

News snaps

Because of rape attempt
From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Apr 11: Male organ of Amir Ali Babu, 20, of Shironi Fakirbarhi was cut off by a teenager named Shakura, 17, daughter of Amir Ali of the same area on the midnight of April 5.

According to police, the incident occurred when the young boy attempted to rape her while she was coming out of her bedroom to respond to the call of nature. The victim is now under treatment at Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH) and the girl has been absconding since then. None has filed any case till filing of this report.

BCL activist arrested
From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Apr 11: Barisal Kotwali police arrested an activist of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) for his alleged involvement with the attack on an executive engineer and ransacking and damaging the LGED office here a few days ago.

Murad, the arrested BCL activist admitted the involvement of him including six other activists in the incidents, police said. Abul Hasnat Abdullah, Chief Whip in the Jatiya Sangsad also directed the police to nab the culprits involved with the incidents immediately. The LGED office here came under attack over tender dropping.

Massive jute farming

SIRAJGANJ, Apr 11: A total of 1,82,000 hectares will be brought under jute cultivation in 16 districts of the country's northern region in the current season, reports BSS.

The districts are Sirajganj, Rangpur, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat, Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Panchagarh, Bogra, Joypurhat, Pabna, Natore, Naogaon, Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj. Agriculture officials said the total land some 71,000 hectares will be brought under local variety cultivation while 1,11,000 hectares under tossa variety.

25 more join AL

SATKHIRA, Apr 11: Twenty five leaders and workers of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Jatiya Party (JP) and members of Munshiganj Tarun Shingha under Shymnagar thana led by the president of Tarun Shingha Mostafizur Rahman joined Bangladesh Awami League (AL) here at a function held at Atirpar Primary School premises recently, reports BSS.

AKM Fazul Haque MP, was present in the function as the chief guest. The function was presided over by the Headmaster of Banashree High School, Eakubali. The function was also addressed, among others, by the UP Chairman Ashim Kumar Mridha. AL leader Emem Ali, Kazi Anwar Hossain and Mostafizur Rahman.

Road construction work progressing

MANIKGANJ, Apr 11: Development work of 14 roads in Manikganj Poursabha at a cost of Taka sixty lakhs under "Medium Town Infrastructural Development Scheme-2" is going on full swing, reports BSS.

Local Government Engineering Department is implementing the development work. The work is expected to be completed at the end of April. The communication system of the area will be developed after the completion of the work.

No telephone at Rly station

MYMENSINGH, Apr 11: Musilli Railway Station, one of the important stations on Mymensingh-Bhairab route has no tele-link for a long time.

Railway is the main means of communication for the people of this area. As there is no tele-link in the station, people have to suffer a lot. Sometimes, they have to wait for a long time for the trains. As a result the Railway employees are being harassed very often. People are losing confidence on the Railway service gradually.

Illegal farming of hemp

GAIBANDHA, Apr 11: Hemp is being cultivated widely in two unions in Shaghat thana.

Some influential quarters are helping to cultivate hemp for a long time. Nearly 25 cultivators are engaged in hemp farming. They use their homesteads, road side places and some particular crop field for cultivation of hemp. The unions where hemp is cultivated are Ghuridaha and Haldia. No step has been taken to halt such illegal practice.

100 join BNP

KUSHTIA, 11: Over 100 Union Parishad members and local political workers of Nandalalpur union in Kumarkhali thana have joined BNP the district BNP office here recently.

The joining ceremony was held with Syed Mechedi Ahmed Rumi MP, and Secretary of the Zilla BNP in chair. They joined under the leadership of Khondakar Abdul Aziz, Union Parishad member of Ward No 2 of Nandalalpur union. Sheikh Md Nazrul Islam, Organising Secretary of Khoksa thana BNP, S M Omar Faruq, Zilla BNP Assistant Organising Secretary, Suvas Chandra Basu, Zilla BNP Office Secretary and Advocate Golam Mohammad, general Secretary of Kumarkhali thana BNP were present on the occasion.

