

## National

## Upazila roundup

## JHENIDAH

## Newsmen threatened for publishing news of theft

From Our Correspondent

February 2: Nuruzzaman Montu, Jhenidah Correspondent of the Bangladesh Observer was threatened for publishing a news item against the Jhenidah Water Development Board Thursday evening. One Mr Mahmood and his associates went to the residence of Mr Montu and threatened him for publishing the news. It may be mentioned here that the news item published in the Bangladesh Observer under the caption 'Road pilfered from WDB store' on January 24. The matter was brought to the notice of the Jhenidah police administration and a GD has been lodged in this connection with Jhenidah police.

## B'BARIA

## 4 examinees expelled

From Our Correspondent

February 2: Four examinees were expelled for adopting unfair means in the H. S. C. compartmental examination under Comilla Board on Thursday.

According to a report 656 candidates appeared at the H. S. C. compartmental examination from Brahmanbaria Government College centre.

No untoward incident took place.

## DINAJPUR

## 2 killed in road mishap

February 2: Two persons have been killed in two accidents on the Dinaipur-Thakurgaon road, reports UNB.

Witnesses said Sukur Ali (24) riding a bicycle was knocked down by a Thakurgaon-bound minibus from Dinaipur Wednesday.

A BDR van carried him to hospital where he succumbed to injuries.

In another accident, an unidentified pedestrian died on the spot when he was hit by a speeding minibus the same day.

Both the killer vehicles fled the scenes immediately after the accident.

## BHOLA

## 1673 projects implemented in southern dists

February 2: A total of 1673 projects were implemented during 1989-90 in 16 southern districts under 'Food for Works' Programme.

According to the official sources the projects included repair and reconstruction of kutchha roads, development of playgrounds of educational institutions and construction of wooden bridges.

Of the total, 77 projects were implemented in Bhola, 80 in Barguna, 116 in Patuakhali, 160 in Barisal, 52 in Jhalakathi, 97 in Pirojpur, 190 in Satkhira, 152 in Bagherhat, 147 in Khulna, 63 in Narail, 70 in Magura, 118 in Jhenidah, 209 in Jessore, 41 in Meherpur, 71 in Chuadanga and 111 in Kishoreganj.

## PABNA

## 83 killed, 826 crimes committed last year

February 2: At least 83 people were killed and 826 crimes of various nature were committed in nine upazilas of the district during the last year, reports UNB.

According to police sources, 26 dacoities, 54 thefts, 96 rioting, 33 burglaries, 8 raping incidents, 38 incidents of women repression and 571 other crimes were committed during the period.

Fearing reprisal, a large number of victims in the rural areas refrained from seeking police assistance, the sources added.

Several well organised gangs reportedly harboured by underground political parties are involved in committing crimes in different areas of the district, it is learnt.

## SATKHIRA

## Fake suicide bid takes his life

February 1: A young man met the tragic end of his life when trying to make his wife assent to a second marriage which was denied, police said here today, reports UNB.

The victim Md Sabur (32), of Sadar upazila put some poison into his mouth Tuesday to take a suicide to win over his consent. But the poison sud-

den slipped into his stomach and he died after a grim battle, police said.

According to Islamic tenets, it is obligatory for a husband to

## KURIGRAM

## Wheat seeds sell at blackmarket

From Our Correspondent

February 2: The cultivators are deprived of getting wheat seeds at fair price.

It is alleged that improved varieties of wheat seeds are being sold at an exorbitant price in different huts and bazars of the district.

Unchecked blackmarketing is causing troubles to the poor wheat growers. Wheat cultivation may face a setback due to non-availability of quality seeds compelling a large number of cultivators to abandon their plan for cultivation during the season.

Farmers demand necessary action to check the malpractice to provide proper distribution of wheat seeds among the genuine growers.

## Civic amenities

Meanwhile, Kurigram Poura dwellers have long been deprived of necessary civic amenities although they have to pay taxes regularly.

Health and sanitation services are also meagre to meet minimum requirements of about 70,000 population.

Feb. 2: A meeting of the members of Kurigram Zila unit of Mukti Juddha Sangsad and elite of the town was held at the Sangsad premises with Mr. Serajul Islam Tuku, Zila unit Commander in the chair on January 28.

Mr. Md. Anisur Rahman, D.C. Kurigram was present as the chief guest. Other district level officials were also present.

Various problems of the Zila Mukti Juddha Sangsad were discussed in the meeting and a major decision to create permanent source of income for the zila unit command of the Sangsad was taken in the meeting.

It was rounded off with a tea party.

