

Upazila roundup

MANIKGANJ

School girl kidnapped

From Our Correspondent

March 8: A school girl was kidnapped at gun point in Manikganj today.

Sampa Akhtar, a girl student of Class X of Manikganj Model High School was allegedly kidnapped by a group of armed youngmen from Manikganj town road this afternoon. A fair looking girl, and the daughter of Asrafuldin Talukder, an engineer of local District Council, Sampa was kidnapped while returning home from her school. The armed group arrived at the spot by a white colour private car and fled away with Sampa at gun point, eyewitnesses said. A case has been registered with Manikganj police station in this connection. Police are yet to recover the kidnapped school girl.

(25), son of Abdus Sattar of the village gave away his life by cutting off his throat with a sharp knife.

Family feud was said to be the reason behind the suicide. His body was sent to morgue for autopsy.

Another message adds: Police recovered two rifles from a branch of a mango tree Thursday from village Bashaerhat under Sadar upazila here.

Two separate cases were lodged.

FARIDPUR

Education Week observed

From Our Correspondent

March 8: National Education Week '91 was observed here on Thursday.

A combined procession of educational institutions of all eight upazilas of Faridpur paraded the city streets. The procession started from Faridpur Stadium.

A two-day literary and cultural competition was organised at Kabi Jasimuddin Hall on the occasion.

Bar Assoc executives

The election of Faridpur Bar Association was held on Thursday at the Bar Library.

Advocate Mossarrat Hossain Chowdhury and Advocate Nasruddin Ahmed Khoka were elected President and General Secretary respectively.

PIROJPUR

2,340 acres khas land distributed

March 8: A total of 2,340 acres of khas land were distributed among the distressed people of six upazilas of Pirojpur district during the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, 447 acres were distributed in Pirojpur Sadar Upazila, 174 acres in Kauhali, 918 acres in Nazirpur, 184 acres in Swarupkati, 124 acres in Mathbaria and 497 acres in Bhandaria upazila.

So far 4,750 landless families in this district have been benefited under the programme, the source said.

BARISAL

Science Week observed

March 8: The National Science and Technology Week-91 of Barisal district concluded at the science campus of Brojomohun College here on Wednesday last, reports BSS.

Presided over by Professor Md Hanif, Principal of the College, the Science Week was inaugurated by Mr Nurul Alam Khan, Deputy Commissioner, Bakerganj.

A total of 11 science clubs, two colleges and one school took part in the Science Week this year. The programme of the Science Week included display of scientific projects, debate and discussion meeting.

Dr Md Harun-or-Rashid, Principal of Sher-e-Bangla Medical College, Barisal, gave away the prizes and certificates among the participants at the concluding function.

PATUAKHALI

WDB to build 38 sluice gates

March 8: In an attempt to save vast tracts of land from flash flood and salinity, Water Development Board (WDB) has undertaken construction of 38 sluice gates in the coastal areas of the district, reports UNB.

According to official sources, about Taka 16 crore will be spent for the construction of sluice gates. Work on the schemes will be completed during the current financial year.

DINAJPUR

One commits suicide

March 8: A youngman committed suicide Thursday at Nalditi village under Birol upazila of the district, police said, reports UNB.

The victim Badsha Miah

Medicare absent in TB hospital

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 8: The only TB clinic in Sirajganj district can hardly render medicare to the patients which are on increase in an alarming proportion.

