

Int'l Children's Day observed in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, June 2: The International Children's day was observed here through colourful rallies, discussions and other cultural programmes, reports UNB.

On the occasion Chader Hat, a national children organization, held a discussion meeting at local Shishu Academy auditorium on Sunday morning.

The meeting was presided over by adviser of the organization A K M Aminul Islam while Additional Divisional Commissioner M Yakub Ali attended as chief guest.

It was also addressed by Shishu Academy district organizer M Moktarul Alam, President of Panorama City Lions Club Alhaj Najneen Ahmed, Advocate S M Ebadullah, M Shahnewaz and convenor of Chader Hat Kamruddin Ahmed.

The chief guest M Yakub Ali called upon the affluent section of the society to help the distressed children so that they can grow in a congenial atmosphere.

"We must respect the rights of the children and do everything possible for their mental and physical growth", he said.

The speakers also demanded of the government to announce a comprehensive national children policy.

The function was followed by a rally which paraded several city streets. Improved diet was also distributed among the distressed children.

Ctg Mayor's call to refrain from wall writing

CHITTAGONG, June 2: Mayor of Chittagong Alhaj A B M Mohiuddin Chowdhury on Saturday urged all candidates in the coming election to refrain from wall writing and pasting posters in the city areas, reports BSS.

In a statement the Mayor said, complaints have been received from different organisations and individuals that some of the candidates have put up their posters here and there which damage the beauty of the city.

Without permission from the authorities concerned, putting up posters and writing on the walls are punishable acts according to the City Corporation Ordinance as well as electoral rules, set by Election Commission, the Mayor pointed out.

Remain vigilant against any conspiracy: Menon

BARISAL, June 2: Workers Party General Secretary Rashed Khan Menon on Saturday urged the people to remain vigilant against any conspiracy to foil the June 12 election, reports UNB.

He alleged that it was because of the soft and pliable attitude of the caretaker government that anti-election forces had started conspiring to frustrate the polls.

Menon was addressing an election rally at Harta Bazar of Uziarpur thana in the district. Presided over by Abdul Kalam, the rally was also addressed by local party leaders Nazrul Haq Nilu and Ziaul Haq, said a party press release.

Menon said there is no alternative to a free and fair election to sustain the democratic process.

He called for recovering illegal arms from his constituency and elsewhere in the country before the forthcoming election.

Meanwhile, Abdul Matin, Language Movement veteran and a candidate of Workers' Party from Siraganj-6 constituency, urged party workers to go ahead with election campaign in the face of all threats.

Addressing an election meeting in his home constituency, he called upon the caretaker government to arrest the armed hoodlums of his constituency for the sake of free and fair election.

Markets in pitiable condition in Narail

NARAIL, June 2: The rural markets in all the three thanas of the district are in a pitiable condition causing sufferings to both the buyers and sellers, reports UNB.

Hundreds of buyers and sellers gather in the markets from different places for trading huge quantity of goods including jute, paddy, seasonal crops and cattlehead in every hat days.

But, unplanned construction of shops and grabbing the footpaths by the vendors reduced the spaces of these markets causing trouble to the people.

Most of these markets set up beside the highways have been hindering the movement of vehicles and passersby. Moreover, most of these markets lack public toilets, proper drainage system, electricity and water supply facilities.

The vendors said in the absence of adequate sheds they are forced to sit in the open space to carry out their business.

The sufferings of both the buyers and sellers increase when the kutcha roads of these markets become muddy and slippery during the rainy season.



SHERPUR: Deputy Commissioner of Sherpur Md Abdul Mobarak addressing a meeting on election code of conduct here on May 28. — Star photo

Election scenario: Faridpur, Sunamganj, Netrakona, Satkhira

Like elsewhere in the country, campaigning for the ensuing parliamentary election has reached a climax in parts of some districts.

Following are reports of polls campaign warm-up of Faridpur, Sunamganj, Satkhira and Netrakona districts.

FARIDPUR

Election campaign is gaining momentum in the district, according to BSS reports.

A total of 37 candidates representing different political parties, and individuals are contesting for five seats in the district.

Hundreds of posters bearing the photographs of the candidates and election symbols are on display in the walls, along the trees in public places. Handbills and leaflets carrying appeals and urges of the candidates are being distributed among the voters. A few air-conditioned luxury jeeps, cars and a good number of microbuses are on constant movement contacting voters, arranging meetings and carrying messages of leaders and candidates.

Candidates are preferring group discussions, small meetings with the voters and village headmen. These activities are going on even at dead of night. Sometimes the voters become surprised knocking at their door at dead of night. Heat and humidity may not deter the candidates and workers from electioneering.

