

# Face of talent

From A Correspondent

DINAJPUR, Oct 25: Md Zahangir Alam has secured the fourth position in the combined merit list of Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examination from Dhaka Education Board this year. He was a student of Dhaka City College. He scored a total marks of 827 with two letters. He wants to study Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) in future. His favourite personalities are his mother and Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM).



Zahangir's hobby is to study books in his off time. He hates politics during his student life. He is the fourth child of Md Saidur Rahman and Zahanara Begum of village Bashmuri in Ghoraghat thana. It is worth mentioning, Zahangir passed Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination scoring 843 marks with four letters from Gopalpur High School of Ghoraghat thana in 1996.

# News snaps

## 2 roads being developed in Nagarpur

TANGAIL, Oct 25: Local Government Engineering Department, Tangail is developing two roads in Nagarpur at a total cost of Taka three crore thirty one lakh four thousand seven hundred and thirty six in this fiscal year, reports BSS.

Under this programme Nagarpur-Shahjani and Delduar-Lauhati roads will be metalled and four bridges will be constructed, official sources said.

## Rivals' clash leaves 7 hurt

BENAPOL, Oct 25: At least seven people were injured, two of them seriously, in an armed clash between two rival groups over the possession of a ghat used for smuggled goods at Baropota Bazar in frontier Sarsha thana on Monday, reports UNB.

The local people deserted the area fearing the escalation of the clash that ensued between Ismail Member group and Nasir group in the morning. Of the injured, the conditions of Shadat, 26, and Hajrat Ali, 28, were stated to be critical. An uneasy situation was prevailing in the area after the incident. Locals feared that serious fighting between the two groups may take place again any time.

## Intensive 'Boro' cultivation

MYMENSINGH, Oct 25: A total of 518,980 hectares will be brought under intensive 'Boro' cultivation programme in five districts of greater Mymensingh in the current season, reports BSS.

The districts are — Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Netrakona and Kishoreganj.

According to the Agriculture Extension Department the district-wise target of 'boro' cultivation is as follows: Mymensingh-124,776 hectares, Jamalpur-88,244 hectares, Sherpur-55,024 hectares, Netrakona-111,715 hectares and Kishoreganj-138,171 hectares. The source said that Agriculture Department has already completed arrangements to provide necessary financial assistance to the farmers for purchasing seeds, fertiliser and agriculture equipments.

## One arrested for possessing heroin

MUNSHIGANJ, Oct 25: The sadar thana police arrested one person and recovered 15 para paper wrappers of heroin from his possession from Purba Para in Mirkaddim Poursava on Tuesday night, reports BSS.

The arrested person was identified as Alamin of the same locality.

## Training course on store management

COMILLA, Oct 25: A two-day long training course on store management was held at Comilla Primary Training Institute on October 17 and 18, reports BSS.

Thirty-five primary education officers, assistant monitoring officers and store keepers from greater Comilla district participated in the course. Mahbubur Rahman, inaugurated the course. Sadaka Begum, district primary education officer, Shahjahan Ali Sheikh, ADPEO and Serajul Islam Chowdhury, Superintendent PIT, addressed the course.

# JCD factions clash on RU campus

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, Oct 25: Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) factions of the university were locked in clashes for the last several days.

JCD's Pabna group and its rival groups clashed on several occasions over a seat at the Ziaur Rahman Hall. Tension mounted when the Pabna group was attacked by the opponent in the central library premises on Saturday noon. The Pabna group attacked their opponents in retaliation. Police brought the situation under control afterwards.

The clashes continued on Sunday. The fighting groups chased and counter-chased each other for several times. A number of cocktails were also exploded and rooms of some leaders were ransacked in Habibur Rahman Hall. Police dispersed the terrorists and arrested an armed cadre of JCD named Mamun from the spot.

JCD members brought out a procession despite a ban on political activities on the campus for release of the arrested.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) (S-P) brought out a procession condemning the terrorism on the campus. A large number of police personnel have been deployed in the trouble spots to avert any untoward incident.

Meanwhile, the general students of various residential halls brought out a "telephone" procession on the campus demanding healthy telephone service in the dormitories. The

telephone sets of the residential halls are out of order for a long time.

In another development, the Commerce Faculty students held a rally before the Administrative Building demanding grading and supplementary system in the examinations and publication of results within one month. Later, they placed a memorandum to the Vice-Chancellor.

## 18 launch ghats closed in Shariatpur

SHARIATPUR, Oct 25: Passengers of the district have been suffering much due to the closure of 18 launch ghats here following sharp fall in water level of the rivers, reports UNB.