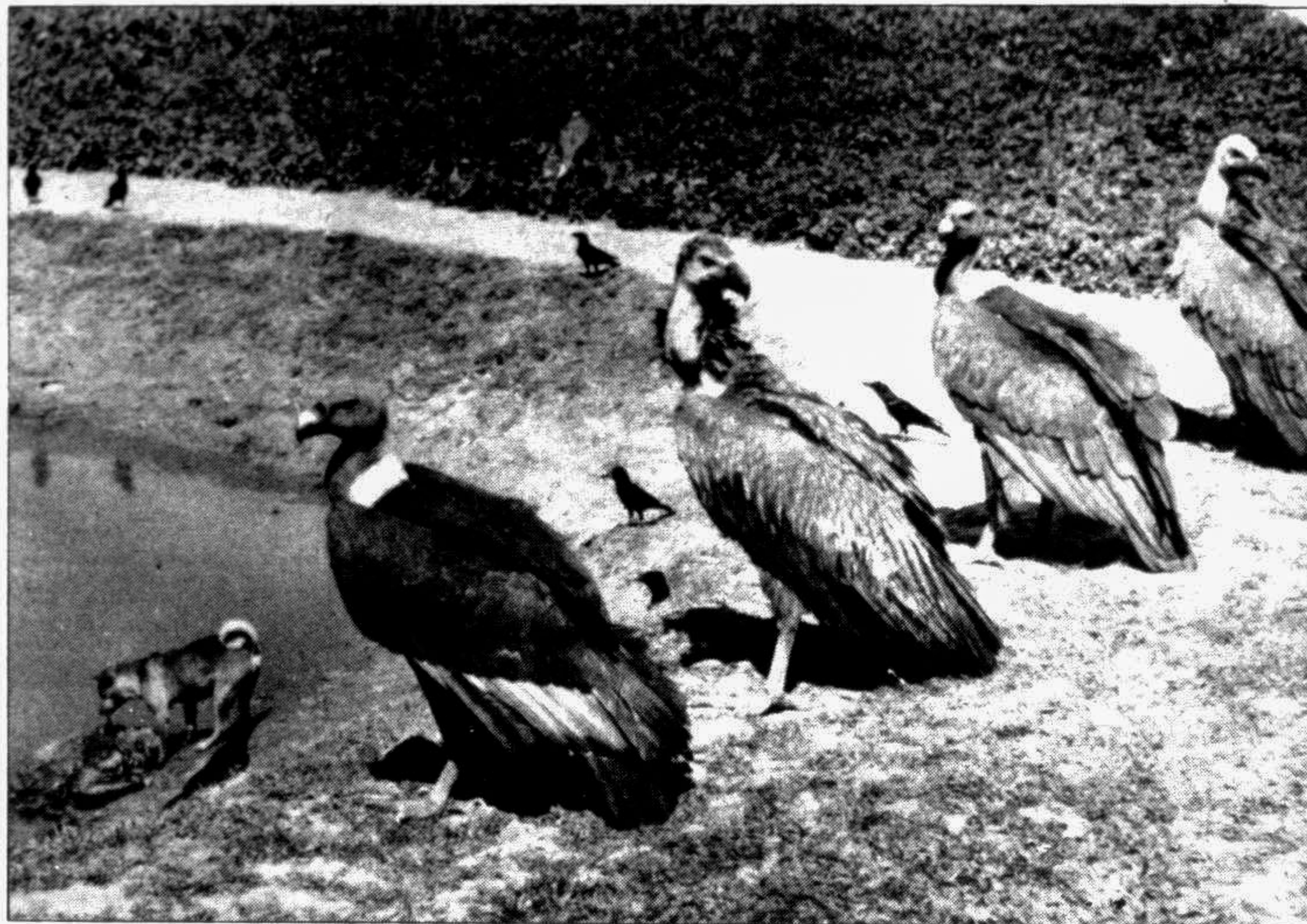
Due to shortage of staff an employee having practical training from Sadar Hospital is operating the X-ray machine. Post of a Radiologist is vacant, since long. At present there are 13 employees including now medical officers at work in the clinic.

Established in 1966 the clinic examine 10 to 15 suspected patients every year whereas 600 to 800 new TB patients are admitted in the outdoor for treatment.

According to the sources, due to absence of a boundary wall a section of estranged youths of the locality organise anti-social activities inside the complex.

According to the eyewitnesses, after the office hours gambling followed by free access of gay girls are unabated in the premises. Resistance by night-guard is not effective as the alleged masons are learnt to be influential. Moreover cattlehead and goats graze in front of the clinic all the day long.

When contacted, the Junior Consultant-in-charge stressed the need for improving environmental situation in the clinic area.



Vultures, used to be seen in large number in rural areas, have now become rare. Four such birds are awaiting their share of a corpse at village Amanatpur in Noakhali district. —Star photo

Illegal hemp farming in border areas

From A Correspondent

KHULNA, Mar 8: In the agricultural lands near zero lines of six border districts under Khulna Division cultivation of hemp has been extended with the seeds smuggled in from India.

