

News snaps

Body recovered

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, June 4: Boalmari police recovered the body of an unidentified youth recently from a crop-field at village Chalue in Boalmari thana.

The farmers went to the field in the morning and found the beheaded body. Later on, police recovered the body. A case was lodged with Boalmari thana in this connection.

Viral fever in Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, June 4: Viral fever has been spreading in seven police stations of the district for the last several weeks.

According to physicians, the symptoms of the fever are high temperature, spasmodic pain, severe headache, cough and pain all over the body. The patients suffer for three to one week or two weeks in severe cases. No effective medicine has been found for this type of viral fever. According to the local doctors only anti-biotics, anti-pyretics and anti-allergic drugs are generally prescribed in case of higher fever. But these drugs diminish the body resistance, according to doctors.

Unauthorised books being taught

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA, June 4: Unauthorised books are being taught as text books in different schools and madrassas in all 10 thanas of the district ignoring the relevant syllabus.

Sources of different school and other institutions said that a section of teachers in collaboration with the publishers had been suggesting these books as text though the national curriculum and Text Book Board did not approve these books. The students are compelled to buy the unauthorised books in higher prices in face of pressure created by a section of teachers who are reportedly getting a lump sum percentage from the publishers.

Teen commits suicide

HABIGANJ, June 4: A teenage girl allegedly committed suicide by taking pesticide at Lamatashi village in Bahubal thana, police said, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Mongala Rani Nandi alias Monica, 21, a student of 3rd year of Habiganj Brindaban Government College. Police and family sources said Monica allegedly took her life at her residence recently after she failed to make love with her private tutor.

Valuables looted

FENI, June 4: Valuables worth about Taka 10 lakh were looted in 13 dacoities in Pursuram, Sonagaji and Dagonbhuiyan thanas, last week, police said, reports UNB.

According to police and witnesses, armed dacoits stormed the houses of Nazimuddin and Abul Kalam Azaad of Salia village and Jafar Alam, Helaluddin, Alam (tailor), Shah Alam Majumdar and Kabir Ahmad of Satkuchia village in Parshuram thana and decamped with valuables worth about Taka Five lakh recently. The dacoits came to the spot boarding a microbus with mobile phone in their hand, witnesses said. Earlier, armed dacoits numbering 15 to 20 entered into the houses of Walur Rahman (banker), Olur Rahman one after another and looted goods worth about at Taka Three lakh.

Virus fever in Shariatpur

SHARIATPUR, June 4: Widespread attack of virus fever has been reported from all over the district, reports UNB.

The district hospital said majority of the patients are suffering from virus fever. According to official estimate, more than 5,000 people have been affected. They said it seems there was at least one virus patient in every house in the district.

Lack of irrigation facility

PANCHAGARH, June 4: Cultivation on 50,000 acres of land is being hampered due to lack of irrigation facilities in Boda thana, reports UNB.

According to farmers, the crisis cropped up as a dam on the river Patraj collapsed causing hindrance to supply of irrigation water for cultivation. The dam, for water preservation, was built in 1968 under the Food for Works programme. But it collapsed immediately after the construction. The dam is yet to be reconstructed. Tillers said they are facing problem in sowing seedlings on their land due to non-availability of water.

Hemp, phensidyl recovered

NOAKHALI, June 4: A huge quantity of hemp and phensidyl were recovered from Gopinathpur area of the sadar thana here on Saturday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of officials of Narcotics Control Department led by its Assistant Director Arjuna Kumar Biswas raided the area and seized 200 bottles of phensidyl and 700 grams of hemp. The team also arrested a man identified as Mainuddin in this connection.

Tobacco Day observed

MADARIPUR, June 4: Bangladesh Human Rights Commission (BHRH) district unit observed 'No Tobacco Day' here in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

On this occasion, elaborate programmes including rally and discussion meeting were organised to create public awareness and to highlight the theme of the year 'Building a Tobacco-Free Life'. BHRH Madaripur district unit organised a discussion meeting in its office at new town. It was presided over by its district unit chairman Mahabubur Rahman. The meeting was attended by Madaripur Poursabha chairman Khalilur Rahman Khan as the chief guest.

Workshop on flood

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, June 4: State Minister for Women and Child Affairs Prof Jinnatunnessa Talukdar visited Chapainawabganj on May 29 to attend the opening of a Workshop on Flood and Rehabilitation at Monakasha Chowdhurypara, 15 miles from here, reports BSS.