The ghats include Shoulpara, Domesar, Nosharon, Talola, Naria, Kotapara, Munshirhat, Bhojeshwar, Bhedarganj, Mollarhat, Ganganagar, Khejurtola, Laukhola, Kazirhat, Khoratola, Zajira and Shakhipur.

Immediately after the recession of flood waters, shoals have started emerging in the rivers making the movement of river vessels including passenger launches hazardous.

The situation has started deteriorating from the beginning of the current month and the launch ghats closed one after another.

# Hilsa production declining

From Shirin Akhter

CHANDPUR, Oct 25: Hilsa is known as "Rupali Ilish" in our country. This fish contributes 30 per cent of our total fish production from inland sources. It is one of the major foreign exchange earning items.

About 40 per cent fishermen earn their livelihood by fishing hilsa. Considering its economic importance, the fisheries sector should be quite aware of its total stocks in the Bay and rivers.

To obtain maximum yield from the hilsa fishery, biological management of stocks should be ascertained. According to fish experts there are three species of hilsa in our country. The species are "hilsa kolee", "hilsa lisha" and "hilsa toll". "Hilsa kolee" is available in large quantity in fresh water while others are restricted to sea water.

Hilsa is a migrated fish. It spends a good part of its life in fresh water for the purpose of both feeding and spawning.

The juveniles of hilsa from four to 15 cm are called "jatka". "Jatkas" are widely available in the foreshore and riverine water of the Padma, the Meghna and other deltaic rivers.

According to fish experts, two major nursery grounds have so far been identified. The largest one is in Chandpur (Shaitnal to Hazimara) in the Meghna river and the other one covers the area of Kuakata in Patuakhali district. "Jatka" grazes for five to six months' age in fresh water. After that they migrate to sea. During this grazing period they are caught by fishermen. In the above areas 'jatkas' are caught by fishermen throughout the year. But

Barisal, Chandpur and Chittagong.

The fish is very fast-swimming. It can run 70 km a day. The fish is available both in sea and rivers. The fish is found in abundant in the rivers Padma, Jamuna, Meghna and other riverine areas. This kind of fish is also available in India and Burma. Seventy-five per cent of hilsa is produced in Bangladesh. 20 per cent in India and five per cent in Myanmar. The maximum harvest of hilsa is obtained from the river Meghna near Chandpur.

Earlier, hilsa was grown abundantly in the rivers like Tetulia near Barisal, the Padma near Goalanda and the Sibsa near Khulna. Out of the total catch of hilsa about 90 per cent are procured from the Padma, Meghna, Jamuna and the rest 10 per cent from the Bay of Bengal. At present the route has been changed. It appears that about 60 per cent hilsa is harvested from the Bay of Bengal.

Many factors are responsible for the present trend of decline of hilsa in the rivers. The construction of Farakka Barrage by India over the river Ganges is the major cause of decline of riverine hilsa in Bangladesh.

The environmental changes and gradual siltation of rivers have reduced the natural flow of water in the river Padma, Meghna and other rivers. As a result the spawning ground of the hilsa has been decreased. The construction of embankments and irrigation projects has also given negative impacts on the normal func-



