

# Dhaka Day by Day

## The Plight of the Bookworm

by Samia Islam

Looking for a good read in these trying times to keep your mind off of the thoughts on where your life is headed? You just might have to resort to your kid's Dr Seuss collection if you are desperate enough because there aren't any other safe options available. Take the bookstores for example. They remain open for two to three hours a day and that also when the political demigods permit. Moreover, if one were to buy all the books one intended to read, any rational mind would agree that it'd prove to be a sure fire way of going bankrupt in record time. On top of that there is the storage problem that books entail. So the safest bet is to find a library and become a member. Here lies the crux of the whole dilemma that voracious readers face in this country. There are no libraries in this metropolis that fit the bill of what a proper library should be.

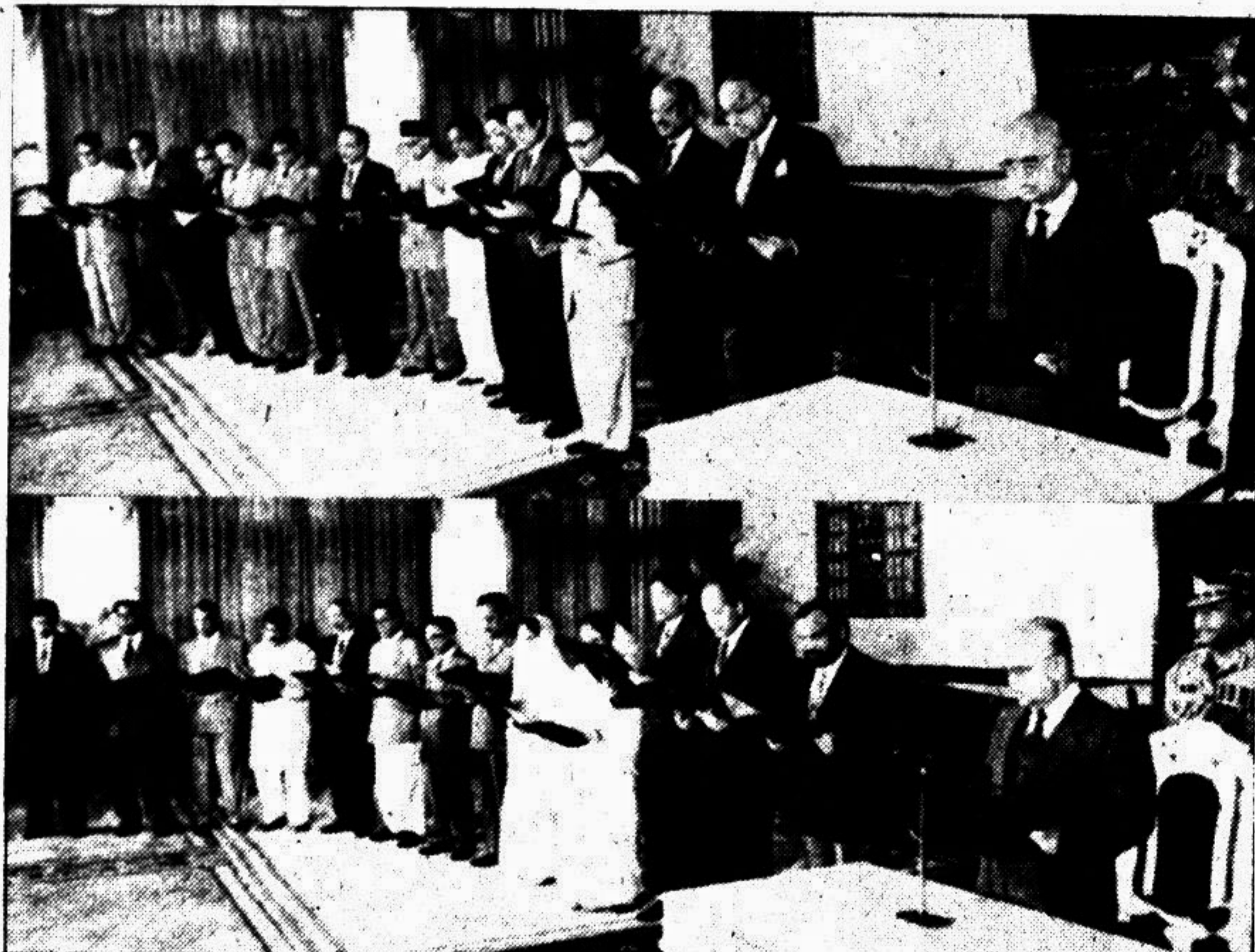
To my knowledge there are two libraries in the city that have a respectable amount of books in their collection. One is situated square in the middle of the city's commercial centre and the other, in the middle of the volatile DU campus. For people unaccustomed to the goings-on at DU, Fuller road is a definite hotspot. As for the hapless bookworms attempting to maneuver their way into Motijheel, a veritable reservoir of patience and determination is a prerequisite. Because this is one area that constantly faces traffic congestions at all hours of the day. It sometimes might take a couple of hours just to reach the premise. But the journey might not end there. Sometimes due to some eccentric reason like the federal government close down in the USA you might have to return sans your coveted reading materials.

