

District roundup

COX'S BAZAR

21 hurt as cops, Rohingya refugees clash

May 3: A clash between police and the supporters of Rohingya Repatriation Committee in Ukhiya Tuesday left at least 21 people, including six cops, injured, police and witnesses said, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the clash erupted at Balukhali Customs Gate when police tried to remove a heavy blockade put up by the Committee activists on the Cox's Bazar-Teknaf highway to make its dawn-to-dusk hartal a success. The hartal, called by the Committee to press for its one-point demand for early repatriation of about 2.22 lakh Rohingya refugees — was observed partially.

Of the injured, Azizur Rahman (14) was admitted to Ukhiya Health Complex with bullet wounds while a police constable, Anwar Hossain (32), was rushed to Sadar Hospital with a serious head injury.

Police fired at least 44 rounds during the clash which lasted for about half an hour from 1.30 pm.

Meanwhile, police last night arrested 12 Rohingya refugees, eight from Balukhali camp-2 and four from Ukhiya Kutupalang, on charge of terrorist activities.

DINAJPUR

Mobile courts register 152 cases

May 3: Thirteen mobile courts registered 152 cases and realised fines of Taka 33,480 from the owners of various shops and establishments of six northern districts for not using metric weighing system, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the drives were conducted in different parts and bazars of Sadar and Tarash thanas of Sirajganj district, Shibganj and Dhipchachia thanas of Bogra district, Sadar and Chilmari thanas of Kurigram district, Sadar, Hakiampur and Khanashama thanas of Dinajpur district, Sadar and Baliadangi thanas of Thakurgaon district and Sadar and Kaunia thanas of Rangpur district.

The drives were launched during the first half of the current month.

139 cases were disposed off on the spot while 13 complicated cases were referred to the courts of the respective areas, the source said.

The drives were jointly conducted by district and thana administrations, police and Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution.

SATKHIRA

One run over by speeding truck

May 3: A man was run over by a speeding truck near Palaspoor School in the town on Satkhira-Khulna road Saturday, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Abdur Razaque (45) of Kapsanda in Assasuni thana of the district.

Police said the truck (Khulna Metro Ta-116) ran over him in the evening while he was crossing road. He died on the spot.

The driver managed to flee along with the truck.

A case was registered with the police.

JAMALPUR

Police action on Nirmul body protested

May 3: Speakers at a meeting here Tuesday protested Sunday's police action on Nirmul Committee supporters in Dhaka and said the government was resorting to "undemocratic and autocratic" acts under the garb of democracy, reports UNB.

They demanded immediate execution of the Gano Adalat (people's court) verdict on Jamaat chief Golam Azam for his "war crimes."

Held at Bakultala in the afternoon as part of the central programme of countrywide demonstration, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Mirza Azam, MP, district Awami League General Secretary Rezaul Karim and Bramik League leader Abul Hossain. District AL President Advocate Matur, Rahman presided over the meeting, organised by the district chapter of Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee. Earlier, they brought out a procession which paraded the main streets of the town.

LALMONIRHAT

Tk one cr smuggled goods seized last month

May 3: Bangladesh Rifles seized Indian smuggled goods worth about Taka one crore from different parts of the district and arrested 10 smugglers in the last one month till April 15, reports UNB.

The seized goods included saree, wine, sugar, spices, cycle and cycle parts, grapes, apple, salt, masur dal, potato, jute seeds, tobacco, glass, steel plate and bowl, dry fish, clothes, blouse piece, cattle and kerosene.

The seized goods were deposited to the local customs godown and 40 cases were filed in five thanas of the district.

MAULVIBAZAR

Young girl commits suicide

May 3: A young girl of village Dastila of Rajnagar thana of the district allegedly committed suicide by taking poison, reports UNB.

Banessa Begum (20), daughter of Noor Miah of the village killed herself by taking poison on April 15. The reason behind the suicide could not be known.

A case was filed with the police.

Another report adds: The election of the executive committee of Nabiganj Press Club for the term 1993-94 was held Friday.

M R Chowdhury Selim and A T M Nurul Islam were elected as president and secretary respectively of the club.

Abdus Sattar and Abdul Qayum were also elected vice presidents.

COMILLA

26 alleged smugglers held

May 3: Bangladesh Rifles of 29 battalion arrested 26 alleged smugglers and seized contrabands worth about Taka 62.57 lakh in the first quarter of the current month, reports UNB.

