

Spl course for teachers

CHITTAGONG, Apr 8: Government has introduced a special course in the syllabus of Open University to train the teachers to build a fit posterity to shoulder the helm of the country in future, reports UNB.

This was revealed (Thursday) by Industries Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan while inaugurating the centenary ceremony of the Fateyabad Ideal Multilateral High School under Hathazari thana here.

"The very attractive presentation technique of a teacher would draw unimpaired students to studies which was one of the main objectives of the syllabus of the Open University", Zahiruddin said.

He appealed to the teaching staff to help establish the course properly with a view to build the mental and physical individuality of the students.

The minister announced to help establish a computer centre at the school, donate two computers and set-up an electronic reference library at the school.

He hoped that the steps would help teachers and students to cope with the teaching process through the electronic media.

Zahiruddin also announced a Gold Medal to be awarded annually after his grandfather A L Khan and two stipends for meritorious students of classes eight and nine after his father A K Khan, said a PID handout.

Syed Wahidul Alam, MP, Managing Director of Bangladesh Shipping Corporation S M Iqbal, member of the founding family and Baran Pal and Headmaster of the school AKM Fuzul Huq Pasha were among others spoke on the occasion.

Three awarded 14 yrs RI for carrying arms

NARAIL, Apr 8: The Special Tribunal Judge sentenced three people for 14 years rigorous imprisonment on charge of possessing illegal arms, reports UNB.

In a judgement delivered on Monday the judge also fined Taka 1,000 each in default to suffer another six months RI.

The convicts are: Mohammad Sali in Borhanuddin thana of Bhola district, Sadek Hossain in Taltali thana of Borguna district and Emdud Hossain in Shibchar of Madaripur district.

The prosecution story in brief is that last year on April 22 Lohagara police arrested the convicts on suspicion from a restaurant at Lakshimpasha bus stand and recovered a country made gun and nine rounds of rifle bullets from their possession.

Later a case was filed and police submitted the charge-sheet against the convicts.

Kidnapped girl rescued

NARAIL, Apr 8: Police have rescued a teenage girl who was abducted from her house at Jogaria village in Kalia thana, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip police raided a village in Morelgonj thana, and nabbed the kidnapper, Shahidul with the girl named Toposhi Rabiya, 13.

Shahidul, a student of class ten, along with his gang went to Rabiya's house at 10 pm on March 23 and called her out of the house. They took her away at daggers point in presence of her mother.

Later, on March 24 Shahidul forcibly married Rabiya, daughter of Fazlul Haque, at a local Kazi office in Khulna. He also allegedly raped her before registering marriage.

