

# 12 killed, 24 injured in road accidents

By Staff Correspondent

At least 12 persons were killed and 24 others injured in road accidents across the country yesterday.

A leader of the Jattya Juba Sanghati was killed in an accident at Agargaon in the city Monday evening.

Haider was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared him dead at about 6:30 pm.

Our Correspondent from Strajganj says, at least six persons were killed and 24 injured in bus accident on the North Bengal Highway near Boalia Bazar under the Ullahpara upazila of the district at 10 am Monday.

The Pabna bound bus from Strajganj (No Strajganj Ba 12) fell into a roadside ditch as the driver lost control while attempting to overtake another vehicle.

The persons who died on the spot were identified as Akbar Ali (55) of Chak Shujapur village under Rayganj upazila, Gopal Chandra Bashak (35) of Pashchim Venguri under Ullahpara upazila, Abdul Wahab (28) of Baghdah of Rayganj upazila, Abdus Sattar (35) of Raninagar under Ullahpara upazila, Nasim Uddin Sarkar (35) of Pagla, Ullahpara and bus helper Abdul Motalab (30) of Nasimpur of Strajganj.

Fourteen of the seriously injured persons were admitted to Strajganj Sadar Hospital while the rest were rushed to Ullahpara Purnimagati

Hospital. Police seized the bus but the driver managed to escape. Meanwhile, the districts bus workers observed a strike from 5 pm to 7 am yesterday to protest the death of the bus helper.

A UNB report adds: Nine persons were killed and 55 others injured in the accident. The report, however, did not mention the identity of three other victims.

Another UNB report says, three people were killed in two separate road accidents in Jessore yesterday.

Bulu (24) and Titu (12) were killed instantly at 5:30 am when an oil loaded tank lorry rammied in to a bicycle carrying them. They were returning from mosque after Fajr prayer.

In another accident, a minor boy was crushed under the wheels of a speeding bus at Chachura-Bablatola on Jessore-Benapole road at about 8:30 am yesterday.

A Brahmanbaria report adds: A young engineer of the Brahmanbaria Gasfield was killed and another injured critically as a speedy truck ran over the motorcycle they were riding here yesterday.

Anwar-al-Mamoon (27) of Mirpur, Dhaka, died instantly on the Brahmanbaria-Sylhet highway.

His colleague Bashudev of Fent, also of the same age (27) and engineer of the field, was rushed to the Pangu Hospital in the capital.

Witnesses said the truck knocked them from behind while going to well number one of the gasfield at noon.



A Malaysian soldier, deployed as part of UNTAC, carries a repatriated Cambodian refugee child upon arrival at the resettlement camp at Sisophon yesterday. — AFP photo

## First batch of Cambodian refugees return home

THAI-CAMBODIAN BORDER, Mar 30: The first of thousands of returning refugees crossed a dusty bridge into Cambodia on Monday, where they were greeted with orchids and uncertainty, reports AP.

On the eve of the repatriation, the Phnom Penh government announced it was launching a major operation against the Khmer Rouge in northern areas of the country. The continued fighting only adds to the dangers the refugees face — marauding bandits, mines, the risk of disease, the chance they will not find enough safe land on which to live.

The first 527 Cambodians to be repatriated under the UN peace plan crossed a small

bridge joining the eastern Thai town of Aranyaprathet with Cambodia's Poipet district. Cambodian officials handed them orchids in a welcome ceremony on a makeshift stage as pop music blared.

Most of the returning refugees looked nervous, anxious and confused. Some smiled and waved, and other wore resolute expressions.

Guarded by Malaysian soldiers of the UN peacekeeping force in Cambodia, a convoy of buses took the refugees along a recently de-mined road toward a nearby reception center in Sisophon district. The refugees will stay there for two to three nights before resettling in villages.

# JKLF acting chief held near border

MUZAFFARABAD (Pakistan), Mar 30: Pakistani police captured a Kashmiri militant leader today close to the Indian-defended Ceasefire Line he had sworn to cross, his followers said.

The secessionist Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) said its acting head Raja Muzaffar was surrounded and arrested near the border village of Chakothi, 60 km (35 miles) from Muzaaffarabad, capital of Pakistani-ruled Azad (free) Kashmir.

## Eliasson

From Page 1 Col 7

good signs about the influx of the refugees and expressed the hope that these would be substantiated during his visit.

