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The UCBL Board holding meeting with Zafar Ahmed Chowdhury (2nd left) in the chair yesterday. — Star photo

HC discharges rule on BB, vacates stay on UCBL activities

By Staff Correspondent

A High Court bench yesterday discharged the rule it issued on the Bangladesh Bank regarding the show-cause notice served on UCBL on August 26.

As the central bank withdrew the show-cause notice Sunday, the August 30 rule became infructuous, the court said yesterday.

The court also vacated the stay order on the central bank notice that ordered suspension of the activities of the UCBL board.

The High Court decision came after the central bank and UCBL chairman Zafar Ahmed Chowdhury and fellow directors jointly petitioned for withdrawal of the writ the latter filed.

On August 26, some 50 armed men stormed the bank's boardroom and forced some directors to resign. The directors, including the chairman Zafar Ahmed Chowdhury, later alleged that a former chairman of the bank, Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury Babu, led gangsters and forced them to resign at gunpoint.

Babu denied saying that the directors voluntarily resigned and that the board elected him chairman.

A day after the incident the central bank suspended the activities of the bank's board and appointed an administrator to perform the duties of the board. The Bangladesh Bank had also issued a show cause notice to both Zafar Ahmed Chowdhury and Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury Babu addressing them both as chairman of the bank.

Both of them were asked to explain why the board of the bank should not be dissolved.

On August 29, 1999, Zafar Ahmed Chowdhury and 10 others filed a writ petition in the High Court challenging the central bank notice which stayed the order by issuing the rule.

Later, on Sunday, the central bank withdrew its notices on the UCBL board addressing Zafar Ahmed Chowdhury as the chairman of the bank.

After the decision to withdraw the notices, the central bank and the petitioners jointly submitted a plea for withdrawal of the writ.

The High Court, after a brief hearing, gave the order of discharge. The court referred to the withdrawal of notice by Bangladesh Bank after a preliminary inquiry. The judges also pointed to the fact that normalcy had returned to the UCBL and that the interest of depositors and the public in general was not endangered any more.

UCBL board meets
Meanwhile, police kept vigil as the UCBL board met with Zafar Ahmed Chowdhury in the chair.

Zafar Chowdhury had sought police protection apprehending further trouble as Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury Babu continued to claim himself as the chairman of the bank.

Sources said Babu also sought police protection for at least 11 Col 4

No ISI activities being conducted with govt help

Foreign Secretary CM Shafi Sami yesterday refuted the latest report on the recovery of RDX explosives in Rajshahi by trespassing Assam police last month, reports UNB.

Talking to newsmen at the Foreign Office, he said: "our internal investigation says that no such incident took place." The investigation was conducted by the Home Ministry.

In reply to another question about Pakistani secret service ISI activities in Bangladesh as being reported by Indian media, Sami said there were no activities of ISI being conducted with government assistance.

He said the government would not allow any such activities in the country.

Asked about any possible meeting between Dhaka and New Delhi on ISI activities the Foreign Secretary said no such talks had been fixed on this agenda.

Students detain house tutor at DU hall

Students of Bangladesh Kuwait Moitri Hall of Dhaka University yesterday damaged some windowpanes of the dormitory and detained one of the house tutors demanding what they called 'cessation of irregularities' at the hall, reports UNB.

They brought out a procession inside the dormitory and confined Salma Akhter, Assistant House Tutor of the hall, for 30 minutes from 8:25 pm at her office room.

Over 170 massacred Troops torch scores of homes in Dili, deport thousands

DILI (Indonesia), Sept 6: Indonesian troops and their auxiliaries torched scores of homes — including that of Nobel Peace laureate Bishop Carlos Belo — and rounded up and deported thousands of terrified people from East Timor's capital today, reports AP.

Besieged United Nations officials ordered the evacuation of 300 of the world body's elections workers from Dili to Australia.

"The situation in Dili is grim, it borders on anarchy with widespread shooting, looting," said UN spokesman Nick Birnback.

