



The Dhaka University campus during the strike called by four student organisations to protest tuition fee-hike. The two-day strike ends today. — Star photo

Tuition fee issue DU authorities urged to accept demands of students

By JU Correspondent
At least 1500 students of Jahangirnagar University (JU) yesterday expressed solidarity with the students of Dhaka University (DU) who have been protesting the increase in tuition fees.

The JU students in a joint statement urged the DU authorities to accept the demands of students and called for immediate cancellation of its earlier decision to increase the tuition fees.

PARC exchanges views with NGO representatives

Chairman of the Public Administration Reforms Commission (PARC) ATM Shamsul Huq yesterday exchanged views with the NGO representatives at the conference room of the commission in the city, a PID handout said, reports BSS.

Shamsul Huq, during the discussion, presented the background of the commission and the history of its reforms. The NGO representatives mentioned the necessity of reforms in different levels and sectors in the administration.

The meeting stressed the need for reforms in local government, judiciary and police administration so that the common man doesn't become a victim of harassment.

The NGO representatives laid emphasis on providing proper training to the public servants. The meeting viewed that the training curricula should be updated for making the administration system people-oriented.

The NGO representatives assured of their cooperation about organising workshop or seminar at thana, district and national levels in order to invite opinions for creating awareness and reaching consensus on public administration reforms.

The NGO representatives also advised the commission for making arrangement to visit and monitor the offices of public importance by the representatives from the civil society for ensuring accountability.

President of ADAB Kazi Faruq Ahmed, vice-president of Proshika Mahbubul Karim, Director of Karibus Abdul Majid Mollik and coordinator of Nijera Kori Khushi Kabir were, among others, present in the meeting.

Nurses urge govt to rescind decision

By Staff Correspondent
Bangladesh Masters Graduate Nurses' Forum yesterday urged the government to rescind its recent decision to ban sending of nurses abroad. In a statement, yesterday, BMGNF said the decision will frustrate the move for equal rights of women and lead to the reduction of foreign exchange inflow.

The decision will also increase the unemployment of nurses. "Around 8295 nurses out of 16000 are employed in government service. At least 3000 nurses are waiting for employment while some 2300 nurses are provided with job abroad," it said.

The decision will jeopardise the future of nurses who come out every year and will be remain unemployed, it added.

Body of newly born baby found

By Staff Correspondent
A newly born baby was found dead beside a dustbin at Chamelbagh under Motijheel thana in the city yesterday morning.

Police said being informed by the local residents, they recovered the body from beside the dustbin near a laundry shop inside a lane in Chamelbagh area at about 8 am.

There was no marks of injury in the body which was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy, police said.

An unnatural death case was filed with Motijheel thana.

Kalaazar claims 10 lives in Jamalpur

JAMALPUR, July 26: The deadly disease Kalaazar in different thanas of the district claimed 10 lives and affected some 1,266 people during last one year, reports UNB.

An official of the District Health Department said hundreds of people in the district especially in Sarishabari, Maderganj, Melandah and sadar thanas have been suffering from the disease every year.

A total of 841 people were attacked in Maderganj thana during January 1997 to May 1998 when 63 in Sadar from May 1997 to April 1998, 109 in Melandah from January 1997 to April 1998 and 253 in Sarishabari thana from June 1995 to April 1998, he added.

The germs of the disease were found in 1,266 people in 29 unions of the district after examining their blood, he added. The DDT has been sprayed extensively in the affected areas and some 1,266 affected people were given treatment free of cost.

The most affected unions are: Balljuri, Charpakerdah, Kodaichura, Gunaritala, Zorkhali, Aderbitha and Siddhul in Maderganj thana and

Char Banipakuria, Shyampur, Nangla, Adra, Jhawgara, Ghosherpara, Fulkocha, Mahmudpur, Kulia, Durmuth and Nayanagar in Melandah thana. Satpoa, Bhatara, Mahadan, Awna, Pingna, Dowail, Pogaldigha and Kamrabad unions in Sarishabari thana and Sharifpur, Ranagachha and Shahbazpur unions in Sadar thana also have been affected by the disease.

