

Housewife roasted alive

From Our Correspondent
MOULVIBAZAR, Feb 7: A housewife was roasted alive and properties worth about Tk 2 lakh were gutted in a devastating fire incident at village Norendrapur under Kamalgonj thana of Moulvibazar district recently.

The fire that broke out at the house of one Tahir Miah, soon engulfed the entire house. The family source said, the victim, Sanwara Begum, (30), wife of the house-master Tahir Miah went to bring her hidden money and ornaments from the burning house. Unfortunately, the fire engulfed her. Within moments the house collapsed and she could not save herself.

The body of the victim was sent to morgue. Police officials and leaders of different political parties visited the spot.

Smuggled Indian goods flood markets in Khulna

KHULNA, Feb 7: The anti smuggling drive in Khulna border areas seems to have slowed down as the local markets have been flooded with the smuggled Indian goods, reports UNB.

This has created adverse effect for the local products which cannot compete with the smuggled items due to its quality and price. As a result, many local factories and mills are going sick day by day.

The seizure of smuggled goods has been decreased in last year in comparison with the previous year. The Bangladesh Rifles seized goods worth Tk 15 crore in 1994 while it was Tk 23 crore in '93.

According to official sources, the BDR jawans also seized smuggled goods worth about Tk 18 crore in '90, Tk 29 crore in '91 and Tk 32 crore in '92.

BDR Khulna sector seized smuggled goods worth Tk 118 crore in the last five years, arrested 3,797 people and 4,899 cases were filed, the sources added.

Property worth Tk 22 lakh gutted in 3 fire incidents

COMILLA, Feb 7: Property worth Tk 22 lakh were gutted in three separate fire incidents in the district today, according to preliminary estimates, reports UNB.

A luxury hotel at Chowddagram, 'Highway Inn', was burnt to ashes and 10 employees of the hotel were injured when a devastating fire occurred at 6 am.

Fire Brigade personnel extinguished the fire after a one and half hour frantic effort.

Electric short circuit was said to be the cause of the fire that damaged property worth Tk 20 lakhs, local sources said.

In another fire incident at Chandina Bazar, a privately owned jute godown was gutted at about 2 am.

Local people had doused the blaze within half an hour before the firemen could reach the spot, witnesses and Fire Service sources said.

Another fire at Karpi village in Chandina thana burnt to ashes three houses in the afternoon, causing damage of about Tk one lakh.

Two killed in separate road mishaps

TANGAIL, Feb 7: Two persons including a cart pusher and a truck helper was killed in two separate road accidents in Tangail recently, says BSS.

The cart pusher was killed near Dharla on Dhaka-Tangail highway where 23 passengers of a minibus were also injured. The minibus hit the cart and then a tree.

The cart pusher died on the spot. The injured persons were treated in Kumudini hospital and Tangail sadar hospital.

In another road mishap, an ill-fated truck helper was killed near Elenga on Tangail-Mymensingh highway while his truck fell upside down in road side ditch. He died on the spot. Two separate cases were registered in Mirzapur and Kalihati thanas.

17 injured in Sirajganj clash

SIRAJGANJ, Feb 7: At least 17 people were injured, three of them seriously in a clash between shopkeepers and toll collectors in the town this evening, reports UNB.

Seriously injured Titas, 25, Jhilam, 16, and Mamun, 15, were admitted to a local clinic.

Police said the clash ensued when some 25 youths led by one Anwar demanded a toll of Tk 5,000 in the name of an education tour from the Titas Traders on the SS road in the town.

Emergence of shoals in rivers Navigational routes affected

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Feb 7: Plying of riverine transports in the different rivers of the vast southern region of the country became risky as well as time consuming due to emergence of many shoals amid the river beds. Emergence of shoals in rivers is of course nothing surprising, it appears almost every year in these rivers, according to sources. Due to unplanned dredging by IWTA, perhaps the shoals are emerging even faster.

Besides, shortage of sufficient fund for dredging works in this season is doubling the existing problems. IWTA sources said.

