

National

Upazila roundup

MADARIPUR

BKB meeting held

From Our Correspondent
February 16: A regional meeting of Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) was held at Madaripur regional office with Kazi Shahidul Islam Babu in the chair recently demanding separate pay scale for banking sector. Among others, Jamaluddin Shohel and A.K. Azad spoke on the occasion.

NABINAGAR

Sports contest

From Our Correspondent
February 16: The upazila level national school and madrasah sports competition was held recently at Nabinagar Pilot High School Maidan with much enthusiasm.

About 150 competitors from 13 educational institutions participated in 36 events. The competition was inaugurated by Upazila Chairman Advocate Md. Kamaluddin. After the competition, UNO Mr. Lehasuddin Chowdhury and Upazila Magistrate Mr. Pirjada Shahidul Harun gave away prizes to the winners.

JHENIDAR

Minor boy crushed under wheels

February 16: A minor boy was crushed under the wheels of a Faridpur bound minibus Thursday on Dhaka-Khulna highway near Deputy Commissioner's office. Police here said, reports UNB. The incident occurred while the victim Rahmat (7), son of a teacher Haroon-ur-Rashid and a student of KG-1 of the local Al-Hera Islami Institute was crossing the road on his way home after attending his classes. Police seized the minibus 'Ulka Paribahan' (Number BA-2054) but the driver managed to escape.

Angry students and mob damaged at least 10 vehicles creating barricade on the highway in protest against the incident. Later a mourning procession was brought out by the students of the local schools.

KUSHITIA

2 brickfield owners sued

From Our Correspondent
February 16: Kushtia police has started two separate cases against two brickfield owners on charge of using fuel wood in place of coal as per government instruction. Brick field owners are Jhantu Mondol and Khaleque Mia. The fields are located at Baotail four miles away from Kushtia town. Abdul Hamid, an employee of Khaleq Mia has been arrested.

Bullock shortage

Acute shortage of bullocks has been prevailing throughout the district causing serious obstacle to cultivation. According to informed sources, 60 to 70 per cent families have no bullocks to till their lands due to which vast area of land remain fallow every year. Most of the farmers perform their agricultural work on share basis as they can not afford to purchase bullocks due to sharp rise in prices.

At present a pair of bullocks cost Taka 10,000 to 12,000. Finding no other alternative they till their land with spades and other implements. Many of them even use much cows to cultivate the land resulting in gradual reduction in the production of milk. Moreover various diseases take a heavy toll of cattle every year. Besides, slaughtering of bullocks has increased to a great extent following the scarcity of fish in the markets.

MAULVI BAZAR

BNSB executives

From A Correspondent
February 16: Mr. Jatindra Prasad Tanchangya, Deputy Commissioner Maulvi Bazar and Dr. Shah Nurul Islam were elected President and General Secretary respectively of Bangladesh National Society for the Blind (B.N.S.B.), Maulvi Bazar for two years. Besides, a 15-member executive committee was also elected in the annual general election. The elected persons are: Vice President - Syed Shamsul Islam, Syed Anjad Ali and A. M. Abdullah; Joint Secretaries - Advocate Mujibur Rahman Mujib and Dr Siddique Ahmed; Treasurer - Advocate S. R. Dey; Members, Dr. S. A. Haque, Rosnoksunna, Monir, Advocate S. A. Matin, Syed Jofinal Abeddin, Advocate Alhaj Joyrial

Hossain, Secretary D.S.A. Syed Mohsin Ali Chairman Maulvi Bazar Municipality, Israil Miah, A. M. Yeahya Mujahid and Mr. Abdur Rahman.

BRAHMANBARIA

Shortage of doctors, medicines hampers treatment

February 16: The 50-bed district hospital is beset with manifold problems due to lack of blood bank, shortage of medicines, doctors and accommodation, reports UNB. According to informed sources, many emergency patients from far flung areas are to go back disappointed without any medical attention. The number of doctors is also too small to cope with the rush of the patients. It is alleged that many do not attend their patients in time. Sufferers say most of the time they are to buy medicines from outside at exorbitant prices. Surgical patients are the worst-sufferers due to lack of blood bank and appropriate instruments, it is alleged. Moreover, patients are packed like sardines on floors and verandah of the hospital because of bed shortage. Local people urged the concerned authorities to turn the hospital into a properly equipped 100-bed one to cope with the rising needs of the patients.

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PANCHAGARH

1600 power pumps to be distributed

February 16: Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation has taken up a programme to distribute 1600 power pumps to facilitate irrigation in eight northern districts during this year, official sources said reports UNB.

