

30 injured in Sirajganj clash

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 12: At least 30 people were injured, four seriously, in a clash between two rival groups at Moitrabaraha village in Ullapara thana today, police said, reports UNB.

The clash ensued when a group of about 60 people armed with lethal weapons, led by Abdur Rauf Pannu and Abdul Haye, attacked Abdur Razzak's house this morning in a sequel to previous enmity over fishing in a pond, police said.

Notes from Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Mar 12: One person was killed in an accident at Gazaria on Kishoreganj-Bhairab Road recently. The victim was identified as Haji Md Rangu Miah of village Chhota Gazaria in Bajitpur thana of the district.

Police sources said, a Dhaka-bound passenger bus knocked down him while he was crossing the road. He was immediately admitted into Bhagalpur Hospital where he died later on. A case was registered with Bajitpur police station in this connection. The body was sent to Kishoreganj sadar hospital for postmortem.

Annual sports

The annual sports competition of Tarail Pilot High School recently.

A M Towhidul Islam, TNO of Tarail and A K M Badruddoza, Principal, Tarail Muktiyoddha College attended the function as chief guest and special guest respectively. The sports competitions were divided into three groups Md Omar Faruk became the champion in senior group, Anufa Akhtar, Khatun in intermediate group and Rubel in junior group. Later, prizes were distributed among the winners.

One killed by miscreants

One Sakti Misra, 25, of village Ahatagar under Nandail thana was killed by miscreants recently while he was returning home from Itna.

He came under attack by miscreants when he reached Khaliyan beel. He died on the spot. The body was sent to Kishoreganj sadar hospital for autopsy and a case was filed with the Nandail police station in this connection.

One succumbs to injuries

Mastu Miah, 27, of village Rajanagar in Bhairab thana succumbed to his injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital recently.

Mastu Miah sustained injuries following an altercation between him and some of his neighbours on a trifling matter. The people belonging to opponent group threw a spear that pierced into his body. He was first admitted into Bhairab thana health complex from where he was removed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

A case has been recorded in this connection with Bhairab police station. None has been arrested so far.

Half-day

hartal observed

Half-day hartal was observed at Kuliarchar Thana Headquarters in protest against the police assault on a SSC examinee recently.

A protest meeting was also held with Syed Hassan Sarwar in the chair. It was addressed, among others, by Syed Mohammed Musa, Md Ishaq Miah, Zillur Rahman and Gausuddin.

The speakers alleged that Anwar Hossain, Sub-Inspector of Police, Kuliarchar beat Zaman mercilessly. Later, he was taken into custody. Speakers demanded exemplary punishment to the police officials responsible for the incident.

Newsprint

price up

Newsprint price in the greater Mymensingh district has again gone up inflicting sufferings on the publishers including newspaper owners.

According to reports, the paper is being sold at Tk 120 per ream as against Tk 80 last month. Students of the lower middle-class families were reported among the worst sufferers.

They said, crown size newsprint is being sold at Tk 360 per ream as against Tk 260 last month while foolscap paper at Tk 200 as against Tk 170 during the period.

One to die for

murder

Abul Mansur, Additional Sessions Judge, First Court, Kishoreganj in a judgement delivered recently sentenced one Suruj Ali of village Kilipur under Bhairab thana of the district to death by hanging on charge of killing one Alauddin of the same village. Suruj Ali was tried in absentia as he had been absconding.



SYLHET: Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda speaking as chief guest on concluding day of two-day-long function arranged on the occasions of 15th founding anniversary of Sylhet Cadet College held here recently. — Star photo

One lakh educated youths in Kurigram now jobless

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Mar 12: Unemployment has been gradually increasing in the district causing concern among the people.

According to a recent report, about two lakh out of total 11 lakh people of the district are unemployed. Of whom, 50 per cent are educated with minimum qualification of SSC, 10 per cent are Master Degree holders, 15 per cent are HSC and SSC pass. All of them coming from lower middle class and middle class families and they are passing hard days.

About 2000 Master Degree holders, graduates and intermediate pass candidates were absorbed in government health services, government primary and secondary schools, government colleges and other government services recently and more one lakh in 9 thanas of the district remained unemployed.

The post in government services, banks and private organisations lying vacant are very limited while private college and schools can accommodate a few persons.

There is no big mill factory and firms in the district except a lone textile mills at Kurigram sadar thana.