The workshop was arranged by Association for Community Development (ACD). Addressing the opening function, the minister emphasised the need for increasing agri-production and taking effective steps for flood control. She said the government is trying to improve the lot of the deserving women and their families.

Telephone cable line installed

RAJBARI, June 4: The installation of 12-km underground telephone cable line from the town here to Khankhanpur was completed at a cost of Taka 40 lakh, reports UNB.

With the installation, the capacity of the telephone exchange will be increased from 700 line to 900 lines, said an official source. Now the telephone subscribers of Ahladipur, Kalyanpur Bazaar and Goulunda crossing in the sadar thana will come under NWD network, through the exchange.

Timber recovered

BAGERHAT, June 4: Forest Department and coast guards in a joint drive recovered Sundari timber worth over Taka Six lakh from two saw mills of the town and the river Bhairab here on Monday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, the team raided the two saw mills and the river and seized the timbers stolen from the Sundarbans. The officials could not nab any one in connection with the incident. The drive will continue, officials said.

Workshop on AIDS

TANGAIL, June 4: Bangladesh Shakti Prakaipa, Tangail, held a workshop at circuit house on May 24 on the progress of its activities on control of AIDS and health service in brothel in Tangail, reports BSS.

Dr Nazimuddin was the main speaker. He disclosed that they had been rendering health and motivational services to the registered sex workers of the brothel since 1995 to create awareness about HIV and AIDS. Michel Rewald, Acting Country Director of CARE Bangladesh, Dr Mousumi Amin of CARE, Abdul Qayim, ADC (General), Mozammel Hogue, Additional Police Super, Alauddin Ahmed, Deputy Director of Social Service Department and Prof M Kamruzzaman were, among others, who spoke on the occasion.

Ban on selling note-books defied

PANCHAGARH, June 4: A brisk business of note-books in the district is going on violating the government ban on publishing and selling of the same up to Class eight, reports UNB.

Some unscrupulous publishers, defying the government ban are publishing the note-books. The book traders are openly selling these sub-standard books with exorbitant rate. Some guardians alleged that the booksellers had refused to sell the textbooks without note-books. According to a bookseller, they earn handsome profit by selling these illegal note-books as the profit of the text-books of the Education Board is too meagre. The guardians have urged the authority concerned to take stern action against the illegal publishers of note-books.

JSD to file candidates in UZ polls

MANIKGANJ, June 4: Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) president A S M Abdur Rob on Tuesday said his party would file candidates in all the Upazilas (UZ) in the future election, reports UNB.

Rob, Minister for Fisheries and Livestock of Awami League government, also asked the government to hold Upazila election immediately for decentralisation of power.

He was addressing as chief guest at a reception accorded to JSD's newly-formed central committee leaders Iqbal Hossain and Afzal Hossain Khan Zaki by the district unit of JSD at the local Town Hall.

JSD General Secretary Hasanul Haq Imtiaz, central leader Tajul Islam, Awami League leader Advocate Golam Mohiuddin, BNP leader Golam Mohlar Khan, among others, addressed the function. District JSD president Advocate Abdul Latif presided over the function.



CHANDPUR: Erosion has devoured a vast tract of land recently in Char Bhairabi under Haimchar thana.

— Star photo

Pilferage of goods at Benapole port a regular phenomenon

From Atiur Rahman

JESSORE, June 4: Pilferage of imported goods from the Benapole port warehouse, by a group of armed terrorists, has become a regular phenomenon now-a-days.

According to reports, in connivance with a section of port employees, such group of terrorists are engaged in doing these activities. The store-keepers of the warehouse have remained unpunished after unearthing of their involvement in pilferage activities.

The Abrona Sadar is the ring leader of this group. He lives near the gate no 2 of the warehouse and has allegedly free access to the warehouse. He maintains a very

close relationship with the warehouse staffers.

A source inside the warehouse on condition of anonymity told The Daily Star that Abdus Samad was caught red-handed inside the warehouse while stealing the goods several times. But the authorities concerned have taken no action against him for reasons unknown.

A large portion of yarn, worth Taka 50,000 imported by Sincere Exports of Narayanganj was stolen from shed no 23 of Benapole warehouse on May 9 last.

A local Clearing & Forwarding (C&F) agent, Hiramoni

Traders, was authorised to re-lease the consignment. Accordingly, he took delivery of the consignment and sent it to the importer.

