

SAVE DHAKA**Healthcare****Overhaul of medical edn needed**

By Reaz Ahmad and Manirul Islam Khan

Bringing about a qualitative change in the age-old medical education system in the country has become a crying need for standardizing the medical education.

Proper medical education is an essential prerequisite for better services in both the government and private hospitals and clinics in the city and also elsewhere in the country.

Out of the 19 government and private medical colleges in the country, five are in the capital. These are — Dhaka Medical College and Sir Salimullah Medical College — both government and Bangladesh Medical College, Jinnah Shikder Women's Medical College and The Medical College for Women — all private.

The present medical education system has many lapses: back-dated curriculae and examinations procedures, inadequate laboratory facilities, lack of community-oriented teaching and research facilities and high student-teacher ratio.

Talking to The Daily Star Prof Nurul Anwar, Director of Medical Education, said, time has come to review the country's age-old medical curriculae and examinations system. He said, full MCQ (multiple choice questionnaire) system, now being followed in post-graduate medical examinations should also be followed in the undergraduate examinations.

Dr Gulshan Ara, a professor of anatomy in Sir Salimullah Medical College is of the view that all the teaching posts should be non-practicing so that a teacher can find more time to devote to teaching and research works.

There should be two examinations in a year instead of three, for which, teachers have to remain busy in taking examinations round the year," said Dr Ara.

She also advocated for banning students politics for maintaining a congenial atmosphere on the campus. In this regard, she put the example of MAG Osmani Medical College in Sylhet, where

students politics has already been banned.

Presently, there is one teacher for every 25 students whereas, according to the WHO (World Health Organization) recommendation, the student-teacher ratio should be 12:1.

National Professor Dr Nurul Islam recently said that the outdated courses and curriculae in the medical colleges failed to equip the students with appropriate knowledge about medical science. He was critical about too much emphasis now being given on class lectures and courses. He stressed on need-based and community-oriented medical education.

Principal of Sir Salimullah Medical College Prof M A Shakur also told these correspondents that medical education should be more research-oriented. He however favoured students politics. "Politics is a human right. If students do politics after attending their classes, there is no harm in it," he said.

Some experts said that professors should not see patients on a regular basis. They should attend only the serious cases referred to them. New medical colleges are being set up by passing the Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council, the regulatory body for medical education in the country. These colleges are enrolling students in MBBS course without adequate physical and technical facilities.

A medical student alleged that they were often being deprived of adequate laboratory facilities for which they lack practical orientation. Mere increasing the number of medical colleges in the country will bring no benefit unless those are well-equipped for practical experiments, the medico observed.

Students at medical colleges in the city even sometimes don't get dissection facilities due to non-availability of corpses.

An expert suggested that acquisition of 'community experience' should be made mandatory for any one pursuing higher medical education. If this is done as a policy, medics will be able to contribute to development of community health, the expert observed.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia distributing relief goods among the flood-affected people at Louhaganj Bazar of Munshiganj district yesterday. Deputy Leader of the House Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury and Information & Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam are also seen. — PID photo

Next hearing of radar purchase case Aug 12

The trial of deposed president Hussain Muhammad Ershad in a corruption case known as Special Case No 155 of 1994 relating to procurement of radars for Bangladesh air force in mid eighties was once again adjourned yesterday, reports BSS.

Zinat Ara, the judge-in-charge who was deputising on behalf of Md Safuddin, sixth additional judge and special judge in this case, refused to pass any order regarding issues raised by the defence counsel of Ershad and fixed August 12 as the next date of hearing.

Ershad is the principal accused in this case while four others including two former chiefs of the Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) are co-accused. According to

the chargesheet, Ershad, by misusing his official position and in collusion with Air Vice Marshal (Retd) Sultan Mahmud and Air Vice Marshal (Retd) Montazuddin Ahmed and two others businessmen ordered three radars for the BAF from the USA. The order of the former president to buy the radars from the United States instead of France as decided earlier caused the state to suffer financial loss of over Tk 64 crore, the chargesheet said.

