

District roundup

BARGUNA

146 tubewells lying out of order

Feb 8 : At least 146 deep tubewells are lying out of order for a long time in different thanas of the district, causing suffering to the local people, reports UNB.

According to official sources, 35 deep tubewells are lying inoperative in Sadar thana, 31 in Amtali thana, 22 in Betagi thana, 14 in Patharghata thana and 8 in Municipal area of the district due to shortage of spare parts.

Local people alleged that they brought the matter to the notice of the concerned authorities but no action has yet been taken to resink the disordered tubewells.

LALMONIRHAT

Workshop on family laws held

Feb 8 : A day long workshop on 'family laws' was held at Aditmar thana auditorium on Sunday under the auspices of local women affairs directorate, reports UNB.

Presided over by the Thana Nirbahi Officer Hafizur Rahman, it was addressed, among others, by Rangpur Women Affairs Directorate Officer Monowara Begum Advocate Matiuur Rahman and Police Officer Nizamuddin.

At least 50 women from different voluntary organisations including 30 female students of Aditmar College took part in the workshop.

The speakers dwelt at length on the family laws and legal protection against repression on women and punishment for demanding dowry.

FENI

Valuables worth Tk 1 lakh looted, one held

Feb 8 : Valuables worth about Taka 1 lakh were looted from a house in a daring dacoity at village Dharmapur in Sadar thana on Saturday, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, the dacoits numbering 10-12 stormed the house of Master Habibur Rahman on Saturday, beat the inmates mercilessly and decamped with the valuables.

A case has been filed with the police. But none was arrested so far.

Another report adds : Police have arrested a notorious dacoit from a house at village Komua in Chhagalnaiya thana and recovered a pipegun from his possession.

Acting on secret information, police raided the house and arrested Sirajul Islam on January 21.

Police said Siraj tried to commit at the jail hayat, but his attempt was foiled. Siraj was wanted in connection with several criminal cases.

SIRAJGANJ

One gets 3 yrs RI for demanding dowry money

Feb 8 : An accused was awarded 3 years of rigorous imprisonment for demanding dowry money in the court of thana Magistrate here recently, reports UNB.

Magistrate Abdul Malek fined the accused Ali Ashraf, a Diploma Engineer, Taka 5,000 and in default to suffer 6 months more RI.

According to the case, Ali Ashraf demanded Taka 20,000 as dowry and created pressure on his wife Amina Khatun for it.

At one stage Ashraf tortured Amina and turned her out of his residence as she refused.

Amina, filed a case against her husband and his parents.

The magistrate acquitted father and mother of Ashraf of the charge.

RANGPUR

Scouts rally from Feb 10

Feb 8 : Twelfth Rajshahi Divisional scouts rally begins from February 10 at Rangpur Zila School ground, reports BSS.

Divisional Commissioner Md A M Aminul Islam will inaugurate the rally which will conclude on February 15.

At least two thousand scouts from different educational institutions under sixteen districts of Rajshahi Division will participate in the rally, an organising committee headed by Afzal Hussain, Deputy Commissioner, Rangpur has been formed to make rally a success.

CHITTAGONG

Attack on UNB office slated

Feb 8 : Leaders of Chittagong Metropolitan Union of Journalists (CMUJ) on Saturday strongly condemned the attack on the offices of United News of Bangladesh (UNB) by some unruly people centering on the Mirpur by-election result on Wednesday last, reports BSS.

Nazir Ahmed, President and Kashem Mahmood, General Secretary respectively of the CMUJ in a statement said, newspapers and news agencies do not depend on government directives and as soon as they receive any news from different sources which is based on facts they present the news to the readers instantaneously. They said that by attacking the offices of the news agency they interfered in the freedom of press. The CMUJ leaders said the journalists community realised the freedom of press after much struggle and any attack on the hard earned press freedom by any quarter would not be tolerated in future, they cautioned.

BRAHMANBARIA

Woman killed in rival groups clash

Feb 8 : A woman was killed in a clash over irrigation on a disputed plot of land at Takanagar village in Naziragar thana, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, when the victim Noorjahan Bibi (60) was engaged in irrigation on the land with her men, the rival groups claiming the ownership attacked them on January 28. Noorjahan died on the spot.

Her body was sent to morgue for autopsy and a case has been lodged with the police.

JHENDAH

Police recover rifle, arms

Feb 8 : Police recovered one rifle and huge arms and ammunition from Panam village Sadar thana Tuesday and arrested two persons in this connection, reports UNB.