Even if you get lucky and find yourself inside the air conditioned hallways of the library the books you seek might not be available and that also not in the available but out sense. For example it is natural to assume Margaret Mead's Coming of age in Samoa will be in their collection. But rest assured it isn't. After trying to get your hand on Toni Morrison's Jazz for two years you might opt for her Tar Baby in-

stead (at least it's by the same authoress). The list is endless.

The other library at Fuller Road is in a class of its own. One day a couple of years back, to my utter astonishment I found that owed them Tk 90 for overdue books. It was then that I realised that the authorities had reduced the usual one month retention period for upto four books to three weeks. Hence my sudden landing in financial hotwater. The stamp on the back of the book did have the correct date on it but I was on a calendar of my own - the one I had been using ever since I joined. Legally, it wasn't their fault although a written or oral warning would have been appreciated anyway. As for the wonderfully vast array of books in their collection any one two has been a member there knows the true value of perseverance. One Agatha Christie book in three or four year is reward enough for any diehard fan of hers. At least if he or she is stubborn enough.

The timings that these two libraries have set is not worthy. They pack up business by five o'clock at the latest and enjoy three days off each week. Basic economics teaches us when something is in high demand prices will naturally increase. However, one of these two libraries seem to be incurring huge losses for some time now according to them. The fact that libraries run into losses in our country puts us in bad light academically-wise. But if libraries with higher cost of operation cannot cope, why don't bookstores fill the void like in most other countries of the world. Where are those buy-rent-sell bookshops in this city? Some entrepreneur has to come forward to preserve what little literary craving we have left. Humayun Ahmed alone does not make a genre. The public has to have access to more options. The appetite for good books have to be rekindled in the hearts of all of us especially the kids. When was the last time you saw a fourteen-year-old going to a library? They have better things to do like watching TV and eating out. What choice do they have? Going to the library is like going to the Moon these days and just as pointless!



President Abdur Rahman Biswas administering the oath of office to new cabinet (above) and state ministers at a simple ceremony at Bangabhaban yesterday. — PID photo

### Biswas, Khaleda greet Haitian president

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday congratulated the president of Haiti Rene Preval on his assumption as the president of the Republic of Haiti, reports BSS.

In a message to President Preval President Biswas said that the people of Haiti will continue to enjoy the benefits of peace, prosperity and development under his able leadership.

Biswas also hoped that the excellent bilateral relations existing between the two countries would be further strengthened during the tenure of his office.

He wished Preval health, happiness and further prosperity.

In another message, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia also congratulated the president of Haiti Rene Preval.

In her message to President Preval Begum Zia wished all success in his important assignment and looked forward to the further development of friendship and cooperation between the two countries in the coming years.

She wished his good health and happiness and continued peace, progress and prosperity for the people of Haiti.

### Summoning of 6th parliament hailed

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, the ruling BNP's student front, congratulated President Abdur Rahman Biswas on his summoning the 6th parliament that went into session yesterday, reports UNB.

Addressing a rally in front of BNP central office at 4 pm, JCD leaders also greeted the newly formed cabinet with Begum Khaleda Zia as Prime Minister.

Presided over by JCD Dhaka city unit president Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu, the rally was addressed, among others, by Shahiduddin Chowdhury ARI, Shaifur Rahman Shaifur, Saiful Alam Nirab, ABM Mosharraf Hossain, Helen Zerin Khan and Ruhul Amin Akil.

Pintu urged the opposition to call off the noncooperation responding to the call of Prime Minister for giving the democracy an institutional shape.

After the rally, they brought out a procession which paraded different city streets in Fakirapur, Razbaragh, Kakrail and Magbazar areas.

