

Upazila roundup

BARISAL

Renovation of health complexes

From Our Correspondent January 26: The renovation works of the health complex of Hizla Upazila under Barisal district is going on full swing. The work is being implemented with an expenditure of Taka 28 lakh with the financial assistance of World Bank during current fiscal year. According to an official source, construction and renovation works of the complex are to be completed by the end of this financial year.

Book distribution

In total 2,87,900 sets of textbooks for primary classes will be distributed among the students of 942 government and 193 non-government primary school in 10 upazilas of the district this year under Universal Primary Education Programme. A source of District Education office told this correspondent, the books will be distributed free of cost among the students from nursery classes to class V. Of the total, 37,100 sets of books will be distributed to the students of class V, 46,700 sets to class IV, 50,100 sets to class III, 52,600 sets to class II, 85,650 set to class I and 15,600 sets of books to nursery classes. The text book distribution committees have been formed for regular and easy distribution of books. Distribution will be started soon.

NARAYANGANJ

Hats, bazars in bad shape

From A Correspondent January 26: At least 200 hats and bazars in six upazilas of Narayanganj district have long been in bad shape due to lack of care and maintenance. The main problems that impede normal functioning of the market places include shortage of space, indiscriminate erection sheds, bad drainage system and paucity of drinking water. All the hats and bazars except a few are unspacious. None of the bazars has been expanded in commensurate with the growth of population. Besides, rampant erection of unauthorized shops at blank spaces and on roads has further narrowed the space. In the absence of drainage system in Narayanganj town water logging on roads and in low-lying areas has become a regular feature especially in the rainy season. During incessant down pour, most roads in the town go under knee-deep water impeding movement of vehicular traffic.

BHOLA

Woes of phone subscribers

From Our Correspondent January 26: The telephone subscribers of Bhola district town have been suffering for a long time. They have to undergo much trouble to contact Dhaka and other distances over telephone. Bhola being an island district headquarters need good telephone link with the capital city and other places of the country. In spite of repeated attempts to contact Dhaka the telephone subscribers fail to get it. Local journalists face troubles in sending important news to different national dailies and news agencies. It is alleged that the Dhaka-Bhola telephone line remains alright but the operators of Dhaka telephone exchange does not respond to the Bhola telephone exchange call in time and regularly. Telephone subscribers of Bhola urged the concerned authorities to take necessary measures in this regard.

4 killed in B'baria road accidents

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, Jan 26: Four persons were killed in two separate road mishaps under Brahmanbaria district yesterday. In one accident three persons were killed on the spot and 14 others injured when a Dhaka bound local bus on Sylhet-Dhaka highway collided head on and fell into a road side ditch near Rajamaria Knadi under Sarail Upazila yesterday afternoon. According to the eyewitnesses, Akshay (50) of Dhirai under Sunamganj, Sachu Mia (18), Golam Hyder (50) were killed on the spot. The injured persons were removed to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital. Of them seven were admitted and others were released after first aid. A case has been lodged with Sarail Police Station. Besides according to Sadar Hospital sources, Siddiqur Rahman (56), a businessman of Mogra bazar under Akhaura Upazila was succumbed to his injuries on way to Sadar Hospital when the tempo he was travelling turned turtle near Sultanpur on Brahmanbaria-Cornilla high way yesterday afternoon.

GOURIPUR

Eye camp

January 26: An eye camp will be held at Gouripur (Mymensingh) from January 30 to February 1, reports UNB. Former President Justice Ahsanuddin Chowdhury will formally inaugurate the camp to be held under the joint auspices of Bangladesh Ophthalmological Society, Mymensingh Zila Samity and Gouripur Adarsha Paribar Sangstha. Eye specialists Prof. Humayun Kabir, Prof. Syed Modasser Ali and Prof. A. K. M. A. Mukhtadir will conduct the cataract operation. A voluntary blood donation programme will also be organised at the camp by the Sir Salimullah Medical College unit of Sandhani.

