Upazila roundup

DINAJPUR

Smuggled goods recovered

From Our Correspondent

February 3 : Smuggled goods including heroin, Indian cloths and sugar worth about Taka 23 lakh were recovered and two alleged smgglers were held by the BDR personnel on Thursday last.

According to the BDR sources, acting on secret information, Major M A Jabbar, Commander of 16 Bangladesh Rifles' Battalion searched a bus near Dangapara Idgah maidan of Dinajpur-Phulbari highway and recovered 225 grams of heroin, Indian made cloths and sugar from luggages of two passengers of the bus. Both passengers were arrested in this connection.

A case has been registered with the Phulbari PS in this regard and further investigation is proceeding.

MYMENSINGH

Journalists' welfare body formed

From Our Correspondent

February 3: Mymensingh Journalists' Welfare Sangstha has been formed recently with an executive committee of 32 members. Mr. Pranab Routh, News Editor of the Azker Bangladesh — a local daily, Mr. Musarraf Hussain, district correspondent of the Janata and Mr. Badiul Alam Liton, sports reporter of the Dainik Zahan, a local daily have been elected as President, General Secretary and Treasurer respectively .

The main objectives of this organisation is to help the poor and distress journalists. It will help its member or a man of this community when he will be found in troubles.

B' BARIA

One killed , 20 hurt in clash

From Our Correspondent

February 3 : One person was killed and at least 20 persons were injured of them seven seriously in a clash between two rival groups at village Lattuamura under Kasba upazila of this district.

According to eyewitnesses, the two groups armed with weapons attacked one another. As a result, Abdul Malek (40) was killed on the spot and twenty others were injured. The injured persons were sent to Kasba hospital while seven of them were admitted to and the rest were released after first aid . A case was filed with Kasba thana in this connection.

KISHOREGANJ

Haphazard car parking

From Our Correspondent

February 3 : A huge number of rickshaws on Kishoreganj roads and parking of vehicles in the busy areas and occupation of footpaths by small traders create traffic jams obstructing the movement of pedestrians and traffics.

According to a pourashava sources, now 1,343 rickshaws having valid licences ply on the roads but the number of rickshaws without licences is more than double.

Rickshaws having licences of the adjacent unions of the town also ply on the roads making the situation more worse. Besides, lack of traffic knowledge of rickshawpullers multiplied the problem .

Haphazard parking of rickshaws in the busy commercial areas of the town create traffic jams.

The places for rickshaw parking should be fixed and implementation of the traffic laws may ease the situation.

The footpaths are occupied by the traders in the busy commercial areas of the town and it is hindering the movement of pedestrians.

NABINAGAR

Hunters active to kill guest birds

From Our Correspondent

February 3: Despite government's prohibitive order the killing of migratory birds in the haor areas of Nabinagar and Bancharampur upazila is continuing.

Thousands of migratory birds from the Siberian region come to these haor areas every year with the advent of winter. The beels, ditches and fields amid vast haor become full of the chirpings of various kinds of wild ducks, Kalidighari, Sarils, Bulihas, Lenja etcetra.

But these migratory birds can hardly stay in the beels, ditches and fields undisturbed due to reckless attack by hunters.

Besides, the fancy gun shooters, the professional hunters are killing the birds indiscriminately by setting nets in the beels and ditches.

MAULVI BAZAR

Taxes Bar executives

From Our Correspondent

February 3 : Mr. Anwarul Haque Advocate and Mr Ashutosh Deb I.T.P were eleeted President and General Seeretary respectively of Maulvi Bazar Taxes Bar Association for the year 1991 on January 27.

Besides, a 9-member executive committee was also eleeted in the annual general election. The eleeted persons are: Vice President - Mr Tazul Islam, Joint Secretary - Mr Mokbul Hussain, Treasurer- Mr Abid Ali Chowdhury , Members - Mr Mahmudur Rahman, Abdul Matin, Md Jahir, Md Fayzul Karim, Mr Monfu Lal Debnath and Mr Ashraful Islam, Advocate .