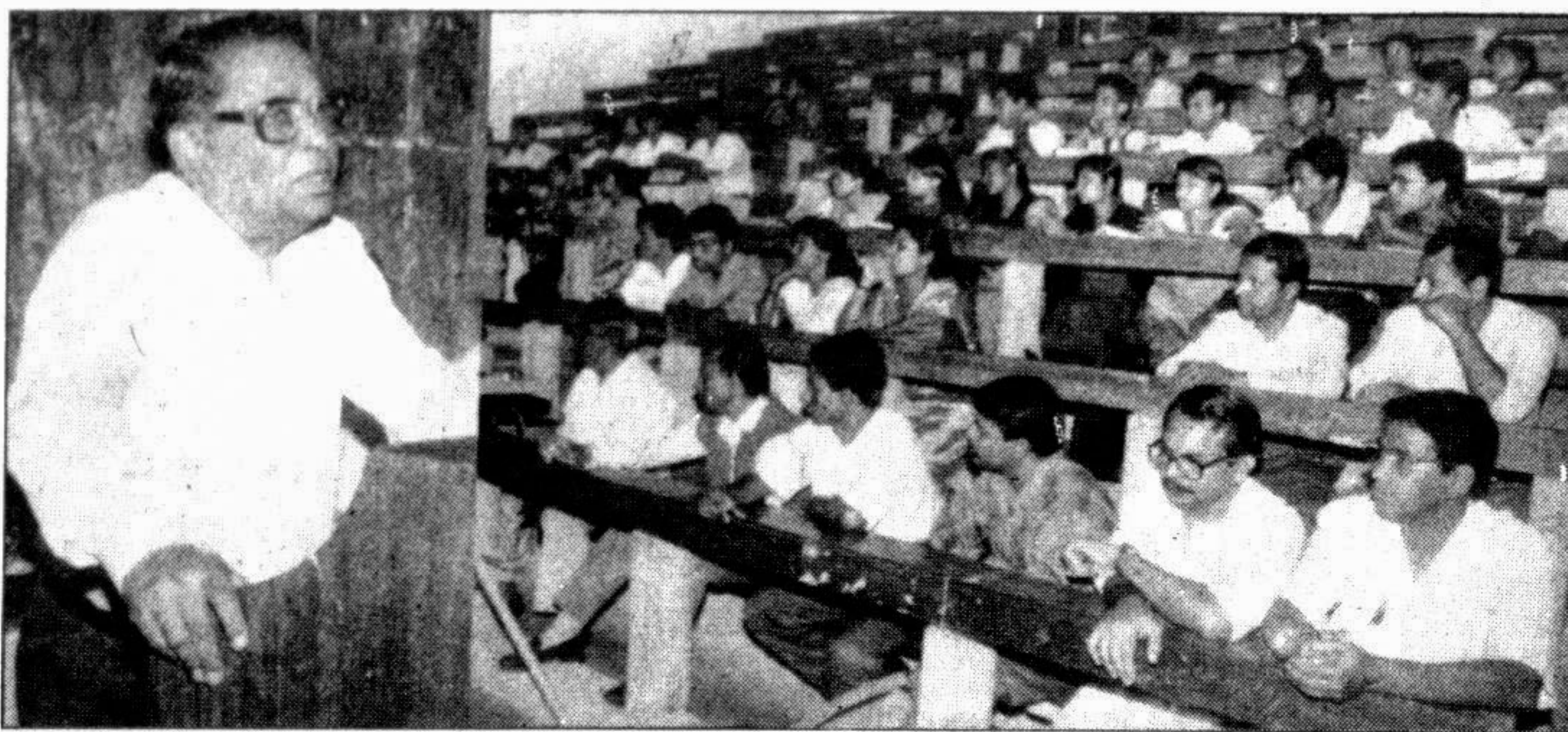
Gold chain found in hijacker's stomach

CHITTAGONG, Apr 8: Port police Thursday received a gold chain from the stomach of one Mohammad Haroon who had snatched away ornament from a girl earlier, reports BSS.

According to police, Mohammad Haroon snatched away the chain from Sham-sunnahar, an SSC examinee, who was visiting the foreign ships at the Chittagong Port on Thursday last.

When the hijacker was fleeing away with the ornament he was caught red handed by the security forces and the people came there hearing the hue and cry of the girl.

But Haroon swallowed the chain instantly. He was interrogated for many hours but he did not confess his guilt. Finding no alternative police made an x-ray of his bowel the ornament was traced in his abdomen. Later, Haroon was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where doctors administered some medicines, as a result of which the chain came out of Haroon's stomach.



Prof R Chowdhury, VC, Chittagong University speaking at a inaugural session of seminar on 'Hymenopterum parasitoids and their Biology' jointly sponsored by link project of the Department of Zoology of the varsity, Zoological Society of Bangladesh and the British Council, Dhaka held at the Science Gallery on April 2.

Problems hampering edn of over 1 lakh pry students

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Apr 8: Over 1,15,000 students of about 360 government and non-government primary schools of the district are not getting proper education for various problems.

Dilapidated condition of schools, scarcity of furniture, playground and shortage of teachers and inadequate accommodation have been hampering education in these institutions.