Extensive cultivation of hemp is reported to be going on in the districts of Satkhira, Jessore, Jhenidah, Chuadanga, Kushtia and Meherpur. But due to negligence in proper drive by the Drug Control Department throughout the division, the illegal cultivation of hemp cannot be identified.

The government in 1987 totally banned cultivation,

selling and use of hemp in the country. On the other hand its cultivation is legal in our neighboring country India. As hemp cultivation is on rise at various parts of India near Bangladesh border areas, its seeds are being smuggled into the country through the bordering areas of Satkhira, Jessore, Jhenidah, Chuadanga, Kushtia and Meherpur.

According to a reliable source that about two kathas of land can be cultivated with only two hemp seeds and most of the farmers in border areas allegedly engaged in smuggling and this profitable cultivation

of hemp is going on extensively.

A very little of the hemp grown in these border areas has so far been recovered.

Under the division, maximum quantity of hemp has been recovered in Khulna district alone. From July 1989 to June 1990 a total of 470,375 grams of hemp were recovered in Khulna Division. Sixteen thousand six hundred and 61 hemp plants were also recovered during the same period. Of them 387,980 grams of hemp and 7375 hemp plants were recovered from Khulna district alone.

Writers seek cooperation to serve society

CHITTAGONG, Mar 8: Women writers yesterday called upon all quarters to extend all-out cooperation to them so that they could make more contributions to social developments through writings, reports BSS.

The said, the objectives of their writings were to serve the society, help women realise their socio economic and political rights and create scope for them to play a greater role in national developments.

The women writers were speaking at the inaugural function of Jatiya Lekhika Sammelan (national confer-

ence of women writers) held at Shishu Academy here under the auspices of Chattagram Lekhika Sangha.

Mr M. A. Bari, Commissioner of Chittagong Division inaugurated the conference while Dr M. A. Rakib, Member, Bangladesh Public Service Commission, Poet Ohidul Alam, Prof. Ashabuddin Mustari Shaif, Prof. Salma Chowdhury, General Secretary, Chattagram Lekhika Sangha, Mrs Farida Ahad, Begum Zinat Azam, Prof Anwara Alam, Mrs Runa Siddiki and Mrs Roushan Zaman addressed it.

Mrs Fahmida Amin,

President of Chattagram Lekhika Sangha presided.

Mr M. A. Bari said, the rights of women could be achieved through struggle and their writings.

Earlier, a reception was accorded to two eminent women writers Mrs Mustari Shaif and monthly Begum Editor Mrs Nur Jahan Begum for their glorious role in vindicating the cause of women community through their writings. They were presented with crests of Chattagram Lekhika Sangha. Mrs Nur Jahan could not attend the function for health reason.

30,000 child labourers in Kushtia

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Mar 8: Child labourers are on the increase in Kushtia. With the influx of floating population in urban areas in search of work these under-aged children are compelled to take up any kind of work suited to their need and capability. They are engaged mostly in helping masonry work, hotels, restaurants, small mills and factories, motor garage, welding workshop, house hold work, tobacco factory, cycle rickshaws mechanism, van pulling, rickshaw driving and many other works in which they get the chance to test their fortune.

According to International

Labour laws children under age of 15 years are not allowed to take up hard work. In Bangladesh this age limit has been fixed below fifteen years. But most of the children seen engaged in such works are mostly 10 years of age or below than that.

In such age group these children are compelled to take up hard work only because of their poverty finding no other alternative. In greater Kushtia district there are about 30 thousand such child labourers working in any vocation for maintaining their own livelihood as well as to maintain their family members.

Kazipur Protection Embankment yet to be completed

From Our Correspondent

Mohammad Nasim, Publicity Secretary of Bangladesh Awami League and MP-elect from Sirajganj, Wednesday expressed concern at the non-implementation of the Kazipur Protection Embankment project in Sirajganj, reports BSS.

In a statement in Dhaka, he said people of Kazipur faced untold sufferings and thousands of acres of land went under water since the project to protect Kazipur from the erosion of river Jamuna had not been completed as yet.