But, the incident of pilferage of yarn from the consignment, was detected there

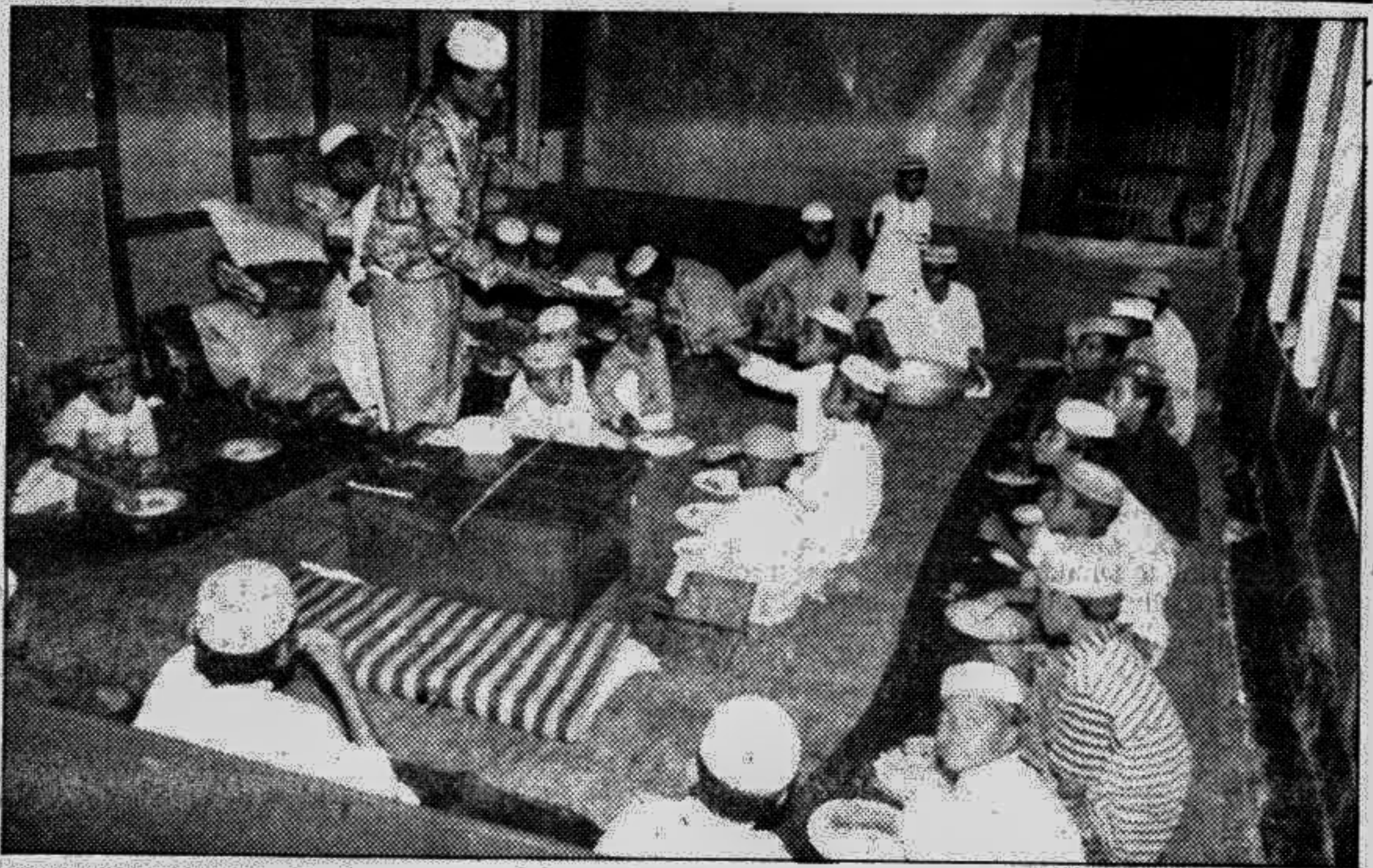
to utter surprise of the consignee.

Subsequently, the importer informed the situation to his C&F agent, who accordingly, took up the matter with the port authority.

The port authorities along with a group of C&F agents, recovered the stolen yarn from the house of the Shed-in-charge, Ratan Burman on May 11 last.

No action was taken this Shed-in-charge when the matter was brought to the notice of then local Deputy Traffic Manager (DTM), he suspended the store keepers Mofsi and Son-tash with two other port employees on charge of neglect of duty and corruption.

