

Maintain peace on campus: Shahabuddin

From Staff Correspondent
KISHOREGANJ, Apr 18: Chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed recently called upon all to maintain a congenial atmosphere in the educational institutions to enable the pursuit of higher education by the students.

The Chief Justice was addressing as chief guest the inaugural ceremony of the 3-day celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the Gurudayal College here Thursday. Justice Shahabuddin is a former student of the college.

The Chief Justice regretted that due to violence and terrorism the educational institutions, including the universities remained closed for long periods of time.

Shahabuddin said that war-defeated and devastated Japan rose from the ashes like a phoenix only because of its pursuit of technical knowledge.

"We could not make any significant progress other than increasing population," the Chief Justice observed.

Presided by the Principal of the College Prof Mukkaram Hussain, others who spoke included Advocate Abdul Hamid, an AL MP, Major, (Retd) Aktaruzzaman, a BNP MP, Fazul Huq, Deputy Commissioner of Kishoreganj, Mahbubur Rahman, DG, Customs and Excise, Mir Nasiruddin, Deputy Secretary of the Dhaka Education Board and Bahar Miah, VP of the college students' union.

At one stage during the inaugural function, there was a pandemonium after Major Aktaruzzaman, MP in his speech criticised the present judicial system. He alleged that most of the judges remained in confined chambers and were not properly discharging their duties. As a result, he said, the people were deprived of prompt justice.

Teenage girl gang rapped

MAGURA, Apr 18: A teenage girl was gang raped after she was kidnapped from her residence at village Horind in Sreepur thana early this month, reports UNB.

Taslima Begum Lipi, 12, a student of class seven was abducted by a group of youths on April 3 while she was studying at her home.

She was later taken to a house in village Faridpur in Sotikupa thana and was violated in a gang rape.

Police rescued her from the house and arrested one Shamim 18. The accused was forwarded to the court.

Taslima is the daughter of Khelafat Hossain. A case has been registered with the Sreepur Police.

Businessman robbed of Tk one lakh in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Apr 18: A group of terrorists allegedly snatched taka one lakh from a businessman at Agrabad Karnafuli Market.

The snatchers exploded cocktails while fleeing with the money. They snatched the money from one Shah Alam who was taking the amount to deposit in a bank.

A case was filed with Doublemooring thana. Police arrested a suspect.

Youngman cut into pieces

JHENIDAH, Apr 18: A youngman was cut into pieces which were found Wednesday scattered near a police camp at village Riskhali in Harinakundu thana, reports UNB.

Police recovered the body of Idris Ali, 30, identified as a member of the outlawed Purbha Bangla Communist Party, who was kidnapped Tuesday night from his residence by a gang of miscreants.

Rly station needs development

From Our Correspondent
KURIGRAM, Apr 18: Kurigram Railway Station has been facing multifarious problems due to lack of development for quite some time past.

The platform of the station was damaged at places and many potholes have developed on it where water remains stagnant during the rainy season.

In the absence of third class waiting room, hundreds of passengers have to keep themselves standing in the open platform for hours together, while the upper class waiting room lacks in sufficient quantity of furniture.

Moreover, there is no latrine or urinal adjacent to the platform. The only latrine inside the first class waiting room can hardly cope with the necessity.

Thousands of passengers have urged the authority to remove the short comings of Kurigram Railway Station.



WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH: The tribal people of Chittagong Hill Tracts carry heavy goods up and down the hills on their backs the traditional way. — Photo by A K M Mohsin

Tk 800cr plan to develop medical services

FARIDPUR, Apr 18: The government will spend Taka 800 crore for construction of 700 family welfare and 46 thana health centres throughout the country by 1996 for improving rural healthcare services, says an UNB report.

This was disclosed by Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf while inaugurating here Saturday a 12-day-long workshop on Cost, Resource Use and Financing of District Health Services.

The workshop, first of its kind outside the capital, has been jointly organised by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and UNICEF.

It is being attended by Health and Family Planning and Medical Officers of some selected thanas of Faridpur, Dinajpur, Narail, Moulvibazar and Jhalokati districts.

Senior officials of the ministry, BIDS, NGOs and UNICEF are also attending it.

The opening function, held in the conference hall of RESP, Badarpur, was chaired

by Dr Kazi Syed Ahmed, Civil Surgeon of Faridpur, and also addressed by Deputy Commissioner KM Nurul Huda, Dr Dilwar Ali Khan of UNICEF, Bangladesh and Dr Abdul Majid Tibouti, Senior Adviser to UNICEF, New York.

