

## National

## Contractors assault engineers in Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent  
JAMALPUR, Feb 7: Three engineers and other employees of Local Government Engineering Department, Jamalpur were assaulted by some unruly contractors on January 26.

Witnesses said a group of contractors numbering about 12 led by local Chhatra League leader Narayan Chandra Paul Rana stormed into the office of the executive engineer Md Ismail Hossain, assaulted him and others present there and ransacked the office room.

Witnesses said the contractors attacked the engineers as their tender bids were cancelled.

A case was filed with the police in this connection.

## Faridpur Minibus Owners' Assoc office-bearers

From Our Correspondent

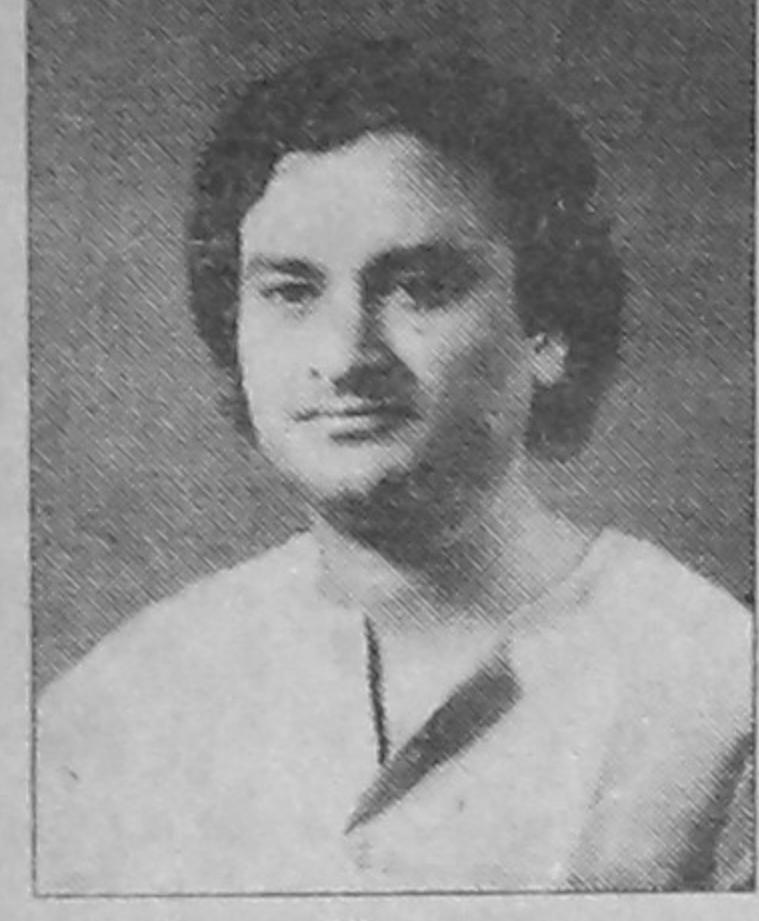
FARIDPUR, Feb 7: A 17-member executive committee of Faridpur District Minibus Owners Association was elected here recently with Md Abdul Kaiyum Mia, SM Shah Alam and Pramath Nath Saha as president, general secretary and treasurer respectively for the next term.

Besides, two vice presidents, two joint secretaries, two road secretaries, one social welfare and office secretary and seven executive members were also elected.

Prof Azizul Haque Khan conducted the election as returning officer.

