

News snaps

Mother Tongue Day celebrated

KUSHTIA, Dec 12: UNESCO's recognition of 21st February as International Mother Tongue Day was celebrated here in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

Local Shishu Academy organised a discussion meeting in the afternoon at the Academy premises. Abdus Salam, Deputy Commissioner, Kushtia was the chief guest. The chief guest said, it is no doubt a matter of pride for us that like 1st May, the International Labour Day, 21st February will be observed all over the world as the International Mother Tongue Day. The students of different educational institutions also brought out a jubilation procession here on this occasion.

Lathi Khela camp

KUSHTIA, Dec 12: A two-day National Lathi Khela Shikkha Shibir concluded here at Mazanpur on December, reports BSS.

Fifty Lathi Khela Dal participated in the two-day shikkha shibir. The shibir was organised by Monjurul Haq Chowdhury. Every year on 6th and 7th December, a two-day Lathi Khela Shikkha Shibir is being held on the occasion of the death anniversary of late Shirajul Haq Chowdhury, founder of National Lathi Bahini on December 7.

Workshop on jute

MANIKGANJ, Dec 12: A day-long workshop of the jute cultivators on production of jute and Kenaf was held at Bangladesh Jute Research Institute at Jagir recently, reports BSS.

Bangladesh Jute Research Institute and International Jute Organisation (IJO) jointly sponsored the workshop. Dr S B Siddique, Director (Agriculture), Jute Research Institute and National Project Co-ordinator, IJO (IFAD Project) was the main speaker in the day-long programme. The workshop was addressed, among others, by Shamsuddin Ahmed, Head of Kenaf Department of Jute Research Institute, Dhaka, Sadaruddin, Head of Kenaf, Reproduction Department and jute cultivators Manjir Ali, Hasanuzzaman and Badaruddin. A total of 80 jute cultivators of Manikganj Sadar, Sattaria and Singair thana took part in the workshop.

Youth festival held

CHUADANGA, Dec 12: The National Youth Festival was held in Chuadanga recently, in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

In observance of the day the Chuadanga District Youth Office arranged various programmes which included youth rally, procession of the youths, discussion meeting, loan distribution, friendly football match and volleyball competition for the girls. A discussion meeting was held at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner, Chuadanga. Firoz Ahmed, Assistant Director, Youth Development Directorate, Chuadanga presided over the meeting. Abul Hussain, ADC (General) was present in the discussion meeting as the chief guest. Among others, Dr Ashabul Hoque, former MP, Mansur Ahmed, Additional District Magistrate and S M Saiful Haque, TNO, Chuadanga addressed the meeting.

Discussion on human rights

GAZIPUR, Dec 12: A discussion meeting was held at Bhawal Ideal Academy on Friday in observance of the International Human Rights Day, reports BSS.

The programme was jointly organised by Manobadhi Kar Sangbadik Forum, Gazipur district unit and Bhawal Shishu Khishor Mela. The discussion was presided over by J H Mollah, Principal of Bhawal Ideal Academy. Among others, Ataur Rahman, President of Manobadhi Kar Sangbadik Forum, Gazipur district unit and Director of Bhawal Shishu Khishor Mela, Nahid Sultana and Nurul Islam, teachers of Bhawal Ideal Academy, Moniruzzaman, Acting Editor of weekly Bhawal and journalist Nurul Islam discussed various aspects of human rights in Bangladesh.

Vegetable cultivation scheme

KISHOREGANJ, Dec 12: A one-day training on cultivation of vegetables in the homesteads and prevention from insecticide concluded on December 7, at Kadir Jangal Union under Karimganj thana, reports BSS.

Organised by Karimganj Thana Agriculture Extension Office, the training course was participated by 30 women of the union. Insecticide Specialist Abdul Wadud and Enayeturrahman conducted the training. The Deputy Director of District Agriculture Extension Directorate, Waziruzzaman Akhand supervised the training.

Workshop on reproductive health

COMILLA, Dec 12: A day-long orientation workshop on "Advocacy on Reproductive Health and Gender Issues" was held at Chowddagram thana auditorium on December 8, reports BSS.