Awami League, BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and Zaker Party here fielded their candidates in all the five constituencies of the district. Besides, candidates of CPB, Islami Oikya Jote, Bangladesh Khelafat Andolon, Jatiya Janata Party, Bangladesh Muslim League and independents are also contesting election in this district. In 1991 election four out of five seats were bagged by Awami League while the lone seat (Faridpur-3) went to BNP for Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf.

In Faridpur one (Alfadanga-Baalmari and Madhukhali) there are 2,34,884 voters. Of them 1,14,849 are male and 1,20,035 female. Seven candidates are contesting the seat while the vote battle may centre around AL candidate Kazi Sirajul Islam and JP candidate Shah Md. Abu Zafar. Kazi Sirajul is a new candidate of AL while Shah Zafar, JP senior leader, conceded defeat in 1991 polls.

In Faridpur two (Nargardana) there are 1,52,079 voters. Of them 75,737 are male and 76,342 female, eight candidates are in the fray. According to observers, there may be a straight fight between AL presidium member Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury and BNP's K M Obaidur Rahman. Sajeda Chowdhury defeated K M Obaid, then a Janata Dal candidate by a narrow margin in the 1991 election.

In Faridpur three (sadar) there are 1,83,920 voters, of them 92,165 are male and 91,755 female. There are nine candidates. According to observers, quadrangular fight among former health minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf of BNP, AL candidate, a new face, Engineer Khondoker Mosharrif Hossain, Jamaat candidate Ali Ahasan Md Muzahid, assistant secretary general of Jamaat and JP candidate former upazila chairman Imran Hossain Chowdhury is expected. BNP won the seat in 1991 election.

In Faridpur four (Sadarpur and Charbhadrashan) there are 1,23,244 voters, of them 60,667 are male and 62,577 female, six candidates are contesting this seat. A triangular fight among AL, BNP and JP candidates is expected. AL candidate Advocate Mosharrif Hossain, AL district president defeated BNP candidate Chowdhury Akmal Ibne Yusuf in 1991 polls. Both are contesting this time also while JP

candidate Principle Azharul Haque became MP during Ershad regime. Abdul Kader Molla, central Jamaat publicity secretary is also contesting here.

In Faridpur five (Bhangal) there are 1,16,193 voters, of them 57,199 are male and 58,994 female. Though there are seven candidates, AL nominee Dr. Kazi Abu Yusuf has a clear edge over others, according to observers. Dr Yusuf won the election in 1991.

SUNAMGANJ

Our Staff Correspondent from Sylhet reports: With only ten days left for the Seventh parliament elections, the electioneering has gripped the Sunamganj district.

As many as 37 candidates are contesting in the 5 constituencies of the district. Candidates and their supporters are campaigning door-to-door holding public meetings to motivate the voters.

Majority of the voters of the district this time seem to consider the potentiality of candidates irrespective of their party affiliations. They are now much more concerned about the development of the district as they did not see any noticeable development during the last two decades. Though many stalwarts from different political parties were elected from this district and they were very much vocal about the national politics, but no sign of their activities regarding the development of the region was visible, said many people of the district.

The district comprises 11 thanas, seven of which are yet to have direct road communication with the district headquarters. It may be stated here that, most of areas in the district are low-lying.

Traditionally, an Awami League seat, Sunamganj-1 is likely to witness a tough contest between AL nominee Rafiqul Haque and BNP candidate Nozir Hossain. In the 1991 elections, Hossain, a former CPB leader, won the seat with the symbol of boat. He joined BNP two year back. Rafiqul Haque, then a BNP leader, bagged the seat in 1979 elections. Four others, including JP leader, Ali Amad, are also in the race for the seat.

In the Sunamganj-2 constituency (Deral and Shullia thanas) veteran parliamentarian Suranjit Sengupta who last year joined AL from Ganatantri Party is contesting. Suranjit is expected to face a tough contest from Nasiruddin Chowdhury, ex-upazila chairman and JP candidate. The fight here may be a neck and neck, many voters observed. Four other candidates are also in the race in this constituency.

AL stalwart Abdus Samad Azad was elected MP several times from the Sunamganj-3 Constituency (Jagannathpur and South Sunamganj). JP here placed Faruque Rashid Chowdhury, an ex-state minister. The fight here will be between these two, but Dewan Jainul Jakarin, ex-upazila chairman and former pourashava chairman with BNP ticket may also perform good. So the fight for the seat seems to be a triangular one, many voters expect. Besides, seven others are also contesting for this seat.

Ex-minister Major (ret'd) Iqbal Hossain Chowdhury is a strong candidate in the Sunamganj-4 (Sunamganj sadar and Biswambharpur) from the JP. AL here nominated Abul Jahur who was elected several times before. There will be a close fight between these two, it is widely expected. However, BNP district President, Fazlul Haque Aspia, who was elected on February 15 elections may also yield a good result, many voters expect. In that case, the fight will be a triangular one. There are 3 other candidates including Hatimur Rahman from Jamaat in this seat.