Meanwhile, in a joint statement, JCD city unit President Pintu and General Secretary Nirab hailed DUCSU Vice President Amanullah Aman on his induction into the newly formed cabinet as State Minister for Education, Science and Technology.

### Formation of new cabinet welcomed

BNP's front organisations yesterday welcomed the formation of new cabinet and congratulated the party chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia on her election as the Prime Minister of the country for the second time, reports BSS.

In separate press releases, leaders of various front organisations of BNP expressed their hope that the new cabinet under the leadership of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia would contribute enormously towards making Bangladesh a prosperous and self-reliant country.

Leaders of BNP's Dhanmondi thana unit in the city said election of Begum Zia as the Prime Minister for the second time had created an instance in the world history.

They wished long life of Begum Khaleda Zia and expressed their hope that the new cabinet would work towards achieving the main target for which 30 lakh people had shed their blood for the independence.

The leaders include Jamal Sharif Hira, Abul Khair Babu, Mohammad Latif, Mohammad Akbar, Ashraf Alam and Rafiqul Islam Bhuiyan.

### Call to scrap Feb 15 polls

A group of "Agitated Citizens" at a rally in the city yesterday renewed their demands for cancellation of the February 15 election and fresh polls under a caretaker government, reports UNB.

Held at the Central Shaheed Minar premises in the morning, the rally was presided over by Prof Kabir Chowdhury.

It was addressed, among others, by actor Syed Hasan Imam, litterateur Syed Shamsul Haq, Prof Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir, Prof Shamsul Huda Harun and journalist Shahtar Kabir.

Later, they brought out a procession and joined the rally of Combined Professionals Coordination Council in front of the Jatiya Press Club.

### Nari Samaj

Sammilita Nari Samaj, an umbrella of women organisations, has demanded immediate cancellation of the February 15 election to settle the country's long-standing political crisis.

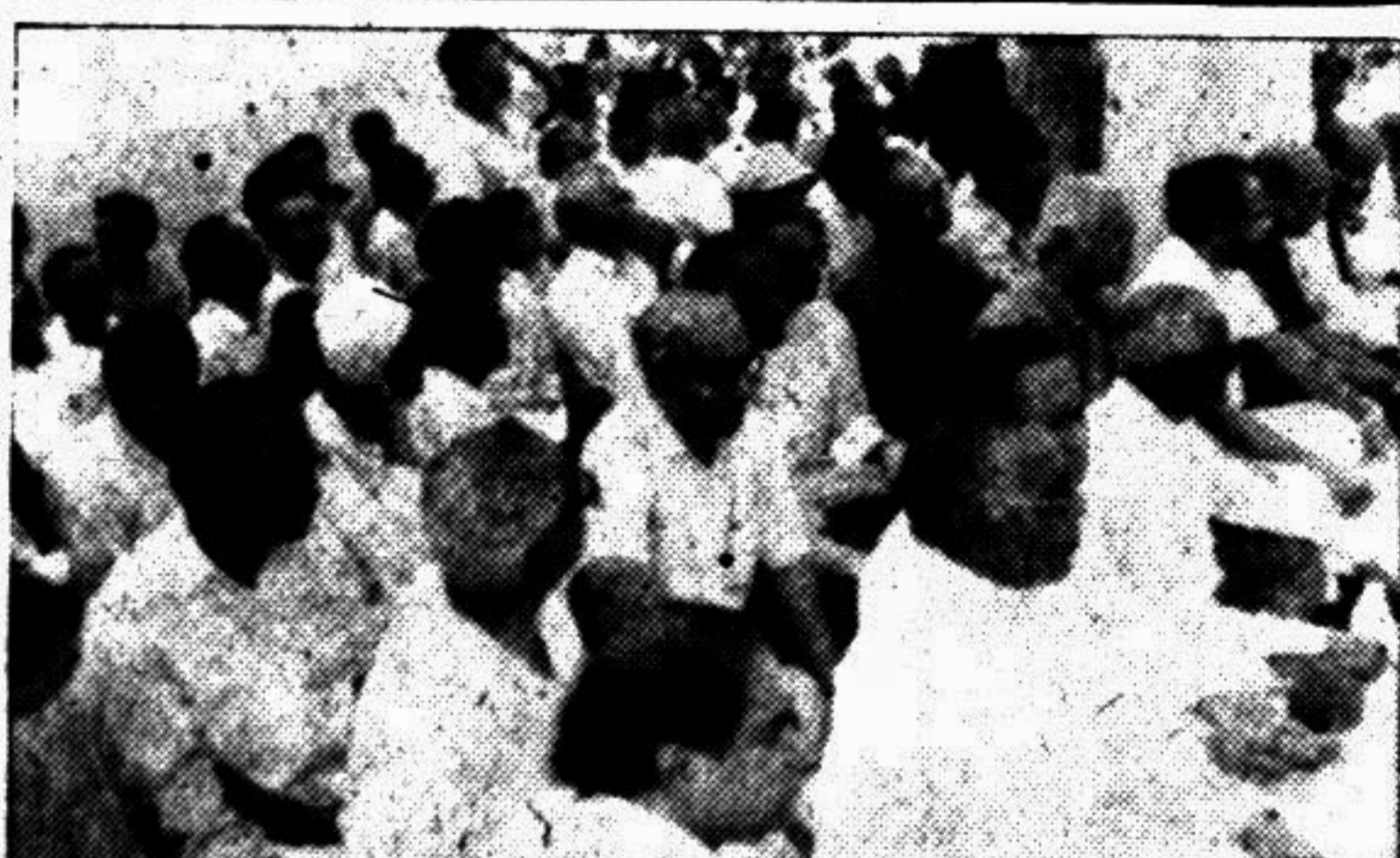
Addressing a rally at Shahbag, leaders of the organisation also demanded to introduce direct election system to the reserved 30 seats for women in parliament.

