

Upazila roundup

NARAYANGANJ

One electrocuted
From Our Correspondent
 February 19: An unidentified person was electrocuted while trying to pilfer live electric wire from 33kv line at Shyampur under Fatulla thana recently. Some local people detained Kabir (22), Straz (25) and Hasem (24), alleged accomplices of the deceased, along with a truck and handed them over to the police. About three to four coils of wire were also recovered from the spot, with some instruments used by the miscreants for cutting electric wire.
 It is reported that the arrested persons were carrying on stealing wire for a long time

Some knowledgeable persons suspect a section of PDB employees are involved in wire pilferage.

FENI

Arms recovered
 February 19: Police here recently arrested one Saifuddin Iran and recovered one pipe gun and two rounds of bullets from his possession, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip off, police raided the house of Saifuddin Iran (20) and according to his confession, recovered the arms and ammunition from a shop at Takiya road of the town. Police later sent Saifuddin, a local terror, to the court. Meanwhile, police here in three separate drives at different places of Fulgaat under Parshuram upazila last week recovered three pipe guns and arrested one Nazrul Islam (22) in this connection.

CHUADANGA

Law, order situation discussed
From A Correspondent
 February 19: The District Law and Order Committee meeting was held on February 10 under the Chairmanship of Mr. M. Tajul Islam, District Magistrate, Chuadanga.

Upazila Chairmen, Civil Surgeon, Police Super, ADC General, UNOs, Principal of colleges, were present in the meeting. Threadbare discussion was held on crime situation of the district and robbery at Darsana Customs godown. The DM instructed to investigate the case by CID. The meeting requested the police officials to identify the trouble spots. The meeting also discussed on suspicious movement of public during polls, recovery of unauthorised arms.

JHENIDAH

Obituary
From Our Correspondent
 February 19: Dr Panju Ali Biswas (93), father of Mr Anwarul Haq, Jhenidah Correspondent of Daily Khabar died of old age ailments at his town residence on Saturday. Late Panju Biswas was a renowned doctor and worker at the locality. Jhenidah Press Club in a meeting condoled the death.

KUSHIA

Arms recovered, one arrested
From Our Correspondent
 February 19: Kushia police on secret information arrested one Ahsan Mondol from the house of Abdul Rashid Sardar of Udibari colony Sunday night and recovered one country made rifle and one round of 303 rifle ammunition and a knife from his possession. A case has been registered with Kushia police station in this connection

One injured by gun shot
 A Correspondent adds: Farshur Rahman (28) was injured by gun shot on the way from Damudbaria of Haisa under Kushia Sadar Upazila to Kholasakundi recently. He was admitted to Kushia General Hospital.

Two young men Liton and Shahtin were admitted to Kushia General Hospital with injuries recently. They were injured in a clash between two rival groups of Milpara, Kushia.

JHALOKATI

Misappropriation case against UP Chairman
From Our Correspondent
 February 19: Bureau of Anti Corruption filed an FIR at Na-

city PS against Nathullahad Union Parishad Chairman Mr. Yusuf Ali Mollah and four others for misappropriation of 1000 maunds of wheat which was allocated for constructing Baraara-Shabangal road by World Food Organisation in 1988.

Inspector, Anti Corruption told this Correspondent that inquiry is going on. It may be mentioned that Mr. Yusuf Ali Mollah who is a local Jatiya Party leader also misappropriated VGF wheat depriving local destitute.

COMILLA

'Basti Unnayan Prokalpa' opens
From Our Correspondent

February 19: 'Basti Unnayan Prokalpa' a joint venture by Comilla Pourashava and Comilla branch of B. M. A was inaugurated by Mr. A. K. M Bahauddin Bahar, Chairman, Comilla Pourashava at Katabeel recently. Dr Hedayetullah, President Comilla branch of BMA was present on the occasion. Slum dwellers were given medicines and prescriptions by Dr Moslehuddin Ahmed and Dr Abu Ayub Hamid.

Press Club executives
 The annual general meeting and election of Laksham Press Club was held at a local rest house recently. Messrs Abdul Jalil and Abdul Quddus were elected President and General Secretary respectively of the club for one year term. The meeting also elected a 15-member committee. Mr Abdul Jalil, editor Weekly Laksham conducted the election.

THAKURGAON

Family planning workshop held
From Our Correspondent

February 19: A two-day long workshop on responsibility and duty entrusted to the officers under family planning programme was held at Thakurgaon in the office of the Deputy Director recently.

