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## CMC dental unit students' action programme

From Our Correspondent  
CHITTAGONG, May 28: Dental Students' Action Committee of Chittagong Medical College (CMC) has decided to go for a 19-day agitation programme from May 30.

The programme includes student strike, siege, sit-in, token hunger strike, rally and procession.

Addressing a press conference at the press club here this afternoon, committee leaders urged the authorities to meet their 5-point demand without further delay. The demands include appointment of required number of teachers for nine departments of the Dental Unit of CMC, turning the Unit into a full-fledged college and hospital, separate allocation of funds for the Unit providing necessary equipment.

The committee leaders said they were compelled to announce this programme as the authorities failed to respond to their demands by May 22.

## BNP leader held with arms in Chougachha

From Our Correspondent  
JESSORE, May 28: Police arrested Chougachha thana BNP secretary from his house today on charge of possessing illegal arms and ammunition.

Police said Zuhurul Islam, chairman of Patibila Union Parishad, was arrested following a confessional statement of a terrorist, identified as Lokman. Lokman was arrested in the early hours of today on charge of terrorism in Patibila union.

Acting on Lokman's statement, police raided Zuhurul's house in Patibila union and recovered three pipeguns and four bullets.

Local BNP activists brought out a procession at thana headquarters demanding Zuhurul's release.

