

Upazila roundup

KUSHITIA

Arms recovered

February 6: Police recovered two home-made guns, two home-made rifles, four rounds of ammunition of point three-not-three rifle and one cartridge of gun Saturday from the bank of Kali river near village Dhalnagar, 12 miles from here, reports BSS.

A case has been registered in Kumarkhali Police Station in this connection. None has been arrested.

THAKURGAON

Tree plantation programme

From Our Correspondent
February 6: Agriculture Department in Pirganj under Thakurgaon district has undertaken a special plantation programme to minimise the vitamin deficit as well as to balance the ecology.

According to Mr Abdul Khaleque, Extension Officer, a total of 60,000 saplings of Kazi payara, 80,000 date seeds, 47,050 different fruit bearing plants and timber plants, 10,000 jack fruit plants have been distributed during the year among 12,656 students of 86 primary, Madrasa and high schools under the upazila. It may be mentioned that the upazila has already been declared as a fruit zone, it is learnt. Student's and teachers have been given training on plantation.

MYMENSINGH

Arms recovered

From Our Correspondent
February 6: Muktagacha and Nadail thana police recovered two pipe guns with three rounds of bullets of 303 rifle recently.

Muktagacha police recovered one pipe gun with one round bullet of 303 rifle from the house of Muzibur Rahman of the village Nagerpur under Muktagacha upazila and Nadail. Police recovered one pipe gun with two rounds of bullet of 303 rifle from the village Goyashpur. Police arrested one person.

Office-bearers
Mr Md Emanuddin and Mr Md Farhad Hossain were elected President and General Secretary respectively of Mymensingh District Motorjan Employees Union recently.

Other office bearers of the executive committee are: Vice-President Mr Abdus Salam, Joint-Secretary Md Fazar Ali, Asst. Secretary Md Abdul Gaffur, Puplicity and Organising Secretary Mr Bitash Gosh, Office Secretary Mr Abdul Latif and Treasurer Mr Nitay Chandradas.

MYMENSINGH

Women's college sports held

From Our Correspondent
February 6: The Annual Sports of Mymensingh Government Women's College was held recently in the college premises.

Convicted doctors' appeal rejected

MYMENSINGH, Feb 6: The appeal by three convicted doctors for negligence of duty causing death to a patient injured in a bus accident has been rejected and the sentences awarded to them upheld by the Additional Sessions Judge, Mr. Rafiqul Islam.

After hearing of the appeal filed by the doctors in April last year the Additional Sessions Judge gave his decision last Tuesday (Jan 29). Earlier, in April last year the Assistant Sessions Judge, Mr. A K M Anwar Hossain had sentenced Prof. Humayun Kabir and Dr. Shah Yakubul Azad of Mymensingh Medical College to pay a fine of Taka 20,000 each in default to suffer 4 months' rigorous imprisonment. Dr. Nurul Islam of Hahughat Health Complex was fined Taka 10,000 in default 2 months' R.I.

Besides, all the three doctors were also sentenced to two months' simple imprisonment each. The doctors were, however, on bail following their appeal (No.38 of 1990) before the District Judge.

shifted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital and admitted to orthopaedic ward by the emergency medical officer, Dr. Yakubul Azad. But no doctors had attended him for two days since his admission, despite repeated requests to both Dr. Azad and Prof. Kabir. Rather they advised the relatives to take the patient to a private clinic. As his condition continued to worsen the patient on the fourth day of his accident was released from the hospital at the initiative of the relatives and was taken to 'Momen Shahi Clinic' where the attending doctor examined and found gangren in the leg due to negligence. The patient was sent back to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital and operated upon by Prof. Humayun Kabir same night and amputated the right leg below the waist. The patient died on April 30, 1988 morning as the operation was not successful.

Chamber executives
A new executive committee of Gasbandha Chamber of Commerce and Industry was formed in a recent election with Mr. Shuhazada Anowarul Kadir as President and Mr. Abdul Latif Hakkani as Vice-President respectively. Earlier voters elected 12 members from general group and six members from associate group.

RANGAMATI

Kidnapped boy rescued

February 6:- Police here rescued a boy kidnapped a month ago from his house, reports UNB.