Passengers of Barisal-Dhaka riverine routes suffer much during this dry season. Sometimes, passengers on board a double decker launch are stranded for hours together in the middle of the mighty Meghna river as the vessels sometimes hit shoals.

It is learnt that at least 14 double decker launches ply in between Barisal Dhaka-Barguna-Patharghata, Madaripur and other destinations in this region everyday.

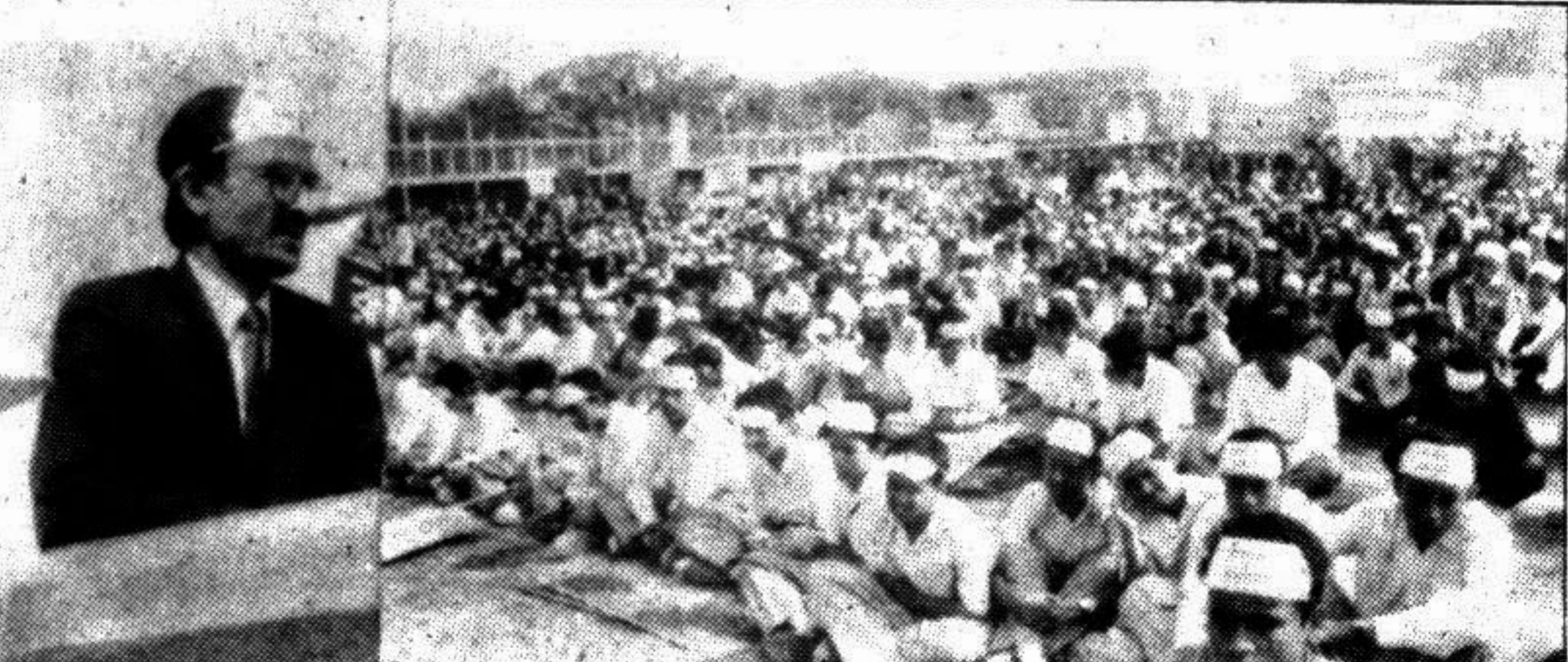
The Barisal port authority supervises operation of about fifty stations of this division, meaning six districts of Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhoila, Borguna, Jhalakati and Perojpur. Functions of dredging, hydrography marine security etc are handled by separate departments.

To locate sunken shoals amid the river beds Hydrography Department is responsible for this. But how far they do their duties properly, is a question to all.

