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# The Daily Star

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**Announcement**  
Today The Daily Star contains our regular 8-page tabloid "Computer Special". Make sure your issue of the paper contains the special tabloid.

**At the DSE Wednesday**  
DSE All Share Price Index: 845.05499  
Market capitalisation Tk: 406776201.85.88  
Turnover in volume: 92391.25  
Turnover in value Tk: 17911694.25  
Total issues traded: 65

## Safety of UN peacekeepers in Bosnia demanded Face threats against Islam unitedly, Dhaka's call to OIC states

CASABLANCA (Morocco), Dec 14: Bangladesh today stressed the importance of carefully identifying the current challenges and threats against Islam and explore ways to forge true unity and solidarity to confront those, reports BSS.

Addressing the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference here today, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said that the Islamic world must come out of this vicious cycle of poverty, internal squabbles, mistrust and make collective efforts to restore the glorious image of Islam.

She said Bangladesh is committed to consolidate, preserve and strengthen fraternal relations among Muslim countries.

Expressing solidarity with the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina in the context of their tragedy and sufferings, Begum Zia said Bangladesh has consistently asked for a negotiated settlement of the issue on the basis of sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence.

She said the Islamic Ummah must make all-out efforts to realise just settlement of the issue when Bosnian brothers have shown flexibility and understanding by accepting the peace plan of the Western contact group.

Referring to Bangladesh's support to Bosnian brothers, she strongly deplored Serb attacks in the Bihac area. Bangladesh, the Prime Minister said, condemned such cowardly attacks by the Serbians on the UN peacekeepers and called for ensuring safety and protection of UN peacekeeping forces including Bangladeshi troops.

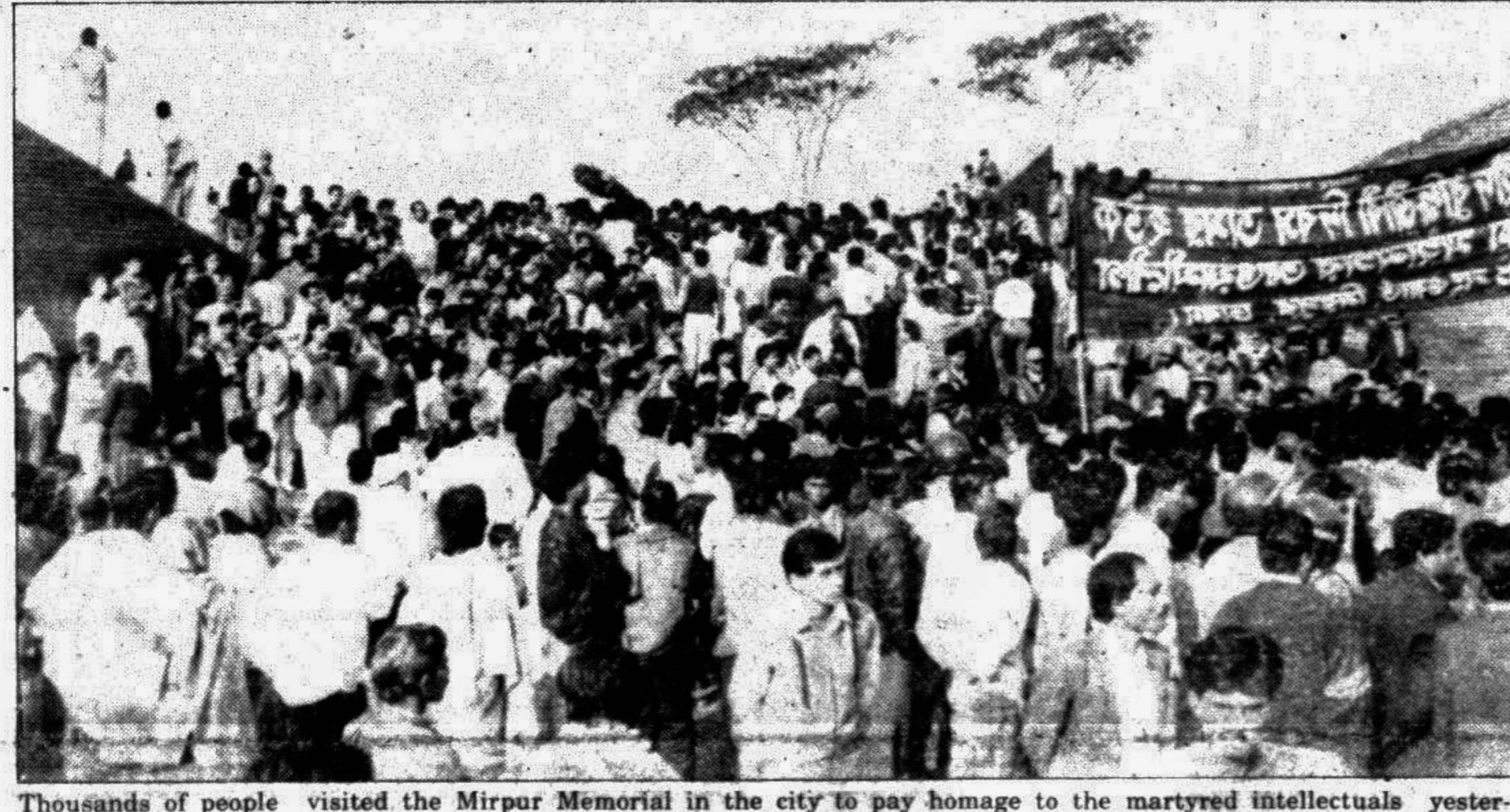
Reiterating Bangladesh's consistent position on the Middle-East question and Palestine issue, Begum Zia called for restoration of Arab sovereignty over the occupied lands and recognition of inalienable national rights of the Palestinians including a state of their own.