The Health Minister said, it is time to find out the reasons for 200 to 300 per cent bed occupancy in some district hospitals as against average 30 per cent bed use in thana hospitals.

"The present government is committed to doing everything possible to bring about a positive change in healthcare system as 80 per cent of the population lives in villages," Yusuf said.

He urged the participants to use the knowledge of the workshop for the benefit of the masses.

Dr Dilwar Ali Khan stated that Bangladesh would be the first among SAARC nations to attain self-sufficiency in salt iodization by June this year.

A report from Magura adds: A school student was killed

when their car skidded into a roadside ditch while trying to save a dog on the Magura-Jhenidah road Sunday.

Jikur Rahman, 9, son of Dr Zafarullah and student of Jhenidah Pre-cadet School, was going with his parents to Barisal to attend a marriage ceremony when the accident occurred Sunday morning.

Jiku was rushed back to the sadar hospital in critical condition where he succumbed to his fatal injuries, police and hospital sources said.

In another accident the same day on the same road, a youngman was hit and killed by a speeding bus. Police said Faizur Rahman, 22, was run over by a Chuadanga-bound bus coming from Faridpur while crossing the road in front of the police line at 8:30 am.

Police seized the bus, but the driver and the helper managed to flee.

Two cases have been filed with the sadar thana in connection with the two accidents.

Seminar calls to

Alleviate poverty in real terms

BHOLA, Apr 18: A ten-day long seminar ended here Saturday with a call for active participation of people in local level and regional planning and effective marriage between micro and macro policies of the government for poverty alleviation in real terms, says a BSS report.

The declaration, adopted under the caption 'Bholar dak' (call of Bholas) called for cooperation among the general public, the local administration, citizens' groups, public representatives, social leaders, various local organisations as well as the government for stopping bird shooting, preservation of ecology and environment and arrest use of petrochemical fuel at Manpura island to preserve it as a pollution free island.

The declaration was adopted at the summit of the seminar, entitled 'Bhola-94 in development.'

The State Minister for Irrigation and Flood Control, Mosharraf Hossain Shahjahan, and the Chairman of Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad, Dr Quazi Khaliquzzaman Ahmed, among others, attended the summit.

The seminar called for developing Manpura, once a

Portuguese colony, into a pollution free island with stress on preservation of its natural gift of flora and fauna, an official handout said.

The seminar also called for the realisation of the goals of immediate opening of the Barisal-Bhola-Laxmipur-Raipur-Daudkandi-Dhaka Highway, establishment of a 200-bed hospital, setting up of dairy and cattle farms, setting up of a fishing village for greater Barisal, and introduction of a BRTC bus service in the island district of Bhola.

It suggested linking of Food for Education Programme, use of electricity from the national grid in the industrialisation of Bhola and establishment of gas turbine depending on exploration of gas in Bhola for production of power to augment its supply in the western grid.

About two and a half lakh people from all walks of life including a large number of women and children took part in the festivities which included cultural shows, fairs and exhibitions.

Another report from Patuakhali says: A man was shot dead by a gang of dacoits during the chase and counter chase by the villagers and dacoits at a village in Mathbar union of the district, local

people said.

The victim was identified as Kader Khan, 50, of village Gorakhal.