In this circumstances launch owners also alleged that main problems will not be eradicated unless the concerned authority solves the problems.

Lack of coordination among the departments is perhaps the main problem. One must know what he or she is doing but at the same time others who are equally involved in this subject must know what the other is doing. This may, in fact, help each other to improve the situation.

What is actually taking place regarding smooth running of vessels in rivers is, a department is carrying out its duty without informing the other. Had the departments been in close contact with each other and with a little bit more coordination works could perhaps benefit all in the real sense.



SYLHET: Several thousand students of colleges and schools here attended a big gathering at Sylhet Stadium to mark protest against terrorism and unfair means in the educational institutions. The DC, Abu Taher Khan speaking at the gathering. Later a rally was also brought out in the town.

Establishment of brickfields pose threat to environment

NATORE, Feb 7: At least 30,000 acres of land are being used in brick manufacturing in Natore and adjacent districts, according to a survey conducted by a non-government body, reports UNB.

Increasing number of brickfields have become a threat to the environment as every day thousands of immature trees are being used as firewood in these fields.

A good number of flower and fruit-bearing trees are also being burnt for manufacturing bricks.

Productivity of land have also been decreased due to the adverse effect of brickfields. In this area, two or three crops were used to produce every season previously.

But now it has become impossible to grow crops as fertility of land has been declining gradually in the surrounding areas of brickfields.

As a result, farmers are sustaining heavy loss and finding no other alternative they are compelled to mortgage their lands to the brickfield owners.

On the other hand, defying government ban, every day a huge quantity of logs from neighbouring districts is being brought to the brickfield areas of Natore where shortage of firewood is prevailing.

Brickfield owners said they are compelled to use wood in manufacturing bricks as they can not procure coal at a reasonable price.

They alleged that the price of coal imported by government is very high. So, to keep brick prices stable, they use wood which is cheaper than coal.

On the other hand, high cost of firewood has been causing immense problems to the common people who use it in cooking.



NARAYANGANJ: An armed gang of youths created a reign of terror when they attacked Kaitakhali village under bandar thana recently. The youths reportedly belong to a gang led by Sabbar who was killed in a recent gun fight. The miscreants set ablaze 23 houses and prevented the fire brigade men from entering the village until the houses were burnt to ashes. The photo shows some of the damaged houses.

Paramedic training institute for women in Gazipur

GAZIPUR, Feb 7: A paramedic training institute for the women has been set up at Sreepur under Gazipur district, reports BSS.

Initiated by local authorities and members of the Italian Embassy in Dhaka, the centre was formally inaugurated last week, an embassy press release said here Monday.

The institute, constructed with funds received by the Italian Technical Cooperation and the Italian Non-Governmental Association, AIFO (Associazione Italiana Amici Di Raoul Follereau), has been donated to the Bangladesh NGO 'Gonoshashtya-Kendra' and will function as training institute for women as paramedic experts.

Besides, training rooms, there are sleeping quarters for the girls, laboratory and cooking facilities in the centre.

The first course of the programme has started with 25 girls, all of them secondary high school graduated, and will last 18 months.

The girls, recruited from all over the country, will receive free board and lodging, a monthly allowance, and free training.

The courses will be directed by doctors and two senior paramedics women.

The girls will be working in the villages around Sreepur in the field of health, nutrition and hygiene during the day, and will attend the classes in the evening.

Besides, the above institute, AIFO and Italian Technical Assistance are providing for the training of other 25 girls in the Savar centre of Gonoshashtya Kendra where the AIFO sent two Italian volunteers consisting of one obstetrician and one laboratory technician to supervise the three-year training course.

Deterioration of law, order in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, Feb 7: Law and order deteriorated in Kaliganj thana of the district in last one year.

According to a source 170 cases were recorded with Kaliganj police last year.