The Bangladesh Prime Minister urged the OIC summit to make afresh call to the Afghan leadership for immediate withdrawal of their troops from the Mirpur Memorial in the city to pay homage to the martyred intellectuals.

She said the OIC states should take a united stand against the occupation forces at the end of the liberation war in 1971 as part of a conspiracy to



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia attending the opening session of the Seventh OIC Summit at the Royal Palace in Casablanca, Morocco Tuesday. — AFP photo



Thousands of people visited the Mirpur Memorial in the city to pay homage to the martyred intellectuals yesterday. — Star photo

**Earning target slashed**  
The government, alarmed at slump in exports, has revised the current year's earning target down to 3.1 billion US dollars from 3.5 billion, reports UNB.

The revised target was approved by the Export Promotion Bureau's board meeting recently, official sources said. Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam, who is chairman of the board, okayed the cut.

Sources said the Bangladesh Bank had insisted on downgrading the target at 2.9 billion but the EPB preferred to be more optimistic.

Target for the readymade garments alone was slashed by about 350 million dollars. Earning figures for tea and raw jute also got large cuts.

The move for a mid-term revision came from the government apparently to avoid the blame of failure to achieve the target at the year end.

In the last fiscal (1993-94), export earnings fell short of the target by nearly 13 per cent, triggering widespread criticism.

According to official figures, earnings in July-August were nearly 26 per cent below the target. The earning was even

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**USAID-funded study says Dhaka should set up more EPZs, industrial parks**  
By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh, to attract foreign investment, should set up more export processing zones and industrial parks, ensure strict other facilities as well as make entry and exit procedures simple and straight forward, said a USAID-funded study.

Findings of the study, conducted by the Policy Implementation and Analysis Group (PIAG) under the Ministry of Industries, were presented at a seminar in the city yesterday.

Dr. Clifton Barton, Executive Director of International Management and Communications Corporation and one of the authors, presented the paper containing the findings. Prof. Dr. Mustafizur Rahman of Dhaka University and President of the Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mahbub Jamil spoke at the seminar, chaired by Industries Secretary AHM Abdul Hye, held at the BCIC auditorium.

In his paper Dr. Clifton Barton said the main objective of the study was to assess investment promotion experiences in five Asian countries in order to identify strategies that may be applicable to Bangladesh's efforts to increase domestic and foreign investment and promote exports. The five countries are Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, China, and Vietnam, which have been successful in attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) in recent years.

The study titled 'Comparative study of investment policies, structure and activities in the Asian region', with applications to Bangladesh, made a number of suggestions.

Suggesting some changes in legal and administrative procedures, Dr Barton said entry and exit procedures should be simple, straight forward and areas requiring government approval should be minimised. He stressed simplification of tax rates and improvements of Customs administration.

The study also emphasised that the private sector should

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**Razzak's efforts on for talks**  
By Staff Correspondent

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali yesterday had talks with a number of opposition and ruling party leaders separately as part of his fresh move for a dialogue to resolve the persisting political impasse, sources concerned said.

Ruling BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukder, Chief Whip of the opposition, Mohammad Nasim and Workers party leader Rashed Khan Menon discussed with the Speaker the issue of resumption talks between the ruling party and the Opposition.

BNP sources said the party Secretary General expressed his readiness to start a formal dialogue but the Opposition Chief Whip reiterated their earlier stand on the caretaker government issue.

Shaikh Razzak Ali reportedly proposed to Mohammad Nasim to start talks from where Commonwealth emissary Sir Ninian Stephen had ended.

Nasim was, however, learnt to have told the Speaker that the question of who would head caretaker must be first.

