

National

Upazila roundup

KUSHIA

Sons kill father

From Our Correspondent

March 3: A father was murdered by his sons here recently over land dispute.

It is reported that Moksed Ali (50) of Shakkah under Mirpur PS was living with two wives and many sons.

The sons of one wife attacked him with sharp weapons alleging that he was biased to the sons of another wife. Seriously injured Moksed Ali was taken to the Kushtia General Hospital in a critical condition and succumbed to injuries in the hospital.

NETRAKONA

Rural markets need care

From Our Correspondent

March 3: Almost all the hats and bazars of Mohanganj Upazila are in a deplorable condition since long. Consumers and sellers have complained to this correspondent that lack of proper maintenance by the authorities concerned is the main reason behind the deteriorating condition of these markets.

Shortage of space and absence of drainage system in these hats and bazars is lamentable. Besides, pools of stagnant water here and there, heaps of filth and garbage in the markets, where thousands of people carry on transaction everyday offer a sad commentary. Moreover, whenever a tubewell in a bazar goes out of order it takes several months to recommission it.

JESSORE

Eye hospital inaugurated

From A Correspondent

March 3: Kapatakha Lions Eye Hospital and Diabetes Diagnosis Centre was inaugurated recently at Barauid Kadamtala by the District Governor of Lions International District 315 Mr Tahidur Rahman.

Presided over by Mia Morsheed Hossain, the inaugural ceremony was addressed by the Zonal Chairman of Lions Club Mr Anwar Hossain, the Regional Chairman Dr Kazi Azteul Haque, the District President of BMA Dr Kazi Rabul Haque, prominent lawyer Mr Badrul Ala and eye specialist Mr Ahsan Kabir.

In his speech as chief guest Mr Tahidur Rahman told that over four crore people in the world are victims to blindness. Since the world had been failure to present blindness in developing countries, the number of blind people would be doubled in the next 25 years.

Highlighting the importance of the eye and diabetes hospital he said that it was the reflection of carefully reared up efforts. He handed over a cheque for Taka 50 thousand to the President of Jessore Lions Club and assured more help. The hospital in its temporary site will be managed by Jessore Kapatakha Lions, Lioness and Leo Club. It will remain open from 10 am to 12 noon daily and cataract patients will be operated upon every Tuesday.

BHOLA

27,134 acres khas land distributed

From Our Correspondent

March 3: A total of 27,134 acres of khas land had been distributed among 28,756 landless families in 15 districts of Khulna Division during the last fiscal year. Official sources said the lands were distributed to rehabilitate the distressed families.

The lands were distributed among 6735 families in Bhola district, 157 families in Patuakhali, 1161 in Jhalakati, 4676 in Barguna, 977 in Chuadanga, 805 in Meherpur, 770 in Khulna, 287 in Bagerhat, 7015 in Satkhira, 187 in Jessore, 694 in Magura and among 664 families in Kushtia district.

Foreign films

Illegal projection of uncensored foreign films through VCRs is going on unabated here for a long time.

It is alleged that, uncensored foreign films including blue-films are being screened daily through VCRs at night at some scheduled places the towns.

Young people throng at these places for tickets which cost between taka 10 and 15 per head.

No efforts have been made to stop this malpractice and

bring the offenders to book. Talking to this correspondent some elderly people opined that blue film shows are eroding the moral values of the youths and as well as the society.

MYMENSINGH

Rash driving causes accidents

From Our Correspondent

March 3: Frequent traffic rules violation by the drivers has made the journey hazardous to and from the district headquarters.

The routes are Mymensingh to Trishal-Goffargoan, Bhaluka-Fulbaria, Mymensingh-Muktachacha, Madupur-Tangail, Mymensingh-Fulpur, Halaughat-Nandail and Kishoreganj-Netrakona.

Passengers complained that most buses plying on different routes are overloaded making life risky. Moreover reckless driving and overtaking are reasons behind the frequent accidents.

Drivers stop their buses at different points according to their own whims for unlimited time causing delay in reaching destinations. They often charge high fare leading to frequent alternation with the passengers.

NARAYANGANJ

Illegal money lending rampant

From A Correspondent

March 3: Usury at exorbitant rate of interest is rampant in the rural areas of the district, it is learnt.

According to reports, the money lending or 'dadan' business is at its peak. The retailers, landless farmers and poor section of people are the victims of this unethical business.