## Best school teacher

From Our Correspondent



Feroj Khannoon

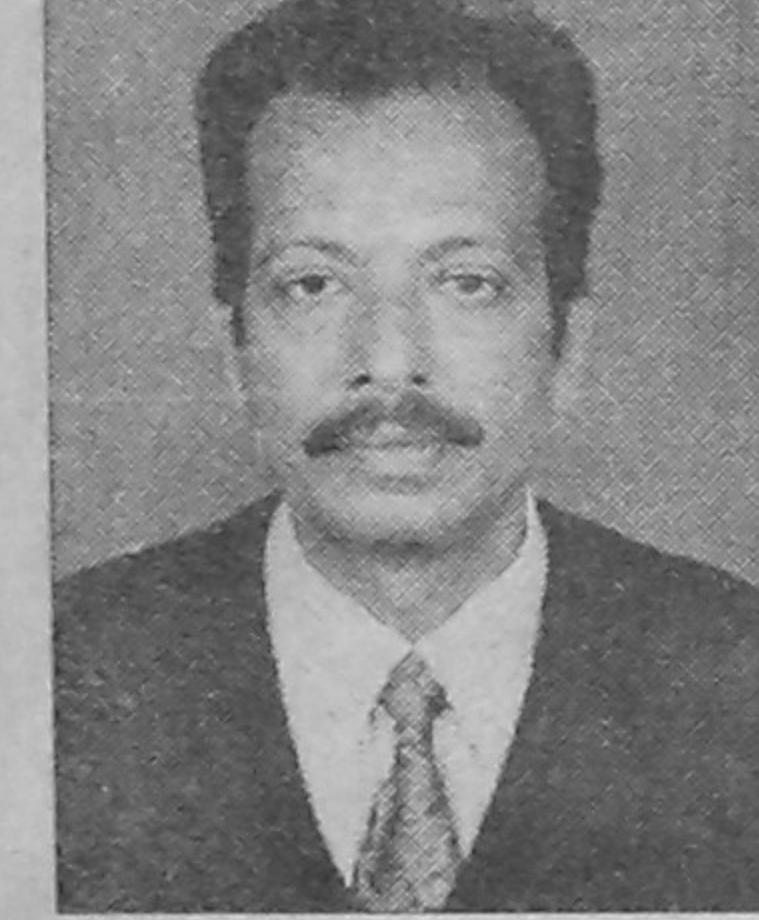
JHENIDAH, Feb 7: The headmaster of Manoharpur Kabi Golam Mustafa High School in Shailakupura thana was adjudged best school teacher in Jhenidah district.

The headmaster, Feroj Khannoon, joined the educational institution as founder headmaster in 1985.

Feroj Khannoon is also a singer of radio and television.

## New dean of BAU Fisheries Faculty

From Our Correspondent



Fazlul Awal Molla

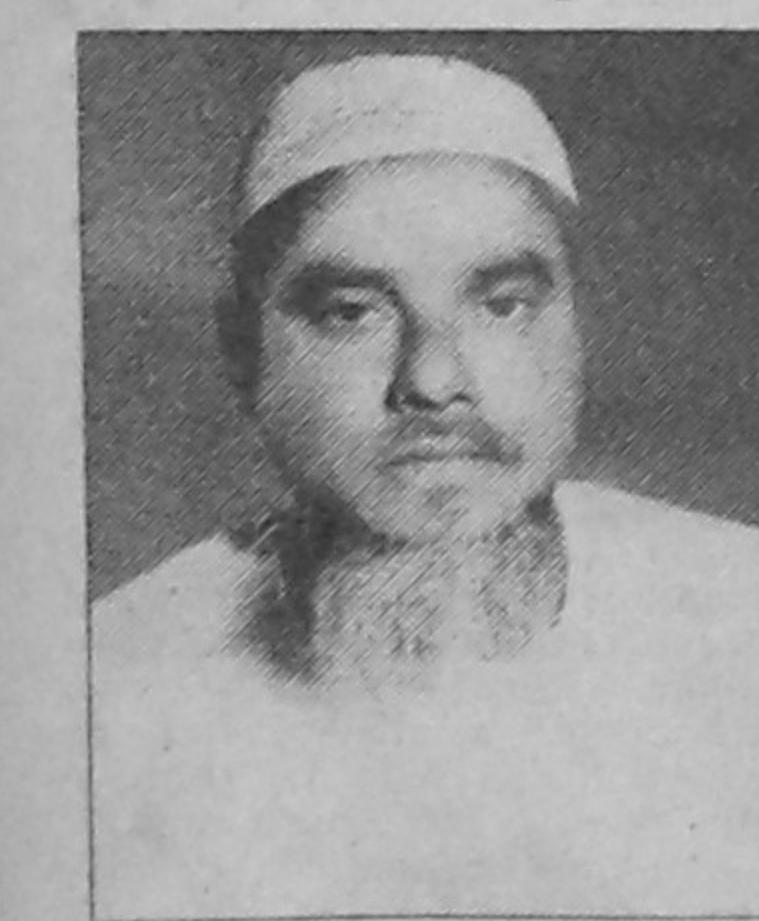
MYMENSINGH, Feb 7: Renowned fish scientist Professor Md Fazlul Awal Molla has been appointed the Dean of the Fisheries Faculty in Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) recently.