BSTI rules defied

KUSHTIA, Apr 11: Sub-standard essential commodities have flooded the markets here causing grave concern among the conscious section of the public.

According to competent sources, soybean oil, iodised salt, mineral water, bread, biscuits and cakes are being sold in different parts here without being tested by the Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute (BSTI). According to BSTI, food items and mineral water must bear date and time of production for fitness for consumption. But the manufacturers very often do not print date and time of preparation of the products in the packets defying BSTI rules.

Touchstone statue recovered

GAIBANDHA, Apr 10: Detective Branch of police in a tip off arrested one person and recovered a fake touch stone statue iron his possession.

A contingent of Detective Branch (DB) of police led by SI Rowshan Mostafa raided a market situated at Balahata in the sadar thana and recovered a fake touchstone statue from there. The arrested person named Ahmed Ali was bargaining with prospective customer, police, however, arrested him and recovered the statue from his possession.

Accuseds of double murder acquitted

KISHOREGANJ, Apr 11: A total of 18 accused persons of a double murder case here have been acquitted of charges.

M. Kader Newaz, Additional Session Judge, Third Court, Kishoreganj in a judgement recently acquitted all of them. On the night of January 25, 1990, the accused persons called Abu and Shamsuddin of village Champur-Nayapara in Nikli thana out of their houses on the plea of going to a village fair and later they were killed in a field. Both the bodies are recovered by police on the following morning. Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police later on took the investigation of the case and submitted charge-sheet against the persons.

Meeting on child trafficking

JESSORE, Apr 11: A meeting on Woman and Child Trafficking, organised by Rights Jessore, was held at a local hotel recently.

Presided over by President of Rights Jessore Nurul Alam, the meeting was participated among others by local woman MP Aleya Afroz, Woman Development Adviser of Danish Embassy in Bangladesh, Shirin Haque, President CCHRB Akram Hossain Chowdhury, General Secretary of Rights Jessore, Anisur Rahman, Prof Nargis Begum, journalist Jamir Ahmed, journalist Fakre Alam, Delwar Hossain Khokan, Robial Alam, Kamruzzaman of ADAB and Helaluddin of CCHRB.

Gold medals awarded

FARIDPUR, Apr 11: Faridpur unit of Nirnay, a socio-cultural organisation awarded its gold medals for the year 1998 to the recipients at a simple function held here at Kabir Jasimuddin Hall recently.

Engineer Khandaker Mosarrat Hossain attended the function as the chief guest while Sharif M Afzal Hossain, President of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industries and ANM Abdus Sobhan, Associate Professor of Rajendra University College were the special guests on the occasion. Recipients included Md Abdul Jabbar, Kazi Sirajul Islam, Siddiqur Rahman, Abir Ahad, Poet Sufi Motaher Hossain (posthumously) and Alhaj Syed Abul Hossain.



NATORE: A norwester lashed over Natore sadar, Shingra, Boraigram and Gurudaspur thanas recently damaging standing Boro crops on a vast tract of land. However, on the day the first shower of the season brought relief for the local people. Photo shows a damaged crop field of Shingra thana. — Star photo

Good production of Boro paddy delights Chalan Beel farmers

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Apr 11: A good production of some early varieties of Boro paddy has cheered up the peasants of Chalan Beel area.

They were worried apprehending crop damage in large scale due to drought and water crisis.

The varieties are Pari, BR-14, BR-28, BR-29 and BR-26.

When this correspondent visited Rakhalgachha, Damdama and Joynagar villages in Shingra thana of the country's largest beel — Chalan Beel — the granary of North Bengal on Friday, he saw the golden colour of Boro fields.

The farmers have already started harvesting Pari and BR-14 varieties of paddy at Rakhalgachha and Joynagar. Some growers at Rakhalgachha village were reaping partial ripe crops as they apprehended crop damage due to sudden norwester or hailstorm.

