

Upazila roundup

PATIYA
Timber worth
Tk 15 lakh seized

From Our Correspondent
January 25: About 10,000 Cft. of unauthorised timber valued at Tk. 15 lakh have been seized by Forest Department personnel from Reserved Forest under the range of Farua Alikang Sangrachi of Rangamatil Hill Tracts District.
Acting on secret information the Forest Department made the surprise operation. The seized timbers have been kept in the depot and a committee to inquire into the matter has been constituted.
Mention may be made here that depletion of forest resources is going unabated throughout the Rangamatil forest area in collusion with a section of forest department staff.

Puja was celebrated throughout the district, by the Hindu community on Sunday. Over 2,000 images of the goddess of learning were erected in the town and suburb, reports BSS.
Government Brojomohun College, Ramkrishan Mission, Bholaagirinanda Satyasram, Government Women's College, Hatem Ali College, Barisal College, Zila School, Saraswati Girls' School, held the puja.
A large number of devotees offered Angali at the feet of the image.
Cultural functions were also arranged on the occasion.

RANGAMATI
Rally against
Gulf war

January 25: About 800 people held a demonstration in Rangamatil town on Sunday to cry a hal in the Gulf war, reports BSS.
Quaran Khwani and Milad Mahfil were also held in the mosques invoking peace in the Gulf region.

KUSHTIA
29 prisoners
released

From Our Correspondent
January 25: Twenty nine convicted prisoners were released from Kushtia jail under Government amnesty on Wednesday last in the first phase. The new Deputy Commissioner, Kushtia Syed Hafiz Ahmed went to Kushtia jail at the time of their release and advised them to come in the normal life. He said that they have many things to do for the country and society in particular by leading honest life. Additional District Magistrate Mr. Sekendar Ali Mondol was present on the occasion.

One killed
One Sanwar Hossain aged two years succumbed to the injury on Wednesday last at Kushtia General Hospital. The child was admitted to the hospital on January 13 when he was hit by a minibus near Amla Bazar of Mirpur Upazila 13 miles away from here.

Sramik Karmachari union executives
Mr. Sultan Ahmed and Zaidul Islam Latif were elected President and General Secretary respectively for the year 1991 in the general election of Sramik Karmachari Union of Kushtia Sugar Mills held on Tuesday last. Others who were elected are Vice-President: A.K.M. Hannan, Md. Karimul Huq Md. Abul Kashem, Joint Secretary: Badrul Islam, Assistant General Secretary: Md. Firoj Aftabuddin, Organising Secretary: Md. Abdur Razzak, Games, Cultural and Publicity Secretary: Shahab Ali, Treasurer: Yakub Ali, Office Secretary: Md. Abul Kalam Azad. Besides 13 members have been elected.

Reunion
A re-union of ex-students of People's Inte Mills Secondary School was held recently at the school premises vice chancellor of Khulna University Prof. Dr. Golam Rahman attended it as chief guest.

BANDARBAN
100 eye patients operated upon
January 25: A 10-day long eye camp was inaugurated at Bandarban town hall recently, reports BSS.
Deputy Commissioner, Bandarban Hill District Mr. Ataur Rahman Mazumdar inaugurated the eye camp which has been jointly organised by Bandarban district administration and Local Government Council.

BARISAL
Saraswati Puja celebrated
January 25: The Saraswati

Piracy hampers sea fishing

COX'S BAZAR, Jan 22: Increasing piracy in the Bay of Bengal has seriously affected sea-fishing, reports UNB.

According to sources, organised gangs of pirates coming from West Bengal and Burma have been hijacking fishing trawlers from near the coast of Bangladesh.
Police said at least seven fishing trawlers with a few dozens of crew were taken away during last fortnight.

One of the trawlers, equipped with 33 horse power engine and complete fishing gear was taken out moving at Kastari ghat on December 18 last.

Two more fishing boats were hijacked tying up crew's hands and legs a few days back.
Anu Mia, owner of another boat said his boat was hijacked with all fishing accessories from Ghattibhanga ghat under Moheshpur upazila on December 16 last.