The workshop was inaugurated by Mr. M. Afsar Ali Mollah, Divisional Director, Rajshahi. The participants in the workshop were AKM Reazul Karim UFPO, Mrs. Monjura Sarker senior FWV of Rantsankail Upazila, Dr Kamala Kanta Barman MO (MCH), Mrs. Mortuza Hoq senior FWV, Alaya Begum assistant UFPO, Pirganj, Mrs. Momtaj Begum UFPO, Dr Reazul Islam MO (MCH), Mrs. Sufla Satter senior FWV, Haripur, Mr. Shahadat Hossain, UFPO, Dr Reazul Islam MO (MCH), Mrs Anowara Begum Sr. FWV, Balidangi and Mr. Shaifur Rahman UFPO, Dr Khurshid Jahan MO (Clinic), Lutfoon Nesa, assistant UFPO, Mrs. Afroza Khanam Sr. FWV from Thakurgaon Sadar upazila of the district.

The workshop was conducted by Messrs Mujibar Rahman, Deputy Director FP, Thakurgaon, Dr. Abdur Rahman, MOCC and Mohammed Ali OS.

PANCHAGARH

33,708 tons mustard likely to be produced
February 19: About 33,708 metric tons of mustard are expected to be produced in eight northern districts during the current season, reports UNB.

According to Agricultural Extension Department (AED), about 38,343 hectares of land have been brought under mustard cultivation in Panchagarh, Thakurgaon, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Nilphamari and Lalmonirhat districts.

Of the total, 7,667 hectares have been brought under upshi variety and 30,676 hectares under local variety.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) will supply seeds, fertilizers, insecticides and other necessary inputs to the growers to make the programme a success.

CHANDPUR

Islamic conference

February 19: A three-day long Islamic grand conference, which concluded here recently prayed for peace, progress of the nation and solidarity of the Muslim ummah, reports UNB.

Held at Puranbazar, the grand conference was presided over by Pir Mohsenuddin (Dudu Mia) while it was addressed by the Islamic scholars Maulana Anwarul Haq, Maulana Abdul Bashir, Maulana Mufti Nurul Haq, Maulana Mir Habibur Rahman Juktibadi, Maulana Abdul Haq, Maulana Nurullah and others.



Collection of leaves from marshy tracts adjoining the metropolis by children and old women is a principal means of earning their livelihood. The vegetables leaves are taken to city markets by them for sale. In all the kutchas bazars and wayside places they sell their collection at cheap rate. At times leaves are not available due to drought or flood. Here they are seen engaged in collecting leaves at a place across the river Buriganga. —Star Photo by Mohsin

Four killed, three injured by man-eaters in Sundarbans

From A Correspondent
 BAGERHAT Feb. 19: Four persons were killed and three others injured by the Royal Bengal tigers in the Sundarbans in the last one week, according to reports received here.
 Ahamma Akon (37) was killed on the spot by a tiger near Dhansagar Forest Office under Shrankhola Range Office in Bagerhat district on February 7.
 It is reported that when the deceased was catching lobsters with his son from a canal in the Sundarban forest area the man-eater suddenly attacked him and took him into the deep forest. Being informed of the matter the forest guards of Dhansagar office recovered the decomposed body from the deep forest the same day. He hailed from Chitpa Baraikhal village under Morrelganj upazila.
 Another report states that Altaf Hossain (22), a fisherman was killed by a man-eater at Bhaljor in the Sundarbans only a few days ago. It is stated that when the deceased was catching fish with some other fishermen, a man-eater suddenly fell on him and took him away. But the fellow fishermen chased the tiger with big knives and lethal weapons and rescued their friend from the clutch of the tiger but before that he died. The dead body was sent to his relatives.
 An old woman of village Baidyamari under Mongla Upazila (in the district of Bagerhat) was killed by a Royal Bengal tiger when she went to Sundarbans for collecting some firewood. It is learnt that the old woman crossed the silted up Kharma river that separates Sundarbans from her village and went to the forest. When she began collect firewood the tiger suddenly attacked her from behind and took her into the deep forest. Being informed to them mat-

