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Death of student

From Page 1

The minibus driver, identified as Mosharaf Hossain, escaped but police seized the vehicle.

The students also brought out a procession on the campus and gheraoed the Vice Chancellor's office demanding a ban on playing of all types of heavy vehicles on roads running through the campus.

Dhaka university students, under the banner of 'Sadharan Chhatra-Chhatra Parishad (SCCP)', had also staged demonstrations on Saturday and submitted a memorandum to the VC on the same demand.

Talking to The Daily Star last night DU VC Prof. A K Azad Chowdhury expressed deep sorrow over the incident and said that speed breakers and road dividers would be raised and more traffic posts set up on the roads running through the campus to stop recurrence of such incidents.

He also said, the university authorities will hold a meeting today with the Police Commissioner, DC (Traffic), DC (South) and other high officials in this regard.

The bodies were handed over to the family members after autopsy at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, hospital sources said.

AB Bank

From Page 1

Khan and three directors — Golam Halim, Jashimuddin Khan and Ashgar Karim — were served with notices under Section 17 of the Bank Company Act as requested by the IFIC Bank.

When asked, Managing Director Abdur Rahim Chowdhury said neither Khan nor any of the above mentioned directors had any irregular or defaulted loan with the bank.

He also said the bank's vice chairman, Ramzul Siraj, also does not have defaulted loans.

Moshed Khan, Chairman of Pacific Group, told The Daily Star that he does not have any overdue loan with AB Bank. He said IFIC has suddenly recalled all the loans given to him which were repayable by the year 2002. IFIC also did not mention any overdue amount in its letter to him.

Tajuddin

From Page 1

The then prime minister, the undisputed leader of Bangladesh and the supreme commander of the War, failed to make Tajuddin support his plans about the one-party system.

On at least two occasions in October 1974, the Bangabandhu tried, unsuccessfully, to convince Tajuddin whose arguments lay in his belief that the one-party state and the centralisation of powers in one hand were going to do more harm than good to the nation.

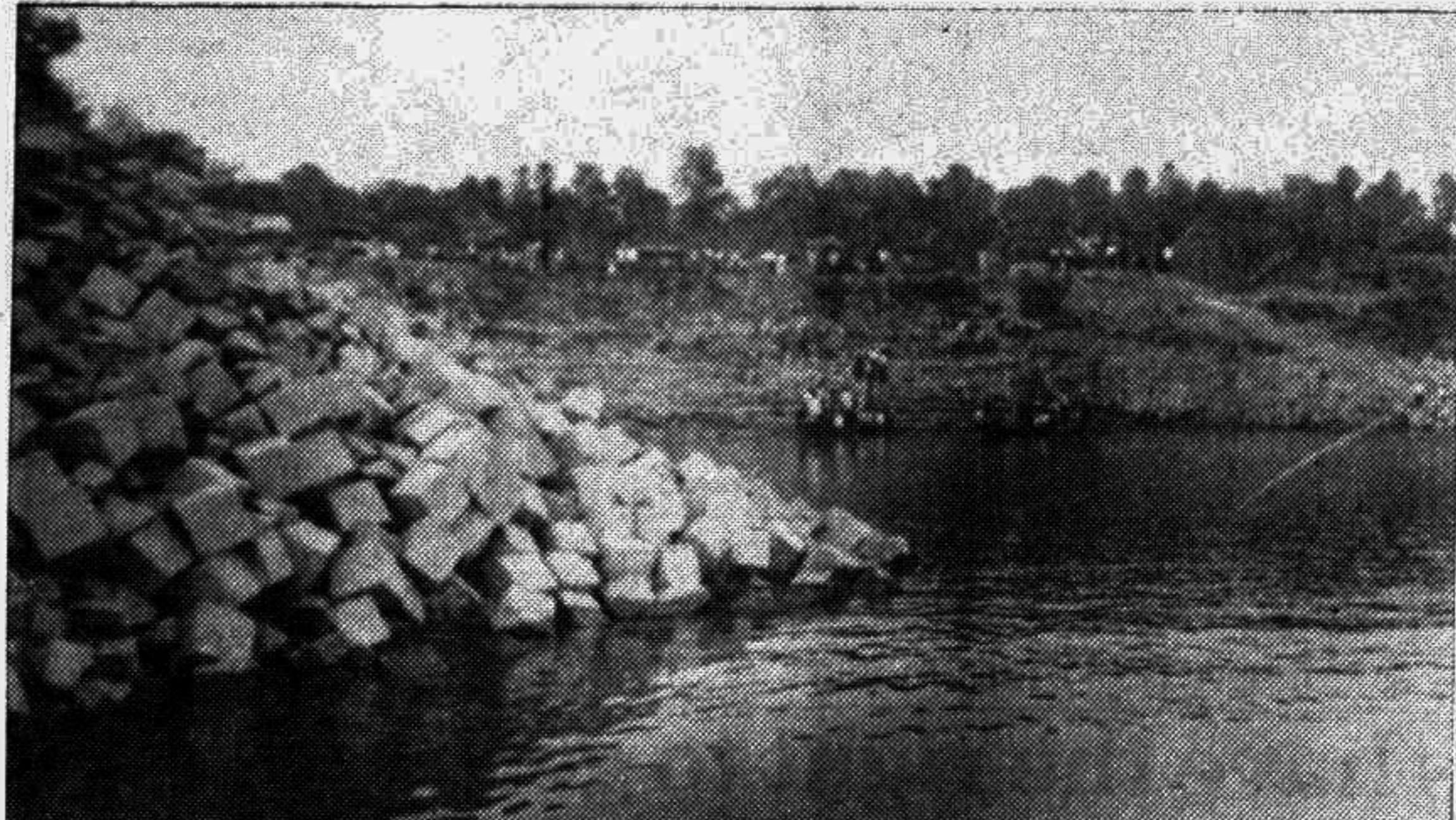
But the nation and the national interests were being defined in wholly different terms. The two failed to come to terms with each other on how to define the national interests.