The mayhem followed a UN-sponsored referendum a week ago in which 78.5 per cent of the voters opted to secede from Indonesia.

A top UN envoy met in Jakarta with Indonesian President B J Habibie, amid accusations that security forces were doing nothing to halt the bloodshed.

The East Timorese International Support Center, based in Darwin, Australia, said more than 170 people had been slaughtered by pro-Indonesian militiamen today.

Witnesses said the Indonesian military-charged with

maintaining order-fired guns to intimidate and chase out journalists and UN workers. They also accused the military of supporting militia gangs terrorizing the population with guns, machetes and fire.

"There is very clear evidence of collusion among elements of the security forces and the militias," said Birnback, holed up in the besieged UN compound. "A campaign of forced deportation seems to be taking

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place with the Indonesian army and militias loading people onto trucks and sending them to West Timor."

For the first time, even a senior Indonesian official acknowledged the breakdown in security.

"The situation remains out of control," Gen. Rusmanhadi, chief of national police, said in Jakarta. "The government there is no longer functioning."

Tens of thousands were fleeing East Timor. Refugees were streaming into neighboring West Timor at a rate of 1,000 per hour today, the International Committee of the Red Cross said.

Fierce clash at RU leaves 50 hurt

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAH, Sept 6: At least 50 people, including two teachers and two policemen, were injured in a fierce clash between two groups of students at the Rajshahi University here today.

Ten seriously injured students were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital while another 40 students were given first aid at the university's medical centre.

Mahbubul Kabir of Management department and Quamrul Hassan of Finance department were the two teachers injured during the feud. Police inspector Abdul Hye and constable Jahangir also sustained injuries.

During the clash, police and campus sources said, angry students ransacked the office of Finance department, gallery of Management department and 10 classrooms apart from damaging 10 buses.

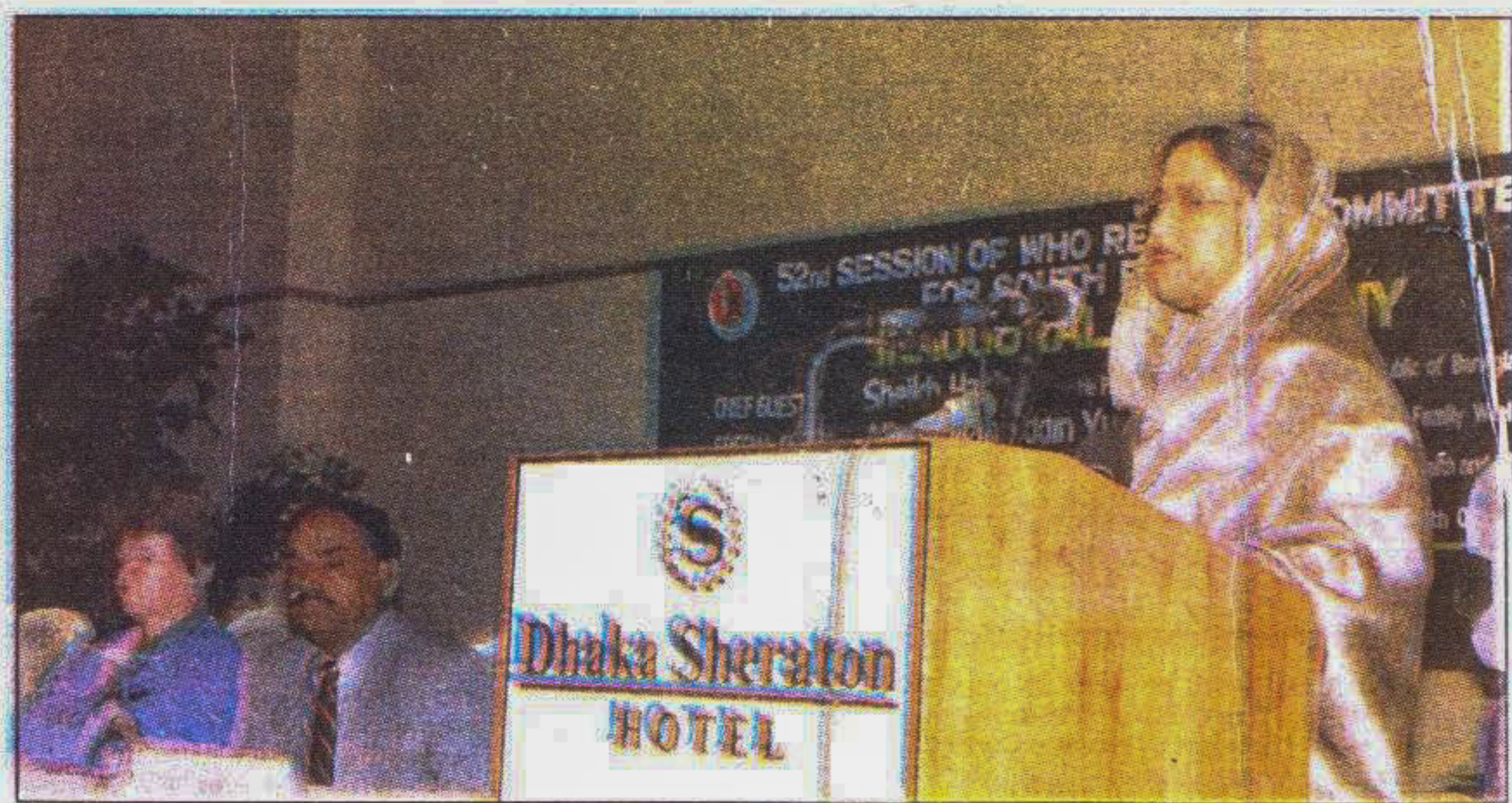
Hundreds of students from both the departments used iron rods, sticks etc. during the clash that started at around 10am. Police lobbed teargas canisters to disperse the warring students.