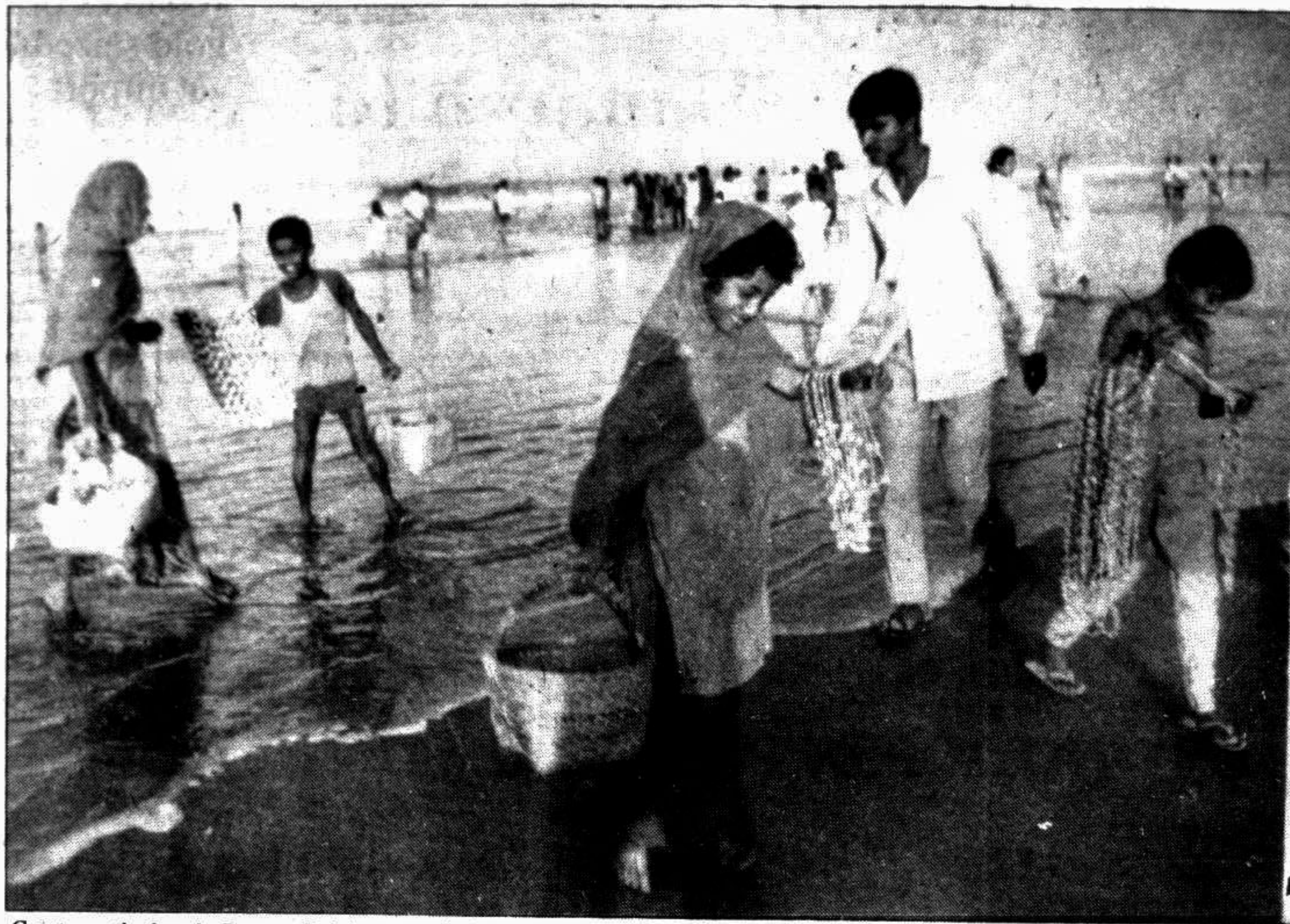
CHAPAINAWABGANJ

Police station building in pitiable state

January 26: Building of Bholahat police station in the district is now in a deplorable condition and may collapse at any time, officials feared, reports UNB. The building has been declared unfit for use 15 years ago by the Public Works Department but the station is functioning here since then risking the lives of the employees. The roof of the building has already been partially damaged and cracks have developed at many points. The doors, walls and windows are also in pitiable conditions. Rain water leaks into the building and remains stagnant even after a slight rainfall. As a result, the sources say valuable records of the station are being damaged by the rain water. But authorities have not yet taken any step for renovation or replacement of the station, the sources said.