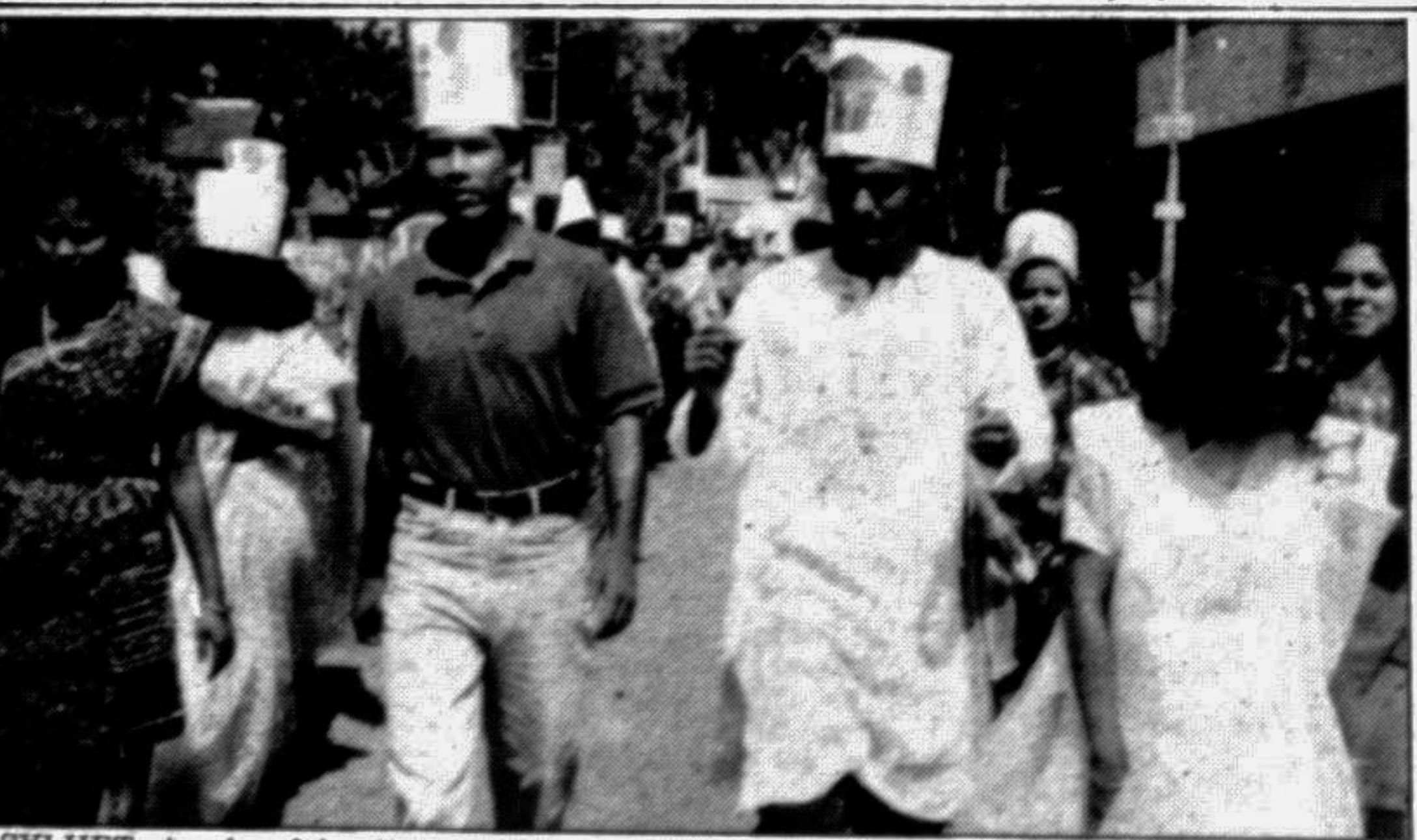
According to witnesses, a gang of armed dacoits numbering 10-15 entered the houses of Sahjahan Khan, Abdul Gani and Bimal Dhubi of the village on the night of April 7. The dacoits looted valuables worth about Taka two lakh from those houses. They also beat the inmates mercilessly.

While fleeing with the booties the villagers gheraoed the dacoits and chase and counter chase started. Apprehending the danger the dacoits opened fire at the villagers killing Abdul Kader on the spot.

A case has been filed with the police.

Minister for Religious Affairs M Keramat Ali has said that the hopes and aspirations of the commonman could be fulfilled through consolidating the democratic process in the country, reports UNB.

Addressing two separate public meetings at Madarabunia and Marichbunia in the district Saturday, the minister said, present government has been working with utmost sincerity to meet the basic needs of the common people.



SYLHET: A colourful rally was brought out in the town by the Sandhani Natya Goshthi in observance of Pabela Baisakh. — Star photo

Make timely payment of all Pourashava dues: Talukdar

MEHERPUR, Apr 18: The Secretary General of BNP and Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Abdus Salam Talukdar stressed the need for increasing collection of internal resources to bring about all out development of the country, reports BSS.

The LGRD minister was inaugurating the one hundred and twentyfifth founding anniversary of Meherpur pourashava here on Friday.

Presided over by the Chairman of the pourashava Muntashim Billah, the function was addressed among others by Abdul Gani, MP and Mashur Rahman, MP.

The minister said under the present government the collection of internal resources has increased twenty seven per cent. It is expected to increase a further thirty-three per cent by the end of the current fiscal year. The minister expressed the hope if the revenue collection could be increased this way the development programmes could be implemented thereby alleviating poverty from the society.

Tk 20 crore project for more electric lines

JAMALPUR, Apr 18: Rural Electrification Board in Jamalpur has taken up an ambitious Taka 20 crore programme for providing electricity in the rural areas of four thanas of the district, reports UNB.

The work on the project in Islampur, Meladah, Madarganj and Bakshiganj thanas will begin in July next.