The patients are being deprived of medicare due to lack of clinical equipment and preventives. There are no clinical equipment in the district to find out the germ of the fever although two tests — one AT test and the other DAT test — are necessary.

Three years ago, some preventives through ICODEV project of the Health Directorate at Mohakhali were imported from India which has already been exhausted.

It is almost impossible to buy 20 ampoules of injection for a poor patient which is being sold at Tk 800 in the local market.

A local physician said the dangerous disease is spreading by the sand-flies.

Leaders reiterate commitment to maintain law & order in CHT

RANGAMATI, July 26: Speakers at a rally reiterated their commitment to restore peace and maintain law and order unitedly through building confidence among the tribals and non-tribals in the district removing mistrust, reports BSS.

They also expressed their commitment to identify and locate the terrorists and hand them over to the law-enforcing agencies to protect the peace-loving people from insecurity and uncertainty.

The rally held yesterday evening at Reserve Bazaar Square was attended by leaders of all political parties, government officials and people from all walks of life.

Chairman of the Task Force on Tribal Refugee Rehabilitation Affairs, Dipankar Talukder, MP, was present as the chief guest with president of Rangamati Chamber of Commerce and Industries and Reserve Bazaar Committee for Law and Order, Kazi Nazrul Islam in the chair.

Chairman of Rangamati Hill District Local Government Council, Ching Kieu Roaza, Deputy Commissioner of the district, Shah Alam and Chairman of Rangamati Municipality, Mung Swapan Dewar attended the rally as special guests.

Dipankar told the rally that rehabilitation process of the internal refugees — both tribal and non-tribal — will begin soon with equal package of incentives, provided to the tribals repatriated from Indian state of Tripura. "The rehabilitation process of the repatriated tribal refugees is now at its last stage," he said.

"Normalcy and peace are the pre-conditions for implementing the sensitive issue like rehabilitation of both internal and repatriated refugees," chairman of the Task Force on Tribal Refugee Rehabilitation Affairs said.

"Giving up differences, we can sit together, all in time of necessity, both tribals and non-tribals. This is our tradition of Chittagong Hill Tracts, enriched with cultural diversity," Dipankar added.

Thanking the role of those from the civil society, who have helped round up terrorists and anti-peace elements at Langadu and sadar thana of the district, Ching Kieu Roaza, chairman of Rangamati Hill District Local Government Council, urged the audience to identify the bad elements and inform the authority for taking necessary action.

Chairman of the Privatization Board Kazi Zafarullah yesterday called upon the students to build themselves as worthy citizens of the country through acquiring proper knowledge, reports BSS.

Addressing the 1st batch students of Dhaka Commerce College at the orientation programme, Zafarullah said properly educated BBA graduates are the future leaders of the country's trade, commerce and industry.

Chairman of the college governing body Dr Shahiduddin Ahmed Siddique presided over the function while Vice-Chancellor of the National University Prof Aminul Islam attended as special guest.

Pro-Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Shahiduddin Ahmed, Prof Nurul Islam and Coordinator of BBA Programme Zakir Hossain, also spoke on the occasion.

Referring to the importance of computers in the future economic activities, the Privatization Board Chairman said the present government has boldly allowed free import of computers for accelerating growth in the information technology field. He called upon the students to play a leading role in this vital sector.

He praised the college authority for introducing BBA programme with a view to grooming the students' personality by providing a balanced study in the field of business and other related subjects.

16 polytechnic training instts to be set up this fiscal

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak yesterday said the government has plans to establish more than one vocational training institutes in each thana across the country, reports BSS.

During this fiscal year, a total of 16 polytechnic training institutes, including three for girls, will be established in the country, he said while addressing a discussion to mark the 13th annual conference and the 29th founding anniversary of the Bangladesh Polytechnic Teachers' Association at Tejgaon in the city.