Now that the man, who carried forward the tasks of the founding father in his absence during those nine months in 1971, is being remembered with respect, we see reasons to raise at least one question.

This nation had long neglected the founding father, but came back to recover from the nonchalance. Why not the other person, who in the absence of the Bangabandhu held everything together? Tajuddin, who led the Liberation War as the head of a helpless government in exile to victory, should now be given his due.

Tajuddin definitely deserves not to be rated as just another among many other actors in national history. He is -- surely and undisputedly -- one who towers as others save only Bangabandhu.

A mere Independence Day medal -- remember, winners include anti-heroes in those years of distortions -- for Tajuddin may have glorified the award itself but not the man who made Bangladesh possible in the absence of the supreme leader.



Rajshahi Town Protection Embankment, damaged by the floods last year. — Star photo

Flood protection dam unrepairs

Rajshahi city to remain under threat for another year

By Nurul Kabir, back from Rajshahi

The flood-damaged Rajshahi Town Protection Dam, presently the prime concern of Rajshahi city dwellers, is not going to be repaired completely before the next rainy season.

However, repair work of the more than half century old Dam, which was affected severely by last year's flood, is expected to be done before the rainy season.

During the last flood, river Padma was flowing 2 meters above the level of Rajshahi city, protected by the dam. In case of a flood of the last year's scale, the city will go under two metre

water, if the dam is not repaired. The city has population of about seven lakh.

Superintendent Engineer of Rajshahi WDB (Water Development Board) Anwar Hossain says the repair work will begin on May 7 and the 'most vulnerable' parts of the 17 km dam will be partially repaired by June 30 this year. By March 2000, the dam will be repaired completely.

The WDB has already floated 33 tenders and final decisions will be taken on the tenders on April 7, 1999, he said.

The WDB recently managed to get a Tk 28 crore project ap-

proved to repair certain parts of the embankment. The government earlier this month allocated Tk 10 crore for the project, which will be disbursed by June this year. Of the amount, Tk 8 crore will come from the World Bank as project aid and Tk 2 crore from the government.

According to the Superintendent Engineer, the devastating flood severely damaged both the 'heads' of the T-shaped groin and its I-shaped shank and partially damaged seven kilometres of the 17 km dam.

Due to emergence of more

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BMS identifies 'real' FFs, rivals call it 'conspiracy'

By Staff Correspondent

The Central Command Council of Bangladesh Mukti Joddha Sangsad (BMS) has identified a total of 1,17,160 'real' freedom fighters across the country in the first phase of its scrutinising programme.

This was disclosed yesterday at a press conference at the National Press Club. The BMS also said the programme taken up last year is likely to be completed before March 26. It aims to cross out 'rajakars' and free freedom fighters from the existing list.

In the existing list, there are more than 30 lakh freedom fighters. But of them, nearly 2,76,216 would be real freedom fighters and the rest are forged certificate holders, chairman of the council Abdul Ahad Chowdhury said.

He said those who have failed to include themselves in the list can appeal within April 26. The Appeal Board will consider their cases. The board has so far received 22,000 appeals, he added.

The chairman also said that about 100 'rajakars' were identified during programme and that the list of 'rajakars' would also be prepared.

Dr ABM Zafarullah, MA Rashed, Shah Alam Talukder, Md Anwar Hossain and Ismat Qadir Gama were among others who were present at the press briefing.

Meanwhile, Kendriya Samannaya Parishad (KSP), a rival faction of the BMS, yesterday rejected the programme and said it was a conspiracy to divide the freedom fighters.