Soon after the court resumed yesterday's session, Mahbubur Rahman, former minister and senior counsel of Ershad, reiterated his submission made on previous occasion that the question of maintainability of the case and the important constitutional and law points raised by him in the matter must be disposed off first before it (court) proceeds any further.

PM visits flood affected Munshiganj

MUNSHIGANJ, July 22: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today witnessed the havoc wrought by the flood in the district and assured allout government assistance for the flood victims, reports UNB.

During a six-hour trip to the flood-hit areas of Munshiganj sadar, Sirajdikhan, Louhaganj and Tungibari thanas, she talked to the affected people and distributed relief goods.

Begum Zia told the people that her government had sanctioned adequate relief materials and advised them to face the calamity with courage and fortitude.

The Prime Minister said the farmers will be provided with seedlings and agricultural inputs free of cost.

The affected people will also get house building grants and other essential materials, she added.

Begum Zia halted at a number of places to witness the ravages of floods and had a few words of consolation for the affected people who stood in queues in waist-deep water and on top of their huts.

Body to probe BIRDEM incident

The BIRDEM authorities have formed a high-powered committee to investigate the causes of the violence that occurred at the Diabetic Hospital premises at Shahbagh in the city on Friday evening.

The committee has been asked to submit its report within 72 hours, said a press release. A group of unidentified youths reportedly accompanying a ruling party MP attacked the outdoor unit of the hospital and damaged window panes, furniture and the car of a doctor.

Meanwhile, the hospital employees protested the violence and the BIRDEM authorities expressed deep concern over the untoward incident.

The Midnight File**PLO, Israel won't meet July 25 target date**

GAZA CITY, July 22: Israel and the PLO will not meet their July 25 target date on expanding self-rule to the West Bank because the gaps between the two sides remain wide, Palestinian negotiators said Saturday, reports AP.

Suu Kyi's husband, son arrive in Yangon

YANGON, July 22: The British husband and younger son of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi arrived Saturday in Myanmar for their first family reunion since Suu Kyi was released from house arrest July 10, reports AP.

Suu Kyi was detained by the military government in 1989 on a charge of endangering public security and held for almost six years without trial.

OIC won't abide by arms embargo on Bosnia

CAIRO, July 22: The eight member nations of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) will no longer abide by the international arms embargo on Bosnia, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Mousa said today, reports AFP.

The resolutions of the OIC contact group on Bosnia on Friday "frees the countries from the commitment not to send weapons to Bosnia," Mousa said after returning to Cairo from Geneva, where he attended the OIC group meeting.

Egypt considers the ban on sending arms lifted," he said.

Aggressive but

from the chain of command on military action, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said.

French Defence Minister Charles Millon said the allies had drawn a buffer zone around Gorazde, larger than the existing "safe zone," in which heavy weapons would be banned.

The conference agreed on the "early use" of the Rapid Reaction Force to protect supply lines into Sarajevo. It was the first clear job given to the force, comprising mainly of British and French troops.

Britain agreed to move a battalion into Sarajevo alongside French forces, and the French said they would deploy artillery on Mt Igman to secure access to the city.

Even on the question of air strikes, Gen John Shalikshvili, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the threat to the Serbs from NATO warplanes was much broader than before.

"An air campaign consists of a wide range of targets throughout a broad zone of operations, and that is a significant departure from the way air power was used before," he said.

Manchitra editor granted bail

The editor and a reporter of the Weekly Manchitra were released on bail by the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court (CMM) yesterday.

The CMM had issued warrants of arrest against Editor Khandker Maksudur Rahman and reporter Reza Rahman in a defamation suit.

The warrant was issued upon the defamation case filed by the Additional Chief Engineer of the Roads and Highways Department of the Communications Ministry, Mahtabuddin Ahmed on Wednesday last.

Larwood

Larwood who was 90, was the principal weapon when England captain Douglas Jardine opted to use short, fast-pitched bowling at the body to counter the skills of Sir Donald Bradman and reclaim the Ashes in the famous series.