Mujibur Khan of Rakhalgachha told that he got 25 maunds of Pari from one bigha of land. He cultivated Pari and BR-14 variety of paddy on 22 bighas of land. Mujibur said he would start reaping BR-14 crop

two or three days later and expected more than 20 maunds of paddy per bigha.

Aziz Uddin Khan of the same village expected 38 to 40 maunds of hybrid variety of Boro paddy per bigha from his 10 bighas of land. He, however, lamented because his 18 bighas of BR-14 paddy did not grow up due to water crisis.

Other villagers named Jaill, Ismail and Ratan of Joynagar village are also expecting high output of Boro in this season.

In Joynagar, the growers were seen reaping only Pari variety.

The reaping of BR-14 will start within four days while that of BR-26, 28 and 29 will start within two weeks.

This correspondent visited Jantali hat beside Shingra-Boga highway on Friday and saw Pari paddy has started reaching at the hat. The new paddy was being sold at Tk 270 to Tk 280 per maund.

According to officials, farmers of Natore district in this season have brought 60,000 hectares of land under Boro cultivation, while the official target was 51,038 hectares.



GAIBANDHA: Barodah Bridge on the river Karotoa has remained incomplete for the last three years. The bridge will connect Gaibandha with Bogra via Gobindaganj reducing its distance by 20 kilometres. — Star photo

Water melons flood Natore markets

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Apr 11: Water melons, a crop of dry season have flooded the local markets in Natore and its neighbouring areas following a good production this season, agriculture and market sources said.

Water melons are being sold in kilogram. A piece of water melon is being sold between Tk Five and Tk Seven per kg.

The price will come down within a week as the growers are hurriedly harvesting the fruit apprehending norwesters and hailstorms which may affect their production. A fruit trader named Milton said. Last year the price of water melon came down to Tk Two per kg, the traders said.

Water melon grows in abundance in Natore. Up to late 80s, Natore region, particularly the Chalan Beel areas earned a fame for producing best quality and huge quantity water melons in the country.

An agricultural training institute was established at Queen Bhawani's Palace at the outskirts of Natore town for promoting water melon cultivation here during Pakistan period. The prospect of water melon cultivation in the district was always neglected after our liberation.

At present the local Agriculture Extension Department (AED) could do nothing to promote its cultivation, rather its cultivation is shrinking day by day in this area.

According to AED record, about 336 hectares of land have been brought under water melon cultivation here in this season. Unofficially surveys, however, shows that more than 500 hectares of land have been

brought under water melon cultivation this year in six thanas of the district.

Water melon have been cultivated on 665 hectares in the last season while water melon was cultivated on 906 hectares in 1996-97 fiscal year.

Meanwhile, another UNB report says: Growers in Bagatipara thana of Natore district incurred a huge loss as their water melon plants perished after spraying a banned pesticide.

Farmers said they used pesticide 'peskil' on their lands after the widespread pest-attack taking advice from the traders.

But just after two days of using the pesticides, plants have started dying, forcing the growers to cultivate sesame on the same land to overcome the loss.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, water melons were cultivated on 125 acres of land in the thana.

