

BIDS study says

Irregularities mar prospects of shrimp production farms

About 36 per cent of shrimp production farms in Bangladesh is not operating due to various reasons, says a recent study of BIDS, reports UNB.

Inadequate export orders, diversion of credit to other sectors, blacklisting by the importers for exporting shoddy products, unplanned and haphazard growth of the industry are among the reasons, it pointed out.

The study, titled "Technological Capability in the Shrimp Processing Sector in Bangladesh" was jointly conducted by Kazi Ali Foufoua, Research Fellow, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies and Abu Hena Reza Hasan, Assistant Professor of the Department of Management of Dhaka University.

Some of the shrimp processing plants started production with bank loan but could not survive, because either they could not sell their product of failed to buy fish. Many innocent, semi-literate people invested in this sector, but they met the same fate due to lack of experience, skill, untrustworthy partners or purchasing officers.

It is alleged that Bangladeshi exporters of shrimp receive lower price due to bad reputation for supplying products of dubious quality, prompting the European Union to impose a ban on shrimp imports from Bangladesh. The ban, coupled with subsequent fall of price in international market has led to poor performance in shrimp export from Bangladesh in the fiscal 1997-98.

Bangladesh exporters, however, have overcome the situation to some extent leading to EU to be convinced enough to withdraw their ban, and price in international market has

showed a slight rise.

The survey pinpointed that fraud was involved in grading, weighing and so on. Supplying products of highest quality is costly because of high supervisory and monitoring expenses.

Often exporters are undone when the scale-man or the purchase department does the cheating. As a result, importers blacklisted some shrimp-processing plants. These blacklisted companies are involved in the business again now having changed their names, registration numbers and product brands, the survey revealed.

Tons of shrimps are also purchased in the local purchase department and the same type of problem exists there as well. There are serious problems during buying from sellers of raw shrimp in the process of weighing and grading.

There is ample scope for mal-reporting by the purchasers appointed by the exporters as they can report of higher grade by purchasing the lower grade causing losses to the exporters.

This dishonesty is eventually passed on to the processing and packing stages where the large fish is placed on top and small ones at the bottom to apparently maintain the required number of shrimps is not maintained at all.

The study also says that Bangladesh exports about four per cent of the global exports of shrimps. Production of shrimp per hectare is slightly higher than that of Vietnam — the lowest exporter of shrimp. It is 33 per cent lower than the global average and it is about four per cent of the global best performer — China. Thus the gap between productivity of

Bangladesh shrimp production farms and the global average and the global best exporters is too large.

The productivity of the shrimp farms can be substantially improved by moving from traditional to semi-intensive and finally intensive production of shrimps. This is generally agreed by the producers and exporters of shrimps in Bangladesh.

Haroon Habib takes over as BSS Chief Editor

Haroon Habib, a valiant freedom fighter and Special Correspondent of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), yesterday took over the charge of the Managing Director and Chief Editor of the National News Agency, reports BSS.

Habib, who is currently the Chief Correspondent of BSS, was appointed the Managing Director and Chief Editor of the news agency in addition to his present position, a government notification said.

He replaces Hussain-Uz-Zaman Chowdhury.

A senior journalist and litterateur, whose most creative works are on the country's glorious war of liberation, Haroon Habib was among those Freedom Fighters who joined the profession in 1972. He was also the War Correspondent of the Sector Eleven of the War of Liberation in 1971. Habib did his Masters in Journalism from the University of Dhaka.

A well-known litterateur and columnist Habib has also been working as Bangladesh Correspondent of the prestigious Indian English daily, The Hindu, and German Radio and Television Deutsche Welle.

RMC classes resume tomorrow

RAJSHAHI, Apr 26: Classes at Rajshahi Medical College (RMC) will resume on Wednesday, reports APB.

Dormitories of the college will be re-opened for students tomorrow, authorities said in a press release yesterday.

The decision to re-open the college was taken at a meeting of its Academic Council on April 22. The meeting was chaired by Principal of the college Prof Shaiful Rahman.

The college was closed since die following a clash between activists of Awami League backed Chhatra League and BNP backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal.