At a press conference at the same venue just after the conference of the Central Command Council (CCC), it strongly demanded that the CCC's initiative to prepare the list of freedom fighters be stopped. "There is no need to prepare the list of

freedom fighters after 27 years of independence. What is necessary is to prepare a list of the killers and collaborators in 1971," said Sadek Ahmed Khan, Chief Coordinator of CCC.

To unite the freedom fighters, the KSP placed a nine-point demand to the government. They also announced that a rally would be held on April 10 at the Central Shaheed Minar to press home their demand.

The demands included establishment of a ministry of freedom fighters to look after rehabilitation of families of the martyred, setting up of a special tribunal to try Golam Azam and other war criminals, execution of the verdict of the People's Court (Gana Adalat), cancellation of political rights of all parties and persons opposed to the Liberation War and election of the Central Command Council through the elected councillors from the ward, village, union, thana and district units of BMS.

Sadek Ahmed Khan read out the written statement while Islaq Aziz Ulfat, Nasir Uddin Ahmed, Syed Rafiqul Islam (Bir Pratik) and Amir Hossain Molla was present, among others, at the conference.

Dacoity

By Staff Correspondent

Dacoits looted valuable and cash worth about Tk 40 lakh from a residence at Noorjahan Road under Mohammadpur thana in the city yesterday morning.

The incident took place at the residence of AT Mostafa Kamal Hindal of house number T2 at Noorjahan road.

According to police, a gang of dacoits numbering seven to eight entered the house at about 10:30 am and tied up the inmates at gun point.

The seminar styled as "Parliament and Good Governance: Towards a New Agenda for Strengthening Accountability in South Asia" was participated by lawmakers from Bangladesh, Pakistan and

Regional seminar sets agenda for civil society

By Staff Correspondent

A five-day regional seminar concluded at Gazipur yesterday, adopting a seven-point recommendation for strengthening the South Asian parliaments as key institutions for accountability and good governance.

Later on the day, the suggestions were presented at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

The demands included establishment of a ministry of freedom fighters to look after rehabilitation of families of the martyred, setting up of a special tribunal to try Golam Azam and other war criminals, execution of the verdict of the People's Court (Gana Adalat), cancellation of political rights of all parties and persons opposed to the Liberation War and election of the Central Command Council through the elected councillors from the ward, village, union, thana and district units of BMS.

Under a broad outline, the seminar suggested strengthening of parliament, civil society institutions and watchdog bodies, reforming electoral system and political parties, setting up anti-corruption agencies and making international financing institutions and donors more accountable.

For each of the seven areas, there were a number of recommendations which, the organisers said, would be shared with the relevant authorities in all the participating countries and any development in this regard would be followed up.

Transparency International, Bangladesh and Parliamentary Centre, Canada jointly organised the seminar in partnership with the World Bank and with support from the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the BRAC centre in Rajendrapur, Gazipur.

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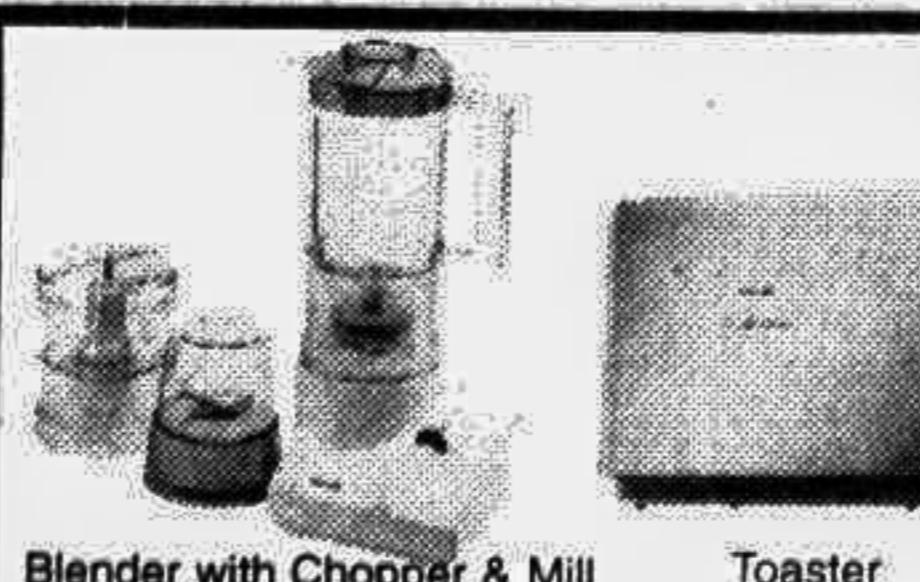
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Police, musclemen stop cattle traders on roads to collect tolls

By Staff Correspondent

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