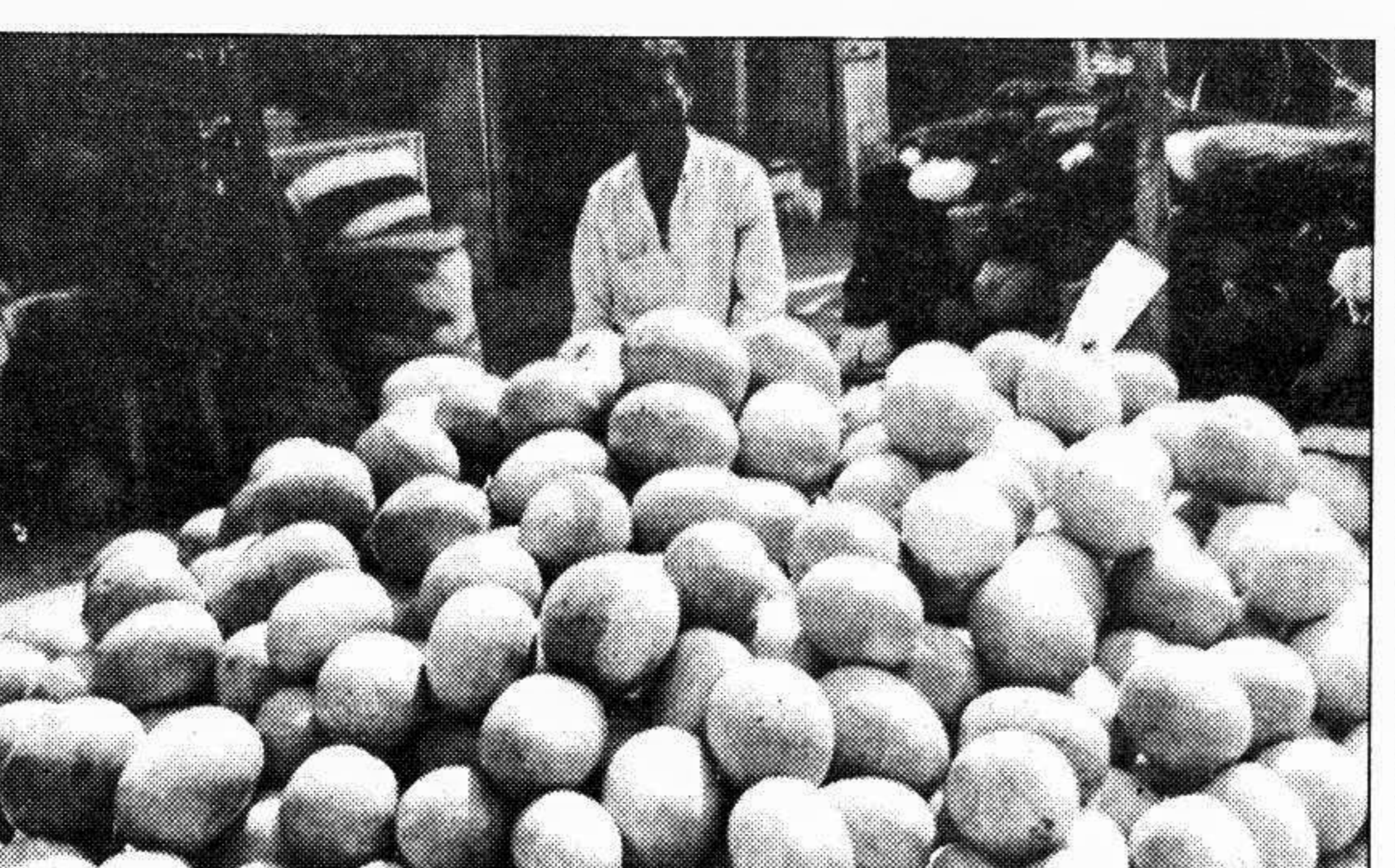
But unofficial sources claimed the quantum of land on which the fruits were cultivated is about 500 acres.

Official sources said 'peskil' contains a poisonous chemical, which created adverse effect.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry through a notification in 1997, banned marketing and using of this kind of pesticides earlier permitted to import for only cotton cultivation.

But a section of traders allured the growers to use the banned pesticides on their croplands for better production.

Moreover, in the rainy season, the applied pesticides mixed with the rain waters fall into the ponds, rivers and other water bodies creating a bad effect on the fish resources.



