## Livestock & fisheries bank demanded

By Staff Correspondent

The Dairy and Poultry Federation of Bangladesh yesterday urged the government to set up a livestock and fisheries bank and to allocate Tk 100 crore in the next budget for developing the dairy and poultry sectors in the country.

Addressing a pre-budget press, conference at the National Press Club, the joint convenor of the federation Shahidul Alam Quadry also demanded withdrawal of all taxes on imported fodder and feed and its distribution among the dairy and poultry farmers at subsidised rates.

Only four crore tons of fodder is being produced annually against a demand of 13 crore tons for the country's 2.70 crore livestocks, he said. adding that high prices and black marketing of fodder and chicken feed had sent the

prices of milk and eggs up. The annual per capita egg consumption in Bangladesh is 22 against 280 in Europe and 450 in Israel. The country's dairy and poultry industries should be developed to a great extent to meet the huge pro-

tein deficit, he told newsmen. The federation leader said the government needs to take up a crash programme for selfsufficiency in milk by the year 2000. The country is producing seven to eight thousand tons of milk annually against a

demand of 22,000 tons. Alleging gross mismanagement and bribery in dairypoultry loan disbursement, he urged the government to supply low-cost fodder and medicine instead of money as loan. Loans can be given on the number of cattlehead, not the

asset of the dairy, he sug-

For proper distribution of loan, the government should establish a separate Livestock and Fisheries Bank by the next fiscal year, the federation suggested. It urged the government to allocate some Tk 100 crore in new budget for the development of dairy and poul-

try industries in the country. The government has to arrange supply of feed-fodder. medicine and vaccine at subsidised rates like India for overall development of the dairy and poultry industries, the federation said.

Explaining the high price of eggs, the federation leader said one kg poultry feed in India sells at Tk 4.50 against Tk 10 in Bangladesh. India is giving 40 per cent subsidy to the poultry industry. "So, if our government arranges similar facilities, we can export eggs

to India," he said. He also urged the government to withdraw tariff and freight charge on imported day-old chicks and poultry parent stock. Low cost electricity, transport facility and sales centre in every district should be ensured for the development of dairy and poultry

The federation also urged the government to stop bulk import of powdered milk and sought tariff protection through raising duty on imported milk products from 45

per cent to 70 per cent. Convenor of the federation Shah Alam and Shafiqul Islam were also present at the press

#### conference. Warrant against Nasreen

From Page 1 Col 8 lished in the Calcutta-based

daily 'The Statesman' on May Her statements immedi

ately sparked violent protests from conservative Muslims in the country.

Series of processions were brought out and rallies staged by the more extremist organisations demanding her arrest and punishment.

Md. Nurul Alam, Officer in-Charge of Motifheel police station, filed the case on behalf of the State.

When The Daily Star contacted OC Alam, he said, "I have instructions not to divulge any information on this



However, he admitted that till 10:30 pm last night he had not dispatched anyone to arrest Tasleema. But he gave no reason for the delay.

Alam, in his petition to the court, said Tasleema Nasreen, in an exclusive interview with The Statesman, had allegedly advocated changes in the Holy Quran. "I am not in favour of minor

changes of the Quran. It serves no purpose. The Quran should be revised thoroughly," the daily quoted her to have said.

When The Daily Star correspondents went to Nasreen's Shantinagar residence last night, the guard prevented the journalists from entering her 1/803 apartment, saying he has instructions not to let anybody in.

However, when contacted over telephone, Kamal, a person identifying himself as the elder brother of the writer, said: "We know nothing about the warrant. We do not know her whereabouts. She had gone out of her apartment as usual in the afternoon and had not returned as yet."

Sources said the controversial writer's car was seen hurriedly leaving her apartment complex after she was tipped of about the court order.

Meanwhile, more processions were brought out Saturday by Islamic groups near the Baitul Mukarram mosque.

They also held rallies charging Nasreen of blasphemy.

The government banned her novel "Lajja" last year on ground it had hurt the religious sentiments of the Muslims and evoked sharp criticisms across the country.

A religious leader in Sylhet even reportedly declared a cash reward for her death, for her anti-Islam writings.

However, the organisers later denied the declaration of any reward.

"Lajja" and several of her subsequent works earned Nasreen instant notoriety at home and abroad.

A number of articles about her also appeared in the international media, including the New York Times and Time

'Lajja' was later reproduced widely across India, except one of the states which proscribed all copies.