The rate of interest is ranging from Taka 25 to Taka 50 a month and 40 kgs of paddy is realised for Taka 100 taken as loan. Higher charges are usually realised from the poor and the weaker section of the people.

The interest is realised at the end of the week and gold, bullocks and cows are taken as a security in some cases. The money lenders maintain 'hooligans' and 'pressure' groups as the helping hands in the realising the principal amount and in the rest.

Consequently, not only the landless but also the middle class families have ruined by this system of usury.

MADARIPUR

Meagre facilities in schools

From Our Correspondent

March 3: Studies of the students have been adversely affected due to shortage of infrastructural facilities in most of the private high schools in the district.

According to informed sources, scarcity of furniture and accommodation, inadequate laboratory facilities together with fund sangs have multiplied the problems of the schools.

Besides, teachers of these schools are deprived of government grants as their institutions have not yet been affiliated by the government.

TANGAIL

Magic festival

From A Correspondent

Mar 3: National Magic Festival - 91 arranged by Tangail Magic Society was held at Basani Hall at Tangail recently.

Sixty magicians from different places of the country attended the festival. The main attraction of the festival was Azera Jabin who came from Dhaka and MA Jali a member of International Brotherhood of Magicians (America), Mr. S I Chowdhury presided over the magic festival.

Magics were exhibited by the magician Prince Alamgir, magician M. A. Jali, Md. Taramiah, Gauranga Sarkar, S.I. Chowdhury, magician Roton and others.

