

Inside Today

Article

Should Government Interfere in the Free Market?

Column: Insight
by Kabir U Ahmed
Page 4

Focus

Law & Our Rights

World Court declares nuclear weapons threat and its use illegal

Page 5

International

Donors, Rwandan officials meet to coordinate relief efforts

Yeltsin signs decree ordering troop withdrawal from Chechnya

Page 8

Business

Entrepreneurs won't have to disclose sources of capital

DSE and CSE indices go up

Pages 6, 7

DSE MARKET

DSE price index	3323.59
Market capital Tk	23680.08 cr
Transactions in volume	364750
Transactions in value Tk	2026 cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index	1570.23
Market capital Tk	18249.74 cr
Transactions in volume	99102
Transactions in value Tk	649 cr

NEWS BRIEFS

PM apprised of Rooppur N-plant

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was yesterday apprised of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant. A high-level meeting held at the Secretariat also informed the Prime Minister about some of the problems of the plant. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Ashk, Education Minister Noor Uddin Khan, concerned secretaries and officials of the Atomic Energy Commission, reports UNB.

Mizanur Rahman envoy to Spain

The government has decided to appoint Mizanur Rahman as the first resident ambassador of Bangladesh to Spain. Mizanur Rahman is holding the responsibility of Ambassador of Bangladesh to the Kingdom of Bhutan, said a PID handout yesterday, reports UNB.

Eyes of young man gouged out

Both the eyes of a young man were gouged out at a village in Keraniganj thana yesterday afternoon. Some unidentified miscreants gouged out the eyes of Nizam Uddin, 27, son of one Alauddin of village Ekora under Keraniganj police station at around 5 pm, family sources said. The critically wounded person was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, reports BSS.

Girl falls from 2nd floor, dies

A teenage girl died when she fell down from the second floor of a house at Mughdipara in the city Friday night, family and hospital sources said. Rukshana, 16, daughter of Mahmudul Huq of Sandwip, Chittagong fell down when she was electrocuted by a powerline running by the side of the rooftop of his brother-in-law's house. She was immediately rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the attending doctors declared her dead, reports BSS.

One held on charge of raping maid

By DMC Correspondent
One young man was arrested allegedly for raping a teenage maid in a house at North Mughdipara in the city yesterday, said Sabujbagh thana police.
The arrested was identified as Salim and the other accused was absconding.
The victim aged around 14 was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), said hospital sources.

Rush of bronchitis, asthma patients in city hospitals

By Morshed Ali Khan

With air pollution level high in the current dry season, hospitals, clinics and doctors' chambers in the city are facing a rush of patients suffering from 'chronic bronchitis and bronchial asthma'.

Doctors at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), PG Hospital, Asthma Centre at the Mahakhali Chest Diseases Institute and Hospital (CDIH), Holy Family Hospital and several private clinics and pharmacies, visited by this correspondent, said that the number of patients suffering from chronic bronchitis and asthma always showed a sudden rise in this season due to dust and other air pollutants. This year the rush of patients is greater than in the past year.

The main reasons for both the respiratory problems are rise in the level of air pollution, smoking, exposure to cold and wrong administering of

medicine by quacks and pharmacies, doctors said.

Dr M A Wahab, a heart and chest specialist and senior consultant physician at the Holy Family Hospital said, 'bronchial asthma and chronic bronchitis are both triggered mainly by air pollution which shows a rise in the low rain period.'

Dr Wahab added that asthma patients, who usually inherit the disease from their families, might suffer an attack through exposure to pollen, house dust such as fine particles from carpets, pillows, mattresses, dandruff and hair of domestic pets. Then, wrong administering of drugs by quacks and over the pharmacy counters could also cause a crisis. Citing an example, he said that drugs such as Betablocker, Inflamm, Tenorane and Aspirin could take one to an acute stage of asthma.

'But when it comes to

chronic bronchitis and many other respiratory problems, it is the high level of air pollution which is responsible.' Dr Wahab said. Industrial pollution as well as vehicle fume and dust were rising alarmingly in the country, he pointed out.

About children suffering from 'exercise asthma'—occurring after a child does some physical exercise—top specialist physicians at different hospitals including the only asthma centre in the country at the CDIH, advised that if the child is given an inhaler therapy before the exercise, the problem could be avoided to a great extent.

Doctors also advised that households having asthma prone patients should clean the mattresses, carpets and pillows at least thrice a week or better shift to foam mattresses which accommodate less dust.