NATORE: A seller waiting with his water melons for the customers at a local bazaar. The sellers are many, while the customers are fewer. — Star photo

5 arrested for attacking thana in Rajshahi

RAJSHAHI, Apr 11: Police arrested five people including Awami League leader Taslim Uddin Monday from Guripara in the city in connection with the attack on Rajpara thana.

Four others arrested are Abdus Sattar, Mohammad Zaman, Mohammed Yusuf and Nazrul Islam Batul. They are close associates of Golam Murshid, BCL central leader, who was killed on March 26 as a sequel to intra-party feud.

Meanwhile, police lodged a case, accusing 38 people for attacking the thana Workers' Party politbureau member Fazle Hossain Badsha was made the main accused.

Badsha said that he addressed the rally but was not present on the spot during the attack on the thana.

Rape incidents on rise

GAZIPUR, Apr 11: A teenage girl was raped by five youths at her uncle's house near Tongi Hossain Market on Saturday, reports UNB.

The miscreants attacked the house of Abul Hasem, locked him up and violated the girl one after another at night.

A case was filed with the Tongi police. The medical test of the victim was done at Gazipur Sadar Hospital.

Meanwhile police recovered the body of a housewife from a paddy field at Gazipura village in Sreepur thana on the same day.

The dead was identified as Morsheda, 25, of Nizmouna village.

Another report from Sylhet says: A housewife of Batsail village in Zakiganj thana was gangraped on Saturday.

Some six youths entered into her house by breaking open the door and raped her after binding her mouth with a cloth at 2 am.

But the rapists fled away when the villagers rushed to the house on hearing the hue and cry of the victim and her two children.

Her medical test was done at Sylhet Medical College Hospital.

Meanwhile, police arrested an accused of a rape case from Blyanibazar area here on Sunday.

Enamuddin of Islamnagar village was arrested from his residence for violating one woman of the same village on March 23. She was kidnapped and raped by a gang of terrorists.

Another report from Feni adds: An unidentified woman who was seriously injured after rape succumbed to her injuries at the hospital on Sunday.

Police said the woman, 28, was recovered in an unconscious state from a roadside at Gutuma village in Parsuram thana on Friday.

Hospital sources said the body bore several torturing marks.

13 killed in 23 days in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Apr 11: A total of 13 persons including three leaders of three political parties were killed in Khulna district and the metropolitan area from March 3 to March 25. Of these, six were killed in the metropolitan area, said a source of Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP).

The latest murder was committed on the night of March 25 by gunning down of Zahiruddin Panna, 32, an activist of Jubo League.

On the night of March 13, Rafiqul Islam, a leader of BNP backed Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) was shot dead on the BL College campus by some unidentified assailants. On March 22, Shajahan Bhuiyan, a leader of AL backed Motor Sramik Union was gunned down at noon at Phulitula bus stand. On the night of March 24, Kartik Chandra Bishnu, 30, an activist of Jubo League was hacked to death by some of his relatives. On March 3, an alleged mugger Rabul Islam, 23, was beaten to death at Choto Boyra in Sonadanga thana. On the same day contractor Sirajul Islam, 38, of Pirojpur was killed at Mistrypara in Khulna city. On the night of March 4 a middle aged woman was killed at Shironi in Khan Jahan Ali thana.

Those killed during the same period in Khulna district are Shudhir Pal of Batiaghata thana, Mukul Sarder of Dakop Police Station (PS), Moksed Ghazi and Sirajul Islam of Charmukho village in Koira thana, Taslima Khatoon of Dumuria PS, Akbar Sheikh of Rupsha thana and Santosh Ghose of Terokhedha thana.

Police have failed to make any headway in the investigation of these murders.

BM College teacher's remarks about Bangabandhu protested

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Apr 11: Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) arranged a protest meeting and brought out a procession in the Government B M College campus here recently protesting the objectionable remarks about the Liberation War and 'Bangabandhu' passed by a teacher in a function on March 26.