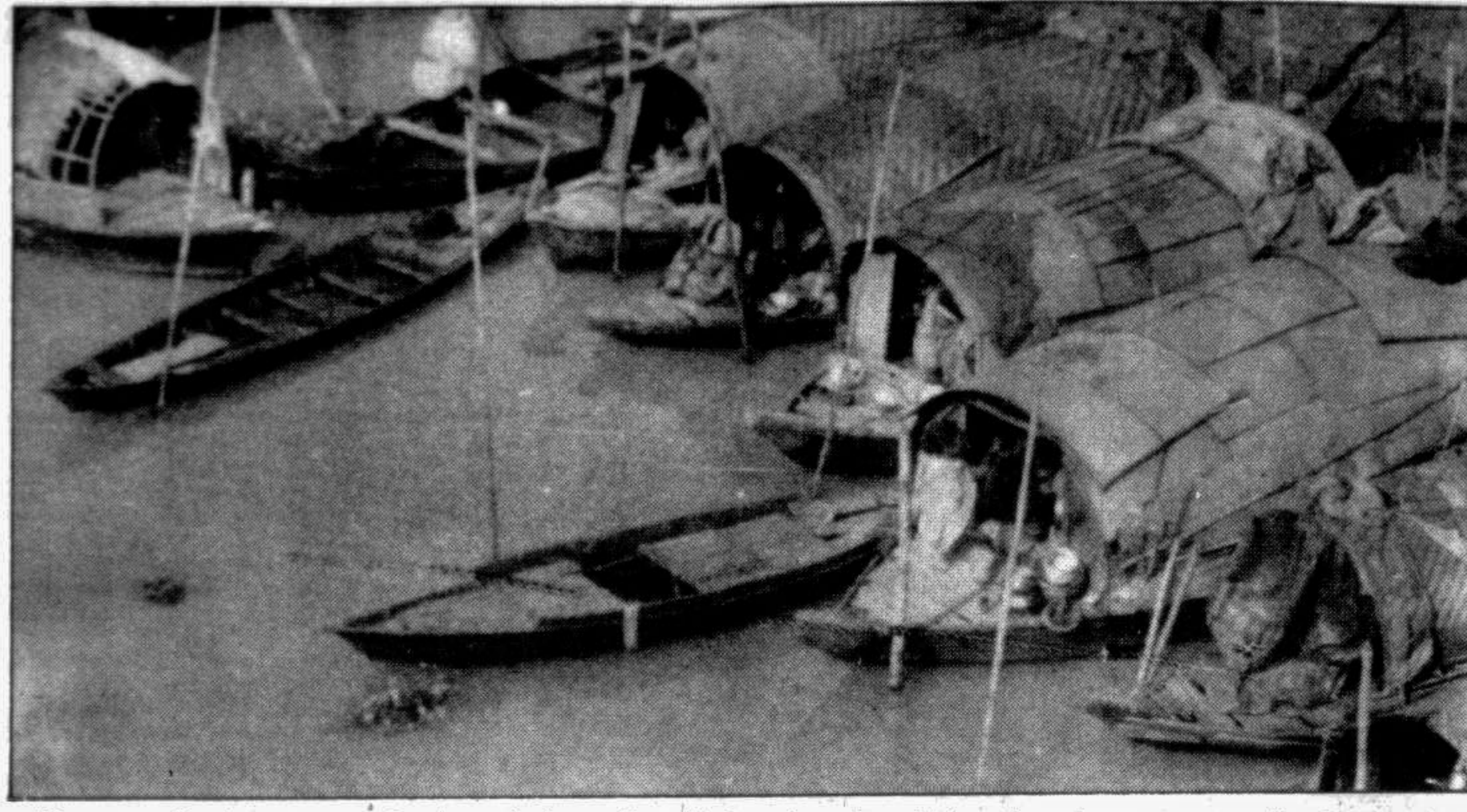
Another fishing boat moored at jetty number 6 of Banukhali river was hijacked with fish worth about Taka 50,000 along with crew on December 13.

Later pirates dropped the crew at Shapilpur under Moheshkhali upazila, sources said.
Another fishing boat 'Roksana' equipped with 33 horse power engine and 210 kachi fishing nets and crew were reported missing since November 21.

Number of rickshaws is on rise hampering the movement of vehicles and pedestrians in the town.
At least 3,000 rickshaws ply on different roads creating traffic jam, according to sources.

The man-pulled three wheelers are parked here and there causing congestion in busy commercial areas.
Free-style moving of rickshaws is said to be the reason behind frequent accidents. Rickshaws entering Pourashava area from outlying unions of the district are aggravating the situation.

Several organised gangs harboured by underground political parties committed the crimes in different areas of the district, it is alleged.