BDR sources said the goods seized while being smuggled into the country worth about Taka 61.80 lakh included Indian sarees, spices, cycle and cycle parts, salt, timber and luxury items.

Those goods seized while being smuggled out of the country worth about Taka 77,670 included old garments, brass utensils, cables and electronic goods.

Another report adds: BDR seized smuggled timber worth about Taka 72,000 from a truck near Cantonment market here on April 20.

Acting on a tip, BDR stopped the truck at the Cantonment market and recovered 144 cft Indian timber. Two people were also arrested in this connection.

BRAHMANBARIA

3 get 10-yr RI for dacoity

May 3: Three people were sentenced to 10 years rigorous imprisonment for committing a dacoity, court sources said here on Sunday, reports UNB.

The convicts Abdul Khaleque, Shova Miah and Mon Miah were also fined Taka 5,000 each or in default, to suffer one year more RI.

According to the prosecution story, the accused stopped a bridal party coaster (Dhaka Metro Cha-8192) bound for Madhyapara from Akhaura on the way on March 13, 1991 and looted valuables including ornaments worth about Taka 30,000 at gun point.

A case was registered and police after investigation submitted charge sheet against 11 people.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Khademul Islam after examining the witnesses and records in a judgement on April 15 punished the dacoits and acquitted eight others.