He followed his captain's tactics to the letter and was bowling when both Bill Woodfull and Bert Oldfield were struck sickening blows during the fourth Test in Adelaide.

Tidal surge

experiencing a heavy rainfall in neighbouring Indian regions, the overall flood situation, which started improving, might turn otherwise.

A bulletin issued by the Flood Information Centre of the Water Development Board said the flood situation will further improve in Dhaka, Narayanganj and Munshiganj districts.

The flood situation in Narasingdi, Kishoreganj, Shariatpur, Madaripur and Faridpur may improve today, the bulletin added.

Soldier shot

pital where he was given first aid. He was then removed to the Bangladesh battalion field hospital at the base camp at Coralic.

His physical condition is satisfactory and he is now out of danger, according to the latest report received in Dhaka yesterday.

Meanwhile, all members of the Bangladesh military contingent including military observers in Bosnia-Herzegovina are safe and sound. Bangladesh army headquarters is maintaining constant contact with them.

Serb missiles hit

Another UN source says, the Croatian government and rebel Serbs were today concentrating their forces around Bihac in western Bosnia.

Foreign and defence ministers from the United States, Russia and major European powers gathered in London on Friday to chart the way ahead in Bosnia ten days after the UN "safe area" of Srebrenica fell to Serb forces.

The ministers issued a statement which many interpreted to mean that future attacks by the Bosnian Serbs of any of the five remaining UN "safe areas" — including Sarajevo — would trigger a quick military response by NATO air power.

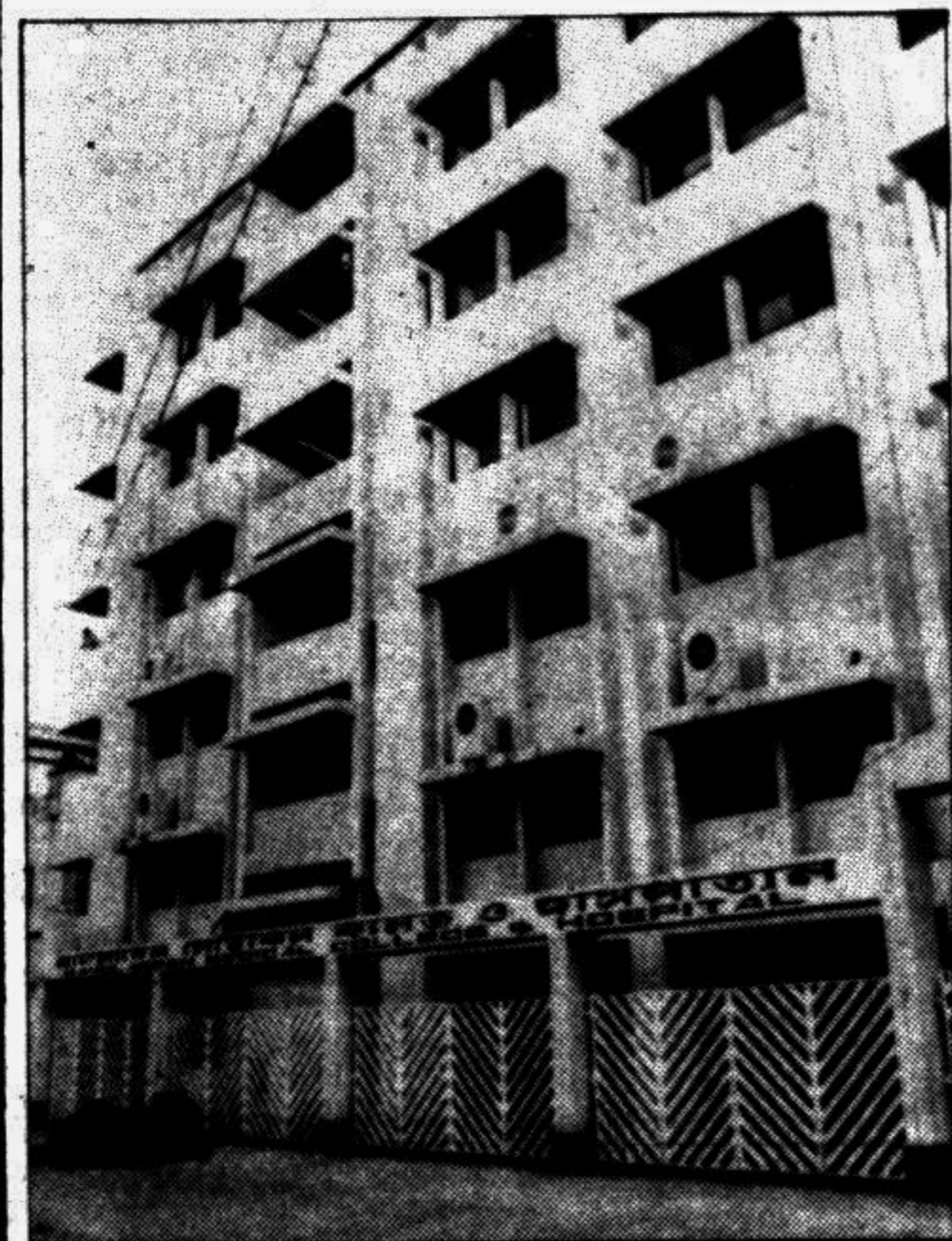
NATO military planners will begin immediately to translate this week's London agreement on more aggressive UN military action in Bosnia into a detailed bombing campaign, US Defence Secretary William Perry said today.