## NETRAKONA

## Tubewells out of order

From Our Correspondent

February 2: Many tubewells have either been rendered inoperative or choked up causing scarcity of drinking water in the district.

According to the sources most tubewells went out of order due to poor maintenance and shortage of spares.

Villagers alleged that tubewells with plastic pipes often choked up within a short time of installation.

The Public Health Engineering Department sank 1560 tubewells in different parts of the district last year but, most of them remained ineffective as the authorities did not take any steps to repair them due to which wheat cultivation of current season may decline, farmers feared.

Besides, the number of tubewells are inadequate to cope with the rising need.

Meanwhile, gastro-intestinal diseases have broken out in many parts of the district due to paucity of pure water supply.

## KISHOREGANJ

## Raw skin processing poses health hazard

From Our Correspondent

February 2: 'Storing and processing of the raw skins of animals in residential areas of the Bhairab Pourashava have been causing extreme sufferings to the people of the areas and the pedestrians.

It creates an obnoxious scene when the raw skins are salted in open space adjacent to residential houses and public roads. Non-stop emission of bad odour all along has been causing health hazard to the town dwellers.

The situation turns more worst every year after Eid-ul-Azha when the unscrupulous skin dealers become active in collection of raw skins and preserve them here and there in the town. They process the skins for months together with least consideration to public annoyance and sufferings. Moreover, the dealers have constructed sheds in residential areas for storing the daily collected skins.

The people of this thickly populated town urged the concerned authorities to take appropriate steps to stop these unscrupulous skin dealers of their activities to maintain healthy atmosphere and sanitation.



Rural children taking a long trek to procure a day's water for drinking. — Star photo

## Heyday for smugglers

From Our Correspondent

KUSITIA, Feb 1: Smugglers have a hey day along the bordering districts of Kushiya, Meherpur and Chuadanga. They carry goods from across the border in India without any obstacle.

The most popular items smuggled into the country from India are cycles and their spares, sarces, sugar and cosmetics. Cattle-heads are also brought to the districts in larger numbers. Of the goods coming to Bangladesh the most popular item is Indian sarce. Large-scale smuggling of sarces has adversely affected our textile industry.

The goods are carried to Bangladesh by trucks, vans, carts and all other available means of transports. A section of the local people work as agents of organised gangs of smugglers. The agents include large number of women. Even the women agents sell sarces and other smuggled goods to

housewives. Members of the law enforcing agency and border guards on both sides are fully aware of this illegal trade. But action is hardly taken. The smuggling is mostly carried through several points at Dhopakhali, Banipur, Sikarpur, Razapur, Golenapur, Chilmari, Mohiskundi and Paragpur.

Smuggling of sugar in bulk quantity from India has affected the local production seriously. Local sugar sells at higher price than the smuggled one. The price of Indian sugar at Kushiya is Taka 22 per kg while the item produced locally sells at Taka 30 to Taka 32.

In order to save local industry smuggling must be curbed by gearing up our border security measures.

## Thakurgaon

Our correspondent from Thakurgaon adds: Speakers at a seminar here yesterday

viewed that large-scale smuggling in the areas could only be stopped with resistance by the masses as well as stern action by the members of the law enforcing agencies.

Held at Jabarhat High School premises of Pirganj Upazila the seminar was addressed by Lt. Col. Waliullah, Sector Commander of Eight battalion at Dinaipur Mattur Rahman, Editor of a local daily, Khairul Alam Choudhury, Mohsin Joynal Abedin, Altaf Hossain Choudhury and Gias Uddin Ahmed, Chairman of Pirganj Upazila Parishad. Mr. Enamul Haq was in the chair.

The speakers alleged that a section of the members of Bangladesh Rifles with the help of their informer and linemen were helping the smuggler in the border areas. Duplicity and sincerity of the members of the BDR can totally stop smuggling, they opined.

They also urged the people

## 7 injured as rival groups clash in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Feb 1: At least seven persons were injured and some houses and household materials damaged in a clash between two rival groups at Hajratola village of Jhenidah Sadar upazila on January 26.

Police and eyewitness said that the children of one group damaged the newly planted lrrj field of another group. When the owner protested the other group attacked them with bricks, lathis etcetra.

The injured persons Habibur Rahman and Ataur Rahman were admitted to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital.

A case has been filed with Jhenidah Thana and one person was arrested in this connection.

## Woman crushed under wheels

One woman was killed in a road accident at Halibhanti on Jhenidah-Chuadanga road, 10 Kms off Jhenidah town on January 28.

Police reported that the sugarcane loaded truck bound for Jhenidah from Jessore ran over Barkatunissa (40). The victim was coming to Jhenidah on a van, when the truck knocked the van from back she was crushed under the wheels of the truck.