IFAD mission chief

visits

Another reports: Peter

Rockestgen, Mission Chief of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Head office, Rome, and Consultants Miss Marian Bradley, Arbi Benschour visited some agricultural project areas taken under "marginal and small farming system" of Kurigram recently.

The foreign experts visited the Khopatari Farmers Troop and Adhgram Female Farmers Troop in Kanthalbari union under Kurigram sadar thana and see for themselves the various activities in their agricultural plots and poultry farming. They expressed their satisfaction over the progress.

They were accompanied by Tarique Hasan, Deputy Director of Agriculture, Kurigram and other district and thana level agri-officials.

Milad mahfil

A milad mahfil, arranged by Muktiyoddha Sangsad, Kurigram zila unit, seeking "magfira" for the departed souls of late Abdul Quddus Makhan, an organiser of Muktiyoddha, late Mahfuzur Rahman, ex-chairman of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad, Central Command Council and late Abdul Latif, ex-Deputy Commander, Fulbari thana command (Kurigram), was held recently at the premises of Kurigram Zila Muktiyoddha Sangsad. The milad mahfil was conducted by Moulana Mozammelul Haque, Principal, Kurigram Senior Madrasah.

The milad mahfil was attended by local freedom fighters, government officials, elite, journalists, political leaders including Aman Ukil (AL), Advocate Samsuddin (BNP) and Aminul Islam (BSD).

Serajul Islam, Commander of the district unit of Muktiyoddha Sangsad, welcomed all the invitees. It was rounded off with an iftar party.

Krishi mela

A three-day krishi mela held under the auspices of District Agriculture Extension Department at the "Khamarbari" complex concluded recently.

In the exhibition several stalls were set up with notable exhibits agricultural production pisciculture, handicrafts, horticulture, livestock and modern agricultural equipment.

Farmers from nine thanas of the district including cross section of people visited the exhibition.

The exhibition was formally inaugurated by Abdur Rouf, Director, Agriculture Extension Directorate. On the concluding day, Tarik Hasan, Deputy Director, Agriculture Extension Department, Kurigram, distributed prizes among the participants of the exhibition.

Shortage of bullock

Cultivation severely affected

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Mar 12: Cultivation of Irri-Boro is being hampered greatly due to acute shortage of bullock in all the four districts of greater Sylhet region for the last few years.

According to sources, more than 50 per cent families have no bullock for tilling their land for cultivation in this region. Consequently, cultivable land remain fallow every year. Most of the farmers carry on their agricultural works on share basis. They can not afford to purchase bullock or cow due to the abnormal rise in the prices of those bullock.

At present, a pair of bullocks cost Tk 6,000 to 9,000 or more at different markets. For this, the farmers often have to hire bullock for cultivating their lands.

Sometimes, they have to till their lands with spades. Many of them are also seen to use milch cows to cultivate the lands.

According to a survey, every

year diseases take a heavy toll on cattle. Natural calamities also claim a huge number of bullock. According to an official source, a large number of cattleheads also die in these districts due to the floods, every year. It is also alleged that, a section of people are found poisoning cattleheads in different areas of the region only to collect skins of the animal.

On the other hand, slaughtering of bullock has increased to a great extent following scarcity of fish in the region. Epidemic of diseases also have claimed heavy toll on cattleheads.

Women held with arms manufacturing equipment

KHULNA, Mar 12: Police arrested a young woman from Rupsa ferry ghat here Thursday and recovered arms manufacturing materials from her possession, reports UNB.

Ranjit Begum, 28, who was carrying some equipment and materials for making revolver, pipe gun and bombs, told police that a man had asked her to carry those to Dighalia thana.

Police suspected her to be a member of a gang which manufactures arms.

Acute shortage of necessary staff and medicines in the government veterinary hospitals is a regular feature especially in the rural areas. Scarcity of fodder in different areas is also prevailing. As a result, the poor and middle class farmers are selling bullocks at cheaper rates.

Taking advantage of the situation, a section of the cow traders are purchasing hundreds of cows from the farmers.

If the trend continues cultivation of crops would be seriously affected, it is expected.

Tk 13 crore uplift work to start soon

RAJBARI, Mar 12: Construction work of the infrastructure development of Rajbari pourasava under a development project will begin soon, official sources here said, reports UNB.

Financed by the Asian Development Bank, the project will cost Tk 13 crore. Meanwhile, necessary survey-work has already been completed.

The project includes, development of roads, bridges, culverts, drains, foot-paths, slum areas, municipal markets and improvement of drainage system.

