

Upazila roundup

MYMENSINGH

141 Degree examinees expelled

From Our Correspondent

February 12 : One hundred forty-one degree examinees were expelled for adopting unfair means in different centres of Mymensingh district.

Of them 40 were expelled from Nashirabad College, three from Mintu College, one from Mymensingh College, 91 from Goffarganj College, three from Phulpur College and three from Gouripur College centres. It may be mentioned here that degree (pass) examination under Dhaka University began on February 5.

Strict measures have been taken to check the unfair means in the examination halls.

One crushed under wheels

Abdul Mazed Khan (45) was crushed under the wheels of a Mymensingh bound minibus at Amtrabari in Trishal upazila on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway recently. The victim died on the spot. A case has been registered with Trishal thana in this connection.

Arms recovered

Police recovered 18 firearms and 15 rounds of ammunition from different areas of Mymensingh district during the last one month, according to a police source.

Out of the 18 firearms, there were one revolver, one two barrel gun and 16 pipe guns. The firearms have been recovered from Kotwali, Phulbaria, Phulpur, Muktagacha, Gaffarganj and Nandail upazilas.

BARISAL

9,467 hectares put under potato farming

February 12 : A total of 9,467 hectares have been brought under high-yielding variety of sweet-potato cultivation in seven southern districts in the current season, reports BSS.

The districts are : Barisal, Pirojpur, Patuakhali, Barguna, Faridpur, Rajbari and Gopalganj.

According to an official source production target of sweet-potato has been fixed at 99,571 metric tons this year in these districts. Of the total, 2,833 hectares are being cultivated in Barisal district, 809 hectares in Pirojpur, 405 hectares each in Patuakhali and Barguna districts, 3,883 hectares in Faridpur, 567 hectares each in Rajbari and Gopalganj districts.

A total of 70,822 hectares of land have been brought under the cultivation of sweet-potato in 40 districts of the country this year.

Constructions of 15 union family planning welfare centres are progressing fast in ten upazilas of the district at a cost of Taka 1,98,96,255.

According to an official source a sum of Taka 13,26,417/- has been allocated for each centre.

Construction of six centres have already been completed. The rest will be completed by June next.

CHANDPUR

Population Day observed

From Our Correspondent

February 12 : National Population Day was observed here on February 2 in a befitting manner.

In this connection a big procession was brought out which paraded the main streets with different posters, festoons and slogans on family planning.

Chandpur District Family Planning Office, organized a discussion meeting on the occasion at Chandpur Rotary Club Auditorium. The meeting was presided over by Md. Abul Kashem, Deputy Commissioner, Chandpur. The meeting was addressed by Dr. Noor Rahman, Dr. M. A. Rashid, principal, Matur Rahman, Prof. Md. Hossain Khan and Mahabubur Rahman, Deputy Director, Family

SYLHET

Polls observers exchange views with leaders

February 12 : The visiting three-member Commonwealth observation team led by Commonwealth Deputy Secretary General Sir Anthony Farrugia on Friday, Sylhet. The Commonwealth team

exchanged views with the district level leaders of different political parties at the Deputy Commissioners conference room.

The Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet told the members of the observation team that government had taken all necessary measures to ensure holding of free and fair elections.

The leaders of the political parties said they would extend all-out cooperation to the administration to help holding impartial and proper elections.

The other members of the team are director of Legal Division J. D. Polc and Assistant Director of International Affairs, Dr. N. O. Lintan.

CHITTAGONG

Plan to install 2,734 tubewells

February 12 : Local Public Health Engineering Department has undertaken a plan to install 2,734 shallow and deep tubewells to ensure supply of drinking water in rural areas of greater Chittagong district, reports UNB.

The department will also re-install 2,626 more tubewells in the current year under the same programme. With this, the total number of the tubewells will stand at 5m360 official sources said.

A programme has also been taken to provide ten rural families with one tubewell free of cost. It is learnt.

Planning. The meeting was conducted by Abul Hossain, Assistant Director, Family Planning.

Prizes and certificates were distributed among the mothers of two daughters and best family planning workers of the district.