CHANDPUR: Hilsa fish being processed at the local market. — Star photo

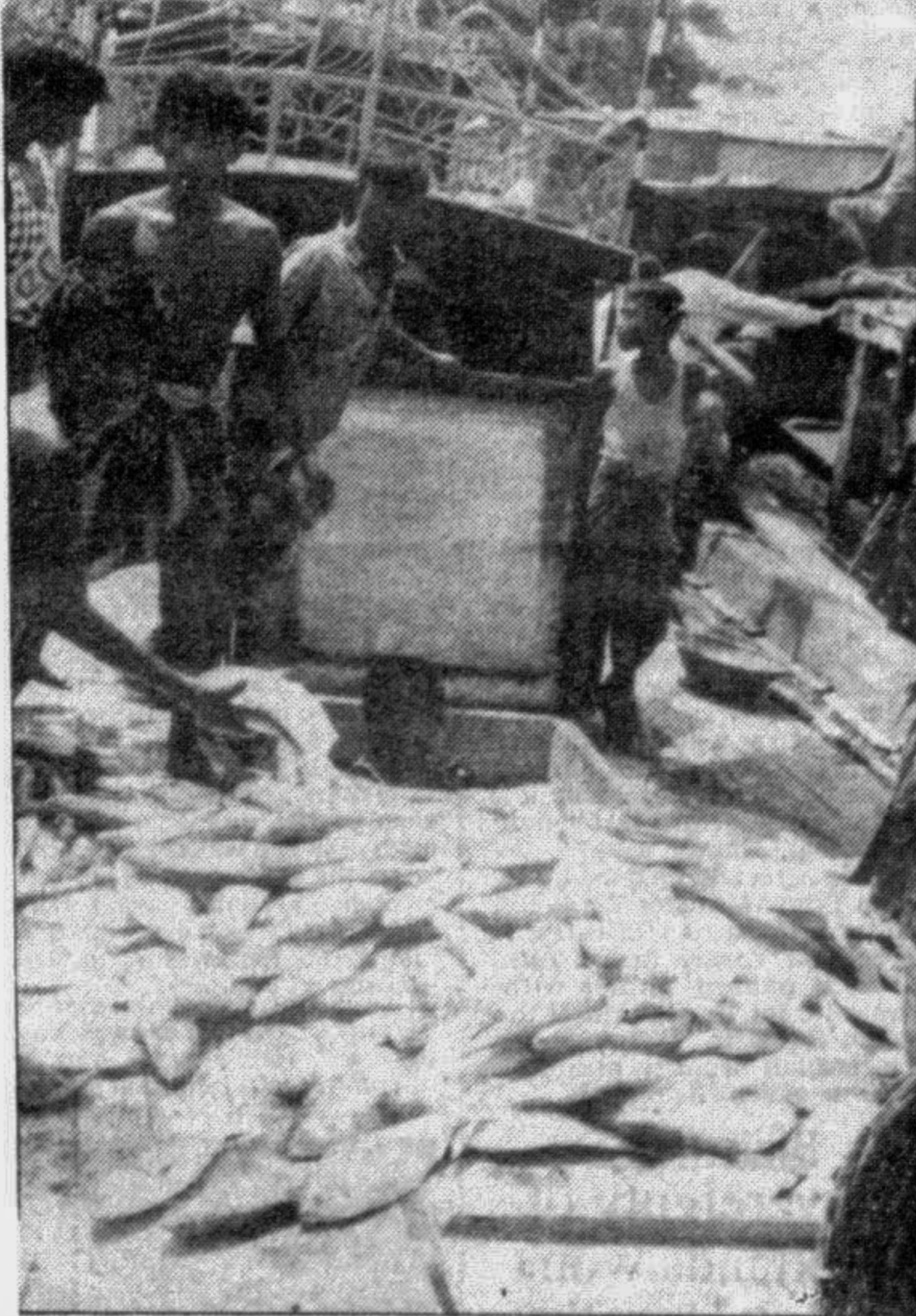
tioning of rivers. Overfishing in the rivers is one of the reasons of decline of hilsa fish. Introduction of highly developed fishing technology and the mechanisation of fishing have been increased.

Due to siltation in the rivers the migration of hilsa fish from sea water to fresh water is decreasing day by day. Indiscriminate fishing of 'jatka' in the rivers throughout the year is also reducing the hilsa production in the country. It is difficult to locate its exact spawning ground. Though it lives in the sea, the fish leaves its egg in the rivers. The fertilized eggs of hilsa are shifted from one place to another by the current. The fish does not release all

its eggs at a time. Most of hilsas are caught at the time of breeding seasons. As a result hilsa production is decreasing day by day.

During the winter, the flow of the water in the river is decreasing day by day. So the production is hampered. During the full monsoon plenty of hilsa are caught in the areas of Aricha, Goalanda, Godabari Munshiganj, Lohajung in the Padma river. The hilsa is grown in abundant in the river Meghna from Chandpur to Shaitnal in the north and Chandpur to Haimchar in the south.

According to Chandpur River Research Institute, about



CHANDPUR: Hilsa fish being packed for export purpose. — Star photo



CHANDPUR: Labourers weighing hilsa for the purpose of exporting. — Star photo

4,000 metric tons of 'jatkas' were caught annually in these areas. So fishing 'jatka' affects sharply on our valuable fish resources.

Hatia, Sandwip and Mompura of the Meghna region are also well-known for spawning ground of hilsa.

It has been observed, hilsa in flocks migrate to the aforementioned areas from the Bay of Bengal for spawn during the tide of the river.

The induced spawning of hilsa has been successful at Chandpur River Research Institute. So hilsas are now cultured and nursed in the ponds of the institute. In future hilsa can be cultivated in different ponds on commercial basis.