Moreover, the work on 35 uplift projects at a cost of Tk one crore is progressing fast under its annual development programme.

More 45,000 hectares of land in Magura to get irrigation facility

MAGURA, Mar 11: The work on Modhumati-Nabaganja Irrigation Project at the cost of Tk 64 crore will be completed by the end of this year, reports UNB.

Over 45,000 hectares of land of the district and its adjacent areas will be brought under irrigation programme, after completion of the project.

State Minister for Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Mosharraf Hossain Shajahan directed the concerned officials to complete the work of the project on schedule while visiting the Modhumati-Nabaganja project site Thursday.

Later, the State Minister visited the under construction Sreepur-Khamarpara bridge at a cost of Tk 1.60 crore over river Kumar.

The work of the bridge is expected to be completed by June this year, said a press release.

Another report says: Agriculture and Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister said present government has undertaken massive programmes to alleviate poverty from rural areas of the country.

The Minister Maj Gen (Retd) M Majid-Ul-Haq was addressing as chief guest in the regional conference of "Shanivir Bangladesh", an NGO at the Primary Teachers' Institute premises of the district Tuesday, said an official handout.

The minister said only the government support is not enough for total development of the condition of our rural people. Non-government organisation can play important and exemplary role in overall socio-economic uplift of the country, he said.

All field workers and officials of Shanivir Bangladesh of the Magura and Narail districts attended the day-long conference.

200-yr-old antiques recovered

JAMALPUR, Mar 12: Some 200 years old valuable antiques were recovered from a hill at Dakpara village in Sadar thana last week, says UNB.

The antiques include 2.5 kgs of gold, ornaments and a huge quantity of ancient coins.

Witnesses said Fazar Ali, son of Jasim Uddin of the village, recovered the valuables from a pot on March 2 while he was leveling a nearby hill.

Villagers urged the concerned authorities to take step to preserve the antiques.

Business centre lacks civic amenities

SREEPUR, Mar 12: Sreepur thana, an important business centre in the Gazipur district, lacks civic amenities, hampering the overall development of the area, reports UNB.

Absence of proper drainage system and recreational facilities, paucity of drinking water, inadequate street lighting and deplorable condition of roads are among the common features of the town.

Town residents said due to lack of smooth drainage system there is always stagnant water in the town areas, most of which remain submerged during the rainy season.

Frequent power failure and voltage fluctuation has become a regular feature which hinders production in the commercial enterprises.

There is hardly any light on the streets. As a result, the town is plunged in darkness at night.

Shortage of pure drinking water is acute in the town as it has no water supply system. About 30 per cent people drink water from the tubewells while the rest use water from ponds, beel and rivers.

The roads of the town badly need repairing and reconstruction as several breaches and cracks have developed at many points which hamper traffic movements.

Mosquito menace has added to the already tedious town life. Lack of adequate conservancy services, silted drains, derelict ponds and garbage, dumped on roadsides, are the ideal places for breeding of mosquitoes.

Shortage of teachers and educational apparatus are also causing hindrances in smoothly running of two high schools, one college and four primary schools in the town.

River erosion is also causing alarm to the town people. The river Shetalakha continues to erode the nearby Barny Bazar in the thana and adjoining rural areas, devouring huge property.

Local leaders have urged the concerned authorities to look into the problems and take remedial measures for making the centre a prosperous business area.

8.50 lakh children now under EPI in Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Mar 12: About 8.50 lakh children of 16 districts under Rajshahi division now under Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI), official source said.

Children are generally given BCG, DPT and measles vaccines under EPI to protect children from tuberculosis (TB), diphtheria, polio, whooping cough, tetanus and measles.

The Health Department, with 96 per cent achievement of target, had given BCG vaccines to 8,49,356 children and measles vaccines to 8,51,750 children of Rajshahi division.

During the same year, about 7.45 lakh pregnant women were also immunized.