When even the slums are overflowing with the unabated influx of rural people into the urban areas, some floating populace find shelter in literally floating house—boats. —Star photo

Notes from Patiya

From Our Correspondent
PATIYA, Jan 25: The 21st founding anniversary of Tanjumul Muslemeen Orphanage at Shah Amenat (RA) Shrine lane, Chittagong was observed recently with Mr. Muslem Khan, Editor, the Daily Desher Katha in the Chair.

The Divisional Commissioner of Chittagong, Mr. M. A. Bari attended it as Chief guest while Peer Shaheb of Britus Sharaf, Chittagong Shah Moulana Abdil zabbar was the special guest.

Mr. Amirul Kabir Chowdhury, Deputy Attorney General Dr. Muinuddin Ahmad Khan, Professor of Chittagong University, Mr. D. K. Chowdhury, Chief Executive officer of Chittagong City Corporation, Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmad, Deputy Director, Social Service Directorate and Professor Zamaluddin Hezazi took part in discussion.

The annual report of the Orphanage was read out by Hafiz Muhammad Amanullah, Head teacher of the Orphanage. Certificates and turbans were distributed among 10 successful Hafiz Orphans.

The function was followed by a special prayer for immediate and honourable solution of the Gulf crisis.

15 die of gastroenteritis
Gastroenteritis has broken out throughout Swandip Island in an epidemic form. Fifteen persons have so far died of gastroenteritis and about 200 people attacked with it in different parts of the island.

No preventive or curative measures have yet been taken up by the authority concerned to combat the disease.
Acute scarcity of pure drinking water is one of the main causes of it is learnt.

If immediate measures are not taken to cope with the situation, the disease may spread surrounding areas rapidly killing more people.

One run over by truck
Muhammad Hossain was run over by a speedy truck bearing No. Chittagong NA-336 on Chittagong, Cox's Bazar Highway near ZoariaNala under Ramu upazil recently.

The mishap took place while the ill-fated victim was crossing the road. The driver of the killer truck, however, managed to escape.

A case has been lodged with the local police.

Stands First Class First
Agri-Varsity (Mymensingh), Jan 25: Md. Ruhul Amin stood 1st class first in the M.Sc. Animal Husbandry final examination in General Animal Science of 1986 from Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh held in 1990. He is the son of Dr. M.A. Samad, Manager, Buffalo Breeding Farm, Bagerhat. Mr. Md. Ruhul Amin also secured First Class First in B.Sc. A.H. (Hons) final examination of 1985 held in the year 1987 from the same University. Presently, he is a Lecturer, Deptt. of General Animal Science, under the faculty of Animal Husbandry of Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh.

Mymensingh Bar executives
From Our Correspondent
MYMENSINGH, Jan 25: The biennial election of Mymensingh District Bar Association was held at the Bar Association conference room January 20.

Advocate Md. Anisur Rahman Khan and Advocate Md. Kabir Uddin Bhuiyan were elected President and Secretary respectively. A 15-member executive committee was also elected.

Medicare meagre in Kushtia Hospital

KUSHTIA, Jan 25: Kushtia General Hospital is beset with increasing number of patients and has to accommodate 150 patients with extra beds on the floor. Others go back disappointed although they need admission.

Municipal market
Another report adds: Kushtia Municipal market, the biggest market of the town is beset with multiple problems which include shortage of space, lack of maintenance and drainage system.

The market is situated in the centre of the town and was renovated in 1968 when population of Kushtia was 29 thousand. The market now provides opportunity to one lakh 35 thousand people for buying and selling their daily necessities without any further expansion and as a result it has become congested causing much inconvenience to the people. The gates of the market are overcrowded with indiscriminate parking of rickshaws creating difficulties to the market-goers. The buildings and tin sheds constructed in 1968 have become dilapidated as no repair work was done in the recent past. Tin roof of the covered portion of the market where fish and meat vendors are accommodated leaks profusely during rain.

The market is the management of Kushtia Pourashava

and its income is considerable. But no initiative was taken by the Pourashava authority to mitigate the sufferings of the people who are also the Tax payers.

Overloading
Overloading of buses and minibuses plying on Kushtia-Khulna, Kushtia-Ishurdi and Kushtia-Meherpur routes have become a regular feature and this is being continued despite heavy risk of lives.

The drivers of these vehicles hardly follow the existing traffic rules and resort to high speed at their whims. They tend to compete with each other in plying transports regardless of the safety of passengers.

