

Upazila roundup

PABNA

Problems of cluster village people

From Our Correspondent

February 15: Cluster villages at Char Sadraipur of the district have been reported to be in acute crisis of pure drinking water resulting in outbreak of various water-borne diseases.

Villagers have alleged that faulty sanitary latrines and tubewells were set up there in collaboration with a section of corrupt persons of the authorities concerned.

They have demanded immediate probe into the matter.

Eye camp ends

A week-long eye-camp organised by Radhanagar Community Clinic concluded recently at Adarsha Girls High School.

Mr. Md. Abu Salaiman Mia, Deputy Commissioner Pabna formally inaugurated the camp as chief-guest.

A total of 700 patients were treated and 159 cataract patients were operated upon at the camp.

Dr. Quazi Quamruzzaman and Mr. Saidur Rahman, the representative of OXFAM distributed spectacles and medicines among the operated patients at the concluding ceremony.

DINAJPUR

Body recovered

February 15: Police recovered a body of a middle-aged man from his residence at village Jamrang under Phulbari upazila, reports UNB.

Relatives suspected that the victim, Mokhesur Rahman (40) was murdered after a family brawl on Monday.

Mokhesur used to torture his wife, Moyna Khatun, physically for her alleged affair with a co-villager Dabirul.

Police sent the body to Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

BRAHMANBARIA

Child diseases increase

February 15: Thousands of children in seven upazilas of the district have been suffering from various types of eye, skin and gastro-intestinal diseases, reports UNB.

Doctors said patients with the diseases had been pouring into their chambers in large numbers.

According to sources, the outbreak of diseases were attributed to vitamin deficiency, consumption of adulterated food and impure water.

Lack of necessary medicare in the hospitals and rural health centres of the district has aggravated the situation, the sources added.

People here have requested the authorities to supply essential medicines to Sadar hospital and rural health complexes.

MADARIPUR

Mineral deficiency in soil hits production

From Our Correspondent

February 15: Mineral deficiency in soil has threatened crop production in four upazilas of the district.

The agricultural experts said shortage of minerals like sulphur and zinc in soil caused decline in paddy production over the last year in Kalkini, Rajshir, Shibchar and Sadar upazilas.

CHITTAGONG

Train stoppage facilities for Hindu devotees

February 15: Bangladesh Railway (East Zone) has arranged for stoppage of some mail, Express and local trains from February 12 to 16 at Sitakunda here to facilitate communication of the Hindu devotees attending Shiv Chaturdashini mela at Sitakunda, a Railway Press release said, reports BSS.

The trains will stop at Sitakunda station as 3-Up, 6-Down Karnaphuli Express, 5-Up/6-Down Rajshahi Express, 101-Up, /106 Down and 105 Up /102 Down local.

Foreign cigarettes recovered

Detective of Chittagong Metropolitan Police recovered two thousand cartons of smuggled foreign cigarettes worth Taka two lakh from Patenga here on Monday.

Police said, the cigarettes were stacked at a place await-

ing transportation but the people present on the spot left them behind on the arrival of the police.

Meanwhile, 15 persons were rounded up by CMP on various charges from different areas of the city during past 24 hours.

BRAHMANBARIA

3 killed in separate incidents

February 15: Three people were killed in separate incidents during the last week, police here said, reports UNB.

Two unidentified people were crushed under the wheels of a Chandpur bound running train near Akhaura railway station.

In another incident, Mafizuddin (45) of Akaichara village in Nabinagar upazila here was gunned down by dacoits.

According to witnesses, the victim was killed when dacoits opened fire to disperse villagers who chased them. The robbers were fleeing after committing dacoity in a house in the village.

A case was filed with Nabinagar police in this connection.

COMILLA

Property worth Tk 20 lakh gutted

February 15: Properties worth about Taka 20 lakh were destroyed when a devastating fire broke out in 'Sonali Aash' Jute Mills at Shahidnagar under Daudkandi upazila of the district, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, at least 25 mill workers were injured while trying to extinguish the fire which broke out recently.

Later fire brigade personnel rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control.

A case has been filed in this connection.