Razzak stressed the need for technical and vocational training for the national development and said the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had realised the importance of technical education for overall development of the country and it was reflected in the Education Commission report made by Dr Kudrat-e-Khuda.

He said the present government has already got the education policy drafted in the light of Dr Kudrat-e-Khuda Commission.

He hoped that the proposed education policy, if implemented, would expand education side by side primary and mass education.

State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Prof Zinatunnesa Talukder also spoke at the meeting.

President of the Association Mohammad Sakhawat Hossain presided.

Experts at the concluding ceremony of a workshop on "Agricultural Reporting" said the use of IPM (Integrated Pest Management) method can help boost crop production, reports UNB.

As the use of pesticides in IPM method is comparatively lower, it can help check environmental pollution, they said.

Bangladesh Centre for Development Journalism and Communication (BCDJC) and Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) jointly organised the two-day workshop in collaboration with Novartis Bangladesh Limited.

Dr Shamsul Alam, and IPM training expert and former director of International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) presented the keynote paper titled "Issues for Crop Protection" at the workshop.

Speakers at the workshop said although the donor agencies working in Bangladesh, and the government have different IPM methods, but all the methods have a common characteristic.

The characteristic, they said, is that "not to use pesticide till other components of the method become effective to vanquish pest attack on the crops."

They said the IPM method is being used all over the world and the countries like Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam have done a miracle in bringing financial solvency adopting the method.

Stressing the need for massive campaign, they said the journalist community can play an important role in making the method popular among the farmers.

BARC Training Consultant Kazi Shaifuddin, Project Coordinator of Crop Diversification Programme (CDP) and Seed Industry Promotion Unit Maaten den Hertog, Executive Director of Novartis Sarwar Ahmed and BCDJC Executive Director Nayeemul Islam Khan spoke on the occasion.

Seventeen journalists from different national dailies, news agencies and other mass media took part at the workshop.

The minister assured the meeting of all possible help and assistance from the government, the handout said.

Mannan went round the building to see the condition of it and also visited Chittagong District Bar Association where he exchanged views with the lawyers.

In the afternoon, the minister visited ailing Awami League advisory member Abdul Hayat at his city residence, the handout added.

Boy found, sent to safe custody

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, July 26: A 10-year-old boy has been sent to the safe custody in the Sylhet Central Jail.

The boy who identified himself as Abdur Rahim, son of Kamal of Mirzaganj thana under Patuakhali district, told the police that he along with his father was going to his uncle's house in Dhaka. But he got separated from his father on the way.

However, the police could not verify his statements.

Sirajul Islam, a member of Moglabazar UP in Sylhet Sadar Thana, found the boy on July 14 and handed over the boy to the Kotwali police.

Death anniversary

The 6th anniversary of death of Md Salauddin Farooque, eldest son of late Md Sirajuddin, founder of Modhumita Group, will be observed today. He was the managing director of the Modhumita Group, says a press release.

On the occasion, a *milad mahfil* will be held today after Zohr prayers at his Dhanmondi residence.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the *milad*.

Database on all cabinet decisions of govts since '72

By Staff Correspondent
The cabinet division has prepared a database on the cabinet decisions of all governments since 1972, according to official sources.

Work on preparing the database was completed recently officials added. Software used for the database was prepared by the local scientists at a cost of about Tk 50 lakh, the sources noted.

The latest computer technology was used for the system and the records in the database were made in Bangla. The database has been prepared following a government decision made last year, sources said.

"The system has been installed at the cabinet division linking it with the Prime Minister's Secretariat," said a source involved with the project.

Asked whether the cabinet decisions of at least 20 years ago would now be made available for public consumption a source said, "no such law exists in the country to declassify government documents after a particular period."

PM's directive to undertake new projects for development of women, children

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs to undertake projects considering the needs of target groups for the overall development of women and children, reports UNB.

"Make proper assessment of the projects and work out pragmatic plan for making those more beneficial," she said while reviewing the activities of the ministry at the Bangladesh Secretariat in the city.