However, this has created a tense situation at Benapole port. All the users of the port, including the importers and C&F agents have become very much dissatisfied over the port management. The volume of trade through Benapole check-post has reduced greatly following the corruption and mal-practice of the port authorities.



NARAYANGANJ: Orphans were fed on Tuesday by Shaheed Zia Smriti Sangsad here on the occasion of 18th anniversary of death of President Ziaur Rahman.

— Star photo

UP chairmen stay out of their respective areas

From Delwar Kabir

JHENIDAH, Jan 4: Most of the union parishad (UP) chairmen including pourasabha chairmen are living in the urban areas instead of their respective areas from where they were elected people's representatives, according to a survey conducted in Saikupa thana recently.

According to the report, out of 15 UP chairmen 10 including the pourasabha chairmen do not live in the respective areas.

Mokbul Hossain, Chairman of Mirzapur UP, Nayeb Ali Joarder, Chairman of Dudsar UP and Khalilur Rahman, Chairman of Saikupa Pourasabha live in Jhenidah town. Rahmanuddin, Chairman of Sarulia UP and Mostafa Arif Reza (Monnu), Chairman of Manoharpur UP are permanently living at their own houses at thana headquarters at Saikupa town.

Nazrul Islam, Chairman of Bogura UP, Babar Ali, Chairman of Nityanandapur UP, Moktar Hossain Mridha, Chairman of Abaispur UP, Qamruzzaman Tuku, Chairman of Hakimpur UP are living in Ganges — Kobadak (G-K) colony of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) at Saikupa

thana headquarters, while Jahurul Haque Dulal, Chairman of Dignagar union parishad is living at a hired house in Saikupa town for long.

Chairman from Tribeni, Kancherkole, Dhalaharachandra and Fulahari union parishads are living at their village home.

When this correspondent talked to some UP chairmen who have been living at district and thana headquarters they told that their lives were not safe in remote villages as frequent clashes and enmity had been prevailing in remote villages for a long time. Even they might be killed, they feared.

According to local people, UP chairmen who live in the town areas usually visit their offices occasionally. Some of them visit their office most irregularly. It hampers the normal activities of the respective union parishads. In many cases, innocent villagers rush to the house of the chairmen of union parishad in the town even to collect character certificates.

Some villagers told that in many cases the secretaries of the UPs become important persons for absence of chairmen. The secretaries had been playing key role to run the normal activities of the union parishads.

When contacted Golam Mortuza, Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) of Saikupa told that they had to face problems due to non-staying of the UP at their respective areas.

The chairman and his associates allegedly killed Majful Rahman alias Chan (22), of the same area on January 2 this year.

Shortage of doctors in Laxmipur Sadar Hospital

LAXMIPUR, June 4: The condition of sadar hospital here is deplorable causing immense sufferings to the patients, reports UNB.

The hospital was upgraded as 'Sadar Hospital' in 1994 from thana health complex, but there was not much improvement since then.

The number of beds remained 50 despite the upgradation, said the hospital sources. 'Lack of necessary doctor, number of beds, modern equipment, necessary medicine and other facilities seriously hinder the treatment at the hospital. One third of the sanctioned posts of doctors always remain vacant in the hospital, said the sources.

There is no specialist doctor in many departments like surgery, pediatrics, eye, ENT and dermatology.

Local member of parliament Khairul Anam was given assurance by the Health Minister for providing a specialist in surgery. But even after 10 months of the assurance, no doctor was sent to the hospital.

There is no full-fledged operation theatre and ECG machine in the hospital, said the sources. The X-ray machine is also lying inoperative for want of operator.

There are 12 beds earmarked for the patients of contagious diseases and 10 beds for child department, but there is no existence of these beds in reality. In the hospital, there is no

arrangement for providing oxygen to the needy patients and many of them die due to the lack of facility.

The patients have to buy medicine and other necessary materials like gauge and bandage from outside. The standard of food supplied in the hospital is very low and inadequate, it was alleged.

There is a generator in the hospital for supplying electricity during load shedding, but no technician was there to operate it. Of the three ambulances, two are out of order and the rest one is in bad shape.

The overall condition of the hospital is deplorable and the environment is stinky with garbage piled up in the compound.