See Page 12 Col 7

NEC meet reviews implementation of ADP

A meeting of the National Economic Council (NEC) yesterday reviewed the implementation status of the Annual Development Programme (ADP) under the Fourth Five Year Plan, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina chaired the NEC meeting, the first since her government took over, at the International Conference Centre. It was attended by ministers and secretaries to the government.

The meeting had threadbare discussion on problems usually faced at the time of implementation.

Among the issues discussed in the meeting were delay in the approval and revision, land acquisition and transference thereof, non-availability of foreign aid in time with acceptable preconditions and difficulties in appointing contractors and advisors.

Prime Minister Hasina, who is the Chairperson of the NEC, directed the concerned authorities to implement the thought

See Page 12 Col 8

Jyoti Basu arrives November 27

By M Anwarul Haq

Chief Minister of the Indian state of West Bengal Jyoti Basu is scheduled to arrive here on November 27 on a five-day visit to Bangladesh, official sources said yesterday.

The visit of Basu, whose Party, the CPI (M), is a component of the 13-party United Front coalition government of Prime Minister Deve Gowda, is considered crucial in shoring up the proposed water sharing agreement between Dhaka and New Delhi.

The visit of the West Bengal Chief Minister is taking place at the invitation of Bangladesh Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad who earlier visited Calcutta.

When contacted, Indian High Commission sources confirmed the schedule of the West Bengal Chief Minister. The sources also said that Basu will be accompanied by some top officials of West Bengal including Home Minister Buddhudev, Finance Minister Ashim Das-

gupta and also the Chief Secretary of the state.

Foreign Ministry sources yesterday said that the detailed itinerary for the visit is being worked out. However, Basu's programme will include a courtesy call on President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. He will hold official talks with the Foreign Minister and is likely to meet some other ministers.

The water sharing issue is due to figure prominently in Basu's official meetings which may also include subjects on land boundary demarcation, trade and other issues.

Jyoti Basu, whose ancestral home is in Baradi, Sonargaon, some 40 kilometres from Dhaka, will also spend some time there. The house is being spruced up. He also came to Bangladesh in 1988 on a private visit.

It was learnt that the West Bengal Chief Minister would be

See Page 12 Col 1

KPM forced to cut production due to short supply of gas

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 23: Karnaphuli Paper Mill (KPM) is limping with a forced production cut by 50 per cent due to short supply of gas, official sources said.

It is now producing 50 tons of paper daily against a capacity of 100 tons, the sources said. The KPM resumed partial production on Friday last after a shut down for 19 days due to non-availability of gas from Bakhrabad Gas Limited. The KPM is now being supplied with only 2 million cubic feet gas daily against its requirement of 10 million cubic feet, the sources said.

The short supply of gas compelled the authorities to operate a boiler with furnace oil, they said.

During the 19 days of shutdown, the KPM suffered a production loss of about Tk 12 crore, the sources said.

BNP calls hartal in Khulna today

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Nov 23: The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and its front organisations have called a half-day hartal in the city tomorrow protesting the killing of Jubo Dal leader A S M Nasir.

Nasir was hacked to death at about 11 am on Wednesday.

In support of tomorrow's hartal a torch procession was brought out in the city this evening later they held a rally where speakers condemned police for failure to arrest the persons responsible for killing.

The accused are still at large under the cover of a group of ruling party leaders, they alleged.

40 injured as AL, BNP clash in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 23: At least 40 people were injured in clashes between the activists of ruling Awami League and opposition BNP in the town today, witnesses said, reports UNB.

They said some 30 people were injured when the two parties were locked in a clash on the town's SS road at about 5:30 pm. Earlier, the Awami League brought out a procession after holding a rally at Bazar Station premises. Some processionists damaged a sweetmeat shop on the adjacent Mujib Sarak.

Police lobbed two tear gas shells to bring the situation under control.

Later, Masum of the Juba League and Hafiz of the Chhatra League, were attacked by opponents with ramdoo and hockey sticks.

Police were posted in the trouble spots to guard against further untoward incident.

Earlier in the morning, Tikka Khan of the BCL received serious injuries when BNP men allegedly attacked him with ramdoo and Chinese axe while he was going to the town by a rickshaw. He was admitted to Ibne Sina Hospital.

BCL supporters brought out a protest procession and ransacked the Medinova Clinic on SS road, owned by a BNP supporter. They also damaged and looted a stationary shop of a Jubo Dal leader at Borobazar.

Police were posted in the trouble spots to guard against further untoward incident.

