

Upazila roundup

JESSORE

Bus passengers robbed of Tk 30,000

From Our Correspondent

February 22: A daring bus dacoity was committed on Jessore-Benapole road on way to Benapole when reached the spot was stopped by a group of seven to eight dacoits at gunpoint and looted cash and ornaments from the passengers. A case has been registered by Sharsa thana in this connection.

JHENIDAH

Student crushed under wheels

From Our Correspondent

February 22: One student was crushed under the wheels of a bus bound for Faridpur in front of D.C. office on Dhaka-Khulna road recently. The ill-fated boy Rahmat (7) a student of K.G.-1 of Al-Heera Islamic Institute, S/o a local school teacher Haroonur Rashid was returning home from school. While he was crossing the road he was crushed under the wheels of the bus.

The driver, however, managed to escape. The police seized the vehicle. Third tragic death of the boy created anger among the local people and students. They damaged about 10 vehicles and barricaded the road for about three hours. The students of some local educational institutions and Al-Heera Islamic Institute brought out a mourning procession following the accident.

NARAYANGANJ

Arms recovered

From Our Correspondent

February 22: Fatullah thana police recovered one ptegun, 500 gms of potash, 500 gms of bomb manufacturing materials recently. Acting on a secret information, Mr. Hayatuzzaman, a Sub-inspector of Fatullah thana arrested Monir Hossain (23) with a ptegun from 102, West Dabhog, Narayanganj. A case has been registered in this connection.

COMILLA

UNICEF officials visit Tiger Club project

From Our Correspondent

February 22: Dr. Delwar Khan, Senior Programme Co-ordinator and Mr. Philip Wan, co-ordinator, Water and Environmental Sanitation Section of UNICEF, Dhaka visited Anantapur village recently. During their visit they found the latrines were being installed with one slab and one ring which were procured from DPHE and supplied to the community by the Tiger Club. Per set of them costs Taka 84 including transport charges. They also observed a few EPI card of one year age group children who were vaccinated. The Tiger Club also established a feeder school which enrolled 25 students. It is learnt that the number of students will increase further. The UNICEF officials highly appreciated the initiatives of local Tiger Club.

THAKURGAON

Criminal arrested

From Our Correspondent

February 22: Matibur (35), a veteran criminal was caught red-handed by the son of the house owner at the time of committing theft on January 20. It is reported that on the day of occurrence Matibur and other three members of the gang entered the house of one Tasbir Uddin of Duosur under Bahadangi upazila of Thakurgaon district at dead of night for committing theft. Hamdur Rahman (30), son of the house owner caught red-handed one of the gang members. Hamdur and Intajul (30) two neighbours were stabbed by the criminals and taken to hospital. A few days back, a pair of draft animal was lifted from the cowshed of the same owner. According to his confession, the criminals have been continuing their heinous activities in the areas with the help of one Union Parishad member of Barabari UP, who has been arrested by the police. A case has been registered with the Bahadangi police.

JHENIDAH

Dacoity at UNO's house

February 22: Valuables including a revolver worth about Taka 74,000 were looted by dacoits from the residence of Kaliganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer Mallick Mansoor Ahmad Tuesday night, police here said, reports UNB.

The dacoits numbering 10 to 12 entered the residence by breaking open the door and decamped with booties including a 22 bore revolver at gun point. A case has been filed in this connection.

BHOLA

Indigenous weapon recovered from near polling centre

February 22: Bhola police on Thursday recovered ten leja (indigenous weapon made of steel with sharp head) and three ramdao from an abandoned house of Montu Ghosh near Charpata polling centre under Clisha union of Sadar upazila, reports BSS.

Acting on a tip off Bhola thana police went to Montu's house to recover the weapons which are reported to have been kept there by JP musclem Manik Bagha, police sources said. A case has been registered with Bhola thana and police is looking for Montu Ghosh, the sources added.

DINAJPUR

4 killed in accidents

February 22: At least four people were killed and several others injured in separate road accidents here Tuesday, police and hospital sources said, reports UNB.