Masum Billah (11) was kidnapped on December 15 by one Siraj who was also nabbed, police added.

Masum's father was the chairman of Langalbandh upazila and was shot dead in 1985 by the members of outlawed Shanti Bahini.

SHERPUR

Building materials scarce

February 6: Scarcity of building material in the district has been hampering construction of new houses and repairing of old ones, reports UNB.

According to sources, prices of brick, cement and timber have gone up by 40 per cent in the wake of Gulf War. Market sources say a bag of cement is now being sold between Tk 270. Cement dealers attributed the price hikes to short supply.

Meanwhile, scarcity of firewood has compounded the miseries of the poor rural people. Firewood is selling between Tk 60 and 70 per maund in the market.

PABNA

Population Day observed

From Our Correspondent
February 6: National Population Day was observed at Pabna in a befitting manner. Elaborate colourful programme was chalked out by the local Family Planning Department to observe the day.

DINAJPUR

Properties gutted

February 6: Properties worth about Taka 47,000 were gutted Saturday in two separate incidents, police here said, reports UNB.

Witnesses said fire originating from oven destroyed properties worth about Taka 25,000 at the house of Jonab Ali Shah in Goadanga village under Khashma upazila.



TONGIBARI: A portion of Arial-Kalma road at village Niti Roy, the only road connecting three upazilas of Munshiganj district is yet to be developed. Here villagers crossing a bamboo bridge to their utter difficulties. —Star photo by Mohsin

Road journey hazardous in Narayanganj

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Feb 6: Number of road accidents in Narayanganj district has increased in recent days. At least 36 persons died and more than 200 others were injured in 48 accidents during the last four months.

Bus journey on different routes has become hazardous due to absence of proper control of respective authorities and bus syndicates. Over-loading, late running and undrivable competitions on the roads by the drivers have become a regular feature on these routes.

According to the Inter-District bus syndicate authority, about 1000 buses and minibuses are plying everyday carrying nearly one lakh passengers in eight routes to offer about 2,000 trips a day covering Narayanganj and Dhaka district behind Aricha Ghat.

The time-table and overall management of these routes

were controlled by Narayanganj Inter-District and Dhaka Metropolitan City and Inter-District Bus Owners Association. Due to loose control of associations these buses are seen plying at drivers will causing untold sufferings to the passengers, particularly to children and womenfolk.

Most of the mail, local or express buses in the name of "Gate Lock" are engaged in dangerous competition to pickup almost all the passengers for whatever distance they intend to travel. Over crowded buses at maximum speed seldom allow other vehicles to overtake them and ultimately involve in serious road mishaps.

Although present fare rate is 32 paisa for buses and 36 paisa for minibuses per kilometre, it is alleged that most conductors collect fares at their whims, resulting in altercation between the bus

employees and passengers. This has become a regular feature on all the routes.

The Narayanganj-Dhaka highway is nothing but a source of nightmare not only to motorists alone but also to pedestrians.

This 16kms long highway was constructed in 1986. The concrete portion of the highway has deteriorated beyond any repair. The metalled is also too narrow for the safe passage of the increased vehicular traffic. Accidents are numerous and damage to vehicles due to bad condition of the roads is also enormous.

A large number of trucks carrying goods and local buses are using the highway everyday made the road very bumpy. Both unpaved sides become speed barriers due to erosion. Drivers are found reluctant to give passage to on-coming vehicles or faster vehicles from same direction.

Heroin addicts on rise

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Feb 6: Heroin addiction cases are increasing alarmingly in the local town. Nearly 1000 families have been ruined as an effect of the heroin addiction and at least 100 persons died.

Heroin is being openly sold in the town and the law enforcing agencies pay a deal car to. Out of an estimated 10,000 heroin addicts, rickshaw-pullers, businessmen, frustrated youths and a number of political leaders are among them.

Heroin is reportedly smuggled into the town from Chapainawabganj via Ishurdi. A section of dishonest business-

men is making brisk business in heroin trade.

Our Rajshahi Correspondent adds: Drug addiction is on the rise in Rajshahi city and its adjoining areas morally degrading the young people and threatening the society.

Heroin, opium, charash, pathidin, sedatives and wine are being openly sold at shops in city areas, dwellers complained.