Whip Mujibul Hoque Mujib was present as the chief guest while Thana Nirbahi Officer Sayed Ahmed Safa presided over the workshop. Additional District Magistrate, Enamul Hoque, District Information Officer Jasim Uddin, UP Chairmen, Ali Hossain and Abdul Karim Patwary addressed the participants. Forty representatives of different government and non-government organisations took part in the workshop. District Information Department organised the workshop.

Woman rescued

JESSORE, Dec 12: A housewife and a man with whom she left her father's house in Jhalakathi two weeks back were caught from a house here on December 2, reports UNB.

Police said Shirin Akhter Eva, wife of Manik Kazi of Bhandharia of Pirojpur district, had been missing with her child from her father's house at West Puthkali of Jhalakathi since November 15. After her missing, Eva's father Mofakkar Hossain filed a kidnapping case against Enadul Haque Nayan, a former fiancé of Eva. On information, Jessore Police raided a house belonging to one relative of Nayan at City College Para in the town on December 2 and caught them. Police said Eva has been residing with her father's house, as her husband to whom she got married beyond her will found fraud. Both of them were produced before the Court on the same day.

Body recovered

BAGERHAT, Dec 12: Police recovered the body of an unidentified old man from Phulhat launch terminal area in Moralganj thana on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Police said some miscreants killed the old man aged about 55 and threw it in the nearby River Tanguchhi. The body was sent to Bagerhat Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Workshop on health

RANGAMATI, Dec 12: A day-long orientation workshop on health information for mother and childcare concluded at thana council auditorium of Kaptai on Thursday, reports UNB.

Kaptai Thana Information office organised the workshop. Forty people, including Ansar VDP members, social workers, teachers, inams of mosques and priests took part in the workshop. Local medical officers and Health and Family Planning officer delivered lectures on various aspects of mother and childcare.

Savings drive

BAGERHAT, Dec 12: The Savings Directorate has undertaken a programme to motivate the people to save a portion of their incomes in different savings certificate schemes for future safety, reports UNB.

The directorate launched the campaign even in the rural areas of the district and sold some 33,80,000 savings certificates during the first five months of the current fiscal. It earned a profit of over Tk 1 crore selling the certificates of different terms to 73 people and two organisations in the district. The buyers include two organisations, 48 town dwellers, and 25 rural people.

Office opens

RANGAMATI, Dec 12: In a bid to solve housing problem in hilly areas, the regional office of House Building Finance Corporation was formally inaugurated here on Wednesday, reports UNB.

CHT Affairs Minister Kalpa Ranjan Chakma, as present in the inaugural ceremony as chief guest while CHT refugee Affairs Taskforce Chairman Dipankar Talukder MP and Rangamati CHT Council Chairman Ching Ku Rowaza as special guests. Chairman of the corporation Shah Mohammad Ataur Rahman presided over the function held at Rangamati pourasava auditorium. Managing Director of the corporation SM Monium Hossain and Deputy Commissioner Abu Haider Sardar also spoke on the occasion.

4 hurt in rivals' clash

BAGERHAT, Dec 12: A clash among rival villagers in Chitalmari thana left four people injured on Friday, reports BSS.

Police and villagers said the clash ensued when a group of people led by Hidi, master attacked on the opponents over occupation of a pond at Barabaria village in the area. There has been a quarrel since long between two rival groups over the land.

Three of the injured — Quamirul, 17, Moni Sheikh, 26, and Rafiq, 32, — were admitted to local thana health complex. Other injured identified as Shahjahan and caught by local villagers with a country-made pipe gun, was admitted to Tungipara Thana Health Complex in Gopalganj district. A case was filed with the police in this regard.

Chargesheet of Meeta murder case framed

From Abdul Wadood

RAJSHAHI, Dec 12: The Investigating Officer (IO) of the case of killing of Rajshahi University student Sabina Pervin Meeta, submitted chargesheet of the case to the court.

Meeta's classmate Mahfuj Ara Akhter Shimul was made the main accused. The two other accused are Meeta's classmate Delwar Hossain and night-guard of Rajshahi Karmajibi Mahila Hostel Rezaul Karim.