The drivers do not maintain rules of stoppage and stop their vehicles at unschedule places to take passengers. As a result no transport can reach its destination in time causing sufferings to the travelling people. It is alleged that conductors of buses and minibuses realise fares from the passengers above fixed rate and occasionally there arise altercation in this respect.

Moreover roads in these routes are in bad shape and have developed pot holes for want of proper maintenance. Plying of vehicles on these roads is risky while over-loaded ones cover more risk. Silent role of law enforcing agencies in this respect only add to more risk than safety.

There is no blood bank in the hospital and it becomes impossible for patients to procure blood in time from outside. There is no doctor for eye department and as result the eye patients are being deprived of the eye treatment.

There is no ambulance in the hospital for a long time. Ambulance available with fire service. Dar-Us-Sefa, and Kushtia Pourashava are being used for serious patients on request, it is learnt.



AGRI-VARSITY(Mymensingh): The Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University Prof. M. Asadur Rahman distributing prizes among the winners of indoor game competitions held recently under the auspices of Agri-Varsity Ladies' Club. —Star photo

Prices of building materials up

KHULNA, Jan 25: Prices of essentials including construction materials like cement and iron rods have marked a sharp rise in the retail markets following the out break of the Gulf war.

The consumers complained that hoarding by section of unscrupulous traders was largely responsible for the sharp rise of prices. Price of rice recorded rise by Taka one to two per kilogram whereas two kg tin of all brands of powdered milk have recorded a rise by Taka 15 to Taka 20.

Prices of soyabean oil, onions, ginger and vegetables and some other essentials like kerosene oil have also gone up.
Cement price recorded an all time high, a rise of Taka 30 per bag only week after the out break of Gulf war.

The price of iron rods for construction also marked a rise of Taka one thousand per ton.



A group of journalists now participating in a workshop at the Press Institute on 'child care' visited a village in Narasingdi to see for themselves the child care and immunization project there. They are talking to a mother about child care and other aspects. —Star photo.

Political scene
Gulf war shadows election gossips

Star report
Election gossips are rarely heard in the vast rural society. Gossips on Gulf war now dominate discussions in hats and bazars and almost every households. Big crowds, charged with tensions, gather in front of television and radio sets to listen every words of news and pictures on the war scene.
Polls campaigns which generated so much enthusiasm before the war broke out is now virtually non-existent. People who were divided on political views now seem united on the issue of Gulf war. Most people are supporting Saddam.

Our Chandpur Correspondent writes: The election campaign has started in full swing in seven upazilas of Chandpur district. Banners, posters and wall writings of different political parties are now appearing in larger number. Posters bearing the portraits of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Ziaur Rahman are being posted and painted on walls and buildings of the town. The posters of other political parties are also found here and there. The candidates are visiting their respective constituencies to mobilise the support of the people.

A total of 72 nomination papers were submitted at Chandpur district for six constituencies.
Prominent among are former Prime Minister and Acting Chairman of Jatiya Party Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, Ex. Minister Major General (Retd) Md. Shamsul Haq, Ex. District Council Chairman, Dr. Shahidul Islam, Prof. Abdullah, Ex. M.P. Nurul Huda, Alam Khan are contesting with B.N.P. ticket. Khalequzzaman Bhuiyan, convener of Five-Party Alliance, Abdullah Sharkey are contesting from B.S.D. Awami League central leader Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Mezbauddin Khan, Abdul Awal, Abdur Rob are Awami League candidates. Central students leader Zakaria Choudhury is contesting as Awami League candidates. Ex-Secretary Dr. M. A. Sattar is contesting as an independent candidate.

Brahmanbaria
Our Brahmanbaria Correspondent says: Nineteen candidates out of 77 of six constituencies under Brahmanbaria district have withdrawn their candidature in the coming parliamentary polls.

Now, 58 persons of different political parties will contest polls. Those who have withdrawn from the election race from Brahmanbaria-1 constituency are Sheikh Abu Taher (D.L.), Nazrul Islam (Jamaat), Brahmanbaria-2 Ali Akbar (Jamaat), Md. Fazlul Hoque

Amini(Independent), Shahrar Md. Feroz (Workers Party), Shumeshranjan Roy (Communist Party), Md. Abdus Samad (Nap-M), Brahmanbaria-3 Altaf Hussain Nazami (JSD Inu), Zillur Rahman (Nezami Islam), Tariqur Rouf (NAP -M), Md. Faruk, Editor, Millat (Freedom Party), Rustam Ali Sarker (Jamaat), Md. Shah Alam Khan (Nap-M).