KUSHITIA

Heroin recovered, one arrested

From Our Correspondent

February 12 : Kushtia police caught redhanded a seller of heroin and got enough information as to the secret of this trade and persons involved in it. One Nazimuddin, guard of Janata Bank regional office of Rajar Hat Road was arrested by police headed by Harun-ur-Rashid, A.S.P. while selling heroin in bank premises. Police recovered 260 grams of heroin from his possession recently valued at Taka two lakh 60 thousand in well covered packet inscribed Pakistani made best quality, as stated by police. The materials came to Kushtia via Meherpur from India. Police is active in arresting other accomplices. A.S.I. Azizur Rahman, constable Akram Hossain and S.I. Md. Ziaul Alam went to purchase heroin in disguise. A case has been started with Kushtia police station.

NABINAGAR

Poet Monomohan's birth anniversary observed

From Our Correspondent

February 12 : The 113th birth anniversary of poet Monomohan Dutta was observed recently with due solemnity.

A discussion meeting was arranged at his residence 'Ananda Asram' of Satmora village under Nabinagar upazila. Prof. Nani Gopal Sen presided over the meeting which was addressed by Mr. Abdul Qudus Makhani, Kazi Md. Anwar Hossain, Hamdul Haque Tukku, Advocate Sanaulah Noman, Prof. Syama Prasad Bhattacharya and Prof. Sanjit Das.

A drama 'Chyranjib Monomohan' was staged on this occasion. Biswa Nath Chowdhury wrote the drama and directed it.

Nareh, Dines, Sahin, Biswanath, Jalal, Akhter Hossain, Nazrul, Nawaz, Bilwabusan Dutta acted in the drama.