Home Minister says

Special bill on illegal arms, killing, women repression soon

BARISAL, June 4: Home, Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim on Wednesday said a special bill on illegal arms, killing, child and women repression would be introduced in the parliament soon to ensure justice to the oppressed, reports BSS.

Addressing high-level officials of the division in a law and order review meeting at the Circuit House here, the Minister laid stress on coordinated efforts of all officials at the district level to curb terrorism and regain people's trust on law as well.

Referring to the arrest of party lawmaker and activist in Chhatak and Comilla, the Home Minister urged the officials to work objectively and ensure justice above anything, irrespective of party affiliation. Responding to various de-

mands of the police, the Minister said those would be considered in the budget. More police camps would be set up, communications equipment and vehicles would be provided to the police community for improving the service quality, he added.

Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah, State Minister for Jute AK Faizul Haq, State Minister for Textile KM Jahangir, Syed Masud Reza MP, IGP AYBI Siddiqi and Divisional Commissioner Yehia Mollah addressed the meeting while Deputy Commissioners and Police Super of six southern districts attended.

Later, the Minister inaugurated the annexe of police hospital and addressed a public meeting at Baulal public hall ground under Patuakhali district.

Alleged irregularities hampering academic activities of a school

NARSINGDI, June 4: The authorities are not taking any punitive measures against the Headmaster and the Assistant Headmaster of a school here though some allegations of irregularities and corruption were proved against them, reports UNB.

Local sources said guardians, students and other teachers of the school brought several allegations of irregularities and corruption against the Headmaster Emdadul Huq and Assistant Headmaster Abdul Khaleque of Brahmandi Government High School.

Later on Director General of the Education Department formed a one-man committee with Principal Surjakanta Das of Narshingdi Government College to probe into the allegations.

When contacted, Das said he found some allegations valid. The Headmaster and the Assistant Headmaster remain absent from the school off and on. The Headmaster also violated the government rule by assigning a teacher to write the papers and documents of the school instead of the clerk.

The class routine of the school bears the names of the Headmaster and his deputy, but they seldom take any class.

The Headmaster also assigned a teacher who is sixth in the seniority list to look after

the matter in his absence.

He also committed some irregularities during admission in different classes and took extra money from the students. There is allegation of extra expenditure during the annual and test examinations of the school in 1998.

A team of internal audit revealed that the expenditure for the purpose of examination in 1998 was Tk 55,000 for 1,000 students. But neighbouring Satirpara Kalkikumar High School spent only Tk 32,000 for about 1,600 students. Narshingdi Girls High School spent Tk 30,000 for 1,400 students and Brahmandi Secondary Girls School spent Tk 31,000 for 1,850 students.

The Headmaster also collected extra money from the SSC examinees in the name of practical examination fee though the fee was given by the students during the form fill-up. The extra money was allegedly distributed among the teachers involved in taking practical examination.

The guardians filed allegations with the Deputy Commissioner (DC) and district anti-corruption office.

Due to the irregularities, academic activities of the school are being seriously hampered and no significant improvement could be made in this regard.

KU Computer Science students demand chairman's removal

KHULNA, June 4: The students of Computer Science and Engineering Department of Khulna University (KU) here formed a human chain on the campus on Wednesday demanding removal of its chairman, reports APB.

Some 120 students of the department, who have been boycotting their classes since April 22, also took out a silent procession on Tuesday to realise their demand.

They have brought several charges of corruption and misuse of power against departmental chairman Mozammel Huq Azad Khan.

When contacted, the Vice Chancellor of the university said he urged the students of the department to come back to their classes and resolve the issue through negotiation.