SIRAJGANJ

Train journey hazardous

February 15: Journey by rail has become hazardous on Sirajganj-Iswardi, Bogra-Iswardi and Ishwardi-Chapainawabganj lines due to lack of basic amenities, reports UNB.

Travellers complain that most of the compartments hardly have any electricity. Lavatories remain mostly locked and if found open, they are simply unfit for use.

In addition, number of bogies are few in the trains running on these routes which enhances the suffering of passengers.

AGRI-VARSITY

Installation ceremony

February 15: The installation ceremony of the executive body of BAU Ladies' Club elected for the year 1991, was held at the BAU Club recently with Mrs. Merina Rahman, President of BAU Ladies' Club in the chair, says a press release. The out-going General Secretary of the club Mrs. Astya Zoha presented a comprehensive report on the annual performances of the club during the year 1990.

In her presidential address, Mrs. Merina Rahman spoke very high of the out-going members of the executive body for their sincere efforts in upholding the objectives and ideals of the club. She called upon the newly installed office-bearers to consolidate their energies and wills to push onward the glorious tradition of the club in a creative manner.

KHULNA

2 killed by dacoits

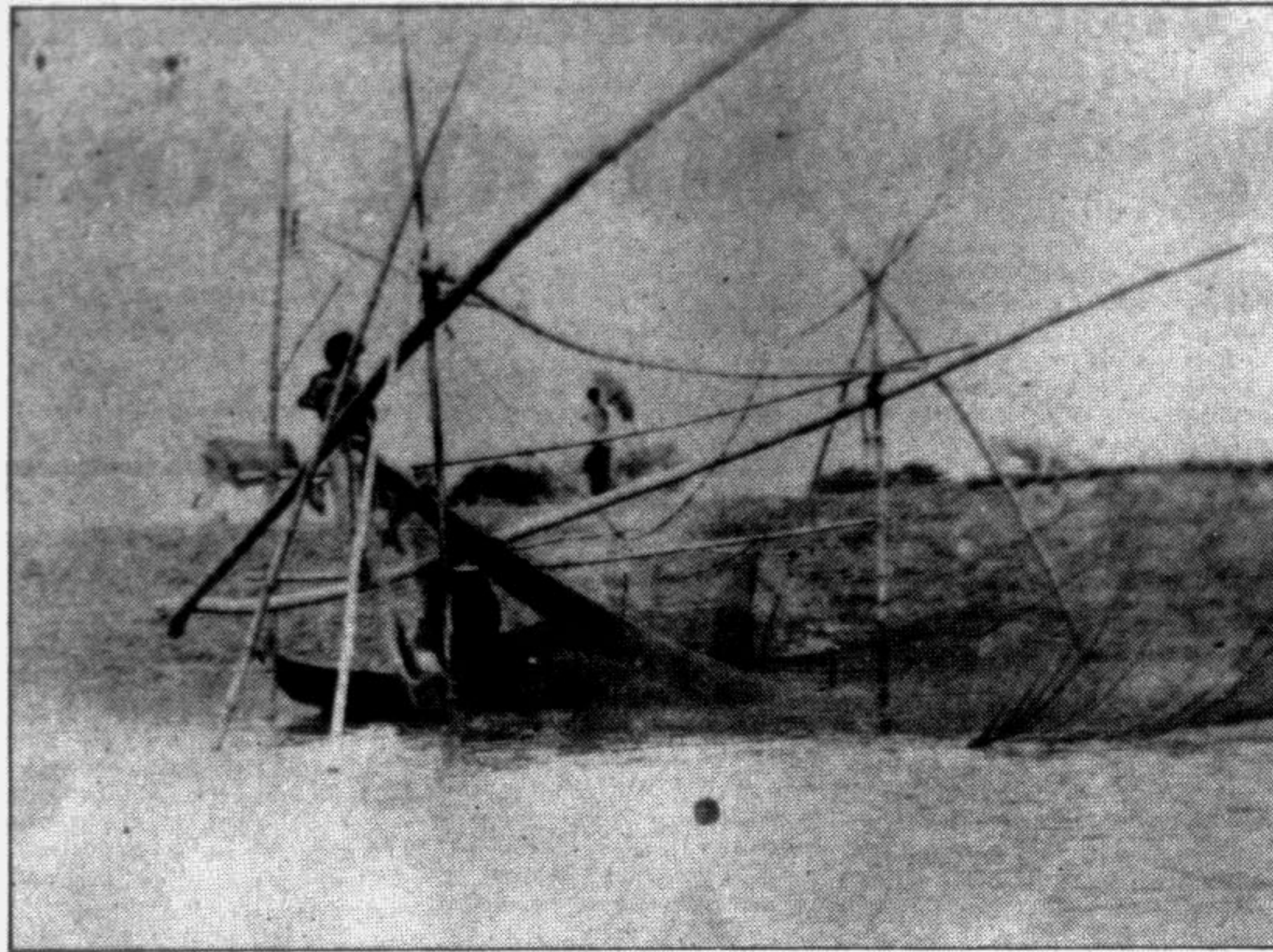
February 15: Two people were killed and five others injured in a daring dacoity at Umajuri village under Morelganj upazila, police said here on Wednesday, reports UNB.