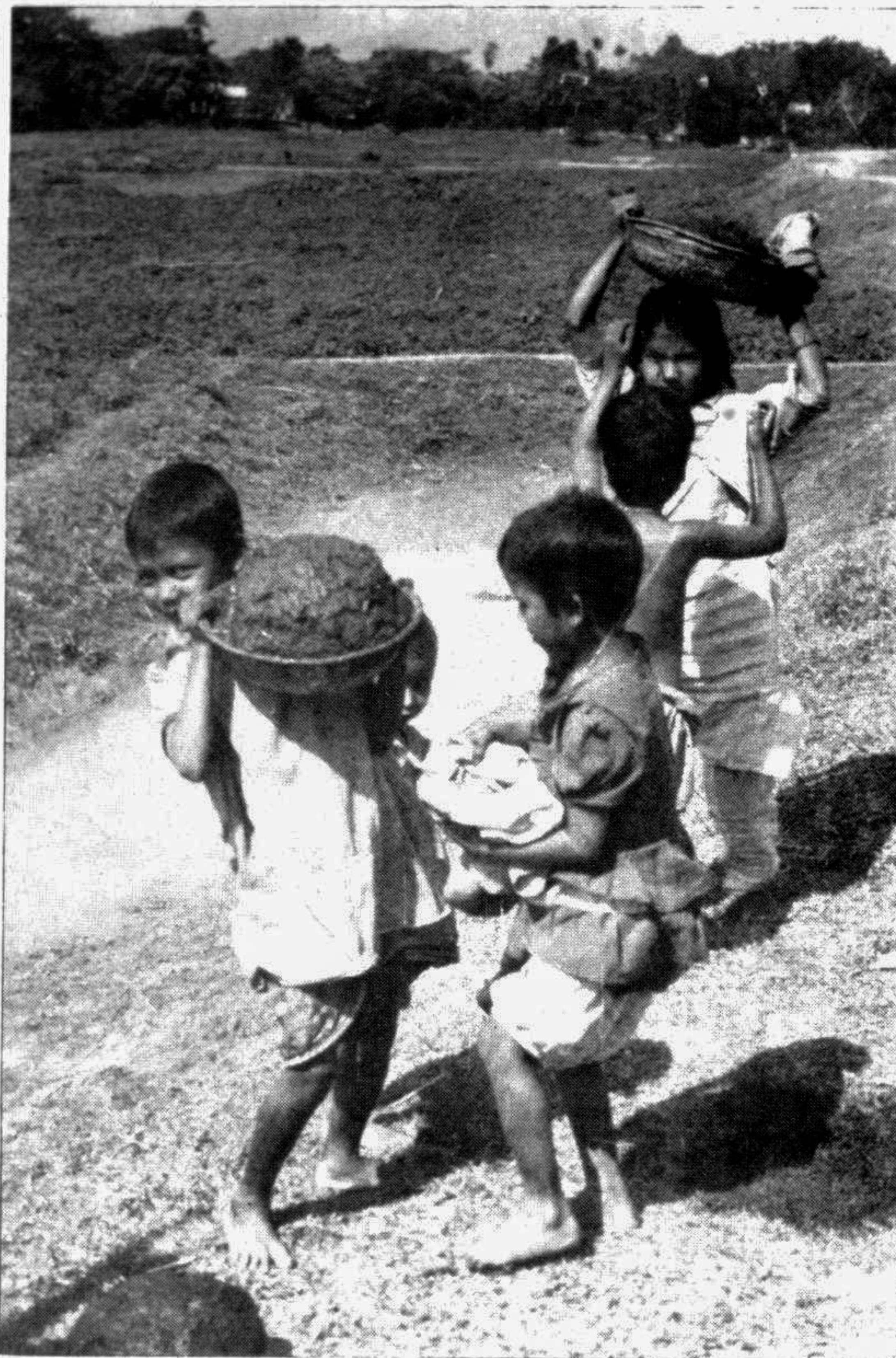
Agri-Varsity

Family Day celebrated

February 12 : With spontaneous and voluntary participation of the family members of the teachers and officers of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), a colourful family day was celebrated at the compound of the Vice-Chancellor's residence recently, says a Press release.

Arranged by the BAU Club, the day's programme included a cultural varieties participated by the club-members and their wives and children.

The function was conducted by Mr. I.W.M. Afzalur Rahman, Vice-President of BAU Club, Dr. Latiful Hossain, General Secretary of the club, Mr. Abdul Kuddus Mian and Mr. Asrafuzzaman Selim.



While other children of their age go to school and play with friends they collect cowdung to meet fuel crisis of their families. —Star photo

Tk 3 cr yarn stockpiled Barisal Textile Mill faces closure

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, Feb 12 : Barisal Textile Mills Ltd, the only textile mill of Barisal, is facing closure mainly due to shortage of fund and running capital though a huge quantity of cotton thread of about Taka three crore is still remained unsold in the mill godown. Barisal Textile Mills Ltd. was established here with the government endeavour after the Liberation War of '71. According to the sources, fund position of the mill now is in such a position that the mill authority has already stopped purchasing cotton even though the production of this mill is only cotton threads of different counts. Now the mill is running with a loan of about 19 crore Taka. It is learnt that the Textile Mills Corporation has sanctioned a loan of Taka 17 crore earlier and some months before further sanctioned a loan of Taka two crore but, it helped very little. The mill authority further applied for loan which has been refused, as the loan taken earlier is yet to be refunded. Besides, a good amount of loan taken from a commercial bank also has not been yet refunded.

Prices of essentials mark rise

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Feb 12 : Prices of essentials have shown upward trend over the last week in the district adversely affecting the consumers. According to the sources, Irri variety of rice is being sold in the local market between Taka 12 and 13 per kg as against Taka 10 last week. Pajjam variety of rice is being sold at Taka 13.50 per kg as against Taka 12 a few days back. Flour is selling between Taka 10 and 11 per kg as against Taka 8. Soyabean oil which was sold at Taka 25 per kg last week is now selling between Taka 32 and 35 per kg. Mustard oil being sold between Taka 48 and 50 per kg as against Taka 35 and 40 last week. Sugar is selling between Taka 35 and 38 per kg as against Taka 25 while kerosene is being sold between Taka 20 and 25 per kg as against Taka 12 and 14 a few days back. Onion is now selling at Taka 24 per kg. Moreover, prices of vegetables, fish, mutton, lintel, salt and powder milk have also shot up in the local markets. Knowledgeable sources said that some unscrupulous businessmen were manipulating prices of essential commodities to earn extra profit taking advantage of Gulf war. There is no reason for increasing the prices of essentials, said the source.