Acting on secret information, police raided the area and recovered a 303 rifle, 51 live bullets and a ramdoo from the possession of Alamgir and Maniruzzaman.

Alamgir hailed from village Hatfzilpur in Shialkupa thana and Maniruzzaman of Bakri in Sadar thana. Police suspected them to be members of the outlawed Sarbahara Party.

A total of 1208 members of outlawed underground party were nabbed by police in special operations from different parts of the district during the last one year.

Official sources said police also recovered a total of 221 firearms and 557 rounds of live bullet of various kinds during the period.

PATUAKHALI

Defulator still in service!

Feb 8 : An officer of the food department who allegedly defoliated foodgrains worth about Taka 62 lakh has been kept still in service, reports UNB.

According to the Food Department, M Nasiruddin Ahmed while serving as manager of Tejgaon CSD godown, Dhaka, misappropriated huge foodgrains and now he is being working as Assistant Controller of Food in Patuakhali district.

In the departmental proceeding, he was found guilty and it was decided to deduct one third of his salary in every month.

The decision of the departmental action was communicated to him on February 20 last year, the sources said.

The matter has created a sensation in the locality.

TANGAIL

Savings bureau earns Tk 4.5 cr

Feb 8 : Bangladesh Savings Bureau, Tangail district, has achieved savings worth Taka 4.5 crore during the first half of the current financial year, reports BSS.

Of the amount Taka 1.5 crore was achieved through bureau office through post offices and banks.

An official source said that savings department had issued an eight years investment bond from this year in addition to their existing savings bond certificates and postal savings accounts.



BOGRA: Archaeology Department of Bangladesh and France jointly inaugurating the excavation work at Mahasthan Garh on February 1. — Star photo

Over four lakh children suffering from malnutrition

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Feb 8 : Over four lakh children have been suffering from malnutrition for want of proper nutritious food in the 16 districts of Southern region of the country, a survey report said here.

It is learnt that the parents of these children cannot provide nutritious food due to their poverty.

It is further gathered that at least 80 per cent families of different rural areas in the region are dependent on agriculture for livelihood.

On the other hand, a concerned sources said, natural calamities and other problems such as unprecedented drought, flood and increasing prices of seeds, fertilizers,

pesticides have been hampering crop cultivation and production for four years. As a result, most of the manual labourers are deprived of cost of their labour.

Move over, 75 per cent of cultivators in this region have to plough land belonging to others. Children of these farmers are to lead most part of their days in starvation.

These children are being affected with various complicated diseases including polio blindness, skin diseases which are increasing day by day.

Besides, most of the children of Southern region are being faced with death for Diarrhoea, Dysentery, Diphtheria and other water or

air borne diseases every year.

According to physicians, many families of the rural areas in this region cannot maintain rules of health and cleanliness. The physicians also feel that superstitions, illiteracy and poverty have aggravated the situation. For this reason, these four to six year old children are being deprived of nutritious food like mother's milk, protein, iron, calcium and other vitamins.

The elite of this region however feel that government should take up schemes to distribute rice, wheat, vegetables, potato, dal and other essential nutritious foods among these rural families for removing malnutrition of their children.

Several rehabilitation projects completed in Cox's Bazar

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Feb 8 : Bangla-German Sampreeti (BGS) and Society for Peace and Development (SPD) have completed several rehabilitation projects in the cyclone-hit areas of Cox's Bazar and Moheskhal.

The Bangla-German Sampreeti successfully implemented the community development project for rehabilitation of cyclone victims at Dhalghata and Matarbari with the financial involvement of Taka eight crore.

After the devastating cyclone and tidalbore of 29th April, 1991 BGS and SPD jointly brought Dhalghata and Matarbari Union of Moheskhal thana in the district of Cox's Bazar under special programme.

At first, the NGOs helped the distressed people with foods and clothes. They then conducted an extensive survey in the cyclone-hit Dhalghata and Matarbari union's for the assessment of damage. There was no sign of human habitation in this area. The cyclone had left a trail of destruction in the island. About ten thousand people died in the devastating cyclone. Later, BGS took up development programme in Dhalghata and Matarbari

Union with the participation of the local people.

Project co-ordinator of BGS in Cox's Bazar Ershad Ali told this correspondent that, they set up four multi-purpose cyclone shelters, 2,500 low cost houses, 13 community buildings, five private schools, 3,500 pucca latrines, two mosques and two temples in the cyclone-hit areas. Besides, the construction of the second floor of Cox's Bazar Mohila College, Shahityka High School building have been completed with the financial assistance of the BGS.