They also slated the principal of the college for not taking any action against him. BCL declared both of them 'unwanted'. They also announced a week long programme which include protest gatherings and procession everyday. They also demanded transfer of Khan Habibur Rahman, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Zoology and Professor Waliul Islam of Government B M college here.

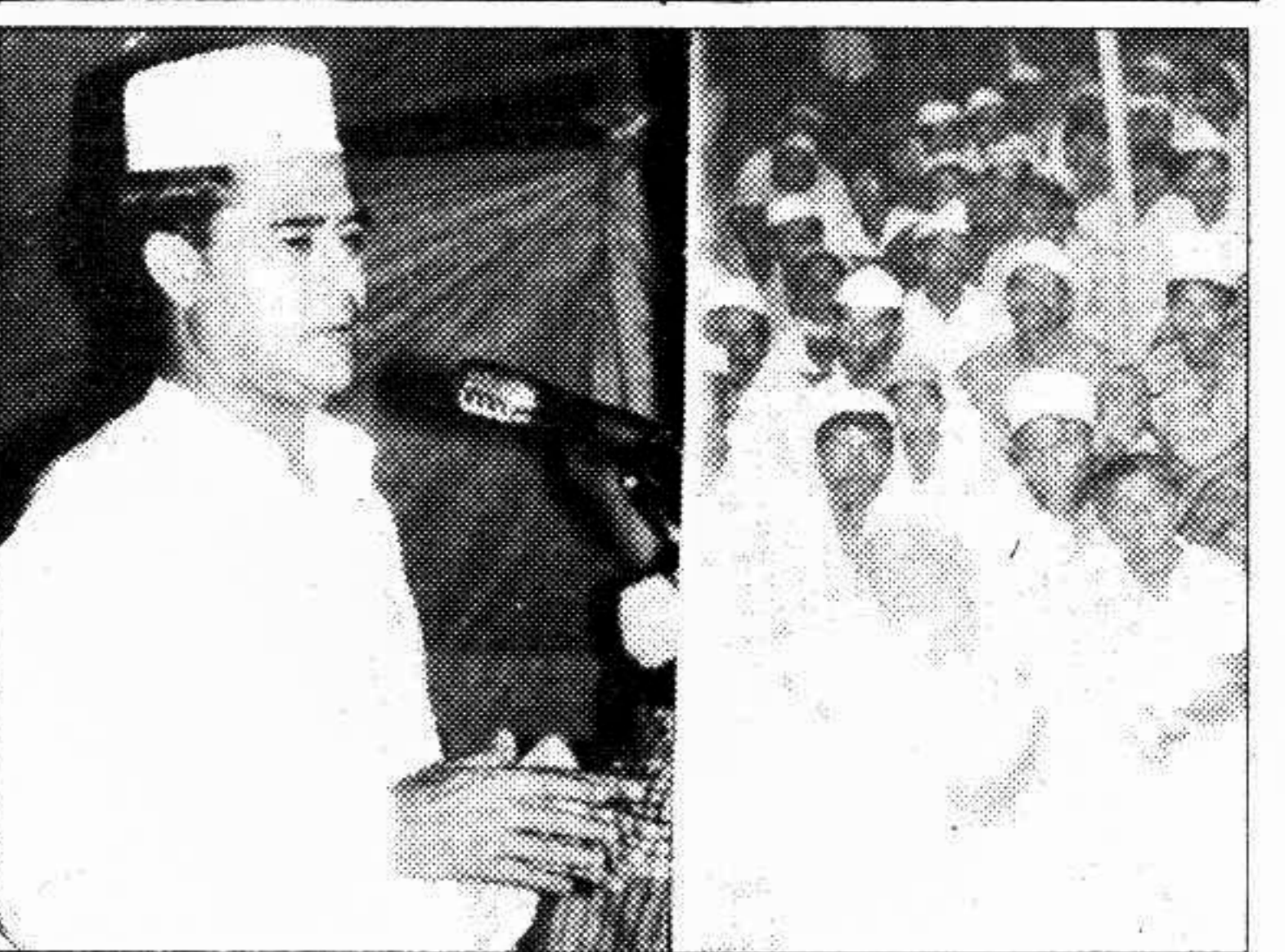
If their demands are not met immediately they will call an indefinite strike, they announced in the gathering.