10 vehicles damaged in Tejgaon

By Staff Correspondent

At least ten motor vehicles were damaged during a clash between transport workers and a group of students near the Shat Rastar More under Tejgaon thana in the city on Sunday, according to witnesses.

Tejgaon police said the incident took place when the students of a number of nearby educational institutions began painting the head light of motor vehicles approaching the area black at around 11 am.

The students had an altercation with some transport workers of the Tejgaon truck stand. Both the groups locked in a chase after each other and hurled bricks. At one stage the feuding parties damaged the motor vehicles, witnesses and locals said.

Yesterday was the first day of a week-long Traffic Awareness Campaign. When contacted last night an official of police said, "It was not a part of our campaign, it was an isolated incident."

Tejgaon police, however, denied that any motor vehicle was damaged in the incident. No case was lodged and no one was arrested in this connection till last night.

JCD calls for strike in all edn institutions Thursday

By Staff Correspondent

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) has called a day-long strike in all the educational institutions across the country on Thursday protesting Sunday's attack on a JCD procession which left at least 15 of their activists injured.

JCD will also stage demonstrations and bring out protest rallies in educational institutions tomorrow to protest the attack which followed after their procession towards Prime Minister's office was stopped by police at Bangla Motor crossing Sunday noon.

JCD leaders announced the programmes at a rally at the Mukhtangan near Paltan crossing yesterday evening. Addressing the rally, leaders blasted the government for unleashing terror and repression on opposition forces. They also asked the government to immediately step down for its failure to handle law and order situation for frequent looting and price hike of essentials.

Among others, JCD president Habib-un-Nabi Sohel, general secretary Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu and student affairs secretary of the opposition BNP Amanullah Aman MP addressed the rally.

Following the rally, JCD also brought out a procession from the Mukhtangan which ended at BNP's central office in Naya Paltan. A huge contingent of riot police were seen covering the procession but no untoward incident was reported.

The pro-BNP JCD procession came under attack while marching towards the Prime Minister's office on Sunday to lay a siege there to press home their 12-point demands which include reduction of tuition fees, elimination of terrorism from campuses and punishment of persons responsible for the rapes at Jahangirnagar University.

The attack was reportedly led by a ruling party backed Jubo League leader Liaqat Hossain.

Prize giving ceremony of NSU held

The certificate giving ceremony of English for General Purposes (EGP) of North South University was held recently, says a press release.

Professor Hafiz G A Siddiqi, NSU Pro-Vice Chancellor, said at the ceremony that learning English language is essential to pursue higher education today. He said it opens up a whole new world of knowledge as English is the common medium of expression in the world.