Many school houses are in pitiable condition. Some schools are holding classes in buildings which may collapse at any moment.

During the rainy season, water leaks through the roofs of the buildings. Besides, only 50 per cent schools have buildings which the others are housed in tin-shed and thatched houses.

These schools have been facing difficulties to accommodate the increasing number of students. About 60 per cent of the schools have no sufficient benches, latrines and other necessary materials.

Sports facilities are absent in all most all the educational institutions.

Scarcity of pure drinking water persists due to non-availability of requisite number of tubewells.

A total of 38 posts of primary school teacher in the government primary schools have been lying vacant in the district. Of them 10 posts of Headmaster and 28 posts of

assistant-teacher.

The total number of government primary schools in the district is 257 while the number of registered non-government primary schools in the district is 75. There are 15 non-government primary schools in the district and the number of Ebtidia Madrasa in the district is 5.

All those schools and madrasas are suffering for want of educational appliances.

Many of those non-registered and private schools houses have no roof, no shed, no surrounding wall. Suffering of both the teachers and students of those schools are also immense.

The number of population of the district is estimated to be around 10 lakh. At least 50 per cent of the children are yet outside the education arena. They do not take admission due to utter poverty of their guardians.

Teachers, students and guardians have urged the concerned authorities to take necessary steps to mitigate the sufferings of the students.

Another report says: Scarcity of drinking water has taken an alarming situation in the four thanas of the district including three pourashava areas.

The thanas of the district are: Chuadanga sadar, Alamdanga, Damurhuda and Jibannagar.

The pourashavas of the district are: Chuadanga, Alam-

danga and Darsana.

There are about 10 lakh people in the district of whom a good number of people are using contaminated water of khal, beel, ponds and river due to scarcity of supply of pure drinking water.

There are 7234 tubewells in the district including 360 Tarapumps.

Out of which about 300 tubewells including 20 Tarapumps have gone out of order.

Following the severe draught during the current dry season underground water level has fallen to a great extent in the district.

Meanwhile, waters borne diseases have broken out in many areas of the district causing panic among the people.

Every year, over 15,000 people are attacked by diarrhoea in Chuadanga district, according to unofficial report.

Chuadanga pourashava supplies drinking water only to one-third areas under its jurisdiction. There is no arrangement to supply pure drinking water to Ward No-3 and in vast area of Ward No-2 of Chuadanga Pourashava.

An official of the Chuadanga Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) said, steps are underway to solve pure water problem in the district. The PHED has taken up a programme to install 130 new tubewells, 130 tarapumps and to resink 190 choked up tubewells in the district during the current financial year.

Help attain self-sufficiency in vegetables, pulse, oil

KAPASIA, Apr 8: Jute Minister A S M Hannan Shah called upon the farmers to increase production of vegetables, pulse and oil seeds, reports UNB.

He was speaking as chief guest at the farmers' gathering in Kapasia on Thursday, sponsored by the Thana Agricultural Extension Department.

The minister said the country has achieved food autarky and is now one of the rice exporting countries in the world as the government has embarked on timely development activities.

"Now it is necessary to increase complimentary food stuffs through crops diversification."

Earlier, the Jute Minister inaugurated a bus terminal at Baniganj on the Baniganj-Gazipur route.

Speaking on the occasion, Hannan Shah observed improved communication is the measurement of civilisation and said the government has been working relentlessly for the betterment of rural communities.

Later, the Minister distributed some prizes among the members of the disabled and shaheed freedom fighters, organised by the thana

Muktijoddha Command.

Another report says: The government under the Fourth Five-Year Plan has sanctioned Taka 39.33 crore for development works of Islamic University.

Of the total amount Taka 10 crore will be spent for constructing the central university mosque, central library, dormitory for teachers and officials and a hall for female students during the current fiscal year, official sources said Friday.

Meanwhile, a total of Taka 27.37 crore has been spent for constructing halls, faculty buildings and administrative building since the opening of the university.