The dacoits decamped with booties worth about Taka 2 lakh.

According to witnesses, a group of dacoits numbering 10 to 12 entered the house of Ruzman Ali Sunday and looted valuables including gold ornaments at gun point.

When the inmates raised alarm, the miscreants opened fire indiscriminately killing two of them.

The injured were admitted to upazila health complex.



PABNA: Fishing is no more lucrative now as the khals, beels and haors are being dried up. Moreover, diseases in an epidemic form have led to decrease in fish production. This fisherman is aimlessly waiting near his indigenous fishing nets. — Star photo.

Marketing Act not in force

Profiteers trading on human miseries

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, Feb 15: Rice, pulses, paddy, onion, chillis, eggs, fish and chickens are being sold at abnormally higher prices in the markets of the district.

The producers do not get fair prices for their goods while consumers are being compelled to purchase these items at much higher rates. Marketing Act on agricultural products is not in force long since its promulgation.

According to the informed sources, dealers of these products should possess marketing licence and must not charge more than the fixed rates. They should sell all goods weighing in metric system and hang charts showing daily prices under the act. In reality, things are not done properly as the authorities are inactive and the least bothered to check and control these acts.

Sirajganj

A Correspondent from Sirajganj adds: Prices of essentials

As a result, the wholesalers, stockists and retailers are carrying their transactions at their own whims. They buy these items very cheap and sell them at very high rates.

The sources added that Taka one lakh has been realised from at least 1000 traders holding licences as tax payment. But more than 600 licence holders did not pay licence tax. As a result, the government is deprived of revenue income amounting to Taka 60,000 per year.

Local people felt that implementation of Marketing Act should be strictly enforced as some unscrupulous businessmen have raised the prices of essentials on the plea of Gulf war.

have shot up alarmingly in the markets of Sirajganj district.

It is learnt that prices of pulses, fish, kerosene and soyabean oil have gone up abnormally causing miseries to the consumers. Masur pulse is selling at Taka 32 per kg against Taka 26 only a week ago. Soyabean oil is being sold at Taka 38 per kg which was sold at Taka 30 earlier and kerosene is being sold at Taka 18 per kg since for a long time.

Scanty supply of fishes has attributed to price hike. Rohit, Katla and Mrigel fishes below nine inches are sold in open markets despite government ban. Besides, mutton, chicken and beef are also being sold at Taka 80, 70 and 50 respectively per kg.

Such high price of essential commodities have hit the fixed income group.

Notes from Narayanganj

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Feb 15: Fatulla police discovered on indigenous revolver factory and arrested two persons along with a revolver some spare parts and a lathe machine.

Acting on a secret information Mr. Akhtaruzzaman Sub-Inspector of Fatulla thana arrested Abu Baker Siddique alias Babul with a revolver from Masdar Narayanganj and Mr. Shahidullah owner of the United Engineering Works of 10 Salmullah Road.

It was alleged that illegal revolvers were being manufactured in the workshop since long.

