

National

Upazila roundup

JHENIDAH

Newsman threatened for publishing news of theft

From Our Correspondent

February 2: Nuruzaman 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 piffered 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 upward incident took place.

DINAJPUR

2 killed in road mishap

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

Witnesses said Sukur Ali (24) riding a bicycle was knocked down by a Thakurgaon-bound minibus from Dinajpur 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 kucha 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 Jhalakati, 97 in Pirojpur, 190 in Satkhira, 152 in Bagerhat, 147 in Khulna, 63 in Narail, 70 in Magura, 118 in Jhenidah, 209 in Jessore, 41 in Meherpur, 71 in Chittagong and 111 in Kushtia district.

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 today, reports UNB.

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

denly 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 hats and bazaars 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 stop the malpractice to provide proper distribution of wheat seeds among the genuine growers.

Civic amenities

Meanwhile, Kurigram Pura 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 Joddha Sangsads and elite of the town was held at the Sangsads premises with Mr. Serajul Islam Tuku, Zila unit Commandar in the chair on January 24.

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 Joddha Sangsads were discussed in the meeting and a major decision to create permanent source of income for the zila unit command of the Sangsads 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 emanation of bad odour all along has been causing health hazard to the town dwellers.

The situation turns more worst every year after Eid-ul-Adha 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 less 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 sanitization.

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

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 Hajratnala village of Jhenidah Sadar upazila on January 26.

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

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 Hailibhani on Jhenidah-Chuadanga road, 10 Kms off Jhenidah town on January 28.

Police reported that the sugarcane loaded truck bound for Jhenidah from Jessor 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.

Heyday for smugglers

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Feb 1: Smugglers have a hey day along the bordering districts of Kushtia, 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, sarees, 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 saree. Large-scale smuggling of sarees 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 sarees and other smuggled goods to a seminar here yesterday.

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.

Field at Jabbarhat High School premises of Pirganj Upazila the seminar was addressed by Lt. Col. Walilullah, Sector Commander of Eight battalion at Dinajpur Matur Rahman, Editor of a local daily.

Khatirul Alam, Choudhury Mohsin, Joynal Abedin, Altaf Hossain Choudhury and Gias Razid Ahmed, Chairman of Pirganj Upazila Parishad of Pirganj Upazila was in the chair.

The speakers alleged that a section of the members of Bangladesh Rifles with the help of their informer and line-men were helping the smuggler in the border areas.

Dutifulness and sincerity of the members of the BDR can totally stop smuggling.

They also urged the people

residing in the areas to help check smuggling in the interest of flourishing of the national economy.

Our correspondent from Cox's Bazar adds: Border areas of Teknaf, Chokoria and Moreshkhali and Kutubdia islands have been reported to be used as smuggling sojourns.

Members of some well-known smuggling groups are now active on the spots.

Goods like old cloths, baby food, VCR, VCP, local-made polyester and petroleum are being regularly smuggled out through the areas, reliable source said.

Besides, Burmese cloths, Chinese lock, fishing nets, rice, cosmetics etc. etc. are being smuggled into the country from Burma, they added.

The bus station and markets at Teknaf are now flooded with the smuggled goods and crowded by the smugglers. It is learnt, local people have demanded immediate steps to check smuggling at the areas.

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 Abdulla Al-Hussain. He was assisted by Director, Operations and Training, Commanders of Rangpur, Dinajpur and Staff Officers of the BDR headquarters.

Ranju Das, Inspector General of BSF of North Bengal, the Indian side was and was assisted by Deputy Inspector General of Shilguri, Cooch Bihar, Krishnanagar 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 Commander of Rangpur at Burimari border checkpost in Lalmonirhat district.

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

— Star photo

Roadside bazaars 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 scenario of spread-out bazaars on Jamalpur-Tangail highway and Jamalpur My-mensingh road.

Numerous vegetable sellers from adjoining villages keep on pouring into these markets along with their carts and rickshaws loaded with different vegetables and gunny bags on both sides of 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.

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

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.

