

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 Khan Noon

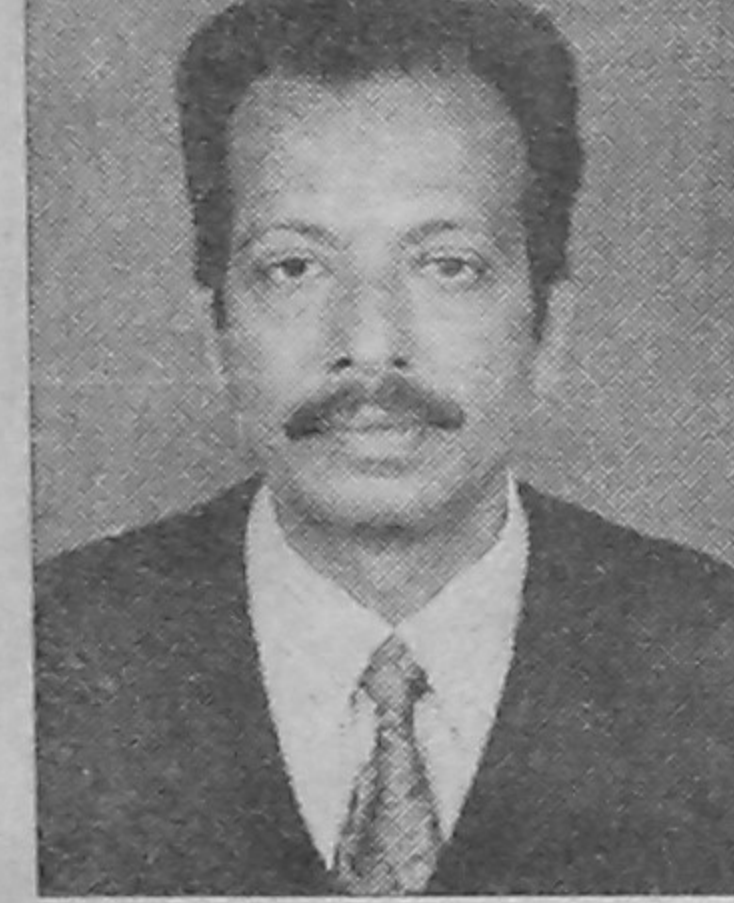
JHENIDAH, Feb 7: The headmaster of Manoharpur Kabi Golam Mustafa High School in Shailakupa thana was adjudged best school teacher in Jhenidah district.

The headmaster, Mr Feroj Khan Noon, joined the educational institution as founder headmaster in 1985.

Feroj Khan Noon is also a singer of radio and television.

New dean of BAU Fisheries Faculty

From Our Correspondent



Fazlul Awal Mollah

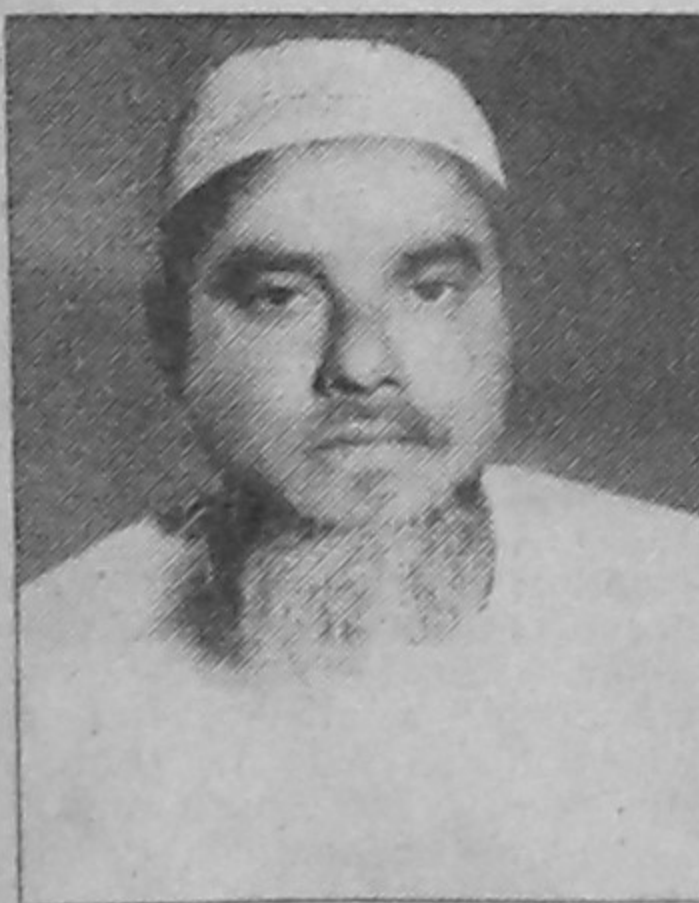
MYMENSINGH, Feb 7: Renowned fish scientist Professor Md Fazlul Awal Mollah has been appointed the Dean of the Fisheries Faculty in Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) recently.

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 handmade 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. Text by Morshed Ali Khan

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 Haque, a retail trader in Shaheb Bazar 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, Parjia 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.

Parjia 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 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.

Ershad criticises enactment of Public Safety Act

TETULIA (Panchagar), Feb 7: Deposed president H M Ershad on Sunday said "the worthless Awami League government has to be toppled forthwith" to save country that he observed has been relegated to a vassal state, reports BSS.

He strongly criticised the enactment of the Public Safety Act and said if this law came into force, then the Awami League government would have to bear all consequences.

He blamed the government for destroying country's economy, social security and stability, and as such "the only way to save the country is to pull down this government".

Ershad, the Jatiya Party chairman, made his plea at a public meeting at the northern tip of Bangladesh on the third

day of his tour of northern districts.