He joined the BAU as a lecturer in 1976 and was made professor in 1992.

He received the prestigious President Award in 1992 for his outstanding contributions to the development of fish resources in the country.

## Best teacher in Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent



Moulana Md Mohsin

JAMALPUR, Feb 7: Moulana Md Mohsin, associated professor of Kamal Khan Senior Madrasah, has been adjudged the best teacher of Jamalpur district this year.

Mohsin was adjudged best teacher for his contribution to the field of teaching in the district.

Mohsin, who hails from village Binander Para under Sadar thana, has been working as a teacher in the institution for the last 30 years.



Cricket, cricket everywhere

Over the last 10 years game of cricket has achieved immense popularity in the country. The picture shows a group of children in action with a hand-made bat and a taped tennis ball in Ukhia village near Cox's Bazar. Despite cricket's popularity, successive governments have ignored the need for a national cricket stadium. Instead, they have prioritised 'Hockey' and built a stadium spending millions. Hockey is not even played by one per cent of the entire population. — Star photo by A K M Mohsin

## Rice price up in Rajshahi

From Abdul Wadood

RAJSHAHI, Feb 7: Price of coarse rice has been increased by Taka 1.00 to 1.50 per kilogram in last one month in the markets of Rajshahi.

Market sources said that price of rice had remained more or less static for many days, but it had started going higher from the last days of the holy month of Ramadan.

"It is slowly rising every week now," said Aminul Huque, a retail trader in Shaheb Bazaar in the city.

The traders informed that there had been no shortage of rice in the area. But some unscrupulous big traders and hoarders are creating critical

shortage by hoarding rice in their store houses. The big farmers have also been cautious about selling their paddy and rice for some unknown reasons.

The wholesalers also observed in this way. They further said that import of rice from India on LC through Sona Masjid Landport had decreased.

A wholesaler, however, hinted that the ongoing anti-government movement of the opposition political parties had created tension among the traders and big farmers. The situation may aggravate more if the movements of the opposi-

tion alliance get tougher.

According to the local market sources, Swarna, Parija and IR-50 are the popular varieties of rice that are taken by common people. In the wholesale market one sack of Swarna

weighing 84 kilogram sells at Taka 1,040-1,070. About a month back it was sold at Taka 950 to Taka 970. In the retail market it sells at Taka 12.50 to Taka 13.50 per kg.

Parija sells at Taka 1,100 to Taka 1,140 per one sack of 84 kilogram in the wholesale market and at Taka 15.00 per kilogram in the retail market.

IR-50 is being sold at Taka 1,270 to Taka 1,300 per sack of

84 kilogram in the wholesale market while at Taka 15.50 to Taka 16.00 in the retail market.

Among other varieties, Pijam sells at Taka 17 to Taka 18 per kilogram in the retail market and Minigate at Taka 18 per kg.

The price of wheat also marked a rise by Taka 0.50 per kilogram in last one month.

Australian wheat sells at Taka 10.00 to Taka 10.50 per kilogram and the indigenous variety sells at Taka 9.50 per kilogram.

## Three killed in Gopalganj road mishap

From Our Correspondent  
GOPALGANJ, Feb 7: Three persons were killed and 5 others injured, two of them seriously in a truck accident on Faridpur-Teknorhat Road under Mukundpur thana in Gopalganj district on Saturday morning.