SATKHIRA

Our Correspondent from Satkhira adds: The electioneering in Satkhira district continues in full swing. As the parliamentary election is drawing nearer, people of five constituencies of the district have been gripped by the election fever. The candidates have already set up election camps in important places including hats and bazars.

The candidates and workers are busy visiting the houses of voters despite of hot spell with a view to gaining support. They are holding meetings, bringing out processions and talking to voters to master their support.

Meanwhile bazars, shops, teastalls, hotels, restaurants, bus stations and other places are humming with election activities.

In the Sunamganj-5 constituency (Chhatrak-Dorabazar thanas), Muhiur Rahman Malik, ex-upazila chairman and Ganatantri Party leader who joined the AL with Sengupta last year got the AL ticket. Barrister Yahia, a veteran Awami League leader, who failed to obtain the party ticket, took the JP ticket just on the eve of filing the nomination paper. BNP placed Kolimuddin Milon, ex-leader of JSD (Rab) who joined the BNP last year. The fight here may take place between the AL and JP. However, if Milon can do better, the fight may be a triangular one, view many. There are 5 others including Abdul Majid, ex-JP MP, now from the Samridha Bangladesh Andolon of Salman Rahman in the race.

NETRAKONA

Hectic hustings began in four constituencies in the district by the candidates of different political parties and independents, reports BSS.

Netrakona district town and all the thana headquarters, three pourashavas and different hats and bazars in the district wore a festive look as posters, leaflets and handbills carrying the pictures of the candidates and their election symbols were displayed in every nook and corner of these places. Colourful election camps were also opened in these places. Every nook and corner of the district are now humming with election goings.

According to district election office source a total of 32 candidates of different political parties including BNP, Awami League, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami, CPB and independent candidates are in election race in four constituencies.

According to the informed sources a triangular fight is apparently visible among BNP candidate Advocate M A Karim, Awami League candidate Jalaluddin Talukder and Jatiya Party candidate Golam Rabbani in Netrakona-1 (Durgapur-Kaimakandi) constituency.

A triangular fight is also likely among BNP candidate and former MP Abu Abbas, Awami League candidate and a veteran political leader of the district advocate Fazlur Rahman Khan and Jatiya Party candidate and former custom officer Fakir Asraf in Netrakona-2 (Barhatta-Netrakona) constituency. A straight fight is likely between BNP candidate former police officer Nurul Amin Talukder and Awami League candidate and former MP Jobed Ali Advocate in Netrakona-3 (Kendua Atrai) constituency.

A direct fight is expected among Awami League candidate and Awami League presidium member and former food minister Abul Momen and BNP candidate and former MP Lutfuluzzaman Babar in Netrakona-4 (Mahanganj-Madan Khalaijuri) constituency.

A total of 8,08,445 including 3,99,636 female voters would elect four parliament members from four constituencies under the district, district election office sources said.

The candidates and workers are busy visiting the houses of voters despite of hot spell with a view to gaining support. They are holding meetings, bringing out processions and talking to voters to master their support.

Meanwhile bazars, shops, teastalls, hotels, restaurants, bus stations and other places are humming with election activities.

Property worth Tk 40 lakh gutted in B'baria

BRAHMANBARIA, June 2: Two people received burn injuries and property worth about Tk 40 lakh was gutted in a devastating fire at Barail Bazar in Nabinagar thana on May 22, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, the fire originated from electric short circuit in a shop which later engulfed the bazar and charred 20 shops.

Two shopkeepers, Khakon and Nazmul, received burn injuries during the incident.

The affected shopkeepers urged the concerned authorities to take immediate measures to rehabilitate them.

345 commit suicide in one year in Magura

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, June 2: At least 345 persons committed suicide in four thanas of the district last year, police sources said.

According to reports, 157 persons in Magura sadar thana, 52 persons in Siripur thana, 74 persons in Shalikhah thana and 62 persons in Muhammadpur thana of the district committed suicide during the period of 1995.

Family troubles, conjugal conflict, poverty, dowry and failure in love affairs were some of the reasons liable for the incidents, said a source of police department.

It was also learnt that married women, unmarried girls and boys specially teenagers have committed suicide by taking pesticides or hanging.

JP candidate hurt in road accident

FARIDPUR, June 2: A Jatiya Party candidate for the next polls was seriously hurt on Saturday as the jeep carrying him rammed into a bamboo bush at Shovarampur, three kilometres from the town, reports UNB.

Imran Hossain Chowdhury, a candidate from Faridpur-3 constituency (Sadar), met with the accident at about 5:30 pm while he was on an electioneering tour to Shovarampur thana, local people said.