"I hope the flow will diminish — some good signs are discernible", Eliasson said.

Replying to a question, he said response of the international community to United Nations High Commissioner for refugees appeal for assistance for the refugees was good.

Mrs. S. Ogata, "the High Commissioner, has informed me that nine million dollars of the total 27 million dollars has already been committed", said Eliasson.

Eliasson said while he would visit the refugees in the camps in Bangladesh, other half of the visit would be concentrated in Myanmar.

He sympathised with Bangladesh for the existence of a big number of refugees, a gigantic problem that came almost close on the heels of last year's catastrophic cyclone.

Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman and Additional Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan were present at the airport to receive the UN Under Secretary General.

UNHCR officials, now in Dhaka, were also present.

Eliasson's visit to Bangladesh follows Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's visit to the New York when she drew the attention of the UN Secretary General to the enormity of the refugee problem.

Expectedly, the visit of Eliasson to Bangladesh and his close look at the refugee problem would result in a better appreciation of the Myanmar Muslim refugee issue.

He will leave here for Yangon on April 2.

Party activists said they had reports that five militants managed to cross the Ceasefire Line that divides Indian and Pakistani-ruled parts of disputed Kashmir. No confirmation was available.

Muzaffar earlier escaped capture when scores of police brandishing guns swooped on a news conference he called in the small village of Gujar Bandi a few kilometres from the border.

He slipped away with a dozen followers, vowing to carry out his pledge to cross the Ceasefire Line in a show of solidarity with a Muslim uprising in Indian Kashmir that has killed more than 6,000 in the past two years.

AFP from Srinagar adds: Some 1,000 Muslims staged a pro-Kashmir independence rally here today, burning the government of Pakistan-controlled Kashmir in effigy for not allowing a storming of the Indian zone.

The rally was staged as Indian troops along the Ceasefire Line dividing the Muslim-dominated mountain region stayed on maximum alert and enforced a curfew in three tense border towns.

No attempt to storm the border was reported.

## 4 Shantibahini men killed in clash with security forces

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Mar 30: Security forces today killed four Shantibahini men in a clash at Bashantipara under Jurachhari upazila in Rangamati district.

The clash took place when the security forces had raided a hide-out of the Shantibahini men early this morning. The forces were earlier informed of the hide-out where 10 to 12 Shantibahini men were staying.

The insurgents aged between 25 to 30 were identified as Sagar Asha Chakma, Buddah Chakma, Gnean Ratan Chakma and Shatu Chakma.

## Prime Minister

From Page 1 Col 8

friendly relations with neighbours, she added.

On being asked whether the adverse remarks about survival of democracy of India at a time when Bangladesh was moving towards greater democracy posed any problem for Bangladesh, she said she was proud that her country was getting more democratic.

"After nine years of autocratic rule, we restored freedom of the press, an independent constitutional process and free and fair elections, we expect that in our neighbours countries, people's rule will also remain effective", she said.

## BCCI

From Page 1 Col 7

However, there will be no reduction in case of non-resident foreign currency deposit. The proposal has also relieved the proposed bank from meeting the 'contingent liabilities' (viz LCs and guarantees).

The reduced liabilities of the BCCI according to the proposals, will be settled by the new bank in cash or in the manner desired by the creditor.

First one lakh taka, after reduction of Tk 50 thousand already obtained by the depositors from the Agrani Bank, will be paid on demand or on maturity while further one lakh will be paid after three months. Then the next one lakh taka after six months — Tk 1.5 lakh after 12 months — Tk 2 lakh after 18 months — Tk 2.5 lakh after 24 months — Tk 3 lakh after 30 months after the commencement of operation of the new bank.

The remaining balance will be paid on demand after 36 months of the appointed date.

According to the recommendations, the first chief executive of the proposed bank shall be appointed by the Government while the board of directors shall consist of 11 members. Of the 11, 3 will be nominated by the Government.

The recommendations also said that the "employees of the BCCI... shall stand transferred to the Bank (new one) and shall become an employee of the Bank on the same terms and conditions as were applicable to him immediately before the appointed day and shall continue to do so unless and until such terms and conditions are altered by the Bank with the approval of the Bangladesh Bank.

The present deposit of the defunct BCCI is Tk 622.07 cr while its investment stands at Tk 98.39 cr with loan and advances of Tk 473.40 cr. The capital of the bank is Tk 21.28 cr while its provision for bad debt is Tk 176.27 cr.