According to an estimate, about 30,000 people between age group 10 and 60 years have been addicted to drugs throughout the district.

The addicted persons and

others connected with trading, smuggling and storing of drugs have been doing their business openly.

Drug addicted people are involved in various crimes like hijacking and looting to collect money for buying sedatives.

A well organised crime circle is allegedly involved in smuggling intoxicants into the country from across the border through different border points in Greater Rajshahi district.

The people have called upon the concerned authorities to take stringent measures against drug traffickers.



PABNA: Addicts taking heroin in broad daylight. —Star photo

Teacher shortage in schools

From Our Correspondent

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Feb 6: The primary schools of Chapainawabganj district especially in the interior villages have been facing various problems for a long time.

Out of total 481 primary schools, 369 are government and 112 are private. According to the sources, the schools should be provided with 2405 teachers in total but there are only 1711 teachers now. About

694 posts of the teachers are vacant since long. Besides, 11 schools are running without headmasters.

Due to acute provision of classrooms the teachers are compelled to take classes under the open sky. Very few schools in the rural areas have toilets. Though the concerned authorities have been informed several times of the problems, no initiatives have been taken

to solve the problems. The Lompat Mollatola Primary School of Uzirpur union under Shibganj upazila has 600 students.

Due to lack of classrooms students are compelled to take their lessons under the shade of a banyan tree in front of the school.

There are only two damaged classrooms where water leaks through the roofs

Political scene

Campaigners demand higher remuneration

Star report

Workers hired for election campaigns by the candidates now demand better facilities. In almost all the villages and upazila headquarters day labours are readily available who are engaged in organising meetings, processions and making announcements. They work all through the day till late in the evening.

According to a report a large number of election workers at Bhairab Bazar held a meeting recently and demanded higher remuneration for their difficult job. The meeting resolved that henceforth the leaders for whom they were campaigning must give them filter-tipped cigarettes and tea with milk in addition to cash.

The meeting decided to boycott the leaders till the demand was met.

Netrakona

Our Netrakona Correspondent writes: The election campaign in Netrakona district has reached its peak just after allocation of symbol. The candidates are now visiting their respective constituencies to mobilise support in their favour. The supporters of candidates in their efforts to popularise the election symbols of their respective candidates are bringing out processions and making door to door campaign.

There are in all 35 candidates for five parliament seats in Netrakona district.

The constituency-wise candidates are:

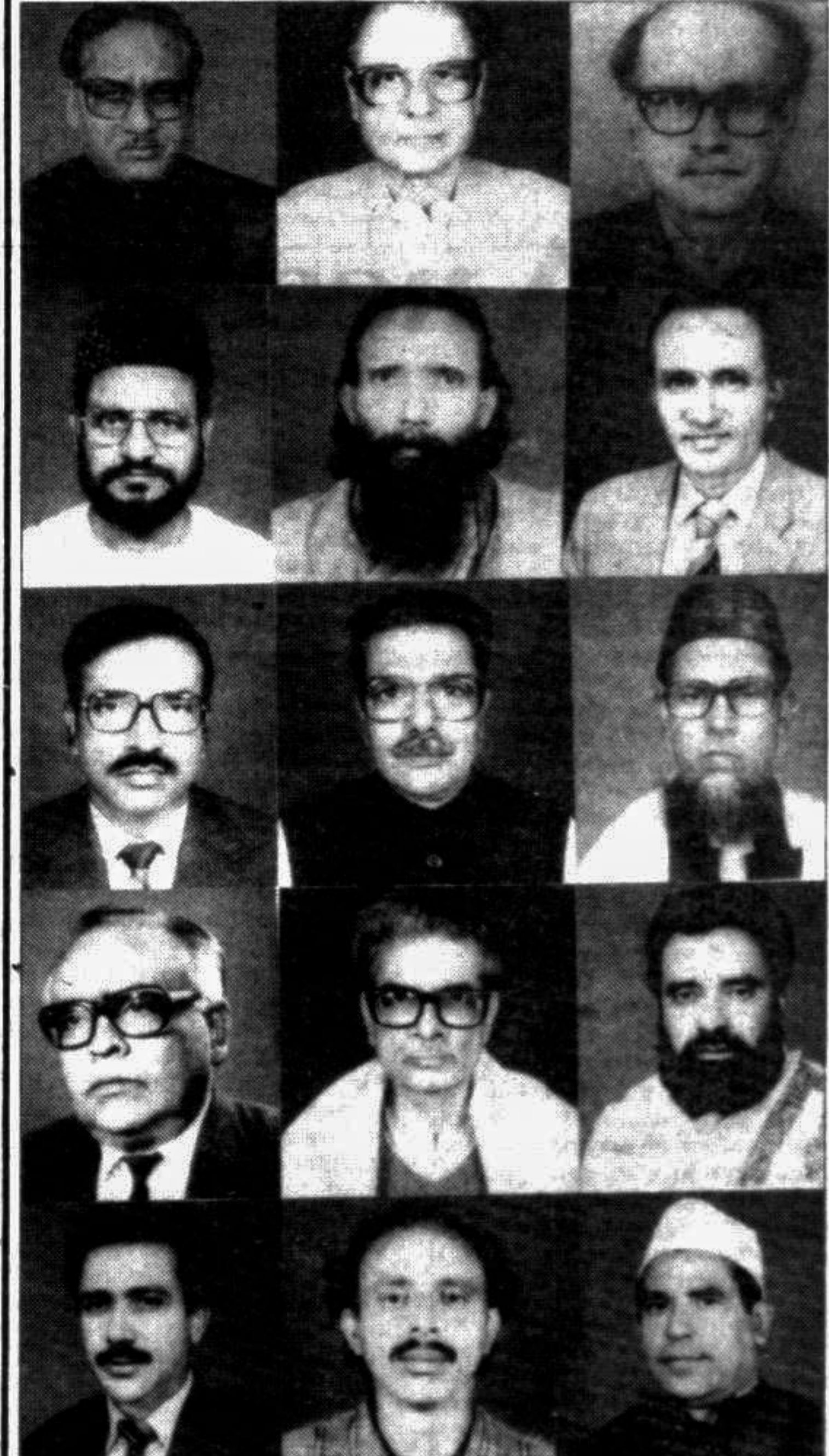
Netrakona-1, comprising Durgapur-Kalmakona upazila: Advocate M A Karim (BNP), Jalal Uddin Talukder (AL), Golam Rabani (Jatiya Party), Chhab Biswas (Ganatantri Oikya Jote), Golam Rabani (Jaker Party).

Netrakona-2, comprising Sadar-Barhatta upazila: Advocate Fazlur Rahman Khan (AL), Abu Abbas (BNP), Azizul Islam Khan (Ganatantri Oikya Jote), Ashraf Uddin Khan (Jatiya Party), Kabi Nirmalendu Ghun (Independent), S M Bazul Kader (Independent), Md. Zafar Ullah Khan (Islami Oikya

(BNP), Principal Shirazul Islam (Jatiya Party), Advocate Mushraf Hosen (AL), Abdul Matin Khan (Jamaat), Abu Siddique Ahmed (Independent), Mazim Uddin (Jaker Party), Abu Sahid (Ganatantri Oikya Jote), Nihar Ranjan Pal (Independent).

Kushitia

Our Kushitia Correspondent adds: As parliamentary election date is nearing people are becoming more enthusiastic with the hope that they would be able this time to exercise the voting right freely. Meanwhile, election campaign in the district has reached its peak just after allocation of symbol. Public meetings are being held everyday in different parts of the district by the respective candidates giving their manifesto and programme and to implement them if elected to power. The candidates have also started visiting their respective constituencies to mobilise support in their favour. The supporters of the candidates in their efforts to popularise the election symbols of their respective candidates are bringing out processions and making door to door campaign. Wall writings, posters and miking are



Candidates contesting from Netrakona district. From top left: Abu Abbas (BNP), Abdul Momen (AL), Azizul Islam Khan (Ganatantri Oikya Jote), Abdul Matin Khan (Jamaat), poet Nirmalendu Gun (Independent), S.M. Bazul Kader (Independent), Ashraf Uddin Khan (JP), Fazlur Rahman Khan (AL), Mvi Abdul Aziz Bhuiyan (Jamaat), Abdul Qudus (Ganatantri Oikya Jote), Jubed Ali (AL), Mr Abdul Ali (JP), Shariful Islam Khan Pathan (NDP), Braza Gopal Sarker (Ganatantri Oikya Jote) and M.A. Karim (BNP).