Another report says: The industrial units located in the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC)

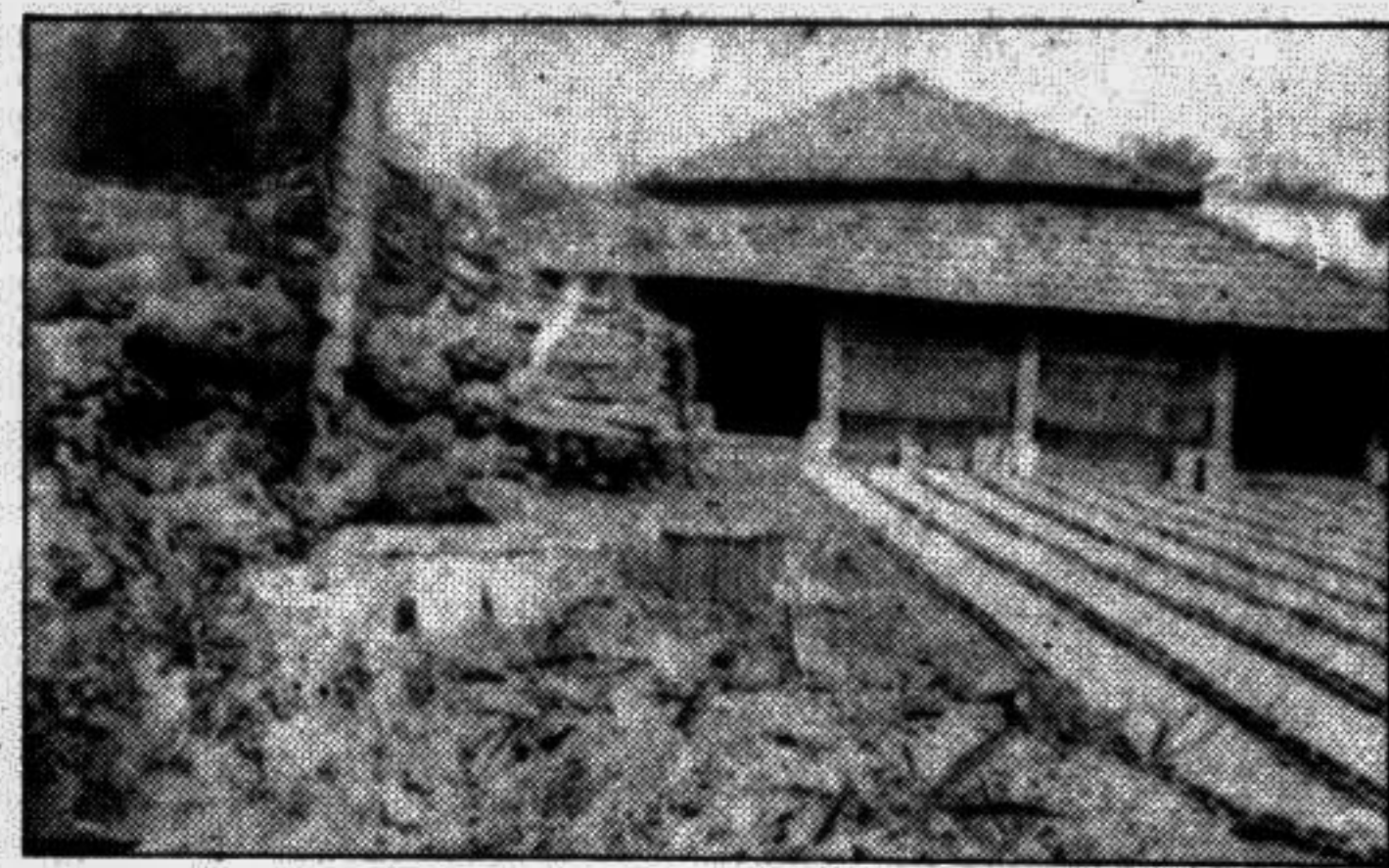
estates in North Bengal region of the country are facing multifarious problems, reliable sources said.

At least 71 industrial units have already shut down or remain idle due to continued loss and other reasons, the sources described.

It is learnt that BSCIC has given approval for setting up of 464 industrial units in six estates in five districts of Rajshahi division.

Of these works on 339 units have so far been completed and 124 units are now in operation.

Among those, 86 industrial units are in greater Rajshahi district including Natore, 88 in greater Pabna, 34 in greater Bogra, 10 in greater Rangpur, 6 in greater Dinajpur and 44 in Sajdur.



Date trees cut from different areas have been piled up for use in brickfields as fuel. —Star photo

District roundup

COMILLA

LGED Engineer assaulted

Mar 12: A Sub-Assistant Engineer of the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) was assaulted at his office at Nangalkete thana allegedly by a local contractor on March 7, reports UNB.

Police said, the contractor, Suruj Miah Bhuiyan, beat up the engineer, Farid Miah, after his reconstruction work of Paduapara Government Primary School was rejected by him.

The contractor reportedly used substandard bricks in works.