The rally was addressed, among others, by Dr Naila Khan, Farida Akhtar and Khushi Kabir with Shirin Akhtar presiding.

### Language classes suspended

The Cultural Centre of the Islamic Republic of Iran has suspended its both junior and senior Persian language classes up to March 25 due to unavoidable circumstances, says a press release.

However, classes will resume on March 25 at 4 pm. Interested learners can get admission till March 25.



Prominent citizens of the country organised a meeting at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday to press the demand for scrapping of the February 15 polls and fresh election for 6th parliament under a caretaker administration.

### JCD intercepts GCO rally at JU

A procession of Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) was intercepted by the activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at Prantik Gate of the campus last evening.

The GCO had brought out the procession demanding cancellation of February 15 election and immediate resignation of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

The JCD activists stopped the procession when it reached the Prantik Gate after parading on the campus. The JCD men warned the processionists not to raise any slogans against JCD and assaulted Ahsan Kibria Siddiqui, secretary Bangladesh Chhatra Union, JU unit.

### Salman's move hailed

Bangladesh Association of Pharmaceutical Industries Sunday lent its support to the initiative of Salman F Rahman, president, Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, for resolving the present crisis, reports BSS.

### BNP men accused of intimidating intellectuals

Sixty-three prominent citizens Monday accused the ruling party supporters of threatening the country's intellectuals as they demanded resignation of the BNP government and fresh polls under a caretaker government, reports UNB.

In a joint statement, they alleged that the BNP men assaulted renowned litterateur Syed Shamsul Haq at Mahakhali in the city on Sunday.

They (BNP men) have also threatened a number of intellectuals, including Muntassir Mamun, Syed Hasan Imam, Mamtazuddin Ahmed, Ekhlisuddin Ahmed, Panna Kaisar, Abdul Mannan Chowdhury and Shahriar Kabir, over telephone, the statement said.

The signatories to the statement include Begum Sufia Kamal, Shawkat Osman, Dewash Chandra Bhattacharya, Kalim Sharaf, Shamsur Rahman, Major Gen (retd) Shafulah, Kalyum Chowdhury, Sanjida Khatun, Kabori Sarwar, Ramendu Majumdar, Asaduzzaman Nur, Shaifur Rahman, Khaled Khan, Imdadul Haq Milon, Morshedul Islam, Shamim Akhtar, Kazi Mukul, Julfikar Ali Manik, Fazlur Rahman and Mehedi Hasan.

### DCCI concerned at Benapole incident

President of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) Ali Hussain (Hasan) yesterday expressed his deep concern at the burndown of goods worth Taka several hundred crores at Benapole landport in Jessore Monday, reports BSS.

In a statement, the DCCI president referred to the on-going political situation and the non-cooperation movement and said due to these a huge amount of goods were piled up inside godowns there awaiting clearance.

He also expressed his concern in absence of any permanent arrangement for fire control at Benapole landport and said fire service stations ought to have been installed in these important places considering their commercial significance.

The DCCI president urged the government to install fire control stations in all commercially and economically important places, including Benapole landport in the greater national interest.

