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Public university study to be pricey

Jagannath University College becomes university in 5 years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students would soon have to pay tuition fees at commercial rates to study at public universities, as the government would not give subsidy to such universities, who have to earn on their own.

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec)

at a meeting yesterday approved upgrading of Jagannath University College to a fully-fledged university at a cost of some Tk 34 crore under the new concept, implementation of which would start in January next.

The government would draft an act to put the new concept into force.

The elevation would take five

years for implementation during which the government would put in place the infrastructure of the university. The university would run on its own financial resources and fix salaries of the teachers and tuition fees of the students.

Ecneec also approved institution of Comilla University at a cost about

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Comatose Arafat clings to life

Israeli website reports he opens eyes; Palestinian PM begins Gaza talks

AGENCIES, Paris

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat remains in a critical condition, a senior aide says, despite a media report that he might have opened his eyes and talked to doctors.

Nabil Abu Rdainah, a senior aide to Arafat, said the 75-year-old leader was still in a serious condition at the French military hospital where doctors have been unable to determine what is wrong with him.

"The doctors say his condition is not irreversible. There is no change, he is still in a critical condition. The doctors still do not know what is wrong with him," Abu Rdainah said.

YNET, the website of leading Israeli daily Yedioth Ahronoth, earlier yesterday quoted Palestinian sources as saying Arafat had partially emerged from a coma and was communicating with doctors. Rdainah did not comment on that report.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Revolution, Solidarity Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

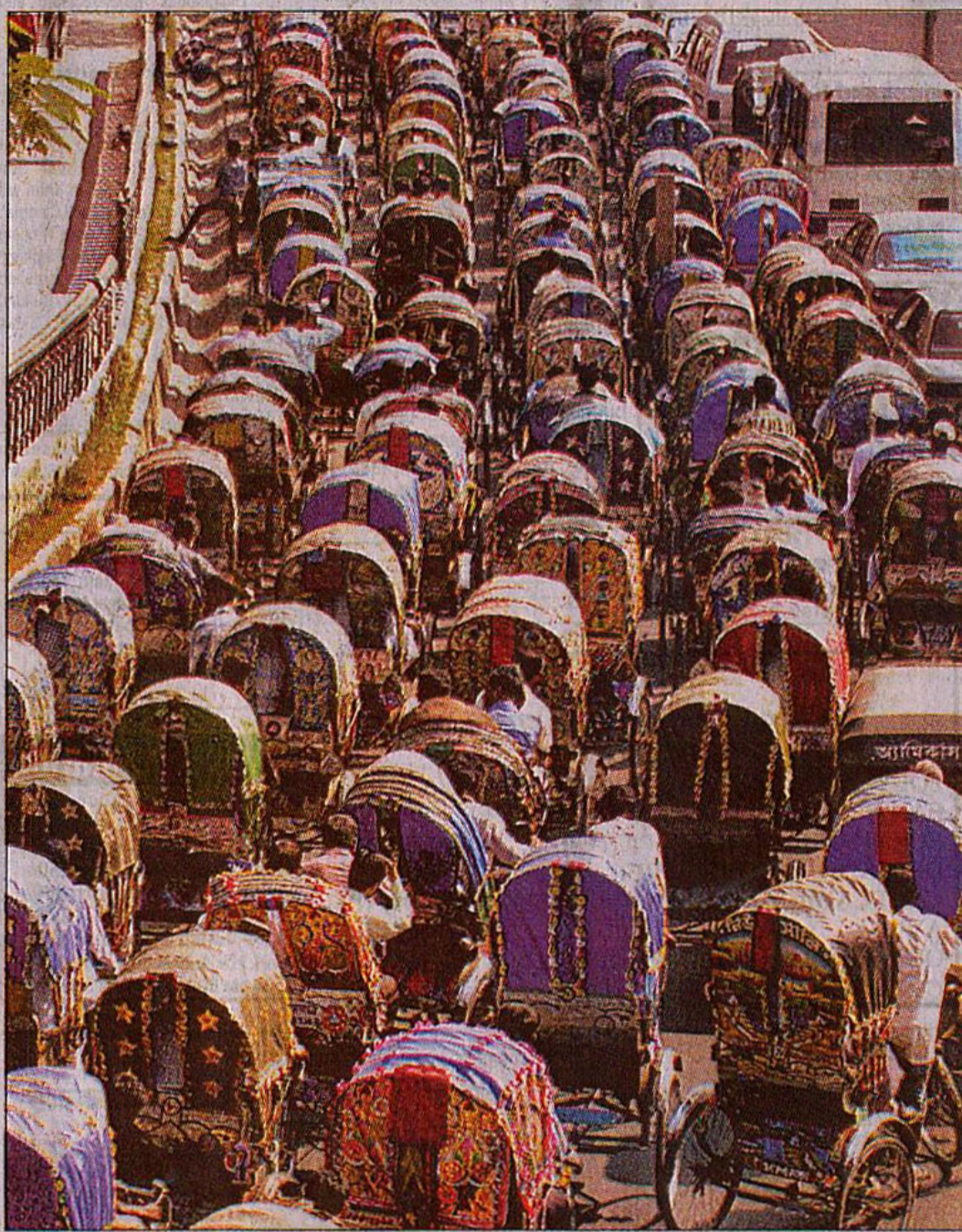
The BNP-led coalition government will observe today as the National Revolution and Solidarity Day marking the civil-military upsurge that led to release of the then army chief Ziaur Rahman on this day in 1975.