C' NAWABGANJ

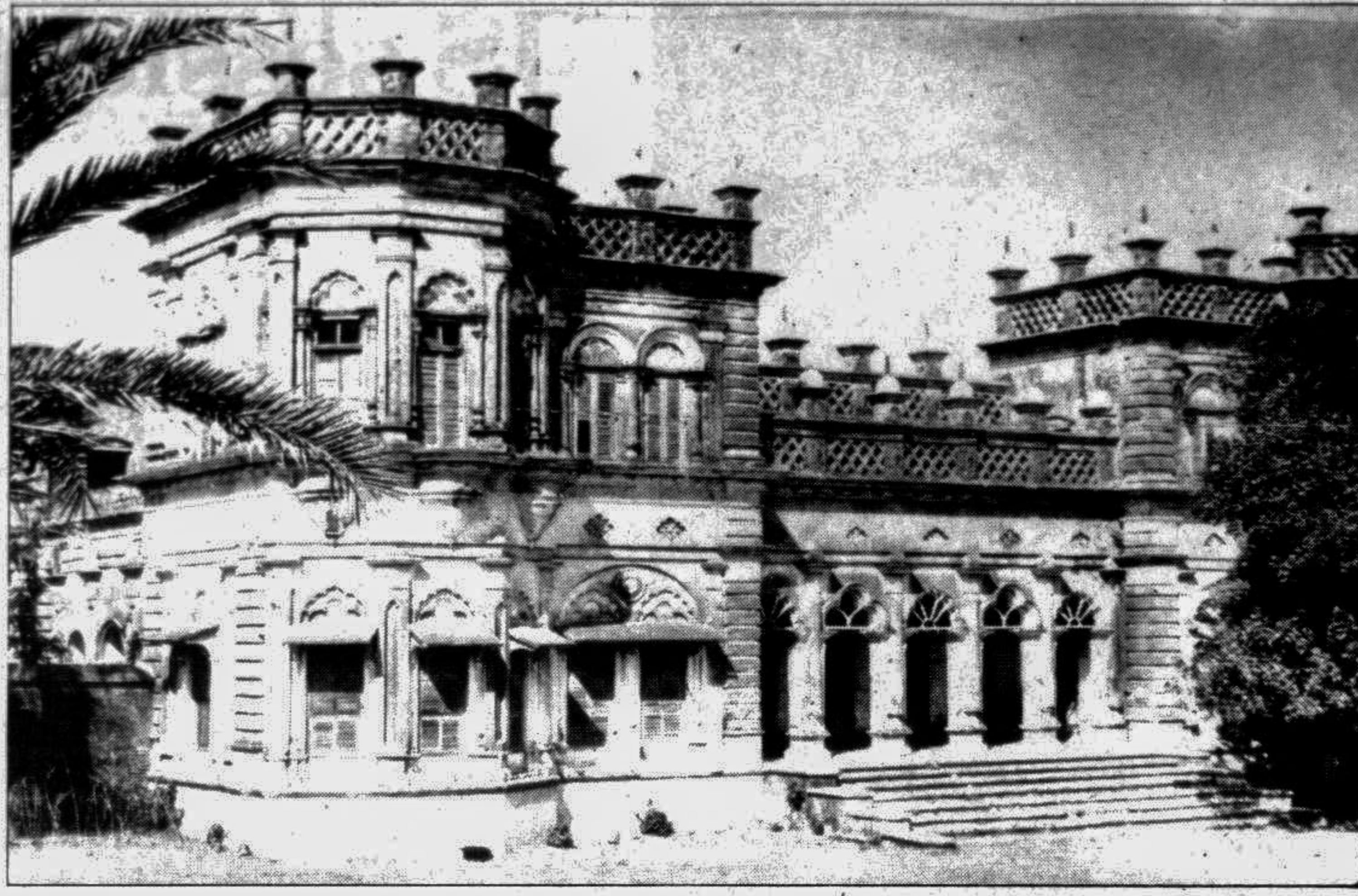
Protein deficiency

From Our Correspondent

Mar 3: Nearly seven lakh people in the district have been suffering from protein deficiency due to acute shortage of proteinous food.

Daily requirement of an adult is 120 grams of meat, 40 grams of fish, one egg and 200 grams of milk. About 10 lakh inhabitants of the district require at least 43,200 tons of meat, 14,400 tons of fish, 36 crore eggs and 72,000 tons of milk yearly.

According to a survey report, the district produces only 4,000 tons of fish, 3 crore eggs and 36,000 tons of milk which is only 24 per cent of average requirement and it is quite inadequate.



GAZIPUR: The majesticity of Sribalatali Zaminder palace in Kallakoir appears to be still intact. - Star photo

Shaheed Day observed all over

From Our Correspondent

AGRI-VARSITY (Mymensingh), Mar 3: With affirm pledge to implement the ideals and dreams of the immortal language martyrs, Shaheed Day was observed at the Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) on February 21 in a befitting manner.

In the early morning of the day, various socio-cultural organisations including the teachers, students, officers and employees of the University had assembled at the club premises to participate in the morning procession and they went to the Shaheed Minar to pay their respect and gratitude by placing floral wreaths on its platform.

The Vice-Chancellor of BAU Prof M Asadur Rahman conducted the oath-taking ceremony declaring the deepest promise of the community to work for overall development of the nation including usage of Bengali language at all levels of our national life.

Others who spoke included Mr Md Mafuzur Rahman, General Secretary of BAU Teachers' Council and Mr AKM Abdur Rafique, Vice-President of BAUCSU.

The morning programme of the day included a cultural function participated by the artists belonging to Sammitto Sangskritik Jote (the combined cultural union) and a wall magazine competition both arranged under the auspices of BAUCSU and painting competition under the management of Shishu-Kishore Council.

On this occasion, a week-long book-exhibition containing agricultural text books written in Bengali by the teachers of BAU was inaugurated by the Vice-Chancellor in a function held at the University library. Arranged under the auspices of BAU

Teachers' Council, the function was presided over by Prof M Azizul Haque, President of the Council and the address of welcome was made by Mr Md Mahfuzur Rahman, General Secretary of BAUCSU. The chief guest distributed flower bunches among the authors of exhibited books. Emphasizing the importance of publication of agricultural text books in Bengali to boost up the academic programme of BAU, the Vice-Chancellor said that plans were under way to revitalise the Bengali Cell of the University in this regard.

At the southern corner of the Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Auditorium compound, the foundation stone of the liberation war memorial monument was laid by the Vice-Chancellor in a solemn and grand atmosphere. Held under the joint

Chancellor said that this monument was the symbol of struggles, dreams and sacrifices of the valiant freedom fighters of our liberation war. He further stated that this symbol would be a perennial source of inspiration to the future generations in their deeds and thoughts. The function was conducted by Mr Ashrafullah Bhuiyan, Joint Secretary of BAUCSU.