Earlier in the morning, Tikka Khan of the BCL received serious injuries when BNP men allegedly attacked him with ramdoo and Chinese axe while he was going to the town by a rickshaw. He was admitted to Ibne Sina Hospital.

BCL supporters brought out a protest procession and ransacked the Medinova Clinic on SS road, owned by a BNP supporter. They also damaged and looted a stationary shop of a Jubo Dal leader at Borobazar.

Police were posted in the trouble spots to guard against further untoward incident.

Earlier in the morning, Tikka Khan of the BCL received serious injuries when BNP men allegedly attacked him with ramdoo and Chinese axe while he was going to the town by a rickshaw. He was admitted to Ibne Sina Hospital.

BCL supporters brought out a protest procession and ransacked the Medinova Clinic on SS road, owned by a BNP supporter. They also damaged and looted a stationary shop of a Jubo Dal leader at Borobazar.

Police were posted in the trouble spots to guard against further untoward incident.

Earlier in the morning, Tikka Khan of the BCL received serious injuries when BNP men allegedly attacked him with ramdoo and Chinese axe while he was going to the town by a rickshaw. He was admitted to Ibne Sina Hospital.

BCL supporters brought out a protest procession and ransacked the Medinova Clinic on SS road, owned by a BNP supporter. They also damaged and looted a stationary shop of a Jubo Dal leader at Borobazar.

Police were posted in the trouble spots to guard against further untoward incident.

Earlier in the morning, Tikka Khan of the BCL received serious injuries when BNP men allegedly attacked him with ramdoo and Chinese axe while he was going to the town by a rickshaw. He was admitted to Ibne Sina Hospital.

BCL supporters brought out a protest procession and ransacked the Medinova Clinic on SS road, owned by a BNP supporter. They also damaged and looted a stationary shop of a Jubo Dal leader at Borobazar.

Police were posted in the trouble spots to guard against further untoward incident.

Earlier in the morning, Tikka Khan of the BCL received serious injuries when BNP men allegedly attacked him with ramdoo and Chinese axe while he was going to the town by a rickshaw. He was admitted to Ibne Sina Hospital.

BCL supporters brought out a protest procession and ransacked the Medinova Clinic on SS road, owned by a BNP supporter. They also damaged and looted a stationary shop of a Jubo Dal leader at Borobazar.

Police were posted in the trouble spots to guard against further untoward incident.

Earlier in the morning, Tikka Khan of the BCL received serious injuries when BNP men allegedly attacked him with ramdoo and Chinese axe while he was going to the town by a rickshaw. He was admitted to Ibne Sina Hospital.

BCL supporters brought out a protest procession and ransacked the Medinova Clinic on SS road, owned by a BNP supporter. They also damaged and looted a stationary shop of a Jubo Dal leader at Borobazar.



Spanish Queen Sophia during her visit to a Grameen Bank project at Mograpara in Sonargaon yesterday. — Star photo

1500 protesters held in Bangalore Greek beauty crowned Miss World

BANGALORE, India, Nov 23: Irene Skliva of Greece was crowned Miss World today at the end of a three-hour pageant overshadowed by protests and threats by militant women to commit suicide by immolation, reports Reuters.

The 18-year-old professional model won the title after police had detained about 1,500 protesters in the southern Indian city of Bangalore.

The finale of the two week pageant, with 88 contestants, took place in a fortress-like cricket stadium in Bangalore.

Hours before the start of the contest, three separate demonstrations led by right-wing Hindu nationalists left clouds of tear gas over roads leading to the outdoor stadium.

Police said about 1,500 people had been detained.

But they said the leader of a group of women who had threatened to set themselves on fire in the stadium after swallowing cyanide remained at large.

The pageant has been dogged for more than two months by protesters, who claim the beauty show is demeaning to women and undermines India's 5,000-year-old cultural heritage.

The opening 60 minutes of the finale, in light rain, were devoted to traditional Indian dance and music, drawn from the corners of the sprawling country.

Dozens of local dancers dressed in shimmering blue skirts swirled before a large screen depicting images of ancient Hindu temples at the start of the event, which organisers said would be seen by more than

two billion television viewers worldwide.

Women in ruby red veils trimmed with gold danced with men wearing turbans and brandishing swords.

Lumbering elephants bedecked with glittering stones later entered the set, based on the ruins of the 14th century Hindu temple complex of Hampi.

Outside, the stadium was surrounded by hundreds of security officers. Spectators were checked for weapons before entering.

A march against the Miss World beauty pageant erupted in violence in central Bangalore earlier today.