The IO, sub-inspector Asadullah excluded Shahjadi Tahmina Ananda, room-mate of Shimul and Monsoor Rahman, night guard of Rajshahi Karmajibi Mahila Hostel from the case for having no evidence against them.

Meeta was killed on last July 5 in Shimul's room in Rajshahi Karmajibi Mahila Hostel. Police recovered the dead body being informed by the superintendent of the hostel.

At first Shimul explained that her classmate Meeta had come to her room in a sad mood and wanted to stay with her. At one moment she fell sick and expired.

Police suspected it a murder case and sent the dead body for autopsy. Police also arrested Shimul, her roommate Ananda, night guards Rezaul Karim, Monsoor Rahman and Meeta's classmate Delwar Hossain, one by one, in two weeks. Police found bottles of cold drinks and sleeping pills in the room.

Investigations and viscera reports revealed that Shimul, with the help of Delwar and Rezaul Karim, killed Meeta by feeding her cold drinks mixed with high dose Nitro-glycerine, a hypnotic drug.

On the day of incident, Delwar went to Meeta's house in Vadra area in the city at about 12 noon and requested her to go to the Karmajibi Mahila Hostel for bringing class notes from Shimul for him.

Meeta had gone to the hostel and gave notes to Delwar waiting at the gate of the hostel. Delwar left the place but Meeta returned back to Shimul on her request. Shimul served Meeta with cold drinks mixed with sleeping pills. Soon she got asleep and ultimately died.

Observing Meeta's absence at home for a long time, her brother Dr Shamim went to the Karmajibi Mahila Hostel twice to trace her sister. At first he was told by the night guard and Shimul that Meeta had not gone there. But on the second visit, Shimul said that Meeta had gone there but left soon.

Dr Shamim then rushed to Delwar in Madar Box Hall of Rajshahi University at about 10 pm. Delwar told him that he saw Meeta for the last time in their house at noon.

In the mean time, Shimul informed the superintendent of the hostel that her friend Meeta died of sudden sickness.

IO of the case sub-inspector A B M Asadullah found that it was a planned case of killing. Meeta had come to know some unfair thing done by Shimul. So Shimul killed her with the assistance of her lover Delwar and the night guard Rezaul Karim.

The city dwellers had observed a number of agitation programmes to demand proper security stamping out terrorism and punishment of the killers.

Col Taher lost his leg in battle for Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Dec 12: Jamalpur-free Day was observed on December 11.

On this day in the 1971 Jamalpur was freed by the freedom fighters from Pakistani occupation. Jamalpur was formally declared an enemy-free area by hoisting the national flag at WAPDA rest house by Fozar Rahman, the company commander of Sector No 11 in presence of many freedom loving people.

The fighting in Jamalpur, a bordering area is memorable in the history of the Liberation War. Pakistani war-mongers constructed a concrete bunker to combat the Bangladeshi freedom fighters on June 12, 1971. At first the freedom fighters attacked the Jamalpur camp on July 31, then on October 21. The third attack caused colossal loss to both the sides. 31 Baluch Regiment was deployed in Jamalpur-Bakshigonj area to fortify their positions.

The headquarters of 31 Baluch Regiment was set up at the Primary Teachers Institute (PTI) near Jamalpur town. Lieutenant Colonel Sultan Mahmud was the commander of the Baluch Regiment.

Dhanua-Kamalpur camp was important for both the freedom fighters and occupation Pakistani forces as a border area on November 14. Sector Commander Colonel Abu Taher had launched an attack on the camp to capture it, but he was wounded seriously and lost his one leg in the bloody battle. Later on Wing Commander Hamidullah Khan Bir Protik took the charge of as the sector commander of freedom fighters.

After 21 days of confinement on December 4 the Pakistani soldiers gave in the battle and retreated to their headquarters at Jamalpur town. At least 220 soldiers including 12 freedom fighters were killed in Kamalpur battle field. Golden son of the soil Captain Salahuddin embraced martyrdom here.

After breakdown of Kamalpur camp the Baluch forces retreated to Jamalpur their headquarters and made strong resistance against the freedom fighters, but Lieutenant Colonel Sultan Mahmud compelled to give up.