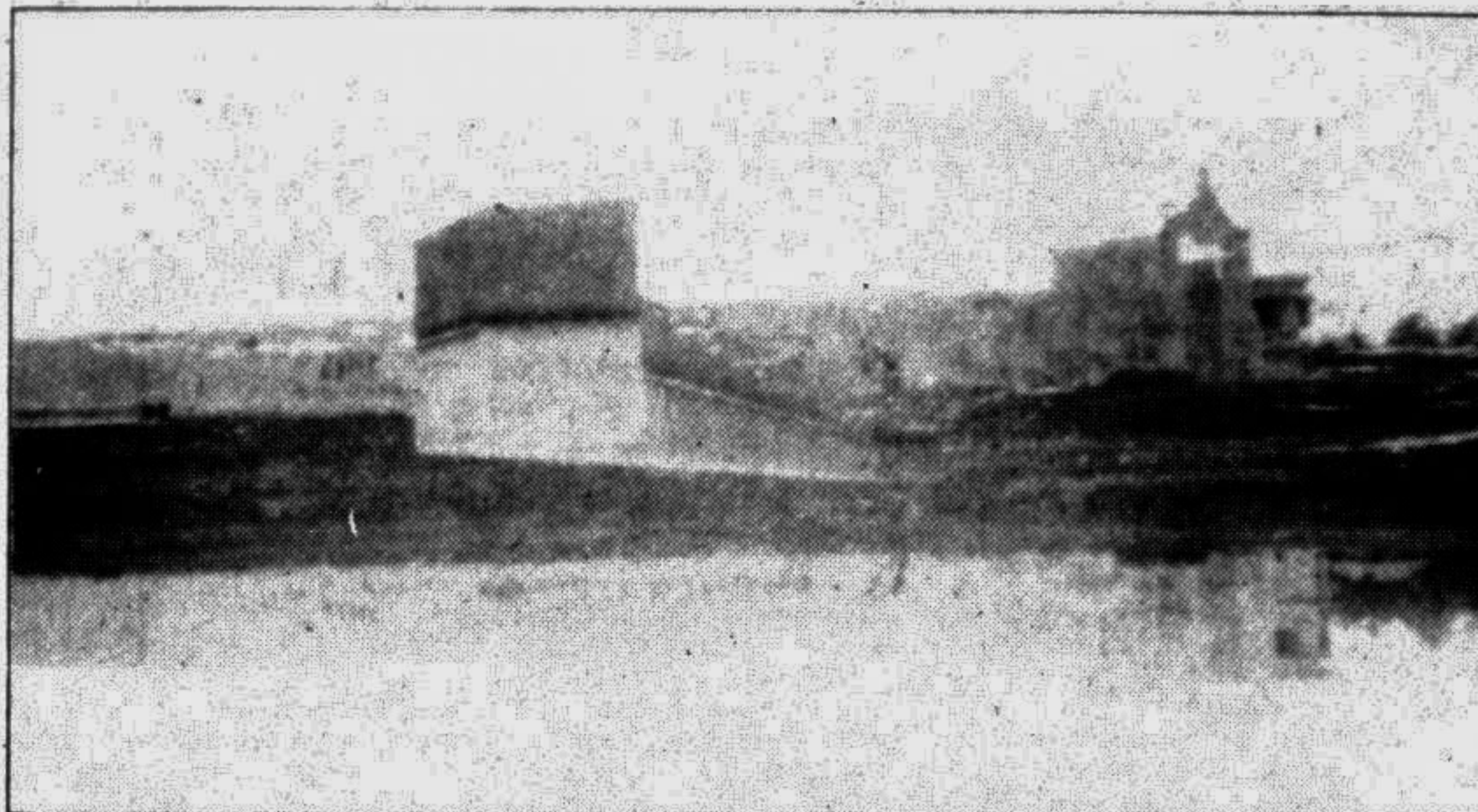
KUSHTIA

Abducted girl rescued

May 3: One girl, Rozy (14), abducted from Mazampara on Thursday morning, was recovered by police at noon the same day from Courtpara area of the town, reports BSS.

Police said, she was abducted by miscreants from Mazampara area. On secret information police raided a house at Courtpara and recovered the girl.

Two persons have been arrested in his connection.



MADARIPUR: Construction of the local swimming pool, which was started a decade ago, has not yet been completed. —Star photo

Shortage of ARV vaccine

Hydrophobia kills 15 in Rajshahi

RAJSHAHI, May 3: At least 15 people died of hydrophobia in the district due to want of anti-rabies vaccine, reports UNB.

Hospital sources said the number of patients attacked and bit by the rabid dogs have now exceeded 100.

It is learnt that on an average 200 people are bitten by the dog in the district in every week. Of them, 50 people go to the village quacks (kabiraj) for treatment and the rest come to the hospital and health complexes to collect vaccines.

Health officials of the city corporation said a large number of people from Pabna, Bogra, Sirajganj, Rangpur, Naogaon and other northern districts also come to the divisional headquarters to collect the vaccine.

But due to the scarcity of the vaccine for the last six months the death toll is on rise. City Corporation sources said at least 50 courses of vaccine were needed in the city daily but they can provide only 4 to 5 courses.

The sources said Public Health Institute, the only manufacturing agency of the vaccine, is on the verge of closure

for want of raw materials and administrative irregularities. To meet the growing demand the vaccine had been imported from neighbouring India for the time being which was also stopped for unknown reason. As a result, the crisis of ARV vaccine persists all over the country.

Release of JP leaders demanded

FARIDPUR, May 3: Local leaders of Jatiya Party in a public meeting on Monday demanded immediate release of their party leaders including the party chief ousted President Hossain Mohammad Ershad and Anwar Hossain Manju, reports UNB.

The JP leaders strongly criticised the ruling BNP for its undemocratic behaviour towards the opposition. They said party chief SM Ershad was implicated in false cases Anwar Hossain has been detained unlawfully.

Presided over by Advocate Amiruzzaman, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Imran Hossain Chowdhury, Saiful Islam, Principal Nasiruddin, Ahmed Musa and Advocate Mohammad Shajahan.

Chicken pox breaks out alarmingly in Moulvibazar, Sherpur

MOULVIBAZAR, May 3: Chicken pox has broken out in an alarming proportion in various parts of the district creating panic among the common people, reports UNB.

With the onset of the dry season about 200 people in all the six thanas have been attacked by the disease. The worst affected areas are Rajnagar, Kulaura, Kamalganj, Barika and Sremangal thanas.

Children were found more prone to chicken pox. Specially children of the poor family are the worst sufferers as their parents can not afford to manage diet and medicine for them, local people said.

No curative medicine is available in the district for the treatment of the disease. Finding no other way out, the patients are rushing to quacks for treatment. Some guardians alleged that the village quacks are demanding exorbitant prices for the herbal medicine which is beyond the purchasing capacity of the poor people.

The affected people urged the concerned authorities to take necessary steps on emergency basis to check the spread of the disease.

Another message from Sherpur adds: Chicken pox has taken a serious turn in all the five thanas of the district causing grave concern among the people.

About 500 people in all the five thanas have been attacked by the disease with the on set of the dry season. The disease has already engulfed 25 unions out of 51 in the district.

The worst affected areas

are: Sadar, Sribordi, Jhenaidah, Nalitabari and Norka thanas.

Every day people from surrounding areas are pouring to the thana health complexes and hospitals for treatment. But lack of curative medicine hampers their treatment, local people said.

The affected people urged the concerned authorities to take necessary steps to check the menace.

Another report from Moulvibazar says: Private tuition has become a commercial practice in Moulvibazar town and six thanas of the district.