A Reuters reporter saw police using batons and tear gas to disperse a crowd throwing stones and marching on the stadium.

'It's a police state,' Ananth Kumar, a Bangalore-based member of parliament for the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), said as he was bundled into the back of a police van and hit by batons.

The marchers charged the police ranks and began throwing stones. Traffic in the area was blocked for around two hours.

See Page 12 Col 4

Some personal questions to Queen Sophia

By Staff Correspondent

Surprise awaited Queen Sophia of Spain during her visit to Mograpara in Sonargaon the hub of jamdani saree and the once world famous Muslim.

As she went there to visit the Grameen Bank projects, this correspondent, accompanying the Queen and her sister, recorded the conversation between the Queen and the poor and simple women working there with loans from the Bank.

In their own way, they tried to fathom the woman in the Queen, beginning with some very personal questions, through an interpreter. Does the King and the queen have domestic quarrels? Does he beat her? Does he love her?

The Queen, however, was not taken aback and smilingly replied that there were arguments but no violence and King Juan Carlos loves her very much.

A woman with eight children asked, 'Sophia how many children she had. Well, only three, she said.

Another asked if there was any dowry in her marriage with the King. She said there had been some.

The Queen talked to them in

See Page 12 Col 7

Brisk trading at DSE

By Staff Correspondent

Trading at the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) resumed yesterday following suspension on Thursday and weekly holiday on Friday.

According to DSE authorities, trading on the floor was suspended on Thursday due to lack of quorum of DSE members. But others sources concerned said the members were reluctant to be present on the floor protesting the untoward incident on Wednesday.

A large number of small investors engaged in kerb market operation sieged the DSE building on Wednesday protesting sharp fall in prices of most of the issues for several consecutive days.

The DSE All Share Price Index gained by 25.55 points and market capitalisation increased by Tk 182 crore as more than 3.64 lakh shares and debentures exchanged hands during brisk trading on the

See Page 12 Col 3

SC refuses to accept Benazir's 2nd petition

ISLAMABAD, Nov 23: Pakistan's Supreme Court refused for a second time today to accept a petition by ousted Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto against her dismissal, reports Reuters.

State-run television said the court registrar had told Benazir's lawyer Aitzaz Ahsan he could appeal against the decision if he was unhappy with the refusal.

Ahsan filed an amended petition in the Supreme Court on Thursday, deleting portions of the original which the registrar had criticised as 'frivolous and scandalous'.

Ahsan said at the time he had refilled the petition to save time, but did not accept that the one submitted earlier had contained anything inappropriate.

He said he had written a letter to the registrar along with the amended petition to place on record Benazir's disagreement with the court's rejection of the original.

The first petition's 42 pages contained blistering criticism of President Farooq Leghari for dismissing the National Assembly and ousting Benazir Leghari installed a caretaker government to hold fresh elections on February 3.

Meanwhile, Benazir began a train journey from Rawalpindi to Lahore today to rally support against her dismissal on charges of corruption and misrule.

Witnesses said Benazir's train pulled out of the main station at Rawalpindi, near Islamabad, as she waved to about 1,000 supporters waving green, black and white flags of her Pakistan People's Party (PPP).

'Long live Benazir, down with (President Farooq) Leghari,' they chanted as Bhutto, wearing a pink sweater and a white headscarf above her traditional shalwar kameez, boarded the Tezgam Express at 8 am (0300 GMT).

Armed police were out in force at the station.

See Page 12 Col 7

Trading picks up at CSE

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 23: After a dull spell last week, trading at the country's second bourse here picked up today.

Turnover at Chittagong Stock Exchange today rose to Tk 6 crore from Tk 2.59 crore recorded on Thursday last, according to official sources.

Out of 63 issues traded today, 32 gained and 31 suffered losses.

See Page 12 Col 3

Ershad granted bail in RAJUK Plot Case

Special Judge and Additional Sessions Judge, 7th court, Dhaka, Azizul Haq, yesterday granted bail to former President H M Ershad in the RAJUK (DIT) Plot Case, reports BSS.

Ershad is the lone accused in this case and former RAJUK Chairman Rahmatullah, an FIR accused, was discharged during the framing of charge long ago.

The case, in brief, is that the former ruler in collusion with Rahmatullah, had allotted 49 plots of RAJUK with dishonest intention and to obtain pecuniary benefit either for himself or for others, a press release from the office of defence counsels said.