Our correspondent reports: Fruit-bearing trees in all the six thanas of the district are on the verge of extinction, due to large-scale cutting.

According to a report, Kushtia district was once famous for different kinds of fruits such as jack fruit, lichi, mango, palm, guava, amlaki and pineapple.

The people of the district did never face the scarcity of various kinds of fruits as these were available in all the hats and bazars.

People used to eat many fruits which were the main source of vitamin needed for health. But those days are gone. Now fruits are not available. There are reasons for their non-availability.

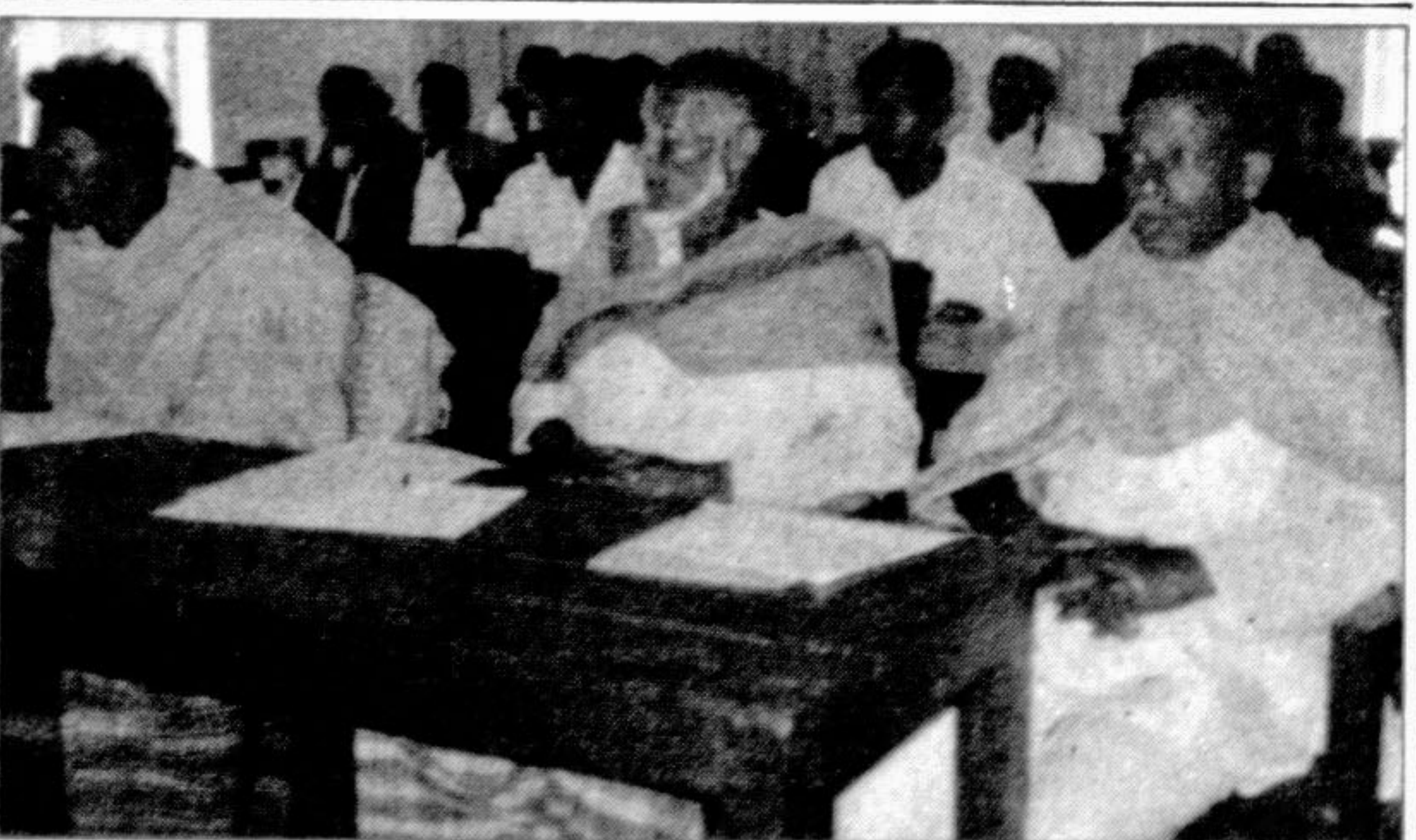
The economic condition of the people of Kushtia district is rapidly deteriorating due to inflation, natural disasters, withdrawal of subsidies on many agricultural inputs and high birth rate.