He also urged the government to form a high-powered enquiry committee to probe the causes of fire in Benapole landport.

Besides Ali Hussain urged the government for giving due compensation to those importers, exporters and entrepreneurs who have suffered loss due to the fire in Benapole landport.

### Weather

#### Dry weather likely

Rain or thundershower with temporary gusty wind may occur at one or two places over Sylhet division and the regions of Mymensingh and Comilla in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country during the period. Met Office said adding that day temperature may remain nearly unchanged.

Country's highest temperature 37.5 degrees Celsius was recorded at Dhaka and the lowest 19.2 degrees at Tangal. The sun sets today at 6:10 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:05 am.

The maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	37.5	21.0	55	33
Chittagong	31.7	24.0	84	67
Rajshahi	36.0	21.0	60	39
Khulna	35.2	23.2	68	56
Barisal	32.5	23.5	80	64
Sylhet	32.0	22.0	79	57
Cox's Bazar	32.7	23.4	89	70

### Chhatra Command holds rally

Muktijoddha Chhatra Command yesterday brought out a procession and held a rally in the city demanding immediate resignation of BNP government and fresh polls under a caretaker administration, reports UNB.

Held in front of the Jatiya Press Club, the rally was addressed, among others, by Command Convenor Kamal Pasha Chowdhury and Member Secretary Afzal Hossain, said a press release.

### Govt, opposition urged to reach consensus

RAJSHAHI Mar 19. About one hundred lawyers, teachers of Rajshahi University, bankers, businessmen and eminent citizens of Rajshahi in a joint statement here today urged the government and the mainstream opposition parties to arrive at an acceptable compromise to solve the present political crisis for greater interest of the nation, reports BSS.

The signatories to the statement were advocate Mujibur Rahman Talukdar, Advocate Mukul Hossain, Prof M Amiruzzaman Khan, Prof Abbas Ali, Prof M Anisur Rahman, Abdus Salam, Dr Sultan Ahmed, Prof Rafiqul Islam and Prof A Imam Hossain.

### Hanif condemns arrest of 2 DCC commissioners

The Mayor and 55 ward commissioners of Dhaka City Corporation yesterday strongly condemned the arrests of two ward commissioners, reports UNB.

Mayor Mohammad Hanif and the ward commissioners, in separate statements, also demanded immediate unconditional release of 48 number ward commissioner MA Sattar Bhuiyan and 37 number ward commissioner Talukdar Sarwar Hossain.

They said these type of activities have been conducting to harass the people representatives who were elected directly.

The Mayor and ward commissioners also urged the authorities concern to refrain from such harassment. Otherwise, they said, the authorities will have to bear all responsibilities.

### PIB course on photojournalism

Week long training course on photojournalism began at Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) yesterday, says a press release.

PIB Director General Dr Mohammad Tauhidul Anwar inaugurated the course. He advised press photographers to learn caption writing properly besides good photography. In future PIB will arrange another training course on advanced photography, he said.

A number of 25 photojournalists from all over the country are taking part in the course. Senior press photographers, specialist photo artists and journalists are conducting the course.

### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Project Director  
Child Maternity Health Institute  
13, Segun Bagicha, Dhaka-1000

### Tender Notice

No. CMHI/Store/96/76 Dated: 13-3-96  
Sealed tenders are invited from bonafide printing firms for printing of Folder File & Annual Report of the office of the Project Director, Child Maternity Health Institute.

**Terms & Conditions:**  
1. Schedule can be collected from this office by submitting the original receipt of depositing Taka 300/- (three hundred) only (non-refundable) per schedule under head '36 Health & Population Control' in favour of the Project Director in Bangladesh Bank from 28-3-96 to 16-4-96 during office hours.

2. At the time of collecting the tender schedule, original Trade Licence for the current year, Income Tax Certificate, VAT Licence shall have to be produced.

3. Description of items, related benefits, business profile of tendering firm etc, shall have to be submitted with the sealed tender.

4. Sealed tender should be dropped in the tender box kept at the office of the Project Director by 1:30 PM of 17-4-96 and the tenders will be opened on the same day at 2:00 PM before the tenderers (if any) present.

5. Earnest money at the rate 2.5% of the tender quoted amount (refundable) shall have to be deposited with the tender in Bank Draft/Pay Order from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh in favour of Project Director, Child Maternity Health Institute, 13, Segun Bagicha, Dhaka, otherwise the tender will be treated as cancelled outright.