A case has been filed with Jhenidah Thana and the body was sent to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital.

## Political scene

## School children hired for poll campaign

Star Report

School children are being hired by political parties for polls campaigns in rural Bangladesh. Unconcerned about attending their regular classes these boys have devoted full time to political activities.

Remuneration that the school children get in exchange of their hard and honest labour is negligible. Some biscuits and a cup of tea or a piece of bread, on the higher side, that these boys are offered.

Interestingly, they change side quickly if any rival party offers them higher remuneration. But they perform their job honestly and faithfully on any side they are engaged.

Our Pabna Correspondent adds: The election campaign at Pabna on all upazillas have gained momentum after the filing of nomination papers.

People guess a triangular contest in most constituencies among Awami League, Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and Jamaat-e-Islami.

The workers and supporters of the respective candidates have intensified, campaigns in their favour by organising meetings and processions in addition to other traditional ways of publicity, like making wall-writing and pasting of posters.

Pasting of posters and wall writings has given the town a festive look. There is a minimum number of walls or buildings left in the town, without carrying any writings or posters in connection with the polls.

## Kishoreganj

BSS from Kishoreganj adds: Hectic election campaign has been going on in different areas of Kishoreganj district.

A total of 59 candidates are contesting in seven constituencies of the district. Different political parties including Awami League, BNP, Jatiya Party, Zaker Party, Jamaat-e-Islami fielded their candidates.

Party wise candidates are as follows: Awami League seven, BNP seven, Jatiya Party five, Zaker Party six, Jamaat-e-Islami four and JSD (Rob) four. Besides, 14 independent candidates are contesting the election.

Earlier, 23 candidates withdrew their nominations.

A Correspondent from Kishoreganj adds: Kader Siddique Sawdh Protibhorthon Committee brought out a procession on Monday against the arrest of renowned freedom fighter Abdul Kader Siddique. The processionists paraded the main roads chanting slogans for unconditional release of Siddique. The processionists also carried banners 'release Kader Siddique'. After the procession they held a rally in the district Awami League office. The rally was addressed by Jubo League presidium member Mr. M.A. Afjal Advocate and Mr. Anwar Kamal Secretary of Jubo League.

The Awami Jubo League workers brought out a procession on Monday evening in protest against the Gulf war. The processionists paraded the main roads chanting anti-war slogans. The Jubo League leaders urged the warring sides to step war and to solve the issue through dialogue for the sake of world peace.

## Khulna

Our Khulna Correspondent writes: As the election date is nearing people have started vigorous campaign for their respective candidates.

Awami League candidate for Khulna-2 constituency Advocate Monjurul Imam on Monday went to different government and non-government of-

fices for seeking votes.

Besides, he attended a reception given in his honour by Ward No 4 and 5 unit of Chhatra League (H-A). Meanwhile, an election office was inaugurated at ward No 25 by BNP nominee for Khulna-3 constituency Md. Ashraf Hossain.

Central committee leader of BNP Kazi Sekendar Ali Dalim attended it as special guest. Jamaat-e-Islami nominee for Khulna-2 constituency Alhaz Shamsur Rahman also addressed an election meeting as chief guest which was held on Sunday at Jorakal Bazar in the city. Presided over by Advocate Mallah Harunur Rashid the meeting was addressed by Advocate Md. Ansar Uddin Shaikh, Abul Kashem and Murali Islam. Besides, similar election meeting was also held on the same day at Mujibnagar Bus Stand ground in support of Maulana Abul Kalam Md. Yusuf, a Jamaat-e-Islami nominee for Khulna-3 constituency. Ganatantrik Oikya Jote also held an election meeting at local Saheed Hadis Park in favour of its nominee for Khulna-2 constituency Advocate Ferroz Ahmed.

## Anti-war rally

Peace processions are being brought out every day by different political, social and cultural organisations. Khulna Midtown Rotary Club and Rotaract Club jointly brought out a peace march on Sunday in the city. After parading the main streets of the city the marchers held a rally in front of the Local Press Club where the speaker demanded immediate halt to the Gulf war. Meanwhile, Khulna Art College also brought out a similar peace march demanding 'not war but peace' and a diplomatic solution to the issue.

## Chittagong

BSS from Chittagong adds: Adverse effect of the Gulf war has slowed down economic activities here with less number of ships calling at the port and production in industries decreasing on account of shortage of imported raw materials, business circles said.

Sale at the weekly international tea auction here also went down in the last two sales. Flow of foreign currency into the country from the wage-earners in the Middle East has also decreased.

In Chittagong port 10 out of 19 jetties remained idle as the number of ships calling at the port has decreased.