Housing problem

Officials of both government and private organisations have been facing an acute residential problem in Maulvi Bazar town.

It is learnt that population growth, floating people and officials of the newly created district offices have added to the problem .

Officials of various government departments, courts and police personnels, employees and workers, lawyers and business community have been suffering much for housing problem.

NARAIL

Police line building may collapse

February 3 : Police line building here is now in deplorable condition and may collapse at any time, insiders feared, reports UNB.

According to sources, the building was declared unfit for use 15 years ago by the Public Works Department. But works in it continued risking the lives of employees.

The roof of the building has been partially damaged and cracks have developed at many points. The doors, wall and windows are also in a tottering condition.

In addition, important papers are being damaged by rain water that remain stagnant on the floor even after a slight rainfall. Rain water also leaks through the damaged roof of the building.

PATUAKHALI

Police annual sports held

From Our Correspondent

February 3 : The annual sports competition of Patuakhali police, was held in the police line maidan recently amidst great joy and enthusiasm. DIG of Police, Khulna Division Mr Shahidul Huq was present on the concluding day as chief guest. High level officers, local elite and journalists were present to witness the final competition. At the end of competition, Mrs Sharmin Haq, wife of DIG distributed prizes among the winners.

The day concluded with a lively cultural function in the local town hall auditorium.

CHANDPUR

Islamic conference

February 3 : A three-day Islamic Conference will be held at Puran Bazar Madhusudan High School ground in the town here from Wednesday next (February 6), reports UNB.

According to organisers, prominent Islamic thinkers and reputed ulema will address the conference.

JHALAKATI

Housewife commits suicide

From Our Correspondent

February 3 : Sonakuti (45), wife of Jamal Sardar of Sabangal under Nalcity upazila committed suicide by taking insecticide. She was admitted to Jhalokati Sadar Hospital and later died. Her body was sent to Jhalokati morgue for postmortem .

An UD case was registered with Jhalokati PS.

Fishermen returning with their catch from sea at St. Martin Island. —Star photo

Tubewells supply gas instead of water

From Our Correspondent

BHOLA, Feb 3 : Gas available in large volume from the tubewells sunk for water is being used in many hotels, restaurants and for domestic purposes in Burhanuddin upazila of Bhola. This has met the demand for fuel to a great extent.

In Hakimpur Bazar of the upazila along with its adjoining villages are getting regular supply of gas instead of 31 deep tubewells installed for irrigation. The inhabitants have devised techniques to transmit gas unhindered to household ovens and commercial establishments. Moreover gas lights in larger numbers are found glowing in the dwellings adjacent to Hakimpur Bazar.

The cylinders have the capacity of holding little water that comes out along with the gas and then despatched to different connected lines. Professor Sunil Baran of B.M. College identified the gas as carbohydrate which is commonly used in fertilizer factories.

Deputy Commissioner of the district said that he had apprised the higher authorities of the matter. A sensitive survey conducted in the areas by the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation last year, ascertained that 10,000 million cubic feet of gas is reserve within 1900 to 3000 meters underground spreading over 20 square miles.

Substandard note books

The government had prohibited the publication of note books up to class eight a few years back in order to discourage the students dependence on prepared answers and to make themself reliant.

The order only appeared on papers but was not put in practise which encouraged a section of ill-educated people who are publishing substandard note books in the name of fictitious authors and publishers, thereby making brisk business. The note books with numerous errors and distortion of facts are being sold at very high rates. As a fact standard of education in schools has declined to a great extent. The young students are compelled to depend on these note books.

Absence of standard note books forced the students of fortunate families to depend on private tutors on high remuneration.

The guardians are of the opinion that publication of reliable note books with the approval of National Curriculum and Textbooks authorities, will create healthy competition to publish good notebooks and will eradicate the ill-prepared notebooks that are harming the learners.

Welding works

UNB adds:-Welding works by some roadside engineering workshops in the town have been causing serious health problems to the dwellers.

According to sources, these workshops without proper protection and maintenance have been doing their brisk business in open places affecting the eye-sights of pedestrians.

The children are the worst sufferers.