Local people alleged that

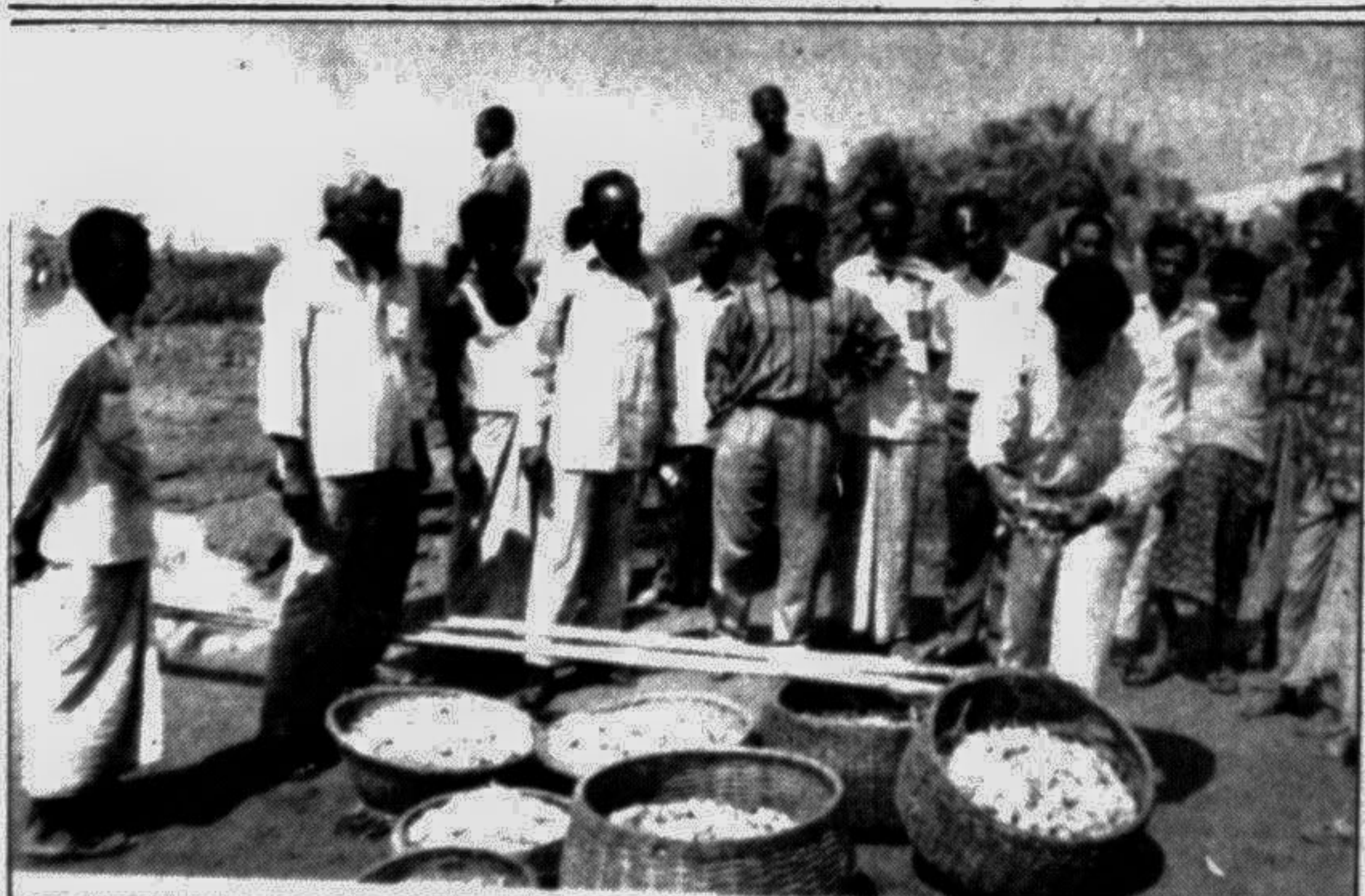
Strive for an independent judiciary: Menon

CHITTAGONG, May 3:

Bangladesh Workers Party General Secretary Rashed Khan Menon on Monday called upon the lawyers to untiedly strive for establishing an independent and impartial judicial system to make the country's independence meaningful, reports BSS.

Addressing members of the Chittagong District Bar Association at the Bar Library premises Menon said, without establishing rule of law in the society, we cannot institutionalise democracy achieved through long nine years of movement.