Emphasising the overall re-organisation of some projects for ensuring effectiveness, she instructed them to undertake new projects for the development of women and children.

The Prime Minister said the women, who constitute the half of the country's population, need to be empowered both in economically and educationally to steer the country towards progress.

If needed more financial allocation will be made for implementation of the on-going projects and undertaking new projects, she said.

"Our development partners are showing positive response to the development of social

sector like women and children affairs."

Hasina also stressed the need for providing training to the trainers to expand the training programmes at the grassroots level.

Referring to women and children trafficking, she said this issue was raised in the last SAARC summit in Male because a regional effort is needed for effective solution to the problem.

About the hostel of working women, she assured that another plot will be allotted in this regard.

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Dr Mozammel Hossain explained various activities of the ministry and said in 1972 the Bangabandhu government had constituted Women Rehabilitation Board, which was later transformed into a ministry.

Before this government, the activities of the ministry was confined to 22 districts and now expanded to all 64 districts, he said.

Describing various activities of the ministry, Women and Children Affairs Secretary Ab-

dullah Haron Pasha said 30 projects have been taken for the year 1998-99 involving Tk 69.80 crore, including Tk 30.71 crore as project aid.

Of the projects, six are new. These are an empowerment and development of women in Chittagong Hill Tracts region, construction of a women training institution at Bagerhat, capacity development for gender mainstream, development of poor women having no food security, and technical assistance for gender facility and institutional support of National Action Plan and support service for women training centres.

The 24 on-going projects include Begum Fazlatunnesa Training Academy, multi-sectoral projects to stop women repression and child trafficking and expansion of Shishu Academy to thana level.

The meeting was told that nearly two lakh women were provided vocational training under the poverty alleviation programmes and Tk 40.65 crore was sanctioned as loan for 1.05 crore trained women.

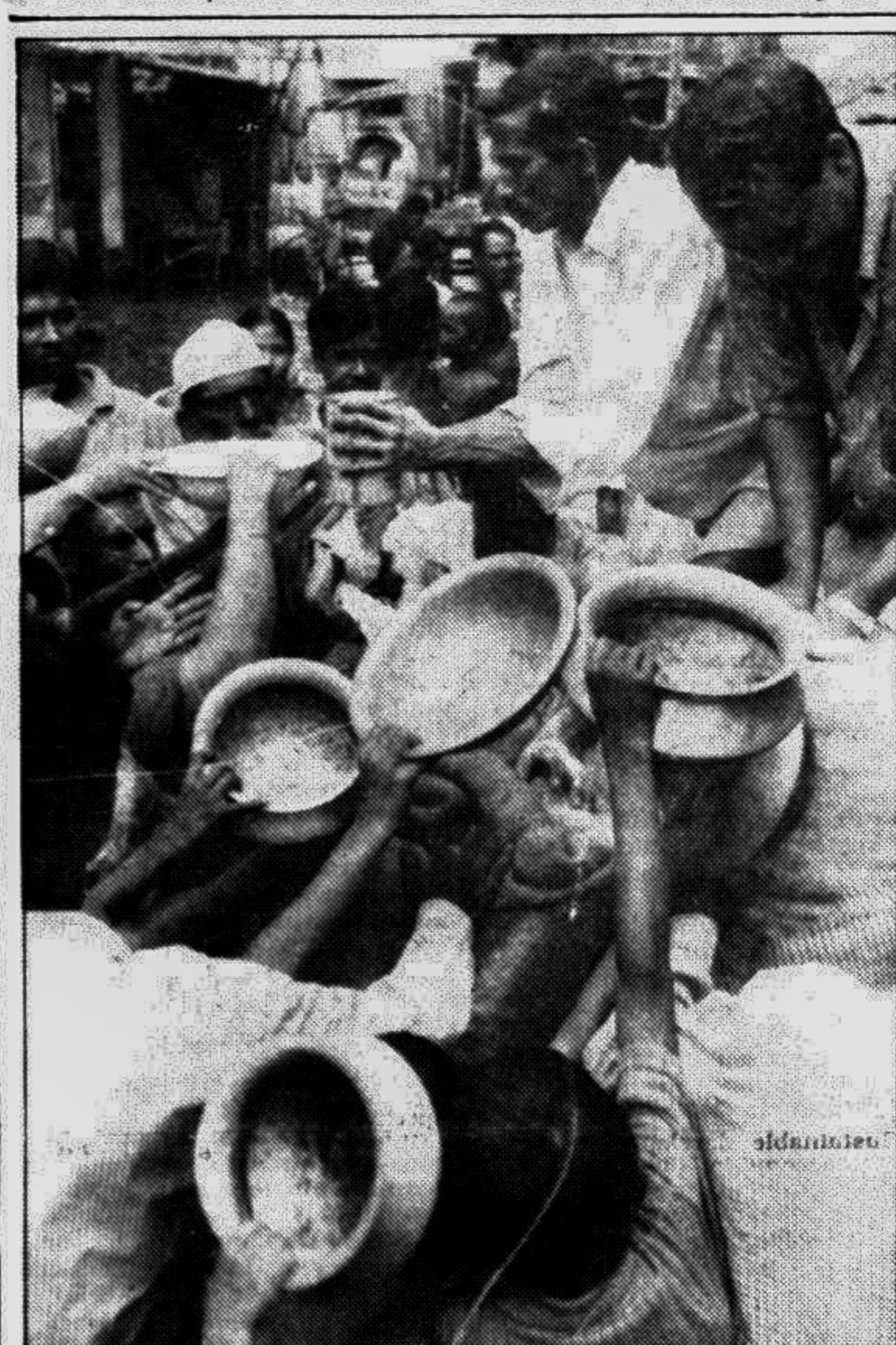
There is a special fund, the Prime Minister's Fund, for providing micro-credit to the distressed women, which was exhausted during the rule of previous government.