The residents have urged the authorities to take action against such practices by welders.

Barisal collectorate bldg. in a shambles

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, Feb 2 : The 170 year old collectorate building of Barisal (Bakerganj) is now on the verge of collapse and was declared 'not safe to reside' by the Public Worker Department (PWD) in 1987.

But a proposal was approved by the then government earlier to preserve this age old collectorate building as an ancient architectural heritage after necessary repair and renovation with an expenditure of Taka 94,55,578.

It is revealed that according to construction design it reflect the mixed Greek classical renaissance and Byzantine influence with the western artistic design laterly followed the British neo-classical architectural design. The round columns in the balcony with the woodworks have reflected the French renaissance influence.

In a memo no: Dev- 3/PPII-80/85-5882/1(4) the Chief Engineer, PWD asked to form a committee to examine the feasibility about necessary repair with renovation and preservation of the building. The committee included: Mr. Aftabuddin Ahmed, Additional Chief Engineer, PWD, Khulna Zone Chairman, Mr. M Amin Hossain, Deputy Architect, PWD building, Dhaka and Mr. Md. Sahjahan, Superintendenting Engineer, PWD, Barisal Circle, Barisal as members.

Later, the committee physically visited the site on 10.3.90 and submitted their recommendations.

The main portion of the building was established in 1820. After necessary extension, alteration and renovation this structure has come to exist. Now, the total measurement of the floor of the building is 38,560 squire feet.

The committee also recommended Taka 4,66,590 annually for its maintenance

BARISAL : The old collectorate building. — Star photo

It is to be mentioned here that a new collectorate building is being constructed on the other side of the pond adjacent to the old building with a primary estimate of Taka 5.77 crore under supervision of PWD.

The construction worker of the new collectorate building is now almost suspended due to shortage of fund after completing nearly 35 per cent works last year.

3 arrested

Barisal CID police has arrested Md. Saha Alam (30), his brother Salam(25) and Zafar Ali (35) of Char Bichara Kathi alleged convicts of Mona murder case from north Kazlakathi village of Darial Union under Bakerganj upazila of the district recently.

Acting on a secret information, Assistant Super of CID, Barisal zone Mr. Zillur Rahman with Inspector Altaf Hossain arrested them and according to their statement.

Police recovered two rounds of ammunition and a country made rifle from their possessions. A case was lodged earlier against them with Bakerganj police.

KHULNA : BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a public meeting in Bagerhat recently. —Star photo

Notes from N'ganj

From A Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Feb 3: A five-day long Sadar upazila scout campaign concluded at Narayanganj High School premises recently.

Different scout clubs and organisations of Sadar upazila participated in the campaign.

Presided over by Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md. Sahidullah, the concluding function was addressed by the DC, Mr. Mohd. Harun-ur-Rashid as chief guest and Additional District Magistrate Mr. Mohd. Ayab as special guest. Later Divisional Commissioner distributed prizes and certificates among the winners.

Cultural programme

A cultural programme was held recently at Hariharpara High School premises. It was organised by 'Swaralipy", a local cultural organization .

A drama "Naba-Surja" based on our Liberation War was also staged by "Amra Sabai".

The drama was written and directed by Md. Jasimuddin Titu.

Milon, Farid, Al-Amin, Salauddin, Manik, Kaiyum and Sultan portrayed different roles of the drama.

Sabuj Sona meet held

The first conference of "Sabuj Sona", a juvenile organisation, was held at the local Ali Ahmed Municipal auditorium on Friday last.

Presided over by Babu Santiranjan Mukherjee the function was attended by noted freedom fighter Dewan Abdul Karim as chief guest.

It was addressed by poet Amjad Hossain, poet Humayun Rahman, convenor of the organisation, Shahajahan Mosharraf, poet Hafiza Akhter and Manik Dey.

Literary function

A literary organisation "Pabolik" held a colurful function at Ali Ahmed Municipal auditorium on its inaugural day.