4 guns recovered

Four home made guns were recovered from a young boy Ismail (15) at Narayanganj Terminal Ghat recently.

According to Narayanganj thana sources, four young boys namely Shuvash, Mafuz, Lelin and Nazul Islam arrived at the terminal ghat on a Scooter from Mirpur-13 and handed over the arms to Ismail, who was waiting for the same. Police caught Ismail red-handed while he was getting into the launch.

Election camp set on fire

An election camp of a BNP candidate Advocate Abul Kalam was set on fire by some unknown persons at Shardarpara in Narayanganj under Bandar constituency No 5.

The people condemned this act and protested the incident.

'Ershad's trial motivated'

MADHIAVPUR (Habiganj), Feb 15: Jatiya Party Vice-Chairman and former Minister Sirajul Hossain Khan today said trial of Ershad was politically motivated, reports UNB.

Addressing an election meeting Khan maintained trial of JP leaders was designed to deprive the political opponents of their fundamental and democratic rights to actively participate in the coming elections.

The JP leader said the caretaker government was apparently under pressure to do unjust and undemocratic treatment to his party.

Kushtia-Goalundo road needs early reconstruction

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Feb 15: Slow progress in reconstruction of Kushtia-Goalundo road via Jhenaidah has impeded the movement of vehicular traffic causing much inconvenience to the travelling public. About 100 buses, 500 trucks and other kinds vehicles ply on the road daily and these take much time to pass through it which have been taken up for reconstruction haphazardly and for lack of maintenance of the old portion the road has been damaged badly and vehicles are plying with risk. The road is a link between eastern

and southern part and northern and southern parts of the country.

The reconstruction work has been taken up by 'China National Complete Plant Export Corporation' a foreign firm under supervision of a Sri Lankan consultancy firm. The reconstruction aims at 40'-00" widening the road and the process of widening has been taken up by filling sand and that is also in a very slow motion. Work order has been issued long before and after that Roads and Highways authority did not go for any maintenance.

As a result the entire road have developed innumerable potholes which were required to be repaired by the foreign firm entrusted with the work but the firm is showing negligence in maintenance as well as for speedy completion of the work causing immense trouble for the vehicles and the travelling public. It may be mentioned that Taka 15 crores have been earmarked for maintenance of the road during reconstruction but no maintenance work was carried out since the beginning of the work in utter viola-

tion of the terms of contract, it is alleged. Moreover, widening of the road is being carried out not in conformity with the terms of the contract, it is further alleged.

Meanwhile, all the roadside trees have been felled and removed and the big ditches created out of felling trees have not yet been refilled.

People expect that 100 miles long road at a cost of Taka 150 crore project would be completed within the shortest possible time but practically reconstruction is being delayed

Where 40 p.c women never cast votes

BARISAL, Feb 15: Forty per cent of women voters in Mahendiganj upazila of Barisal district never cast votes in any election although their names have been included in voter list quite a long ago, reports BSS.

This was revealed in a statistical survey conducted by Mahendiganj Press Club in connection with the coming parliamentary election.

According to this survey report, the causes for this absence are: Religious taboos, unwillingness of the head of the family, distance of the centres, ignorance about the importance of vote and violence in election centres.

The survey report said, 20 per cent women cast their votes only once in life.

The women belonging to Hindu community cast their votes more than once in their life. Only 5 per cent women had exercised their right of franchise in the last upazila election.

Over 60 per cent women have expressed their willing to go to the election centres during the coming parliamentary polls. To them election is more important this year than in the past.

Relatives said she took poison as a sequel to a family feud. A case was registered.

Rivers need dredging Shoals threaten navigation on Ctg-Bandarban route

From Our Correspondent

PATIYA, Feb 15: Riverine transportation between Chittagong and Bangladesh Hill Tract district has been threatened following the emergence of innumerable shoals in the rivers Sangu and Matamuhuri.

Mechanised boat service on Dohazari-Mayoni-Tansi route is facing closure due to falling of water level at many points.