Many poverty stricken people are compelled to sell their fruit bearing trees to a sections of traders. These trees are being used as firewood and house building materials.

Due to the indiscriminate felling of the fruit bearing trees, an acute crisis of fruit has been prevailing every where.

Besides, the ecological balance is being damaged day by day.

The people of the district cannot enjoy the taste of various fruit as before. They are being deprived of necessary nutrition which comes from fruit. For this reason, their health is being affected to a great extent. The number of malnutrition patients is increasing.



MAULVIBAZAR: Participants at a training programme on vegetable cultivation held here recently.

College teachers' body submits memo to DC

CHANDPUR, Apr 8: Liaison Committee of the Non-government College Teachers' Sangram Parishad, district unit, submitted a memorandum to press home their 15-point demand to the Deputy Commissioner of the district on Monday, reports UNB.

They also arranged a rally at Purnabazar College of the town and demanded of the government to solve their problems immediately. The rally was presided over by Acting Principal of the college Delwar Ahmad.

The speakers at the rally called upon the non-government school and college teachers and staff members to observe strike on April 7 in support of their demand and urged them to make the grand conference on April 12 a success.

AL supporters protest killing during siege

SUNAMGANJ, Apr 8: Awami League activists brought out a procession at the town on Thursday evening protesting the killing of its colleagues in Dhaka during a siege programme, reports UNB.

The processionists paraded the main thoroughfares of the town chanting anti-government slogans. Local Awami League leaders Abdus Zahur MP, Alfai Uddin Ahmed, Advocate Nurul Islam Chowdhury, Ayub Bakht Jagul and Jasimuddin Faruque took part in the demonstration.

Later, a protest rally was held at local traffic point with district Chhatra League President Jitendra Talukder Pintu in the chair. The leaders condemned the government for its autocratic behaviour and demanded its resignation and exemplary punishment of the killers.

They also demanded that future election should be held under a care-taker government.

Another report from Khulna says: Awami League activists damaged two vehicles while demonstrating in the port city this evening against the killing of their party colleagues in Dhaka during a siege programme.

The protesters marched through the city streets chanting anti-government slogans and demanding immediate resignation of the government.

They damaged a car of Radio Bangladesh Khulna Station and a truck near Dak Bungalow.

Later, at a rally the local Awami League leaders charged the government with showing autocratic attitude and asked their workers to prepare for any anti-government movement.

AL siege to damage image abroad: Morshed

CHITTAGONG, Apr 8: Awami League's planned siege of the secretariat on April 7 will tarnish Bangladesh's bright image abroad, said Morshed Khan, special envoy to the Prime Minister, here on Monday, reports UNB.

Khan was addressing a reception hosted by Boalkhali thana unit of Bangladesh Sangbadik Samity following his recent visit to Japan as a member of the PM's entourage.

Describing the prime minister's trip to Japan as successful, he said, the visit had helped to portray Bangladesh as a "land of hope" instead of a "land of disaster".

He said, a high-level delegation of the Japanese government will arrive in Dhaka on April 6 to observe the investment situation and infrastructure facilities in Bangladesh following the visit.

After the return home of the delegation, some business delegates will visit Bangladesh to study the investment climate and possibilities.