Following the threat against her life. Nasreen sought police protection, which was provided by the government.

Several international writers' groups and fora had appealed to the government to ensure her safety.

Meanwhile, a UNB report adds: One hundred and sixtytwo teachers of the Bangladesh Agriculture University (BAU) yesterday demanded exemplary punishment to Taslima Nasreen for her interview with an Indian newspaper suggesting revision of the Holy Quran.

In a joint statement to the press, they urged the government to enact a law against anti-religious activities.

The teachers said Nasreen had been hurting the religious feelings of the devout Muslims by giving statement against the Holy Quran as well as the independence and sovereignty of the country for a long time.

The signatories to the statement included former BAU Vice Chancellor and Professor of Soil Science Dr Md Zahurul Huq Bhuiyan, Vice President of the University Teachers' Association Dr Md Abdul Huq, and Dr Md Idris, Prof Md Abdus Sadek, Dr Md Tajul Islam, Dr Md Igbal Hossain, Dr Md Moinuddin, Prof M A Faruk, Dr Shafi Ahmed and Dr Abdul Hamid.

# **Environment Day today**

From Page 1 Col 8

Leader of the Opposition in the Parliament Sheikh Hasina in a message on the eve of the day, said gradual environmental imbalance has cast adverse impact on the people of Bangladesh and the world as

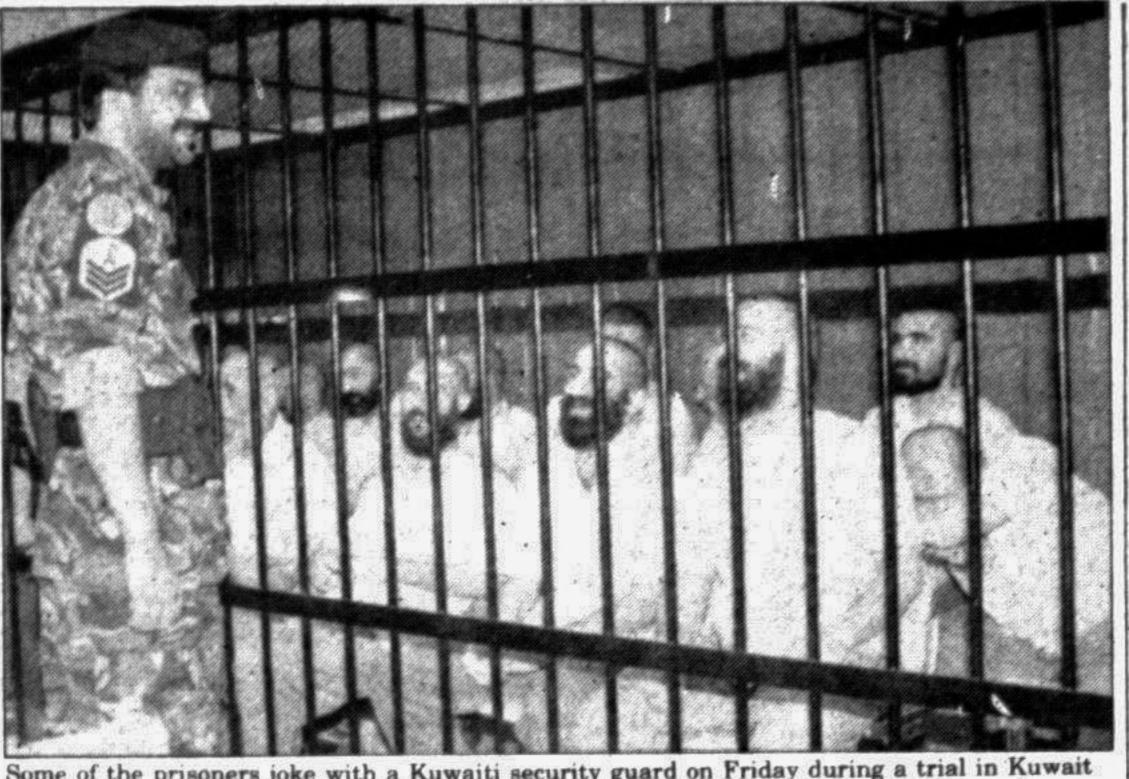
Various socio-cultural and non-government organisations and the Ministry of Environment have taken up elaborate programmes to observe the day. The programmes of the Environment Ministry include rally and colourful procession of children in the city at 7 am and distribution of national awards for tree.

