

DOWN TO EARTH

Unbridled Growth of Private Colleges in City

By A S M Nurunnabi

We have been witnesses to certain new things in city life, such as mushrooming pathological labs and coaching centres. In the former case, some physicians and surgeons seem to strike a gold mine in supplementing their normally substantial earning. In the latter case, the sponsors of such centres have devised a mechanism to fleece students caught up in the admission ordeal. To these phenomena has now added a new development which has opened up a new line of business in the field of education. This new factor relates to the recent spurt in the establishment of private colleges in the city.

This has led some to designate the Dhaka city as a city of colleges. There are few localities in the city which do not boast of more than one private college. It is, however, alleged that the existence of most of these colleges consists in their signboards only.

There is no denying the fact that there is a wide gap between the number of passed students in public examinations and their opportunities for admission in any properly established college. Taking advantage of the lack of admission prospects of the vast number of such students in the city, some quarters in the private sector are said to be adopting questionable means in setting up private colleges.

According to a report, the number of affiliated private colleges in the city is 42. The break-up of this number is as follows: Under Cantonment police station-5; Demra police station-1; Dhanomdi police station-4; Gulshan police station-3; Kotwali police station-2; Mirpur police station-3; Mohammadpur police station-5; Motijheel police station-5; Ramna police station-6; Lalbagh police station-3; and Sutrapur police station-5. Besides these colleges, it is estimated that there are more than one hundred private colleges in the city whose affiliation status is either doubtful or non-existent. Yet sponsors of such colleges are found to place advertisements in daily newspapers offering admission facilities to students and also inviting applications for posts of teachers in such colleges.

It, however, seems strange that some of these private colleges have come up around schools and kindergartens, in defiance of the rules and regulations that govern the establishment of a college. On the other hand, the sponsors of such colleges are found to engage in a kind of commercial venture in the name of appointment of lecturers for such colleges. The victims of such dubious enterprises are the educated unemployed youths.

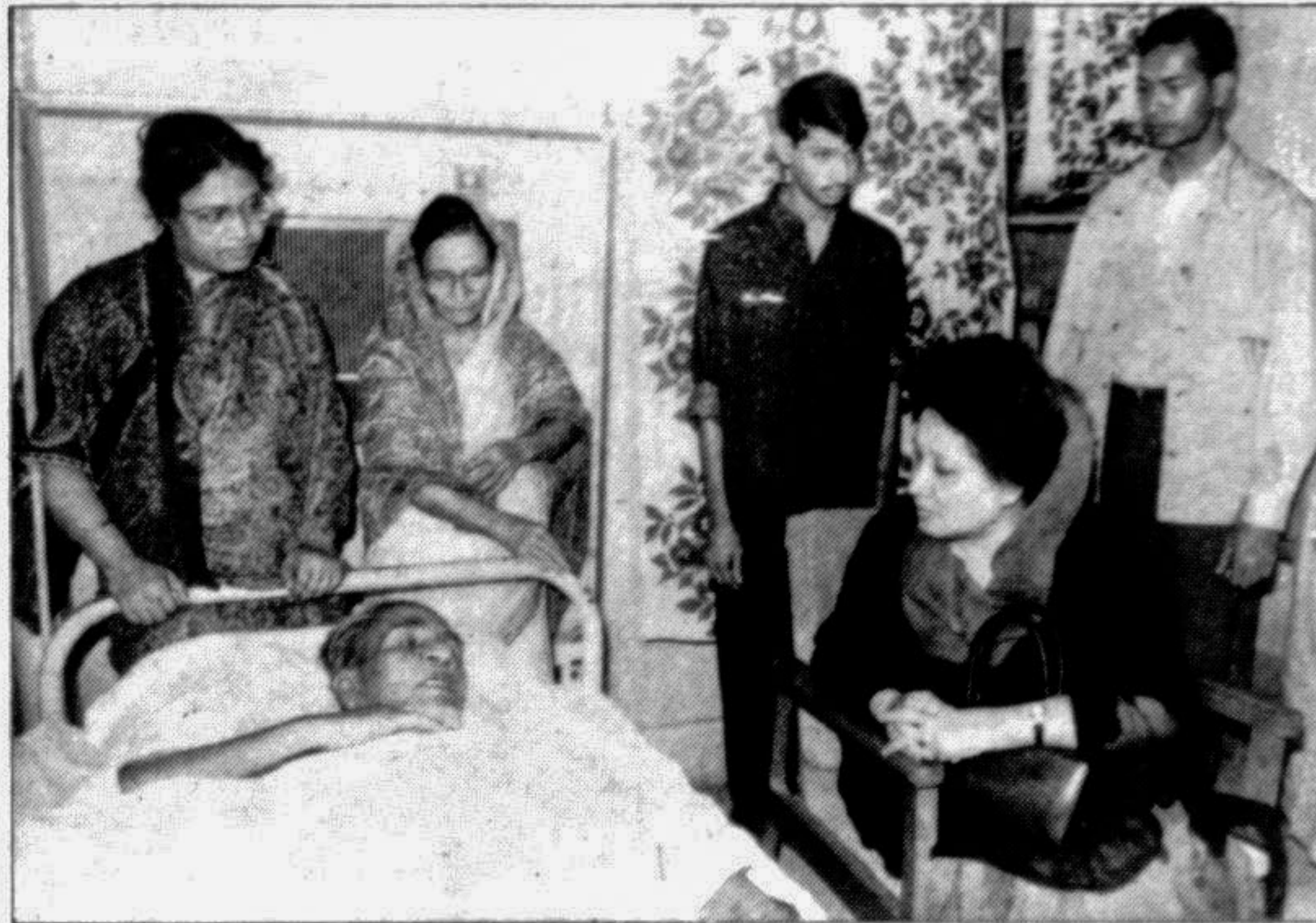
In the advertisements for appointment as lecturers in these so-called colleges, which appear frequently in daily newspapers, it is mentioned that the applicants should enclose bank draft/postal order for amount ranging from Tk 150/- to Tk 200/- in each case, along with their applications. We all know how acute the problem of unemployment of educated youths is in our country. The unsuspecting unemployed youths, in the hope of getting employment, send in their applications in the indicated manner. It is easy to guess that the number of qualified young men and women eligible for application for such posts must be large. Since the number of applicants will be large, it is likely to bring in a handsome amount of money for the sponsors of these private colleges in the shape of application fees.