A substantial quantity of vegetable, banana, mustard, gourd and forest resources

come everyday from remote hilly areas of Bandarban for marketing in different stations of Chittagong and Cox's Bazar districts. Riverine communication is the only means for transportation of these essential commodities. About 500 boatmen and 2,000 small traders are facing much hardship and are gradually becoming jobless.

Besides, due to lack of necessary flow of water, irrigation

facility to basin of the rivers is being greatly hampered.

No scheme has yet been formulated for dredging the rivers by the authorities concerned.

One gunned down by robbers

A houseowner was shot dead at the village Barahatiya under Lohagara upazila by the armed robbers recently.

According to reports, a gang of armed robbers numbering 20/25 by breaking open the door intruded the house of Faiz Ahmad (55) and gunned him down.

School girl kidnapped in Satkhira

SATKHIRA, Feb 15: Asma Khatun (13) daughter of Md. Shawkat Ali of village Bansdaha under Sadar Upazila here was kidnapped while she was going to her school Monday, reports UNB.

She was the student of class VII of Santali Bhadra High School.

Political scene

An example of peaceful co-existence

Star report

Election camps of two major political parties — Awami League and BNP set up at Sonapur Bazar in Sonargaon Upazila may serve as an example of harmony and discipline for the activists elsewhere in the country. Both the camps, opened side by side on a two-storey building are functioning round the clock.

Till now no unhappy incident took place between them. Instead, camp workers have carefully avoided provocative utterances against each other. Local people have found it utterly surprising to see such cordiality among the two major contestants in the forthcoming parliamentary polls. In the past several clashes took place between the workers of these two parties. But the peaceful co-existence of these two parties during this crucial time has drawn appreciation from all quarters.

Our Madaripur Correspondent adds: Election campaign is going on in full swing in both the rural and urban areas of the district. In fact the entire district seems to be in the grip of election fever.

Candidates and their supporters have started vigorous election campaign. Seven candidates have withdrawn their candidature from three constituencies in Madaripur district.

Candidates for Madaripur-1 Constituency (Shibchar) are: Muzibur Rahman Khan (BNP), Abul Khair (JP), Elias Ahmed Chowdhury (AL), Rukundin (Jamaat), Mejbahuddin Khan (5-party), Shamsul Hoq Talukder (ML-Kader), Zahurul Islam (IOJ), Reja Mia (JSD-Rob).

Madaripur-2 Constituency (Sadar-Rajshir): Abdul Mannan Shikder (BNP), Sirajul Islam Bhuiya (JP), Abdur Razzak (8-party), Shajahan Khan (5-party), Moulana Shamsul Hoq (Jamaat), Moulana Anwarul Hoq (IOJ), Ferdous Jamadar (Ind), and Nural Amin (Ind).

Madaripur-3 Constituency: Abdul Matin Molla (BNP), Dr. Fariduddin Ahmed (Jamaat), Sayeed Abul Hossain (AL), A. Latif (JP), Advocate Zahangir (ML), Shikbul Hossain (Zaker), and Emdad Hossain (Jatiya Biplopy Front).

Mr. Muzibur Rahman Khan BNP nominated candidate for Shibchar seat expressed his commitment to save Shibchar people from the Arif Khan erosion. He has much popularity in the locality.

AL nominated candidate for Madaripur-3 (Kalkini-

Moulana Shamsul Hoq, a central leader of Jamaat, said he would materialise the ideals of Islam if elected. He said voters wanted a free, fair election.

BNP nominated candidate for Madaripur-3 seat, Advocate Abdul Matin Molla, is a founder member of BNP and at present the member of Madaripur district convening committee of BNP. He is very much vocal against AL misrule from 1972 to 1975.

He is sanguine of success in the election and if elected, he would improve the communication system of his constituency. He would exert his best effort to bring law and order situation normal. He believes that his party will go to the parliament with majority.

JP nominated candidate for Madaripur-3 seat, Mr. Abdul Latif Khan started his political career as a NAP (Bhashani) worker. Later he joined the JP in '88. He said, he has bright chance to win if free and fair election is held.

Muslim League (Kader) nominated candidate for Madaripur-3 seat, Advocate Mr. Jhanggir Hossain is associated with a number of social organisations. He is hopeful of success.