Brahmanbaria-4 Amjad Hussain (Communist Party), Aksir M. Chaudhury (Workers Party), Brahmanbaria-5 - Taktir Hussain Jashim (BNP), Nurul Amin (Freedom Party), Mukhiesur Rahman (Jamaat), Brahmanbaria-6 - A.K.M. Abdur Rahman (Jamaat).

Mymensingh
Our Mymensingh Correspondent adds: Election campaign in Mymensingh city is going on in full swing.
From this area (Mymensingh-4) Principal Matiar Rahman (Awami League), A.K.M. Fazlul Haq

Rangpur
BSS from Rangpur adds: Thirty five persons withdrew nomination papers leaving 53 candidates to contest six parliamentary seats in Rangpur district.

Among others four JSD (Rab) candidates withdrew their candidature from four seats in support of former President Ershad.

It may be noted that former President Ershad is contesting from five constituencies in Rangpur district.
Meanwhile, All Party Students Unity (APSU) Tuesday held a rally at Jahaz Company Street corner with Shahinoor Rahman Sohel, President, Rangpur district Chhatra League (H-A) in the chair.

Anwarul Islam, Chhatra League (H-A), Abul Kalam Azad, Chhatra League (BSD), Faizur Kabir Lito (Chhatra Union), Atzul Haq, Chhatra League (Na-Sha), Kallol (Chhatra-Maitri), Shamsuzzaman Sabu (Chhatra Dal) and Atzul Islam (Jatiya Chhatra League) addressed the rally. Speakers demanded shifting of former President Ershad to jail immediately, arrest of his ministers, MPs, and Jatiya Party leaders associates of Ershad and 22 persons enlisted as public enemy in Rangpur and withdrawal of false cases instituted against students leaders by Jatiya Party government.

Earlier several hundred APSU worker and leaders brought out a procession and paraded the streets shouting slogans.

Irri, Aman output may exceed target in Chandpur
From Our Correspondent
CHANDPUR, Jan 25: About 60 thousand acres of land brought under Irri-Aman cultivation in 'Chandpur district' during the current season. According to the sources, about 20 lakh maunds of additional crops worth Taka 50 crores are expected to be produced in Chandpur irrigation project.

This is the biggest multi-purpose project which includes flood protection, irrigation, drainage, communication and pisciculture covering an area of about 220 square miles of Chandpur and Lakshimpur districts. The project is sponsored by Bangladesh Water Development Board. At an estimated cost of Taka-54 crore, 29 lakh of which Taka-17 crore, 15 lakh was financed by International Development Agency (IDA).

Chandpur, Faridgonj and Haimechar upazillas of Chandpur and Raipur, Lakshimpur and Ramgonj are included in the project area.

Smuggled goods over Tk 10 lakh seized
From our Correspondent
On receipt of a secret information a contingent of Bangladesh Rifles headed by Capt. Syed Mahmud Hasan and Customs Inspector Md. Liaquat Ali rushed to a place near Tapashidanga on Jessore Benapole road and to recover contraband Indian goods worth over Taka 10 lakh from a Dhaka bound night coach named Shoukhin Paribahan recently.

The recovered goods included sarces, clothes, costumes, scarf, bi-cycle and cosmetics which were later deposited to Khulna Customs.

Meanwhile, on the same day another special team of B.D.R. while conducting searchdrive in different vehicles on Sathkira-Khulna road recovered 25 bags of Indian sugar (60 maunds) from three minibuses.

Huge arms recovered in Jessore
From A Correspondent
JESSORE Jan. 25: A huge quantity of arms including 35 fire arms, 197 bombs and 306 ammunition were recovered by Kotwali Police of Jessore recently.

The police arrested 3,058 persons and started 577 cases including 20 murder cases during the period from January to December 31, last year.

According to the Officer-in-Charge of Kotwali Police Station Mr. E. A. Halim, nine tolas of heroine and 3 pounds of heroin like substance were also recovered and 52 persons were arrested in this connection. The police arrested 54 others on charges of women and children trafficking and rescued 31 women and children from their possessions. In addition, they arrested 42 persons and recovered Indian goods worth about Tk. one crore 50 lakh.

The Officer-in-Charge added that 47 persons were arrested in connection with dacoity cases. The police recorded 20 murder cases and 68 persons were arrested in connection with those cases.

est number of arms and ammunitions in Khulna Division in one year.