See Page 12 Col 8

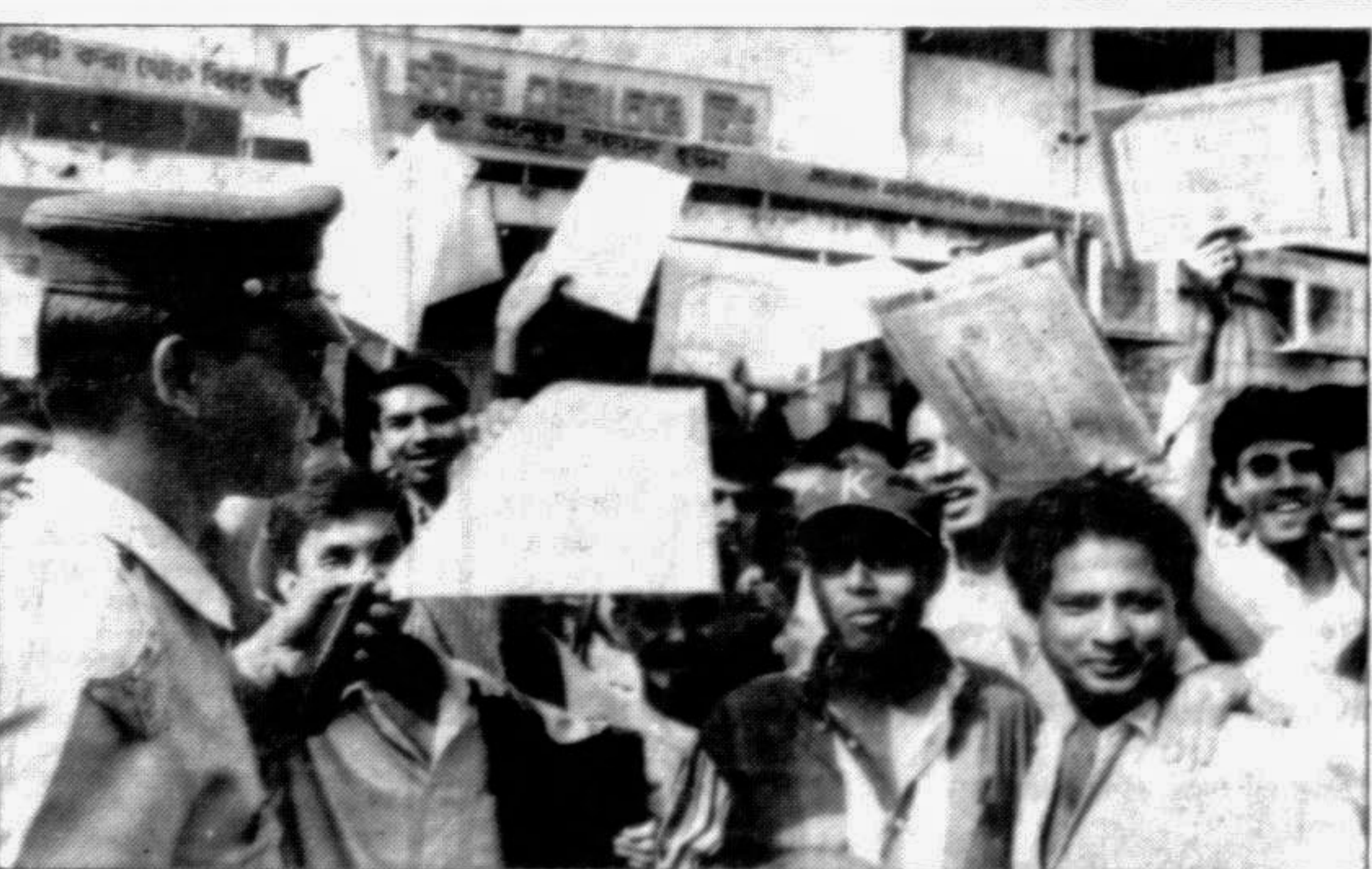
Degree (spl) exams results announced

Results of the Special Examination of Degree (Pass and Subsidiary) and Certificate Course of 1995 held under National University from May-June this year were announced yesterday, reports UNB.

A total of 3,800 students out of 10,683 who appeared in the BA (Pass) special examination came out successful, the percentage of pass being 30.58. Of them, 595 got second division and 3,205 third division.

In the BCom (Pass) special examination, 1,895 candidates appeared while 688 came out successful. Of them, 51 secured second division and 637 third division. The percentage of pass

See Page 12 Col 7



Kerb market share traders became active again as the Dhaka Stock Exchange resumed trading yesterday. — Star photo