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## Fresh vow to realise martyrs' dreams

By Staff Correspondent

Thousands of people thronged the Martyred Intellectuals' Memorial at Mirpur in the city yesterday to pay homage to the memory of the best sons of the soil who had laid down their lives to liberate the motherland.

People renewed on the day their pledge to materialise the lofty ideals the martyred intellectuals stood for.

A large number of people also visited the memorial at Rayer Bazar, and the graves of intellectuals near the Dhaka University Central Mosque and Jagannath Hall and placed wreaths and prayed for the departed souls.

The intellectuals were killed by the agents of the occupation forces at the fag end of the liberation war in 1971 as part of a conspiracy to

cripple the nation intellectually.

Different political parties, student bodies and socio-cultural organisations visited the memorials at Mirpur and Rayer Bazar and placed wreaths.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas placed wreath at the Mirpur Memorial at 6:30 am.

The President stood in solemn silence for some time and prayed for eternal peace of the martyrs' souls.

The central leaders of the BNP led by party Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukder later placed wreaths at the Memorial. Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Miah, Telecommunications Minister Tarikul Islam and some other ministers were present.

Leader of the Opposition

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## Hasina may quit Minto Road residence

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina is learnt to have decided to leave her official quarter at 29 Minto Road and started packing up, reports UNB.

Close aides to Hasina indicated last night that she might quit 29 Minto Road shortly in line with the planned opposition resignation from Parliament on December 28 if the government does not concede to the demand for a caretaker government by December 27.

She said Hasina herself started packing her books and important papers and already shifted 25 to 30 cartons of materials to a house at Dhanmondi Road No. 5.

She also asked her personal staff to buy furniture, including cot, and wrote to concerned authorities to shift her telephones to the new place.

She also asked for replacing

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## 'Country in deep political crisis'

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the government to agree to the demand for a non-partisan caretaker government by December 27 or 'we will quit parliament on December 28,' reports UNB.

Hasina reaffirmed the Opposition decision amidst variegated speculations about the reflection of the High Court verdict on the continuous opposition boycott of parliament on the demand for a caretaker government to conduct general elections.

'The country is stuck in a deep political crisis. Parliament turned ineffective and dialogue flopped,' she said, squarely putting the blame on Prime Minister's intransigence, caprice and shabby mentality.

The Awami League President was speaking at two spontaneous gatherings at Mirpur Shaheed Smriti Soudha and

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**PM returns today**  
CASABLANCA, Dec 14: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, who is now in the Atlantic coast city of Morocco to lead the Bangladesh delegation at the Seventh OIC Summit, returns home tomorrow afternoon, reports BSS.

**Police raid Ctg Govt College hotel**  
From Staff Correspondent  
CHITTAONG, Dec 14: A large contingent of police raided the Chittagong Govt College students' hostel here Tuesday midnight and recovered quantities of arms and ammunition. According to police sources, the recovered arms mainly include one LG, one pipegun, 13 cocktails and a number of bullets. No one was however arrested during the operation, police said.

**Foreign workers in Malaysia to face TB test**  
KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 14: Alarmed by foreign workers bringing contagious diseases, the government said on Wednesday it plans medical checks for all guest workers, reports AP.

A senior Health Ministry official told Parliament that 11 per cent of tuberculosis patients in Malaysia last year were foreigners.

All future workers will be screened by a panel of doctors in their own countries and further checks will be conducted once they land in Malaysia, the ministry's parliamentary secretary, K Kumaran, said.

Malaysia's booming economy has attracted a flood of foreign workers in plantations and the construction industry, most of them coming from Indonesia, Bangladesh and the Philippines.

As soon as the workers step into Malaysia, they will be checked by X-ray for tuberculosis, Kumaran said.

## Donors agree to resume power sector lending

The representatives of donor agencies at a meeting with the officials of Bangladesh government held in the city yesterday agreed for new lending to power sector in Bangladesh, reports BSS.

The donor agencies had suspended their lending to power sector in 1990 while the suspension was partially lifted in 1992.

The meeting took place between the officials from Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Economic Relations Division, Power Development Board, Dhaka Electric Supply Authority and Rural Electrification Board from Bangladesh side and the representatives of the World Bank, USAID, Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan, Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) of the UK and KfW of Germany.

All the six donors have agreed to resume lending to the power sector of the country.

The Energy Secretary, Faizur Razaque, who chaired the meeting, informed the representatives of the donor agencies that the combined system loss in power sector in

September 1994 was 34 per cent while in 1991 it was 42.22 per cent.

It shows that the system loss has reduced by over 8 per cent during the last three years, he said.

Power sector programme implementing organisations have planned short, mid, and long-term elaborate schemes to implement various development projects as per directives of the government, he said.

