

Dhaka Day by Day

Where Knowledge Costs Less

by Afifa Raihana

The business of second-hand books started to flourish after the country's independence. At present there are nearly 100 second-hand bookstalls in Nikhet and Sadarghat areas.

Akhter Hossain, a shopkeeper, said that they collect the old books mostly from students at half or one-third of the original price. The price of the books depends mainly on two things. First, the condition of the book and second the edition of the book. Recent editions cost more than the old editions. He also said that there are some servants of rich houses who steal their master's books for extra money. Another great source of old books is the peddlers who buy books and old newspapers from different houses and sell those to the second-hand bookstalls.

The bookstalls are stuffed with every kind of books for all kinds of readers. Apart from the text books, there are fiction, poetry, comics, magazines and so on. But students mostly buy text-books or the books referred to by their teachers.

In a third world country like Bangladesh, it is impossible for many students to buy new books and pursue their studies. At the University and degree level, the teachers very often refer to a lot of books that are written by foreign writers. These books are awfully expensive. Sometimes the book is published in Singapore with the price in Singaporean dollar, but when charging the price from a customer the shopkeepers treat the Singaporean dollar as US dollar. So the price a student pays for a book differs a lot from the original price. When asked about this anomaly, a shopkeeper said that it has been a rule for ages. Sometimes even if the book is a local one, there might not be adequate supply of that particular book. So the stu-

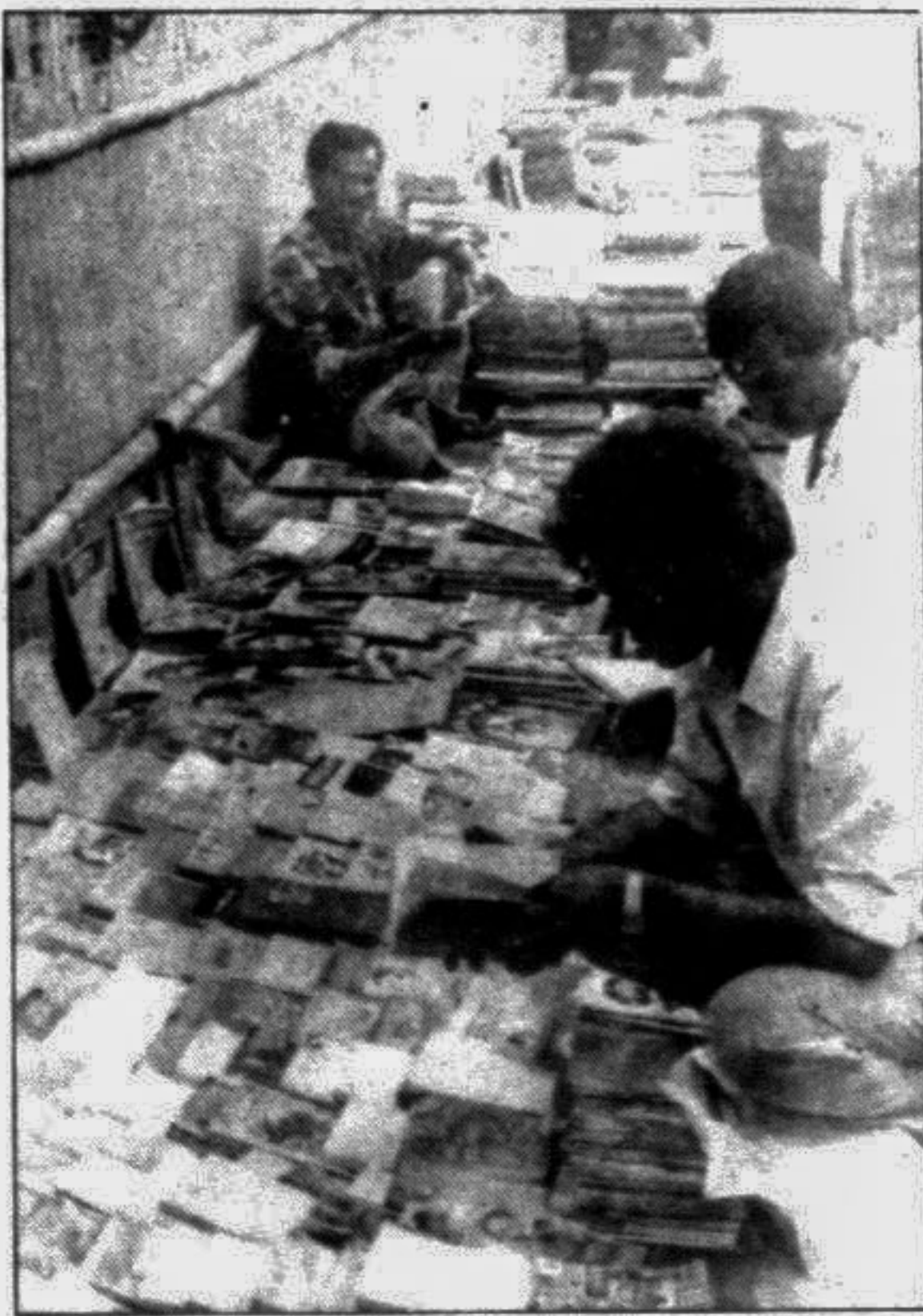
dents have no choice but to turn to the second-hand bookstalls to avoid skyhigh price and scarcity of books. Students of Home Economics can buy loose-sheets of foreign magazines for their practical copies. The shopkeepers cut the pictures of food, wears, furniture, babies and various other things that the students of Home Economics might need.