Guardians at stake
Bridegrooms demand high dowry

From Our Correspondent
 THAKURGAON, Feb 19: The marriage of girls in five upazilas of Thakurgaon district is being hampered due to the demand of dowry by the bridegrooms.
 According to a report, there are nearly 1000 marriageable girls in Thakurgaon Sadar, Pirganj, Balidangi, Rantsankail and Haripur upazilas of the district. Most of them belong to poor farmers families who are facing obstacles because of the excessive demand of dowry.
 The financial condition of the guardians of the unfortunate girls has deteriorated to a large extent since the independence and the successive Governments have increased different taxes on the farmers. The Governments have also increased the process of agricultural inputs which have now gone beyond the purchasing capacity of the farmers. On the other hand, the price of jute and other agricultural products has gone down. The price of chemical fertilizers exceeded 30 times than that of the pre-liberation period. A shallow tubewell is selling now at Taka 40,000 against Taka 10,000 a few years back. The economic backbone of the farmers has been shattered.
 One Abdul Mannan of Mohal Bari told this correspondent that he could not arrange marriage of his daughter because of bridegrooms high dowry demand.
 The Government has introduced Anti-dowry Act in law which remains confined within law books. Its effectiveness is not seen anywhere, it is alleged.
 The authorities should take necessary steps to enforce the Anti-dowry Act so that the guardians of marriageable girls can get rid of this social evil.
Price of building materials up
 The construction and repairing works of rural houses in Thakurgaon district is being hampered due to scarcity and high prices of house building materials like C.I. sheets, cement, bamboo, straw and rope. Prices of building materials in the district went up by 20 per cent. The people of rural areas of Pirganj, Balidangi, Haripur and Rantsankail of the district can not afford to purchase house building materials at an exorbitant price.
 Price of bamboo has jumped to Taka 55 from Taka 30 per piece. Gol leaves sell at Taka 60 as against Taka 40 per bundle. A 'kahone' of straw is being sold at Taka 40 as against 25. Mango wood sells at Taka 250 per cubic feet while jack and blackberry sell at Taka 374 per cubic feet. At present, at least Taka 20,000 is required to construct a kutchas house.
 The supply of C.I. sheets in the local markets has awfully fallen. The C.I. sheets are sold at such an exorbitant price that majority people can hardly afford to buy it, and the imported C.I. sheets are totally absent in the market.
 On the other hand, the prices of bricks, rod and cement are also high hampering construction works of pucca houses. Bricks sell here between Taka 2000 and 2100 per thousand as against Taka 1500 to 1600. Cement price has doubled.

Teacher shortage in Magura Govt College

From Our Correspondent
 MAGURA, Feb 19: Academic atmosphere of H.S.S. Government College in Magura is being hampered due to lack of teachers.
 According to the college sources, 23 posts of teachers are lying vacant and only 31 teachers are working against 54 sanctioned posts.
 Moreover, absence of students common room, auditorium and lack of adequate furniture have compounded the existing problems.
 College authorities, guardians and student leaders Jahangir Alam Zahid and Tariqul Islam Shipu called upon the government to ensure normal functioning of the college.
 Meanwhile Ershad Mukti Parishad brought out a procession at Magura recently demanding release of Ershad before election.



BARISAL: Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina addressing a public meeting at Gouranadi recently. —Star photo

Notes from Chuadanga

From Our Correspondent
 CHUADANGA, Feb 19: The Education Week of Chuadanga Government Girls High School was observed here recently in a befitting manner. Mrs Ila Hoque, Headmistress of the school formally opened the Education Week at school premises.
 Mrs. Nazmun Nahar, wife of the Deputy Commissioner of Chuadanga was present as the chief guest.

The programme of the Education Week included annual Milad Mahfil, Qirat competition, annual sports, drawing, general knowledge and cultural competition.

Police sports
 The annual sports competition of Chuadanga district police was held at the local police line ground on February 5 in connection with the observance of Annual Police Rally '91.
 Mr. Shohidul Haque, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Khulna range was present as the chief guest while Begum Sarmin Hoque gave away the prizes to the winners.
 A cultural evening was also arranged at the local Sreemonto town hall to observe the day.

Studio Owners Assoc formed
 The Chuadanga district Photo Studio Owners association was formed here at a meeting of the photo studio owner's of the district held at local "Amader Studio room" under the Chairmanship Mr. Abdul Kalam Azad, a veteran photo studio owner of the district recently.
 Seventeen photo studio owners were present in the meeting.
 After a long discussion a seven-member Chuadanga district Photo Studio Owners Association was formed with Mr. Yunus Kamal as its convener.

Body to help fair polls formed
From A Correspondent
 COMPANYGANJ (Noakhali), Feb 19: Bangladesh Movement for Free Elections, Companyganj Upazila branch was formed in a meeting held recently with Advocate Mohammad Hanif as its Convener. Advocate Hanif is also the Coordinator of Bangladesh Human Rights Commission, Companyganj Upazila Chapter, Noakhali.
 A 37-member committee including journalists, lawyers, doctors, social workers and elite of the upazila was formed.
 Journalists Ehsanul Alam Bhuiyan and Maimuddin Ahmed Selim were made Joint Conveners.
 Meanwhile, the members of this organisation is working with the people to make the ensuing polls free, fair and impartial in Noakhali-5 constituency.