The district-wise allocation of power pumps are: Panchagarh-55, Thakurgaon-190, Dinajpur-420, Kurigram-180, Lalmonirhat-60, Nilphamari-105, Gaibandha-190, and Rangpur-400. After the implementation of the scheme, agri-production especially paddy will be increased in the area.

RAJBARI

Road blockade by workers

February 16: A textile mill workers blocked highway transport near Goalundo upazila Tuesday disrupting communication between Dhaka and southern districts for more than three hours, reports UNB. About 700 workers of Goalundo Textile Mills put up road blocks at 6 am protesting closure of the mills. The management closed the mill Saturday morning after workers' refusal to work on Fridays without remuneration.

The protesters, however, withdrew the barricade at 9am following a meeting between the management and the workers' union, where the authorities assured reopening of the mill soon. The workers urged the authorities to reopen the mill by Sunday morning, otherwise, they warned of an all-out action including road blockade and hartal. The DC and the SP visited the spot.

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NETRAKONA

Arms recovered

From Our Correspondent
February 16: As a part of countrywide illegal arms recovery drive Kalmakanda Upazila police conducted a series of raids yesterday in different remote village of the upazila, police sources said. The sources said in the raids, police recovered one pipe gun and two rounds of ammunition from a ditch at village Pukuria. Police also arrested one notorious dacoit Abdul Ali from the aforesaid village.

COX'S BAZAR

4 criminals arrested

From Our Correspondent
February 16: Acting on secret information the police of Cox's Bazar PS arrested four absconding criminals recently. A police team led by Mr Mohfuzul Hoque, officer-in-charge of Cox's Bazar Police Station arrested the alleged criminals from their home. The arrested criminals are Mozammel Hoque, Hyder Ali, Saiber Ahmed and Mofazzal Ahmed. They are inhabitants of Cox's Bazar Sadar upazila. They are wanted by the police in connection with several murder cases and criminal cases.

Bridge damaged in '71 awaits reconstruction

From Our Correspondent



MAULVI BAZAR: Chadnighat Bridge over the Monu river on Kulaura Juri Road damaged during the Liberation War in 1971.

MAULVI BAZAR, Feb 16: The Chadnighat Bridge over the river Monu which was damaged during the War of Liberation still awaits reconstruction.

This is a vital bridge on Maulvi Bazar-Kulaura Juri Road which connects Maulvi Bazar district headquarters with Baralekha, Kulaura, Rajnagar upazilas and a part of Sadar upazila. The bridge was

constructed during the British rule and a part of the bridge was damaged during the War of Liberation causing much sufferings to the vehicular traffic and the passersby.

The Roads and Highways Department, however, restored communication by installing Bailey bridge on the damaged portion of the bridge. And every year a huge amount of money is spent for repair

and maintenance work. It is learnt that the authority concerned has taken up a scheme to reconstruct the bridge. And in this connection a survey was made long before. But for want of proper fund the scheme has not yet been implemented.

The local people expect the authority will do needful for early reconstruction of the bridge.

Netrakona roads in bad shape

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA, Feb 16: The condition of roads in all upazilas of the district is deplorable creating hindrance to vehicular traffic.

Roads linking Netrakona with Kendua, Kalmakanda, Purbadhalla, Atpara and Madan, require urgent repair and reconstruction. The sufferings of the people of Kalmakanda, Durgapur and the northernmost border upazilas know no bound.

The Netrakona-Kendua road needs to be repaired and linked with the district and upazila headquarters.

The road was constructed during the Pakistan period. Since then, nothing was done for its improvement. Hundreds of vehicles including buses, trucks ply on the road everyday. Accidents take place off and on due to narrowness of the road. The road runs from Netrakona district headquarters to Kendua upazila headquarters is in bad condition and it has become unfit for plying of vehicles. Holes and potholes have developed on the road.

It may be noted here that it is the only connecting road between Netrakona district headquarters. Nothing was done for the repair of the road since the liberation although several representations have been given to the concerned authority.

Smuggled goods worth Tk 6 lakh recovered

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, Feb 16: Indian goods worth about Taka 6,00,000 were recovered and six smugglers were arrested by BDR personnel of Dinajpur and Thakurgaon districts recently.

BDR personnel of 16 Phulbari Battalion recovered different kinds of Indian goods worth Taka 1,02,120 from Bania Hill, Bhauijar, Panchebibi, Jutipara and Atpara border areas. Sudhir Chandra, Muniruzzaman and Bulbul were arrested in this connection during the raids.