Rehana Begum (28), wife of Wahedul Karim Bablu of Churipatti under sadar upazila was seriously injured when a tractor collided head-on with a minibus and hit her rickshaw near Mushankali temple in the town. The driver and helper of the bus were also injured in the incident.

Rehana was rushed to Dinaipur General Hospital where the doctors declared her dead. Rehana was travelling in the rickshaw along with her baby. The baby was, however, saved miraculously with slight injury. Police seized the tractor but the driver fled.

In another incident at Balubari under the same upazila a speeding truck dashed one motorcycle coming from opposite direction Tuesday injuring three people.

Seriously injured Ratan Kumar (35) was admitted to the General Hospital while others were released after first aid.

The truck driver managed to escape. In the early hours of Tuesday three people were killed on the spot when a tractor fell down on the labourers standing nearby in Birol upazila here, police said.

The victims were identified as Satyendranath Roy (27) and Parbasha, both from Birol upazila, and Taslim, helper of the ill-fated tractor. The bodies were sent to morgue for autopsy. A case has been filed in this connection.

PABNA

Mushroom growth of substandard hotels

From Our Correspondent

February 22: Mushroom growth of substandard footpath hotels and food stuff hawkers posing health hazard in different hats and bazars of the district.

According to sources, foodstuffs are being prepared and sold in most unhygienic manner causing different gastro-intestinal and communicable diseases. Numerous shopkeepers and hawkers dressed in dirty and unclean clothes are seen selling these foodstuffs to their customers on different footpaths over the nose of the law enforcing agencies.

It is alleged the sanitary inspectors of pourashavas and upazilas are not examining foodstuffs to detect adulteration. Consequently the traders are continuing their illegal business freely. Besides, bandrollless bides are being sold openly in the town and village areas of the district. Dishonest traders are earning a lot of black money depriving the government a huge revenue worth lakhs taka per month.



Modern equipment have replaced many indigenous tools used by the rural people. With the advancement of science 'Dheki', an indigenous tool for husking paddy has almost become obsolete. Women are seen using a 'Dheki' in a remote village at Gazipur district. - Star photo by Shafiuddin Bitu.

Sacrifices of language martyrs recalled

From Our Correspondent

Mymensingh: February 22: Ekushey February was observed here on Thursday. Various socio-political, cultural and professional organisations and educational institutions have chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the day in befitting manner. The Shaheed Day programme started after midnight Wednesday with placing of wreaths at the local Shaheed Minar by the district administration.

The day's programme included barefoot morning processions, discussion meetings, seminar, cultural functions, blood donation. The programme organised by Mymensingh Press Club, Mymensingh Shahitya Sangsad, Mymensingh Journalist Union, Sammlita Sanskritik Jote, Mymensingh Bar Association, Mymensingh Journalists' Welfare Association and other political and student organisations. BSS from Chittagong adds: Leaders of political parties, socio-cultural organisations, trade unions, and student associations paid rich tributes to the martyrs of the Language Movement recalling their supreme sacrifices through placing wreaths at the Shaheed Minar, discussions and cultural functions held yesterday in observance of immortal Ekushey February.

The Ekushey February had a great significance this year in the light of massive victory against autocracy, they said adding the nation is poised to make a transition to democracy through February 27 elections. They called upon the people to use this opportunity (election) and exercise their franchise freely in order to give democracy an institutional shape. The leaders placed wreaths at the central Shaheed Minar at K C Dey Road at one minute past 12 last night while national flag was hoisted at half mast in all private and public buildings early this morning. Special prayer were offered in all mosques, churches, temples and pagodas seeking divine blessings for the language martyrs.

Local leaders of Awami League, BNP, NAP, Five-Party Alliance and Gonatantrik Oikya Jote and different student organisations placed wreaths at the Shaheed Minar. They came in processions from different parts of the city. Some cultural organisations held musical soiree aboard trucks where artists rendered patriotic songs. A cultural function was held at Shilpakala Academy premises under the auspices of the district administration. Group Theatre Samannyo Parishad held a cultural function at Municipal High School Maidan while BKSAL held a discussion at Dost Building. City Awami League held its discussion at Shahid Minar while BNP held a rally at Nasim Bhaban office.