Bangla-German Sampreeti engaged 300 college and school students as volunteers to motivational and training activities through practical demonstration of the socio-economic projects, have created great enthusiasm among the people.

BGS also planted 14 thousand coconut and other fruit-bearing saplings in Dhalghata and Matarbari with the direction of Father Klaus Beurle, Advisor of the Bangla-German Sampreeti. They launched socio-economic projects with the objective of motivating and organising the distressed people to provide credit for preparation of nursery ponds, produc-

tion of salt, shrimp cultivation, fishing nets and sewing garments and assistance to the education and primary health care.

A large number of distressed people including females have become self-sufficient after undergoing training in different vocations sponsored by the Sampreeti. About 24 Samaj Unnayan Samities have become self-reliant after taking loans from the organisation. BGS and SPD also distributed Taka 16 lakh among 192 people in Dhalghata union for income generating projects.

The former Agriculture Minister Azizul Haque, former Home Secretary Mohammad Sirajuddin, Advisor of BGS Father Klaus Beurle, General Secretary of BGS Ahmed Sofa, SPD Chairman Gias Uddin Ahmed, eminent educationist Prof Kabir Chowdhury, Additional District Magistrate of Cox's Bazar Badarul Huda, noted singer Apel Mahmud, Major General (Ret) Al Mamun, Pal Charwa Tigga, Peter Dietzel, Dr Ellen Murland, Jerry and Cox's Bazar Co-ordinator of BGS Md Ershad Ali also participated in the project completion ceremony. They have visited all rehabilitation projects.

Blue water of Kaptai Lake now contaminated

RANGAMATI, Feb 8 : The blue water of 58,300 hectares Kaptai Lake which criss-cross the three hill districts of Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban hill districts has been contaminated beyond safe limit, reports UNB.

Some 450 people of the lake area died due to various water borne diseases in the

last three months. Of them, 173 died of diarrhoea in December '92 alone, according to reports received from local leaders and officials of Public Health Engineering Department.

Over two lakh people have complaints of intestinal disorder which the Public Health experts said was the main rea-

son of taking contaminated lake water.

The lake water contains bacteria in alarming proportions, taking of which, according to the health experts, may cause outbreak of cholera, diarrhoea, typhoid, dysentery or any other intestinal diseases within a short span of time.

Public Health experts and environment specialists recently conducted a sample study to determine how far the lake water was safe for use.

Chemical tests revealed that about 500 coliform bacteria existed in 100 milli-litre of lake-water, where water with only two bacteria are said to be hygienically safe for use.

Environment Directorate also simultaneously tested water from 12 other district headquarters of Chittagong Division and contamination with coliform bacteria varies from 10-300 in every milli-litre of water.

The specialists, according to a source from Local Government Council of Bandarban, had been shocked to find the bacteria content so high and expressed their grave concern to the local authorities.

More than a million people of three hill districts use water of the Kaptai Lake directly or indirectly which is apparently clean.

More depressing is that dangerous bacteria infestation has also been noticed in the water supplied from the treatment plants.

The specialists from the Environment Pollution Control Directorate tested water supplied from the treatment plants of the three hill districts headquarters and found 300 coliform bacteria in 100 milli-litre. Hotels and restaurants as well as rest houses managed by the district administrations were also serving dangerous

Prof Islam takes over as Chairman of Rajshahi Board

RAJSHAH, Feb 8 : Prof Md Serajul Islam took over as the Chairman of the Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education, Rajshahi, on Thursday, reports UNB.

Before his new assignment, Prof Islam was the principal of Rajshahi Government College, officials said.

Flower show held at Tangail

TANGAIL, Feb 8 : A flower show organised by Tangail district rose society was held at Tangail Shaheed Park on Friday, reports BSS.

A large number of individuals and organisations participated in the flower show. Prizes were distributed among the best participant.

Chicken pox alarming in Manikganj

MANIKGANJ, Feb 8 : Chicken pox has broken out in an alarming form in different areas of the district, reports BSS.

Reports reaching here from Shivalaya, Harirampur, Daulatpur, Gheor, Shingair and Shaturia reveal that children are the worst sufferers.

According to medical officers, most of the small pox patients do not consult qualified doctors, rather they depend on quacks and indigenous herbal medicines.

Minor girl crushed under wheels in Feni

FENI, Feb 8 : A minor girl was crushed under the wheels of a speeding bus and died on the spot near Chandpur bridge on Feni-Chhagalnaiya road Friday, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, Dolly Akhtar (10) met the tragic end while she was crossing the road. The Chandpur bound killer bus was coming Sonapur.