## Dacoity incidents on rise in Habiganj

From Our Correspondent

HABIGANJ, Oct 25: Several dacoity incidents were reported in different flood affected areas of the district recently.

It is learnt that recently at dead of night a gang of pirates numbering 25 to 30 and armed with deadly weapons entered into 90 houses of village Mirjapur (Bolaikali) in Richi Union of Habiganj Police Station. The dacoits manhandled the inmates of the houses and looted away valuables worth about Taka 1,50,000.

This gang of pirates on the same night and in the same manner entered into village Patharia in Baniyachang thana and looted away valuables from 10 houses of Charnokarhati of the village worth about Taka one lakh.

Another dacoity was also committed in Bahubal Police Station recently.

A gang of dacoits numbering 10 to 20 at dead of night entered into village Biharipur of Badeshor Union with deadly weapons. The dacoits assaulted the inmates of different houses and looted away valuables worth about Taka 20,000 from the different houses of the village.

## Cattle diseases have broken out in Kurigram

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Oct 25: Various cattle diseases including 'Khura' have broken out in an alarming proportion in nine thanas of the district.

Short supply of vaccine and prolonged flood have been attributed to the main causes of the spread of the diseases this year.

Hundreds of cattles have been attacked in sadar, Nageswari, Bhurungamari Fulbari, Rowmari, Rajarhat, Ullipur, Chilmari and Rajibpur thanas.

Official sources said, 20 unions have been affected by the diseases while 50 other unions affected partially.

They said, over 80,000 cows, 10,000 buffaloes, about 60,000 goats and 1,500 sheep have been affected.

As many as 300 cattles have died in the affected areas due to inadequate supply of preventive vaccine.

## Abducted person rescued: 3 held

From Our Correspondent KUSHTIA, Oct 25: Daulatpur thana police rescued one abducted person and arrested three alleged abductors recently.

On October 17, armed terrorists abducted Ferdous, 24, son of Mofiz Mandol of village Sherpur in Daulatpur thana.

Police on receiving an information, conducted raids in various places and rescued Ferdous from the house of Tofazzel of village Lalagar of the thana.

Another contingent of police raided and arrested Hamidul, Hafizul and Saiful from the same village. Meanwhile Daulatpur thana police on order from first class Magistrate arrested two persons on charge of raping Rokeya, wife of Idris Ali was raped by three miscreants at her.

Another report of abduction was also reported from Kumarkhali thana. Goutam Pal, 25, son of Anukul Chandra Pal of village Kallayanpur in She-laidaha village was abducted by armed terrorists at gun point and demanded ransom.

## Fake salt factory unearthed

From Our Correspondent GAIBANDHA, Oct 25: Palashbari thana police in a drive recently unearthed a fake iodised salt factory from here and recovered 70 packets of false iodized salt. Police also arrested three persons.

On getting a secret information a police contingent raided a house at Dholbhanga, six kilometres off Palashbari and recovered the fake items. The packets were inscribed the name of Raja Salt, Mirpur, Dhaka, but there is no existence of such factory.

Three persons namely Badal of Mirpur, Dhaka, Nayan of Palashbari and Nasim of Sadullapur were arrested. According to confessional statements, they had been carrying on such fake business for a long time. They disclosed that first they had procured fake printed blank packets, then purchased Indian plain salt. Afterwards, they were selling those at markets as iodized salt.

## Youth killed in father-in-law's house

From Our Correspondent SATHIRA, Oct 25: One young man was recently killed by a group of unidentified assailants at village Bazargam in Kaligonj thana.

The victim was identified as Mohammad Kamal, 27, of village Assassuni in the same thana.

Police sources said, the victim was living in his father-in-law's house since his marriage. On the day of the incident, miscreants strangled him to death.

Police suspected that his unhappy wife might be involved in the gruesome murder.

## VGF cards sold by UP member

MYMENSINGH, Oct 25: A UP member was dismissed from the relief committee for allegedly selling the VGF cards at Zafar Mondal area in sadar thana, reports UNB.

Villagers said the accused member Akbar Ali sold six VGF cards at the rate of Tk 50 to one Hossen Ali and his five sons at the area in Boror Char Union.

The matter was leaked out when they went to bring rice and found only two names in the list at the UP office on Monday. As a result, they became angry and started chasing the member who later took shelter in the UP office.

The matter was immediately brought to the knowledge of the magistrate concerned who later informed it to the Deputy Commissioner.