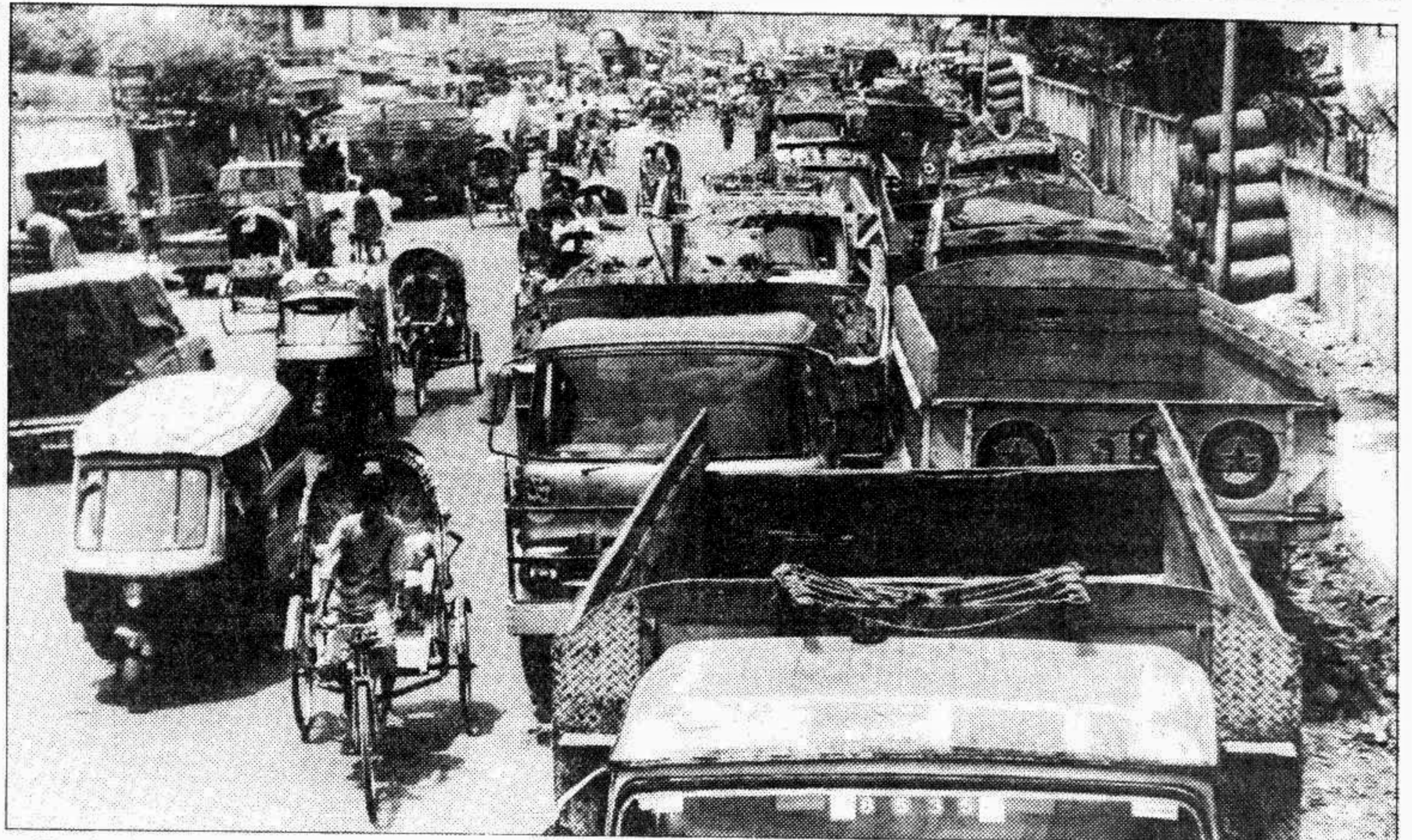
Professor Khaliquzzaman, Chair, NSU English Department also spoke on occasion. Professor Siddiqi gave away certificates to 17 participants who successfully completed the course.

Death anniversary

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Apr 26: The 26th death anniversary of Mohammad Sabder Ali, founder Managing Director of Hotel Agrabad, will be observed tomorrow.

In this connection *milad mahfil* and *fateha* will be held for the salvation of his departed soul, a press release issued here said.



Trucks line up in a double row on the road in Chankhar Pool area of the city regularly causing sufferings to the pedestrians. — Star photo

What's on today . . .

- Discussion meeting:** Discussion meeting, *quran-khwan* and *milad mahfil* will be held to mark the 37th death anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla A K Fazul Huq. Organisers Bangladesh Jatiya Bekittita Gobeshana Kendra jointly with Sher-e-Bangla Jatiya Samiti Sangsad. Chief Guest: Abdus Samad Azad, Minister for Foreign Affairs. Venue: Sher-e-Bangla Mazad premises. Time: 8.00 am.
- Press conference:** International Jute Council (IJC) will hold a press conference to brief about the outcome of the 27th session of IJC. Venue: Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 12.00 noon.
- Film show:** Three films by Stanley Kubrick will be screened on the concluding day of the retrospective on Stanley Kubrick. Organisers: Zahir Raihan Film Society in collaboration with Goethe-Institut, Dhaka. Venue: Goethe Institut, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 2001: *A Space Odyssey* — 3.00 pm, *Full Metal Jacket* — 5.15 pm and *A Clockwork Orange*: 7.15 pm.
- Meeting:** A meeting of the Dhaka University registered graduates nat'l organisation Gonotantik Oikkyo Parisad will be held. Venue: TSC cafeteria on DU campus. Time: 4.00 pm.