When asked why she buys her books from these shops, a third year Honours student of Dhaka University said that she can get all her

books from there at half the price. Besides, the University Library is not rich enough to provide all the students with all the books they need. Some books are out of market so they cannot be bought from the new bookstalls. Therefore, there is no other way but to turn to the old bookstall. As a regular customer, if she gives them her booklist beforehand and if they come across that particular book, they will keep the same for her. This is a privilege she enjoys and no doubt a strong reason for her coming to them.

A shopowner, Abdul Majid said that the only drawback of this business is that they don't have a steady supply of books. Even if the demand for a certain book is high, he

cannot be sure whether he'll get that book or not. If he gets hold of that book, it's mere luck. Therefore the business of second-hand books is very different from other businesses. When asked about an interesting anecdote of his business life for our readers, he said that the most amazing thing was that the number of illegal toll collectors has suddenly dropped to almost zero in the past couple of months. And it is his personal opinion that the Anti-Terrorism Act 1993 has a lot to do with it.



Old but not outdated — Star photo

RAKUB to disburse Taka 175 cr agri loan this fiscal

RAJSHAH, July 28: Rajshahi Krihi Unnayan Bank (RAKUB) will disburse agricultural loan amounting to Taka 175 crore in 16 districts of the Rajshahi division during the current fiscal year to boost farm production, reports BSS.

The loan will be disbursed through 295 branches of the bank.

This was stated at the inaugural session of a conference of Regional Managers of the RAKUB held here today at the conference room of Postal Academy.

RAKUB disbursed agricultural loan of Taka 100 crore 43

lakh of which Taka 98 crore 10 lakh was realised during the last fiscal. The amount of loan disbursement and realisation were highest ever since the inception of the bank.

Addressing the inaugural session, RAKUB Chairman and ex-minister Emran Ali Sarkar stressed the need for making the loan distribution system easier to lessen farmers' harassment.

Managing Director of RAKUB Jafirul Rahman and General Manager M A Majid also spoke on the occasion.

Hannan, Kenyan minister discuss bilateral issues

Jute Minister A S M Hannan Shah now on a visit to Kenya had a meeting Tuesday with Kenyan Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Marketing and they discussed matters of mutual interests, reports BSS.

They also discussed mutual experience in development activities and cooperation among themselves. The Jute Minister also held a meeting with leading entrepreneurs of Kenya including the President of Nairobi chamber of commerce and industry.

He explained the government's liberal industrial policy and the facilities extended to the foreign entrepreneurs in the export processing zone and invited the businessmen of Nairobi to set up industries in Bangladesh.