Jamalpur Rural Electrification Association started its network covering sadar, Sharishabari and Sherpur thanas with a fund of Taka 30 crore in 1984.

During the last 10 years the association set up 1240 km long electric line in 2100 villages providing 25,000 household connections, 2,100 connections in irrigation pumps and 300 in big and small-scale industries.

As a result, 77,000 acres of farm land have been brought under irrigation network producing additional 16 lakh maunds of rice annually and creating job opportunities for 5,000 people.

The General Manager of the Association said, some 427 km

long electric line will be set up in the four thanas under the programme which is expected to be completed at the end of 1995.

After completion of the project, 115 villages of the area will come under electricity supply. Some 30,000 household connections, 5,000 irrigation pump connections and over 200 industrial connections will be provided.

Parliament Member from Madarganj Mirza Azam has expressed gratitude to the Rural Electrification Board for taking up the ambitious scheme for supplying electricity in the rural areas.

BSS report adds: Construction of six kilometre long Bakshiganj-Sreebardi road started recently at a cost Taka 1.60 crore under the auspices of Local Government Engineering Department.

Parliament Member Abul Kalam Azad formally inaugurated the construction work.

On construction of the road, communication between Bakshiganj and Sreebardi will be improved.

Tk 1.2 lakh stolen wheat seized in Magura

MAGURA, Apr 18: Police recovered 221 bags of stolen wheat valued at Taka 1.20 lakh from two trucks near the district food godown, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, police raided the trucks at Belnagar area on Magura-Kamarkhali road on April 3 and seized the wheat which was being taken to Faridpur to sell in the blackmarket.

According to SK Sirjul Islam, Officer-in-Charge of Kotwali thana, the recovered wheat was sanctioned for 'Food for Works Programmes' to re-excavate Nabaganga river in the current dry season.

It is alleged that Tapan Kumar Roy, Project Chairman of Nabaganga River Re-excavation Scheme, lifted the wheat from the district godown on the same day to sell it in the blackmarket.

A case was filed with the police and further investigation is on.

2 killed, 26 hurt in clashes

Two people were killed and 26 others injured in three separate clashes in the district during the last one week, police said here Friday.

In one incident an old woman — Sadhu Bibi, 70, was

killed and six others were injured in a clash at village Vhantooi in Salikha thana on April 4.

The clash erupted when rival supporters of Abdus Salam and Abdur Rab, attacked each other with sticks and lethal weapons.

Rab and Salam were among the injured, being treated at the Magura Hospital.

Sadhoo Bibi, who was also injured in the class was rushed to the hospital, but died soon after her admission. The feud was due to old enmity, police said.

In a similar incident in village Sreepur thana, 10 people were injured, three of them seriously.

The injured were being treated at the Magura Hospital. Police said, supporters of Baki Zoarder and Abbas Ali groups clashed on April 9 leaving several people injured.

In another clash at village Ramkrishnapur in Mohammadpur thana, a young man was killed and 10 others were injured on April 6.

Nobul Islam and his brother Atear Rahman were beaten mercilessly by rival group members following an altercation over crop damage by a cow. Nobul died on the spot.

District roundup

SAVAR

Kidnapped man rescued

Apr 18: Police have rescued a man who was kidnapped by a group of miscreants from Gabtoli bus terminal Tuesday night, says UNB.

The miscreants riding on a microbus abducted Shahidul Islam, 35 at gun-point when he was returning from Dhaka to Savar, gouged his eyes out and left him in a field of his village Akran.

Police traced him in a critical condition Wednesday morning and sent him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

They believed that the incident was a sequel to previous enmity. Shahidul Islam is a suspect in the killing of a person in his village.

JAMALPUR

Three held with fake notes

Apr 18: Sadar thana police arrested three people for possessing fake notes of Taka five and 100 denomination on Wednesday, reports UNB.

However, the identity of the arrested people were not known immediately.

Police said, they were handed over to them by local people after verifying those notes at a local bank. Earlier, on the day, they when to buy some articles from a shop where the shopowner challenged them.

A case was filed and further investigation is on.

A week-long eye camp was held at the local Singhiani High School auditorium under the joint auspices of the Jamalpur unit of the World Vision and SEBA, a voluntary organisations.

The Deputy Commissioner of Jamalpur Jalal Ahmed inaugurated the camp in presence of a large number of local elite.

During the camp, over eight hundred persons were given eye treatment. Fifty fur persons were operated upon.

Dr Masudur Rahman Salchin and Saiful Islam ran the camp.