CHANDPUR : Farmers Association brought out a procession in the town recently in support of their demands. —Star photo

Seminar on drug addiction held

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, Feb 12 : A seminar on "drug addiction and its remedy in the light of Islam" was held here Wednesday.

The seminar organised by the Angkur Sahitya Sangsad stressed on awakening religious feelings among the people to combat the menace.

Forkan Ahmed, a local worker presided over the seminar where Sarwar Hossain, was the key speaker.

The problems of the newsmen were discussed with Mr. Ashikul Haq Chowdhury, new Deputy Commissioner of Madaripur at a meeting held recently at the conference room of D.C.

The Deputy Commissioner exchanged views with the local journalists on various aspects of reporting and assured the newsmen of his cooperation.

The meeting was presided over by the D.C. was also addressed by Salim Farazi, Sajahan Khan, and Forkan Ahmed.

Notes from Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Feb 12 : Mr Mujibur Rahman Proddhan, Additional District and Sessions Judge, Rajshahi in a judgement delivered recently convicted five persons and sentenced them to suffer imprisonment for life and to pay a fine of Taka 10,000 each in default to suffer rigorous imprisonment for one year more on the charge of murdering one Anwarul Islam of Alimogaj under Godagari Upazila.

The convicted persons are Md. Ruhul Amin, Md. Mohosin, Rabul Islam, Fazlur Rahman and Md. Abdul Wahab.

The learned judge found 11 other persons not guilty and acquitted them of the charge.

The prosecution case in brief is that Anwarul Islam was killed on the spot with deadly weapons by the accused persons on January 21, 1986, while he was returning home from Btunban village under Godagari Upazila.

The brother of the deceased filed a case with Godagari thana in this connection. After investigation police charged 16 persons.

The learned judge after examining the witnesses and evidences passed this verdict awarding the aforesaid punishment to them and acquitting the remaining persons.

The case was conducted by APP Advocate Ketabuddin and Advocate Sk. Kamal while advocate Asraf Ali defended the accused persons.

Arms recovered

Paba police in a raid recently recovered one 303 rifle with seven rounds bullet from Durali village under Paba Upazila.

Acting on secret information, the police party headed by Inspector Shariful Haque rushed to the spot and seized the rifle. A case has been registered with Paba police, in this connection.

Installation ceremony

The 3rd installation ceremony of the Leo Club of Rajshahi University was held recently at the Central Cafeteria. Lion Prof. Kaiser Rahman Chowdhury past Lions Deputy District Governor was the chief guest while Lion S.A.Q.M. Haroon and Lion Dr. Shamsuzzaman Chowdhury were the special guest in the function.

Prof. Kaiser Rahman Chowdhury in his speech urged the fellow Leo to serve the suffering humanity with devotion and promote the image of the Leo movement in Bangladesh.

Leo Rabul Haque, President of RU Leo Club presided over the function, which was held in two sessions.

Reintroduction of BRTC buses in Pabna demanded

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Feb 12 : The BRTC bus depot of Pabna built in 1981 at a cost of Taka one crore has now turned into cattle grazing field.

Two BRTC buses were put in service from November 15, 1988 by then State Minister for Communication which use to run between Pabna-Bhuri and Pabna-Rajshahi routes. There was a commitment for introducing another 10 buses at Pabna depot.

It is learnt that no new buses were introduced but the old ones are out of order and they are yet to be repaired.

The people of Pabna urged the concerned authorities to reintroduce the BRTC bus services in different routes of the district.

Political scene

'It's always convenient to be with ruling party'

Star report

Changing sides in politics is a common phenomenon. The leaders leaving a party and joining another have always strong arguments to put forward in their favour. But an independent candidate contesting the forthcoming polls from Sherpur has attracted public attention by his open confession regarding repeated change of allegiance.