Nasim urged the Acting President and concerned authorities, including the Water Development Board, to start work on the project before the rainy season

Kishoreganj hats, bazars in deplorable state

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Mar 8: Hats and bazars in all 13 upazilas of the district are in pitiable conditions causing great inconveniences to both the buyers and sellers.

Shoppers said most of the hats and bazars have bad drainage system and the situation worsen during the rainy season. Absence of public toilets in the rural hats and bazars had been causing immense problems to the people.

Moreover, filths and garbages were being dumped in the bazar areas emitting bad odour and helping bulk breeding of mosquitoes.

Shops built in the bazars in a haphazard way have been causing untold sufferings to the sellers and buyers, informed sources said.

Local people and shop owners have demanded early development and proper maintenance of the markets.

Old system of weights

The old system of weights and measurements is being used by a section of traders in different hats and bazars of 13 upazilas of Kishoreganj district.

According to eyewitnesses many unscrupulous traders of Karimganj, Tarail, Itna, Mitamain, Austagram, Nikli, Bajilpur, Bhairab, Kuliarchar, Katiadi, Pakendia, Hossainpur and Kishoreganj Sadar upazila have been using the old system despite introduction of metric system by the authority.

The hawkers and small traders buy items in the k.g. system but sell these in old system, thus cheating the innocent customers.

Specially, some small traders carry on their business with weights made of stones and bricks. It is also alleged that most of the shopkeepers now preserve the weighting stones of metric system side by side with stones of seers, chataks etc. for eye washing the people.

The inspection of different hats and bazars by mobile court may stop these malpractices, it is widely felt.

Shantibahini man killed

From Our Correspondent

RANGAMATI, Mar 8: One Shantibahini insurgent was killed in an encounter with the security forces Wednesday at Longadu upazila under Rangamati district.

A contingent of security forces raided on the Shantibahini hideout and exchanged fire.

Other insurgents fled into the deep forest.

The security forces recovered one automatic rifle, one SBBL gun with one thousand ammunition and two grenades from the hide out.

14 injured in bus-truck collision

From Our Correspondent

GAZIPUR, Mar 7: At least 14 persons were admitted to Dhaka Pangu (Cripple) Hospital in a critical condition after a head-on collision between a passenger bus and a loaded truck near Hossain Market at Tongi Thursday morning.

Political scene

Solid as rock!

Star report

A Star Correspondent from Jhalakati district reports about strange behaviour of women voters of Magar Union in Nalchiti upazila. None of the female voters of the union turned up to cast their votes on February 27 parliamentary election.

The number of women voters in Magar Union is 5,071. No amount of persuasion from the candidates supporters and male members of their families could send them to polling centres.

This is not for the first time that 'Magra women' have boycotted elections in masse. Since 1963 women of this union are not exercising their right of franchise. The reason for their boycott of polls is an unhappy incident occurred in 1963 over casting of false votes. It could not be known how long they will continue this practice.

UNB from Sirajganj adds: Two people, including a housewife, have been killed in the district for not voting according to others' dictation, police and villagers said.

They said Azhar Ali (25) was beaten to death on Tuesday at village Pangari in Kazipur upazila as he did not cast his vote for Scale, the symbol of Jamaat-e-Islami in the Feb 27 parliament election.

His father-in-law Munsif Abul Kalam and his neighbour Farid Sarker were blamed for the killing.

Ambia Khatun (20) of Bamanbaria village in Raiganj upazila was also beaten to death on Wednesday for voting in favour of boat, the election symbol of Awami League.

Ambia's parents lodged a case accusing her husband Rabul of the killing.

matter what the election result was.

They blamed Bangladesh Nationalist Party for what they said misguiding the voters in the name of religion and casting false votes to reverse the expected results.

The leaders were addressing a rally arranged in connection with the observance of March 7 at Laldighi Maidan Thursday afternoon. Presided over by party leader Ishaq Miah, the rally was addressed by Prof. Pulidey, A.B.M. Mohiuddin Chowdhury, Prof. Nurul Islam, Jafar Ahmed Chowdhury, Nurul Islam, Idris Alam.

They said Awami League would try to develop airport into an international one, reexcavate Chaktai Canal and set up a separate police station at Bakalia. They called upon Chittagong WASA to lower the water tariff at par with Dhaka WASA by March 17. They said that they would launch a movement the following day to remove the Chairman of Chittagong WASA if the demand was not fulfilled by March 17.