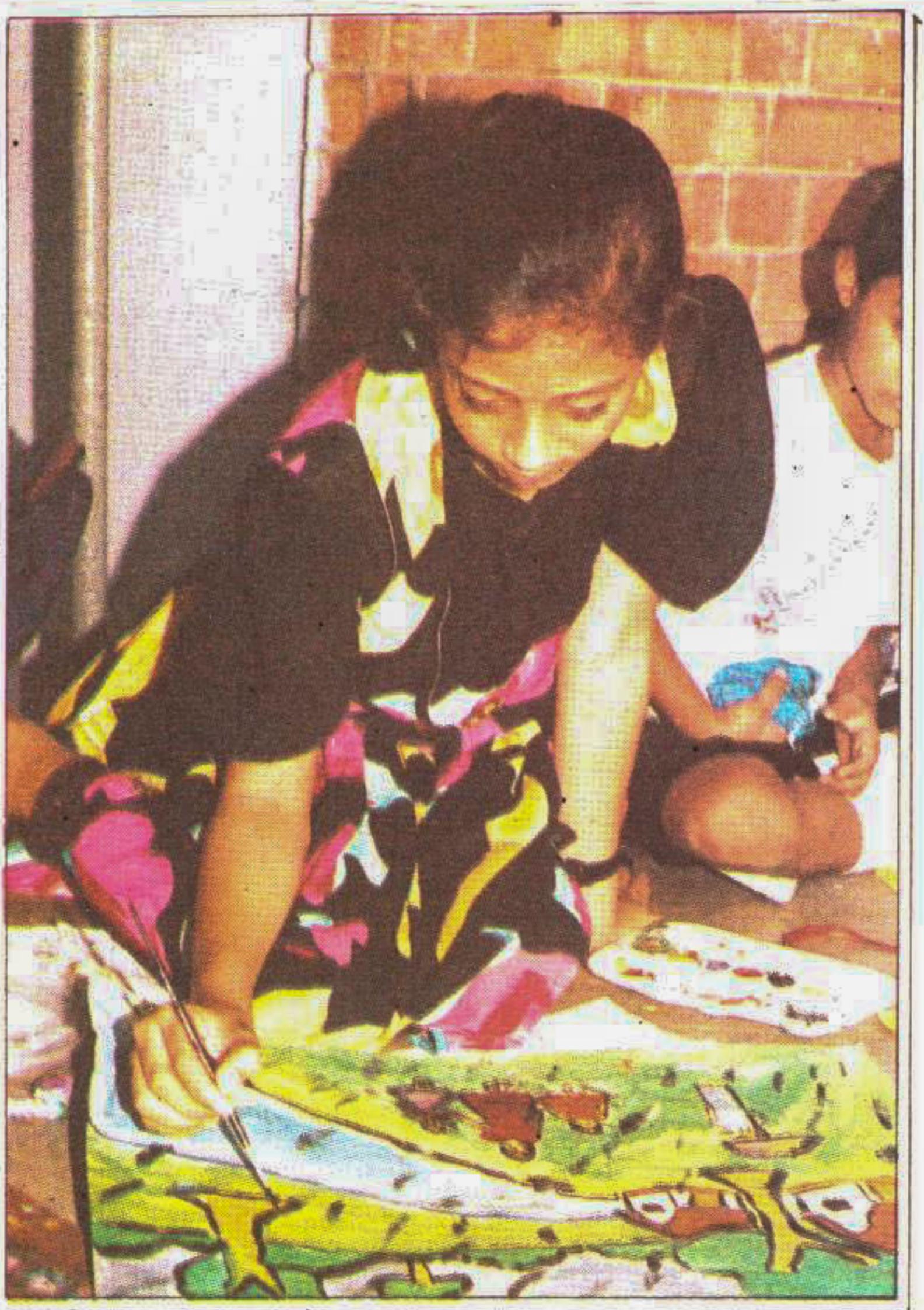
## Boundary

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imise their each and every move on a cricket field. The Pakistanis on the other hand, are streets ahead, man to man, as far as the sheer class and natural ability of the individuals are concerned. Under Wasim Akram, for the first time ever, Pakistan has been able to harness all the necessary ingredients to come up with a winning formula. The South African desire is kept under wraps, and at most, it could be considered to be sitting below the surface. The Pakistanis show their hunger quite openly and make no qualms of the fact that they are out for the kill. On the field they petrify.

Against New Zealand, the Pakistan batting, after the initial and by now customary hiccup, put up 269 runs almost as a matter of course. It is an achievement bordering on the remarkable, that a nineteen year old Abdul Razzaq could bat at number three, putting on a most crucial partnership for the second match in a row. It is perhaps commonplace for the team to see him bowl an equally vital spell with the ball. This is the sort of advantages that Pakistan, with its almost embarrassing luxury of a surfeit of quality all rounders, can take at any time of the match. It is doubtful if any other side can match such an extra dimension that can be brought into play whenever required.

Pakistan carries a very heavy-duty armoury, both in terms of its batting and bowling. The sheer depth in both these areas have ensured that Pakistan are always able to post a total of 250 plus, which, in turn, can be defended through no great effort by the most balanced and lethal bowling attack in the business. In Shoaib Akhtar Pakistan has a bowler who can rock the batting side in the very first over itself. Sheer pace is always a frightening proposition. Allan Donald comes on as first or second change, without perhaps the same degree of intimidation for the batsman, Akhtar with a new hard ball, coming at a batsman at meteoric pace, does put the batting side under immediate pressure. It is all part of the plan that after the shake-up has been completed, the wiles and guiles of the old master Wasim Akram should mastermind the sequence of body blow.

But, later a team of explosive experts from the Army recovered a huge quantity of bomb-making materials, live and inoperative bombs and weapons from Manik's house. The team also dismantled some bombs.



Painting competition at the Shishu Academy yesterday in observance of Shilpacharya's death anniversary. — Star photo

## MP Manik arrested

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his immediate release.

The recently formed Nagorik Forum, backed by Makin's rivals in the ruling party and opposition parties, held a rally and brought out a 'victory procession'. The rally came under attack allegedly by Manik's supporters at about 6:30 PM. Ten persons were injured in the chase and counter chase, police said.

Many activists of the Nagorik Forum jumped into the adjacent Surma river, witnesses said.

As police intervened, the agitators attacked them and opened fire, police claimed. Police also fired two blank shots to disperse them and held 10 persons, including two UP Chairmen — Arjak Ali of Dakshin Khurma UP and Abdul Aziz of Dolarbazar UP, police said.

The CID also talked with the DC, SP, Additional District Magistrate, Civil Surgeon and other government officials who visited the spot and the Medical Officer who performed autopsy of the bodies.

CID personnel also interrogated the MP's elder brother Mujibbar Rahman, Mujibbar's wife, younger brother Jewel and other relatives who were staying at the house on the day of the incident.

Almost all the political parties in Sylhet and Sunamganj demanded punitive measures for those responsible for the incident.

The CID later arrested Jagadish Das, Joint Convenor of Sylhet district Juba League and Ward Commissioner of Sylhet Pourashava, Manik's cousins Abdul Lais Choudhury and Babul and Biplob, an employee of the shop belonging to his brother.

## Acid burn victims

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birth to a son while she was hospitalised," said Dr S L Sen, a senior plastic surgery consultant of DMCH.