As she was informed that the loan could not yet be recovered, the Prime Minister directed to identify who provided the loan and to whom.

The meeting discussed the setting up of one-stop crisis centre for women for dispensation of the issues relating to women repression.

The centre would be set up comprising doctors, magistrates, policemen, social welfare officers, lawyers and other concerned people to provide all necessary service to the repressed women.

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr SA Samad, Member of the Planning Commission Kazi Shamsul Alam, Finance Secretary Dr Akbar Ali Khan, IED Secretary Saiful Islam, Planning Secretary Abdul Hamid Chowdhury, Secretary to the Prime Minister Zaki Akhtar Chowdhury and officials concerned were present at the meeting.



A large number of flood victims crowded around the workers of a social organisation when they started distribution of relief materials at Dhalpur in Demra thana. — Star photo

'IPM method can help boost crop production'

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CU female students submit memo to VC protesting tuition fee hike

From CU Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, July 26: Female students of the Chittagong University gheraed the Vice-Chancellor's office and submitted a memorandum to the VC today protesting the authorities' decision to raise tuition fee and other charges.

In the morning at least 300 female students staged a demonstration and held a rally on the campus. Speakers at the rally urged the university authorities to withdraw the decision regarding the hikes.

Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) also brought out a procession and held a meeting in front of the Administrative Building on the same issue.

Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) also brought out a procession in the campus and later held a rally in support of the demands of the general students.

HERE and THERE

Bangladesh Scouts
A 24-member Scout delegation left Dhaka for Hong Kong to attend the 19th Asia-Pacific Regional Scout Conference led by Manzoor Ul Karim, Chief National Commissioner, Bangladesh Scouts and Dr Shah Mohammed Farid, International Commissioner & Secretary, Ministry of Establishment, says a press release.

The conference was scheduled to be held on July 26 to 31. The other members of the delegation are: National Commissioner M Fazlur Rahman (Community Development & Health), Saiful Islam Khan, (Public Relations & Publications), Habibul Alam, Bir Pratik (Programme), Md Zainul Abedin, (Planning & Implementation), Afzal Hossain, (Extension Scouting), ABM Masudur Rahman, (Rules & Law) and others. Delegates from World Scout Organisation, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNDP, WHO will also attend the conference.

