

### Flood, erosion victims for groynes

SIRAJGANJ, Feb 4: Thousands of flood and erosion victims on Wednesday brought out a procession at the town demanding groynes at Kazipur and sadar thanas of the district, reports UNB.

The processionists also attacked the WAPDA office and ransacked the doors and window panes.

Later, they submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner to press home their demand to set up groynes at Shimla and Megahi areas of the two thanas.

Another report says: A boy was killed and 10 people were injured when two mechanised boats collided amid thickened fog in the river Jamuna at Dorota area in sadar thana on Thursday.

Police said, Afzal (15) of Charberubari in Kurigram district died on the spot. The injured were released after first aid in the local clinics.

Witnesses said, a boat with 12 passengers was heading towards Kurigram from Bhuapur and collided with another one carrying about 60 cattleheads at the area at about 7 am. The passengers said nothing was visible at the time due to thickened fog.



SYLHET: A road at Sylhet town during the 48-hour hartal called for immediate formation of administrative division. — Star photo

### 10 years RI for raping minor girl

CHITTAGONG, Feb 4: The Fifth Additional District and Sessions Judge here Abdul Mukit Majumder in a judgement yesterday sentenced one Badul Alam of Sitakunda thana to ten years rigorous imprisonment and fined him Taka ten thousand on charges of raping a minor girl, reports BSS.

The accused was absconding.

The prosecution story in brief is that one Khaleda Begum while returning from a nearby jungle at Sonachari union of Sitakunda thana was forcefully taken away into an isolated place of the jungle on December 22, 1987. The accused Badul Alam raped her and fled away leaving behind the victim.

Ezharul Haq, a member of Sonachari union parishad, filed a case with Sitakunda thana in this connection.

The judge examined seven witnesses in the case and found Badul Alam guilty.

### Power supply irregular in Kushtia

**From Our Correspondent**

KUSHTIA, Feb 4: The erratic power supply has been hampering production in mills, irrigation to lands and causing sufferings to general consumers.

The running of deep tubewells, shallow tubewells and some low lift pumps in the area has been difficult due to disruption of power supply.

The mismanagement in Pally Biddut Samities and theft of copper wire and transformers have caused disruption of power supply in remote villages of the area hampering irrigation in the fields.

A Power Development Board (PDB) source said that only eight megawatt power has been allocated for Kushtia district against 18 megawatt power requirement and as such load shedding has become frequent.

Short supply of power has also affected G. K. Project pump house resulting in shortage of irrigation water in main canal affecting wheat cultivation.

The town residents are the worst sufferers as power supply remains off in phases in the evening every day.

Normal academic atmosphere in the schools and colleges of the district is being hampered to a great extent as most of the teachers are engaged in private tuition on commercial basis.

Local people alleged that the teachers of government and non-government educational institutions have started private coaching neglecting their class room duties for a long time. It has become a regular practice, specially by the science and commerce teachers who are fortunate to get a large number of students for coaching in batches, they added.

Most of the poor students of the district have been facing manifold problems as they are not in a position to engage private tutors.

### Problems hamper education in 200 high schools

**From Our Correspondent**

KURIGRAM, Feb 4: About 200 non-govt Secondary Schools in nine thanas of Kurigram district are beset with multifarious problems hampering education of about one lakh students.

According to sources, dilapidated conditions of school buildings, scarcity of furniture, accommodations, science building playground, library facilities, common room and fund are hindering smooth educations in these schools.

Many school buildings are in pitiable conditions. Some schools are holding classes in decaying buildings which may collapse any time.

Only 10 per cent schools have one or two storied buildings while others are housed in semi-pucca tinsheds.

These schools are facing difficulties to accommodate the increasing number of students. About 70 per cent of these schools have neither science building nor necessary science equipment.

Absence of playground in one quarter of these schools, deprive students of recreational facilities. Sports facilities are very meagre at almost all these educational institutions.

In most of the schools scarcity of pure drinking water persists due to non-availability of requisite number of tubewells.

Only 12 per cent schools have libraries which also lack adequate number of text and reference books.

Most of the high schools, except a few, are facing acute fund crisis, as a result, the teachers do not get their salary regularly.

Besides, the schools which were damaged by floods, storms and cyclones during the last few years have not yet been repaired.