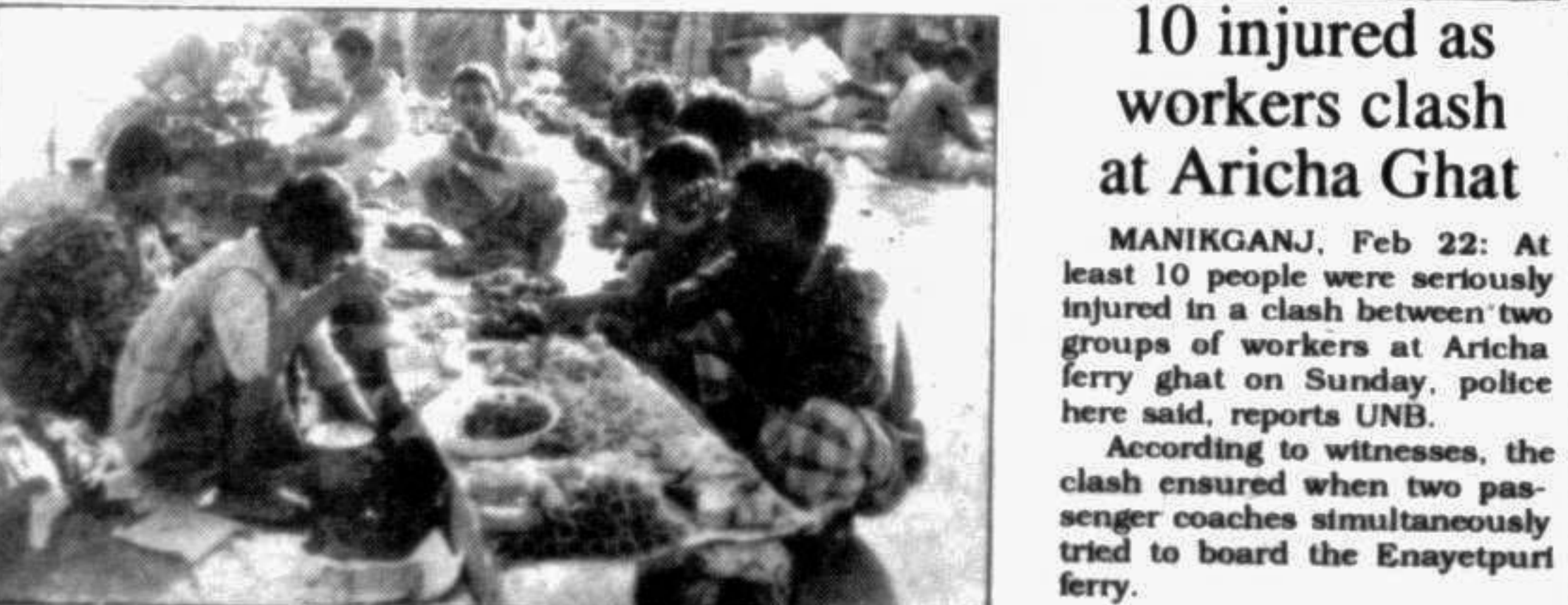
Other organisations held discussions and cultural functions at their respective office premises. Patriotic songs were played at elections camps erected by the political parties and candidates. Local newspapers and periodicals brought out special supplements highlighting the occasion while local radio station broadcast special programmes.

Rajshahi

A report from Rajshahi adds: The Shaheed Day was observed on Thursday in Rajshahi with due solemnity. Different social, cultural, political, children, juvenile and other organisations observed the day through various programmes. The day's programmes started at one minute past 12 Wednesday night with placing of wreaths at central and other Shaheed Minars here, a PID handout said.