Bangladesh 2000, a voluntary organisation, will hold a seminar on "Social Forestry

and Role of NGOs" in cooperation with the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) today at the conference room of the UNIC. Environment and Forest Minister Akbar Hossain will attend the function as chief guest while UNDP Resident Representative Eimi Watanabe will be present as a special guest.

National Association of UNESCO Clubs in Bangladesh and the Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO will jointly hold a discussion on "Environment and Education" at the Banbeis auditorium at Plassey-Nilkhet in the city at

10am today. Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali will attend the function as chief guest



Some of the prisoners joke with a Kuwaiti security guard on Friday during a trial in Kuwait in which five Iraqis and a Kuwaiti were sentenced to death for plotting to assassinate former - AFP photo US President George Bush in April 1993.

#### JS session

From Page 1 Col 5 leaders are scheduled to examine those at today's meeting.

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali has also been trying to bring the opposing camps closer to resolve the political impasse The result of his move cannot yet be termed positive, sources close to the Speaker said.

Meanwhile, the JS business advisory committee, which comprises members of both the treasury and the Opposition benches, is scheduled to meet at 11 this morning to decide the tenure of the budget session. The advisory body will also discuss the ma jor items on the agenda for discussion in the House during the session.

The Opposition members. barring Shamsuddoha of the Gano Forum, are unlikely to at tend today's meeting.

Shamsuddoha told this correspondent last night that he would attend the meeting. The Gano Forum leader, However, did not say whether he would also attend the Parliament proceedings during the budget session.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman is likely to place the national budget for fiscal 1994-95 on the ninth of this month.

The ruling Bangladesh Nationalist, Party (BNP) will hold a meeting of its parliamentary wing on June 11 while the largest Opposition in JS the Awami League (AL) is scheduled to hold its parliamentary party meeting tomor-

The Jativa Party (JP) and the Jamaat-e-Islami are yet to decide on the dates for meetings of their parliamentary

According to Parliament Secretariat sources, the members of the Opposition parties with the exception of the Jamaat, had not submitted any question to the secretariat. The BNP and Jamaat members have also submitted some notices to the Secretariat, to be disposed of during the budget session.

#### Parliament Sectt Commission

meets

The first meeting of the Parliament Secretariat Commission was held yesterday at the Sangsad Bhaban with its chairman, Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali, in the chair, reports UNB.

The commission was formed recently under Clause 7 of the Parliament Secretariat Act. 1994.

A number of decisions about the commission's method of work was taken at the meet-

Secretary of the Parliament Secretariat will be the ex-officio secretary of the commission and carry out all of its secretarial responsibilities.

### PM announces fellowships for advanced research

The government will provide funds to the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh (ASB) to award six national fellowships annually for encouraging researchers as well as promoting higher research activities in the country, reports UNB.

The fellowship, first of its kind, is styled "National Fellowship for Advanced Research". The governmentsponsored fellowship will be supervised by the ASB.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia made the announcement when a six-member delegation led by ASB President Prof Sirajul Islam called on her at PM office yesterday.

#### Water crisis

From Page 1 Col 7

porarily solve the problem, the source pointed out.

Other than the Sayedabad plant, the WASA has another project to install 130 deep tubewells in the city. But the implementation of both the projects are being delayed due to bureaucratic tangles, the source said.

#### Plot to kill Bush: Six sentenced to death shouted: "There is no justice.

KUWAIT. June 4: Five Iragis and one Kuwaiti were sentenced to death Saturday for the attempted assassination of former US President George Bush in April 1993, reports

A security court also sentenced seven Iraqis and Kuwaitis to prison terms ranging from six months to 12 years for their part in a plot the United States says was masterminded by Baghdad.

One Kuwaiti was acquitted by the non-jury court after a year long trial.

The six men sentenced to die "were a bunch of evil men sent by Iraq to wreak havoc in the good land of Kuwait, Judge Salah al-Fahd told reporters after the sentencing hearing.

All but one of the 14 defendants had pleaded innocent after they were arrested in April 1993 for plotting use a car bomb to kill Bush during a visit to Kuwait.