At dawn the Pakistani troops were defeated and Jamalpur became free at the expense of great enemy loss. The casualty of Pakistani occupation army was 235 dead, 23 injured and 64 captive.

The Second in Command of 51 Baluch Regiment surrendered with 376 soldiers to the freedom fighters at their headquarters. On the other hand 10 soldiers of Maratha Light Infantry and one soldier of 13 Guard Regiment were killed during the fierce fighting.



Observance of Jamalpur-free Day in Jamalpur. — Star photo

Celebration on UNESCO declaration

BARISAL, Dec 12: 'Anandna Utsab' was celebrated here in this divisional town on December 7 in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

The Utsab was arranged to celebrate the recognition of 21st February as the International Mother Tongue Day.

Organised by the district administration, the programme was attended by Divisional Commissioner, Yahia Mollah as the chief guest.

A colourful rally, participated by the students of the schools and colleges, teachers, professors, government officials, Scouts, BNCC, Girls-in-schooling, youths, Muktiyoddhas and people of all walks of life, was brought out from the Aswini Kumar Town Hall premises in the morning. The rally paraded the main roads of the town and ended at the Central Shaheed Minar.

The processionists maintained one minute silence at the Shaheed Minar to pay respect to the martyrs and placed wreaths at the foot of the Shaheed Minar.

Earlier, a discussion was held before the start of the rally at the Outer Aswini Kumar Hall on this occasion. The meeting was presided over by Deputy Commissioner M Alauddin.

In his speech as the chief guest, Yahia Mollah said, we are proud for the recognition of 21st February as the International Mother Tongue Day.

Massive potato cultivation programme in districts

Bangladesh Agriculture Extension Department has taken up a nationwide massive programme to produce 21 lakh metric tons potato in the current season, reports UNB.

To make the programme a success, 175,000 hectares have been brought under potato cultivation in the country, an official has said.

The highest 157,200 tons of potato will be produced on 13,100 hectares in Comilla. The other major potato growing areas are: 152,800 tons on 14,400 hectares in Rangpur, 138,000 tons each in Rajshahi and Bogra, 98,400 tons on 8200 hectares in Joypurhat, 78,000 tons on 6500 hectares in Nilphamari, 73,200 tons on 6100 hectares in Naogaon, 61,200 tons on 5100 hectares in Chandpur, 48,000 tons each in

Mymensingh and Thakurgaon, 38,400 tons on 3200 in Gaibandha and 36,000 tons on 3000 hectares in Tangail.

All the commercial banks and the Krishi Bank have distributed loan among the farmers to purchase pesticides, fertiliser and other necessary inputs and the Seed Department of BAED supplied seeds among the farmers to help them make the programme a success.

Another report from Panchagarh says: Farmers of the district are showing much interest in cultivating potato in a bid to recoup losses caused by flood.

AED sources said some 2,000 hectares of land would be brought under potato cultivation with a production target of 24,000 metric tons.

The farmers of the district have been preparing lands for potato cultivation, although, they said, there has been a crisis of potato seed in local markets.

Some farmers of Boda thana said there is always a good demand of potato in the country. They also expect a good harvest of potato, as there is no chance of natural calamity, excepting pest menace.

Some farmers said they were being compelled to cultivate other crops, including potato, because they were being deprived of fair price of paddy. The government is yet to start procure rice and paddy in the northern districts.

Export Promotion Bureau sources said there is bright prospect of exporting potato to European and other continents this year.



Minister for Home and Telecommunications Mohammad Nasim offered munajat after laying the foundation stone recently of Police Hospital at Sardah Police Academy in Charghat thana of Rajshahi district. — Star photo

Nasim asks police to uproot terrorism

NARAIL, Dec 12: Home Minister Mohammad Nasim recently directed the police to work with more sincerity to fulfil Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's pledge to ensure public security stamping out terrorism, reports UNB.

"Go tougher to nab the terrorists and recover illegal arms for ensuring public security," he said addressing a huge rally at Narail Dakbungalow Field. District Awami League organised the rally.

