

## Dhaka Day by Day

## Option for Vocational Training

by Raffat Binte Rashid

What can a young rickshawpuller, a grocer or a boatman have in common other than poverty, hunger and desperation? Well, dreams might be a possible answer. Since they all belong to the same social class, their desire for a prosperous, happy life is not unusual.

Three such young men or rather boys, aged between 18 to 20, are students of UCEP (Underprivileged Children's Educational Programme). They have completed junior school education (i.e. class eight) and are now taking vocational training in the same school. They are all in the three-year Automobile repairing training, which they believe will enable them to earn a passage to a decent life.

Life had always been cruel and hard for them, being forced to work at a very tender age. None realises more than these three, the usefulness of learning vocational trades or being educated.

For them technical education is a gateway to happiness, every thing they have always dreamt about. According to Nanto Miah, the rickshawpuller, to be an automobile mechanic can ensure his future, at least he won't be out of work. "What can I do with my general class eight education? With my background and such a simple education, I won't get permanent work anywhere but if I learn this trade well enough, I can go abroad or stay here and get a good job," Nantosaid casually while his friends nodded in agreement.

"Vocational training or education is vital, especially when it comes to the economic well-being of the underprivileged children, which simultaneously helps the industrial revolution of the country," commented K M Mahbubur Rahman, coordinator of UCEP Technical School. He said that in Bangladesh slum children have very little chance to exploit their economic potential on their own. They cannot come in direct contact with industry and put it to their own economic advantage, inspite of having their potential, but this opportunity or economic potential should be effectively exploited.

In hard economic terms this means that the great mass of working children are "the raw materials" and through appropriate education and training can be "processed" into a "product" which is marketable. In one word

their hands should be turned into hands of semi skilled or skilled labourers," he explained.

The country should broaden the scope for these semi-skilled labourers, or technical experts. An industrial revolution could benefit in two ways: making the country's industrial sector strong and profitable and at the same time allowing these deprived unemployed semi-skilled labourers or technicians acquire the economic stability they need so badly.

In Bangladesh, there are about 18 polytechnic institutes at the district level, four technical colleges or B.I.T's (Bangladesh Institute of Technology) and two universities.

The UCEP coordinator of the technical school said that students are very enthusiastic about such training. Presently, the training centre can accommodate 700 students, with about 650 students attending these courses. Not all UCEP students can attend this school; students are admitted according to merit. This vocational training centre offers courses in electronics, repair of refrigerators and air conditioning, printing, carpentry, welding and general fitting, auto repair, textile, tailoring and making export-oriented garments. Usually, however, students are more interested in being automobile mechanics.

Rahman informed that the UCEP students or semi-skilled workers, from working class backgrounds, with a grounding in industrial fundamentals, are very much in demand. In the textile sector the whole batch of such students are employed even before they could complete the course.

This is definitely praise-worthy. It shows that the two-way system is working where industries are coming up and profiting, at the same time, allowing employment for the mass of underprivileged population.

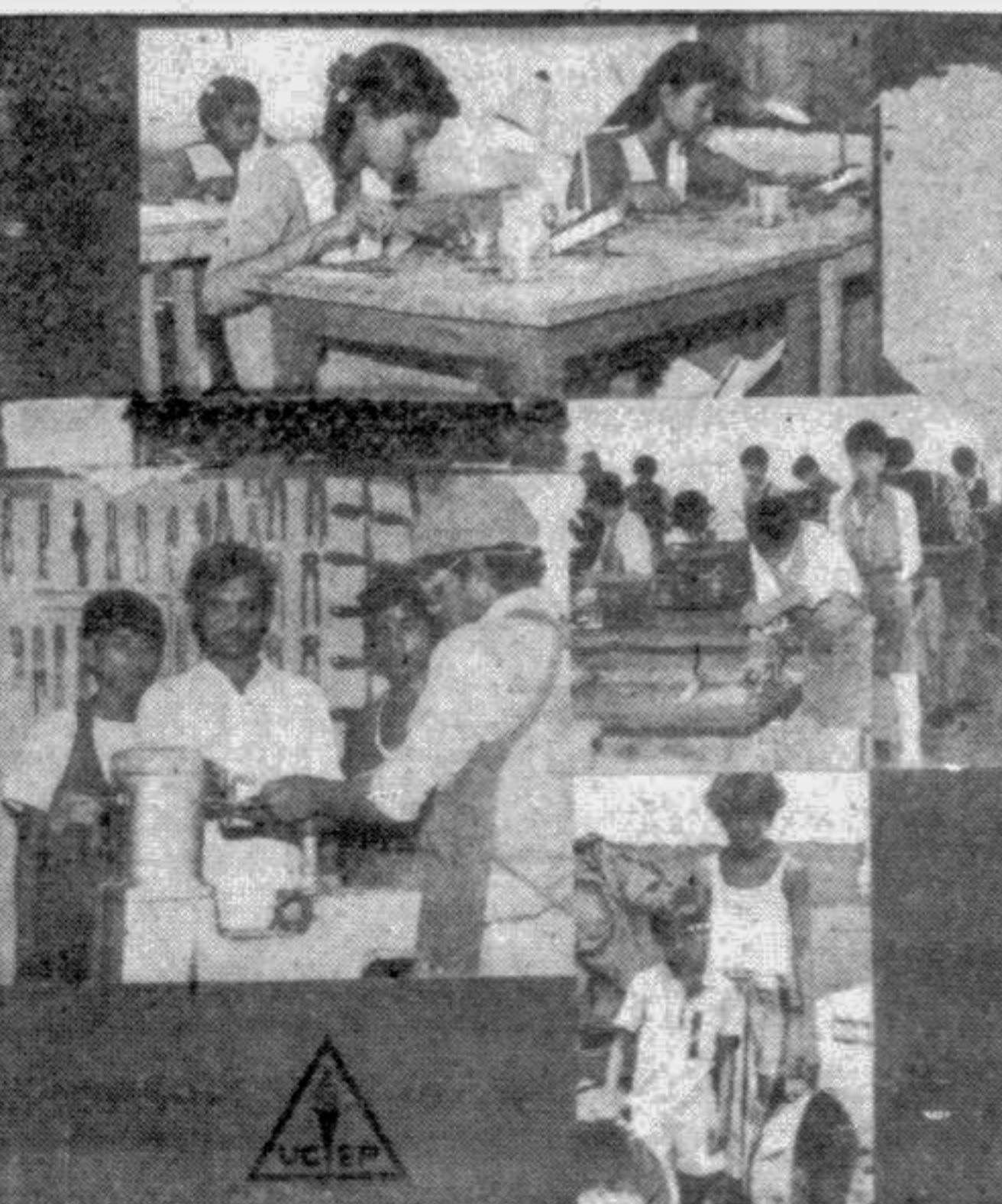
But one thing that should be made clear is whether the policy-makers are serious or whether the political will, which is the determinant factor here, is strong enough to work this out to the optimum level. So far many reports, articles or policies, have been written and undertaken, but when it comes to implementation, the picture that emerges is not so satisfactory.