10 injured as workers clash at Aricha Ghat

MANIKGANJ, Feb 22: At least 10 people were seriously injured in a clash between two groups of workers at Aricha ferry ghat on Sunday, police here said, reports UNB. According to witnesses, the clash ensued when two passenger coaches simultaneously tried to board the Enayetpur ferry. Supervisor of Joypurhat bound bus beat the staff of Zakir Paribahan spreading the clash between the transport workers and ferry staff.



PABNA: Mushroom growth of substandard hotels and selling of foodstuff in the open air causing health hazard to the low income groups. Here people having their meals on footpath. - Star photo

Child labour on rise in Kurigram

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Feb 22: Under-aged boys are being employed on large scale in different sectors in Kurigram district. It is learnt that these little boys who have come from poor families finding no other avenues of income are compelled to work in restaurants, tea-stall, furniture marts and other shops in Kurigram district. These boys work from dawn to dusk but they are deprived of minimum wages. Local people urged the Social Welfare Department to intervene in the matter on humanitarian grounds.

The Annual Sports Competition of Kurigram Government Mahila College was held recently at the college campus. Mr. Khairul Alam, ADC Kurigram was the chief guest who also distributed prizes among the winners while the ceremony was presided over by Mr. Abdul Kashem Talukdar, Principal of the college. Miss Nilofa Begum of first year science and Miss Sahnaz Sultana of first year arts became the champion and runners-up in the competition. Population day observed

The National Population Day-91 was observed at Kurigram with much enthusiasm. Rallies, sports, discussion meetings, prize distribution ceremonies and cultural functions were arranged in this connection. In a discussion meeting held in the Town Hall Dr. Hajera Khatoon, Director of Family Planning Department was the chair person while Mr. Khairul Alam ADC was the chief guest. Dr. Matjur Rahman, Abul Kashem, Mujibur Rahman and Tofail Hossain also participated in the discussion.

Notes from Khulna

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, Feb 22: An extended meeting of Khulna unit of Bangladesh Chhatra Federation was held recently at its office premises with Mr Maruf Hossain in the chair. It was addressed by Tauhidul Islam, Thun Sikdar, Subrata Ryhan, Tahmina Parveen Monjulika Zaman and others.

The speakers at the meeting demanded immediate arrest and trial of unauthorised arms holders and recovery of illegal weapons from all the educational institutions of the country. They called upon the student community to organise countrywide student movement on the basis of the 10-point demand and principles of All-Party Students Unity (APSU).

BNP, AL meeting

BNP nominee for Khulna constituency Md. Ashraf Hossain addressing a public meeting at local Rearhall School ground said that only BNP government made the country self-sufficient in food under the canal digging programme but autocratic Ershad regime ruined the country's agricultural system. He said if BNP is voted to power canal digging programme will be revived.

The meeting was presided over by Golam Rashid and addressed by Kazi Sikendar Ali Dalim, Mahfuzul Karim, Shaik Faruk Ahmed Khondaker and Abdul Aziz. Meanwhile, a public meeting in support of Awami League nominee for Khulna constituency, Salauddin Yusuf was held recently at Kutti School ground with Babu Sudhir Kumar in the chair.

University foundation laid

The foundation stone of the academic building of Khulna University was laid by the Education Adviser Professor Zillur Rahman recently. Addressing the officials and representatives of different organisations he said that the long-felt demand of the people of this region for higher education is going to be fulfilled with the establishment of Khulna University.

Public opinion is not honoured unless a democratic government is formed, he added. As a matter of fact the previous government did not realise the need and importance of a University in this region, that is why its implementation was delayed, he said. However, he said that the session will start from July this year.

Vice-Chancellor of the University Professor Dr. Gulam Rahman also explained the need of a university in this region. The entire programme was conducted by the Registrar, Dr. Abu Iskar.

Bodies recovered

Rupsha thana police recovered a body of a young girl from Nahathi village recently. Police apprehended that she was raped and murdered. The body was found in a roadside bush. Another body of a teenaged girl was recovered from Nikiapur village of the same upazila.

Political scene

Is a 'key' to success?

Star report

With only three days left for the parliamentary polls electioneering has reached its peak throughout the country. Propaganda over microphone has become a round the clock business by all the political parties and independent candidates both in rural and urban areas.