Kader Siddiqui hints

From page 1

"We don't want power. But Bangladesh, that we achieved, has to be run at the desire of freedom fighters," Siddiqui said.

He announced the structure of the organisation that he said would not be an alternative to Muktiyoddha Sangsad, which did nothing for freedom fighters. It will be formed after his cross-country tour over the next three months.

"If you want, it'll be. It's not designed to confirm my ministerial job. Had I wanted to be a minister, I could be during Khaleda and Ershad regimes. And it's a matter of a couple of days to be a minister in Hasina's cabinet," he said.

Said Kader Siddiqui: "I can assure you that I'll never be a minister of Sheikh Hasina. I want that every freedom fighter should be a minister. I want out of 330 MPs, 280 should be from among the freedom fighters."

If the majority MPs in parliament were freedom fighters, the situation could not be like present times. "But I'm to sit in parliament with the people who became ministers after the killing of Bangabandhu," the ruling party lawmaker said.

He was also critical about not holding the trial of killers of Bangabandhu in special tribunal.

"Justice delayed, justice denied — will it not be like this? If Awami League doesn't remain in power when the formalities in High Court, Supreme Court will go on for the execution of the verdict, won't the killers come out of the jail like Golam Azam?"

He said the killers have been tried. "Why not the plotters?"

Kader Siddiqui said: "Bangabandhu is my founder. I'm an Awami Leaguer. But there are many limitations in my party."

Declaring that he would try to remove the limitations, the valiant warrior further said he doesn't want to be a lackey of ruling Awami League or main opposition BNP as well as of the Jatiya Party.

"I never left Awami League for a single day. But my exchange of Eid greetings with Begum Khaleda Zia was highly criticised," he regretted. "But they held meeting with war criminal Golam Azam for power."

About the mock trial of Golam Azam in a "people's court" on March 26, 1992, Kader Siddiqui questioned the honesty of its organisers. "People didn't want to hear the verdict that Golam Azam's crime deserve death penalty."

"I was at 29, Minto Road that day. I saw the activities there as well as the fear of Jahannara Imam and Hasan Imam. Many had promised to bring lakhs of people, but they failed and ordinary people joined it."

He said: "In fact, the trial was a conspiracy to provide citizenship to Golam Azam... citizenship was not the vital question for the people. They accused Golam Azam of killing, atrocities and repression on women in 1971."

The verdict of the people's court was not executed during the BNP regime. But why not now?"

In this regard, Siddiqui mentioned the execution of four war criminals by his own hands on December 18, 1971 at Paltan in Dhaka. "For this, I was the first man against whom a warrant was issued in independent Bangladesh."

He also blamed the leaders of

BCS (Special) exam results

The candidates bearing the following roll numbers have been selected (provisionally) in the 19th BCS (Special) Exam 1998, says a press release.