A generous, Pakistani-born British millionaire Javed Majed lodges and paid for the hospital fees of Majeda in the UK. Dr Charles Viva — one of the best ophthalmic surgeons of the world — operated on her, free of cost. Through multiple surgeries Majeda's eyesight was restored little (four per cent).

There are thousands of Majedas who die or survive, un-treated. An estimated one million (ten lakh) such incidents occur, each year, DMCH is the lone place in the country with some medical facilities for such cases. With only 16 designated beds and three plastic surgeons, DMCH can hardly take care of two hundred selective patients, a year.

"We have to refuse the bulk of patients with serious burns simply because the hospital lacks a full-fledged management centre for them,"

The Bangladeshi government, recognising the need for a separate burn unit at DMCH, has allocated Tk 6 crore for its construction but the fund is yet to be placed. There is no specific time-frame for establishment of the promised 50-bed facility.

Meanwhile, a foundation was formed on May 12, 1999 for survivors of acid victims in the country. The foundation was formed to serve also as a platform for a mass movement against repression on women.

"We have the foundation which would mainly be working to help the victims and co-

ordinate all isolated efforts to address the problem to prevent the violent crime. But we need more money to help the victims as the number increases," said Dr John Morrison — executive director of the institution — who put tireless effort for its establishment.

Dr Morrison who believes that the actual number of acid violence is much higher added, "The foundation has been formed to provide on-going medical assistance, rehabilitation, reintegration into society of acid survivors by identifying survivors and improving existing services."

He elaborated, "In a broader sense the foundation will ensure survivors better access to medical care and legal aid. It is not only about improving medical facilities and getting international support but also about striving to eradicate this dreadful act."

In the past UNICEF (United Nations' Children's Fund) and Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) financed acid survivors to seek more advanced medical care abroad. Six victims were flown to Spain and one (Majeda) to UK with support from the local British High Commission and British Airways.

Another group of seven acid survivors are in the process of being selected to be flown to Spain for treatment, which is being facilitated by the foundation.

In the meantime, Majeda and her family live under constant threat from the accused Hanif, who now works in a garment factory in Chittagong. They have repeatedly warned her brother Hashimuddin to withdraw the case filed against him or face dire consequences.

What is even worse Majeda's husband — Yunusur Rahman — decided to get married, again without her permission. "Majeda cannot work. I and my parents, we need a helping hand," he argued.

## Editor : Mahfuz Anam

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## Khaleda's remarks

Opposition leader Khaleda Zia has thanked Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for disclosing her "secret intention" regarding the general elections, reports UNB.

"Neither in accordance with the Constitution nor when people will want, the election will be held when she (Hasina) and her party will be sure of their win," the BNP chairperson told her party colleagues Thursday night referring to the PM's statement.

"She spoke of what she believes in or cherishes in her mind," Khaleda said addressing party leaders from different districts at her official Minto Road official residence.

At the annual conference of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) on Wednesday, Hasina said that next general election would be held when her Awami League will win.

"Both base and future of democracy become weak and uncertain when the prime minister of a democratic country herself makes an open announcement that election will not be held until she is certain of her party's win," Khaleda said.

The Constitution says it's mandatory to hold elections as per the schedule to be determined by the Election Commission, she said.

The BNP chairperson asked her party leaders and workers to intensify the nationwide movement.

## Free quota

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would reduce the burden on the EPB because 60 per cent of its work was related to free quota distribution issues, he added.

Last year the government had formed a probe committee headed by a director general of the EPB to investigate into various irregularities regarding free quota distribution.

The committee found that five per cent free quota, supposed to be reserved for state-owned Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB), was being misused as TCB sold it through tender. The committee had recommended to cancel those reserved quota for the TCB because it does not manufacture or export any garment items which was the main condition for getting free quota allotment.

Getting allotment from the 'free quota', a section of unscrupulous garment traders did brisk business by transferring the quota for money. This had led to an unofficial quota market in the garment sector, the probe body report said.

The CID also talked with the DC, SP, Additional District Magistrate, Civil Surgeon and other government officials who visited the spot and the Medical Officer who performed autopsy of the bodies.

According to sources, many people made their fortune through quota business. Some high-ups in the society including some former ministers were involved in quota business.

The USA and Canada give a limit to garment export from Bangladesh every year which is called garment quota.

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