Taka 1cr BRAC relief for flood-hit people

Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) has allocated Tk one crore for the relief of the flood victims, reports UNB.

BRAC has taken up relief programmes in Sylhet, Habiganj, Maulvibazar, Sunamganj, Gaibandha, Sirajganj, Kishoreganj, Brahmanbaria, Comilla and Jamalpur areas.

The programme includes supply of food, oral saline, seed, repairing of tubewells and damaged houses.

111 arrested in city
Police rounded up 111 people, including eight wanted criminals, from different parts of the city in last 24 hours, a DMP press release said yesterday, reports UNB.

2 killed in separate incidents

By DMCH Correspondent

Two persons were killed in separate incidents in and out the city Wednesday.

At Sonargon, a rickshaw passenger Abdul Zaki was hit by a bus near Mugrapara bus stand at around 9 am.

Zaki, who was supposed to be wedded on Friday next, was declared dead when brought to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

In the city, 40-year-old Shaikuddin was electrocuted when he got tangled up with a live power cable at his residence.

DU student hurt in freak mishap

By DMCH Correspondent

A student of Dhaka University was injured when a minibus hit a DU varsity bus at Shahbagh in the city Wednesday noon.

Akhas Ali (22), a second year student of Political Science, was hanging from the bus but fell when the other bus hit it, witnesses said.

He was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) by fellow students in serious condition.

Meanwhile, student was assaulted by a group of bullies at Maghbazar yesterday.

Mosharraf Hossain (18) was attacked by a group of youngsters when he reportedly asked them to restrain from terrorist activities.

He was a second year student of Shidheswar Degree College and was later admitted to the DMCH.

EC appoints demarcation officers

The Election Commissioner (EC) has appointed deputy commissioners of Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna districts as Demarcation Officers to fix the boundary of different wards under the four city corporations, reports BSS. An Election Commissioner secretariat press release said here yesterday that they would publish the primary list on August 1 after fixing boundaries of 177 wards under the four city corporations.

This is being done with a view to holding the general elections to elect mayors and ward commissioners of the city corporations the press release said.

The Election Commissioner sought cooperation of all to its activities of boundary fixation keeping in consideration the issues of equitable distribution of population, territorial integrity and administrative matters.

The last date for submitting objections and advice regarding the primary list on fixation of boundaries of wards to the Demarcation Officers is August 16, the press release said.

Appointments, transfers

By Staff Correspondent

The government Wednesday announced the transfer of one Additional Secretary and three other Joint Secretaries.

According to the announcement, the Officer on Special Duty (Additional Secretary) at the Establishment Ministry Azad Ruhul Amin was transferred as Additional Secretary of the Agriculture Ministry.

The Officer on Special Duty (Joint Secretary) at the Establishment Ministry Matzuddin Ahmed was transferred as Joint Secretary at the Statistics Bureau.

The member of the Handloom Board AB Monsurul Huq was made Joint Secretary at the Textile Ministry and Director of the Steel and Engineering Corporation Syed Mushtak was made Joint Secretary of the Finance Division.

JS body on Civil Aviation meet held

The 17th meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism was held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban here yesterday with State Minister Abdul Mannan in the chair, reports BSS.

Members of the committee Sk Fazul Karim Selim and Shah Haduzzaman of Awami League, Syed Mosharraf Kamal of Jatiya Party, Begum Rahima Khondaker, Saiful Azam, Alam Khan and Lutuzzaman Babar of BNP attended the meeting.

The meeting briefly discussed the various issues relating to Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism.

Minibus accident in city

By Staff Correspondent

A minibus crashed into a road divider at Science Laboratory crossing near City College in the city at around 10.10 pm Wednesday injuring one unidentified pedestrian severely.

The driver of the bus managed to flee.

The Gullistan-bound bus from Mohammadpur was removed by police wrecker twenty minutes after the accident.

Police sent the victim to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.