The afternoon programme of the day included an attractive cultural presentation under the title 'Ekushey Ashru-Saogal' (The tearful presentation of Ekushey) at the Mukta-mancha by BAU Ladies Club and it was followed by a discussion meeting under the auspices of BAUCSU. The seminar was chaired by the Vice-President of BAUCSU Mr AKM Abdur Rafique and it was

Shaheed Day was observed in Gouripur in a befitting manner.

Gouripur Upazila Parishad Awami League, BNP, Gouripur College, Chander Hat, SM Club, Mahila College, RK High School, CPB Reporters Club observed the day with due solemnity.

Programmes chalked out by different institutions included Provat Ferri, placing of wreaths at Shaheed Minar, discussion meeting etcetra.

Kushtia

Our Kushtia Correspondent adds:

Shaheed Day was celebrated here in a befitting manner recently.

The importance of Shaheed Day was highlighted this year by holding symposia and cultural functions with colourful rallies in the district.

The day's programme began at mid-night by placing wreaths at Central Shaheed Minar at Kushtia College.

Various socio-political, cultural and professional organisations placed flower wreaths at the Shaheed Minar and took oath. Some cultural organisations held musical soiree and artistes rendered patriotic songs.

In remembrance of martyrs of Language Movement of 1952 a cultural programme was held in the campus of Shaheed Minar of Islamic University. A symposium and cultural function were also held at Shilpa Kala Academy in the same campus.

Another cultural function was held at Public Library Campus by Shishu Academy and prizes were distributed among the competitors.

The function was inaugurated by Professor Sherazul Islam, V.C. of Islamic University and addressed by Advocate Gazil Haque, Professor Dr. Mustafa Nurul Islam, Professor Hasan Azizul Haque and Professor Chotdhury Julfikar Motin.

Gouripur

A Correspondent from Gouripur (Mymensingh) adds:



MYMENSINGH: Members of the local Press Club marching towards Sheheed Minar to lay wreaths on the occasion of Ekushey February. - Star photo

auspices of BAUCSU and BAU unit of Muktiyoddha Sangsad, the function was addressed by Mr AKM Abdur Quddus Mian, the designer of the monument, Mr AKM Abdur Rafique, Vice-President of BAUCSU and Dr M Rafiqul Haque unit commander-in-Charge of the Muktiyoddha Sangsad.

Termining this event of stone-laying of liberation war memorial monument as the glorious and significant one in the life of BAU, the Vice-

About 300 mastans active in Jamalpur upazilas

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Mar 3: About 300 mastans are reportedly engaged in various crimes in six upazilas of the district creating terror among the town-dwellers.

Despite occasional drive by the police to contain anti-social activities these mastans are continuing crimes frequently.

It is alleged that they commit crimes under the shelter of influential and vested quarters who are hired to take possession of disputed lands, houses etcetra and on the other hand victims have to remain silent due to obvious reasons.

According to the allegations, these mastans are very active specially in the main town areas of the district. Besides, 50 illegal clubs have sprung up in different areas are infact dens of these mastans. They often plunder huge wealth worth heavy amount.

Snatching, hijacking, robbery, extortion of money, teasing of girls are frequently committed by these mastans. Marketing centres, autotemp stands, interdistrict bus-stands, railway stations and food godowns are the main spots where from gangs of mastans regularly collect tolls. Extortion is known to be a major source of their income. It is further learnt that to

make the way of their crimes easy, they use fire-arms, country made weapons and home made bombs.

Dwellers complained that no effective steps have been taken to stop such activities after repeated complaints made by the people.

According to the district police, about 50 mastans were arrested in connection with robbery, extortion of money etcetra. They have also launched a manhunt for mastans, the police added. The source further said that the task of bringing them to book would be much easier if influential people stop backing them.

Bullock shortage hampers farming

BORGUNA, March 1:

Cultivation has been adversely affected due to acute shortage of bullocks and decline of mineral constituents of the soil in the district, reports UNB.

According to sources, about 35 per cent land remained fallow during this season as many farmers have no bullocks to till their land. Most farmers have been cultivating their land on share basis.

Besides, prices of bullocks have shot up in the markets. A pair of bullocks is being sold between Taka 10,000 and 12,000 which is beyond the purchasing capacity of the poor farmers.

The situation has further aggravated due to indiscriminate slaughter of cows.

Moreover, agronomist opined that shortage of necessary minerals like sulphur and zinc has reduced soil fertility throughout the district.