The body was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy. The driver of the bus managed to escape with the vehicle.

A case has been filed with the police in this connection.

Ekushey book fair begins at Khulna

KHULNA, Feb 8 : A month-long Ekushey 'Gronthamela' (book fair), organised by the Bangla Academy, began at its sales centre premises here Monday, reports UNB.

A huge number of stalls including those of the Bangla Academy, Shishu Academy and the Shilpakala Academy have been set up in the book fair.

Two rlymen suspended

RAJSHAH, Feb 8 : Bangladesh Railway (West Zone) has suspended two employees for negligence of duty, reports BSS.

They are Ramjan Ali (Conductor Guard of Rupsha Inter-City Train) and Yazibur Rahman (Attendant).

Eight police boxes in Khulna city soon

KHULNA, Feb 8 : A total of eight new police boxes will be set up in different points of the city, official sources said, reports UNB.

The boxes will be set up at Khalishpur, Kadamtali, Customs Ghat, Maheshpasha, KDA premises and crossings of Royal Hotel, Bakali and Peoples Square.

Among them, two at Royal Hotel crossing and Bakali crossing will be established on priority basis.

At present, there are five thanas and seven police boxes in the city.

The BDR personnel recovered smuggled goods worth about Taka 12 lakh in two separate raids in the city Tuesday (February 2).

The BDR men of the coastal frontier seized a trawler with 62 Indian cows from the Athraobaki river. The Parulia bound trawler was coming from Satkhira.

In another raid on a passenger mini bus BDR personnel seized 141 pieces of Indian sarees and 20 pieces of blouse at Botra area.

Narcotics Control Department arrested a man and seized 500 grams of heroin from an IWTA (Inland Water Transport Authority) that here Wednesday night.

The arrested was identified as Rahat Imam (23), a trader of Naogaon village in Kalia thana of Narail district.

Acting on a tip, a squad of the Narcotics Control Department raided the ghat, nabbed Rahat and recovered the heroin from his possession.

Police sources said they got important information from Rahat Imam and further investigation was going on. A case was filed with the local thana.

Acute bullock shortage hampers cultivation

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Feb 8 : Acute shortage of bullock is causing serious obstacle to cultivation work in Kishoreganj, Mymensingh and Netrokona districts.

According to the knowledgeable sources, 60 to 70 per cent families having no bullock are unable to till their lands. Consequently, a considerable acreage of lands in these districts remain uncultivated every year. Most of the farmers carry on their agricultural works on share basis as they cannot afford to purchase bullock or cow due to sharp rise in their prices.

At present, a pair of bullock costs Taka 10,000 to 14,000 or more at different markets. Sometimes, the farmer till their land with spades. Many of them even use milk cows to cultivate their land resulting in gradual reduction in the milk production.

According to a survey, bullock shortage prevails every year due to various diseases that takes a heavy toll of cattle and natural calamities.

Every year a large number of cattleheads is lost due to floods. Besides, it is also alleged that some greedy cobblers are found poisoning cattleheads in different places of the districts only to collect their skin.

On the other hand, slaughtering of bullock has increased much following the scarcity of fish in the markets. Epidemics and diseases also take heavy toll as those cannot be fought effectively owing to miserable condition of veterinary hospitals where acute scarcity of medicines is a permanent feature. Moreover, bad communication is another factor, it is learnt.

Taking advantage of the situation, a section of cow traders is purchasing cattleheads from the farmers at nominal prices to be supplied to other places for slaughtering daily. If this trend continues for indefinite period, cultivation would be hampered to a great extent, it is feared.



KHULNA: Najmun Nahar Naju an artiste of Bikiron Social and Cultural Organisation rendering song at Khulna Press Club on February 2 in a cultural function. — Star photo

BDMA's unit meet held

TANGAIL, Feb 8 : Annual general meeting of Bangladesh Diploma Medical Association, Tangail branch, was held recently at Medical assistant training school auditorium here, reports BSS.

Dr Md Shahidur Rahman Babu, President and Dr Abdul Kader, Secretary General, central committee of the association attended the function as chief guest and special guest respectively.

Dr Abdullah Al Farid presided over the meeting.

Among others, Dr Sharif Ahmed, Organising Secretary of central committee, Dr Mahfuzur Rahman, Dr Uttam Kumar Saha spoke on the occasion. The speakers said that eight medical assistant training schools were established in the country during the regime of President Ziaur Rahman to impart training to the diploma doctors. They worked successfully in the rural areas, they added.

Dr Farid said the district administration had been asked to find out the causes of contamination and suggest ways to control it.