According to Mukundpur thana police sources, a truck was coming to the fish market of Gopalganj from Faridpur for carrying fishes. When the truck reached near Chumurdari village on Faridpur-Teknorhat Road, the driver lost control of the truck and fell into a roadside ditch after hitting by a big tree beside the road.

As a result three persons died on the spot and five others were injured.

The dead victims are Aziz Mondal, 30, Alam, 40, and one unidentified person. The persons in critical state are: Anan Mondal, 35, and Nodiar, 30, who are admitted into Faridpur Hospital.

An unnatural death (UD) case has been registered with Mukundpur PS in this connection.

## Touts grabbing land showing false deeds

From Our Correspondent

NARAIL, Feb 7: A bad practice of filing title suits with false deeds in the Dewani court here is going on unabated for the last few years.

At times it appears that a person who is very much present in his own home with his landed property, suddenly his possession of home and landed property is taken away by virtue of submitting false deeds and getting ownership in one's favour by a decree.

A group of tout persons who prepare such false deeds and obtain decree, are doing their business unabated. This process is very much prevailing in Lohagara thana.

As a result, the people always remain anxious and frightened as to how and when they are driven out of their homes and landed property by those decree makers.

People of the area want an immediate cessation of this dirty and illegal practice.

## News snaps

## Hunting of wild animals banned

KHAGRAJHARI, Feb 7: Local authority of Khagrajhar district has prohibited hunting, sale and purchase of all kinds of wild animals in the region of Khagrajhar district, reports BSS.

This announcement has been made as per decision of the recently held cabinet meeting. According to an information from ministry of environment and forest, hunting of all kinds of wild animal is prohibited for five years in the whole country. Announcement mentioned that according to law animal hunting, sale and purchase are punishable crime. Legal action will be taken against the person, who is involved with this business.

## 'Ostrich' salvaged

BARISAL, Feb 7: The pedalled steamer, 'Ostrich', which had run around and stuck-up in a vast paddy field of a shoal about a fortnight ago, was salvaged on Sunday, official sources said.

The steamer reached this divisional town at 10 am following its salvage from the rice field at Bhasan char, about 20 km from here, 14 days after the vessel was stuck-up. The vessel with about 500 passengers hit the shoal in poor visibility due to fog on January 23, BIWTA officials said. It could not be salvaged so long due to odd tide. The 837-seat steamer left for the capital on Sunday evening as per schedule with a good number of passengers.

## Mosharaf distributes loan

COX'S BAZAR, Feb 7: Civil Aviation, Tourism and Public Works Minister Engineer Mosharaf Hossain on Saturday distributed Tk 14,000 in easy-term loans among 26 distressed families under the Ashrayan programme, reports BSS.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said the government had undertaken poverty alleviation programme, allowances for the elderly and deserted women to bring smile to the face of the distressed people. Earlier, the minister visited the under-construction Ramu embankment being built at a cost of Taka 10 crore to protect the areas from the Banskhali river.



Country Sector leader of World Bank's Water and Sanitation Programme in South Asia Babar N Kabir recently met with Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor Mijanur Rahman Minu at his office. They discussed on arsenic problem in and around Rajshahi city. — Star photo

## Foundation stone laid

TAJMUDDIN, Bholia, Feb 7: Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed on Saturday said the present government could not be ousted through hartal and terrorism as the people gave it the mandate to rule by casting their votes under a caretaker neutral government, reports BSS.

Tofail was addressing a public meeting at Panchapalli Secondary School ground here on Saturday. He said Awami League is based on solid foundation and it has workers at grassroot level. Awami League has the strength to face all sorts of alternative ways of ousting the present government other than the constitutional process, the minister said. The industries minister gave a brief account of the success of the present government since it came to power in 1996. He laid down the foundation stone of the academic building of Bholia Government College.