# The Midnight File

## Arab conference in Beirut from Apr 1

BEIRUT, Mar 30: Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organization have agreed to meet in Beirut April 1-2 to decide whether to attend a fifth round of Middle East peace talks, the Foreign Ministry announced Monday, reports AP.

## Mujahideen rocket Jalalabad : 4 killed

ISLAMABAD, Mar 30: At least four people were killed and 20 injured when Mujahideen slammed the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad with rockets Monday, radio Kabul said, reports AFP.

## Brazilian cabinet resigns

BRASILIA (Brazil), Mar 30: The Cabinet of President Fernando Collor De Mello resigned Monday but six ministers were asked to stay on, Marcos Coimbra, the Secretary-General of the presidency announced. He said the resignations took place so Collor, whose popularity is sagging, could 'feel free to name new ministers', reports AP.

# Newsprint price

From Page 1 Col 5

lower price than the actual production price. At present, each ton of newsprint is being marketed at Taka 18000 while the production price stands at Taka 25,040 a ton. Concerned sources said that the sudden rise in furnace oil price during the Gulf War increased the production price of newsprint by about Taka 9000 a ton. After the war, the price of furnace oil was not reduced.

About Taka 17 lakh worth of furnace oil is required for the mills a day.

Sources said that although the oil is supplied to the private sector at a subsidised rate of Taka 9 a gallon, the price for the same oil to the mills is Taka 24 a gallon. The KNM has a capacity production of 4000 tons a month.

While newsprint is being sold at a lower price than the actual production price, the Forest Department has informed the KNM that the price of wood used as raw material has been increased to Taka 15 per cubic foot from the previous price of about 63 paise only. Forest Department took the decision in November, 1991. This increase would add another Taka 1700 to each ton of newsprint.

## CMM

From Page 1 Col 4

and witnesses with seven criminal offences Saturday and the CMM issued warrants of arrest against them the same day.

A group of lawyers Sunday demonstrated before the court of the CMM protesting the issuance of warrants of arrest. They entered the CMM court in a procession at about 4:30 pm, raising slogans against the magistrate and the warrant orders and tried to ransack the court but could not do so due to intervention of the police. Senior Assistant Commissioner of Metropolitan Police S. Barua said.

Strong security measures were taken in the court premises yesterday.

## Azam's detention

From Page 1 Col 6

was detained under the Foreigners Act.

Prof. Azam was detained on the eve of March 26 'trial' of him by a 'People's Court' at Suhrawardy Uddyan in the city that gave verdict that the Jamaat leader was punishable to death for war crimes.

The controversial Jamaat leader had lost his Bangladeshi citizenship for opposing the independence. He lived in exile until 1978, but returned the Bangladesh with a Pakistani passport. His citizenship is yet to be restored.

In his petition, Golam Azam claimed that he was a citizen of Bangladesh by birth and hence his detention under the Foreigners Act was illegal.

Explaining, the petitioner said he went to the then West Pakistan during the War of Liberation but could not return home here to live permanently and eventually returned in 1978.

The defence argued that citizenships of more than 30 people who were then in West Pakistan, including late Hamidul Huq Chowdhury, Korban Ali, Zulmat Ali and Sheikh Ansar Ali were cancelled.

But the citizenships of all, except Golam Azam, were restored. This move was political and discrimination before the law, defence added.

The petitioner who has been living in his own home for the last 15 years is very much a citizen of Bangladesh. He cannot be detained under the Foreigners Act.

The learned court issued the rule after hearing the counsel for the petitioner. The prosecution stressed on the section of the Foreigners Act under which the Jamaat leader was detained.

recent letter told the BCIC that if the corporation failed to pay the arrears of the wood at the new rate since November, the supply of wood would be stopped.

On the other hand, the BCIC authorities have also told the Forest Department that if production in the mills was hampered due to shortage of wood, the Forest Department would have to compensate. How ever no improvement has been made in the situation till now.

## Envoy to UK

From Page 1 Col 8

of the appointment will be made shortly, the sources said.

Meanwhile, Dhaka is yet to name its High Commissioner to Delhi. The post is lying vacant since Faruk Ahmed Chowdhury's retirement.

Sources say the authorities proposed the name of Reaz Rahman, the Foreign Secretary, but later withdrew it. Rumours have it that the Government may also end up appointing a politician for the crucial job citing the 'highly politicised' relationship with India.