On the occasion Asia-Pacific Course for Leader Trainers was held in Hong Kong from July 19 to 24. Md Abul Hossain Sikder, Executive Secretary (Incharge) Bangladesh Scouts attended the course as trainer, while Md Sayedur Rahman, Secretary, Rover Region and Nurullah Masum attended as trainees.

Md Rafiqul Islam Khan, Deputy National Commissioner (Programme) attended the A-P Youth Forum held on July 22 to 24 as a facilitator while Rover Masuma Khanam Luna and Rover Saria Tasnim attended as participants.

BOU
A one-day training workshop of coordinators and tutors of diploma in youth development, certificate in livestock and poultry and certificate in pisciculture and fish processing programmes of BOU's School of Agriculture and Rural Development was held in the city yesterday, says a press release.

The Vice-Chancellor of the Bangladesh Open University Professor M Aminul Islam, who was the chief guest at the workshop said, the programmes launched by the School of Agriculture and Rural Development will play a vital role in creating self-employment among poverty stricken and unemployed people.

Presided over by the Dean of the school Dr AHM Faruque, the workshop was attended by 60 coordinators, tutors and representatives of BOU's Regional Resource Centers. Others who spoke at the workshop were Treasurer of the University Dr Anwar Hossain, Controller of Examination Md Wahiduzzaman, Director of Student Support Service Md Ayubur Rahman Sikdar and Consultant John Dekker.

BSCE
The annual general meeting of Bangladesh Society for Conservation of Environment was held on Saturday at the conference room of Bangladesh Shishu Academy, with its President Prof Abdullah Al-Haroon in the chair, says a press release.

A new Executive Committee of the Society was formed at the biennial election held at the end of the meeting for 1998-2000.