The BDR personnel of 11 Thakurgaon Battalion searched a truck on Dinajpur-Thakurgaon road and recovered different kinds of Indian goods worth Taka 1,30,790. Smugglers Moti Mia, Nazir Khan and Yusuf Ali were also arrested from the truck. Besides, Indian steel goods worth Taka 50,000 were recovered from the house in a village of Ransankail upazila.

Law, order situation in Tangail discussed

TANGAIL, Feb 16: The Deputy Commissioner of Tangail held a meeting with the political leaders and representatives of candidates for Jatiya Sangsad election, Chairmen of Upazila, Paurashava, union parishads, government officials and student leaders Wednesday at Bhashani Hall.

The meetings discussed various measures for a fair, impartial and neutral election. The Deputy Commissioner sought cooperation of all concerned for holding the coming election peacefully and successfully.

28 projects implemented

CHITTAGONG, Feb 16: About 75 per cent work has been done on implementation of 28 uplift projects costing Taka 3.20 crore, local government sources said here, reports UNB.

Financed by Asian Development Bank (ADB), the LGEB took up the work of those flood rehabilitation (FDR) projects during the last financial year.

It has been disclosed at a recent meeting that the work of 10 projects for constructing 10.50 km road, 14 projects for bricksetting work on 20.27 km road and construction of three bridges and three culverts were taken up during the year.

Of the projects, the construction of 18.29 metre long bridge at Raipur in Fatikchhari upazila was taken up at an estimated cost of Taka 12.60 lakh.

Kutchra latrines pose health hazard

NARAIL, Feb 16: Unplanned construction of kutchra latrines have posed a threat to health and sanitation in the town, reports UNB.

Innumerable kutchra latrines beside public roads have been emitting bad odour creating problems to the pedestrians. The situation worsens during the rainy season.

Political scene

'Hammer songs' draw large crowd at Bakerganj

Star report

Fakir Alamgir, a known figure in the field of pop and people's songs has currently earned name as "hammer singer". He is extensively touring parts of Bakerganj and has already held over a dozen open air shows describing the importance of "hammer".

Mr. Rashed Khan Menon, leader of the Five-Party Alliance and General Secretary, Workers Party has engaged "Fakir Shaheb" to canvass in his favour. Menon is contesting the polls from two constituencies, Bakerganj-2 and Bakerganj-5. His election symbol is hammer.

Fakir Alamgir is drawing large crowd in course of polls campaigns and the audience enjoying his performance very much. Skillfully, he is mentioning 'hammer' in his songs and speeches.

Fakir rendered "songs on votes" in front of Town Hall at Barisal and at Shahid Minar on Friday.

But the rate of his fee for this new job was not known.

Our Maulvi Bazar Correspondent adds: The Returning Officers of Maulvi Bazar have been taking necessary preparations for holding a free, fair and impartial parliament election in the district.

A meeting of different parties and elite of the district was held on Thursday at Maulvi Bazar with Mr. Jatindra Prasad Tanchongya, Returning Officer and Deputy Commissioner in the chair.

The Returning Officer called upon all to implement government instructions for holding a free, fair and impartial election on February 27. Leaders of different political parties assured the administration of their cooperation and to follow code of conduct.

The total number of voters in this district is 813,593. According to district Election Office, 1427 polling booths in 385 centres have been set up in the Maulvi Bazar district.

To conduct the election 385 Presiding Officers, 1427 Assistant Presiding Officers and 2854 Polling Officers have been appointed.

Begum Sajeda Choudhury of Awami League, A.K.M. Obaidur Rahman of Janata Dal, Md. Abdul Hussain of B.N.P., Golam Rasul Mia of Jamaat, A.K.M. Khairuzzaman Batu of Zaker Party, Saifuzzaman Zuel of Jatiya Party, Al-haj Abdul Hye Azad of Khelafat Movement and

posters have given the area a festive look.

Awami League, BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami, BKSAL, 5-party alliances, Zaker Party, Janata Dal, JAGPA, Khelafat Movement have fielded their candidates for the elections. Independent candidates are also in the race.

In Faridpur-1 Constituency the following candidates are contesting: Shah Mohammad Abu Zafar (JP), A.K.M. Shamsul Bari Mia Mohan (BNP), Moulana Habibur Rahman (Jamaat), Md. Abdur Rouf Master (AL), Md. Lutfor Rahman (ZP), Md. Mozaffer Hussain Churnu (JD), Moulana Siddiqui Rahman (Khelafat), Abu Zafar Mia (BKSAL), Abu Syeed (5-Party), Abu Syeed Miah (Independent).