00473	00509	00300	00059	00179	00270	00482	00451	00167	00507
00180	00196	00181	00465	00480	00258	00476	00376	00090	00214
00467	00245	00479	00085	00055	00220	00423	00463	00215	00377
00432	00453	00371	00207	00501	00478	00319	00218	00358	00089
00469	00272	00112	00505	00072	00206	00190	00038	00379	00267
00349	00017	00341	00241	00263	00279	00288	00291	00504	00023
00461	00008	00510	00175	00484	00499	00326	00406	00399	00131
00458	00455	00407	00280	00254	00475	00252	00174	00031	00283
00464	00129	00346	00163	00193	00265	00351	00416	00460	00365
00255	00388	00106	00419	00355	00454	00260	00273	00152	00452
00468	00332	00002	00205	00203	00345	00227	00096	00429	00079
00219	00013	00325	00261	00250	00389	00354	00370	00226	00014
00411	00335	00395	00457	00380	00146	00514	00316	00054	00200
00228	00334	00253	00095	00380	00303	00007	00194	00302	00066
00368	00361	00149	00269	00067	00195	00224	00242	00212	00264
00442	00443	00165	00415	00318	00209	00005	00440	00402	00044
00357	00356	00238	00323	00294	00422	00010	00139	00498	00369
00108	00150	00247	00185	00336	00132	00259	00197	00309	00160
00414	00088	00409	00074	00342	00217	00069	00352	00221	00275
00024	00385	00428	00159	00239	00420	00176	00016	00299	00483
00032	00042	00231	00062	00035	00232	00251	00338	00262	00372
00184	00223	00147	00410	00500	00157	00237	00206	00056	00000
00397	00199	00143	00161	00348	00155	00103	00050	00506	00435
00204	00158	00070	00282	00022	00092	00113	00471	00503	00502
00249	00236	00364	00225	00300	00043	00436	00298	00340	00141
00350	00063	00295	00392	00472	00271	00037	00116	00430	00061
00459	00068	00268	00053	00386	00408	00266	00308	00382	00390
00191	00387	00448	00297	00274	00421	00077	00477	00292	00154
00171	00177	00404	00102	00314	00029	00311	00121	00125	00003
00093	00127	00439	00115	00433	00324	00136	00447	00481	00135
00078	00339	00240	00244	00028	00178	00083	00434	00400	00187
00424	00456	00020	00011	00466	00391	00362	00293	00233	00133
00418	00229	00091	00444	00001	00320	00353	00034	00513	00307
00080	00511	00153	00166	00075	00156	00425	00413	00006	00168
00441	00277	00312	00018	00333	00437	00230	00243	00284	00401
00470	00052	00189	00486	00122	00366	00512	00162	00104	00170
00144	00403	00210	00488	00211	00234	00221	00076	00064	00301
00030	00496	00040	00026	00462	00114	00276	00009	00099	00427
00378	00375	00317	00110	00128	00310	00306	00046	00222	00051
00173	00331	00360	00287	00060	00263	00182	00449	00202	00188
00216	00036	00004	00065	00124	00246	00257	00248	00381	00285
00497	00048	00367	00393	00322	00027	00057	00100	00304	00119
00286	00087	00445	00033	00126	00172	00344	00049	00019	00327
00417	00045	00296	00145	00450	00169	00041	00235	00198	00383
00015	00047	00039	00183	00508	00213	00396	00305	00426	00120
00474	00495	00431	00289	00256	00373	00117	00084	00111	00081
00082	00374	00192	00328	00025	00012	00094	00104	00186	00489
00290	00142	00313	00101	00493	= ৪৭৫ জন।				

Livestock

00852	00856	00702	00872	00889	00632	00919	00835	00647	00770
00899	00726	00883	00650	00712	00699	00785	00927	00912	00701
00644	00642	00654	00715	00822	00830	00863	00827	00772	00709
00695	00799	00873	00646	00742	00812	00651	00866	00905	00811
00817	00870	00807	00710	00837	00833	00926	00698	00931	00690
00882	00910	00888	00641	00850	00720	00908	00660	00928	00673
00655	00621	00666	00903	00796	00725	00906	00711	00777	00759
00884	00847	00663	00920	00865	00752	00824	00776	00881	00694

JP (Mizan-Manju) announce names of presidium members

By Special Correspondent

The Jatiya Party (Mizan-Manju) has announced the names of members of the Presidium, Vice-chairman, Secretariat and Central Committee at the end of its council meeting on April 23 and 24 which contains the names of 14 JP MPs out of 33 MPs belonging to the undivided party.

Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and Anwar Hossain Manju, Communications Minister were elected as Chairman and Secretary General of the party. The Presidium consists of Sardar Amzad Hossain, Sheikh Shahidul Islam, Tajul Islam Chowdhury, MP, Advocate Fazole Rabbi, MP, Begum Zinat Hossain, MP, Saad Tareque, Sharfuddin Ahmed Jhantu, MP, Advocate AKM Shamsul Huda, Begum Kamrunnahar Zafar, Abdul Rahim, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, MP, Shah Rafiqul Bari Chowdhury, Asadul Huq Khasru and Abdul Bari Warsi. Vice-chairman includes Ahsan Ahmed, MP, and Nur Mohammad MP. Besides the Working Committee members include Begum Tasmina Hossain, MP, Golam Hossain, MP, Shahadat Hossain, MP, Zainal Abedin, MP, Lutfar Rahman, MP, Mostafizur Rahman, MP. Another MP Goma Faruq Ovi has been made the International Affairs Secretary, according to a press release.