"We have a plan, and the NATO military committee is going to put the details on the ... big air campaign" this weekend, Perry told reporters en route from London Saturday.

He said the planning under normal circumstances would take three or four days, but that "if something had happened" such as a sudden Serb assault on the UN-protected enclave of Gorazde, the blueprint for bombing could be finished earlier.

Perry dispatched some of his aides directly to NATO headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, after the London conference ended.

Senate Republicans criticised an international crisis meeting's threat of new Bosnia air strikes with Re-



The Bangladesh Medical College and Hospital, a private medical college in the city. — Star photo

Private power supply

Finance is found better than that of the CBA, more units, including those under the Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) would be privatised.

The press conference also addressed by the Energy Secretary and the PDB Chairman, was told that all preparations in this regard have been completed after discussions with the CBA, interested contractors and donor agencies.

Meanwhile, the BPDB's net loss in fiscal 1994-95 was estimated at around Tk 280 crore. This loss was mostly attributed to a huge amount interest on loans and exchange rate fluctuations.

Energy Secretary Faizur Razzak said that during fiscal '92-93, the net loss of the PDB was Tk 352.97 crore and in '93-94 Tk 357.94 crore.

In 1992-93, the PDB suffered a loss of Tk 148.6 crore due to exchange rate fluctuations and paid Tk 243.63 crore as interest on loans," the secretary said.

The total revenue earning of the PDB increased and its system loss decreased since the donors including the World Bank (WB) and Asian Development Bank suspended funding the sector in 1990, it was claimed.

The donors started financing power projects again recently.

The ADB has decided to finance the 60-MW Rural Power Company unit, Japan decided to finance two barge-mounted power projects and the WB withdrew its suspension on financing power projects.

The combined system loss of the PDB and the DESA has decreased to 34 per cent this year from 42 per cent in the 1992, Energy Minister said. One per cent system loss meant revenue loss of Tk 20 crore, he added.

The system loss of the PDB was 28.98 in 1992. It came down to 22.51 this year," the minister said.

The PDB earned Tk

1422.90 crore in '94-95, which is a 23.5 per cent or Tk 270 crore increase over the '93-94 revenue of Tk 1152.60 crore," the minister pointed out.

The total collection increased to 70.31 per cent in 1994-95, from 62.7 per cent in '93-94.

"These improvements have been possible due to introduction of reward and punishment system against performances of the 24,000 officials and staff of the PDB in 1992. Under this scheme, 3526 officials and staff were punished in 1993 and 2747 officials and staff in 1992," Dr Mosharraf pointed out.