Jamaat nominated candidate for Madaripur-3 (Kalkini-Madaripur) seat, Dr. Fariduddin Ahmed said, he would endeavour to establish the rule of Allah in the society. He said only by following the ideals of Islam, people of Bangladesh can get rid of their problems.

AL nominated candidate for Madaripur-3 (Kalkini-



Candidates contesting from Madaripur district. From top left: Advocate Matin Molla (BNP), Elias Ahmed Chowdhury (AL), Dr. Fariduddin Ahmed (Jamaat), Moulana Shamsul Hoq (Jamaat), Shajahan Khan (JSD-Inu), Advocate Enamul Hoq (Zaker Party), A. Latif Khan (JP), Sirajul Islam Bhuiyan (JP), Abdur Razzak (8-party), Shamsul Hoq Talukder (ML-Kader), Advocate Jahangir Hossain (ML-Kader), Mujibur Rahman Khan (BNP), —Star photo

Madaripur-1 seat, Mr. Elias Ahmed Chowdhury said, he would materialise the ideals of Sheikh Hasina and 'Bangobandhu' for welfare and progress of rural people. Mr. Elias is Chairman, Editorial Board of Banglar Bari.

Muslim League nominated candidate for Madaripur-1 seat, Mr. Shamsul Hoq Talukder said, he would materialise the ideals of Islam.

Madaripur-2 (Madaripur-Rajshir): BNP candidate for Madaripur-2 seat, Advocate Abdul Mannan Shikder said, he would materialise the ideal of Khaleida Zia and late President Ziaur Rahman to bring welfare and progress for rural areas. He is a reputed freedom fighter and a former Minister in BNP cabinet.

Eight-party candidate for Madaripur-2 seat, BAKSAL Secretary Mr. Abdur Razzak said he would materialise the ideals of 'Bangobandhu'. Mr. Razzak was earlier elected MP twice from this constituency.

Mr. Shajahan Khan is contesting the election with 5-party ticket for MADARIPUR-2 Constituency, Mr. Khan, said, if elected, he would take up effective measures to halt the erosion of the Arif Khan and create employment opportunities and ensure supply of seeds and fertilizer to farmer.

JP nominated candidate for Madaripur-2 seat, Mr. Sirajul Rahman is a reputed freedom fighter and a devoted leader of JSD is contesting this year's election with a JP ticket. He joined the Jatiya Party in '87 and was elected MP the same year. Mr. Islam, if elected, would industrialise the area to better the life of poor people. Jamaat nominated candidate for Madaripur-2 seat,

Madaripur) seat, Sayeed Abul Hossain is a businessman and best social worker. Party sources said he is hopeful of success.

Cox's Bazar

Our Cox's Bazar Correspondent adds: President of Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir, Mr. Aminul Islam Mukul on Sunday said free and fair polls could not be held unless illegal arms were recovered. He said if elected, Jamaat-Islami would establish a government of Allah.

He was addressing a huge workers' conference at Cox's Bazar Public Hall Maidan on the occasion of 14th founding anniversary of Islami Chhatra Shibir, which was arranged by Cox's Bazar district Chhatra Shibir.

Presided over by Cox's Bazar district Chhatra Shibir President, G.M. Rahimullah, the conference was also addressed by Jamaat-e-Islami nominee for Cox's Bazar-3 Constituency Advocate Salam Ullah, former Shibir leader Mr. Sah Jalal Chowdhury and Mr. Md. Amin.

Mr. Mukul reminded the students and people of the misrule of a party during 1971-75. He said, this party was now trying to come back to power by bluffing the people only to re-establish its misrule. During the reign of this party people were deprived of food and clothing, Mr. Mukul added.

The nation would again be in the grip of corruption, if that party was voted to power, the Shibir chief said. He said Chhatra Shibir and Jamaat-e-Islami wants to establish a welfare state in the line with Quran and Sunnah with the verdict of the people.



KURIGRAM: Child labourers from far-flung areas gather at Dharla ghat every morning in search of job. These youngsters are waiting with spades on their shoulders in the hope of getting a day's work. — Star photo