Nasim observed terrorism could not be uprooted from the southwestern region as people of the area still remained insecure.

"Many terrorists are yet to be arrested while many illegal arms to be recovered," he said making a repeated call for continuing vigorous hunts.

He directed the policemen not to show any leniency to any terrorist. "Arrest all whoever they may be, even if they are ruling party members."

Referring to the risk of the policemen during their operation to nab the terrorists Nasim said the government raised "risk allowance" for them which is going to be effective from next month.

Accusing all the past governments of patronising the terrorists who held people hostage, the Home Minister said "... they (terrorists) failed to buy or pursue the ministers and administrations of the present government."

Referring to the recent opposition summit he said Khaleda Zia and Ershad betrayed with 30 lakh martyrs who sacrificed their lives for independence of the nation.

"They may go on holding more summits to oust the democratic government, but we will not relinquish power before completion of the five-year term," he said.

He called upon the people to be aware of the opposition "conspiracy" and take part in upazila elections to be held after Ramadan.

Presided over by district AL president Abul Kalam Azad, it was also addressed, among others, by State Minister for Social Welfare Dr Moazzam Hossain, Sharif Khasruzzaman MP, Dharendra Nath Shah, chairman of Narail municipality Khan Nizamuddin, district AL general secretary Siddique Ahmad and local leaders of the party.

Later, the minister inaugurated a police camp at Naldi in Lohagarah thana. Inspector General of Police AYIB Siddiqui was also present.

Speaking on the occasion IGP Siddiqui also directed his force to work with more sincerity. "Risk allowance" is going to be launched for you which increased your responsibilities.

Liberation Day celebration

COMILLA, Dec 12: 'Comilla Mukto Day' was celebrated here on December 8 amidst great enthusiasm. Rally, discussion, meetings and cultural functions were held to mark the day, reports BSS.

A colourful rally was organized at local Town Hall on this occasion.

Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru inaugurated the rally as the chief guest while whip Mujibul Hoque Mujib was the special guest.

District Awami League President Khorshed Alam, Principal Abdur Rouf, Deputy Commissioner Chowdhury Golam Mowla spoke before the start of the rally. The rally, after moving through the main roads ended at Town Hall.

Members and workers of different socio-cultural and juvenile organisations, students, freedom fighters, elite and journalists took part in the rally.

A discussion meeting was held at the Town Hall, presided over by Mesbaul Alam, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Gen).

Prof Khorshed Alam, Principal Abdur Rouf, Jashimuddin Chowdhury, Advocate Rustam Ali, Advocate Zahurul Islam and Abdul Awal spoke in the meeting.

Jhenidah college closed sine die

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Dec 12: Raicharan-Tarinicharan College in Jhenidah sadar thana has been closed for an indefinite period following controversial appointment of some teachers.

Local people and some teachers said that a group of local people locked the room of the principal of the college on December 2 last in protest against an attempt to appoint some teachers from a particular political party.

Principal of the college left the headquarters on a seven-day leave to avoid further untoward incident.

Finding no other alternatives the college authority announced its closure for an indefinite period.

Production of date molasses falls

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Dec 12: Production of date molasses and Patali has fallen down considerably here.

Prices of patali and date molasses have also gone beyond the purchasing capacity of common people now-a-days.