The Prime Minister received warm reception from five dominating factors of Japan — the government, opposition, bureaucracy, media and business elite, Khan said, adding that the visit also helped improve the 'swinging relations' between the two countries since 1982.

Chaired by Samity President Mujahedul Islam, the function was also addressed by local BNP leaders Sirajul Islam, MP, Syed Wahidul Alam, MP, BSS Chittagong Bureau Chief Nazir Ahmed and Boalkhali Press Club President Syed Zakir Hossain.



NATORE: Children at an art competition arranged on the occasion of victory and National Day here.

Number of quacks on rise as jobless youths taking up the profession

BARGUNA, Apr 8: The number of quacks has been increasing in the five thanas of the district as many employed educated young men are taking up the profession, reports UNB.

It is gathered that many educated young men disappointed by prolonged unemployment have taken up quackery in the villages of Bama, Patharghata, Amtali, Betagi and sadar thanas. Only a few of them have basic training on primary health care.

Poor people, mainly landless and day labourers who can hardly afford to get themselves treated at hospitals go to these quacks because they charge normal fees.

Besides, some government health workers are also found practicing as quacks in the rural areas of the district. Local elite said, the number

of quacks has been increasing mainly due to absence of medicare at health complexes set up at every thana headquarters and many union parishads.

The people suffering from various diseases including diarrhoea go to the quacks for necessary treatment. In most of the cases the quacks exploit the patients in the name of treatment.

Local people alleged that a section of doctors and other staff of hospitals realise gratification from poor patients for providing them with prescription and medical treatment. Being harassed by them the helpless poor patients are forced to go to the quacks.

Moreover, communication with the health complexes is also in a precarious state. As a result, patients are generally reluctant to go to the qualified doctors at the thana headquarters and district town.

District roundup

CHITTAGONG

World Health Day observed

Apr 8: World Health Day was observed in the port city and elsewhere in the district in a befitting manner Thursday, reports BSS.

Various government, non-government and voluntary organisations observed the day through holding seminar, rally discussion, distribution of leaflets and health exhibition.

A big procession under the auspices of civil surgeon office here was brought out from local circuit house premises. It paraded some important city roads carrying posters and banners with the message of sound health.

Chittagong city Mayor Alhaj ABM Mahiuddin Chowdhury led the procession and a large number of students, physicians, health workers and NGO workers took part in it.

A discussion meeting was held at the gallery of civil surgeon office at Andarkilla.

According to a report reaching here, health and family planning department of Khagrachari Thursday brought out a big procession from the local town hall which was led by Chairman of the Local Government Council Samiran Dewan.

Bangladesh Diploma Health Technologists' Association, Chittagong, World Vision of Bangladesh, Action City Lion Club and Kattali Leo Club and Hathazari thana health department, among other organisations, observed the day.

Local dailies also published special articles and health messages, while Radio Bangladesh, Chittagong put up special programmes to mark the day.

NILFAMARI

Canal digging work in progress

Apr 8: The re-excavation work of the 12-km long Khora canal of the district is progressing in full-swing, according to an official handout Tuesday, reports BSS.

State Minister for Planning Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan formally inaugurated the canal digging work as chief guest Monday.

A total of 335.6 tons of wheat has been allocated to re-excavate the canal. Seventyfive per cent of the digging work will be completed under Food For Work and the rest of the twentyfive per cent through voluntary services. On completion of the project 800 acres of land will get irrigation facilities. As a result, additional crops worth over Taka three crore will be produced and 300 families will be benefited.

NARAIL

One killed while trying to board running bus

Apr 8: A student of Narail Government College was run over by a bus at Nakashi in sadar thana Thursday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, the victim, Bellal of Sharushana village in Lohagara thana fell down and died on the spot while he was trying to get into the speeding Jessore bound bus at 9 am.

Local people rushed to the spot and seized the bus along with the driver and helpers. They were handed over to the police.