The Deputy Commissioner dismissed the member from the relief committee and asked to draw proceedings to take punitive action against them.

## 20 injured as JCD, BCL clash at Kauhali College

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, Oct 25: Twenty people, including six policemen were injured in clashes between the activists of JCD and BCL at Kauhali College.

According to police and local people, both the groups first locked in clash when JCD arranged a meeting on the college campus demanding immediate release of two BNP leaders, accused in the Jail Killing Case. Indiscriminate bombs were exploded, chase and counterchase and brickbating continued for at least an hour, police rushed to the spot and dispersed the clashing activists.

Clash again erupted when JCD went to TNO office to hand over a memorandum.

Police resorted to lath-charge to control the situation and dispersed the unruly mob.

Shahul Alam, 23, Shah Enran, 25, and Farukh, 28 of JCD and Shaymal, 21, and Emdadul, 28 of BCL were admitted to Kauhali Thana Health Complex with serious injuries.

JCD filed a case against 12 BCL leaders and workers with Kauhali thana in this connection.

## Phensidyl recovered

From Our Correspondent FARIDPUR, Oct 25: A total of 390 bottles of phensidyl were recovered by Kotwali police.

Acting on a tip-off TSI Jahangir accompanied by two constables Nurul Islam and Abdur Rob raided the houses of Hashem, Mullick and Kamal Mia at village Mamudpur, two kilometres off the town and recovered 310 bottles and 80 bottles of phensidyl from their houses respectively.

None was arrested as Munir Kazi, brother-in-law of Kamal Mia kept the bottles in their houses in two gunny bags making false statement.



NARAYANGANJ: Dhaka WASA has installed a water plant with the capacity of three-lakh litre at a cost of Taka two crore. The Swedish government helped WASA in installing the plant for the flood victims of Sonakanda in Bandar thana. Picture shows (L to R) Wahiduzzaman, a social worker receiving the Swedish Ambassador in Bangladesh, Anders Johnson at the inaugural ceremony of the plant. Dr Khondker Azharul Huq, Managing Director, Dhaka WASA, SM Akram MP and Zillur Rahman LGRD and Cooperatives Minister are seen in the picture. — Star photo

## Killer gets life term

From Our Correspondent SATHIRA, Oct 25: One person was convicted and sentenced to suffer imprisonment for life on charge of killing a woman. The court also fined Taka 5,000, in default, to suffer rigorous imprisonment (RI) for 2 years more.

The convict is Wahidur Rahman, 28, of village Mithabari in Tala thana.

The prosecution story, in brief, is that the accused tried to violate his elder brother's wife Rawshan Ara who was also a mother of 3 children, but failed as the victim resisted him violently on July 4, 1996. After 3 days of the incident, on July 4, 1996, Rawshan Ara went to pluck chilli from her field then Wahidur Rahman caught and took her in a jute field where he raped and killed her. Later on the villagers recovered the body from the jute field.

A case was lodged with Tala Police Station and after investigation police submitted charge sheet against him.

## Alleged refusal by police to register dacoity case

From Our Correspondent MOULVI BAZAR, Oct 25: A resident of Jagannathpur village, adjacent to the district town has alleged that police of Moulvibazar thana had refused to register a dacoity case following a dacoity in his village home.

The allegation against police was made in a press conference by Kazi Golam Mostafa Babul of the aforementioned village.

Babul invited the local journalists in his house so that they can see the spot. Moulvibazar journalists went to his home where he had held the press conference.

Babul, the house master narrated that a dacoity was committed in his home at dead of night on September 29 last. The gang of armed dacoits entered into his house by breaking open the door and created panic in the house. They decamped with cash money, foreign currency, gold ornaments, elec-