## Warm cloths distributed

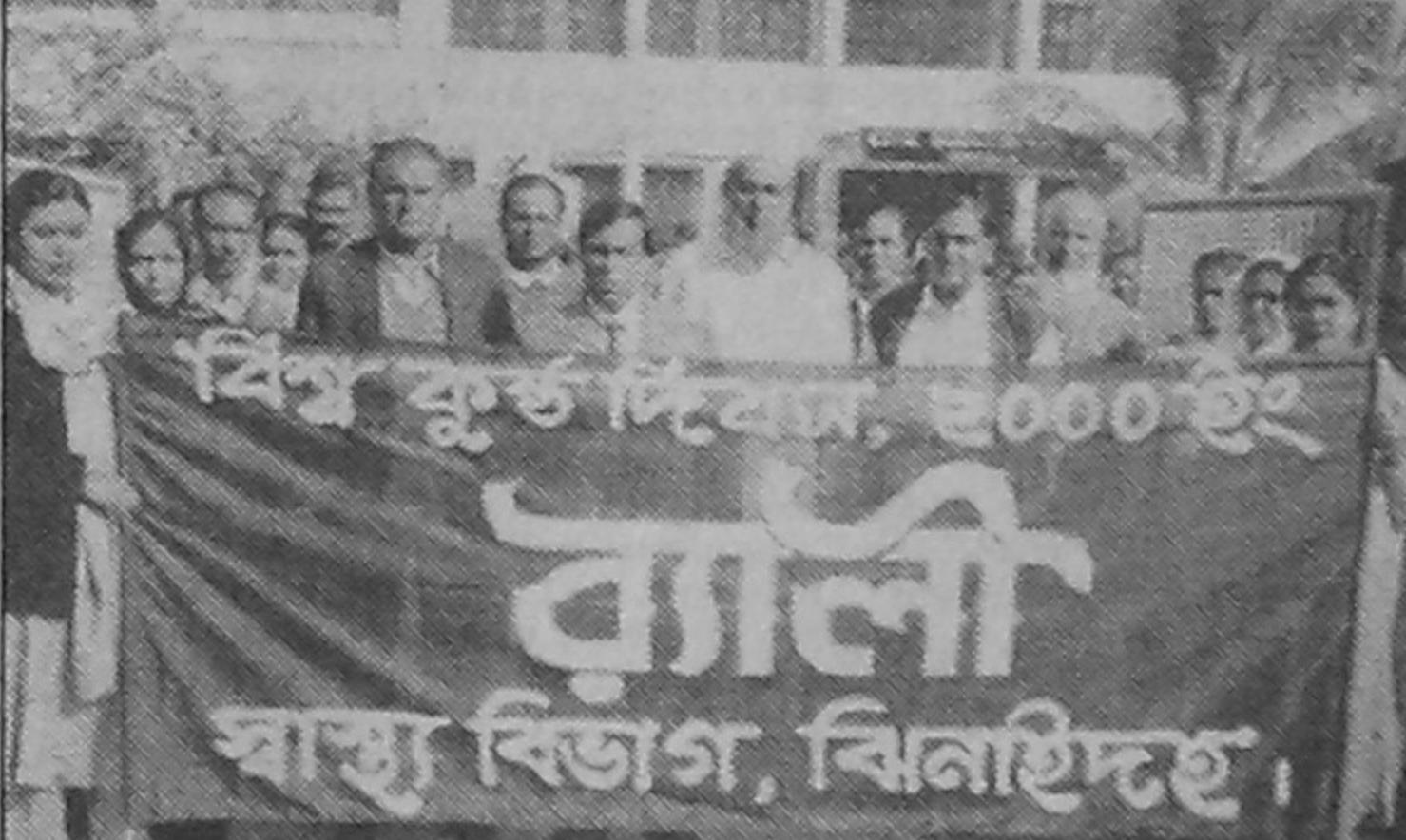
NETRAKONA, Feb 7: A mobile team of officers and employees of the Agrani Bank, Netrakona region distributed 300 pieces of warm cloths among the cold-hit floating people in different areas including Netrakona Rail Station and launch ghat of the district town recently, reports BSS.

According to official sources, the bank officials distributed winter cloths in response to the call of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for assisting the poverty-stricken cold-hit people of the country. Assistant general manager of the bank Abdul Ayash Khan accompanied by senior principal officer Mahammed Mynuddin led the mobile team.