Prosecutors charged that most of the defendants were lraqi intelligence agents sent by Saddam Hussein's regime. Iraq has denied that

The defendants listened in silence as the judge delivered the sentences. But when he finished, the purported Iraqi ring leader. Raad al-Asadi leapt to his feet in the heavily guarded courtroom and

Kanani was only given a sixmonth sentence, but his son was one of those sentenced to Armed guards pounced on Kanani and dragged him from the cage to the cells as officials cleared the courtroom as it erupted in pandemonium.

After the sentencing, Iraqi

defendant Jabbar al-Kanani.

56. leapt to his feet and

punched al-Asadi in the face

inside the black iron cage in

which the defendants have sat

throughout the trial.

Black-clad relatives of Bader Jiyad al-Shimmiri, the 30year-old Kuwaiti sentenced to death, wailed in court as the sentence was read out. He had been arrested after an explosives-laden car was found on his property.

That vehicle, prosecutors contended, was to be used to blow up Bush, who had forged the US-led Gulf War coalition that drove Iraqi forces out of Kuwait in February 1991,

Kuwaiti security authorities foiled the plot by seizing the explosives one day before Bush arrived in Kuwait to be honoured for leading the coalition.

All the defendants found guilty are expected to appeal, a process that could take months.

#### High grade uranium reconnaissance surveys fol-

From Page 1 Col 7 was near completion and the working scientists gathered much experience in Uranium exploration.

Since the present government took interest in reviving the project, some scientists from the BAEC went to Japan under the scientists exchange programme between the Science and Technology Agency of Japan and the BAEC. Dr Eunus worked at the laboratories of Japan Power Reactor and Nuclear Fuel Development Corporation.

Chairman of the BAEC Engineer M A Quyuum told the seminar that the commission had already proposed for revival of the uranium and Thorium exploration project and it intends to conduct detailed survey in some potential and specific areas of the country with a view to discovering economic grade Uranium de-

During 1976 to 1986 the BAEC conducted preliminary

lowed by helicopter borne aerial and ground radiometric survey in some selected areas of greater Chittagong, Chittagong Hill Tracts and greater Sylhet districts. This resulted in the detection of Uranium occurrences in over 300 spots having radiation level upto 60 times the background level, according to information published in different scientific documents of the BAEC... Chemical analysis con-

ducted at the BAEC of the samples from Fultala indicated presence of high grade uranium ores while the mineralogical tests in Japan confirmed the discovery.

Neighbouring India has already discovered large deposits of uranium minerals in areas bordering Bangladesh especially in the eastern state of Meghalaya. They conducted detailed exploration for decades and now is in a position to extract them on commercial basis, sources said.

will popularise them among

the members of public and

make "their jobs easier, says

the plan. It emphasises creat-

ing public awareness about the

cleaning drive and role of the

acres of water bodies in the

city where mosquitoes breed,

an official quoted a survey re-

port as saying. Reduction of

these breeding grounds can

help control the mosquito

menace by 70 per cent, he

named, pointed out that if the

project failed to receive gov-

ernment approval, the

mosquito control plan would

be revised and implemented

Sylhet flood

From Page 1 Col 5

In Jakigani thana, at least

from the DCC's own funds.

The official, unwilling to be

There are more than 5,000

media in this regard.

#### DCC mosquito project torms for the DCC employees From Page 1 Col 7

species of fish can be culti-

vated for eradicating the larvae. The DCC can also earn from the sale of water hyacinth since it is now used for making paper pulp, the project planners suggest

In the mosquito control drive, 510 spraymen will work in the 90 wards while 23 employees will supervise the activities. Besides, 4800 cleaners of the DCC will be engaged in the programme. However, the number of personnel to do the job is inadequate in proportion to the population of the city, sources said adding, the Local Government Ministry had recently recruited 105 spraymen without the DCC's knowledge.

The PCP also calls for removing dual administrative responsibility in the planned mosquito control programme. The equipment, to be used

15 villages in Barohal, Kajai in the mosquito control drive include 700 hand spray ma-Shah, Biroshri and Jakiganj unions were inundated today. chines (of which 500 are now Road link between Gwainghat operative), 82 fogger machines thana headquarters and the (70 operative), three vehicledistrict headquarters remounted sprayers (used for mained snapped for the fourth larvacide spray in big swamps), day today due to the flood. and 90 power spray machines (only 20 operative).

The inoperative machines

will be repaired for smooth

implementation of the pro-

provided to the persons en-

gaged in the action. Such uni-

ject. Protective clothing will be

In Kanaighat thana, at least 20 villages of Laxmiprashad, Kanaighat and Barochotul unions have been badly affected. About 20 per cent of standing crops in Kanaighat have gone under water.