But some tend to contest the idea saying that an 'expert' should be sent there 'although a political appointee may have some 'image'.

## Meeting ground

From Page 1 Col 5

The sub-committee has been formed with four MPs representing ruling BNP, Awami League (AL), Jatiya Party (JP) and Jamaat.

Works Minister while talking to this correspondent last night said that the sub-committee, in a bid to identify the piece of land, would start talking to the relevant government departments soon.

Replying to a question the Minister told The Daily Star that the sub-committee was not given any time frame for the job.

## Hearing on bail

From Page 1 Col 3

quashed for the sake of the country's honour.

Barrister Istiaq and Barrister Islam were assisted by Syed Golam Mostofa, Barrister K S Nabi and Safuddin Ahmed.

Justice T H Khan, Deputy Attorney General Abdus Shaheed and Asstt Attorney General Shamsul Karim were in the prosecution side.

Warrants of arrest were issued on March 28 by the CMM Court against Jahanara Imam and 23 other sponsors of the People's Court charged with sedition, conspiracy against the government and creating law and order situation by holding trial on March 26 of Jamaat Leader Prof Golam Azam. The court gave the verdict that Golam Azam is punishable to death for war crimes.

Senior lawyers Dr Kamal Hossain and Barrister Amirul Islam moved the High Court Sunday against the order of the CMM Court and secured anticipatory bail for the 24 accused till disposal of the petition.

## WB aid

From Page 1 Col 5

years will be strictly based on "expected improvement in the pace of project implementation."

"What is critical at this stage for Bangladesh is not the commitment but improvements in aid utilization and project processing procedures so as to accelerate disbursements," the memorandum said.

Bangladesh officials said the government would finalise its talking points and expectations from donors at next month's Paris meeting after the Finance Minister's current mission to the World Bank headquarters in Washington.

It was learnt, the aid memorandum being prepared by the government, is at the final stage of preparation.

# Mugging, snatching

From Page 1 Col 6

Moreover, mugging and snatching incidents go largely unreported by the police.

A police officer pointed out that as many as 80 per cent of the victims do not file cases with the police either fearing about their future security or out of apathy about the lengthy legal procedures.

One victim, a college professor, whose handbag was snatched away recently while she was travelling on a rickshaw through the Dhaka University campus admitted that she did not file a case and termed the legal procedure relating to filing a case "not a healthy one".

"If the procedures of investigation and trial were less time consuming and effective, then, perhaps, a lot of people would have come forward to file cases," she pointed out. She noted that about 15 of her colleagues at the women's college fell victim to muggers in recent times, but none of them bothered to file cases.

On the other hand, victims who do file cases often have to spend considerable time over a prolonged period to keep up with the cases.

"I protested the open method of identifying criminals by victims or witnesses in police stations... it's a bad system which compromises their security," explained Rowshan Ara Rahman, a retired professor of Dhaka College who was recently mugged near her house in Gulshan.

She said she had filed the case out of a sense of duty for if such crimes were not reported, a false notion may gain ground that crime rate was declining. "Host people do not report the crimes, and I know at least five recent mugging victims who did not file any cases," she said.

She complained about the lengthy legal procedures and expressed her annoyance at the way police asked her to identify the criminals at the station.

In a recent interview with The Daily Star, the Inspector General of Police, Enamul Huq, pointed out that there was no separate section on mugging in the Penal Code similar to those on robbery, extortion and theft.

Thus, by bracketing muggings with robberies, he noted, cases of robbery have increased steadily throughout the country in recent years.

He agreed that as more women come out to go to work these days, crimes targeted against women are also on the rise and thus, women are becoming comparatively more vulnerable than before.

A number of common factors, which make women more vulnerable, are evidenced by the reported incidents of muggings. It appears that

women wearing ornaments and travelling alone in rickshaws through quiet streets are the most vulnerable.

Women wearing gold ornaments seem to be prime targets of muggers and snatchers, and the city's female population have become increasingly aware of this. "I have given up wearing any ornaments when I go out these days and even if I do wear anything, I make sure that they are imitations", said a housewife.

Incidents of muggings are reported to have occurred in most parts of the city at one time or another, but it is difficult to pinpoint the worst affected areas.

However, analysing the reported incidents, it has been found that in general more cases have been reported from the northern part of the city compared to old Dhaka.