He said the government was yet to ensure independence of judiciary though it pledged time and again to separate judiciary from the executive.



CHANDPUR: Huge quantities of hilsa fry were seized by district administration at the river Meghna recently. —Star photo

Notes from Chandpur

From Our Correspondent
CHANDPUR, May 3: Bumper IRRI and boro production is expected in "Chandpur Irrigation Project" and Matlab "Meghna-Dhanagoda Irrigation Project" during the current season. The prospect of crop is bright in these two projects.

About 3 lakh acres of land have been brought to cultivate high yielding variety of IRRI crops in these two projects.

Bus journey hazardous

Bus journey on Chandpur-Comilla road has become hazardous.

Overloading of buses has become a daily affair. The passengers are even allowed to travel on the roof of the buses. Moreover, the bus conductors realise fare from the passengers at an exorbitant rate. They also misbehave with the passengers.

It is reported that the bus drivers do not maintain any time-table.

Sometimes the drivers, drive their vehicles at a high speed that accident may occur at any time.

Mushroom growth of hotels, restaurants

Mushroom growth of hotels and restaurants in all over the town is posing health hazards.

With the increase of population of the town, these hotels and restaurants have been constructed beside roads and lanes.

It is reported, most of these hotels and restaurants are dirty and uncleaned. Food is prepared and stored in most unhygienic condition. There are some hotels without licences. Health and municipal administration are not paying any attention to this menace.

Shows of obscene movies unabated

Obscene movies and blue-films are being shown indiscriminately and with impunity by local cinema halls and video shops causing concern to the people.

It is reported young people are attracted to the shows in increasing numbers leaving an impact on the society. School and college going students often dropped their classes to see the obscene films.

Power failure erratic

Power disruption and load-shedding have become a regular feature at Chandpur town and adjoining areas causing much inconvenience to the people.

It is reported that not a single day is left without power disruption. Almost in every night electricity goes off plunging the entire town into darkness. Erratic power supply has also affected the production in the local mills, factories and work shops.

Savings week observed

Saving week was observed throughout the district from April 10.

In this connection, a meeting of cross section of people was held at Chandpur district saving office.

Md Yakub Ali, DC, Chandpur attended as chief guest while Kazi Amin Ahmed, Principal, Chandpur Govt College attended as a special guest.

Seminar on Sher-e-Bangla

A seminar was held at Chandpur organised by Islamic Foundation on the occasion of 31st death anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Haque.

The seminar was presided over by Prof ABM Walullah and addressed among others by Prof Humayun Azad, Prof Tazul Islam, Prof Md Hossain Khan and Shah Md Akram Hossain. On the occasion, books were distributed at free of cost to about seventeen mosques, library of the district.

Lions club executives

The Annual General Meeting of Chandpur Lions Club was held recently at club office.

Nurul Haque, President of the club presided over the meeting. Shahjahan Ahmed, Jakir Hossain Khan and Md Ali Jinnah were elected respectively President, Secretary and Treasurer for the year 1993-94.

Tk 1.27 lakh for 3 projects

SHERPUR, May 3: Sherpur paurashava has taken up three projects at a cost of Taka 127,000 in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

The municipality source said the work of the projects included construction of a culvert and reconstruction of roads.

Massive afforestation plan taken up

BARISAL, May 3: Forest Extension Department has raised 18,21,707 saplings of different plants in 31 thana and six forest extension centres of five southern districts under Barisal Afforestation Division during the current season, reports BSS.

The districts are Barisal, Jhalakati, Pirojpur, Bagerhat and Khulna.

According to an official source, the government has sanctioned Taka 74,30,100 for the implementation of the programme.

Of the total, 2,53,300 saplings will be planted in the government office premises and 15,68,407 will be distributed among people.

The saplings are of coconut, ipil-ipil, akashmani, mehganf, segun, chhatian, raintree, shishu, betel nut, jalpat, jackfruit, haritaki, bahera, amlaki, kadbel and amra.

Sylhet unit JCD leader arrested

SYLHET, : Police arrested a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal leader from Subidbazar area in the town today on charges of various criminal activities, report UNB.

Mizanur Rahman Mizan (26), a JCD leader of district unit and former VP of Sylhet Government College, was picked up from the area in the evening.

11 die of dysentery, six killed in incidents

PABNA, May 3: At least 11 children and one young girl died of blood dysentery and measles at Laxmikunda and Sahapur unions in the last one week, official sources said, reports UNB.

