

What's on today....

**BMA discussion:** Bangladesh Medical Association has organised a discussion meeting to mark the 54th anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombing. Chief guest: Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad. Venue: Poet Begum Sufia Kamal auditorium, National Museum. Time: 11 am.

..... and tomorrow

**ADAB workshop:** The Department of Environment (DOE), Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB) and Coalition of Environmental NGOs (CEN) have jointly organised a national workshop on "Coastal and Wetland Biodiversity Management Project." Chief guest: Minister for Environment and Forest Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury. Venue: LGED auditorium (Level-2), LGED Bhaban, Agargaon. Time: 9:30 am.

**ASK, BLAST memorial meet:** Ain O Salish Kendro and Bangladesh Legal Services Trust have organised a memorial meeting on Dr Neelan Tiruchelvam, a valiant human rights activist who was killed in a suicide bombing in Colombo on July 29. Venue: CIRDAPE Centre, Chameli House, Tophkhana Road. Time: 4:30 pm.

**SB College orientation programme:** The orientation programme of BBA Second Batch of SB College of Business Administration will be held. Chief guest: Abdul Awal Mintoo, President, FBCCI. Venue: German Cultural Centre, Road No: 9, Dhaimondin. Time: 4 pm.

**SSA meet:** Sammilita Samajik Andolon has organised a meeting to exchange views with various socio-cultural organisations on human rights situation. Venue: Lounge of National Press Club. Time: 4:30 pm.

**Awami Sechhasebak League Discussion:** A discussion on Trial of the Killing of Bangabandhu - Contemporary Politics will be held. Venue: Institute of Engineers. Time: 4 pm.

Weather

Moderate rain likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers with temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at a few places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls may occur at places over Barisal and Chittagong divisions during the period, the Met Office said, adding, no appreciable change in day temperature is expected over the country.

The country's highest temperature was recorded 34.3 degrees Celsius at Sylhet and the lowest 22.8 degrees at Hatiya yesterday.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:37 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:32 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.6	26.9	81	78
Chittagong	30.6	25.7	89	95
Rajshahi	32.0	26.7	88	89
Khulna	33.0	27.0	89	81
Barisal	31.0	25.4	-	88
Sylhet	34.3	26.5	78	85
Cox's Bazar	28.0	25.0	-	95



Dr Majeed Khan leaves IUB

Dr A Majeed Khan, President, Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) has left the university recently, says a press release.

He had been associated with IUB for nearly a decade. IUB started working as a private university in 1993 with only six (6) students which now have crossed 12000 mark.

Under his leadership IUB was known as an institution for quality education for new generation. The former minister, Ambassador and life-long educationist is known nationally and internationally for his dedication to provide quality education in the country.

Surma mail service reintroduced

Bangladesh Railway yesterday re-introduced Surma Mail train service between Dhaka and Sylhet, reports BSS.

General Manager, Eastern Zone Railway A T M Nurul Islam inaugurated the service of the Surma Mail at a simple ceremony at Kamalapur Station, Syed Qamrul Hasan, Divisional Railway Manager, Dhaka and other Senior Railway officials were present on the occasion.

Under the new arrangement there will be 310 second class seats in the train and fare for Dhaka-Sylhet has been fixed at Taka 68.

Surma Mail will leave Dhaka at 7:45 pm everyday and reach Sylhet at 8:10 am on the following day. The Dhaka bound Surma Mail will leave Sylhet at 8 pm and reach the destination at 7:35 am the following morning.

Indian envoy to visit CHT Aug 11

RANGAMATI, Aug 8: The Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Deb Mukharjee is scheduled to arrive here on August 11 on a two-day official visit to see for himself the situation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts following the signing of the landmark peace accord, reports BSS.

The Indian envoy is expected to hold separate meetings with the chairman of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council and local political leaders to know the situation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

He will also visit handicrafts and cultural centres at Rangamati, officials said.



School of Communication held a cultural function recently at its office.

Birth anniversary of Fazilatunnesa observed

By DU Correspondent

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), the student front of ruling Awami League held a *milad mahfil* in its central office yesterday evening to observe the birth anniversary of Begum Fazilatunnesa, wife of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

BCL leaders and workers attended the function and offered *munajat* for the salvation of the departed soul of the wife of Bangabandhu.