Teachers Training College sports held
From Our Correspondent
 MYMENSINGH, Feb. 19: The annual sports of Myemensingh Teachers Training College for Women was held recently at the college premises.
 Prof. Dr Md. Asadur Rahman, Vice-Chancellor of the Bangladesh Agricultural University inaugurated it as chief guest while Prof. Rousanara Begum, Principal of the College presided over the inaugural function.
 The chief guest said that students should devote themselves along with their studies in physical exercises and games and sports to keep their body sound and to keep the mind fresh.

Political scene

A lone exception

Star Report
 Senbagh upazila office building in Noakhali district still remains free from wall writings and posters. Despite hectic election campaigns being carried out by different political parties and groups in the locality the building could maintain its total 'neutrality' till now.

This was possible due to a general appeal by the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) to the members of the public. Long before the campaign began the UNO convened a meeting of the local leaders and supporters of all the political parties and requested them to preserve the beauty of the upazila bhaban.

UNO's request was honoured. In all other buildings and sheds in the upazila headquarters posters, wall writings and election symbols are found in plenty.
 However it could not be gathered whether the UNO would be rewarded by the authority for his extraordinary initiative.

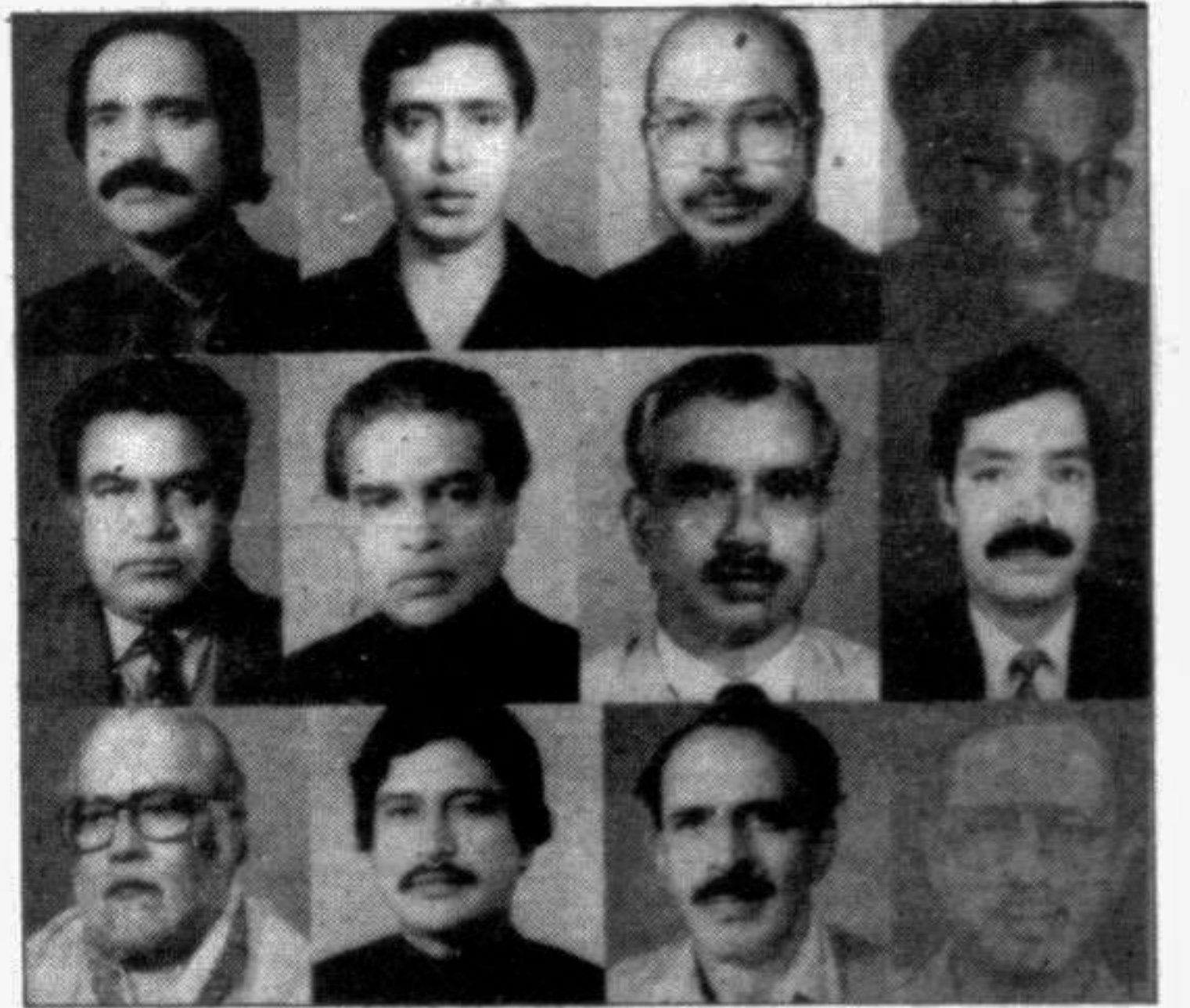
Our Chandpur Correspondent writes: Election campaign is gaining momentum in the district with the coming of the election date nearer. Meetings, processions, miking distribution of handbills, putting up banners and election symbols at convenient points, wall writing and house to house contacts are on the increase with every passing day.
 Chandpur district town can now be called a town of posters and election symbols. No wall is left without posters and writings. Election camps have been erected in all parts of the town. BNP, Awami League, Jamaat, Freedom Party and Independent candidates are holding electoral processions and public meetings in different areas.
 A total of 57 candidates are contesting for six "Jatiya Sangsad" seats of Chandpur district. The election campaign has gained momentum though the main discussion of the people are centering