At the time of interview, the applicants get some inkling of the deviousness of the college sponsors. Some of the applicants who are selected are told that, since the college is awaiting affiliation, no payment will be given for their work, but when affiliation is received, they will be paid monthly salary according to government rules. The

young job-seekers are usually misled by this false hope, and feeling that it is better to work than sit idle, they accept the job. But soon they are disillusioned. Month after month passes by without their getting any remuneration. Ultimately they find no alternative but to quit. The end result is that the college authorities stand to gain as they do not have to incur any expenditure on account of these shady appointments.

There are other versions of such stories. When the candidates for the posts of lecturers appear for interview, they are reportedly given hints whether they are willing to pay donation for the college which may range from Tk. 10,000/- to Tk. 50,000/-. Those candidates who express their inability to give such donation, reportedly stand no chance of selection even though they are otherwise well-qualified for such posts. Even the candidates who have the wherewithal to pay the required donation, actually do not fare better. It was also dinned into their ears the same siren song that when affiliation is received, they will be given their due salary. In the event of such colleges failing to get affiliation, the new teachers might stand to lose both the donation money and the promised salary.

There are reportedly some other instances where the college authorities, in response to their advertisements for recruitment for several posts of lecturers, receive quite a large number of applications with postal orders/bank drafts for Tk 150/- or Tk 200/-. Some selected candidates are called for interview, but in the end no appointment is made. By this practice, the authorities of these so-called colleges reap quite a large benefit. It behoves the authorities concerned to take appropriate steps with regard to such unauthorised private colleges and their sponsors.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia visited ailing BNP MP Keramat Ali Talukder from Muktagachha of Mymensingh, now under treatment at PG Hospital in Dhaka yesterday. — PID photo

10 killed, 67 injured in road accidents

By Staff Correspondent

At least ten persons were killed and 67 injured in separate road accidents in the country yesterday.

Four persons were killed and 25 injured when a Sylhet-bound bus from Comilla fell into a roadside ditch at Kautoly near the town.

One of the victims was identified as Arab Ali, 50, while the three others could not be identified, our Brahmanbaria correspondent reported.

Of the injured persons, 13 were admitted to the district general hospital while the rest 12 were given first aid. The driver fled away.

BSS from Jessore adds: At least one person was killed and thirty were injured when a bus hit a wayside tree on the Jessore-Jhenidah road yesterday.

The accident occurred when the Jessore-bound passenger bus lost control over his vehicle and hit a tree at Mandartola, about 16 km from Jessore town.

Condition of ten injured persons who were admitted to Jessore General Hospital were stated to be critical.

The dead person could not be identified. Both the driver and the helper of the bus fled away.