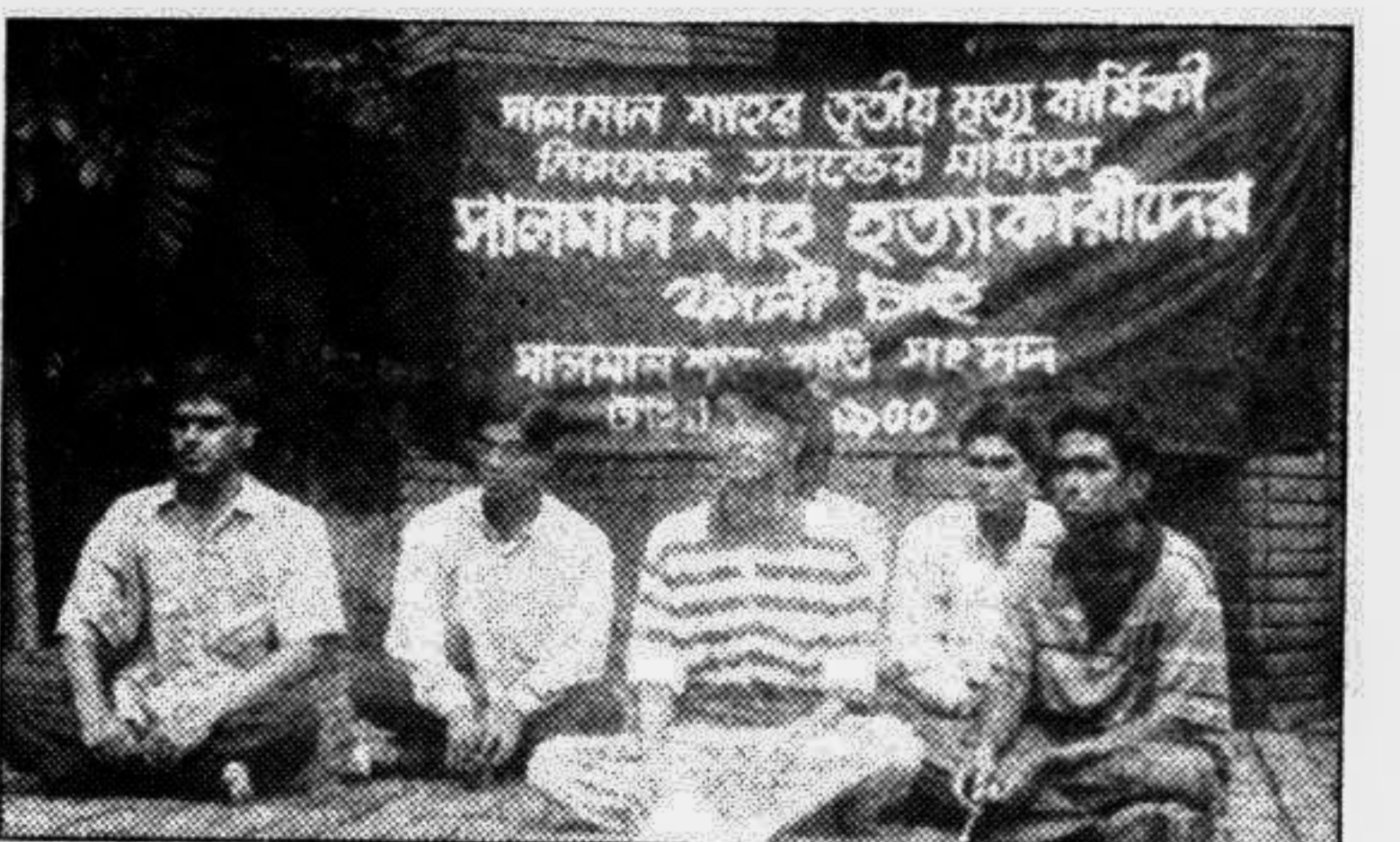
A small jar of raw date juice containing 8 to 10 glasses is being sold at Taka 15 to Tk 16. One kilogram of 'Patali' sells at Tk 32 to Tk 35 in the retail markets. A small jar of date molasses is being sold at Tk 100 to Tk 120.

Indiscriminate felling of date trees for fuel and for construction of houses has attributed to such situation.