Awami League (AL) advisory

AL clarification

By Staff Correspondent

council member A S H K Sadique, in a clarification of a news item published on June 2. said the June 1 council meeting did not discuss the issue of a possible dialogue between the ruling party and the Opposition "the way The Daily Star published it".

The news item said, a leading member of the advisory council had proposed for a dialogue between the ruling party and the Opposition to work out a common formula for resolving the present political impasse. But others attending the meeting opposed the idea, and eventually the member who had proposed the dialogue, accepted the arguments of the

Last night, over telephone, Sadique described the news item as not reflecting the actual position. He, however, declined to disclose what advice the council proffered to the AL chief for ending the present political crisis.

#### Striking teachers gherao Comilla Board office

From Our Correspondent COMILLA, June 4: The striking non-government school and college teachers gheraoed the Comilla Education Board office for three hours today.

They withdrew the gherao when board officials assured them that further distribution of answer scripts of the SSC examinations would be withheld till June 11, they claimed. Nearly 2,000 teachers from

Comilla, Brahmanbaria, Chandpur, Noakhali, Sylhet, Habiganj and Chittagong gheraoed the board office from 10am to At one point, the striking

teachers harassed two examiners coming out of the board office with answer scripts. Later, it was announced at a meeting of the teachers that the board officials agreed to

withhold further distribution

of the answer scripts at a two-

hour long meeting with them.

#### Govt does n't want to keep AL, Jamaat outside JS

BNP standing committee member and Housing and Public Works Minister Rafiqui Islam Miah, Bar at Law, yesterday expressed the hope that as public representatives, the members of the Opposition would play their important role in the budget session on the Jatiya Sangsad beginning tomorrow, reports BSS.

The government is not thinking at this moment to activate the Jatiya Sangsad with the other political parties keeping the Awami League or the Jamaat-e-Islami outside, Rafig told German radio, Deutsche Welle in an interview broadcast Friday.

Replying to a question, Rafiq said as the majority party, the BNP was running the affairs of the state under parliamentary democracy. If the minority party wants to impose its viewpoint on the majority party, it would be against the rules and conventions of the parliamentary procedures.

Replying to another question, the minister said the BNP wanted to make Parliament effective.

#### Labour code

From Page 1 Col 4

The commission was composed of a Parliament member. eight owners' representatives, eight workers' representatives, six labour law experts and ten top government officials of the Joint Secretary rank.

The just-formulated draft labour law will be the first step in this regard since the formation of the Royal Commission on Labour Law in 1929 in the sub-continent. The commission began its

function in July 1992. A total of 44 labour laws adopted at different times were taken up by the commission for consideration. To felicitate formulation of

the law, the commission had constituted four committees who gave recommendations after reviewing the existing laws. Besides, eight teams had also been formed to conduct

areas and to elicit opinions from owners, workers and professional organisations. The commission also sent 500 questionnaires to individuals and institutions for mobil-

investigation in the industrial

ising public opinion. It formulated recommendations with the consensus of commission members and after spot survey, getting answers to questions, recommendations of committees and

discussions with the concerned professional groups and representatives. The commission held 33 meetings. The Labour Commission in its recommendations unified the laws into a code which, it

hoped, would be easier for the government to implement. It will also be easier for the owners and workers to abide by the laws.

# The Midnight File

#### 45 burned to death in Pakistan

HYDERABAD, Pakistan, June 4: Forty-five people, including 15 children, were burned to death today when a bus carrying 52 people caught fire in southern Pakistan. Police said fire broke out in the air-conditioning system of the bus and flames swept swiftly through the crowded vehicle, trapping many of the passengers in their seats. Only seven people, including the driver, were able to jump from the burning bus, police said reports Reuter.

#### Talks on Bosnia resume today

GENEVA. June 4: Delayed peace talks aimed at achieving a truce in Bosnia are set to resume here tomorrow morning. the UN's special envoy on the former Yugoslavia said today. A spokesman for Yasushi Akashi said the envoy hoped the talks involving all the warring parties would resume at 10:00 am (0800 GMT), reports AFP.

# ADAB cocerned at draft NGO law

By Staff Correspondent

The Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB) has demanded the immediate scrapping of a highlevel government committee assigned to prepare a new set of laws to control the activities of the country's NGOs as well as other private organisations.