Thursday

- 5.00 Opening announcement
Al Quran
Programme summary
5.10 News in Bangla
5.20 Recitation from the Gesta
5.25 School debate
6.10 Mass education programme : Esho Para Shikhi
6.35 Jiboner Alo
7.15 Nazrul songs
Nazrul songs by Nasreen Jahan, Fahmida Rahman, Chhabi, Shaheen Akhter Chowdhury, Nazma Shaifque, Nasima Akter
8.00 News in Bangla
8.40 Drama of the week : Samoy Katha Boley
Taalima Abbas, a well-to-do lady has her uncompromising authority over the family. This leads to a number of crises in her family. Once it turns serious and she falls in trouble. But in course of time she realises her fault and overcomes the crisis.
Story : Aziz Mishir
10.00 News in English
10.30 Film : China Beach
11.30 Khabor /The News
11.45 Closing



Outgoing Australian High Commissioner Richard K Gate called on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday at the latter's Parliament office. —Star photo

Australian envoy makes farewell call on Hasina

Australian High Commissioner Richard K Gate made a farewell call on leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina at her Parliament office yesterday, reports UNB.

They exchanged views on matters of mutual interests.

Govt taking all-out measures to tackle flood : Saifur

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman said yesterday government was undertaking all-out measures to permanently tackle the recurrent flood problem of the country, reports BSS.

The Finance Minister was talking to the flood affected people in Madhabpur and Chunarughat under Habiganj district. He said permanent elevated flood shelters would be built as a first step in this direction in the flood affected areas.

The minister said the present flood in this area was caused by the sudden onrush of hilly water from the upstream. Since such flood is very temporary in nature, there is nothing to panic. However, caused by such floods, he said.

Out of eight thamas, six were badly affected due to the sudden flood in Habiganj district. However the overall flood situation improved considerably in Habiganj.

Kiet's sympathy for flood-hit people

Prime Minister H M Khatun expressed his sincere sympathy at the loss of lives and property caused by recent floods in Bangladesh, reports BSS.

In a message to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, the Vietnamese Prime Minister expressed the hope that the government and people of Bangladesh would soon overcome the damage caused by the floods.

Kiet said 'I am in heartfelt to hear that the recently large floods have caused gigantic human and material losses for the people of Bangladesh.'

Steps likely to cleanse city footpaths of hawkers: Abbas

Dhaka City Mayor Mirza Abbas yesterday assured the business community that effective steps would be taken soon to cleanse the city footpaths of hawkers for smooth functioning of shops, industries and business centres, reports UNB.

He responded to a demand made by the leaders of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry in a meeting in the DCCI conference room last afternoon.

Mirza Abbas said the hawkers would be rehabilitated in other places in the city after eviction to inspire self-employment efforts.

He alleged that the hawker problem became acute due to some irregularities during the past government. 'A mafia circle was working behind the scene setting the hawkers on the footpaths and collecting toll from them.'

He told the DCCI leaders that the City Corporation had already taken some measures to solve the problem. 'We cannot let the city be spoilt.'

Some opposition political parties raised voice against the eviction of hawkers and slum-dwellers at different times, he said, adding they did it only for the sake of their politics. DCCI arranged the meeting.

to discuss various problems of the business community of the city with the Mayor. Acting President of DCCI Syed Jamaluddin Haider apprised the Mayor of various problems facing their business and industries.

He demanded eviction of hawkers from the footpaths and setting up parking places in Motijheel area, the country's business hub.

Haider also complained of procedural complexities and delay in issuing trade license from the city corporation and called for easing the procedures of getting trade license for normal function of their business.

The Mayor further assured them that Toynebe Circular Road in Motijheel would be renovated and a multistoried parking booth will be built soon in the important business zone.

He said a new 60-foot-wide road would be constructed in the Chakbazar area for removing traffic jam in old Dhaka.

The North-South Road was built to link the new town with the old town, but the under-construction markets in Gullistan and Fulbaria areas, construction of which started during the time of former Mayor, would cut off the link, he said.

Speaking on trade licence, Mirza Abbas said the corporation was examining the complexities in giving trade licence. 'We have already liberalised the provisions of getting trade licence, and now anybody can renew his licence from the bank'.

