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# The Daily Star

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**STOCK MARKET**

DSE Index	841.39 (+0.21%)
Market capitalization Tk	40.84 billion
Turnover in volume	75,591
Turnover in value Tk	14.89 million

**Health**

**A Look into the Matters of the Heart, Pre-cancerous Oral Cavity and Smoking**  
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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**TCB asked to import salt**

The Ministry of Commerce has directed the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) to import 70,000 metric tons of salt to meet possible deficit and keep its price stable, an official handout said last night. The TCB has taken steps to import salt on an emergency basis. The first ship carrying about 10,000 metric tons reached Chittagong on January 6 and the second ship with eight thousand metric tons will reach the port on January 13, reports BSS.

## Speaker may rule on resignations today

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali has said that he is likely to give his ruling on the crucial issue of resignation of the Opposition MPs from Parliament today.

"I'll try to give my ruling on it tomorrow, and if it's not possible, then the day after tomorrow," he told UNB at his official residence yesterday evening.

The Speaker did not give any hint about the possible decision he is going to take on the matter, but said: "I am studying both the technical and legal aspects of the resignations."

As many as 147 Opposition MPs tendered resignations en masse on December 28 to press for general elections under a neutral, non-partisan caretaker administration.

In reply to a question, the Speaker said he had checked all the resignation letters and signatures of the MPs in the last four days since January 6.

"I'm not going to knockout the resignation letters on any technical ground," Ali said, adding: "I'm studying the legal aspects of the issue."

Asked if he has found any legal fault about the resignations, the Speaker smiled and said: "You put a very intelligent question. Yes, we are trying to find that out."

The Speaker, who had just recovered from a heart complaint, was seen in his chamber, his desk cluttered with a lot of books on the Constitution, law, parliamentary practices and rules of procedures of different countries of the world, including Britain and India.

Asked if he would refer the resignation issue to any court of law, the Speaker said: "I will not say anything about that. Have patience for a few hours more. You just wait and see. Many things have changed at the last moment."

Asked if he had sought any opinions from constitutional and legal experts on the issue, he said: "I'm studying the Constitution."

In reply to a question, the

## AL to observe Bangabandhu's homecoming day today

The Awami League and its front organisations will observe the homecoming day of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today.

On this day in 1972, Bangabandhu returned to Dhaka after nine months of captivity in Pakistan during Bangladesh's War of Independence.

The arrival of Sheikh Mujib, leader of the Liberation War, was marked by a tumultuous reception.

In observance of the day, the Awami League and its front organisations will organise public rallies and discussions and garland the portrait of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the city and elsewhere in the

## Yangon yet to clear 70,000 Rohingyas for repatriation

The Myanmar authorities are yet to clear the names of 70,000 Rohingya refugees staying in Bangladesh for repatriation.

Of the 2,50,877 refugees who took shelter in Bangladesh so far only 1,38,087 have been repatriated while another 1,12,790 are still awaiting their turn in 18 makeshift camps in Cox's Bazar and Bandarban districts.

According to official sources, some 42,000 of the refugees now in the camps have received Yangon's clearance to return home, but the cases of the rest 70,000 remain pending with the Myanmar authorities.

When contacted, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) officials in Dhaka said that the matter of clearance by the Myanmar authorities and subsequent repatriation from Bangladesh is a continuing process.

"Under the process, all the refugees are expected to return home well before the end of this year," they said, adding that the repatriation has picked up substantially since last July.

Both the Bangladesh gov-

## Draft Bills on Ansars, Gram Pratirakkha Dal okayed

The cabinet has approved the draft Bills of Battalion Ansars Act 1995, Ansars Bahini Act 1995 and the Gram Pratirakkha Dal Act 1995. The enhanced benefit packages for battalion Ansars as well as embodied Ansars were also approved, reports BSS.

The approvals were given at the weekly cabinet meeting held last night at the Bangabhaban with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair.

The cabinet also approved in principle the draft Bill of National Book Centre Act 1995.

Ministers, state ministers in charge of different ministries and divisions, Cabinet Secretary, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister and concerned secretaries were present in the meeting.



Hundreds of thousands of devotees braved yesterday's chilly conditions to join the Akheri Munajat on the concluding day of the three-day Biswa Ijtema at Tongi.

## Divine blessings sought in Akheri Munajat

GAZIPUR, Jan 9. The Bishwa Ijtema, second largest congregation of world Muslims, concluded at Tongi near here today with lakhs of devotees offering the Akheri Munajat for the peace, prosperity and greater solidarity of the Muslim Ummah.

Several lakh devotees, including 4000 foreign participants from 58 countries, took part in the prayer which started at 11 am and continued till 11:20 am.

Maulana Enamul Hasan, Ameer of the Delhi-based World Tablig Jamaat, conducted the Akheri Munajat.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Awami League president Sheikh Hasina also joined the munajat seeking divine blessings.

Conducting the munajat,

## Two women murdered in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent  
NARAYANGANJ, Jan 9: Two women were reportedly murdered in two places under Bandar thana here today.