There has been another competition among the contestants for February 27 polls. This relates to the size of election symbols. There is a tendency among the candidates to put up an election symbol as large as possible.

In Rajshahi, a candidate at Shaheb Bazar has surpassed all in making a huge 'key' which is his election symbol. The key has been displayed on the main thoroughfare. The size of the key is no less than a medium-size aircraft.

One is surprised to guess as to what would be the size of the lock of this key.

Our Kushtia correspondent adds: As parliamentary election is knocking the door election campaign in the district has reached its peak. Forty candidates seeking election for four parliamentary seats are giving repeated assurances in their manifesto in public meeting held in different parts of their constituencies and making door to door approach. Besides, writing in walls, poster, miking, banner, festoons and party symbols are seen everywhere.

Kazi Aref, a candidate of five party Alliance for Kushtia-I constituency said that if elected his party will help formation of a government on the basis of national consensus and Radio and T.V. will be made free to work. BNP candidate Ahsanul Huq Molla from the same constituency said that if elected incomplete work of President Zia will be fulfilled.

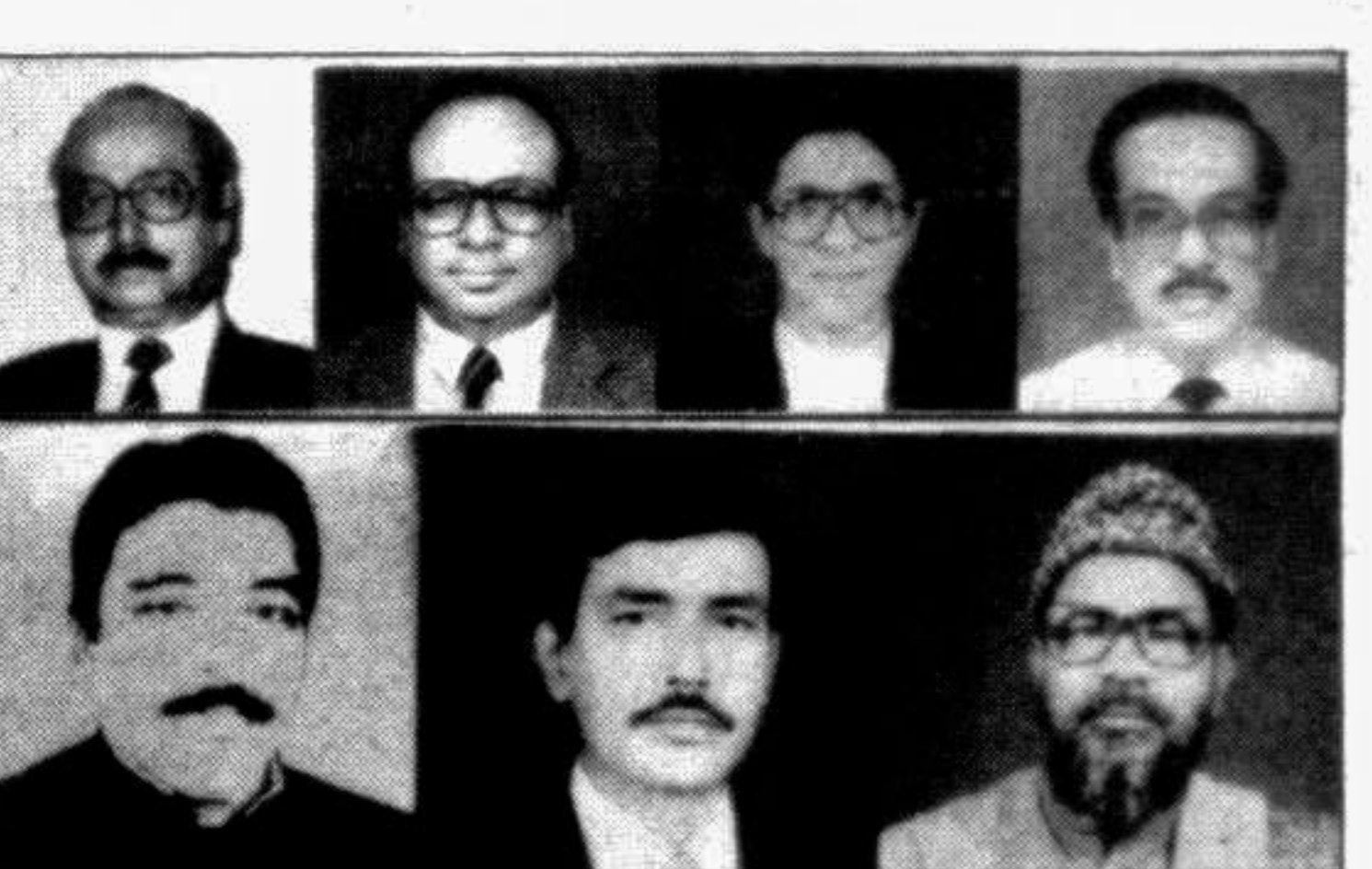
Jatiya Party candidate Md. Korban Ali said that he will help build a strong Bangladesh and work for unfinished work of his constituency. Kh. Shamsul Alam Dudu of 8-party candidate said if elected parliamentary form of government will come up to help fulfil hopes and aspiration of the people.