Separate incidents kill 3

From staff Correspondent

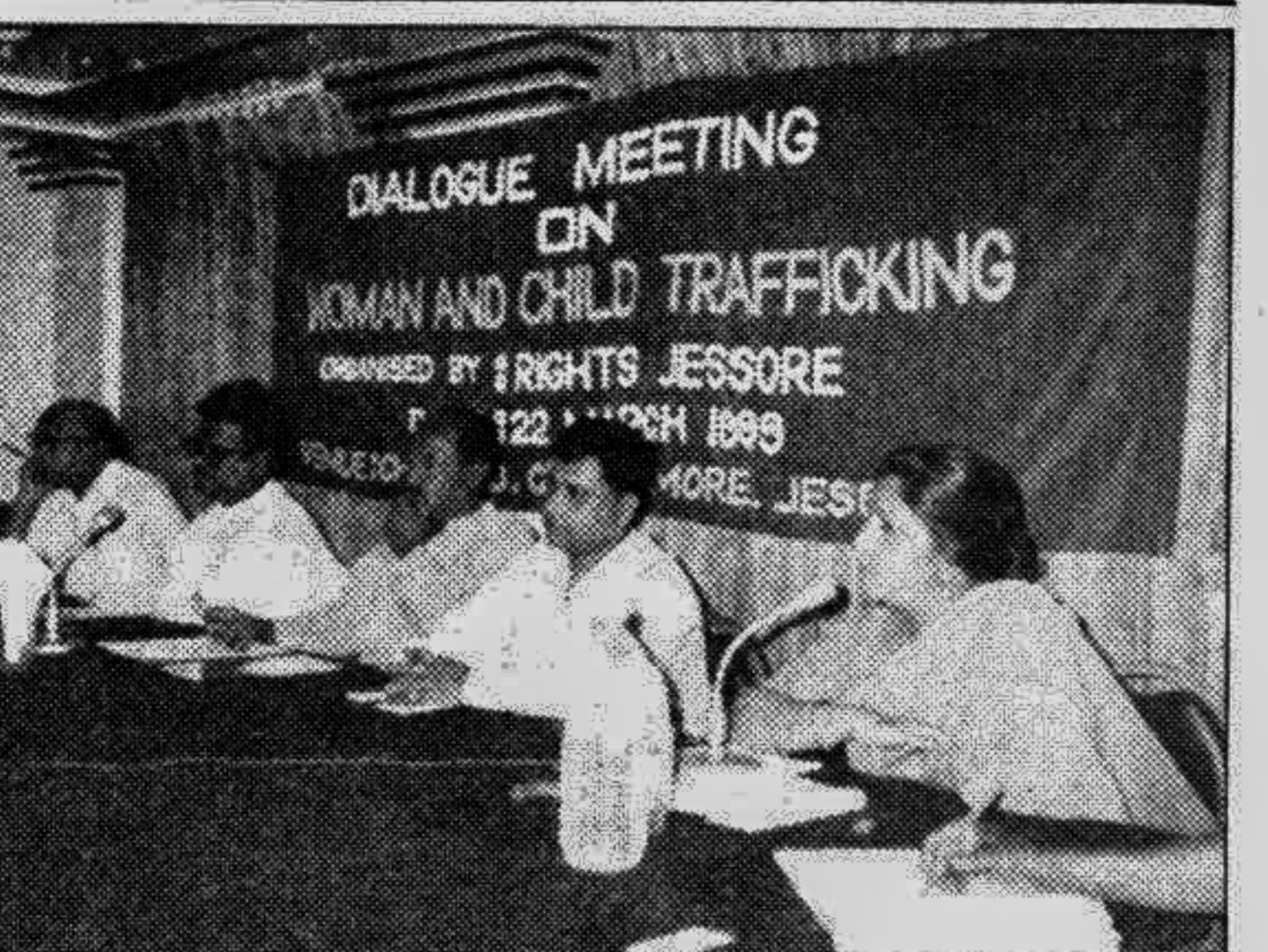
KHULNA, June 4: Three unnatural death cases were lodged in three police stations on Wednesday.

According to police, a farmer named Pratap Kumar Ghose committed suicide by taking poison in his house at Banke village in Paikgacha thana.

Lovely Begum, 24, wife of a grocer named Ashraf Shaikh committed suicide by taking poison at her house at Paira village in Abhoynagar thana.

In another incident, a farmer named Asmat Tarafdar, 55, was killed by lightning on Wednesday noon in a paddy field at Birat village in Batiaghata thana.

He was tilling a land when a thunderbolt struck him claiming his life on the spot.



JESSORE: A dialogue meeting on Woman and Child Trafficking was organised here recently by Rights Jessore, a local human rights organisation. Photo shows (L-R) Helaluddin of CCHRB, Akram Hossain Chowdhury, president of CCHRB, Nurul Alam, president of Rights Jessore, Anisur Rahman, general secretary of Rights Jessore and Shirina Huq, Woman Development Advisor of Danish Embassy in Bangladesh.

— Star photo



MOULVIBAZAR: A reception was accorded recently to Rokanuzzaman Khan (Dada Bhai), founder of Konchi Kancher Mela, a national juvenile organisation, on behalf of the district Shilpakala Academy at the local Saifur Rahman auditorium.