The Mayor stressed close cooperation between the city corporation and the chambers for solving different problems regarding business and industries in the city.

Past President of DCCI M Yunus also addressed the meeting, attended, among others, by its Vice President Khorshed Alam Mollah, Directors Abdur Rob Chowdhury, Abdus Salam, Nasiruddin Khan, Ismail Hossain Mia, Abdul Maleque and Shamsuddin Ahmed.

RU Senate polls shifted

RAJSHAH, July 28 : Election of the 25 registered graduate representatives to Rajshahi University Senate has been shifted due to continued worsening flood situation, reports UNB.

Official sources here said today the election, scheduled for August 3, will now be held on September 26.

Strengthen hospital management system : Kamal

Minister for Health and Family Welfare Chowdhury Kamal ibne Yusuf yesterday underscored the need to strengthen the hospital management system to provide improved patient care, reports BSS.

The present government is keen to ensure that the country's hospitals efficiently organise and manage the patient care services within the current healthy system structure as well as the resources constraints, the Health Minister said while inaugurating a workshop here entitled 'Study on Hospital Organisation and Administration.'

He said it was unfortunate that no standard existed to measure hospital services. The workshop conducted by

the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO) is being organised for helping the senior health officials to formulate proper guidelines and bring out effective recommendations for the purpose.

Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Md Strajul Huq, WHO Representative Dr A N A Abeyesundere, team leader of the study Maj. Gen (Dr) M Nurul Huq (ret'd) and Director General of Health Services Prof Rununabi also addressed the inaugural session.

The objectives of the study are: to examine the hospital organisation structure and administrative management practices, identify their strengths and weaknesses.



The 8th installation ceremony of the Inner Wheel Club of Dhaka North was held recently at Sonargon Hotel. Professor A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury, Deputy Leader of Parliament, attended the occasion as chief guest and Munira Khan, district chairman, Inner Wheel Dist 328 was the special guest. Towfika Aftab, the newly elected president of the Inner Wheel Club of Dhaka North presided over the meeting.

Attack on newsmen protested

From Staff Correspondent
KILUINA, July 28: Khulna Press Club arranged a rally and brought out a procession to register its protest against assault on a local photo journalist.

Abdul Gaffar, Staff Photographer of the Daily Purbanchal was manhandled by a group of youngsters on Saturday last near the Awami League office while on duty.

The assailants snatched away his camera. He was admitted to the Khulna Sadar Hospital in a critical condition and still fighting for his life.

Obituary

Abdul Aziz, an eminent educationalist and saint, of Muradnagar thana, Comilla, died recently in his residence at Eusufnagar. He left behind his wife, two sons, one daughter, grand sons and daughters and innumerable devotees to mourn his death, says a press release.