SIRAJGANJ
4000 tons coal remain unsold
January 26: About 4000 tons of coal remained unsold in the district as brickfield owners are using firewood, official sources said, reports UNB. The sources said almost all the 60 brickfields in the district are using firewood indiscriminately despite government ban threatening ecological balance. Brickfield owners are reluctant to use coal as the firewood is available in the market at a comparatively cheaper price, the sources said. Local elite have urged the authorities to take stringent action against the dishonest brickfield owners.

BORGUNA
Construction materials price soars
January 26: Construction of new houses and repair of old ones has been hampered due to acute shortage of building materials in the district, reports UNB. Market sources say prices of brick, cement and timber have recorded a rise by about 10 to 15 percent adversely affecting the buyers. A bag of cement is being sold between Tk. 250 and 260 in the local markets. Dealers have attributed price hikes to short supply of construction materials to the markets. Meanwhile, firewood scarcity has increased the suffering of commoners. Per maund firewood is being sold between Tk. 60 and 80 here following its scarcity.



Gaiety on the beach: Boys and girls return back happily after selling flowers to the flocking visitors. -Star photo

Traffic rules violation
Launch journey becomes risky in Cox's Bazar

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Jan 26: Launch journey on all the routes of Cox's Bazar district has become hazardous mainly due to violation of traffic rules by the vessels. More than 80 engine-driven launches ply on Moheskhal, Kutubdia, Chakaria, Shaplapur, Badar Khali, Matar Bari and Daighata routes carrying thousands of passengers everyday. Most of these launches ply overloaded with passengers. It is alleged that these vessels do not possess life saving equip-

ment and are unaware of weather condition and other navigation rules. As a result sometime, they meet with accident. Most of the launches do not store pure drinking water for passengers. Besides, most of the launches have no good latrines and urinals. The people travelling on the Cox's Bazar-Kutubdia, Cox's Bazar-Matarbari, Cox's Bazar-Moheskhal and other launch routes have been facing much hardship due to the recent rise in the launch fare.

Presently the launch fare from Cox's Bazar to Kutubdia, Matar Bari, Moheskhal is Tk 35, Tk 30, Tk 10 per single trip against the previous fare of Tk 25, Tk 20, and Tk 5. It may be mentioned here that thousands of passengers of the Cox's Bazar district travel daily by launch over these riverine routes to different destination of the district. The launch and engine-driven boat fare has been raised with the recent increase in the price of oil.

Massive boro farming plan in Rangpur

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Jan 15: Agriculture Extension Department has taken a programme to bring about two lakh 39 thousand hectares of land under Boro cultivation in eight districts of Rajshahi Division in the current Boro season, reports BSS. The districts are: Rangpur, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari, Dinajpur, Panchagarh and Thakurgaon, according to a PID handout. Out of the total land about 2 lakh 27 thousand hectares will be brought under high yielding variety, seven thousand hectares under pajam and four thousand five hundred hectares under local variety. About six lakh eight thousand four hundred metric tons of boro paddy is expected to be produced in these districts if the programme is successfully implemented.

Tk one crore allocated for national park

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, Jan 26: The Government has allocated an amount of Taka one crore for overall development of National Park Ramsagar, 10 kilometres of Dinajpur town during the current financial year. It was disclosed in a meeting held at Ramsagar Dakbanglow premises recently with Mr. Md. Shahjahan, Acting Deputy Commissioner, Dinajpur in the chair. The Forest Officer, Dinajpur and other officers were present in the meeting. An elaborate programme was taken up in the meeting for overall development of National Park Ramsagar. Under the programme, a motel will be established at Ramsagar. On the other hand, roads will be constructed in all sides of Ramsagar, fresh drinking water will be served in all picnic corners and different kinds of

soplings will be planted in the Ramsagar. The Bangladesh Forest Department has allocated an amount of Taka one crore for implementing these development schemes at Ramsagar. These 3 year development schemes will be completed by June 1992. **Smuggler held** The BDR personnel of 23 Dinajpur Battalion recovered different kinds of Indian goods worth about Taka 1,37,378 and arrested one alleged smuggler from chapar border area on Monday morning. According to the report, the BDR patrol party challenged one person who entered Bangladesh territory from across the border and managed to arrest him. A case has been registered with Kotwali PS this regard and further investigation is proceeding.