The body was sent to sadar hospital for autopsy and a case was filed with the police.

The students of the college called a day-long hartal Friday in the district to register their protest against the incident.

NARAYANGANJ

Fire service week ends

Apr 8: The country-wide Fire Service and Civil Defence Week 94 ended with fire fighting demonstration at Gymbkhana play ground here Thursday afternoon, reports BSS.

Brigadier (Retd) Nurul Islam Laskar, Director General, Fire Service and Civil Defence, was the chief guest on the occasion while Habibur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner, Narayanganj was the special guest.

Over 200 wardens of fire service and civil defence of Dhaka division presented an impressive display of various techniques of fire fighting operation.

The display which included demonstration of modern fire fighting equipment, life rescue equipment, display of turntable ladder, war time gas decontamination technique and war time black out, drew ovation from the audience.

About 50 thousand spectators enjoyed the three-hour long demonstration.

KUSHTIA

Tk 39.33 crore sanctioned for development of Islamic varsity

Apr 8: The government under the fourth five year plan has sanctioned Taka 39.33 crore for development works of Islamic University, reports UNB.

Of the total amount Taka 10 crore will be spent for constructing the central university mosque, central library, dormitory for teachers and officials and a hall for female students during the current fiscal year, official sources said Friday.

Meanwhile, a total of Taka 27.37 crore has been spent for constructing halls, faculty buildings and administrative building since the opening of the university.

FARIDPUR

Workshop held on seed technology

Apr 8: A workshop on "Seed Technology" for the private seeds growers and seed traders of greater Faridpur district was held at the Seed Processing Centre at Domrakandi in the district on Sunday, reports UNB.

About 25 seed growers and traders of Shariatpur, Madaripur, Faridpur, Gopalganj and Rajbari district participated the one day long workshop which was jointly organised by Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) and FAO.

Prof Mian Lutfar Rahman, Principal of Government Sarada Sundari Mahila College attended the certificate giving ceremony as chief guest.

It was also addressed by Abdul Matin Talukder, Deputy Director of Agriculture Extension Department (AED), Md Shahidullah, Deputy Director, Seed Distribution of BADC and Munshi Harun.

The speakers urged upon the seed farmers to apply the knowledge of seed technology in growing High Yielding Variety (HYV) seed of various crops specially of vegetable varieties.

They also underscored the need for declaring the seed producing as an industry and provide the soft term loan for the seed growers.

BARISAL

One electrocuted, another hurt

Apr 8: A young man was electrocuted and his brother injured when they tried to repair a fallen wire at Mirbarkashipur area in the town Tuesday evening, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Firos, 28. His younger brother Mahid 20 was admitted to the Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

Witnesses said, the brothers fell victims as they tried to repair a live wire, fallen in the Saturday's storm at the area. Firos died on the spot.

COX'S BAZAR

Repatriation of Rohingyas stalled

Apr 8: The repatriation of Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh to Myanmar has been almost stalled, local people said, reports UNB.

The last batch comprising 61 refugees voluntarily went back to their homes in Arakan on March 30.

Out of a quarter million Myanmar Muslims who fled to Bangladesh in early 1991 in the face of persecution, 53,483 have returned to their homeland since the repatriation began in September, 1992.

Geneva-based United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) has been conducting the repatriation operation on Bangladesh territory under an agreement with Dhaka.

The UNHCR which has obtained permission from the Myanmar government to operate in its western state of Arakan is yet to open its missions there, it was learnt.

According to the local food department, 80,000 tons of rice, 7,500 tons of dal, 1,500 tons of sugar, 4,000 tons of oil, 632 tons of dry fish and 350 tons of salt have so far been distributed among the refugees besides other essentials.

Another reports from Sirajganj says: At least 21 people were injured in a clash between two groups of people at the town on Friday.

The clash ensued over sitting arrangements on the dais of a function marking the 125th anniversary of Sirajganj Pourshava.