The leaders also asked the leaders of BNP to stop what they called terrorism launched after the election. Otherwise Awami League would be compelled to resist the terrorism.

12 lost security money in Magura

Another report adds: Security money of 12 candidates out of 18 from two constituencies of the district have been forfeited in the last parliamentary election, official sources said.

According to sources Abdul Matin (Jamaat), Abdul Haq (Jaker Party), Mohabbat Ali (JSD-Inu), Masudur Rahman (JSD-Rob), Faijul Kabir (Jatiya Party), Amzad Hossain (Islami Oikya Jote), Roy Romesh Chandra (BKSAJ) and Hossain Hasan Rokib (Independent) lost their security money from Magura-1 constituency.

Abul Kashem (Freedom Party), Kawsar Uddin (Jaker Party), Mufti Golam Rahman (Islami Oikya Jote) and Hafizur Rahman (JSD-Rob) lost their security money from Magura-2 constituency.

Peshajibi Sangsad for transfer of power

Another report from Chittagong says: Sammitto Peshajibi Sangsad here on Thursday expressed grave concern over, what it called, conspiracy to foil the victory of nationalist and Islamic forces in the February 27 elections by the vested quarters.

The organising committee of the Sangsad at a meeting here with its President, Advocate Badul Alam in the chair called upon the caretaker government to take necessary steps for transfer of power to victorious political party and ignore any pressure from any quarter to reverse the verdict of the people a Sangsad Press release said.

The Sangsad urged the political parties to forget their petty differences in the greater interest of the nation and accept the verdict of the people without any reservation. The nation has been passing through a critical juncture and any bickering over petty interest would frustrate what has been achieved after a long struggle, it observed.

It also expressed satisfaction over the peaceful and impartial Jatiya Sangsad elections and congratulated the caretaker government and the Election Commission for fair conduct of the election.

The Sangsad called upon the people to extend all-out cooperation to the government to be formed by the party gaining majority seats in the Parliament.

It urged the Chittagong University authorities to reopen the university immediately so that students can pursue their studies regularly.

Sangsad leaders Advocate Shams Uddin Ahmad Mirza, Ahmad Sagor, Maulana Abdur Rahim Islamabadi, Principal Mohammed Taher, Prof Abdun Nur, Dr Abdul Malek Chowdhury, Kazi Saifuddin Ahmad Chowdhury and others addressed the meeting.

One stabbed in Barisal

A report from Barisal adds: A political activist was stabbed and beaten mercilessly on Wednesday night while he was returning home, police said.

According to sources, a gang of miscreants numbering 8 to 10 suddenly attacked Mohammad Alam Khan (35), organising secretary of Awami Jubo League of Hiziya upazila at 9pm.

They stabbed and dragged him to a nearby house where he was beaten up mercilessly. Local people rescued him and sent him to Barisal Medical College Hospital where his condition was stated to be critical.

A case was lodged in this connection.

Menon's security money forfeited

Out of 63 candidates who contested in the Feb 27 parliamentary elections from six constituencies of the district, security money of 44 candidates have been forfeited.

Rashed Khan Menon of the Workers' Party won from one of the constituencies has also had his security deposit forfeited from Bakerganj-5 constituency.

AL to fulfil election pledges

BSS from Chittagong adds: Awami League leaders said here on Thursday that they would continue their struggle to fulfil the pledges made to the voters during campaign so

Repolling in Khagrachari constituency demanded

Abdul Wadud Bhutyan (Abud) a BNP nominee from Khagrachari constituency Wednesday demanded re-polling there as, he complained, the "majority of the voters could not cast their vote" because of terrorism let loose by Shanti Bahini in connivance with the Awami League candidate February 27, reports BSS.

He also complained of anomalies in the voter's list, change of address and the "mysterious disappearance of the names of genuine voters".

Mr Bhutyan urged the Election Commission to withhold the official announcement of the result till re-polling was completed.

Mr Abud further urged the government to undertake necessary security measures for his personal safety.



Before farming paddy seedlings are produced in separate land. Here in a Jamalpur village girls are uprooting IRRI seedlings. —Star photo.