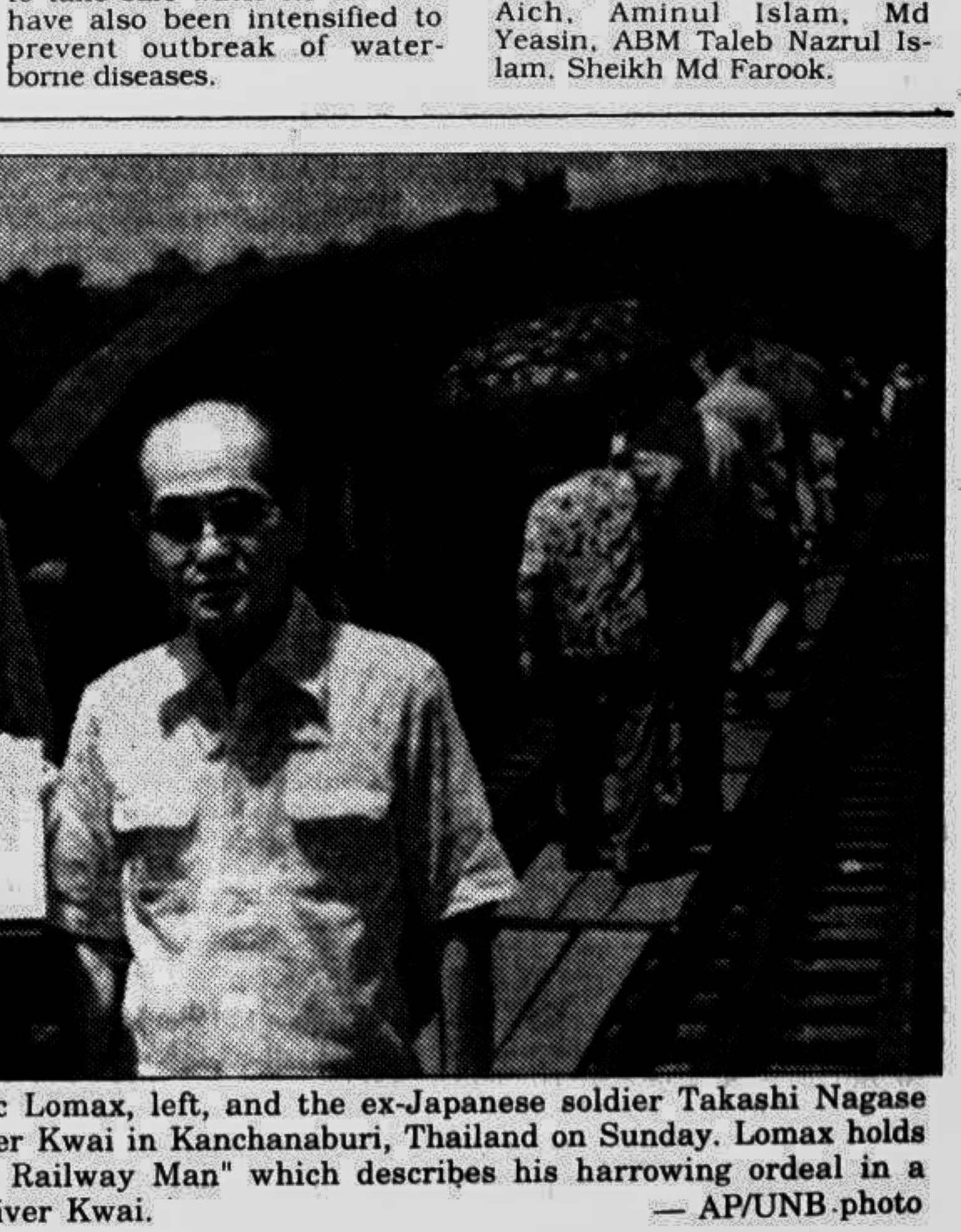
The office bearers of the new committee are: President — Prof Abdullah Al Haroon, vice-presidents — MG Kibria and Prof Khurshed Alam, general secretary — Advocate Ashraf Kamal, treasurer — Dr Khabiruddin Ahmed, organising secretary — Dr Anwar Hossain, press & publicity secretary — Dr Kalyan Kishore Deb Nath, legal affairs secretary — Advocate Subrato Chowdhury and Members — Prof MA Majid, Zahidul Haque, Abdur Rab, Nazrul Islam, MA Gofran, Monilal Aich, Aminul Islam, Md Yeasin, ABM Taleb Nazrul Islam, Sheikh Md Farook.

Gonoshasthaya Kendra
Gonoshasthaya Kendra (GK) has provided healthcare services and distributed food relief among the 10,200 flood-affected families in ten villages under Charpakkhimari and Belairchar unions of Sherpur district, says a GK press release.

The 4 GK medical teams have treated and distributed essential drugs and provided food relief to flood victims in Sherpur on July 21 to 25. Under healthcare services, the teams have treated patients of 389 diarrhoeal diseases, 309 dysentery, 170 viral fever, 41 children dehydrated, 99 ARI cases, 32 cough attacked patients, 20 injuries cases, and 10 patients suffering from severe headaches. Over 5,200 families have been given water purifying tablets.

Moreover, brisk preparations are ahead to raise the heads of all submerged tubewells in the flooded areas in cooperation with the DPHE authorities. With distribution of ORS packets, health education to take safe water for all uses have also been intensified to prevent outbreak of water-borne diseases.

British ex-prisoner of war Eric Lomax, left, and the ex-Japanese soldier Takashi Nagase stand on the bridge on the River Kwai in Kanchanaburi, Thailand on Sunday. Lomax holds a copy of his best-seller "The Railway Man" which describes his harrowing ordeal in a Japanese POW camp on the River Kwai.



British ex-prisoner of war Eric Lomax, left, and the ex-Japanese soldier Takashi Nagase stand on the bridge on the River Kwai in Kanchanaburi, Thailand on Sunday. Lomax holds a copy of his best-seller "The Railway Man" which describes his harrowing ordeal in a Japanese POW camp on the River Kwai. — AP/UNB photo