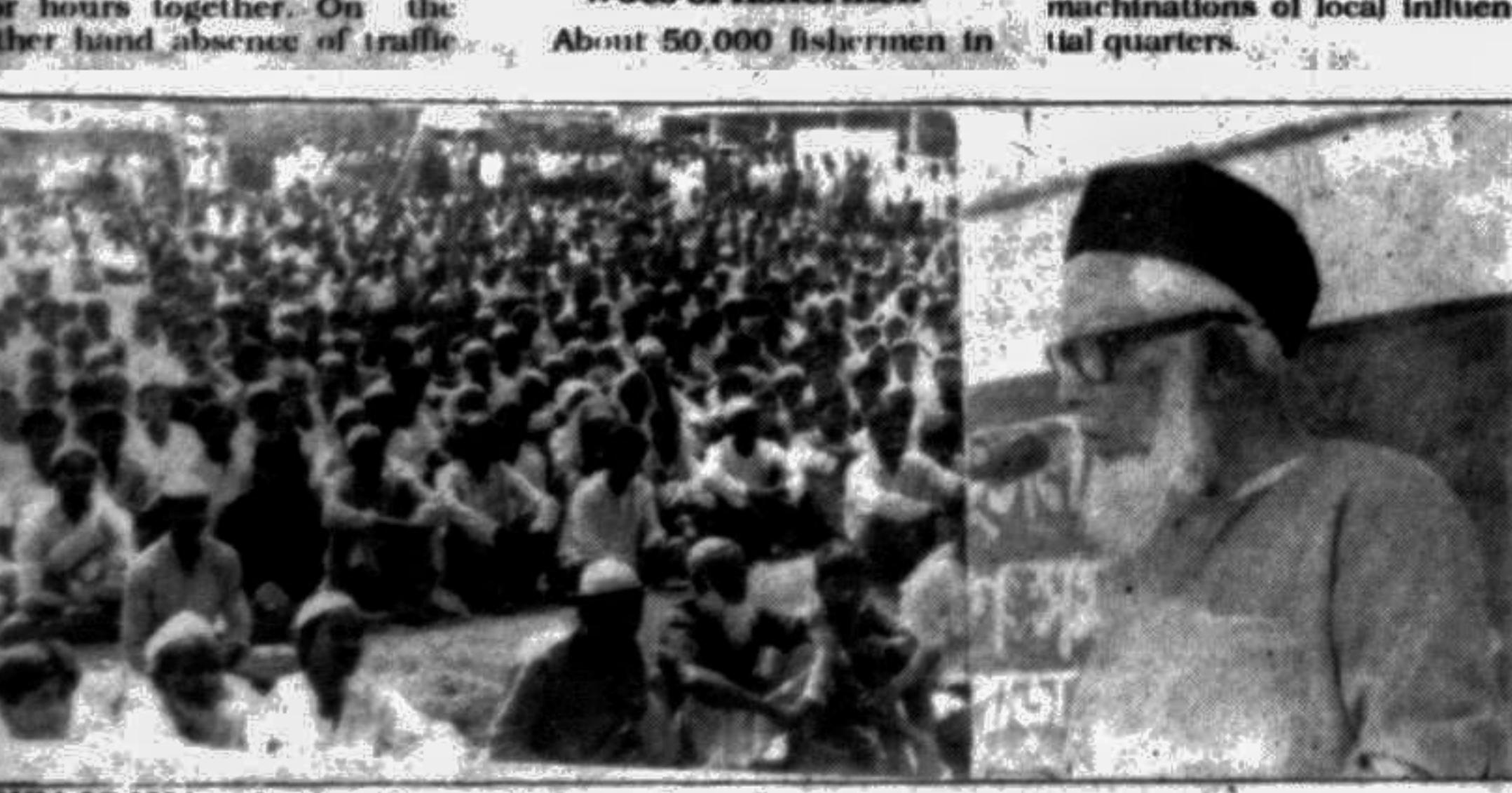
Fish production has declined due to price hike of fishing appliances. The situation has been aggravated as last floods completely depressed economic life of the fishermen.

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 cooperative societies due to machinations of local influential quarters.

— Star photo



SIRAJGANJ : Acting Amin of Jamaat-e-Islam Abbas Ali Khan addressing a public meeting held at the Government Al-Akbar College premises under Ullapara Upazila recently. — Star photo

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 an all upazillas have gained momentum after the filing of nomination papers.