According to a police source, the reported incidents of the last few years indicate that certain areas of the city have become more prone to crime than others. These include Tikatuli, Malibagh, Rampura, Paribagh, the Dhaka University area, Dhanmondi, Lalmatia, Mohammadpur, Mirpur and even posh areas like Gulshan and Banani.

The most alarming aspect, the source added, is that these criminals do not hesitate to inflict serious injuries on the victims and if they perceive the possibility of later identification by the victims, they do not even hesitate to commit murder.

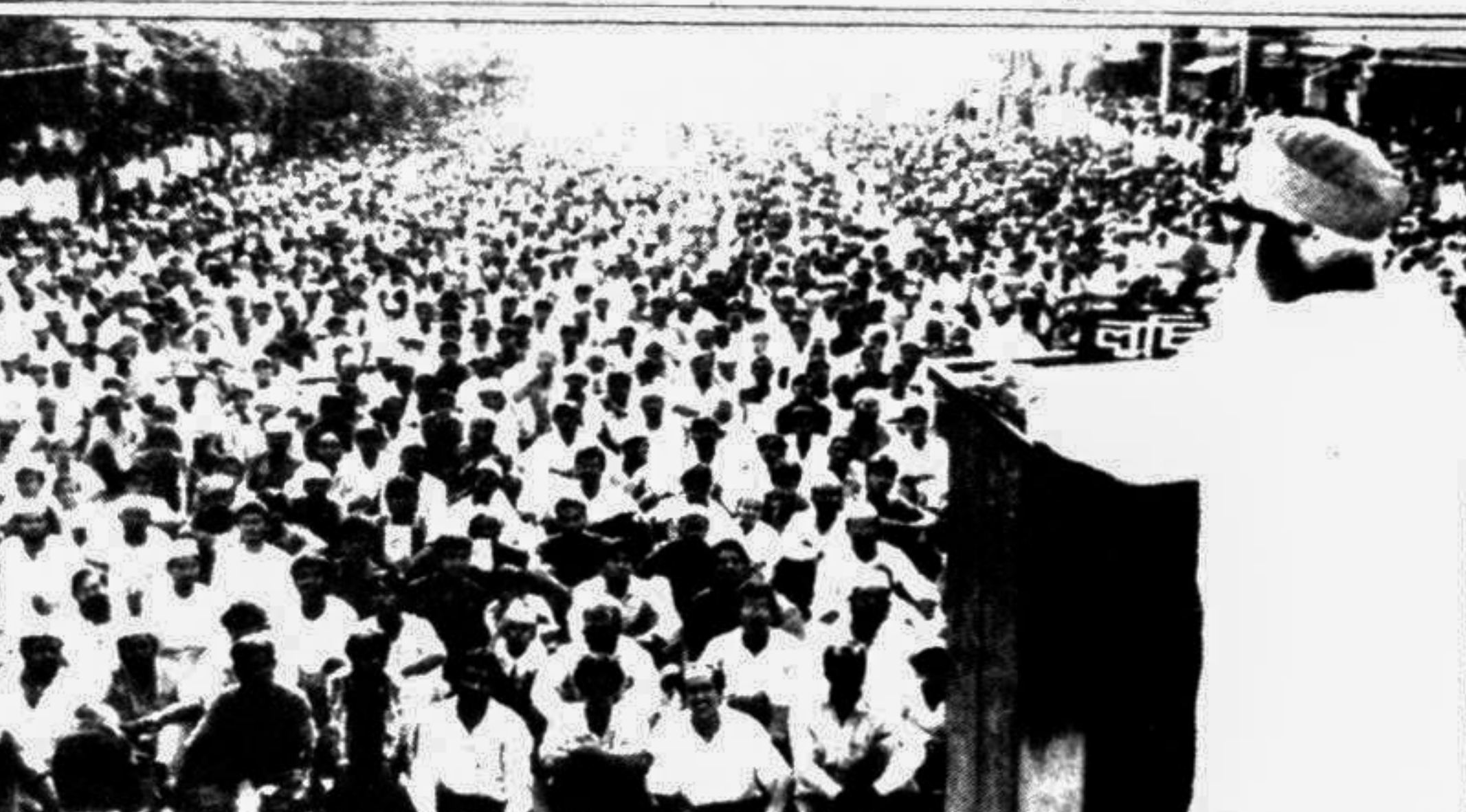
The brutal killings of Mahia Islam in Gulshan and Sagera Morshed only a few hundred yards away from the Ramna Police Station in the recent past are still talked about in town.