The candidate tells his voters that he had always tried to remain associated with the ruling party for the sake of development of his upazila. He argues that a political leader having a say in the party in power can do a lot in making higher allocation of fund for the development of his area. The candidate now participating in the election from Sherpur-2 constituency was with the Jatiya Party headed by the ousted President H. M. Ershad.

Our Mymensingh Correspondent writes: The election campaign in Mymensingh 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.

Wall writings, postering and making are on in all 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 stall have been illuminated. Party activists are playing tape recording speeches of the late and present political leaders.

Sirajganj

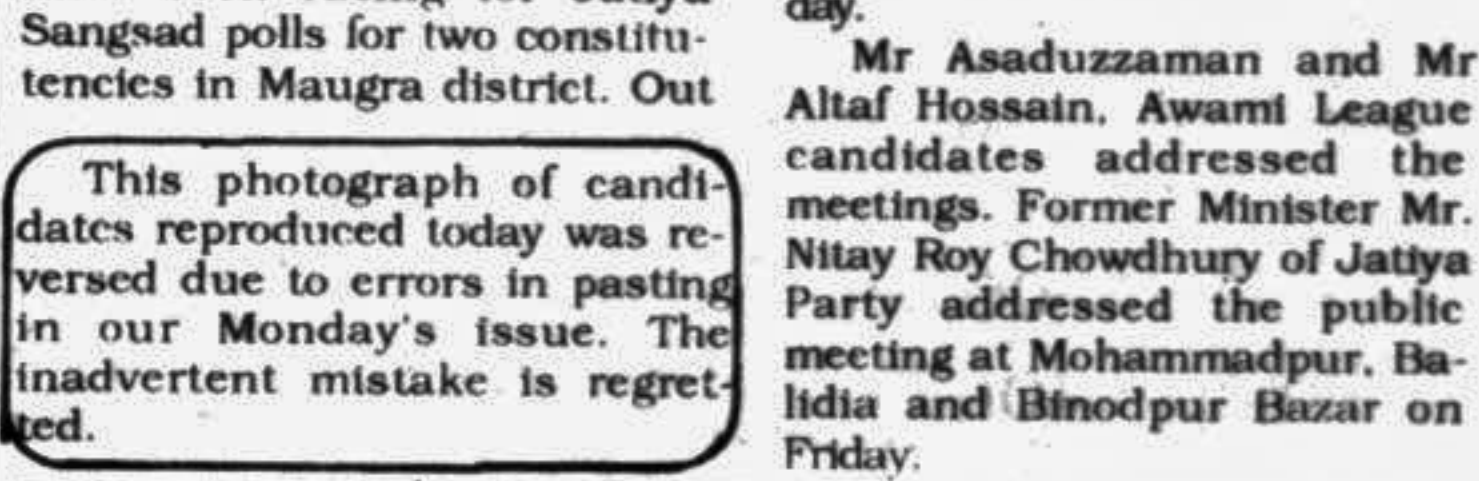
Our Sirajganj Correspondent adds: Awami League President and Eight-Party chief Sheikh Hasina blamed Zia and Ershad governments for spending national wealth in unproductive sectors causing utmost sufferings of common men. Addressing a public meeting on her second-day visit to North Bengal on Saturday at Kazipur with Abdul Qudus in the chair she assured the people of positive steps in all round development of Kazipur upazila including arrest of erosion by Jamuna in Sirajganj district if voted to power. Sheikh Hasina added democracy in truest sense prevailed only during Bangabandhu regime and democratic values were ruined by Zia and Ershad governments.