Notes from Patuakhali

From Our Correspondent

PATUAKHALI, Jan 26: The overall law and order situation of Patuakhali district was reviewed in the monthly meeting of 'Law and Order' Review Committee held in collectors conference room. Upazila Magistrates, senior police officials, local journalists and representatives from different political parties attended the meeting. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Sheikh Md. Salauddin, Deputy Commissioner of Patuakhali. Additional Police Superintendents of Patuakhali Sanbadik Union and Press Club Mr. Aminul Islam were also present. The meeting expressed its deep concern for the inaction of law enforcing agency in recovering illegal arms and at the same time urged the concerned authority to gear up drive to recover illegal arms without delay. People apprehend that these social evils will let loose atmosphere of terror and horror in the forth coming election.

Bank building inaugurated Sonali Bank Principle Office building was inaugurated by Shaikh Md. Salahuddin, Deputy Commissioner of Patuakhali on January 19. It was supposed to be inaugurated more than a year ago but, as the contractor could not accomplish the mammoth task of construction in time, the work delayed. The inaugural ceremony was attended by Bankers, traders, high officials, local journalists. Mr. Jaheruddin, G. M. of Khulna Division Sonali Bank and GM of Dhaka Division Sonali Bank also attended the ceremony. The speakers in their address opined that this bank will be a milestone in providing service to the improved people of this region to build a rich and happy fortune for them and thus boost up economic activities.

Chess contest 'Shere-Bangla Srimitti Chess Competition' started here in the premises of Sher-E-Bangla Patagar Library on January 5. A total of 24 their name competitors are participating in this competition. The game is still going on. **Delay in wheat delivery blocks road construction** KHULNA, Jan 26: An allotment of about 637 tons of wheat for implementation of 18 kms long roads in six upazilas of Battaghata, Dacope, Disghalia, Piakatha, Terokhata and Rupsha in Khulna district, is likely to lapse due to delay in issuing delivery order by the Deputy Commissioner of Khulna. The wheat which was available under a special food for works programme for constructing link roads was a part of 47 district package deal under World Food Programme (WFP). The works in other 40 districts are learnt to have already started, but for a complicated procedure adopted by the Deputy Commissioner of Khulna, the work of this district could not be started although the issuance of delivery order, receiving of wheat and starting of works had a deadline of January 24. This delay resulted in cancellation of the allotment.

Fertilizer prices up Non-availability of TSP fertilizer has been persisting throughout Kushtia district causing threat to production of Rabi crop in this season. Crisis has resulted in a record rise of prices of the same in all the six upazilas of the district during last two weeks. **Bank building inaugurated** Sonali Bank Principle Office building was inaugurated by Shaikh Md. Salahuddin, Deputy Commissioner of Patuakhali on January 19. It was supposed to be inaugurated more than a year ago but, as the contractor could not accomplish the mammoth task of construction in time, the work delayed. The inaugural ceremony was attended by Bankers, traders, high officials, local journalists. Mr. Jaheruddin, G. M. of Khulna Division Sonali Bank and GM of Dhaka Division Sonali Bank also attended the ceremony. The speakers in their address opined that this bank will be a milestone in providing service to the improved people of this region to build a rich and happy fortune for them and thus boost up economic activities.

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Feridpur BSS from Feridpur adds: Awami League President Sheikh Hasina on Tuesday urged upon the people to give their mandate in favour of the boat in next month's parliamentary elections to help democracy stand on a solid foundation. Addressing a public meeting at Feridpur High School ground Tuesday evening on her way back to Dhaka from Tungipara, Sheikh Hasina said that the fruit of democracy must be parliamentary form of government. **Hasina** UNB from Moksdepur adds: Sheikh Hasina promised that if voted to power, Awami League will scrap the fifth amendment which obstructed trial of the killers of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. 'Law will take its own course and the killers of Bangladesh will be prosecuted', she told a public meeting here Tuesday afternoon, her second since launching the polls campaign Monday. The Awami League President said the Zia government had obstructed trial of the self-confessed killers by enacting the fifth constitutional amendment. Retreating her Party's

Political scene

War enters into election agenda

Star report

Political activists in many areas have taken up Gulf war as one of their main election agenda. They are mobilizing voters in favour of their candidates by upholding the cause of Saddam. In many hats and bazars election camps are decorated with the portraits of Saddam in addition to respective election symbols and portraits of party leaders or candidates. The political workers in course of holding rallies and taking out processions raise slogans in favour of the Arab cause side by side their own slogans. It appears that war has added an additional boost to their processions.