Earlier, the agitating BCL workers and students lockedup the office of the principal of the college protesting the remarks of the teacher. The residence of Prof Khan Habibur Rahman also was damaged and ransacked by some young people.

Principal Saiful Islam said, an enquiry committee has already been formed to probe into the matter.

Ctg Kotwali thana OC suspended

CHITTAGONG, Apr 11: Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Kotwali thana Mohammad Jafarullah has been suspended on charge of ignoring police headquarter's order, a senior official of Chittagong Metropolitan Police said, reports BSS.



DAUDKANDI: Veteran freedom fighter Maj Gen (Retd) Subed Ali Bhuiyan addressing at the inaugural function of local Kaudia madrassa as the chief guest recently.

Satkhira Landless Assoc meet

SATKHIRA, Apr 11: A general meeting of Satkhira Zilla Bhumihin Samity was held at its office premises on April 6.

The meeting was presided over by Ashraf Ali while Prof Abu Ahmed was present as the chief guest. It was also addressed, among others, by Saifullah Laskar, Abdur Razzak, Alim Uddin, Abdur Rakib, Taslima Begum, Saifur Rahman, Moslem Uddin and Abul Kashem.

New Madrassah at Daudkandi opens

By Staff Correspondent

Veteran freedom fighter Maj Gen (Retd) Mohammad Subed Ali Bhuiyan said Islam is the complete code of life and peace can prevail in the society only through the path of Quran and Sunnah.

Addressing at the opening function of West Kaudia Madrassa at Daudkandi thana under Brahmanbaria district recently, he said at present unrest and disorder are prevailing in the society as the rules of Holy Quran are not being maintained properly.

The retired general said currently and anarchy and instability are prevailing throughout Bangladesh. Even there is no guarantee of normal death, he added.

He said the confidence of people on law enforcing agencies gradually declining as there is no security of life and property of common people.

"We fought against the Pakistani occupation forces due to their repression and exploitation on us. But it is very unfortunate for the nation as we are proceeding towards a serious uncertainty day by day," General Bhuiyan observed.

Presided over by Moulana Faizanur Rab Siddique Jantipuri, it was addressed among others, by Moulana Joyal Abedin, Moulana Badiuzzaman, Moulana Nuruzzaman and former UP member Faizul Haq Chowdhury.

One beaten to death in Pirojpur

BARISAL, Apr 11: One person was beaten to death and both of his eyes were gouged out by a group of terrorists at village Paikkhali under Bhandaria thana of Pirojpur district on Monday.

Amin Gazi, 34, and his wife Sahinoor Begum were attacked while they were going to visit the house of a relative, police and witnesses said.

Terrorists pulled down Amin Gazi from the rickshaw and tied him with a roadside tree and beat him mercilessly. At one stage they gouged out both of his eyes.

Amin Gazi succumbed to his injuries on way to hospital.

Dacoit beaten to death

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Apr 11: A dacoit was beaten to death in the hands of villagers at Rahmatpur in Chhatak thana of Sunamganj district of Saturday night. The son of house owner sustained severe stab injuries in the hands of dacoits.

Local sources and police said, a gang numbering 15 attacked the house of Nurul Islam in the midnight. Ibrahim, son of Nurul Islam caught hold of a dacoit — Ramij and started shouting. But, Ramij stabbed him severely to escape, but failed.

Neighbours reached the house and gave the dacoit Ramij a good beating causing his spontaneous death.

However, others manage escape. The dead man hailed from village Darogakhali of the same thana.

Police said, Ramij was being wanted in a number of criminal cases including a double murder case of 1995 and a house burning case.