Sources said the clash was a sequel to a scuffle on Sunday between students of the two departments over assault of a Finance department teacher Selim Akhter who is also an assistant proctor of the university.

Finance department students accused the Management students of teasing their teacher, Akhter, while passing by his chamber. However, the Management students alleged that Akhter had abused them for creating nuisance in front of his chamber at the Rabindra Bhawan.

The university authorities in a press release this evening said that some terrorists in the guise of students had gone on rampage and damaged university properties. The situation was however under control, the press release issued the public relations department said.

Vice-chancellor Prof Saidur Rahman Khan along with proctors and teachers visited the spot this afternoon. The VC was holding an emergency meeting with the teachers and top officials while this report was filed last night.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing the inaugural session of WHO Regional Committee for South East Asia in the city yesterday. — PID photo

Jessore blast Udichi procession demanding trial of killers

By DU Correspondent

Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Goshthi (BUSG) yesterday took out a silent procession in the city demanding immediate trial of and exemplary punishment to those involved in the incident of bomb explosion at a Udichi programme at Jessore.

The processionists carried black banners and a scaffold. The BUSG activists later held a rally in front of the Teachers-Students Centre (TSC) at Dhaka University.

Addressing the rally, cultural activists expressed dissatisfaction over the failure of police so far in preparing the chargesheet in connection with the Jessore bomb blast.

They blamed religious fanatics and anti-state forces for the tragedy and urged the countrymen to root them out.

"We demand exemplary punishment to the terrorists so that nobody dares to do such heinous act in future."

Presided over by Dr Golam Mohiuddin, the rally was addressed, among others, by Golam Qudus, Mahmud Selim, Sahidul Islam Swapan, Manjurul Islam Chowdhury, Probr Sarker and Subrata Sarker.

Evicted sex workers to meet Lockwood today

The sex workers evicted from Tanbazar-Nimtai brothers of Narayanjanji will meet the UNDP Country Representative David E Lockwood at 3 pm today, reports UNB.

Sanghati, a combine of human rights organisations, announced this yesterday.