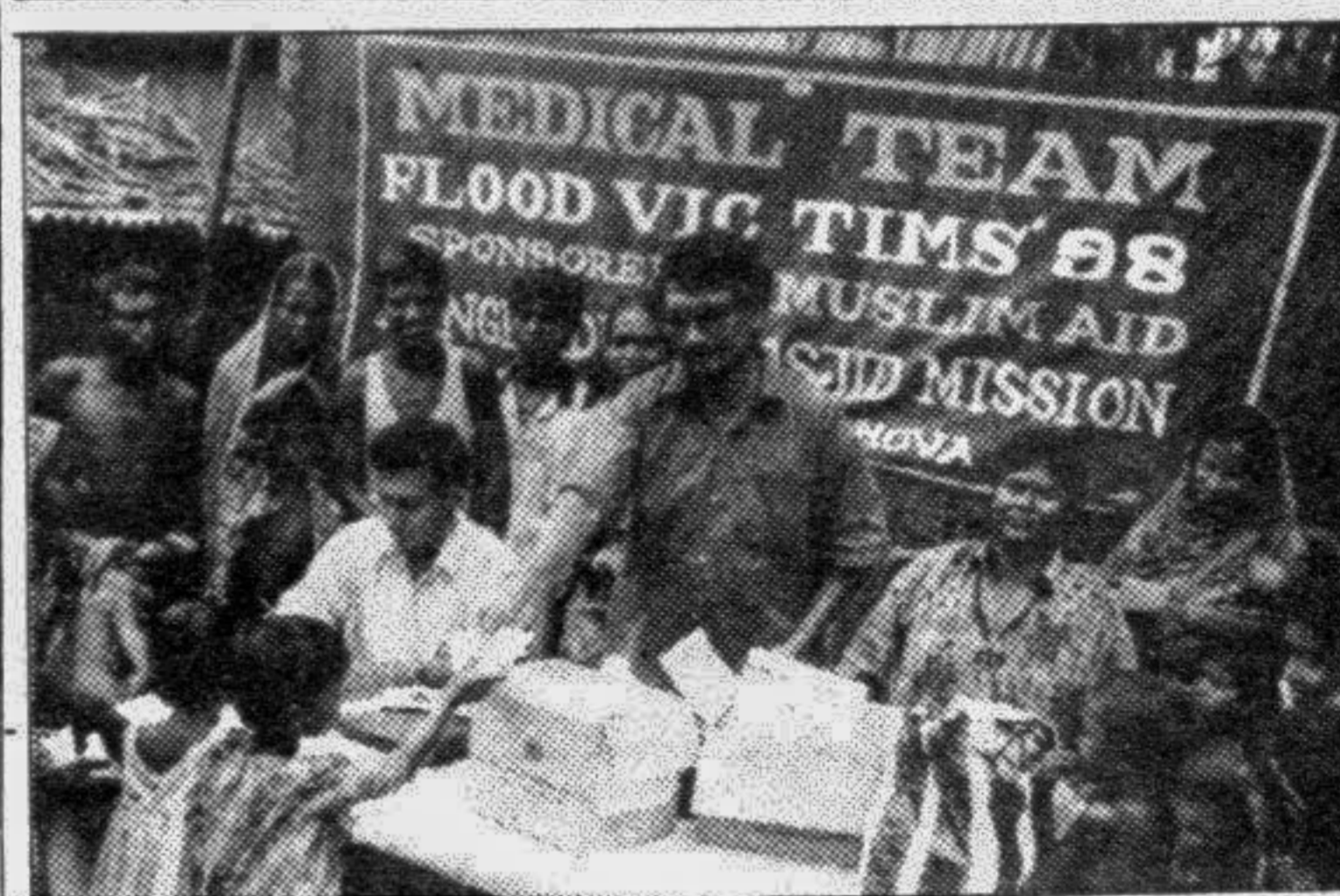
tronic items and other household articles worth about Taka 3 lakh and 29 thousand.

In the following morning, Babul informed the incident to Moulvibazar police. Police from Moulvibazar thana inspected their house. The house master Babul alleged in the press conference that even after inspection of the spot, police of Moulvibazar thana refused to register a dacoity case. According to Babul, after a reminder, one Sub-Inspector from Moulvibazar thana inspected again the spot and collected signature of the housemaster in a plain paper sheet. Babul alleged, but after a day or two, he was informed that a simple theft case was registered in this connection.

The housemaster Babul expressed his disappointment over the act of police and said, now members of his family are feeling insecurity. There is no police action in this matter he added.



CHITTAGONG UNIVERSITY: Prof Abdul Mannan, VC of the university inaugurating the blood donation programme jointly arranged by Sandhani and Rover Scouts on the university campus on Saturday. — Star photo



FARIDPUR: Local unit of Bangladesh Masjid Mission recently distributed medicines free of cost among the flood victims of Gopalpur in the sadar thana. — Star photo



PABNA: The district administration brought out a colourfull rally in the district town recently on the occasion of International Disaster Reduction Day. — Star photo



SYLHET NBR chairman Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury addressing a meeting with the chamber leaders and leading businessmen recently at Sylhet Chamber of Commerce and Industries (SC&I). — Star photo