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Problems grip Jamalpur Ashek Mahmud College

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Feb 16: Ashek Mahmud Government College, a prestigious institution of the district has been plagued with manifold problems like shortage of teacher, classrooms, ill-equipped laboratory and library.

It is learnt that many posts of teachers are lying vacant since long. Only 52 teachers are not doing justice to such a large number of students on the roll.

This year the college earned a unique distinction and one student stood first in the B. Sc. examination held under Dhaka University despite limited laboratory facilities. There are only three laboratory rooms which can hardly accommodate Science students. The Science students has been doubled after the introduction of B.Sc. course.

Moreover, the classrooms are so congested that it is hardly sufficient for 50 students. But over 80 students are accommodated in the congested room. As a result, the students even find difficult to stretch their legs. Worse still is the number of fans which are not adequate.

Despite rich collection of books in the college library, the students are unable to go into the library en masse because of space shortage.

On the other hand some portion of the library is being used as store room for keeping construction materials. The college hostel meant for 400 students has no visitors room and the guardians who visit their wards have to remain standing. A dilapidated room meant for cafeteria is hardly

congenial for having snacks because of the dirty environment.

On the other hand, accommodation for teachers is not provided in the campus. They live in rented houses which eat up a substantial portion of their salary.

Teachers expect the government to provide them with necessary facilities so that they could teach the students with peaceful mind.

Moreover, a famous institution of the district has no transport facilities available for the staff and students.

People of the area feel that the concerned authorities should take steps on urgent basis regarding the overall development of the institution.

Medicare absent in Pabna TB Hospital

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Feb 16: The TB Hospital of Pabna has been plagued with multiple problems due to absence of necessary facilities causing immense sufferings to the patients.

Treatment is hampered due to absence of medical officers and nursing staff who are now working on deputation to Pabna General Hospital.

Due to shortage of drugs, the patients are not provided with necessary medicines. Moreover, patients complained that poor vitamin and mal-nutritious diet is being supplied to the patients.

On the other hand, campus and wards remain very dirty emitting bad odour all the time. Cattle, dogs, and cats move freely in the wards round the clock.

per cent more compared to the last financial year.

The income came from passenger fare to the tune of Taka 2,20,71,000, Taka 3,98,97,000 from goods and Taka 39,90,000 from parcels and Taka 97,18,000 from miscellaneous sources.

A large number of women are suffering from severe side-effects using 'Norstate' or 'Depo-Provera' injection for birth control in the district.

The side-effects are due to adoption of overdated injection, it is alleged.

Fuel crisis hits Boro production

Production of Boro crops will not achieve the target in Pabna due to fuel crisis this season.

According to the Agricultural Extension Department, Pabna, the target of Boro cultivation in the district was estimated at 11,0760 acres of land. Transplantation of Boro seedling was continuing but the programme will not reach

the target, it is apprehended. Besides, wheat, mustard, sugarcane and pulses have been cultivated in 55,000 acres, 30,000 acres, 8750 acres and 75250 acres of land respectively.

Meanwhile, Agricultural Extension Department arranged a two-day training programme on 'Farming System on Different Agro-Ecological Zone'.

