was quoted as saying more Biharis would be repatriated and colonies would be built to accommodate them.

Plane hijacker

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The Indian Airlines headquarters here said one person named Satish Chandra Pandey from Sultanpur, UP, threatened to blow off the aircraft with a chemical bomb.

Pandey said he wanted to talk to A B Vajpayee, the senior BJP leader, presently camping in Lucknow.

Airlines sources said according to information received at their end Vajpayee had gone to the airport.



A visitor taking keen interest in earthenware at the Meena Bazar organised by the women's voluntary association (WVA) at Gulshan shishu park yesterday. — Star photo

আই ই বি'র
৩৭তম সম্মেলন
সর্বাঙ্গিনভাবে সফল হোক

বিকশিত জীবনের জন্য
সঞ্চয় অপরিহার্য
সঞ্চয় করুন
সঞ্চয়ী অভ্যাস
সমৃদ্ধির সোপান



অগ্রণী ব্যাংক
Agrani Bank

দেশ ও জতির সেবায় নিয়োজিত

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