A discussion meeting was also held on the occasion, which was addressed among others by BCL president Bahdur Bepari, acting general secretary Anisur Rahman, Sujit Roy Nandi, Liakat Sikder, Ashraful Ajim Ruban and Shah Mostafa Alamgir.

They paid rich tribute to Begum Fazilatunnesa and discussed her various contributions during the War of Liberation of the country.

Memorandum submitted to DU VC

By DU Correspondent

Honours final year students of Anthropology Department of Dhaka University yesterday submitted a memorandum to the VC Prof. AK Azad Chowdhury demanding proper inquiry into the question leakage incident of the department.

The memorandum signed by a total of 38 honours final year students of the department also demanded exemplary punishment to those involved in question leakage.

The university authorities on Saturday postponed an examination of honours final of Anthropology Department following leaking of question of the course on Friday.

Their demands also included holding rest of the examinations of the year under new sets of question paper.

A four-member probe body was also formed to investigate the question leakage incident.

Magsaysay awardee Angela Gomes to be accorded reception

This year's Magsaysay awardee Ms Angela Gomes, founder-director of Jessore based 'Banichte Sheka' will be accorded a reception today in Jessore by people sore by people's.

from all walks of life including the members of civil societies and different NGOs in greater Jessore, the district administration, local elite, journalists, intellectuals and social workers, says a press release.

USC Canada-Bangladesh and Adolescent Development Forum-Bangladesh has organised the reception in Jessore, MA Zaman, Country-Director, USC Canada-Bangladesh and Chairperson Adolescent Development Forum-Bangladesh will preside. MS Asrukana Das, National General Secretary, YWCA-Bangladesh and Aminur Rasul, Deputy Commissioner, Jessore will be present as special guest and chief guest respectively.

DUDS mock debate held

Concerted effort a must to ensure peace in society'

By DU Correspondent

Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof A K Azad Chowdhury said that violence, terrorism and discrimination would be eliminated from the society through organising various democratic and cultural activities.

The VC was addressing a parliamentary debate on 'There is no alternative to extension of cultural activities to resist terrorism' as chief guest at the Aparajeyo Bangla on the campus yesterday morning.

Dhaka University Debating Society (DUDS) organised the parliamentary debate to welcome freshers at the university.

Prof Chowdhury said that cultural activities could play the pivotal role in making a peaceful society. Concerted effort is a must to ensure peace in the society. He called upon all to come forward in establishing such a peaceful society.

Addressing the function as special guest, Pro-VC Prof M Shahadat Ali assured all sorts of cooperation to flourish debate and cultural activities at the university.

DU Proctor A K M Noor-un-Nabi, who was the key-note speaker of the function, emphasised on various cultural activities to root out terrorism from the campus and the society.

DUDS President S M Arifur Islam presided over the function while its general secretary Shaikh Imtiaz delivered welcome speech.

A mock debate on 'emergence of the freshers on the campus when the sigh of the elder' was also held at the same venue on the occasion.



Radiology expert Dr MA Hasan addressing a press conference yesterday at the Liberation War Museum auditorium over the recovery of human skulls and bones from the Muslim Bazar Noori Mosque during excavation of a well there.

Sons and relatives of martyrs demand Try '71 war criminals

Relatives of martyrs and different social organisations yesterday reiterated the demand for trial of the 1971 war criminals as experts confirmed that the remains found at the mass grave in Mirpur are of Bangalees, reports BSS.

"I demand trial of those who killed my son and others during the Liberation War," said elderly mother of martyred lieutenant Mohammad Selim, at a press conference at the Liberation War Museum, where the recovered skulls and bones were displayed.

Selim was apparently killed by the collaborators of the Pakistani army in January, 1972, during an official assignment in Mirpur, a Bihari inhabited area, which was freed from anti-liberation forces 45 days after the victory Day on December 16, 1971.

Bangladesh signed the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide after the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina came to power in June 1996, paving the way for trial of the 1971 war criminals.