6. No erroneous tender will be acceptable rather treated as cancelled outright.

7. After supply of the items payment will be made through crossed cheque on submission of bill in triplicate to this office.

8. The authority/tender committee reserves full rights to accept or reject any tender or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Prof M O K Talukder  
Project Director & Professor  
Child Maternity Health Institute, Dhaka  
DFF 5742-14/3  
G-383

#### Reception postponed

Pakistan Day reception scheduled for March 23 at the Chancery premises has been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances, reports UNB.

Pakistan High Commission in a press release yesterday

#### BOU classes postponed

Tutorial classes of Certificate in Management, Diploma in Management and B Ed Programmes under Bangladesh Open University scheduled for Friday have been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances, reports UNB.

বাংলাদেশ কলেজ অব ফিজিশিয়ান্স এন্ড সার্জনস্

### Bangladesh College of Physicians & Surgeons

Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh  
Phone: 600454

তারিখ: ১৮-৩-৯৬ইং

#### বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ কলেজ অব ফিজিশিয়ান্স এন্ড সার্জনস্ এর ফেলোদের অংশগ্রহণ জন্য জানান যাইতেছে যে, কলেজের আগামী ২২-৩-৯৬ ইং তারিখের বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভা অনিবার্য কারণে স্থগিত ঘোষণা করা হয়েছে। উক্ত সভার পরবর্তী তারিখ পরে জানানো হবে।

অধ্যাপক মাহমুদ হাসান  
অনারারী সচিব  
বাংলাদেশ কলেজ অব ফিজিশিয়ান্স এন্ড সার্জনস্

D-277

### Bangladesh Small & Cottage Industries Corporation

Office of the Chief Engineer  
Civil Engineering Division (7th Floor)  
137/138, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000

## New Contractors Enlistment Notice

It is hereby notified that for enlistment of new contractor firms for civil works, First, Second & Third Class Enlistment forms can be purchased at Tk 100/- (one hundred) only from Cash Section of Accounts & Finance Department at 5th floor of BSCIC Head Office, BSCIC Zonal Office, Dhaka/Chittagong/Rajshahi/Khulna. The enlistment forms should be properly filled in and deposited with attested copies of required papers — showing the original papers to the Executive Engineer of this office — within 15 (fifteen) days of publication of this notice in the newspaper during office hours to this office. No application will be received after the prescribed date.

It may be noted that those who have already submitted application in this regard, need not apply afresh.

BSCIC-PRD 3/96 (11)  
DFP-5755-16/3  
G-382

Chief Engineer

## WANTED

### MARKETING EXECUTIVE

We are a well reputed business group engaged in Manufacturing and International Trade. We believe in professional management at various level of operation.

For our Trading Division we now require a self motivated **Marketing Executive** for leading a sales team and for marketing Textile Machinery.

The person we require should be in mid 30's with sound health, sound professional knowledge and courage to take challenges. The person must be self motivated, hard working and totally goal oriented with well developed communication skills and pleasant personality. His academic qualification should be graduate in Textile Technology (Graduate Engineer in other field having experience in selling Textile Machinery will also be considered) and he should have at least 7 years experience in selling Textile/Industrial machinery.

**Attractive remuneration will be given to the really deserving candidate.** Please send your CV along with recent passport size photograph within **28th March 1996** to G.P.O. Box 6, Dhaka.

## UNITED INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

### NOTICE OF THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Eleventh Annual General Meeting of United Insurance Company Limited will be held at Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka on Saturday, 13 April 1996 at 2:30 P.M. to transact the following business:

- To confirm the minutes of the Tenth Annual General Meeting held on 29 June, 1995.
- To receive and adopt the Director's Report and Audited Accounts for the year ended 31 December 1995 and the Auditors' Report thereon.
- To declare dividend for the year 1995.
- To consider appointment of Auditors for the year 1996 and to fix their remuneration.
- To elect Directors of the Company in the vacancies caused by retirement of the Sponsor Directors and election/re-election of Directors from public subscribers as per Articles of Association of the Company.
- To transact any other business which may be placed before the meeting with the permission of the Chair.

By order of the Board of Directors

Dated, Dhaka  
20 March, 1996

A. F. NESAR UDDIN  
Company Secretary

**Notes:**

- A member of the Company entitled to attend and vote at the general meeting may appoint any person as his/her proxy to attend and vote in his/her stead.
- The share transfer register of the Company will remain closed from 23 March 1996 to 13 April 1996 (both days inclusive).