The cause of mineral shortage was attributed to unrestricted use of chemical fertilizer by the ignorant farmers.

Revolver recovered

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, March 3: A revolver with five rounds of bullet was recovered by G.R.P. police headed by O.C. Jahangir Alam from Akhaura railway station. Besides, another indigenous revolver was recovered from Mukandapur railway station.

Political scene

Importance of voters still undiminished

Star report

Both the winners and the losers in February 27 parliamentary polls are still spending much of their time with the electorates in respective constituencies. In some places defeated candidates have surpassed the winners to satisfy the voters.

An independent candidate at Patuakhali who lost the election battle spent huge sum of money on a feast for the people of his locality. One of his close supporters wanted to know the reason for such spending, particularly after the defeat, the loser replied that this was an investment for the future.

Many other candidates who have either won or defeated, are now engaged in house to house visit at their respective constituencies. They are exchanging pleasantries with the rural folk for the trouble caused to them during the electioneering.

A defeated candidate told a large section of people in course of his door to door post election approach that the voters were right in choosing the most competent one from the constituency. "I shall try to rise up to your expectations," he assured the electorates.

His chance is better in future, commented some of the voters.



Candidates emerge victorious in the parliamentary elections held on February 27. From top left Col (Retd) Akbar Hossain (BNP) from Comilla-8 Sadar, Abu Taher (BNP) from Comilla-7 Barura, Abdul Matin Khashru (AL), Comilla-5 Burichang, AKM Kamruzzaman (BNP) from Comilla 11, Nangalcoat and Kazi Zafar Ahmed (JP) from Comilla-12 Chawddagram. - Star photo.

Prices of essentials up in Kurigram

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Mar 3: Prices of essentials have marked a sharp rise in the markets of the district causing hardships to the common people.

Despite availability of new Aman rice in the market the price is not decreasing. Present price of Aman rice is Taka 11 to 12 per kg against Taka 9.50 to 11 a fortnight back.

Besides, prices of vegetables are also high despite maximum supply.

held in two groups.

Mr. Kahirul Alam ADC (General), Kurigram distributed prizes among the winners as the chief guest, which was presided over by Mr. Shalendra Nath Roy and addressed by Mr. Abdul Mannan, district Education Officer Kurigram.

Motor Sramik Union executives

A 17-member executive committee of Kurigram Motor Sramik Union was formed in an election held recently for 1991-92.

Mr. Majeedul Islam Sarkar and Mr. Abdul Karim Modhu were elected President and Secretary respectively of the Executive Committee of Kurigram.

Health complexes in disarray

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Mar 3: The Health Complexes of different upazilas in the district are beset with manifold problems.

Paucity of drinking water, lack of proper drainage system in the hospital premises, absence of ambulances, blood banks, dental unit and ophthalmic treatment facilities, shortage of doctors, nurses, medicines and surgical instruments have aggravated the situation.

Besides, most of the health complexes have no X-ray machines and technicians.

Numerous patients from different remote areas every day go back disappointed due to absence of proper treatment.

The patients in critical condition cannot be shifted to Kishoreganj Sadar Hospital of Mymensingh and Dhaka Medical College Hospital for emergency treatment due to non-availability of ambulance.

The ailing patients of Itna Upazila health complex can hardly get the minimum medical facilities at the hospital due to non-availability of required number of doctors. Out of total nine sanctioned posts of the doctors only two doctors are working now.

The people of the district

urged the concerned authorities to take appropriate steps to minimise the sufferings of the patients.

Husband jailed

Mr. Mottur Rahman, Additional District and Sessions Judge, Kishoreganj sentenced one Fazlu Miah to rigorous imprisonment for three years and a fine of Taka 1000 in default to suffer three months more for criminal abortion of his wife.

According to the report, on getting information of illness of his wife Mr. Fazlu Miah went to his father-in-law's house and gave some medicine to his pregnant wife. After taking those medicines she aborted. The court after examining five witnesses delivered the judgement.

69 prisoners freed in Patuakhali

From Our Correspondent

PATUAKHALI, March 3: According to the decision of the present caretaker government, a total of 69 prisoners have been freed from Patuakhali district jail.



PABNA: Population boom, natural calamities and other factors made many a people homeless. Here this woman is cleaning utensils near her thatched hut beside a highway while her husband is out for a day's earning. - Star photo