MAJDEECOURT

Training course on seed technology

Apr 18: A one-day training course of non-government seed workers on 'Seed Technology' was held at the sadar thana auditorium on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Jointly organised by FAO and Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation, 25 non-government seed workers including different seed cultivators, farmers, seed traders from Noakhali, Feni and Lakshmapur districts took part in the course.

Certificates were distributed among the trainees at a function by local MP Md Shahjahan as chief guest.

Presided over by Jamal Ahmed, Joint Director BADC Chittagong region, it was also addressed by Rabiul Hossain Kachi, Chairman, Noakhali Pourashava as special guest.

Md Shahjahan called upon the participants to spread the know-how of seed technology among the farmers to boost agri production.

NARAIL

Five arrested on charge of raping young girl

Apr 18: Police arrested Saiful Alam Babu, son of Jinnat Biswas of Bhowkhali village and student of Narail Victoria College on charge of violating a girl student of the same college, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, police raided the house of Kazi Tabibur Rahman of Pankhal village in sadar thana on April 5 and arrested him. With this, police so far arrested five people in this connection. The arrested four others were identified as Milon, Shantua, Shamim and Mashar of sadar thana.

According to police, the miscreants numbering eight swooped on the girl of Benahati village in sadar thana and violated her at Patharghata beel near Bhowkhali village one after another in front of her brother on March 13.

She was going to attend a marriage ceremony of her relation accompanied by her mother and brother.

Later, she was brought to Narail sadar hospital in an unconscious state but she left the hospital the following morning for fear of life.

A case was filed with the police on March 17.

Meanwhile, local people expressed dissatisfaction over police inaction and held processions and rallies demanding exemplary punishment to the culprits.

PATUAHALI

3 Sharbahara Party men caught red handed

Apr 18: Three alleged activists of Sharbahara Party then were caught red handed by the local people at village Madhabpura in Baulf thana when they demanded tolls from a villager, reports UNB.

The angry villagers beat them up mercilessly and gouged out eyes of one of them. Later they were handed over to the police.

Villagers said, they gheraoed the miscreants when they demanded tolls from co-villager Safar Ali Mollah last week.

Another report adds: Police arrested a villager for cultivating 3,634 hemp plants at Dharandi in sadar thana last week.

Police, with the help of the officials of District Narcotics Control Department also recovered half kg of dry hashish from his possession. The pants were reportedly the side of his residence.

JHENIDAH

Out lawed party member arrested

Apr 18: Police arrested a suspected member of the outlawed Purbha Bangla Communist Party from Kotchandpur thana in Magura district Wednesday, reports UNB.

On the tip, Magura police made a swoop and picked up Abdus Sattar Mollah, 32, from Bhaina Square area in Magura town. He is also accused of three murders.

KHULNA

Health care situation reviewed

Apr 18: A meeting of the district health service development committee was held here Saturday at DC's conference hall, with Chairman of the committee Speaker Sheikh Razaque Ali in the chair, says UNB.

The meeting reviewed the overall health care situation of the district and took a number of decisions to extend maximum medicare facilities by utilising the government fund.

Addressing the meeting, Sheikh Razaque Ali called on the physicians and employees involved in health services to perform their duties with dedication and sincerity.

CHITTAGONG

'No communism in the country'

Apr 18: Forest and Environment Minister Akbar Hossain said Saturday that there was no communism in Bangladesh, reports BSS.

The concerted participation of the Bangladeshis, irrespective of religion and caste, in the successful liberation war had uprooted the very thought an elements of communalism in Bangladesh.

The minister said this while speaking as the chief guest at a religious conference of Hindus at Kabir Hat here.

He said "we no longer need secularism, rather we need the very freedom of religion — a religious environment where every religiously devoted person can perform his or her own religious duties at ease."

Hossain further said, due to some pragmatic steps taken by the present government the minorities in Bangladesh were enjoying the religious harmony which the out side world appreciated on many occasions.

The minister cautioned those who were trying to disturb the religious sentiment of the common people who have a long tradition to live together in peace and tranquility.

NAOGAON

No fire station in 10 thanas of the dist

Apr 18: Every year fire incidents cause heavy damage to life and property due to absence of fire stations in 10 thanas of the district for quite a long time, reports UNB.

At present there is only one fire station in sadar thana and the rest of the 10 thanas have not yet been provided with fire stations. So property worth crores of taka is being damaged every year in these thanas, local people said.

With the establishment of thanas, many government offices and private establishments have been set up in the thana head-quarters. But nothing tangible has yet been done to save the life and property from the fire incidents.