The dead were identified as Rozina (5), Asalat (1), Selina (5), Sayeed (1), Saddam (2), Hafizul (3), Zarina (8), Rema (6), Hadi (1), Amin (2), Sonali (3) and Kobori (20).

Civil Surgeon of the district confirmed the death figure and said nine medical teams are working in the affected areas.

Local leaders alleged that paucity of pure water is the main cause of the spread of the diseases.

Another report says: Six people, including three women, were killed in separate incidents in three thanas of the district in the last four days, police said today.

Family sources said Rehana Parvin (20), wife of Mahub Ali of Daspara in Sadar thana was allegedly killed on Friday by her husband following a feud over dowry money.

Anjanara (18), wife of Abdul Hamid of Alehara in Chhatmohor thana was allegedly beaten to death by her husband following a family feud on

Tuesday.

Shabij (6), son of Naztrud-din of Puspapura in Sadar thana was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck on Tuesday.

Akeda Khatun (26), daughter of Mansur Ali of Jagannathpur village in Chhatmohor thana, allegedly committed suicide by taking insecticide following a family feud on the same day.

Mehera Khatun (20), daughter of Lokman Sheikh of Jalalpur in Sadar thana, allegedly killed her brother for money on Monday.

Mozammel Haque (55) of West Tegar in Ishwardi thana, was killed in a clash between two rival groups of the villagers on Monday morning.

Separate cases were filed with the local police.

Another report adds: Indiscriminate slaughtering of calves in the district has been causing gradual decrease of livestock population.

The butchers slaughter a large number of calves in different markets including pourashava ones every day to attract the buyers. They also allegedly slaughter old and sick cows spreading various diseases among the consumers.



JHENIDAH: Police arrested Khasru (23), an alleged murderer of Abdul Kuddus Alias Kadu from Baraikhali village under Sadar thana and recovered one Indian shuttergun and two rounds of bullets. —Star photo

Works on 186 projects completed in Lalmonirhat

LALMONIRHAT, May 3: Works on 186 projects under Food for Works Programme have been completed recently in Lalmonirhat district, reports BSS.

The government sanctioned 370 metric tons of wheat for implementation of the projects, an official source said.

Thana-wise allocation of wheat and number of projects are as follows Lalmonirhat sadar 70 metric tons for 38 projects, Aditmari 55 metric tons for 30 projects, Kaliganj 70 metric tons for 33 projects, Hatibandha 67 metric tons for 34 projects, Patgram 82 metric tons for 41 projects, and Lalmonirhat pourashava 16 metric tons for 10 projects.

The projects included reconstruction of kucha roads and hatching of bushes and water-hyacinth.

A report from Jamalpur says

The district council has taken up nine projects at a cost of Taka 7,41,392 in the current fiscal year.

Official sources said the work of the projects included construction and reconstruction of a passenger shed, approach roads, staff quarter, district council office building and re-excavation of ponds.

Sources said that work of the projects will be completed by June next.

Another report from Narasingdi adds: Grameen Bank, Narasingdi area office has disbursed Taka 50 crore and 32 lakh among the poor people as short-term loan.

A bank source said meanwhile Taka 44 crore and 79 lakh have been recovered.

The loans have been given to the rural poor for small business under poverty alleviation programme of the bank.

Tamils kill Bangladeshi in Malaysia

SIRAJGANJ, May 3: A Bangladeshi worker from Sirajganj was lynched to death, allegedly by a group of Tamils, at the Malaysian township of Kajang on April 19, a delayed message said here Wednesday, reports UNB.

Relative said that the victim, Abul Kalam Swapan (25) of village Kandarpura, had gone to Malaysia with his brother Lalam about 5 months ago. Both were working at a steel factory at Kajang.

They alleged that some miscreants, reportedly Tamil nationals, had attacked a group of Bangladeshi workers while they were returning to their dormitory in the night.

The Bangladeshis were mercilessly beaten up and

thrown into a roadside drain. The victims were afterwards taken to a nearby hospital where the doctors declared Swapan dead, according to the relatives.

The body of Swapan was sent back to his home at village Kandarpura in Sirajganj Sadar thana on Tuesday-by the owner of the factory.

Another report adds: At least 13 people were injured, four seriously, in a clash between the people of Bhanudanga cluster village and the lathials of Dighakandi in Kaziipur thana on Tuesday.

In the afternoon Jabbar's men launched an attack on the house of Khoshal and clashed with the people who tried to resist them.