Another candidate student leader Nur Ahmed Bakul from United Communist League is approaching the people with his support from APSU. Jatiya Party candidate S. M. Azizul Huq is also a tough candidate here approaching door to door.

In constituency No. Kushtia IV Nur Alam Ziku JSD (Rab), Awami League candidate Abdul Awal and BNP candidate Syed Mehdi Ahmed Rumi were going on with their manifesto and holding meetings to attract the voters and giving assurance of their well-being if elected.

30 injured in Bhairab clash

Another report from Bhairab states: At least 30 people were injured, two of them seriously, in clashes between the supporters of two rival political parties here recently, police and witnesses said.



Candidates contesting from Munshiganj. From top left AR Khondakar (AL), Dr Shamsul Huq (Independent), Adilur Rahman Khan Shuvra (JSD-Inu), Nazrul Islam Khan (AL), Mohiuddin Ahmed (AL), Abdul Hye (BNP) and Md Nurul Huq Madbar (Jamaat). - Star photo

Five policemen, including Sub-Inspector Wares Ali, were also injured when they tried to quell the trouble.

Of the injured, 20 were admitted to local hospital. The condition of two injured persons was said to be critical. The clashes ensued when Awami League supporters allegedly pelted barricades near the town blocking the way of the BNP supporters who were returning in processions from a meeting of Begum Zia at Bhairabpur.

Hasanul Huq Inu, another candidate from Five Party Alliance advocated for formation of a government on the basis of national consensus if elected.

He was holding meetings after meetings in almost all parts of his constituency. Jatiya Party candidate Ahsan Habib Lincon has been approaching door to door for casting votes in his favour.

In constituency Kushtia III Jamaat candidate Dr. Anisur Rahman has been trying to woo

The BNP supporters, enraged by the barricades, reportedly attacked several houses of Awami League supporters at nearby Uttarpara.

1900 acres khas land distributed

PATUAKHALI, Feb 22: About 1900 acres of khas land have so far been distributed among the landless and distressed people in six upazilas of the district. According to official sources, 275 acres were distributed in Sadar, 125 acres in Mirzaganj, 300 acres in Bauphal, 375 in Dasmina, 625 acres in Galachipa and 200 acres in Kalapara upazilas. Meanwhile, works on 72 uplift schemes are underway in six upazilas of the district under dry season Food for Works Programme.

According to official sources, at least 3200 metric tons of wheat have been sanctioned for the implementation of the projects. KURIGRAM: Leaders of zila 8,7 and 5-Party alliance leaders addressing a Press conference at the BSD office on February 18. - Star photo



KURIGRAM: Leaders of zila 8,7 and 5-Party alliance leaders addressing a Press conference at the BSD office on February 18. - Star photo