Sarder Fazlul Karim, Bulbul Chaudhury and Rafiqur Rabbi addressed the function. Among others eminent poets Samsur Rahman, Nirmalendu Goon, Mohammed Rafiq, Mahadev Saha, Wahid Reza, Halim Azad, Mazibul Haque Kabir and others read their self composed poems.

Asaduzzaman Noor , Bhabani Sankar Ray and Ziaul Islam took part in recitation.

Groundnut farming prospect bright

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Feb. 2 : Prospect of groundnut cultivation in certain areas of greater Kushtia district has been proved very bright as well as lucrative. Farmers of Alamdanga, Chuadanga and certain parts of Kushtia district have achieved very encouraging yield of this cash crop with the help and cooperation of Agricultural Extension Department. About 60 maunds (raw) were produced per acre valued at Taka 10 thousand against production cost of Taka one thousand only.

Sandy soil with very less productivity is suitable for cultivation of groundnut in both Kharif and Rabi seasons. The production requires only 130 days time. Encouraged by the high yield, the farmers have decided to grow this particular cash crop and a scheme has been undertaken to cultivate groundnut in two thousand acres of land in this season, it is learnt.

Gambling and pickpocketing have become rampant in the local trains running between Poradah and Rajbari causing much annoyance to the passengers.

An organised group of gamblers travel regularly in the trains and induce the passengers in gambling and make them penniless. They move from one compartment to another and cheat the passengers in this process.

Political scene

'Friends of people' now crowding villages

Star Report

Once they were strangers in their own homes. But the election has brought them down to walk miles of uneven village roads or to wade through stagnant pools of water in fields and beg of votes.

The candidates who had little link with their localities in the past have suddenly turned into the most close friends of the people. Too polite in their behaviour and eager to know problems of a village man these ' friends of people' are making lofty promises to win over the voters.

But the voters are found to be too cautious about their intentions and indifferent to the pledges made by them. In any case the 'strangers' carry money with them and each has a large following.

Cox's Bazar

Our Correspondent from Cox's Bazar says: Mr Salahuddin Kader Chowdhury, Secretary General of National Democratic Party (NDP) at a large workers conference on January 28 said that uninterrupted growth of free economy was the only way to salvage the national economy from ruination.

The workers conference was held in the conference hall of Hotel Sea Queen at Cox's Bazar. Presided over by a local leader Mr. Badiuz Jaman the meeting was addressed by Mr. Shajahan Chowdhury Lutu Mia and Mr. Mostaq Ahmed.

Salauddin Kader Choudhury said that his party was contesting the polls to hasten transition to democracy. Mr. Choudhury said that, they fought autocracy to build up a democratic order. He hoped that a representative government elected through free polls was the need of the hour. The NDP leader observed that all political parties had responsibility for upholding the norms of democracy during the election period.

He urged the people to vote for the honest people to emancipate the masses from all sorts of sufferings and repressions.

Gaibandha

Our Gaibandha Correspondent adds: Mr Aminul Islam Golap of Workers Party has withdrawn his candidature from the ensuing parliamentary election of Gaibandha-5 (Shaghata-Fulchari) constituency in favour candidate of Ganotantric Oikya Jote candidate Mr. Ataur Rahman of BAKSAL.

In a press conference held at Gaibandha public library premises on January 26, Aminul Islam thanked his companion, supporters and workers for their contribution he got from them and urged all to continue support to Mr Ataur Rahman as single candidate of Jote.

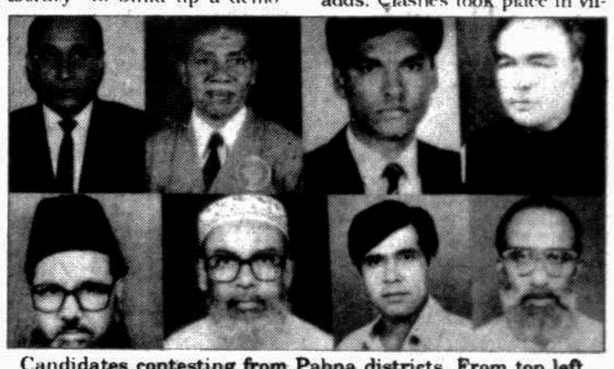
Kushtia

Our Kushtia Correspondent writes: Kushtia district Ameer of Jamaat and a candidate for the Kushtia -3 seat in the ensuing Parliament election Dr. Anisur Rahman reiterated his party's commitment to establish Islamic welfare state on the basis of the Quran and Sunnah and said that it was the only way to save the country from the present crisis. He also said Jamaat is that organisation which started its democratic movement to oust autocratic regime and demanded holding of fair and free parliamentary election under a neutral caretaker Government.