Most muggers are desperate, unemployed youths and are invariably well-armed, he noted.

Another aspect of serious social concern, pointed out Rowshan Ara Rahman, is people's hesitation, either out of fear or apathy, to come forward and help a victim. She said a large crowd had gathered across the street when she was being mugged in broad daylight, but none of them came forward to rescue her.

The IGP suggests women to avoid being a victim of mugging. Women should always try to be aware of the circumstances and atmosphere of the surroundings as well as the time, and also avoid desolate areas and large crowds, he cautioned.

"I would advise them to be alert and to weigh the circumstances," he said "there should be free registration of cases and people should cooperate with the police."



Abbas Ali Khan, the Acting Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami addressing a public meeting at the northern gate of Baitul Mukarram Mosque in the city yesterday. — Star photo

# Hasina visits camps

From Page 1 Col 8

diate release of the Myanmar leader and handing of power to her.

She compared the present political situation in Myanmar with that of the pre-independence period when the Yahya regime began crackdown on the democracy-loving people of Bangladesh in 1971.

The Awami League chief said the continuous influx of refugees would create a disastrous impact on the economy of this impoverished nation.

In this context, she said last April's cyclone had left a trail of devastation in Cox's Bazar and the present burden of the refugees would further aggravate the social and economic condition of the local people.

Hasina was critical of the BNP government which, she said, had failed to handle the situation arising out of the intrusion of the Myanmar troops into the country and killing of one BDR jawan as well as the influx of the refugees.

Recalling the Awami League's persistent demand for seeking international intervention into the problem, the opposition leader said that the government initiated the diplomatic move timely the situation would not have been such worst.

She said despite international help and assistance, thousands of refugees are leading a subhuman life under the open sky without food and shelter.

Hasina called on the people to come forward with whatever they have for the service of the suffering humanity.

Earlier, Rohingya refugees

who fled to Cox's Bazar to escape the persecution of the Myanmar junta told her their sad tales.

The local administration also apprised Hasina of different measures taken by the government to shelter the Myanmar refugees.

The opposition leader visited as many as 10 refugee camps including at Balkubali, Chungdum, Marichapalong, Dechoapalong, Doapalong, Chechoapalong and Ghuniapalong.

Hasina was accompanied by Tofael Ahmed MP, Mottia Chowdhury MP and Suranjit Sengupta MP.

## Rule issued on Dhaka DC

## Hearing of BCIC case against Moudud Apr 23

A High Court Division Bench Monday issued rule upon the Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka to show cause within four weeks why the proceedings against Moudud Ahmed in a case pending before Divisional Special Judge, should not be quashed, reports BSS.

The bench comprised Justice Anwarul Huq Chowdhury and Justice Mohammad Abdul Karim. The court fixed the date for hearing on April 23.

The case in brief was Moudud Ahmed, who was Vice President and in-charge of the Ministry of Industries, had, in connivance with the then former Chairman of BCIC, ignored the rules and regulations to misuse power that caused loss of public money.

## Jamaat

From Page 1 Col 7

ing the country's Constitution by becoming the Jamaat chief.

The Jamaat acting chief blamed the government for losing to senses in identifying its friends and foes and realising the truth.

Abbas Ali Khan further accused the ruling BNP of totally failing to resolve the country's biting issues like terrorism, poverty and the issues with India. "We regret that we supported the BNP in forming the government", he commented.

Chaired by the city unit Ameer of the party ATM Azharul Islam, the meeting was also addressed by the Nayebe-Ameers Shamsur Rahman and Abul Kalam Yousuf, Secretary General Matur Rahman Nizami and other central leaders including Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mujahid, Quamaruzzaman, Maulana Abdus Sobhan, Sheikh Ansar Ali and ATM Masum.

Shamsur Rahman wondered how the BNP arrested Golam Azam whose support helped it to go to power.

Abul Kalam Yousuf alleged that the sponsors of the 'Gana Adalat' included the killers of late President Ziaur Rahman. He also criticised the Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina for supporting the Gana Adalat.

Maulana Matur Rahman Nizami in his speech said that the government arrested Golam Azam to please a certain quarter which, according to him, wanted to destroy Islam, democracy and independence.

The role played by Golam Azam during