Confce on migrant workers begins

By DU Correspondent

A two-day long conference on "Temporary Migrant Workers of Bangladesh: Towards Developing a National Plan of Action" began yesterday at the CIRPAD auditorium in the city.

The programme was jointly organised by the Refugee and Migrant Workers Research Unit (RMMRU) and Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) in co-operation with American Centre for International Labour Solidarity (Solidarity Centre) and International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

Prof A K Azad Chowdhury, Vice Chancellor of the Dhaka University, presided the inaugural session, while Abul Ahsan Chowdhury MP, State Minister for Foreign Affairs addressed the programme as the chief guest.

William Conclin and Greg Schulze of the Solidarity Centre presented the welcome speech and Dr Tasneem Siddiqui, Advocate Fawzia Karim and David Whitley delivered speech on the conference theme.

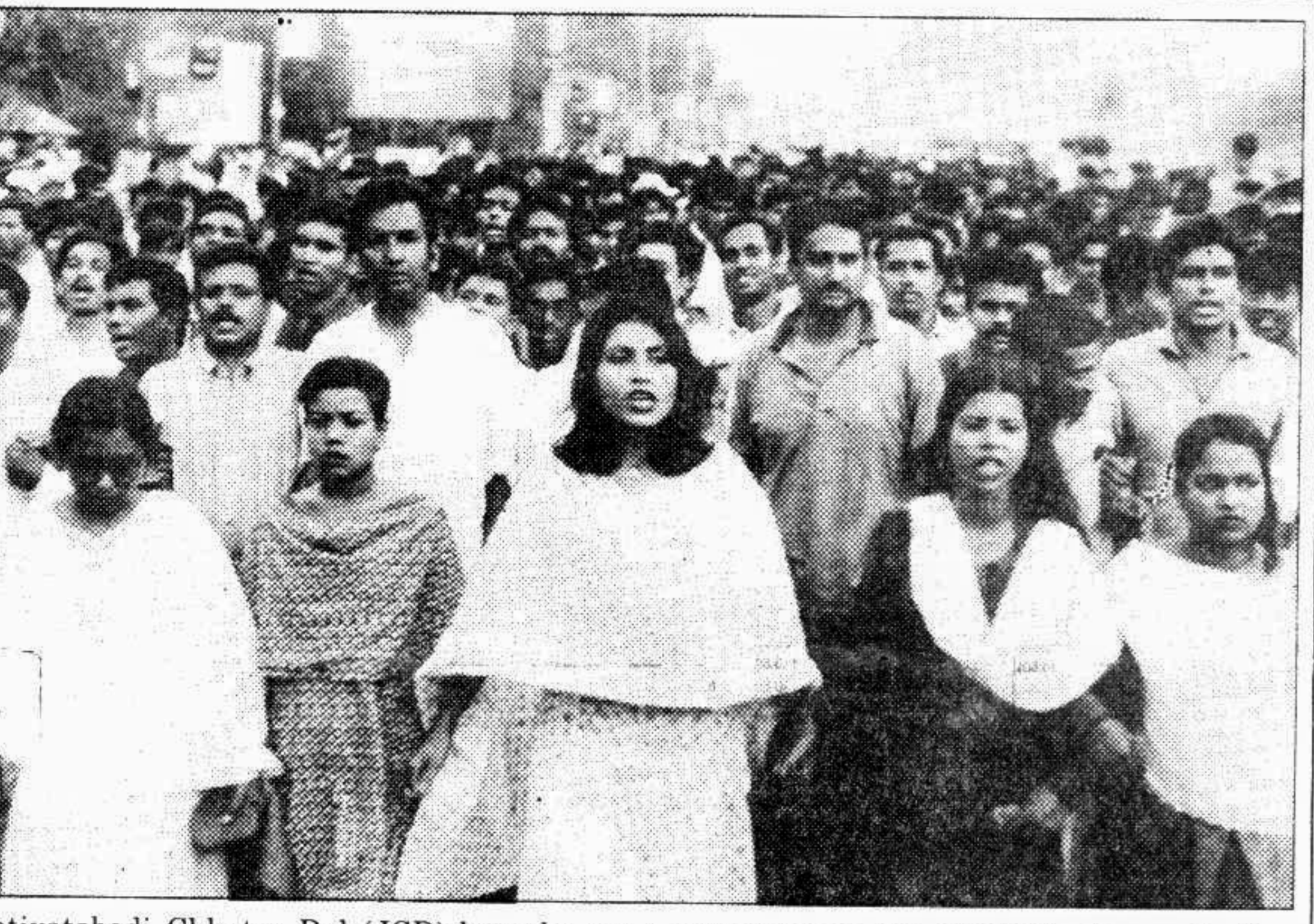
Several papers were presented at the working session of the programme which included "Effective Use of Remittance of Migrant Workers" by Dr O.K. Ahmed, "Protection and Welfare of the Bangladesh Migrant Workers in Malaysia" by Irene Fernandez, "Factors Contributing to Vulnerability of Migrant Workers in the Gulf Region" by Dr Nasra Shah, "Women Migrant Workers: The Bangladesh Situation. A Few Case Studies" by Advocate Zebunnesa Rahman and Fawzia Karim Firoze and Welfare Programmes in Sri Lanka" for the Families of Women Migrant Workers and Incentives for Registering with Overseas Missions" by Dr Rita Afsar.