BNP
 BNP candidate from Bakerganj-5 constituency Abdur Rahman Biswas in the BNP office asked party workers that for last 9 years Ershad government had buried up democracy with his followers and damaged the economic backbone of this country.
 He urged the public to elect an honest, patriotic and an educated man in the forth coming parliamentary election.
 Abul Hasnat Abdullah, AL candidate from the Bakerganj-1 constituency in an election campaign meeting at Agatthara told that Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib was brutally killed along with his family members because he tried to solve the economic problems of the country after the war of liberation. He also took the political programme in favour of the down trodden people. He requested the people to elect a real democratic and honest man in the forthcoming parliamentary election. Hasnat told that after 75 every government has come to power with rifle in their hands.

5-Party
 The 5-party leader and the Bangladesh Workers Party General Secretary Rashid Khan Menon said here that if 5-party candidates are elected to power they would repeal all national discriminatory systems on the basis of minority, national entity and equal rights of religious minority.

In a meeting at Satia, he also told that they will try to abolish the Vested Property Act examining all problems. Menon is contesting from Bakerganj-5 and Bakerganj-2 constituencies.

Chapainawabganj
 A Correspondent from Chapainawabganj says: The Jatiya Sangsad Election is nearing. The supporters of the various candidates are continuing their election campaign in full swing but the election propaganda is hampered due to Gulf War because the attention of the people of Chapainawabganj is mostly concentrated on the Gulf war.



Candidates contesting from Chandpur district: From top left Alam Khan (BNP), Alamgir Haider Khan (BNP), Riassatullah (AL), Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury (JP), Principal Abul Hasnat (BNP), M. A. Awal (AL), Abdullah Sarker (BSD), Shamsul Islam (JP), Mesbahuddin Khan (AL), Jakaria Chowdhury (AL), Harunur Rashid (JP) and Dr. Sattar (Ind).

round the Gulf War. The candidates are visiting their respective constituencies to mobilize support in their favour.

Awami League and BNP are contesting in all seats. Among the candidate two are former ministers including the Prime Minister of Ershad regime Mr. Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, one former Secretary of the government and 9 former MPs.

BSD
 UNB adds: BSD chief and 5-Party alliance leader Khalequzzaman Bhuiyan today accused the two major political parties of daily violating the electoral code of conduct.

Two major political parties, contesting in the Feb 27 elections, are daily violating the code of conduct publicly in utter disregard to democratic norms and values", he told a election meeting at Firozpur in Faridganj Upazila of the district.
 The 5-Party alliance leader said those who are disrupting proper atmosphere of election cannot be the friends of democracy and will not be able to materialise the people's democratic aspirations.
 He, however, hailed the caretaker government's steps taken to ensure free and fair holding of the elections.
 Bhuiyan stressed on elimination of autocracy from the state structure and democratisation of education for giving democracy a firm root in society.

In doing this, he said, the first task should be to repeal all autocratic provisions in the constitution.
 The 5-Party alliance leader called upon the voters to elect only true democratic forces to achieve this objective.

Rajshahi
 BSS from Rajshahi says: The urban and rural areas of Rajshahi district wore a festive look with hundreds of colourful posters, festoons, wall-writings, miking and attractive election symbols of candidates