One of the victims was identified as Majeda Khatun, 23, a housewife, while the identity of the other could not be ascertained immediately.

Majeda, wife of one Kalachan Mia of Deuli Chourapara area, was allegedly strangled to death by her husband following a family feud at 9 am today.

Family sources said Kalachan Mia and Majeda often quarrelled over Majeda's suspicion that her husband was having an extra-marital affair.

Police picked up Zaheda, 25, a sister of Kalachan, for interrogation while the accused has been absconding since the day of the incident.

In another incident, police recovered the body of an unidentified woman, aged 25, from the Lesers ghat area this afternoon. The body bore marks of injury around the neck.

Two separate cases have been registered with Bandar police.

## MBBS admission rules changed

By Ripon Baig  
The admission rules for the first year MBBS course have been changed.

According to sources concerned, the notification for the admission test, likely to be held after the Eid-ul-Fitre, would be given within five to seven days.

The total marks for the test will now be 190, instead of 140. Of the total, 150 marks will be for written test, 20 for viva voce and one per cent of the total marks secured by a candidate in the SSC and HSC examinations. In the written test, 45 marks each will be for Physics, Chemistry and Biology and 15 for English, the

## Iran for steps to keep 'illegal Bangladeshis'

Iranian president Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani Sunday assured the visiting Bangladeshi minister that he would do the needful to keep the five to six thousand illegal Bangladeshi immigrants in Iran, reports BSS.

Earlier, Communications Minister Oli Ahmed urged the Iranian president to absorb expatriate Bangladeshi workers in the Iranian economy.

Oli Ahmed is now on a four-day visit to Iran at the invitation of Iranian Minister for Roads and Transportation.

He also handed over a goodwill message from Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to the Iranian president.

While conveying his warm personal greetings and regards to the Bangladeshi Prime Minister, President Rafsanjani renewed his invitation to Begum Zia to visit Iran at her convenience.

Oli Ahmed briefed the Iranian President on economic and political developments in Bangladesh during the last four years.

The minister pointed out that with the flow of bulk items like clinker, sulphur and cement, and with the purchase of railway coaches from Iran, the balance of trade was likely to turn in favour of Iran during the current year. He requested President Rafsanjani to buy more jute, jute goods, tea and other products and to lift the current import restrictions in force in Iran for Bangladeshi goods.

He also suggested that Iran should send a strong delegation of businessmen from the private sector to Bangladesh. President Rafsanjani accepted the suggestions in principle.

## Winter's first rainfall

By Staff Correspondent  
City dwellers as well as people of the northern and southern regions of the country experienced the first rainfall of the current winter yesterday.

Intermittent rainfall continued throughout the day. Normal city life was partially disrupted by the bone shivering cold that accompanied the rainfall.

Met office sources hinted that the temperature would continue to fall during the next two days and another cold wave is likely to sweep almost all areas of the country from early next week.

The highest rainfall of 12 millimeter was recorded in Rajshahi yesterday. Eight mm rainfall was recorded in Bogra and Jessore, five mm in Mynensingh and Chuadanga, three mm in Dhaka and Ishurdi, two mm in Khulna.

## Cong-I plans to strike back at Arjun

NEW DELHI, Jan 9: India's ruling Congress (I) Party hinted today that it was planning to strike back at Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao's main rival for the first time since he quit the cabinet 16 days ago, reports AFP.

A meeting of the Congress Central Election Committee (CEC) described a letter written by Arjun Singh to Rao concerning candidates for the upcoming legislative elections in five Indian states as "mischievous."

The CEC, which met here late Sunday, has taken strong exception to such deliberate acts to weaken the organisation at this crucial juncture by a member of the leadership.

Congress general secretary Janardhan Pojary said: "Arjun Singh, 64, asked Rao in a letter on Saturday not to ignore party members 'who remained committed to the leadership of the late Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi' while picking candidates for the state elections."

The move by Arjun Singh, who released the letter to the press, was widely seen as another attempt to cut Rao's

## FBCCI confce in city today

By Staff Correspondent  
A conference of the country's business leaders on the present political situation will be held today in the city at the initiative of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI).

Leaders of 58 business chambers and 132 associations of the country will take part in the first session to be held at the Federation Building in Motijheel, while another session to be held in the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy auditorium, will be participated by the members of the general body of the FBCCI.

According to sources, the conference will discuss the impact of the political unrest prevailing in the country on business and the economy in general and decide their role in this context.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

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Please send us your suggestions by 11th January 1995.

**The Daily Star**  
— Trying to serve its readers better

## Rickshaws increase despite ban

By Krishna P Roy  
The number of rickshaws is increasing in the city as unscrupulous manufacturers continue to produce this manually-driven vehicle, defying a government ban.

The government had banned manufacture of rickshaws in 1989 and the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) stopped issuance of new licence to check the increase in the number of rickshaws.