Dr M A Hassan, a freedom fighter and radiologist, who along with two forensic experts studied the remains, said so far four skulls, 216 unbroken and hundreds of broken pieces of bones were found while structures of seven bodies were reformed. But there were many bones, which could not be linked with each other.

"Evidences gathered from formation of the teeth, size of skulls, height, the clothes, shoes and the skeletons show that they were Bangalees who were tortured and shot to death," he said adding that at least one of the victims was a woman.

Dr Hassan, younger brother of lieutenant Selim and himself a former army officer, said the age group of the victims was between 25 and 30 and they were apparently residents of urban areas.

Anal Raihan, son of noted film maker Zahir Raihan, and Jahanara Lodi, daughter of martyred police officer Ziaul Haq Khan Lodi, both killed in Mirpur immediately after the liberation, also spoke at the press conference.

Anal Raihan said: "Memory is not so important at this moment. More important is revenge. The killers should be tried immediately, according to UNB."

Zahir Raihan went to Mirpur as someone told him that his brother Shahidullah Kaiser was there. Zahir never returned.

Jahanara Khan Lodi, daughter of martyr Ziaul Haq Khan Lodi, the then SP of Dhaka city, said: "My father was freed from jail on December 17, 1971. On January 30, 1972 he was sick but was asked by his seniors to go Mirpur. He went but never returned."

"We don't know why all the people were taken to Mirpur. Was it a conspiracy to kill them?" the relatives of the martyrs posed the similar question.

Mofidul Haq, a trustee of the museum, said "the discovery of the martyrs 28 years after the independence is again a reminder for us that the then Pakistani political and military leadership and their collaborators should be tried in the International Criminal Court."

The grave came to light on July 27 when workers carrying out an extension work of a mosque in the Pallabi area struck three skulls and some pieces of bones.

A number of mass graves have been found in Mirpur and surrounding areas after the liberation.

JU authorities file case

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mandated the authorities to ensure that no killers, rapists or extortionists return to the campus.

We demand filing of cases against all the criminals for possessing illegal arms, extortion, torture on rivals and rape," said GSU leader Saikat Aich Manan.

GSU will announce its next course of action at a press conference today.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Alauddin Ahmed yesterday told student representatives from residential halls that there was no scope for cancellation of certificates of students responsible for rapes and killing. "Since we are filing criminal cases against them, we have nothing more to do," the VC was quoted as saying.

JU Teachers' Association (JUTA) brought out a silent procession on the campus yesterday morning, demanding expulsion of the students responsible for rapes, killing and extortion on the campus. It supported the GSU demands and expressed solidarity with the current agitation by the students.

Addressing a rally later, JUTA President Prof Abu Sayeed Khan criticised filing of cases against the rapists so late.

Because of this unusual delay, there might be lack of evidence in the case benefiting the rapists, he said.