To observe the day, already declared a general holiday, the government has drawn up elaborate programmes.

Political parties and social organisations observe this day from different historical perspectives.

While the BNP and its allies celebrate it as National Revolution and Solidarity Day, the main opposition Awami League and its front

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



Long lines of rickshaws rule the road in front of the Institution of Engineers in the capital yesterday, as transport workers clamped a 24-hour countrywide strike to protest killing of a transport leader in Rangpur allegedly by Bab.

TRANSPORT STRIKE

City paralysed by snarl-up

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Traffic congestion coupled with a transport strike yesterday made the city dwellers suffer heavily.

Commuters could hardly find any transport on the roads on the one hand due to the countrywide strike and on the other, almost all the city streets were clogged with rickshaws. Public buses remained off the city streets yesterday, much to the sufferings of the masses during Ramadan.

Traffic personnel yesterday allowed rickshaws to ply even the

roads that are usually out of bounds to the manually pulled three-wheelers, which only added to the misery.

The traffic police let their guard down apparently because of the transport strike. At many intersections in the capital they showed their indifference to attending to their duties, alleged some commuters.

Bangladesh Road Transport Workers Federation (BRTWF) enforced the 24-hour strike to protest the death of a Rangpur-based

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Al-Hiqma chief held for storming police station

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A 20-year-old who claims to command a banned Islamist militant group was arrested yesterday with four of his comrades including a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activist after being barred to hold a press conference.

Held at Boalia Police Station under Section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), the self-proclaimed commander in chief of

Shahadat-e-al-Hiqma, Sayed Kawsar Hussain Siddiki Raja, detailed to police and journalists how he plans to rout out the corruption and injustice of the government and its law enforcers.

Kawsar, who is currently on bail in three cases of sedition, possession of illegal arms and swindling, and his associates were arrested after they stormed into the police station yesterday noon demanding

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

We Mourn

With profound grief for the death of President of The United Arab Emirates His Highness Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan. May The Almighty Allah bless his soul and rest him in peace.



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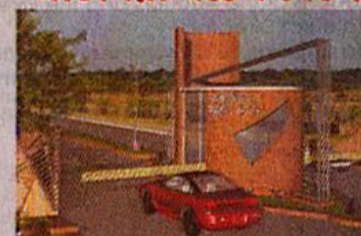
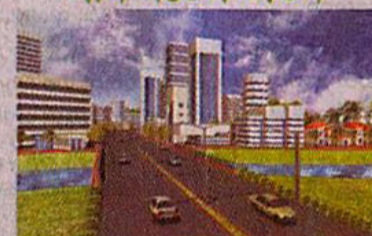
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