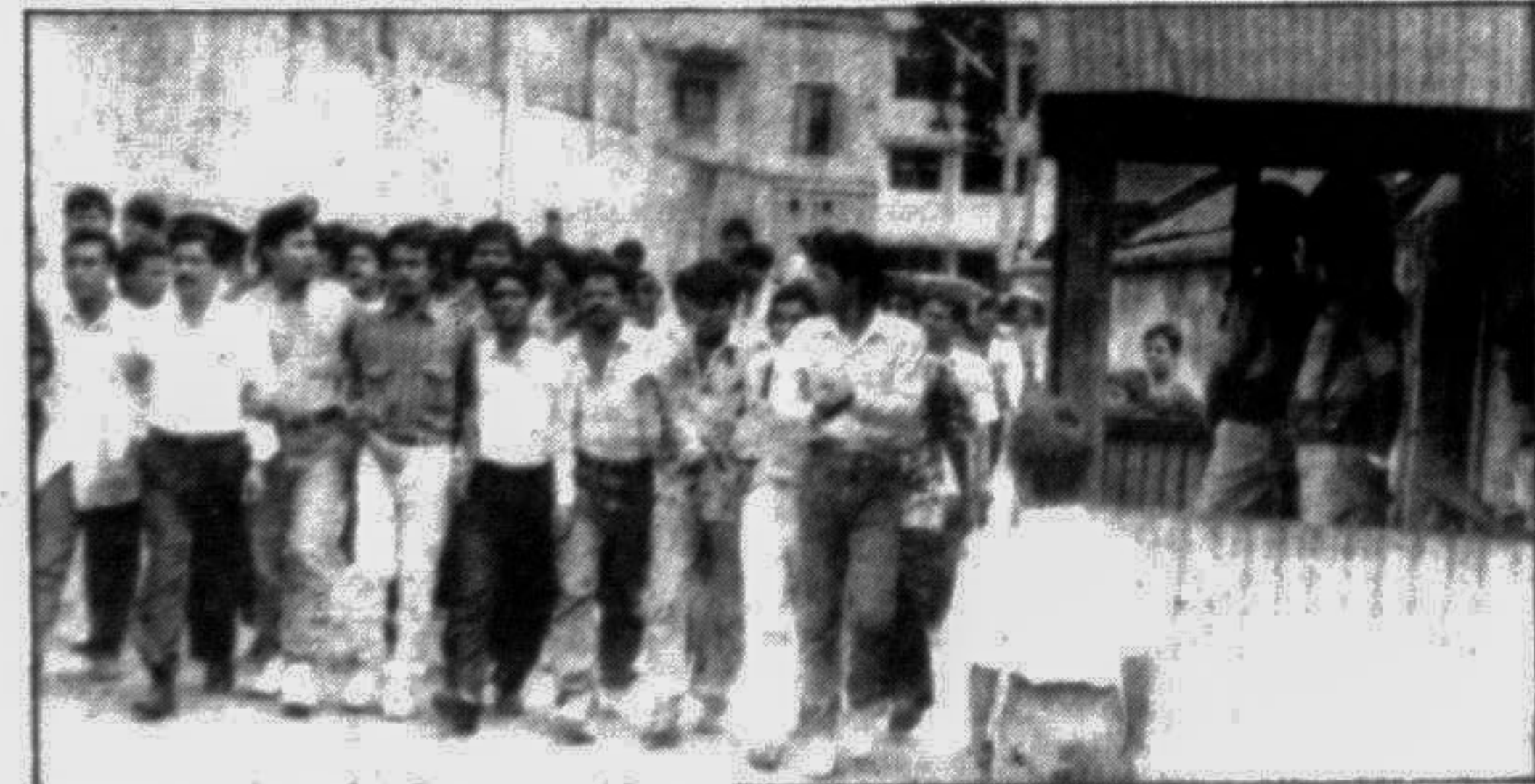
Raja Kamal Ranjan Roy, a celebrity of undivided Bengal and grandson of Rai Bahadur Annada Proshad Roy, erstwhile Zamindar of Sarail Parganah, and founder of Brahmanbaria Annada High School, Sarail Annada High School, died at a clinic in Calcutta recently, according to a late message received in Dhaka, reports BSS. He was 87.

Weather

Moderate rain likely

By Staff Correspondent
Weather forecast for the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Thursday) says light to moderate rain or thundershowers are likely to occur at a few places over Barisal and the regions of Khulna, Noakhali, Chittagong and Comilla and at one or two places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Jessore and Kushtia. The Met office says, day temperature may rise one to two degree Celsius over the country. The country's highest temperature yesterday of 34.6 degree Celsius was recorded at Rangpur and the lowest 23.8 degree Celsius was recorded at Rangamati. The sun sets today (Thursday) at 6:43 pm and rises tomorrow (Friday) at 5:27 am. The maximum and the minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns of the country were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 am
Dhaka	32	27.2	78	67
Chittagong	32.4	25.3	77	79
Rajshahi	33.6	26.5	75	77
Khulna	33.6	26.7	78	74
Barisal	32.6	26.5	85	79
Dinnajpur	34.2	27.0	86	83
Sylhet	32	25.5	86	75
Cox's Bazar	32.5	25.8	68	78



A Jatiya Party protest rally in front of Dhaka Central Jail yesterday demanding release of former President Ershad. —Star photo