ADAB leaders at a press conference in the capital vesterday termed the draft Bangladesh Voluntary Activities Regulation) Act. 1993 as "a black law" and said it was be ing prepared to stifle the on going development activities initiated by the private development organisations.

Chairperson of ADAB Khush Kabir ADAB Executive Director Rasheda K. Chowdhury.

### Biman

From Page 1 Col 4 about 180 aircraft (DC-10-30)

in a fleet, the letter said.

If you please ignore 'qualification of bidders' in the tender notice, you may find The letter, signed by a rethe world's leading airlines participating in the tender. the letter added.

When contacted, officials of

Biman's engineering, department refuted the contention of the letter and said 'We are expecting tough competition among nearly half a dozen bidders despite the new terms and conditions." "The maintenance rate may

come down - even below the present rate - because of the competition', a senior official Biman signed the agreement with Alitalia at a rate of

US dollars 1134 per flying hour for the year 1992, 1090 dollars for 1993 and 1144 dollar for 1994. It is alleged that Biman has incurred a loss of Tk 20 crore because of this 'over-rated contract' as the airlines has to pay only 999 dollar per flying hour for its fifth DC-10 aircraft

The fifth DC-10 was taken by

Biman from the manufacturer

McDonnell Douglas Company

on a three-year lease and the maintenance contract was singed between the manufacturer and Alitalia. "McDonnell Douglas is possibly paying less to Alitalia than what it is charging Biman," one source said on condition of

anonymity.

Grameen Bank founder Dr. Muhammad Yunus, Dr Abdullah Al-Muti Sharafuddin, Executive Director of Proshika Manobik Unnayan Sangstha. Dr. Kazi Farukh Ahmed and Director Mahbubul Karim, Jeffrey Pereira of the Caritas, Dr. Nasir Uddin, Executive Director of the Voluntary Health Services Society (VHSS) spoke at the

press conference. The government on April 7 last notified the draft Act in the Gazette. Several weeks later, a government press note announced that the draft laws were printed in the Gazette mistakenly". A two-member committee was even formed to ascertain how the draft had gone to press without approval

of the ministry or Parliament. Speaking at the press conference, leaders of the NGOs thanked the government for withdrawing the draft act from the gazette.

However, they expressed apprehension that the working group appointed by the Cabinet sub-committee which is studying the nature of laws to regulate voluntary activities in the country may still be influenced by the negative proposals in the original draft.

The draft act contradicted various declarations of the present government at different fora, they claimed. If the draft law were fi-

opment activities would not only limp, the whole development process would come to a virtuai standstill. Pointing to some of the salient features of the contro-

versial draft, the NGO leaders

said these contradicted some

nalised, the on-going devel-

of the fundamental rights ensured by the Constitution. The draft law provisions infringe Articles 31, 40 and 102 of the Constitution guarantee-

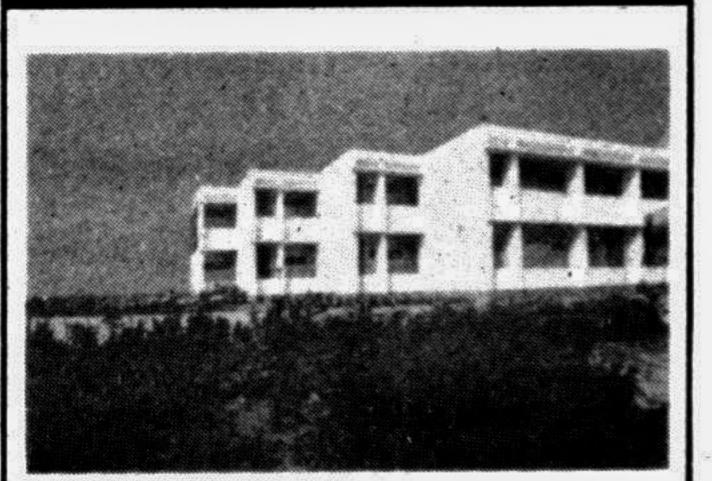
ing the rights to justice and freedom of occupation. Speakers at the press con-

ference demanded further easing of the existing laws relating to the activities of the voluntary organisations.

#### BCL (M-I) activist manhandled at DU

A group of unidentified youth beat up a Chhatra League (M-I) activist, Mithu, on the Dhaka University campus yes-

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