The representatives of the donor agencies were also informed about the power sector reform package programmes approved by the cabinet in September.

The donor agencies appreciated the reform package programmes and emphasised the successful implementation of the reform programmes.

Meanwhile, PDB has taken up 18 development projects for immediate funding which include new generation, new transmission and new distribution projects.

Besides, the projects include augmentation and rehabilitation of existing power plants and transmission; and distribution lines.

## BNP blames AL for 'killing' martyrs' dreams

Leaders of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) at a discussion yesterday said the main objective of a liberated Bangladesh was to establish democracy, reports UNB.

But, they alleged, the Opposition Awami League has been betraying with the spirit of the Liberation War by killing the democratic process in the country time and again.

Addressing a discussion meeting on the occasion of the Martyred Intellectuals' Day at the party central office in the evening, the BNP leaders also accused the Awami League of killing the dreams of the martyrs of liberation by giving legitimacy to anti-liberation Jamaat-e-Islami and the autocratic forces.

They said the Awami League have no moral right to place wreath at the memorial of the martyred intellectuals.

Chaired by BNP Secretary General and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder, the meeting was also addressed by BNP Standing Committee member and Housing and Public Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Miah, Chowdhury Tanvir Ahmed

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## Number of foreign students at Dhaka University increasing

By Masud Arif

The number of foreign students at the Dhaka University is increasing, most of them from Nepal and Somalia, according to university sources.

A number of female students from Nepal got admitted to the Honours classes in different departments of the university in the last few years.

The foreign students are mainly studying science and commerce subjects, the sources said.

Some 50 students from Nepal, Somalia, Nigeria, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Palestine and China are studying in the departments of International Relations, English, Mass Communication and Journalism, Bengali, Bio-Chemistry, Pharmacy, Marketing, Management, Finance and Banking and Accounting. The number of female students is 17.

In 1992-93 and 1991-92 academic sessions, the number of foreign students was not more than 35.

Punita Rimal, a student from Nepal, told this correspondent 'I'm enjoying my student life at the Dhaka University. There is little difference between the social and cultural atmosphere in the two countries.'

Punita, a second year Honours student in the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, said, 'I had to face a language problem in the first year because the teachers mainly deliver their lectures in Bangla. But the teachers are so helpful that this is no longer a problem to me. She can now speak Bangla.'

Omar Hasan Ali and Yusuf Md Yusuf two Somalian students, also expressed similar views. The teachers always helped them if they face any problem regarding their studies or any other matters, they said.

When asked why he has come to study at the Dhaka University, Ali, a student of International Relations Department, said, 'Somalia has good relations with Bangladesh. Besides, the standard of education in this university is higher than that of the universities in the other developing countries.'

The male students from abroad mainly reside in the International Hostel while the female students in the Shamsun Nahar Hall of the University. Some others live in different parts of the city due to shortage of accommodation in the hostel.

The Warden of the hostel, Dr A H M Aminur Rahman, told this correspondent that

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## Banks, insurance cos may get pry shares' quota

By Sohel Manzur

The government is planning to ensure equitable share of primary issues for institutional share investors like banks and insurance companies by introducing quota system, according to official sources.

Under the proposed system, certain quota of primary shares to be floated by the public limited companies will be kept reserved for these institutions, the sources said, adding the institutions would, however, be given allotment of shares for purchase on the basis of placements.

The proposal for introducing the system has already been placed before the Board of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

The reason for proposing the system, as stated by an official of the SEC, is to ensure a 'level playing field' for the local and foreign investors to ensure fair competition.

At present more than 50 per cent of primary shares are held by the promoters, 20 per cent are kept for the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) and the rest is offered for subscription by other institutional investors, members of the public and foreign investors.

If the proposed system is introduced, the banks and insurance companies will also have certain portion of shares for purchase from the primary market.

Appreciating the move by the SEC, sources concerned said if the system is introduced, more local funds would be generated in the share market and local institutions would grow up. They, however, pointed out that the institutions may also become less interested in secondary market if they get easy access to the primary market. In that case, the secondary market would be affected, they added.

## Indian minister resigns over sugar scandal

NEW DELHI, Dec 14: India's Civil Supplies Minister resigned Wednesday as Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao's government got embroiled in a scandal over importing sugar to meet a shortfall in domestic production, reports AP.

A K Antony resigned after a government probe into the sugar scandal criticized him for not conveying details about India's sugar situation to the prime minister.

The probe report by Gyan Prakash, a former auditor-general of India, has not been made public despite persistent demands by the opposition.

Antony's resignation is the latest embarrassment to Rao, whose Congress Party lost elections in two big southern states, including his home state last week.

Coming barely two months before elections in five large states, the results have damaged the party's image.