Death condoled

The President and members of the Association of Former Foreign Service Officers of Bangladesh express profound sorrow at the sad and untimely demise of former foreign secretary Nazrul Islam, says a press release.

Indian sarees seized

A Customs surveillance team seized a truck loaded with Indian sarees worth about Tk 27 lakh from the city's Balda garden areas Sunday night, reports UNB.



Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting the attack on JCD procession at Bangla Motor area on Sunday. —Star photo

New laws to speed up investigations demanded

By Staff Correspondent

A total of 117 university teachers, political leaders and activist in a joint statement yesterday demanded enacting laws for quick investigation and speedy trial of cases relating to sexual abuse.

Demanding immediate implementation of the proposed Women and Children Repression Act, the statement also urged the government to ensure workers' rights of being united and enacting rules against sexual repression at the work places and educational institutions.

Probe body to investigate BUET students' agitation

A six-member academic probe body constituted by Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) will investigate the untoward student agitation that occurred in the campus last night, BUET officials told BSS tonight, reports BSS.

The decision came following an emergency meeting in the Vice-Chancellor's office yesterday. Professor Noor Uddin Ahmed, VC of BUET, chaired the meeting attended, among others, by Deans, Departmental heads and senior faculty members.

Meanwhile, a release issued by the Public Relations Department of BUET said agitating students damaged campus properties worth some lakhs of Taka between 10-30 pm and 11.30 pm last (Sunday) night.

The release said the unruly and violent students also damaged the car of Professor Dr AKM Abdul Kader of Chemical Engineering Department while he was returning home with members of his family.

"Wife of Dr Kader received injuries from broken glass," the BUET release said adding "The Council Building, Department of Civil Engineering, Architecture Faculty Building EME Bhaban, library, central cafeteria and other buildings were damaged by the agitating students."

Referring to the cause behind the agitation, BUET sources told the agency, "A senior faculty member of Civil Engineering Department awarded academic punishment to a second year student when he unlawfully appeared on behalf of his course mate to help her in the class test."

The BUET PR release, pointing to the incident, said, "The class teacher informed the university authorities of the incident when the said student unlawfully submitted his paper using the name of his course mate."

Reviewing the incident, BUET authorities took academic disciplinary action against the student, the release said.

"BUET suspended the student from academic activities for two years but considering a prayer from the concerned student the punishment was reduced to one year," the release said.

Death anniversary

The fifteenth death anniversary of Khan Sahib A F Md Nurullah, former MPA and parliamentary secretary will be observed at his village home at Kuliarchar under Kishoreganj district today, says a press release.

Milad mahfil,