Building materials scarce in Borguna

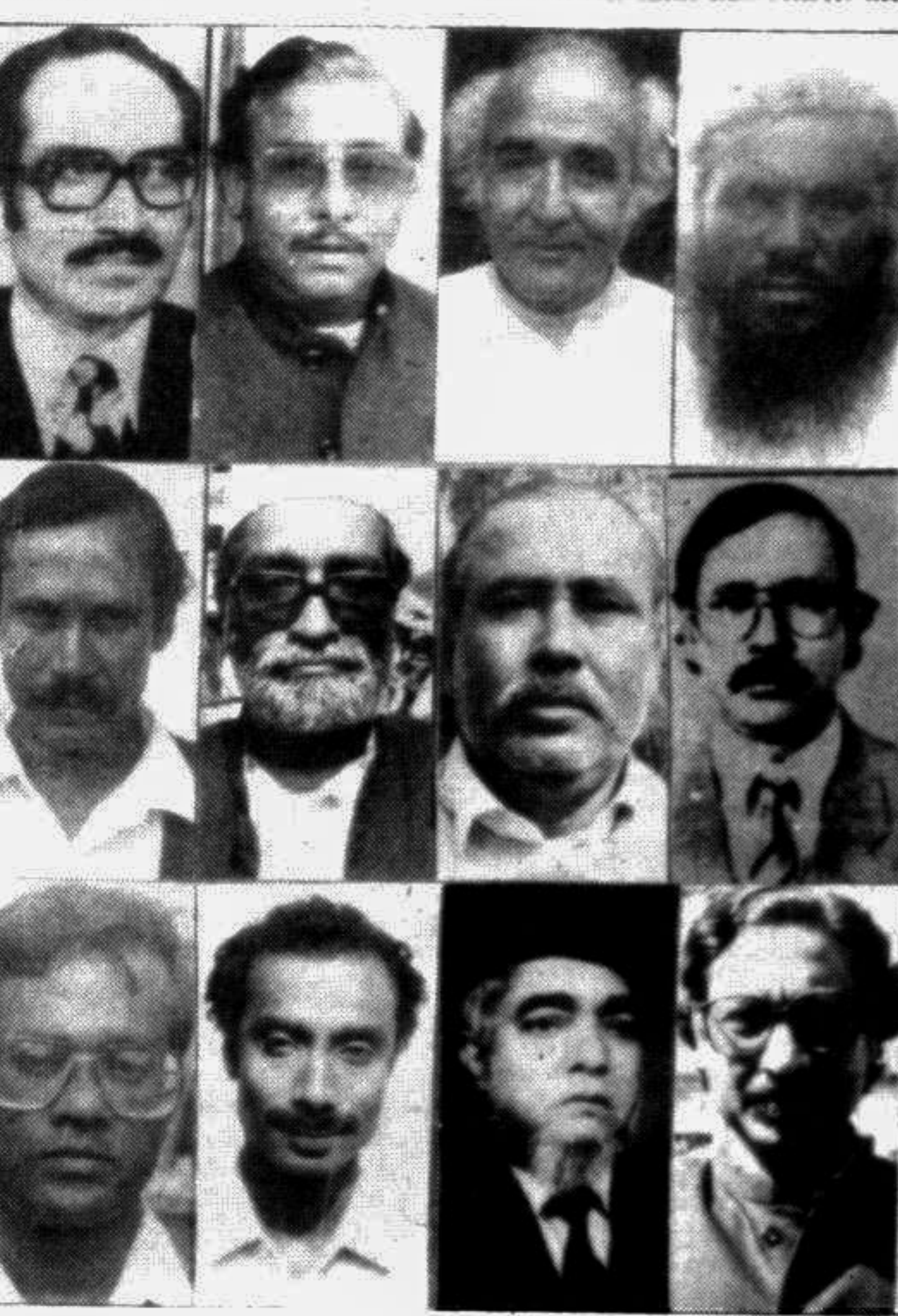
BORGUNA, Feb 16: Shortage of building material has adversely affected construction of new houses and repair of old ones in the district, reports UNB.

Market sources say prices of brick, cement, bamboo and timber have registered a rise by about 10 to 15 per cent.

A bag of cement is being sold between Taka 250 and Taka 260 in the local markets. Dealers have attributed the price hike to short supply of construction materials.



Farmers harvesting potato at a village in Munshigonj district.



Candidates contesting from Maulvi Bazar district. From top left: Saifur Rahman (BNP), Azizur Rahman (AL), Giasuddin Choudhury (JP), Maolana Ibrahim Khalil Azadi (Zaker Party), Abdul Hoque (JSD-Inu), Iman Uddin Ahmed (AL), Ashad Uddin Batal (BNP), Abdur Rahman Choudhury (JP), Sayed Abu Zafar Ahmed (CPB), Nawab Ali Abbas Khan (JP), ANM Yusuf (Muslim League), Sultan Mohammad Mansur Ahmed (AL).

Netrakona

Our Netrakona Correspondent adds: A big meeting was held on Thursday at Barhatta High School premises while renowned poet Nirmolendu Goon who is the prominent independent candidate in the coming parliamentary election and the General Secretary of Bangladesh Kobita Parishad presided.

Nirmolendu Goon said people would be able to elect the candidates of their parties if follow the code of conduct.

Another meeting was held on Thursday at Dugla High School under the auspices of BNP. Abu Abbas a prominent candidate, Abdus Kuddus Masudul Aziz and Abdur Rashid addressed the meeting and urged the people to vote or worthy and honest persons so that socio economic stability could be established.

Faridpur

Our Faridpur Correspondent says: Hectic campaign for February 27 parliamentary polls is going on in all the upazilas of Faridpur district. Different political parties fielded 40 candidates in five constituencies of eight upazilas under Faridpur district.

Multi-coloured banners and

An officials source said the polls will be held in 2285 booths under 572 centres in six constituencies. The candidates of major political parties including Awami League, Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Jamaat-e-Islami, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), are facing each other.