There is almost 50 per cent fall in the earnings of the shipping business, according to shipping circle.

Most ships leaving Chittagong port also go without export cargo as industries fail to maintain export schedule.

As a less number of ships are calling at the port, most of the dock labourers are out of jobs facing extreme hardship.

The clearing and forwarding agents, stevedores and other shipping related organisations are being hit hard.

## BDR-BSF meet held

RANGPUR, Feb 2: A border co-ordination meeting between Bangladesh Rifles and Indian Border Security Force (BSF) was held at the local BDR headquarters here Thursday morning, reports UNB.

The Bangladesh side was headed by Deputy Director General of BDR, Brigadier Abdullah Al-Hussain. He was assisted by Director, Operations and Training, Commanders of Rangpur, Dinaipur and Staff Officers of the BDR headquarters.

Ranjit Das, Inspector General of BSF of North Bengal, led the Indian side and was assisted by Deputy Inspector General of Shilliguri, Cooch Bihar, Kishanganj, and Staff Officers from their headquarters.

The meeting discussed border-related problems including smuggling, law and

order situation, trespassing, kidnapping and dacoity in border areas and maintenance of border pillars.

The two sides agreed to take effective measures to check the growing problems.

Earlier, the Indian delegation was received by BDR Sector Commander of Rangpur at Burimari border checkpoint in Lalmonirhat district.

## Satkhira Bar executives

SATKHIRA, Feb 2: Advocate Dildar Rahman and Advocate Abul Hossain have been elected President and Secretary respectively of the District Bar Association, reports UNB.

The election was held here on Wednesday.

Of 177, at least 162 legal practitioners have cast their votes to elect the new committee for a one-year term.

Advocate A K M Shahidullah conducted the election.

## Roadside bazars cause traffic jam

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Feb 2: Highways and streets of Jamalpur have been blocked up by different shopkeepers creating traffic jams resulting in regular road accidents.

Wholesale vegetable markets arranged twice a week presents a scene of spread-out bazars on Jamalpur-Tangail Highway and Jamalpur Myensing road.

Numerous vegetable sellers from adjoining villages keep on pouring into these markets along with their carts and rickshaws loaded with different vegetables and guiny bags on both sides of these highways. Improper parking of loaded carts, rickshaws and vans are causing obstacles to normal traffic and these busiest roads are seen plunged into traffic jams for hours together.

Absence of wholesale markets is the root cause of all these hazards. The authorities have been urged to build sheds for wholesale vegetable market and sellers and consumers should be directed to keep their loaded carts and vans in an arranged manner.

Large number of vehicles from both directions are compelled to stop on the roads for hours together. On the other hand absence of traffic

police and ignorance of traffic rules takes a lot of time for rural people to bring the situation under control.

With the advent of winter season, seasonal vegetables and other agricultural products have flooded these road side markets.

Local people alleged that this traffic jams will continue throughout the year as the following summer season will flood the markets with seasonal fruits on these highways. The fruit sellers will set up their shops on both sides of the markets resulting in the same unbearable difficulties to pedestrians and vehicles.

Woes of fishermen

About 50,000 fishermen in

seven upazilas of Jamalpur district are not able to carry their occupation due to non-availability of fishing appliances and necessary capital.

Fish production has declined due to price hike of fishing appliances. The situation has been aggravated as last floods completely depressed economic life of the fishermen.

Fishermen Samity sources said that a fishing boat and a net, presently are being sold at Taka one lakh to Taka 1.5 lakh which is beyond the purchasing capacity of the fishermen. The increased prices of fishing appliances persisting in the district have crippled the professional fishermen. Flood affected fishermen are unable to run their trade afresh.

Besides, they were deprived of government allocation by co-operative societies due to machinations of local influential quarters.



SIRATGANJ Acting Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami Abbas Ali Khan addressing a public meeting held at the Government Ali Akbar College premises under Ullapara Upazila recently. — Star photo



RAJSHAHI Rajshahi University Teachers Association brought out a procession on the campus recently demanding an early end to Gulf war. — Star photo

## Betel leaf growers face hardship

From Our Correspondent

NARAIL, Feb 2: Betel leaf growers of the district have been facing problems in farming the cash crop.

Lohagara, Kalia and Sadar upazilas of Narail district are famous for the cultivation of betel leaf. Each of the villages of the upazilas have a number of betel-leaf gardens to provide employment to the rural peo-

ple. The growers have also chosen the farming as a lucrative business.

The poor and the marginal farmers of the district have been supporting their families with the income from betel leaf farming.

A grower having 30 lines of betel leaf cultivation need capital of Taka 3000 to purchase inputs.