In the city a minor girl, Mariam Begum was killed on

the spot when a microbus ran over her in Gulshan. Gulshan police arrested the driver and seized the microbus, police said.

UNB adds from Cox's Bazar: Three people, including a couple, were killed in a road-mishap on the Chittagong-Cox's Bazar highway yesterday, police said.

Ali Ahmed (37) and his wife Rabeya Begum (32), died on the spot when their Chittagong-bound auto rickshaw was hit by a micro-bus near Ramu by pass road at 8 pm.

Ten other people — four autorickshaw passengers including its driver and six microbus passengers — were injured seriously in the accident.

All the injured persons were admitted to Ramu hospital. Ramu police seized the microbus.

A construction worker was killed and another injured seriously when a Chittagong-bound bus hit them at Kharulia in sadar thana on the same highway. They were working there.

Abdul Latif (40) died on spot while Shah Alam (48) with serious injuries was admitted to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital. Police seized the bus but the driver managed to flee.

BNP meet

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the Constitution, a member of parliament will lose his seat if he remains absent without leave of parliament for 90 consecutive sitting days.

Some 140 MPs of the Awami League, Jatiya Party, Jamaat, NDP and Workers Party have already crossed the 90 day constitutional bar on June 19.

DU Senate

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Five teachers' representatives of the 'pink panel' walked out, saying they would not participate in the election. They alleged that groupings had tarnished the image of syndicate. Thirty-five others, including 25 retired graduates, walked out later protesting the presence of Prof Irshadul Bari, after heated debate on the issue.

Prof A T M Zahurul Hoq, president of the Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA) said that the DUTA had a resolution that its members would not join any meeting attended by Prof Irshadul Bari, who had dishonoured the national anthem.

Meanwhile, in a press release, DUTA protested and condemned the statement made by the Senate Chairman and Vice Chancellor of the DU regarding some executive members of DUTA when discussion was going on Irshadul Bari.

Strike paralyses Karachi: 12 more killed

KARACHI, June 30: At least 12 people died and eight were wounded in the port city of Karachi today, the Muslim weekend, at the start of a two-day strike called by an ethnic faction, police and ambulance sources said, reporting agencies.

Despite large police patrols, residents said gunmen were driving around narrow lanes in the central district of the port, randomly firing in the air.

The strike was the first in a series of weekly protests called by the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), representing the Urdu-speaking community, which is at loggerheads with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

The two children were killed by snipers. Police said two other people died in the Gulbahar area and three were killed in the Orangi district of western Karachi. Another body was brought to hospital from the Korangi industrial zone.

MQM spokesman Shoaib Bokhari reiterated that all negotiations have to be held with Altaf Hussain, the MQM's leader who lives in exile in London.

Cameraman beaten up: Reuter from Lahore adds: A Norwegian television cameraman was attacked and beaten after filming examples of child labour workshops in Pakistan, the correspondent in the crew said today.

Eling Borgen, 45, of NRK-TV said the incident occurred on Thursday in the Sialkot area, about 120 km north of the Punjab provincial capital of Lahore.

MC College, Madan Mohan College closed: From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, June 30: MC College and Madan Mohan College were closed sine die tonight in the wake of continued violence.

Authorities of the two colleges took the decision at separate emergency meetings after discussing the overall campus situation, sources told The Daily Star.

It may be mentioned here that, about forty activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Islami Chhatra Shibir were injured in a series of armed clashes in these institutions and some other areas of the town yesterday and the day before.

Handloom worker hacked to death

SIRAIGANI, June 30: A handloom worker of a village in Belkuchi thana was hacked to death by unknown miscreants today, police said, reporting UNB.

Saufi Islam, 30, was called out of his house in Kadamtali village by a group of people early in the morning. Police recovered his body and sent it to Sirajgani General Hospital for autopsy.

A case was filed with Belkuchi thana. The cause of the killed could not be known immediately.

Rajshahi Politech closed sine die

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAHI, June 30: Rajshahi Polytechnic Institute was closed sine die last night following clashes between two rival groups of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) that left seven activists injured.

The students were ordered to vacate their residential halls, examinations will, however, be held as per schedule, the Institutes Academic Council said.

Among the injured persons, Mahub Alam Minto was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital with serious stab injuries.

The two groups of Chhatra Dal have been locked in feuds for the few months over leadership.

JU gets Tk 12 cr for fiscal '95-96

By JU Correspondent Jahangirnagar University (JU) has been granted Tk 12 crore for fiscal 1995-96. The University Grants Commission (UGC) sanctioned this amount while the JU sought Tk 21.15 crore.