## Recovery of Phensidyl syrup

SATKHIRA, Feb 7: The officials of District Narcotics Department (DND), Satkhira in separate drives seized 105 bottles of Indian Phensidyl syrup and arrested three women in this connection recently, reports BSS.

The arrested were identified as Farida Begum, 30, Firoza Begum, 22, and Bilkis Begum, 35. Two cases were filed in this connection.



Officials and staffers of Jhenidah Civil Surgeon Office brought out rally in Jhenidah town recently to mark World Leprosy Day. — Star photos

## Two convicted for possessing firearm

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Feb 7: A court here recently convicted two persons for illegal possession of firearm.

The court found Akhter Ali, 58, of Katulbari Char under Tangail district, and Ali Hussain, 55, of Ishapasha of Tangail district, guilty and sentenced them to ten years and seven years respectively in prison.

Police arrested the two with a pipe gun from Raudolotupur village under Kamarkhanda thana on 24 February 1995.

## Cub-campuri

MYMENSINGH, Feb 7: The Second Mymensingh District Cub-Campuri was opened at the local Circuit House ground on February 1, reports BSS.

National Commissioner (organisation) of Bangladesh Scouts and Secretary Local Government Badur Rahman attended the inaugural function as the chief guest.

A total of 476 cubs and cub-leaders of 12 thanas under Mymensingh district participated at the 4-day long campuri.

Speaking on the occasion Badur Rahman urged the cubs to build up their character with the ideals of cubs and scouts so that they become the real citizens of the country. He asked the cubs to follow the advice of their parents and also to give much stress on education.

Another reports says: An eight-day long cub and scouts' fair was opened here at the local VJ Government Boy's High School ground on January 27. The fair has been named after late Scout teacher of Chaudanga VJ Government Boy's High School M Rafatullah.

The Deputy Commissioner of Chaudanga M R Choudhury opened the cub and scouts fair in presence of a huge gathering.

A total of 320 cubs and equal number of scouts of the four thanas are participating in the fair.

The Cub and Scouts Fair concluded on February 3.

## Boro cultivation programme

PANCHAGARH, Feb 7: The Agriculture Extension Department (AED) has taken up a programme to bring 14,940 hectares in five thanas under Boro cultivation in the current Rabi season, reports BSS.

Official expected that 50,000 metric tons of Boro paddy will be produced in the district if the programme could be implemented successfully. Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank and other commercial banks disburse loan to the farmers to achieve the production target.

## REC constructs new power lines

CHUADANGA, Feb 7: The Rural Electrification Society (RES) has constructed over 25 kilometre new electricity supply lines in all the four thanas of Chuadanga district during the last six months of the current financial year, reports BSS.

The four thanas are — Chuadanga Sadar, Almudanga, Damurhuda and Jibannagar. According to an official source, the Rural Electrification Society has taken up a programme to construct 67 kilometre new electricity line in all the four thanas of the district during the current financial year of which 44 kilometre line will be constructed in Chuadanga thana, two half kilometre line in Almudanga thana and three and half kilometre line in Jibannagar thana.

## Madaripur Bar Assoc Committee

MADRIPUR, Feb 7: A 13-member Executive Committee of Madaripur District Bar Association was elected recently for the current year 2000 with advocate Mujibur Rahman and advocate Zafar Ali Mir as President and General Secretary respectively.

The elected office-bearers are: Vice-presidents advocate Abdul Quader and advocate Baduzzaman Badal, assistant secretaries — advocate Golam Azam Shamsin Goura, advocate Mahmudur Rahman Shahin, advocate M A Khaleque, treasurer — advocate Muslim Ali Akhund. The elected executive committee also included five members.



Bangladesh Protibondhi Foundation opened a new centre at Maria village under Maria union of Kishoreganj district on February 4. It will be a training centre for parents, community workers and disabled persons. It will have a school for the disabled as well as normal children. Ashok Madhab Rai, TNO was present as the chief guest. Prominent social worker Md Matiur Rahman was also present on the occasion. Dr Sultana S Zaman, founder and general secretary of Protibondhi Foundation presided over there.