**Fishermen face problems**

The fishermen of nine thanas of Kurigram district have been facing manifold problems including exploitation by the non-professional fishermen and lack of patronisation.

The fishermen are subjected to exploitation by the village maastans and influential group of people. The interested people have been resorting to various coercive and fraudulent practices in trading to the miseries of helpless fishermen.

The indiscriminate fishing by non-professionals, unplanned irrigation projects and use of chemical fertilizer in the crop fields have further aggravated the situation. The existence of pisciculture and the fish resources have been seriously threatened.

The fisheries department has failed to supply required amount of fish fry for the development of fish resources in the district though a good number of water bodies have adequate facilities for pisciculture.

Most of the local fishermen are, facing difficulties in procuring the fishing appliances due to want of capital.

These fishermen find it hard to procure boats, nets, and other appliances due to fund constraints.

It may be mentioned here that they borrow money from the local 'mahajans' at a very high rate of interest finding no other alternatives. They receive no loan from commercial banks, it is informed.

Besides, the leasing of the 'jalmahals' is irregular and most of them have been grabbed by influential people.

Moreover, the practice of sub-lease to the non-fishermen has been prevailing. The organised maastans often snatch away the nets along with other fishing appliances from the regular fishermen.

The fishermen's cooperative societies have become ineffective due to lack of cooperation.

**Mosquito menace alarming**

Mosquito menace has assumed an alarming proportion causing much suffering to the inhabitants of the district town.

The poor people who are unable to purchase mosquito nets, pass sleepless nights. The ponds, ditches, uncleaned and choked drains, open latrines, bushes, water logging and garbage stockpiled on roadside places are the main breeding points of the mosquitoes. Almost half of the road has been occupied and blocked by the temporary shopkeepers and are left uncleaned since long. The residents of Kurigram town alleged that no action has yet been taken by the local municipal authority to start mosquito eradication campaign.

The situation becomes horrible during the winter season. The drainage system is so deplorable that water always remains stagnant in the drains. Conventional method of spraying mosquito oil, occasionally proves ineffective and consequently, mosquito breeding continues unabated. It is high time for the poura authority to take up balanced scheme for proper drainage and regular cleaning to get rid of these serious problem.

### Legal code of conduct for lawyers' assistants needed

GAZIPUR, Feb 4: Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz on Thursday underlined the need for formulating a complete legal code of conduct for the lawyers' assistants in order to give their services a legal coverage and also to make them accountable for their professional activities, reports UNB.

The Law Minister was speaking as chief guest at the Dhaka divisional conference of Bangladesh Lawyers' Assistants Association here at the Rajbari ground.

State Minister for Science and Technology Alhaj Prof M A Mannan attended conference as special guest.

Presided over by Gazipur district union general secretary of the association, the conference was also addressed by Abdur Rab Chowdhury, MP, Kazi Golam Mahub, President of Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association, District and Session Judge of Gazipur, Serajul Islam, Gazipur Poushava Chairman A K M Mozammel Haq, District Lawyers' Association President Saifuddin Ahmed and General Secretary Harisuddin Ahmed, and Lawyers' Assistants Association President and General Secretary A K M Mahbul Alam and Nur Miah.

Describing the lawyers' assistants as the integral part of judiciary, Mirza Hafiz said that they had to play a vital role in enhancing the professional efficiency of the lawyers and help establish rule of law in the society.

Referring to ineffectiveness of many age-old laws in the perspective of fast socio-economic changes, the Law Minister said Law Reforms Commission has been formed to bring about necessary amendments of these rules and regulations and enact some new laws.

Earlier, Law Minister visited Gazipur District and Session Judges court and went round different sections of the court building.

**Notes from Mymensingh**

**From Our Correspondent**

MYMENSINGH, Feb 4: Noted litterateur Syed Najmuddin Hussain donated his personal books to the Central Library of the Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU).

Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr Shah Mohammad Farouk received the books from S N Hussain at his office chamber. Abdul Gafur Diwan, BAU Librarian and other high officials were present on the occasion.

In all, 54 scientific books were presented to the BAU Central Library which would be helpful for academic research of the students, teachers and researchers of the University.

**Use of statistics stressed**

Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr Shah Mohammad Farouk stressed the need for use of statistics in higher agricultural research and its application in the real field.