Magura

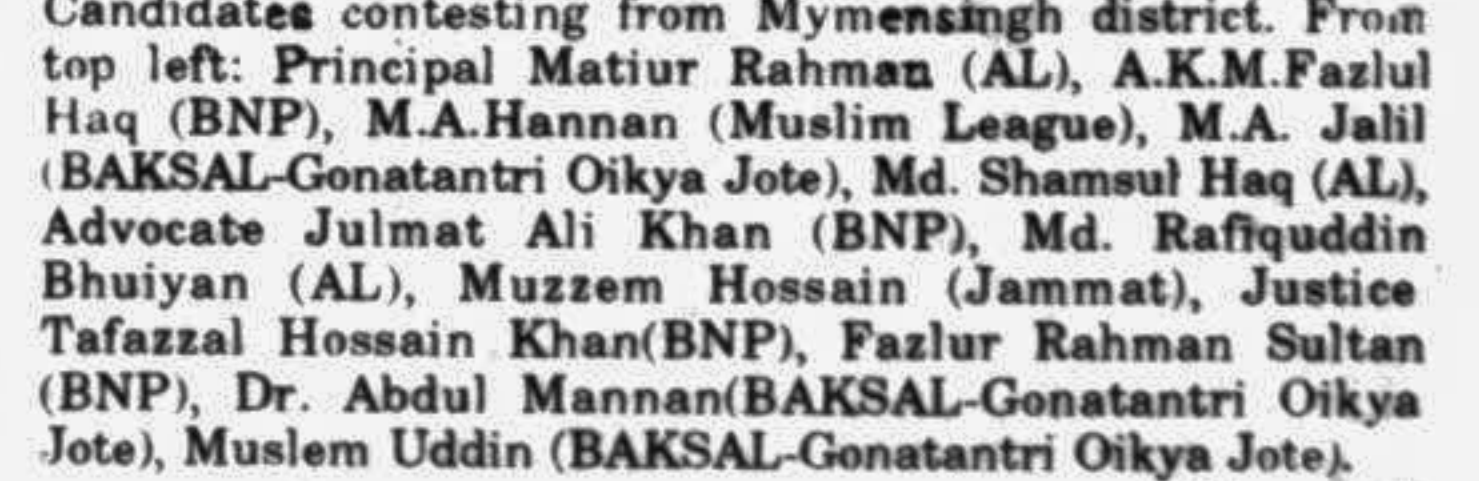
BSS from Magura adds: Election campaign has been a total of 18 candidates have been racing for Jatiya Sangsad polls for two constituencies in Magura district. Out

Magura district Awami League held several public meetings at village Fulbari Shotokhali, Shimakhali on Friday. Mr Asaduzzaman and Mr Altaf Hossain, Awami League candidates addressed the meetings. Former Minister Mr. Nitay Roy Chowdhury of Jatiya Party addressed the public meeting at Mohammadpur, Balidia and Binodpur Bazar on Friday.

This photograph of candidates reproduced today was reversed due to errors in pasting in our Monday's issue. The inadvertent mistake is regretted.



Candidates contesting from Mymensingh district. From top left: Principal Matur Rahman (AL), A.K.M. Fazul Haq (BNP), M.A. Hannan (Muslim League), M.A. Jahl (BAKSAL-Gonatantri Oikya Jote), Md. Shamsul Haq (AL), Advocate Julmat Ali Khan (BNP), Md. Rafiquddin Bhuiyan (AL), Muzamm Hossain (Jammatt), Justice Tafazzal Hossain Khan (BNP), Fazlur Rahman Sultan (BNP), Dr. Abdul Mannan (BAKSAL-Gonatantri Oikya Jote), Muslim Uddin (BAKSAL-Gonatantri Oikya Jote). —Star photo



Water-logging compels them to sell farmland

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Feb 12 : People of 96 village of seven upazilas under Jessore and Khulna districts are severely affected by water-logging for a decade.

The worst affected areas are Montampur, Keshabpur, Abhaynagar and Sadar upazilas of Jessore and Dumuria, Pultala and Daulatpur upazilas of Khulna district. About 95 per cent of the cultivators of the vast areas have been failing to produce paddy and other crops over last one decade due to the stagnant water. As a result, the farmers there are now engaged in fishing abandoning their century-old occupation

and reportedly selling their farm-lands to the inhabitants, residing at the high-lands as those remained uncultivated for years together. The long-existing problem of the region have almost ruined the economic backbone of the peoples, specially the farmers. Some of the poor farmers were learnt to have left the villages and have taken shelter at the slums of the urban areas. Failure of the Water and Power Development Board in reforming the Bhabdiah sluice gate and dredging the river Sreenadi was causing the water-logging since long.