Combining operation against current net soon

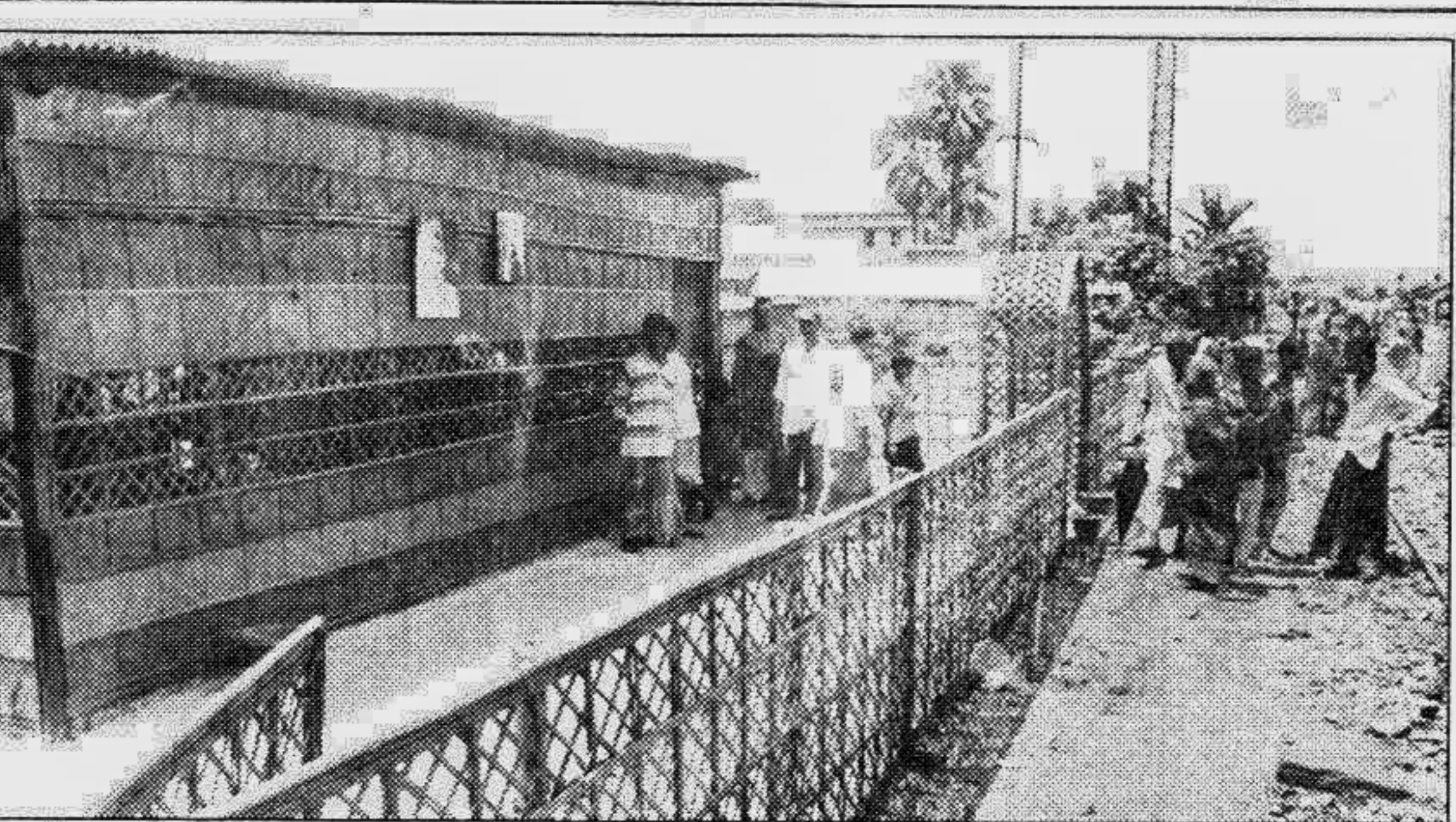
Members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock yesterday agreed upon launching a combining operation against the current net holders in the greater interest of growth of different species of fish in the country, reports BSS.

At a meeting held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, the members also suggested for closing current net manufacturing units by engaging magistrates to stop their sale and use in different areas.