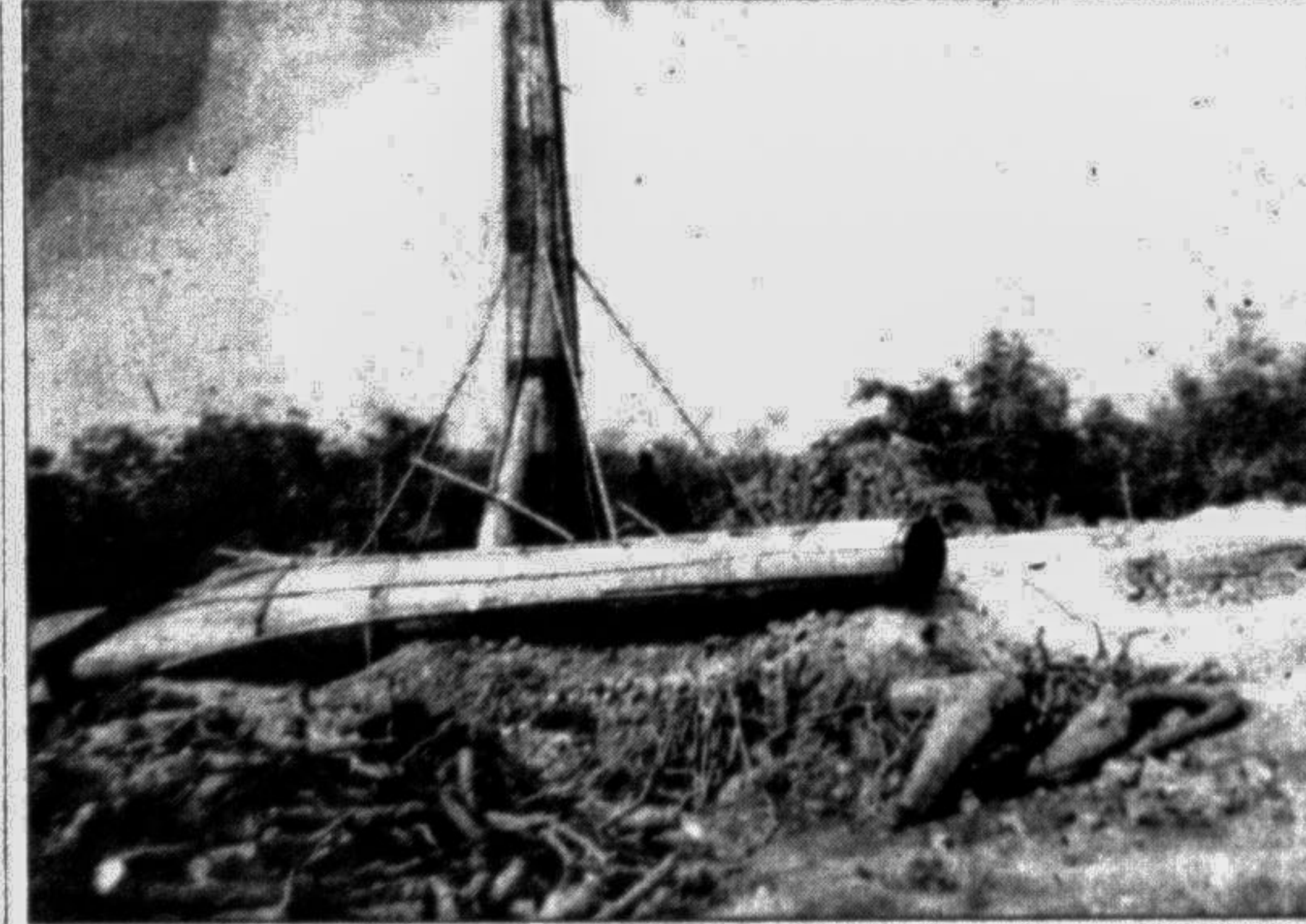
The chairman further said a systematic campaign should be launched to warn the lake-water users of the danger and motivate them to use boiled water or depend on tubewell water.

But other sources said many tubewells in the three hill districts had either gone out of order or did not sink deep enough to reach the ground water level.

Tk 3.50 lakh sanctioned for 16 projects

PIROJPUR, Feb 8 : The government has sanctioned Taka 3.50 lakh for the implementation of 15 projects in communication sector in Pirojpur district in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the projects include construction of small bridges and culverts.



RAJBARI: Despite the government ban the owners of brickfields use firewood for burning bricks instead of coal. — Star photo