Dr Farouk was speaking as chief guest on the concluding day of a three-week International Training Course on 'Statistical Methods for Research' organised by the Graduate Training Institute (GTI) of the Bangladesh Agricultural University.

Presided over by GTI Director Professor Dr M Tajul Islam, the function was attended by Professor Zainul Abedin Khan, Dean, Faculty of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, Course Coordinator Professor Dr Jobed Ali Mirza, Premnath Tripathi, Lecturer of Nepal Tribhuvan University and Scientist Md Abdus Salam, Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture spoke on the occasion.

Later, the Vice-Chancellor distributed certificates among the participants drawn from Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh.

**Stands 1st class first**

Md Kabirul Islam Khan stood 1st class first in B.Sc. A.H. (Hons) final examination of Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh for the year 1990, held in October 1993.

Md Khan is the only son of Late Monsur Ali Khan and Kadbanu Begum of the village Ranchari under Kishoreganj thana of Nilphamari district.

### District roundup

**C'NAWABGANJ**

**Bus passengers harassed**

Feb 4: Reckless driving, overloading of buses, realisation of exorbitant fare and deplorable condition of the roads have made bus journey hazardous in the district, says UNB.

According to passengers, most of the drivers are illiterate and have no knowledge of traffic rules, they even do not possess valid licences.

Non-availability of trains and water transports, force people to travel on buses with risks which are being driven at high speed causing frequent accidents, the sources said.

It is alleged that to avoid the legal action in cases of accidents, most of the drivers use fake names and addresses.

On the other hand, misbehaviour of the bus conductors is widely complained, who compel the passengers to get down from the buses when they do not pay excessive fare.

Local people alleged that the drivers do not follow the timetable at all. Sometimes, the drivers take much time to reach the destination because of their frequent stopover at different points of the road to pick more passengers.

Moreover, most of the buses playing on the roads are in deplorable condition and often face engine disorder on their way causing untold sufferings to the passengers.

**SATKHIRA**

**Minor girl violated**

Feb 4: A minor girl was allegedly violated by a young man in the sadar thana on Tuesday, police said here Friday, reports UNB.

Parul, 7, of Ghona village of the thana, was reportedly misguided on her way to her sister's house at Mukundapur.

It has been alleged that when she got down from bus at Kadamtala Bazar, Dulal Rishi, a young man of Laskarpura, lured her to his house and violated her.

Later, the victim's relatives caught Dulal and handed him over to the police.

Parul was sent to Satkhira sadar hospital for medical examination and a case was filed with sadar police in this connection.

Another report adds: Police arrested Abdul Hannan, Chairman of Budhata Union Parishad in Assasuni thana of the district, in connection with several smuggling cases.

It is alleged that Hannan was involved in smuggling for quite a long time and wanted by police.

**JAMALPUR**

**AL leaders protest killing at Lalbagh**

Feb 4: District unit of Awami League brought out a huge procession Wednesday protesting the killing of six people at Lalbagh, Dhaka, reports UNB.

Led by Parliament Member Mirza Azam the processionists demanded exemplary punishment to the miscreants responsible for the attacking of the AL victory procession in which six people were gunned down and scores injured.

The procession was also participated by the leaders and workers of Juba League and Sramik League.

AL leaders also condoled the death of six innocent people and prayed for the salvation of the departed souls. They also expressed sympathy to members of the bereaved families.

**BARISAL**

**Woman elected UP chairman**

Feb 4: Mamta Begum Parul was elected chairman of the Jagua Union Parishad under sadar thana of Barisal district in the by-election held recently, says BSS.

Begum is the wife of Saidul Alam, a former chairman who was killed by the miscreants.

Five candidates contested this election. Mamta Begum bagged 2,799 votes.

**MAGURA**

**Hartal against toll collection, terrorism observed**

Feb 4: A half-day hartal, called by the local businessmen protesting rising trend of toll collection, terrorism and anti-social activities, was observed in the town on Thursday, says UNB.

The businessmen brought out a procession and paraded the main thoroughfares of the town and chanted slogans against extortionists.

They alleged that a group of youths have long been involved in collecting tolls from the shopkeepers and they even threaten and create pressure on them if they refuse their illegal demand.

They urged the concerned authorities to look into the matter and take necessary actions against the extortionists.