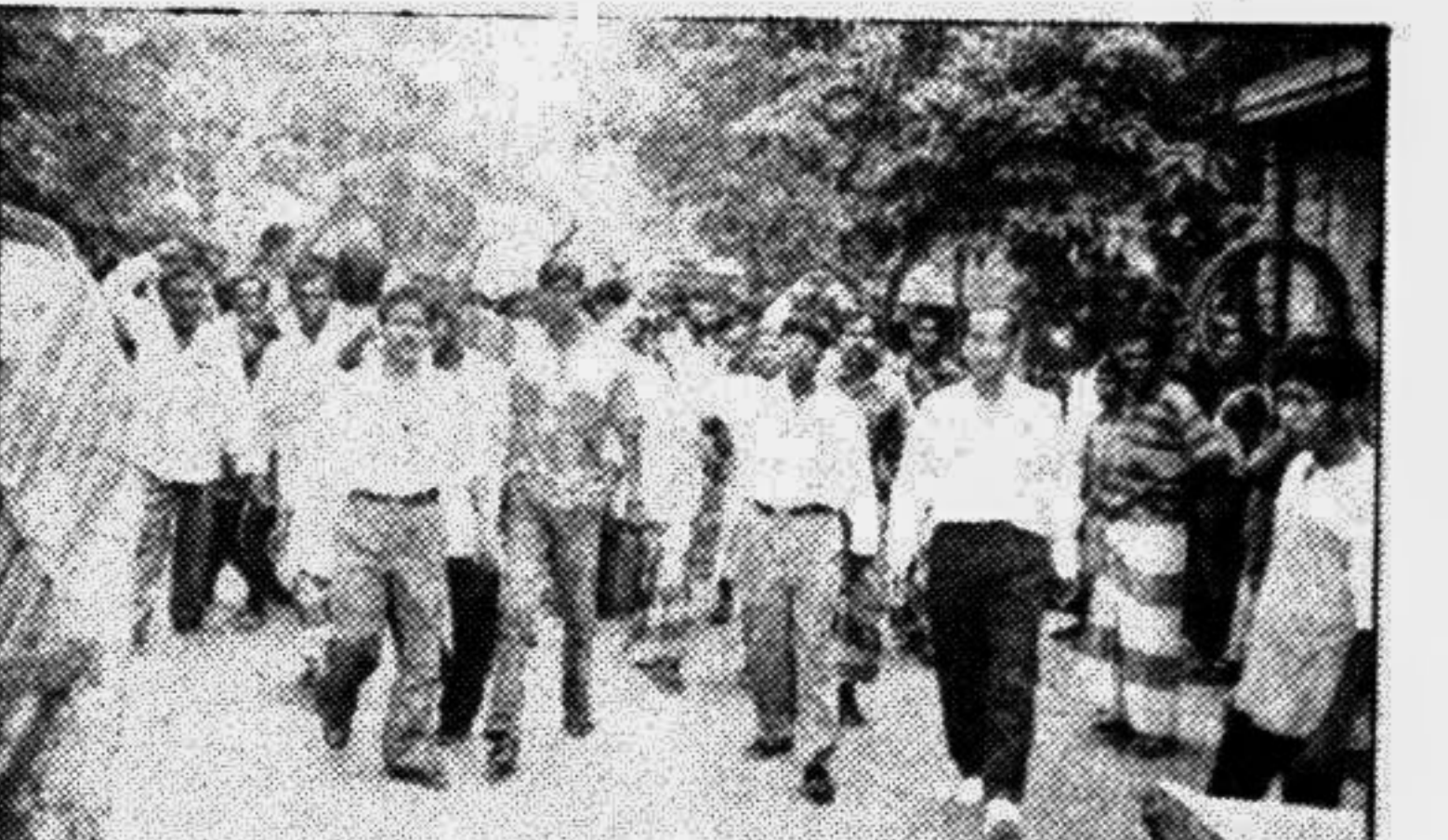
Facilities relating to marketing of date juice products and preservation of the same beyond winter season are totally absent. Scarcity of firewood for boiling date juice is another problem in this trade.

Sontia Bazaar, Nandina Bazaar, Kendua Bazaar, Ghutail, Hazipur Bazaar, Madur Bazaar, Barowakhal Bazaar, Sreepur Bazaar and Bhatar Bazaar are the main markets of date molasses and patali.

Events of districts in picture



Salman Shah Memorial Committee, Tangail organised a token hunger strike at Tangail Shaheed Memorial Municipal Park recently demanding impartial investigation into Salman Shah murder. — Star photo



Satkhira District Landless Association brought out a procession recently which paraded the main thoroughfares of Satkhira town to press home their 8-point demands. — Star photo



Extraction of date juice has already been started in Jamalpur district in the ongoing winter season. — Star photo