"The situation prevailing in the country pushed us into a life-and-death fight," said Ershad whose party has banded with the main opposition BNP of former Prime Minister Begum Zia and three other parties in an out-government movement against the government of premier Sheikh Hasina.

He said it was time to take a decision whether the country would remain a market of others or be self-dependent one, reign of terror would continue or peaceful society would be established, independence remain endangered or the people would stand with heads aloft as an independent nation.

"If we want to be self-depen-

dent nation and want to live with dignity and prestige, so a change needed to be brought. For that there is no alternative to downfall of this government."

Ershad said if this government stayed in power, there would be no security of life of common people as well as of government servants. Even a secretary was killed in broad daylight.

Failure of this government halted all development activities and took the country onto the verge of ruin, he observed, adding: "People want change and to fulfil people's hopes and aspirations Jatiya Party will have to come back to power."

Addressing a workers meet-

ing at Fulbari, the former President said this government will have to bring down from power before the new law — Public Safety Act — come into force.

To fulfil people's hopes, Ershad said four opposition parties had started united movement.

"We don't want to grab power, but people do not want to see this government in power," he said, adding that a patriotic nationalist government has to be established through an election under a caretaker government.

The meeting at Tetulia was presided over by Alhaj Abdul Aziz and addressed, among others, by Ismail Hossain Bengali, Karimuddin Bharrashah MP, Abdul Basit and Kamizuddin Prodhan.

Tofail says

Public Safety Act enacted as existing law fails to deal with terrorists

LALMOHAN, Feb 7: Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed said here on Sunday that the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been carrying out balanced development in all areas of the country, reports BSS.

The minister said the government had enacted the Public Safety Act to deal with the terrorists, extortionists and hijackers. The trial of the terrorists could not be held under the existing laws, he remarked.

Tofail said the anti-terrorism act was passed during the BNP rule for two years for the same reasons. He said the present act has no time limit and measures have been taken so that no one, including policemen, could harass the people.

Addressing a big public meeting at the High School ground here, Tofail said after forming the government, she has been working for the benefits of all people of the country.

Accusing the previous governments of taking up development programme from narrow partisan outlook, the Minister said the parliament of the past regimes had misappropriated government fund.

The parliament of the earlier governments, he said, had even misappropriated wheat allocated for the development of mosques.

Giving a brief resume of the development work of the government, Tofail said record growth has been achieved in all sectors of economy during the last three and a half years.

The present government, he said, had created a wave of development in the northern parts of the country through completing the construction of the Bangabandhu Bridge.

He said steps have been taken to set up power stations in Bhola, Barisal and Khulna

with the gas found in Bhola.

Tofail regretted that the opposition had started its one-point movement when the countries around the world acclaimed the performance of the government.

He said the three evil forces had forged alliance to halt the progress of the country and urged the people to foil the in-

trigues of the alliance.

Presided over by local Awami League leader Mohibul-lah, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Abul Kashem and union council chairmen Azizul Islam and Giasuddin Ahmed.

Earlier, the minister addressed public meetings at Ful-

bagicha, Gazaria and Debirchar under Lalmothan thana.

He also had a meeting with the newly-elected office-bearers of Bhola Bar Association at the circuit house.

Advocate Syed Ashraf Hossain and Advocate Zulfikar Ahmed, President and General Secretary respectively of the Association, led the delegation.

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-Takerhat Road under Mukshudpur thana in Gopalganj district on Saturday morning.

According to Mukshudpur thana police sources, a truck was coming to the fish market of Gopalganj from Faridpur for carrying fishes. When the truck reached near Chumnardi village on Faridpur-Takerhat Road, the driver lost control of the truck and fell into a roadside ditch after being hit 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 Mukshudpur 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 Dewan 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 decrees, 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 these decree makers.

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

10 healthcare centres to be set up in Rajshahi

RAJSHAHI, Feb 7: Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) has undertaken a project to construct 10 Primary Healthcare Centres in the city, reports UNB.

RCC under its Urban Primary Health Care Project will construct the centres at a cost of Tk 25 crore.

Each centre, to be built costing Tk 32 lakh, will be a three-storied building.

The centres will be run by non-government organisations under the supervision of the corporation.

Meanwhile, construction of four centres has started. The city Mayor inaugurated the work on a centre at Chota-banagram Assam Colony recently.

The centres will provide primary healthcare and family planning services, and implement EPI, diarrhoea control and Vitamin-A programmes.

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 Katuliar 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 Raidulotpur 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 Badiur 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 Badiur 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 Chuadanga V J Government Boy's High School M Refatullah.

The Deputy Commissioner of Chuadanga M R Choudhary 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.

News snaps

Hunting of wild animals banned

KHAGRACHHARI, Feb 7: Local authority of Khagrachhari district has prohibited hunting, sale and purchase of all kinds of wild animals in the region of Khagrachhari 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 wild 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 aground and struck-up in a vast paddy field of a shoal about a fortnight ago, was salvaged on Sunday, official sources said, reports BSS.

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 struck-up. The vessel with about 500 passengers hit the shoal in poor visibility due to fog on January 23. BWTA 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 Banshkali 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, Bhola, 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 Bhola 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 Abul Ayash Khan accompanied by senior principal officer Mohammed 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 Forida Begum, 30, Firoza Khatun, 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

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, Alamdanga, 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 sadar thana, two and half kilometre line in Alamdanga thana, 17 kilometre line in Damurhuda thana and three and half kilometre line in Jibannagar thana.

Madaripur Bar Assoc Committee

MADARIPUR, 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 Mia as President and General Secretary respectively, reports BSS.

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