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UCEP



Planning Minister AM Zahiruddin Khan addressing a workshop of the Economic Association at the Family Planning Academy in the city yesterday.

— Star photo

## গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

পুলিশ স্মারকের কার্যালয়

বরিশাল

স্থানক নং-২৬৪০/ই

তারিখ: ০২-৯-১৯৯৩ ইং

## দরপত্র বিভিন্ন

বাংলাদেশ জেলা পুলিশ বাহিনীর ক্লেন টারের জন্ম আসবাবপত্র যাহা সিটিলে উচ্চ ধারিবে সরবরাহের নিমিত্তে তফসীলে বর্ণিত নিয়ম ও শর্তব্যাবী প্রকৃত সরবরাহকারী/ঠিকানারদের নিকট হাতে উন্নত প্রতিবেদিতামূলক সীমান্মোহরযুক্ত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে। দরপত্র আগামী ইং ১৬-৯-৯৩ তারিখ বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে নিয়ন্ত্রণকারীর ক্লেন টারে পুলিশ ক্লেন টারে, বরিশালে রাখিত দরপত্র বারে ফেলিতে অন্তর্দেশ করা যাইতেছে। এই দিন বেলা ১৩-০০ ঘটিকার সময় দরপত্রদাতাগণের সম্মুখে যদি দেশ উপস্থিতি থাকেন। খেলা হইতে অফিস চলাকলীন সময়ের মধ্যে পুলিশ ক্লেন টারে অধিক হাতে দরপত্র প্রতিবেদিত প্রতি তফসীলে মূল বাবদ ৮০০/- (চারশত টাকা) (অক্ষরত-ঘোষণা) নম্বর দ্বারা করিয়া তফসীল প্রদান করা যাইতে পারে। দরপত্র প্রদানের দিন কেবল তফসীল বিতরণ করা হইবে না। তফসীল বিতরণ কেবল দরপত্র প্রদানের পরে হইবে। কর্তৃপক্ষ কেবল দরপত্র বাবদে কেবল যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র বিতরণ করিবার ক্ষমতা সম্ভব করেন।

মোঃ আবিনেশ রহমান খান

পুলিশ স্মারকের কার্যালয়

## Two factions of JCD share posts in Ctg Polytech Instt polls

CHITTAGONG, Sept 7: Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, the student wing of ruling BNP, won the Chittagong Polytechnic Institute Students Union election which was held peacefully today, reports UNB.

Two factions of JCD contested the election and shared all the 21 posts. One group bagged 11 seats while the other 10.

JCD was divided as a sequel to the dispute of local BNP.

Arifuzzaman Arif, Muhammad Jamiruddin and S M Kaiser were elected VP, GS and AGS respectively. The JCD contested the election from Didar-Jamir-Kawsar and Arif-Fard-Kawsar panels.

However, Awami League-backed Chhatra League and pro-Jamaat Islami Chhatra Shibir, in separate statements, termed the election a "stage-managed affair," alleging that the authorities had announced the election schedule only four days before the polls.

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