JU Treasurer Prof Ataur Rahman Khan said the allocation for the new fiscal increased by only Tk 65 lakh over that of the previous year.

The JU Senate on Thursday approved a Tk 13.76 crore budget, showing a deficit of Tk 36.38 lakh.

The 'inadequate allocation' would increase deficit in future since the university had no dependable source of income, said Prof Khan, the treasurer, at the Senate meeting, while presenting the budget.

Patuakhali Juba Dal enforces hartal

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, June 30: A half-day hartal was observed at Patuakhali today at the call of the Jatiyatabadi Juba Dal to protest assault on its leader Bayazid Panna, who is also president of Patuakhali road transport workers union.

Panna was injured in the assault by some unidentified miscreants yesterday, Juba Dal leaders claimed.

Immediately after the incident, transport workers suspended bus service in five routes from Patuakhali as a mark of protest.

During today's hartal they brought out a procession in the town and while passing through the Puran Bazar area clashed with police having at least ten persons injured.

Egypt From Page 1 he named as Mohamed Seraj was Sudanese.

They have impoverished their people and brought them misery and disaster. The Sudanese people are a good people ruled by a criminal gang against whom we have to take measures, he told trade unionists.

But diplomats say they doubt the war of words will turn into a serious military conflict.

Official sources said Mubarak had gone to the summer resort of Alexandria to rest after four days of hectic activity. His departure suggested he did not expect the crisis to worsen immediately.

Asia-Pacific music festival: Dhaka best team

A musical festival of the countries of the Asia-Pacific region began yesterday at the premises of the Grand Concert Hall of Krasnoyarsk in Siberia of Russian Federation, reports UNB.

The Bangladesh cultural team, presented a group dance based on popular music 'sadhan lau banauli morey bairagi' on the opening day and secured the first position in the competition, according to a telephonic message yesterday.

Shahidul Islam was the programme director of Bangladesh's presentation while renowned dancer Shamim Ara Nipa was the dance director and Sunil Chandra Das the music director.

Earlier in the morning, 15 teams were chosen from a total of 40 participating countries for presenting their performance in the festival where Bangladesh emerged as the best performing team.

Of the 15 teams, seven countries — Bangladesh, Japan, India, South Korea, Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam — performed on the first day yesterday and here also Bangladesh topped the list.

The Governor of Krasnoyarsk, Valeryie Yuba, inaugurated the festival.

Ershad

From Page 1 Chittagong CMM's court. The charge-sheet of the CID also named 20 witnesses.

One source said, on condition of anonymity, that the case may be shifted to Dhaka with permission from the Higher Court.

Arafat, Peres talk Israeli army pullout today

JERUSALEM, June 30: PLO chief Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres were to meet tomorrow in an final attempt to meet a deadline for agreement on Israeli troop withdrawal from the West Bank, an Arafat spokesman said, reports AP.

Peres said today that he would 'perhaps' meet with Arafat tomorrow. Asked about the chances of concluding the negotiations by Saturday's deadline, he said: "We will see after the meeting."

Peres added that "I think that during this month it (the talks) will be wrapped up."

A key sticking point has been the timetable. The Palestinians demand that Israel give binding dates for a troop withdrawal from each of the seven Palestinian towns in the West Bank. Israel reserves the right to stop the pullback if there are fresh attacks on Israelis by Palestinian militants.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin met today with Peres as well as senior negotiators.

Seoul

From Page 1 ready spotted will push up the toll dramatically. Some estimated that it would exceed 200.

"I saw nine bodies mangled together. Several colleagues saw similar scenes at different places," a rescuer told Reuters.

"Rescue workers expect a sharp rise in the death toll, probably by another 100," he said, asking not to be named.

The Midnight File

Hand, foot of a Sudanese cut off in S Arabia

RIYADH [Saudi Arabia], June 30: A hand and foot of a Sudanese man were cut off Friday as punishment for stabbing and robbing a fellow Sudanese, the Interior Ministry announced. Saudi Arabia is ruled under Islamic law, which also prescribes beheadings for convicted murderers and drug smugglers, reports AP.

Germany to send fighter jets over Bosnia

BONN, June 30: Parliament today ordered German fighter jets to fly protection for European rapid reaction forces in Bosnia, the first use of German soldiers in a potential combat role abroad since World War II, reports AP.

The parliamentary vote was 386-258.

It's a turning point in German foreign policy, and was agreed upon after a raucous debate in which parliamentarians yelled at each other and the Nazi years were continually evoked.

Some parliamentarians with the reconstituted East German Communist Party showed up wearing T-shirts bearing the words "We Say No" and were ordered to leave for breaking the dress code.