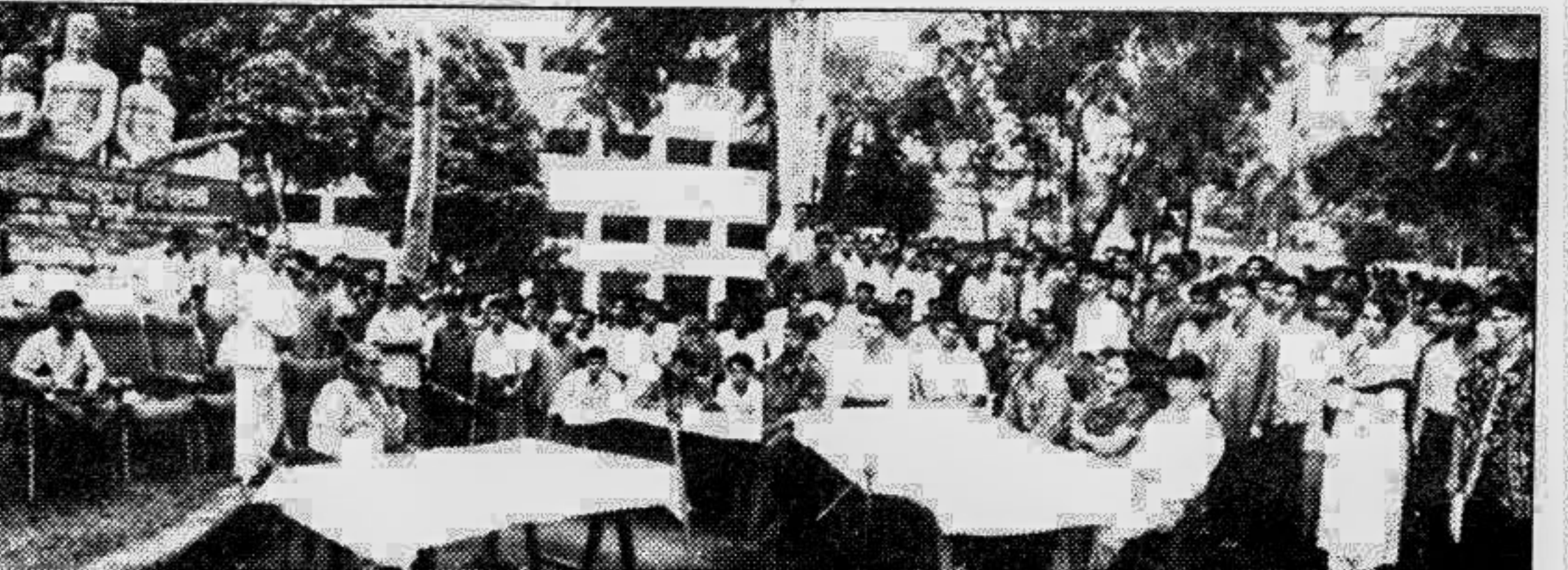
The members viewed that all activities on the development of fish resources should be conducted through this ministry.

They also discussed facilities and management prospects of shrimp hatchery in Satkhira district, government cooperation to the private sector hatchery, provision to keep canals open for supply of water in shrimp culture areas, adequate electricity, hygienic marketing system for shrimp and formulating shrimp policy.

With the committee chairman Advocate Mosharrar Hussain in the chair, the meeting was attended by members - Minister for Fisheries and Livestock ASM Abdur Rob, Sayed Rafiqul Haq, AK Fazul Huq, Kamrun Nahar Putul, Mozammel Hussain and Mohammad Fazul Huq.



The lone survivor All shanties and structures were demolished by bulldozer at the TT Para slum except the local Awami League office there.



The Dhaka University Debating Society (DUDS) held a mock parliamentary debate at the foot of the Aparajeyo Bangla on the Dhaka University campus yesterday.

Petrobangla PSC

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cerns in Bangladesh to Shell and Unocal respectively. Petrobangla had to face a lot of legal crisis because of deals among the oil companies.

As per the amendment, a PSC operator must pay for the damages caused to a gas structure if the damage is caused by a blow-out due to the oil company's inefficient operation. The amendment further dictates that "the compensation can not be considered cost-recoverable".

The amendment has been done keeping in mind the experience in Magurghara, the sources said.

After the Magurghara blow-out in June 1997, Petrobangla could not assess the damages or demand proper compensation due to absence of any relevant clause in the PSC. Although Petrobangla experts had assessed that a gas reserve of at least 200 billion cubic feet was damaged by the blow-out, Petrobangla did not even discuss the matter with Occidental.

The second amendment provides that oil companies "must obtain clearance" from Petrobangla before any expenditure. This has been done in view of the experience in Sangu field.

Petrobangla, after revising thrice, had approved a \$178 million US dollar budget for 1996 for development of off-shore Sangu gas field. Although the budget included a contingency expenditure of 25 million dollars, Cairn went to Petrobangla again with a 264 million dollar budget proposal in late '97. Cairn had said that its earlier assessment was wrong and that it had to reinvest 264 million dollars for development of the gas field.

Petrobangla has not yet approved Cairn's "self-modified budget", which is fully recoverable from gas sales from Sangu. Now, as Cairn has sold its concerns to Shell, it is likely that there will be a "fresh battle" between Petrobangla and Shell over the budget, the sources said.

Regarding 'operation cost', the amendments say that a PSC operator must obtain permission to assign a contractor to set up gas processing plant, connection pipeline etc. In selecting a contractor, a PSC operator must give priority to a local company.