Police arrested Suruj Miah following a written complaint, lodged by the engineer.

Another report says: A young house wife of Chorthapukuria in Barura thana was beaten to death allegedly by her brother-in law last week.

Family sources said Nurjahan, 20, wife of Abdur Rashid of the village, was killed by his younger brother Milan 23 as she delayed in serving him (Milan) meal.

The body was sent to the sadar hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed with the local police in this connection.

C'NAWABGANJ

Office-bearers of bar association

Mar 12: The annual election of district bar association was held at Bar Bhaban in last week, reports UNB.

Advocate Shahjahan Biswas and Advocate Abu Nazir Khan were elected as president and general-secretary respectively.

The other office-bearers are: Advocate Md Mokbul Hossain and Advocate Habibur Rahman — vice president, Advocate Hamidul Haq and Advocate Anwar Hossain Delwar — assistant secretary, Advocate Tarique Islam Azizi — treasurer, Advocate Khairul Islam — library secretary, Advocate Saiful Islam — magazine secretary.

MYMENSINGH

Workshop on population education

Mar 12: A two-day workshop on population education of headmaster and headmistress of high schools was held at the premises of Mymensingh zilla school recently, reports BSS.

Organised by the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) the workshop was inaugurated by professor Muhammad Salahuddin, Principal T-T College, Mymensingh.

Professor Md Abdul Mannan, consultant and Md Sanaur Rahman specialist, NCTB were present as resource persons.

A total of 56 headmasters and headmistresses of Mymensingh, Kishoreganj and Netrakona districts participated the workshop.

RAJBARI

Rally held to observe Int'l Women's Day

Mar 12: A colourful rally was brought out by Bangladesh Association for Women Rights Implementation (AWRI) recently on the occasion of International Women's Day, says BSS.

The rally paraded different roads of the city. A large number of women took part in the rally.

A discussion meeting was also held to mark the day under the auspices of the AWRI.

Speakers at the discussion underlined the need for a co-ordinated effort to maintain a consolidated status of women in the society.

Among others, Deputy Commissioner of the Rajbari district Chowdhury Golam Mowla addressed the function.

KHULNA

One held with arms, ammunition

Mar 12: Police arrested a dacoit and recovered arms and ammunition from his possession at Ukhra village in Dumuria thana on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, police rushed to Ukhra village and arrested Jamir Mollah with arms while he was taking preparation to commit a dacoity. The recovered arms include, one pipegun, two rounds of bullets and two knives.

Meanwhile, three youngmen were rounded up by the police while they were roaming at the Station Road in the city on the same day.

On suspicion, police challenged and picked them up with two ram-daos. They were identified as: Selim, 20, Siddikur Rahman, 18, and Minto, 17.

An elaborate programme has been chalked out in the city to observe the holy Eid-ul-Fitr with much enthusiasm.

The programmes include hoisting of National Flag, lightings, seminars and cultural functions.

The main Eid congregation of the city will be held at the Circuit House premises at 7:30 am.

Eid congregations will also be held at the Town Jama Mosque, Dak Bangla Mosque, Alla Madrasa, PTI Mosque, Police Line Mosque, BL College, Baitul Aman Mosque, Islampur Jama Mosque, Tablighi Mosque and Dohola Mosque.

MAJDEECOURT

Drainage system needs maintenance

Mar 12: Town dwellers have been facing manifold problems due to bad condition of the drainage system, reports UNB.

They complained that the existing drains remain filled with garbage due to lack of care and maintenance. There are no adequate dustbins and urinals. Moreover, in the absence of public toilet, people are seen defecating in the open polluting the environment.

Dwellers said, mosquito menace has assumed an alarming proportion in the town. Stagnant water, roadside ditches filled with water hyacinths and garbage have become the ideal breeding grounds of the mosquitoes.

The dwellers have urged the concerned authorities to take immediate steps to improve the living condition in the town by providing basic amenities.

PATUAKHALI

Poor shape of markets

Mar 12: The hats and bazars in almost all the thanas of the district are in a pitiable condition causing immense suffering to the buyer and sellers, reports UNB.