Lockwood is scheduled to meet with them at the Islamic Development Bank Bhawan at Agargaon.

Attempt on Mubarak's life: Attacker killed

PORT SAID (Egypt), Sept 6: President Hosni Mubarak's bodyguards shot dead a man who attacked the Egyptian leader with a sharp weapon today, a statement read on state television said, reports Reuters.

Witnesses earlier said the man, identified by security sources as El-Sayed Seliman, was holding a written protest note and not a weapon.

The official statement said the attacker rushed towards

bodyguard was injured in the

finger during the attack. State television, broadcasting footage of the motorcade live, stopped transmission immediately after the incident, which occurred while the camera was focusing on the crowds. Three shots could be heard in the background.

Mubarak was on his way to the governorate's building to deliver a speech.

The president was treated for his injury and went on to make the speech, the statement said. Mubarak emerged unscathed from an assassination attempt by Muslim militants in Addis Ababa in 1995. His predecessor, Anwar Sadat, was assassinated at a military parade in Cairo in 1981.

BCL activists ransack thana in Habiganj

HABIGANJ, Sept 6: Over 100 angry BCL activists today ransacked the Chunarughat police station and the residence of TNO protesting confinement of a BCL activist in the thana Sunday night, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said Islamic Chhatra Shibir workers had beaten up BCL activists Kamaluddin Milon at 8 pm on Sunday. SB police took Milon to thana and detained him there.

This prompted the BCL activists to attack the residence of TNO and the thana. They also damaged the telephone set and furniture of the OC.

Police fired two teargas canisters to disperse them. BCL activists — Saiful, Karim, Manik, Nurul Islam, Juned and Karim Sarkar — were arrested from the spot.

The Deputy Commissioner and the SP visited the residence of TNO, and the police station.

CU liaison body to submit its report today

From CU Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 6: The liaison committee will submit its report to the Chittagong University authorities tomorrow regarding its discussions with different student organisations.

Today, the last day of discussion, the committee held meeting with Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU), Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) was absent.

BCU general secretary ABM Rahatullah Zahid on behalf of the organisation submitted a seven-point demand including resumption of bus service, immediate reopening of the university and formation of Paribesh Parishad.

Meanwhile, Member Secretary of the liaison committee Prof Gazi Saleh Uddin, told The Daily Star that the discussion was fruitful and the committee would recommend for immediate reopening of the university.

20 hurt as BCL activists clash in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Sept 6: At least 20 people were injured as rival BCL activists clash over tender dropping in Kania area in the town this evening.

According to witnesses, a group of BCL activists stormed into the 'club room' of Monem, a BCL leader as a sequel to rivalry over a LGED tender here.

During the hour-long battle, a huge number of bombs were exploded and more than 25 gunshots fired besides indiscriminate brickbats.

The club room was also set on fire. Some 10 shops were damaged and ransacked during the clash.

Excavation work around Noori Mosque suspended

The army and the Liberation War Museum (LWM) authorities have suspended the excavation work around the Noori Mosque at Mirpur, reports UNB.

Army and civil engineers working on the mosque premises said the mosque was not built on a firm foundation. They said that it has been constructed on a five-inch wall.

"It is a dangerous building for the devotees," one engineer said.

The museum authorities as well as the army personnel felt that it is their moral obligation to preserve the sanctity of the mosque and save it from any damages.

They asked the mosque committee to have the foundation examined by an engineer. The committee said they would inform the museum authority of their decision today.