JESSORE: BDR personnel seized contraband goods worth Taka one crore thirty one lakh forty five thousand five hundred ninety six from different border areas of Jessore and Jhenidah districts under operations 'Winter Wolf' during January this year. The photos show some of the seized goods. A total of 39 alleged smugglers were held and 246 cases were recorded in local thanas during the month. The seized goods included wrapper, vehicles, 2182 pieces of motor parts, crocodile skins, one truck, fruits, motor cycles, current net for fishing, cosmetics, radio parts, ammunition, garments, pressure cookers, bi-cycle and bi-cycle parts, fish, crockeries, electric goods, ovens, medicine, machinery parts, hair clip, jewelries, brief cases, wall-clocks, tape-records, phensidyle syrup bottles, cattle, blouze pieces etc. — Star photos

91 outlawed party members surrender to police in Khulna

KHULNA, Feb 7: Some 91 activists of two outlawed communist parties surrendered here to the police in a body at Shovona High School premises in Dumuria thana on Thursday, reports UNB.

Police said, the activists of Biplobi Communist Party and Purba Banglar Communist Party surrendered with a pledge to return in their normal life and take part in nation building activities.

The surrendered activists included school teachers, UP members and physicians. Police, however, could not recover any arms and ammunition from them.

In the last two years, at least 20 people were killed at Dumuria and Tala thanas in the greater Khulna district by the outlawed party activists or following their inter or intra-party clashes.

Crop output in Kushtia falls as minerals in soil sharply declines

KUSHTIA, Feb 7: Crop production has been decreasing alarmingly due to sharp decline in the minerals in soil in Kushtia district, according to agriculture experts.

It is gathered that about 70 per cent land of the region has deficiency of minerals like sulphur, zinc and other important minerals which caused adverse effects on soil fertility.

Officials of the local Agricultural Department attributed the mineral deficiency in the region and over use of chemical fertilizer in the land.

Cultivators of the district said, paddy, jute and other crop production has decreased to a great extent due to mineral deficiency in soil. Experts suggested that cultivators should be encouraged to use natural fertilizers in the interest of maintaining fertility of the soil.

Usage of cowdung as manure in the process of cultivation of lands in Kushtia district has decreased and production of crops has become inadequate.

Drinking water supply project undertaken in Gopalpur

TANGAIL, Feb 7: Public Health Engineering Department, Tangail is constructing about seven km long pipe lines to supply drinking water to Gopalpur municipal area at a cost of total Tk 46.64 lakh in this fiscal year, reports BSS.

M H Jahangir, Executive Engineer of the department said that work is being done under 23 town water supply programme.

FF's welfare assoc formed in Srimongal

MOULVI BAZAR, Feb 7: Srimongal thana Freedom Fighter's Welfare Association, a local based organisation of the Freedom Fighters was formed at Srimongal under Moulvibazar district recently.

An eleven-member executive committee for the association was formed with former chairman of Srimongal pourasava MA Rahim as convener and Muazzem Hussain as member-secretary.

According to the newly formed association source, they will now look after the problems of the crippled and distressed Freedom Fighters and the families of the Shaheed families.

Further deterioration of law, order in Kushtia

KUSHTIA, Feb 7: Law and order has deteriorated in Kushtia.

Ten persons were injured in the first week of January following a clash between two groups of people at ward number 4 under Kushtia pourashava. Feuding groups used different sorts of lethal weapons. The injured persons reportedly have taken medical aid from private clinics to avoid arrest. Cause of the clash was reported to have been non-payment of prices of cigarette from a shop by a group of leaders of miscreants of that area who was manhandled by the people of nearby shop. Police, however, arrested 16 persons from the spot.

Bheramara police recovered a body of an unidentified man aged 30 from a field of village Paschim Bahirchar under Bheramara thana on January 9. The body was sent to Kushtia general hospital on the same day. Nobody has claimed the body. Police source said that the body bore several stab injury marks.

A group of armed dacoits raided the house of Tofez Molla in village Nawdapara under Daulatpur thana on the night of January 9. Inmates raised hue and cry and the dacoits fled. A clash between villagers and dacoits started resulting in injury of two. Police, however, arrested one injured dacoit.

Call to reopen CU

CHITTAGONG, Feb 7: The Chhatra League laid a siege to the Chittagong University campus demanding expulsion of the killers of Musa and reopening of the university.