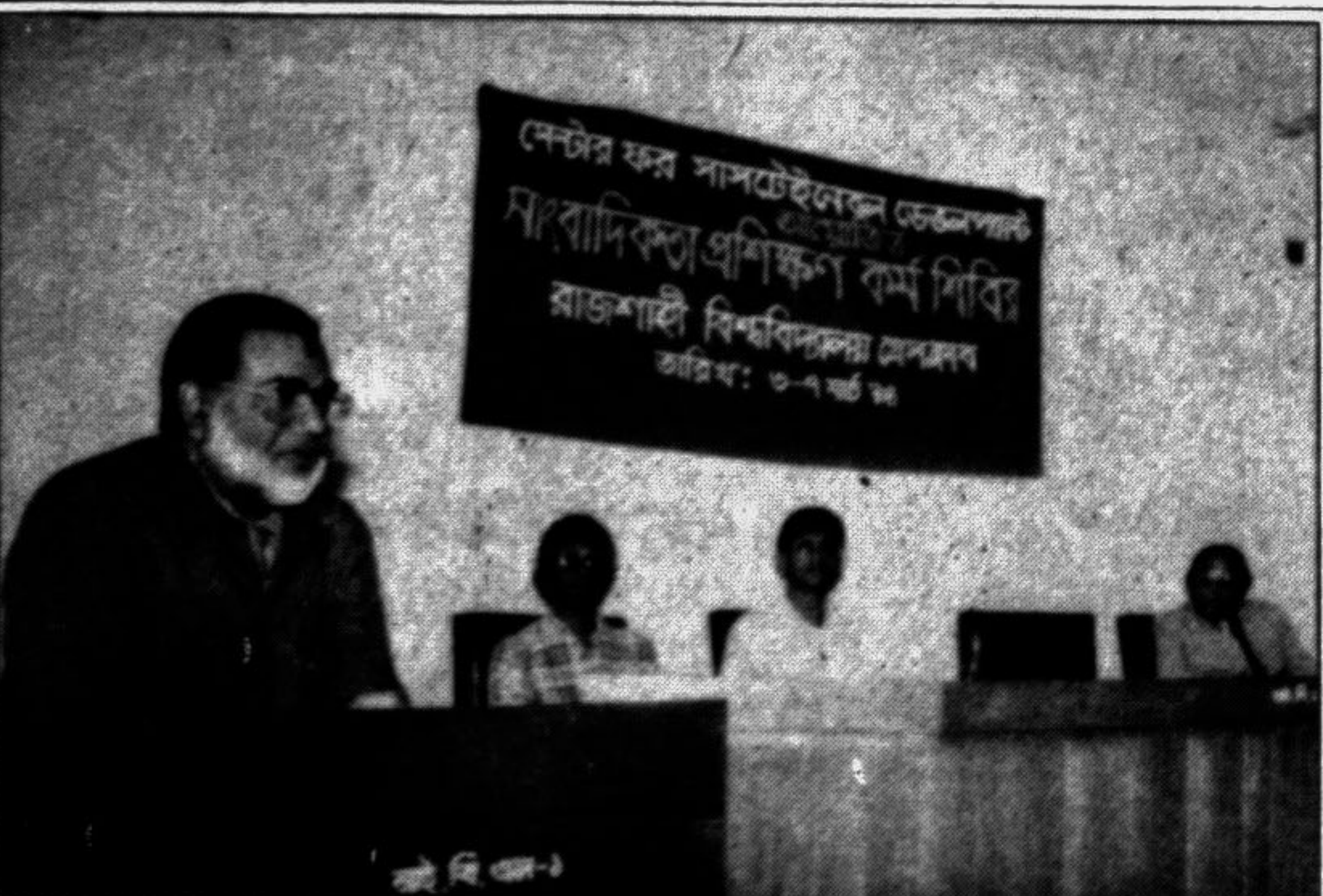
According to witnesses, most of the village markets established by local initiatives have not been expanded proportionately with the growth of population of the locality.

Villagers said, markets lack drainage facilities. Besides, consumers have facing multifarious problems due to lack of latrines and urinals, toilets and absence of drinking water supply facilities.

The situation worsens during the rainy season. After a slight rainfall most of the roads of the hats and bazars go under water causing problems to pedestrians.

Filth and garbage are dumped emitting bad odour and polluting the environment. Moreover, different commodities are being sold in the congested spaces causing difficulties to both sellers and buyers. Lack of drinking water facilities in another problem.

Local people urged the authorities to look into the matter and take necessary steps to renovate the hats and bazars for the interest of the buyers and sellers.



RAJSHAHI: Pro-VC of RU, Prof M Azhar Uddin inaugurating a 5-day-long workshop on journalism recently. The workshop organised by an NGO, was participated by newsmen of the varsity arena. — Star photo