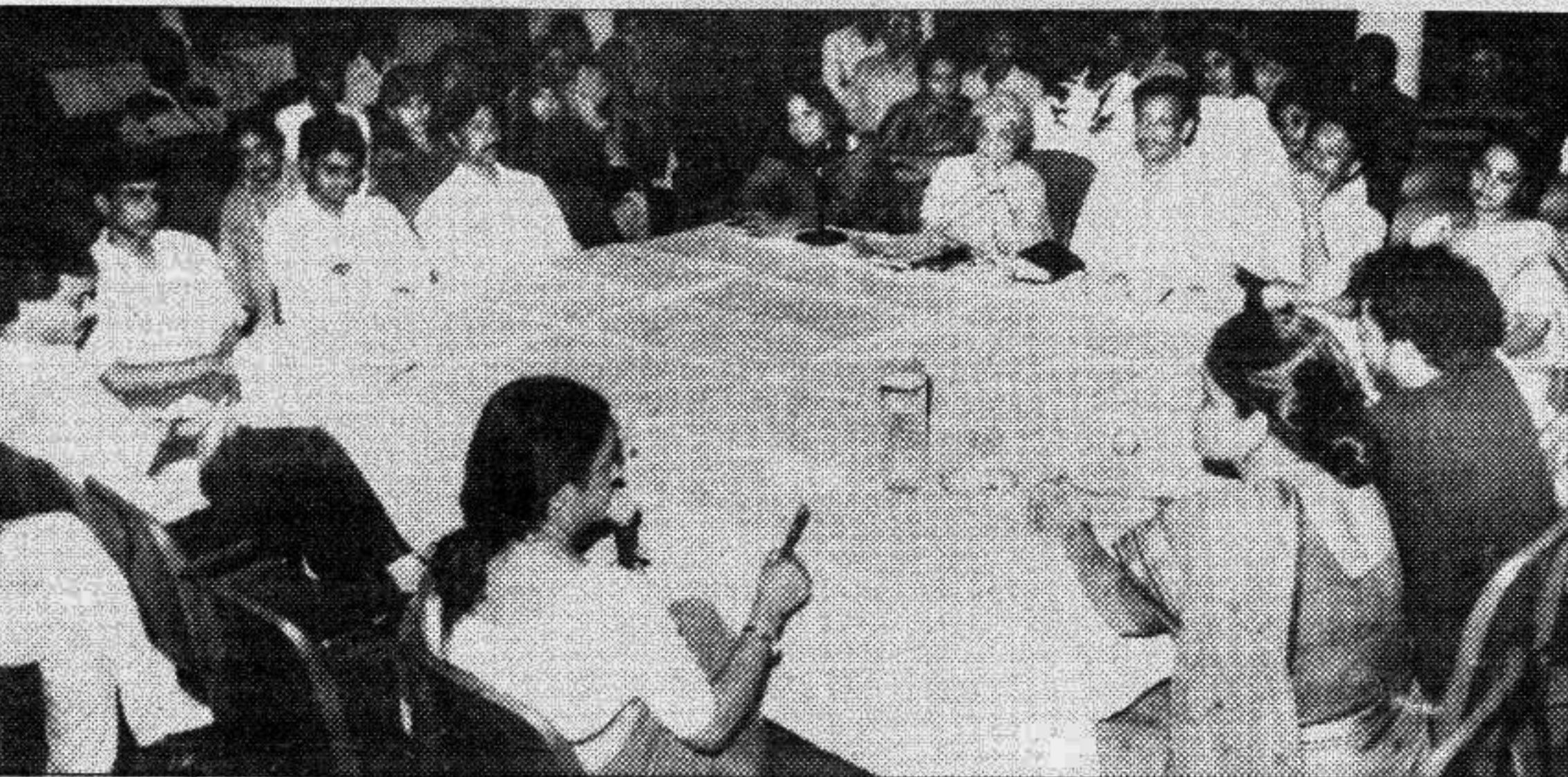
However, with the help of army personnel, some 25 small and large sized bones, five skulls, a tooth and four ammunition boxes were recovered from the site, said a press release.

Border confce with India begins in Shiliguri today

A three-day high profile border conference between BDR and BSF begins in Shiliguri of India today, reports UNB.

A nine-member Bangladesh team, led by deputy director general of BDR Brigadier Shah Md Mohiuddin left for India yesterday to attend the DDG-level conference.

The conference is likely to discuss various issues including violation of border agreements, border demarcation, enclaves, killing of Bangladeshi nationals, checking of cross border trades and child and woman trafficking, and repair of border pillars.