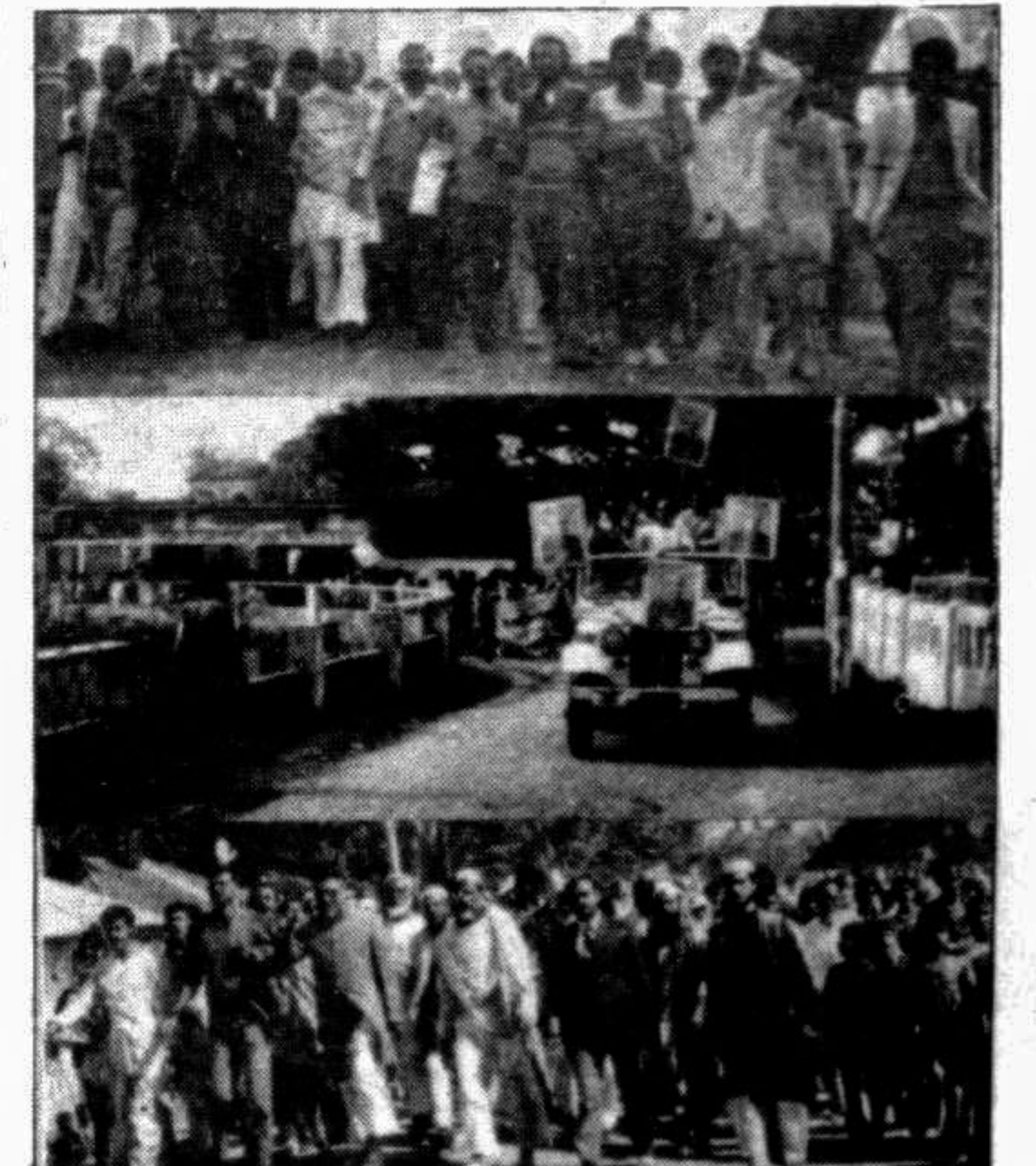
Our Barisal Correspondent adds: A total of 28 candidates withdrew their candidature from the February 27 election. Now only 91 candidates are on race in all the 5 constituencies of Barisal district.