Of the 3526, seven officials and 35 staff were dismissed and 42 others were punished with forced retirement.

A total of Tk 954 crore was arrears in '94-95 as against Tk 795 crore in '93-94. Of this amount, DESA has a dues of Tk 433 crore, government and autonomous bodies Tk 151 crore and private sector Tk 371 crore, it was said at the press conference.

2 girl students roughed up at DU SN Hall

Two girl students were roughed up and about 500 pamphlets on a political party were burnt by angry residents of the Shamsunnahar Hall of the Dhaka University Friday night, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the two students, identified as activists of the Jamaat-e-Islami backed Islami Chhatra Sangstha, were caught by members of other student organisations when they were trying to distribute the pamphlets among the residential students.

The angry students also recovered party magazines and some books written by Maulana Moududi and Jamaat chief Prof Golam Azam from a room of the hall.

Election officers postpone sit-in programme

The district election officers have postponed their sit-in programme scheduled for today following assurance from authorities concerned of looking into their grievances, reports UNB.

They staged a demonstration in front of the Chief Election Commissioner's office yesterday demanding amendment to the Election Commission's recruitment rules.

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), Justice A K M Sadeque assured the Bangladesh District Election Officers' Association that he would sit with its leaders in the first week of August to discuss their demands, association sources said.

Election Commission Secretary Irshadul Haq later told the demonstrators that an inter-ministerial meeting on August 11 would discuss the upgradation issue of the district election officers, said a leader of the association.

AL agitation

The central leaders of the party will visit the grave of Bangabandhu at Tungipara where elaborate programmes would also be organised.

In the capital and elsewhere in the country, discussion meetings, feeding the destitute, Quran khwani and milad mahfil etc will be arranged to mark the death anniversary of the great leader.

The CWC meeting, held at the AL Dhanmondi office with the acting party chief Zohra Tajuddin in the chair, also discussed the flood situation and accused the government of failing to tackle it.

SAARC

and a conflict between it and its creation, the cabinet, is meaningless," he said.

Earlier a three-day conference of got off to a start with the Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao asserting that the focus on a direct attack on poverty and for improvement in the quality of life of vulnerable sections gives a special relevance to the common goals of the regional grouping.

Govt school teachers threaten agitation

Government secondary school teachers yesterday gave the authorities until the end of this month to meet their 12-point demand, failing which they would launch agitation from August, reports UNB.

Their demands include giving them the status of 1st class gazetted officer. Addressing a press conference at the National Press Club, president of the Bangladesh Government Secondary Teachers' Association (BGSTA) Sekandar Ali Khalifa said all the demands of the teachers could be met without spending a single furthering.

Writ today

of a murder dating back to 1981.

The contents of the telegram, released to the press, also said mentioned, "Mr Secretary General, I have serious reservations that the former president may not get a free and fair trial. As you know, the possible penalty in this case is Capital Punishment."

"I, therefore, request that you monitor this case to ensure that his fundamental human rights are protected."

RU gunbattle

Rajshahi College premises when Shibir brought out a procession in the afternoon protesting the violence.

Meanwhile the JCD, in a press statement, held the varsity authorities responsible for the incident and demanded immediate removal of the VC.

In another development, different student bodies like the pro-Awami League Chhatra League, the JSD backed Chhatra League, the Chhatra Union and Chhatra Mottree brought out a procession on the campus under the banner of 'Chhatra Oikya Parishad' defying a ban on political activities on the campus. They demanded immediate withdrawal of the ban.

An emergency meeting of the Syndicate and the deans of Rajshahi University was in progress when reports last came in.

Meanwhile, police recovered arms and weapons from the district office of the Jamaat-e-Islami here this evening.

During the raid, police seized two pipe guns, one wireless set, and a number of ram dabs, daggers, hockey sticks and iron rods. The police raided the Jamaat office after a gun battle on the university campus.

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