Jote), Fazlul Haque (Jaker Party), M A Motaleb Khan (JSD-Rab).

Netrakona-3, comprising Kendua-Atpara upazila: Advocate Jubed Ali (AL), Luthfi Ahmed Khan (BNP), Mvi Abdul Aziz (Jamaat), Abdul Ali (Jatiya Party), Shrajul Islam Khan Pathan (NDP), Advocate Abdul Kaddus (Ganatantri Oikya Jote), Atikur Rahman (Independent), Samir Uddin (Jaker Party).

Netrakona-4, comprising Mohanganj, Modan and Khaliyuri upazila: Mr. Abdul Momen Khan (AL), Luthfiyunn Babar (BNP), Braza Gopal Sarker (Ganatantri Oikya Jote), Atifur Rahman Khan (Independent), Shamsul Haque Mahub (Jatiya Party), Fazlur Rahman Khan (Jaker Party), Gulam Arshadur Rahman (JSD-Rab).

on in upazila towns to draw the attention of the voters. Vintage points of the towns have been occupied for housing makeshift stalls which have been tastefully decorated. Banners, festoons and party symbols have been hung around these stalls. Many stalls have been illuminated. Party activists are playing tape recording speeches of the late and present political leaders and music.

Party's stand and manifesto are displayed on wall posters of different parties. BNP posters are advocating for market-oriented economy and green revolution through canal digging stressing on Bangladesh Nationalism while Awami League posters are propagating for the establishment of Bengali nationalism and parliamentary system of government on the basis of 1972 Constitution.

Hailstorm lashes Kushtia: crops damaged

From Our Correspondent

KUSHITIA, Feb 6: Severe hailstorm accompanied by rain of moderate intensity which lashed Bheramara, Daulatpur and part of Kushtia Sadar upazilas late Sunday night caused extensive damage to standing crops particularly boro, wheat and tobacco, according to first hand report received here.

A BTC source hold that huge quantity of tobacco were grown this year in Daulatpur and Bheramara covering an area of 350 acres of land and its quality proved very good but due to this hailstorm the farmer will incur huge loss.

According to agricultural department wheat was produced in Bheramara and Daulatpur covering an area of 30,000 acres while boro transplanting was going on 1000 acres were completed.

Arms recovered

Kumarkhali police recovered four arms and five rounds of ammunition from Kaliganga river bank in village Dhalnagar on February 1, according to police source. The arms include two country-made guns, two country-made rifle, four rounds of 303 rifle ammunition and one cartridge.

It may be stated that police administration has geared up its activities in recovery of arms from illegal possessors in the backdrop of holding free and fair election.

Meanwhile, Abubakar Siddique, Police Super, Kushtia has had several meetings in this connection to make the recovery drive a success. A case has been started with Kumarkhali police station. None has been arrested.

Problems grip public library

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Feb 6: The century old Annada Govinda Public Library which has a glorious past is now suffering for fund constraints. Besides, the library is in the grip of various problems remaining unresolved over the years.

The dilapidated building, inadequate number of books and members of staff, lack of improved preservation system are failing to attract the people. As a result its members are decreasing.

There are some 20 thousand books and journals, many rare manuscripts including some on palm leaves in the library. But these are not properly maintained, it is learnt. The library authorities have sought government assistance to resolve the problems.

Founded by Jamindar Annada Govinda Choudhury in 1890.

Golden Jubilee celebration

From A Correspondent

IILUAGHAT, Feb 6: The Golden Jubilee of the Biradkhani High School at Iilughat upazilla of Mymensingh district will be celebrated tomorrow (Th-ursday). The headmaster Fr. David Gomes, CSC along with the teachers, former and present students will participate in the day long programme which will include laying of wreaths at the new Shaheed Minar, opening of library, dramas, and cultural function. The ceremony will be inaugurated at 10 am by Archbishop of Dhaka, Michael D' Rozario.