Meanwhile, scores of processions are being brought out in Barisal town and its adjoining areas almost everyday demanding immediate halt to US and allied forces attack on Iraq.

The processionists also demanded withdrawal of multinational forces from the Gulf region and expressed solidarity with the people of Iraq and the President Saddam Hussein in fighting the allied forces headed by United States. A Correspondent from Kishoreganj adds: Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Rab) Kishoreganj district General Secretary Miah Md. Ferdous Advocate formally joined the Bangladesh Awami League in presence of district AL president recently. Earlier he invited the local journalists to the district Bar Library to announce his future programme. In his written statement to the Press Mr. Ferdous expressed that Awami League can bring the socio economic

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PABNA: Election processions. From top: RNP, UCL and Jamaat. -Star photo

emancipation of the people under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina. A large number of workers and important personalities were present in the function. Welcoming Mr. Ferdous, District AL President Mr. A. Hamid Advocate said that the whole patriotic people of the country should join AL for ensuring a people's government which was possible through workers get adequate wages, farmers get the fair prices of their products and inputs of agriculture are made available at fair prices. He was addressing a public meeting held here at public library premises recently. Bakul further said that the fundamentalists are engaged in Pandemonium in Chittagong University when eleven crore people are engaged in establishing a democratic system through free and fair election after ousting the autocratic leader of the country who has brought the country on the brink of ruination. The meeting organised by United Communist League and presided over by Comrade Jasimuddin was addressed by Comrade Brojen Biswas, Comrade Tipu Biswas, Anisur Rahman Mollik, Ali Ahmed Tutul, an Prof. Lutfur Rahman. The speakers criticised the role of United States of America for going into war with Iraq and demanded peaceful solution of Gulf war immediately failing which entire responsibility will lie on United States and peace-loving people of the world will not pardon President Bush for widespread catastrophe.

Kushtia Our Kushtia Correspondent says: Nur Ahmed Bakul, APSU central leader and a candidate for ensuing Parliament election in Kushtia constituency 3 said that the students movement will continue until and unless students community gets people oriented education policy, reached through ballots at the doorstep of every people. The Awami League chief said that our people have lost everything during the last 15 years of tyranny and autocratic rule of two generals. Describing presidential form of government as autocratic in nature, she said it only serves the interest of the few depriving the majority. **Feni** UNB from Feni says: Two journalists of Feni district will contest each other in the coming parliamentary elections as nominees of two major political parties.

Gorai erosion threatens Kumarkhali town

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Jan 26: With the fall of water level of the river Gorai erosion continues unabated at Kumarkhali where a large portion of Kumarkhali town has already been devoured by the river including part of Kumarkhali College and M.N. High School. People of Kumarkhali have demonstrated several times through holding of public meeting, processions in support of their demand for protection of Kumarkhali town. Students of Kumarkhali College and M.N. High School brought out processions and placed their demand for taking appropriate steps to protect Kumarkhali from erosion recently. A high level town protection implementation committee has been formed with advocate Aminul Islam, President, Kumarkhali Bar Association as its convenor who told this correspondent that the committee is going to take decision to go for token hunger strike in order to draw the attention of the authority concerned for protection of Kumarkhali town. It may be mentioned that Water Development Board (WDB) had taken some temporary measures to protect Kumarkhali town from erosion but those measures proved futile. Two groynes constructed

before liberation of Bangladesh for protection of the town could not serve the purpose because its placement was wrong according to experts. The experts also opined that construction of another groyne in middle of the two constructed earlier, could solve the problem and this requires huge sum of money and the Government sanction.

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COX'S BAZAR: A scene from a cultural function held at Zila Parishad auditorium under the auspices of K-andri. Kachi Kanehar Mela recently. -Star photo