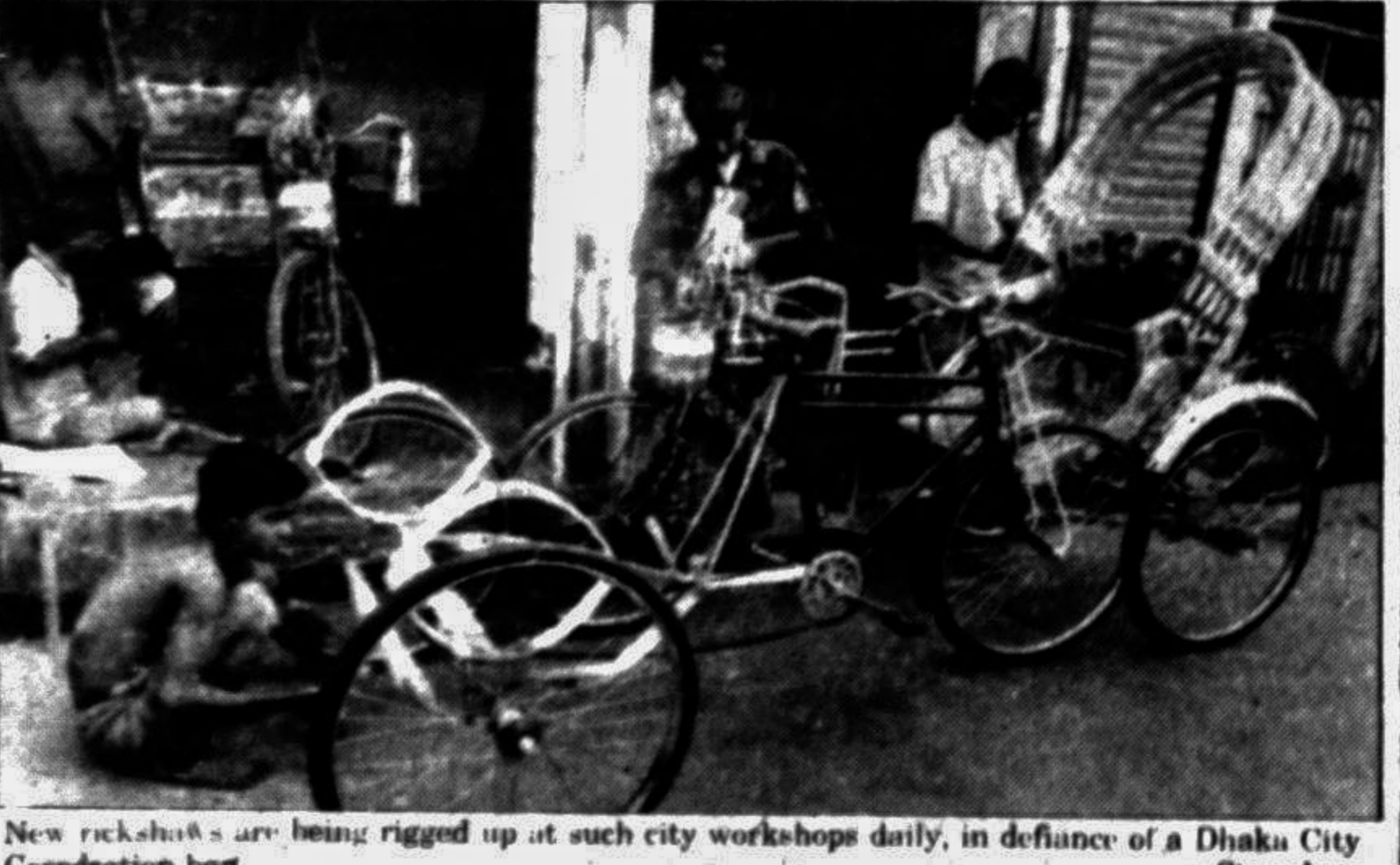
Despite these steps rickshaws are growing in number posing a threat to traffic system in the densely populated city.

Unscrupulous manufacturers, who mainly do repairing job, also produce new rickshaws at a number of places in different areas of the city. Most of them are, however, in old parts of the city.

This correspondent visited some factories and repairing shops where the manufacturers admitted that they produce new rickshaws on orders from intending buyers. One of them, who has a factory at Majed Sarder (new) Road in old city, said he manufactures new rickshaw at a cost of around Tk 7500.

He said the rickshaw manufacturers have an association named Dhaka City Corporation Rickshaw Mistri Kalyan Samity. The association has 63 members who generally produce new rickshaws.

When asked, whether he



New rickshaws are being rigged up at such city workshops daily, in defiance of a Dhaka City Corporation ban.

**বাংলাদেশ রাইফেলস**

দ্বিশত বার্ষিকী  
১৭৯৫-১৯৯৫

বাংলাদেশ রাইফেলস-এর দ্বিশত বার্ষিকী উদযাপন উপলক্ষে আনুষ্ঠানিক কুচকাওয়াজ-কুচকাওয়াজ পরিদর্শন ও সালাম গ্রহণ করবেন

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স্থান : পিলখানা

তারিখ : ১১ই জানুয়ারী ১৯৯৫

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সীমান্তের অতন্দ্র প্রহরী