Public dialogue on children organised by British Council in collaboration with Centre for Alternatives and The Daily Star in progress yesterday. —Star photo

Involve mass media, civil society & NGOs in campaign

Public dialogue on children & security told

By Staff Correspondent

Both parents and children are seriously concerned over lack of security for children.

Parents suggest involving mass media, civil society and non-governmental organisations, and other public organisations to campaign for ensuring security for children.

"No one seemed to be disturbed at lack of protection to children," said one parent yesterday, speaking at a public dialogue. "The state machinery has virtually failed to ensure security for the citizens. But what about us? Are we concerned?" she asked.

"It's time that we reminded ourselves about threat to our children's life and it should be immediate," said another parent, a lawyer by profession.

At the public dialogue on Children and Security: Children's Perspective yesterday, problems of children's security, identified by the children themselves at a similar meeting last week, were discussed. The parents put forward a number

of recommendations in response to children's worries. Both parents and children said that the major concern was increasing awareness among the citizens and that immediate, short-, medium- and long-term plans should be taken up to address the issue.

A school teacher said, "It is not government alone that can bring about discipline in this respect. We citizens have more active roles to play to help the government and other organisations."

Some others felt that schools have bigger roles to play in this regard. "We can take up specific programmes involving non-government organisations to improve the general sense of awareness in the institutions and gradually expand it," said another parent.

Some of the parents suggested advisory services for children through telephone hotline. Such services should include psychiatrists, social

workers, lawyers, police officers and responsible citizens to provide relevant information regarding children's security.

Children identified five different areas where they believed a sense of insecurity existed. The areas identified were: roads, home, school, work and public places.

A group of children on September 1, 1999, at the same venue, were asked to talk about their security problems. They called for stronger punishment to child abusers and amendment to laws.

They also suggested self protection scheme for children, opportunity for creative work, ensuring friendly environment in schools and other places, providing allowance to working children from the state.

The public dialogue, held at the British Council auditorium, was organised by the British Council in collaboration with Centre for Alternatives and The Daily Star.



ঢাকা মহানগর ও নারায়ণগঞ্জের
নির্মাঞ্চল প্লাবিত হওয়ার প্রেক্ষিতে
ঢাকা ওয়াসার জরুরী বিজ্ঞপ্তি ১১

- ❖ ভূ-গর্ভস্থ জলাধারে দূষিত পানি প্রবেশ রোধ করুন এবং বন্যার পানি নামার সাথে সাথে উহা স্বাস্থ্যসম্মত উপায়ে ব্লিচিং পাউডারের সাহায্যে পরিস্কার করুন।
- ❖ আপনার পানির কল জলমগ্ন হলে উচ্চ করে নিন। তা সম্ভব না হলে ওয়াটার টাইট করে সাময়িকভাবে বন্ধ করে দিন।
- ❖ আপনার এলাকার রাস্তার কল জলমগ্ন হলেও তা উচ্চ করার ব্যবস্থা নিন। এক্ষেত্রে নিকটস্থ ওয়াসা অফিসে খবর দিন।
- ❖ ফাঁকা জায়গার উপর দিয়ে নির্মিত বুলন্ত পানির সংযোগ উচ্চ করে নিন।
- ❖ পানি ফুটিয়ে পান করুন।
- ❖ সকল সংযোগ লিকেজমুক্ত রাখুন।
- ❖ এলাকার পানি/পয়ঃ/ড্রেনেজ সংক্রান্ত যে কোন সমস্যা সমাধানে নিকটস্থ ওয়াসা অফিসে যোগাযোগ করুন।

আপনার সেবায় নিয়োজিত

ঢাকা ওয়াসা

ওয়াসা/জরুরী-৩১২/৯৯

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Editor : Mahfuz Anam

Published by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd., 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No. 11, Road No. 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 866772-4, Commercial: 866771, Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: http://www.dailystarnews.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net