Another amendment concerning ownership of assets and liabilities clearly says, Petrobangla will be the only

owner of all movable and immovable assets under a PSC (as it is ultimately bearing all costs). In the past, the ownership issue was vague.

As per the amendments, administrative costs will not be more than 2.5 per cent of the total expenditure of a PSC operator. Petrobangla will now be able to control unnecessary administrative expenditure of PSC operators in Bangladesh and abroad, which they often show.

PSC operators must inform Petrobangla while awarding contracts to third parties for any work in their respective blocks, the amendments dictate.

All these amended clauses are now being discussed with oil companies negotiating under the Second Round Bidding. Unocal has already said it agrees on all amendments except those relating to blow-out and assigning a third party before discovering a gas field.

PSC experts say, the first round of agreements with Cairn, Occidental, Okland and UMC will not be as beneficial as initially thought because the authorities lacked experience in PSC negotiations.

"It is for the benefit of the oil companies and the country that the PSC should be a win-win system for oil and gas exploration in Bangladesh. If PSC operation is not profitable for Bangladesh, oil companies will ultimately have to go from here because of low returns," commented a Petrobangla expert.

Transhipment

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Bangladesh Employers Federation President ASM Kashem BKMEA President Manzurul Haq, Finished Leather and Leather Goods Exporters Association President MA Satter Bhuiyan, Industries Secretary KM Ejazul Huq, Governor of Bangladesh Bank Mohammad Farahuddin, Additional Secretary of Commerce Ministry Fazul Hossain, Vice Chairman of EPB A B Choudhury, and representatives of ministries concerned.

Speaking on the occasion, President of MCCI said, "We are supporting transhipment as we made a study three years back and found the transit very profitable for Bangladesh."

The BGMEA President said, "It is an opportunity due to our geographic location to develop the economy of the country and opportunity does not come all the time."

The DCCI President said, "Transhipment is a commercial proposition and we don't want to see it a political issue as it is a service activity."

He suggested the government to make short-term transhipment agreement on trial basis to assess success and problems and make future planning.

The Chairman of Privatization Board said that global trade is moving fast, nobody will wait for anything. He said the government should take bold and decisive action on transhipment as it would be beneficial to our economy.

Appreciating the comments of the participants, the minister said that the government had given more importance to private sector as it is 'the engine of growth'.

He said the cabinet had agreed in principle to allow the expert committee to examine the transhipment facility.

He said, if the experts committee find transhipment profitable the work for infrastructure development would start.

The demand similar transhipment facility to India for movement of goods to and from Nepal and Bhutan.

MSC

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Munna (Mohammedan), TEAMS

Muktijoddha Sangsad: Arun, Hasan al Mamun, Jewel, Rajani, Titu, Masud Rana, Bakhtiar, Laton (Walid), Aliu Rahman (Joy), Effeni (Tushar) and Nakib.

Mohammedan SC: Ponir (Nizam), Shahajada, Faisal, Rezaul, Monwar Munna, Selim, Motiur Munna, Ashkar Babu, Shamim (Don), Anwar and Alfaz.

Referee: Gopinath gain.

Noori Mosque

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three more skulls (one of the lower jawbones matched with its skull), a bullet-pierced jangle boot used by the freedom fighters and small pieces of clothes were also found from the site. More than 100 small pieces of bones were also recovered during the excavation.

There are no bronze badges, leather boot, rank identification, name plate or belt a soldier would be wearing during war. This tells us that the victims are Bengalees murdered by the Pakistani army," Dr Hasan added.

Also, several bones were found with clear evidences that these were pierced by bullet. Examination of other bones reveals that one of the victims was hit in the eye with a sharp hard object. Examination of some spinal bones showed that some of the victims were tortured to death.

The findings give clear evidences of genocide carried out by the Pakistani army and their collaborators," said Akku Choudhury, director of the Liberation War Museum.

Representatives of the Noori mosque committee, while talking to the press, proposed that the mosque be renamed as Shaheed Muktijoddha Mosque.

Some inhabitants of Mirpur Section-12, who were also present at the briefing, suggested that the street next to the mosque be named after Zahir Raihan, a film director best remembered for his epic documentary - Stop Genocide.

None, however, was injured.