Musa, a student of CU, was allegedly killed by the activists of Chhatra Shibir. However, the agitated students locked up CU gates and administration offices, campus sources said.

Abuse of human rights in district jails

KUSHTIA, Feb 7: Human rights is reportedly being violated in Kushtia jail causing sufferings to the imprisoned and undertrial prisoners according to a report received recently. Similar is the case in almost all the jails of the country where victims are huddling together for want of sufficient space.

Poor quality of food, unhygienic environment, lack of sanitation facilities and want of proper treatment facilities have made the lives of the inmates of the jail miserable and sometimes they die in the jail following inhuman oppression.

In this manner 31 imprisoned and undertrial prisoners died in different jails of the country according to reports available from various sources. Of them five died in Dhaka Central Jail, one in Sylhet, one in Madaripur, one in Chittagong, one in Jessore, two in Jhalakathi, one in Barisal, one in Habiganj, two in Rajshahi, one in Rangpur, one in Magura, two in Bandarban, one in Patuakhali, one in Dinajpur, one in Narsingdi jail.

The jail system was introduced in this country in 1836. In 1855 the post of inspector general was created. In 1894 the Prison Act Jail Code was created and this was revised in 1937. But all the laws enacted there in are not being followed and implemented which resulted in oppression upon the prisoners directly or indirectly.

A report of human rights commission published on June 1, 1994 said that 340 prisoners were kept in Gazipur jail where space is available for only 70 prisoners.

Office bearers of Narayanganj Photographic Society

NARAYANGANJ, Feb 7: The Narayanganj Photographic Society (NPS) has elected a 17-member executive committee for 1995 with Sunil Ameen, a renowned photographer, as its president.

The NPS elected the committee at its Annual General Meeting held at local Ali Ahamed Poura auditorium recently.

Zamirul Haque Nipu and M Zakir Hossain Munna were elected Vice-Presidents while Tapash Saha was elected general secretary.



MUNSHIGANJ: Forty brilliant students of Louhajung High School were awarded stipend of Tk 1,000 each by the Manju Bahar Kallyan Trust recently at a simple function. The picture shows some members of the trust with the students.

Training course on poultry rearing

NATORE, Feb 7: A three-month training course on poultry rearing began here at Dhanaidaha last week, reports UNB.

Organised by Baraigram Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), Baraigram, this training course will be completed in March. Some distressed women of the area are participating in the course.

The training has been organised in 15 batches in which each batch consisting of 25 women, has got a three-day training.

After the completion of the course, BRAC will also distribute loan among these distressed women.

Another report says: A four-day Agriculture Exhibition '95 was held here at Baraigram thana parishad premises, last week.

Organised by Baraigram Agriculture Extension Department, the exhibition was participated by different organisations and set up over 20 projects for display.

On the concluding day, Thana Nirbahi Officer M Golam Mostafa distributed prizes and certificates among the best participants. Caritas of Baraigram unit, an NGO, stood first in the exhibition.

Continuous piracy in Bay

BARISAL, Feb 7: Piracy on fishing trawlers in the Bay continues. The second piracy during this week was committed on the last day of January.

A gang of armed pirates numbering about 10 to 15 boarding a trawler engaged in fishing in the deep sea some 50 kilometres away from Patharghata thana of Borguna district and decamped with several articles worth about eight lakh taka.

According to Patharghata thana police, pirates swooped on FB Salma and FB Aleya one after another and looted away fish, fishing nets, engine spare parts including cash money.

When resisted pirates beat the fishermen on board mercilessly. Ten of the fishermen were injured two of them Golam Mostafa, 22 and Masud, 27, were seriously hurt who were later, admitted into Patharghata Health Complex in critical condition. Case is yet to be lodged in this connection.

One found dead

GAIBANDHA, Feb 7: An unidentified young man was found dead on the Dhaka-Dinajpur highway at Gobindaganj thana in the district early today (Monday), reports UNB.

Police said the man, aged about 30, might have fallen from the roof of a passenger bus.

A UD case has been filed with the local thana.