The swing in foreign policy grows from German horror over the endless war in Bosnia and Chancellor Helmut Kohl's conviction that his country cannot continually use the Nazi years as a pretext for not helping its allies.

Reuter adds: The United States and its European allies are heading for a serious confrontation over Bosnia.

Cooperatives Day

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centenary of the establishment of International Cooperative Alliance (ICA).

In a message on the occasion, President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday said there is no alternative to cooperatives to improve the lot of the poor. The role of cooperatives is indispensable in poverty alleviation and socio-economic development, he said.

In a separate message, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said cooperative is considered as an effective medium in development all over the world.

In a message on the occasion of the Day Awami League President Sheikh Hasina said, rapid growth is possible if the economic activities are done through cooperatives.

Police officer hurt in blast

By Staff Correspondent

A police officer was injured when some miscreants hurled bomb at him at Manik Mia Avenue in the city yesterday.

A group of police led by sub-inspector Nazrul Islam of Dhanomdi thana chased a buli taxi at Kalabagan at 8.45 pm.

He has been admitted to the Rajshahi Police Hospital.

Jute workers

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mills workers league have jointly called the strike.

"We are beginning the agitation programme since the government is yet to take any initiative either to implement our demands or hold talks in this regard," Abul Bashar, a front ranking leader of jute and textile mill workers, told The Daily Star last night.

The 8-point demand also includes 30 per cent dearness allowance, reopening of the closed mills and factories, reinstatement of retrenched and terminated workers, adequate compensation for those killed and injured during their strike programme in the past and withdrawal of 'false cases' against labour leaders and workers.

Rathajatra

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Rahman Khan and Neyamat Ullah Sabu, and Swami Aksharananda Maharaj, the high priest of the Dhaka Ramkrishna Mission.

BSS adds: The Bangladesh National Puja Committee congratulated the people for their cooperation in making the Rathajatra a success.

Prem Ranjan Deb, president of the committee and chief adviser of the National Rathajatra Celebration Committee in a statement expressed his happiness for celebration of Rathajatra yesterday.

He said "we pray for a peaceful world which is free from communalism, fundamentalism and all sorts of superstitions."

DSE trading

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The number of total issues traded last week was 439 with 254 gaining and 135 losing. In the previous week total issues were 512 of which 259 had gained and 154 lost.

Beximco Pharma continued to sell record number of shares for the last three consecutive weeks. Next to Beximco's Shine Pukur, it sold 23,150 shares last week. Its share price remained steady for the last three weeks.

The third volume leader of the week, Ashraf Textiles, sold over 90,949 shares. Its price rose to Tk 39 from the previous week's Tk 33.

Among other volume leaders of the week, Bombay Dyeing sold 62,920 shares, Apex Weaving 46,944 shares, BOC over 45,000, newly launched Beximco Textiles 43,447 and Eastern Housing 23,730.

7000 rickshaws

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LGRD and Home Ministries to ease the acute traffic jam in the city, blamed on such rickshaws.

The Corporation this year renewed licences of 79,707 rickshaws for the next two years. But the number of rickshaws in and around the city will be more than 2 lakh, he estimated. The renewal fees is Tk 140 for each rickshaw for a year.

A large number of rickshaws ply with fake documents, the official said owners even operate a dozen rickshaws with photo-copies of one licence.

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

অধ্যাপক মতিউর রহমান, আন্তর্জাতিক ব্যাচি সম্পন্ন, দেশের বিশিষ্ট কিছুরী বিশেষজ্ঞ এবং চিকিৎসা বিজ্ঞানী আমন্ত্রিত হয়ে কিছুরী বিশ্বক ১৩তম ওয়ার্ল্ড কংগ্রেস (World Congress) এ বাংলাদেশের জন্য ৩০শে জুন, '৯৫ লন্ডন হয়ে দেশের পথে যাত্রা করবেন। উক্ত কিছুরী বিশ্বক আন্তর্জাতিক কংগ্রেস দেশের রাজধানী মাদ্রিদ শহরে ২-৬ জুলাই ১৯৯৫ অনুষ্ঠিত হতে যাবে। উক্ত সেমিনারে অধ্যাপক মতিউর রহমান বৈজ্ঞানিক অবদানের কিছুরী বিশ্বক গ্রন্থ পরিবেশন করবেন এবং বাংলাদেশের প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতা করবেন। সেমিনার শেষে লন্ডন হয়ে অধ্যাপক রহমান ৯ই জুলাই, '৯৫ দেশে ফিরবেন।

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