GOPALGANJ: A damaged part of Stadium Road of the town has been covered by branches of trees for a long time. — Star photo

### Rival groups clash leaves 19 injured

JHENIDAH, Feb 4: At least 19 people were injured, four seriously, in a clash between the two rival groups of people of Nathakunda village in sadar thana on Monday, reports UNB.

Villagers said the clash ensued following a long-standing dispute between the groups of Mansur Ali and Mosharrar Hossain who were also seriously injured in the clash.

On the day Mansur Ali along with his supporters suddenly attacked the residence of Mosharrar Hossain and consequently both the groups locked in a battle equipped with rammado, ballam and other deadly weapons, the sources added.

The four seriously injured including Abdul Matin and Shamsul Alam were admitted to the sadar hospital.

A gang of armed miscreants snatched away Taka 8.20 lakh from a jeep of a foreign company on Sunday evening at Doaharpar in Magura sadar thana on Jhenidah-Magura Road.

According to the police, Cheng, a Chinese officer, while going to pay the cash among the construction workers of the Daulatdia-Kushtia highway was stopped by the 7-8 miscreants at the point. They snatched away the bag of the said amount at gun point.

A case was lodged with the Magura police and police so far arrested two people including the driver of the jeep in this connection.

A number of unruly students of the Kaliganj Mahatabuddin Degree College ransacked and damaged both the principal and students union offices on Tuesday in protest against the increasing of tuition fees.

Witnesses said a procession was brought out by some student organisations including the Chhatra League (M-I) on the campus protesting the sudden rise in the tuition fees of the college.

At one stage some unruly students entered the students' union office and Principal's chamber by breaking open the doors and damaged the furniture. The principal was not present during the attack. They also entered the examination hall of 3rd year classes and took away the answer scripts.

Meanwhile, protesting the incident the Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal also brought out a procession in the college campus. At one stage chase and counter chase was started creating panic among the common students.

**By Masud Hasan Khan back from Madaripur**

According to government statistics, 25 per cent of the total 9.45 lakh people of Madaripur are jobless while over one lakh people do not have any land.

**PHED installs tubewells in S-dists**

BARISAL, Feb 4: The Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) has been sinking 948 tube-wells in six southern districts of Barisal division under the financial assistance of the royal government of Saudi Arabia during the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

Of the total, 352 tube-wells are deep and the rest are shallow tubewells. According to an official source, each deep tube-well cost Taka 43,000 and each shallow tube-well cost Taka 5,000.

Sixtyfive deep and 174 shallow tube-wells are allocated for Barisal district, 29 deep and 181 shallow tubewells for Jhalokati, 14 deep and 241 shallow tube-wells for Pirojpur, 57 deep tube-wells for Bhoala, 90 deep tube-wells for Patuakhali and 97 deep tube-wells for Barguna districts.

A separate group, driven out from Narsinghdi and Jhenidah districts following factional feuds, has arrived here, he informed.

The official also indicated the Sarbahara Party's link with the rich landowners of the district who seek protection for harvesting during the robi season in return of money.

The Party members are also used in fights of the jotedars (big landowners) to grab the newly-emerged charlands, he added.

### Sharbahara Party men active in villages of Madaripur

Members of Sharbahara Party have recently made Madaripur their new den after being chased out from Shariatpur, Narsinghdi and Jhenidah districts.

The Sarbahara Party men entered Madaripur town January 2 to observe the 19th death anniversary of Siraj Sikder, founder of the Purbo Banglar Sarbahara Party. The Sharbahara Party men fired many blank shots, blasted bombs, and shouted slogans on the deserted streets of the town on the occasion.

During a visit to Zafarabad, and Mahisher Char villages under Sadar thana of the district, The Daily Star correspondent found that the people were very much afraid of the Sarbahara Party members.

Even the streets of the town become deserted immediately after sundown as strangers are seen moving about with concealed weapons, people of the town informed.

District administration officials admitted the renewed activities of the outlawed party members in Madaripur forecasting their short visit.

However, Madaripur residents expressed that the activities would last long this time because of the staggering poverty situation in the district. The high rate of unemployment has been alluring the frustrated youths to take up arms.

Killing, arson, looting and ransom realisation would start now, the residents feared, pointing out the killing of a Union Parishad chairman.



MYMENSINGH: Prof S M Faruq, VC of BAU, speaking as chief guest at a workshop on 'Environment and Poverty' held here recently. — Star photo