Ten MPs of his party resigned from Parliament aiming at stepping down the autocratic regime of Ershad in 1986, he added. Dr. Anisur Rahman was addressing a public meeting held here Thursday afternoon at Public Library premises with Principal Abdus Satter in the chair. Dr Anis expressed his concern over the closure of Mohini Mills and government's bid to resell the same to private party and demanded reopening of the Mills under Government Management for providing large number of unemployed workers on humanitarian ground. The meeting was addressed by Nurun Nabi Samdani, Advocate Moslemuddin, Moulana Md. Enamul Huq Shafi, Jamaat leader Lutfor Rahman, Md. Alamgir Hossain and student leader Rafiqul Islam.

Pabna

Our Pabna Correspondent adds: Clashes took place in villages Charbhavanipur, Char Komarpur and Char Sadirajpur of Pabna sadar upazila.



Candidates contesting from Pabna districts. From top left. Mr. Mokbul Hossain (JP), Mr. Osman Ghani Khan (BNP), Major (Retd.) Manjur Kader (JP), Mr. Ahman Tafizuddin (AL), Maulana Matiur Rahman Nezami (Jamaat), Maulana Nairuddin (Jamaat), Mr. Sawkat Ali (JP) and Mr. Waziuddin Khan (AL). — Star photo

The clash occurred due to enlistment of names in voter list in Pabna and Kushtia district. The villagers enlisted their names in the voterlists of both the district as the aforesaid villages are situated just adjacent to border of Kushtia district. Such enlisted voters are about five thousand, while the villagers are on election campaign of candidate of two different parties.

In this clash twenty persons were hurt seriously. Tense situation was till prevailing at the time of writing this report.

Thakurgaon

Thakurgaon Correspondent says: Islam is a Religion of Peace. It does not accept the concept of socialism, nationalism and secularism. It also does not recognise the women leadership because after the death of Hazrat Mohd (SM) Fatema or Aysha (R) were not allowed to lead the Muslim. These words were uttered by Al Haj Delawar Hossain Saidee, leader of the Jamaat-e-Islami in a mammoth election meeting held at Ranisankail College ground on January 28.

In his speech as chief guest, Maulana Saidee said that Jamaat-e-Islami had been fighting since 1941 to establish Allah's rule to ensure peace with all fundamental rights for the people on the basis of the Holy Quran.

He urged the people to be united and cast their votes in favour of Jamaat candidates on February 27 election.

The meeting was presided over by Mr. Mizanur Rahman, Jamaat candidate from Thakurgaon-3 constituency, Local Jamaat and Shibir leaders were present.

A large number of women also attended the meeting which continued till nine P.M. Later a prayer was also offered expressing solidarity with Muslims of the Gulf region.

Flood damaged roads yet to be repaired

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Feb 1 : All the kutcha roads in rural areas which were damaged by devastating floods in 1988 throughout Jamalpur district are still awaiting repair. However, a little portion has been repaired under Test Relief and Food for Works Programme (FWP).

About 8,000 kms of semi-pucca and kutcha roads were damaged, creating potholes at numerous places. The severe current and sudden onrush of flood water made all these roads unfit for vehicular traffic.

Badly damaged roads in seven upazilas are Hazrabari-Mahmudpur, Dadbanga-Madaraganj, Baltjuri - Mahmudpur roads, Jamalpur-Nandina, Jamalpur-Melandah, Jamalpur-Bakshiganj, Islampurn-Dewanganj, Dewanganj-Bakshiganj, Jamalpur-Sarishabari, Jamalpur-Kalibaribazar,