He was admitted to a private clinic here in an unconscious state.

In Bhola 17 cyclone shelters will be repaired

PATUAKHALI, June 2: A total of 17 cyclone shelters located in the coastal belt of Bhola region will be repaired soon, reports UNB.

Official sources said Tk 52 lakh have been allocated for the scheme. Of the total, six are located in Charfeshion, two each in Manpara, Daulatkhan, Lalmonahar, Tajumuddin and Sadar thanas and one will be repaired in Borhanuddin thana.

At least two lakh people can take shelter in these centres during the natural calamities, the sources said.

Seminar on environment

COMILLA, June 2: The second seminar on main problems of environment was held at Monoharpur Educational and Cultural Centre auditorium here on Friday, reports UNB.

Comilla Environment Forum, a local environmental preservation society organized the seminar with its convenor Santanu Hasan in the chair.

The participants including Abul Hasanat, Babul, Imtiaz Samim, Ahmed Kabir took part in the discussion.

The forum is engaged in motivating people to keep environment free from pollution through the seminars and discussion in grass root level.

LP gas shortage in Madaripur

MADARIPUR, June 2: Dearth of supply of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) is causing immense sufferings to the consumer of the district, reports BSS.

LP gas cylinders are not available in the town and the consumers are to wait for a long time after making payment in advance.

In the past, a cylinder was sold at Taka 220 but now it is not available even at Taka 300.

Boro production target achieved in Bogra

BOGRA, June 2: A bumper boro productions has been achieved in the district during the current season reports BSS.

According to Agriculture Extension office sources, during the season target of boro cultivation was fixed at 1,80,700 hectares of land where 1,81,267 hectares of land were brought under boro cultivation. As a result target of production which was fixed earlier has been exceeded.

Production target of boro paddy during the season was fixed at 5,65,535 tonnes but now it is expected 5,75,000 tonnes will be produced.

Drug, wine seized, one arrested

BARISAL, June 2: Police seized 25 bottles of Indian phenisidyl syrup and two bottles of foreign wine from a cloth store of Mohsin Market in the town on Saturday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, Detective Branch police seized the contraband items and arrested Kalu Molla, 40, in this connection.

A case was filed with the Kotwali police.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Planning, Planning Commission
General Economics Division

Preparation of Development Plan Project

Applications are invited from bonafide Bangladesh nationals for appointment as senior macroeconomists (two positions) and junior macroeconomists (two positions) on contract basis under the project titled "Preparation of Development Plan Project" located in General Economics Division of the Planning Commission, Ministry of Planning, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

A. Two senior macroeconomists
The scope of work: The principal task of the senior macroeconomists would be to prepare a new Input-Output (I-O) table for the Bangladesh economy and the component reports thereof.

Various existing reports and findings of research or academic institutions, government agencies and international organizations will form the basis for compilation of the new I-O table. However, preparation of the new I-O table and the accompanying reports might require undertaking of fresh studies or surveys for compilation of sectoral input-output relationships in the economy. Detailed terms of reference (TOR) would be made available on request.

Qualifications and experience: The senior macroeconomic consultants should possess Ph.D degrees in economics from a recognised university with specialization in macroeconomic theory and policy analysis having a strong background in quantitative economic methods. At least ten years' experience in the above fields is essential. One of the senior macroeconomists should have experience preferably in macroeconomic model building (econometric and intersectoral consistency modeling). The senior macroeconomic consultants are expected not to be below 35 years of age.

Compensation: Compensation is negotiable and shall be commensurate with the qualifications and experience.

B. Two junior macroeconomists
The scope of work: The principal task of the junior macroeconomists would be to assist the senior macroeconomists in carrying out latter's work.

The junior macroeconomist would collect and compile data, undertake small surveys and analytical work and assist in preparing reports which are deemed necessary by their senior counterparts. Detailed terms of reference would be made available on request.

Qualifications and experience: The junior macroeconomists should possess masters degrees in economics with a strong background in quantitative economic methods. They should possess a good track record of academic background. They should be familiar with the Bangladesh economy and be computer literate. They should also possess at least two years' experience of working with the problems of the Bangladesh economy.

Compensation: Compensation is negotiable depending on qualifications and experience.

C. Duration of appointment and application procedure: Both the senior macroeconomists and junior macroeconomists would be appointed for a period of twelve months.

Applications on plain paper stating name, father's name, date of birth, nationality, permanent and mailing addresses, qualifications and detailed experiences along with attested copies of certificates and testimonials and two copies of a recent passport size photograph should reach the undersigned positively within twenty-one days from the date of printing of this advertisement.

Dr Quazi Mesbahuddin Ahmed
Joint Chief
&
Project Director

General Economics Division
Planning Commission
Block 14, Room 19 and 20

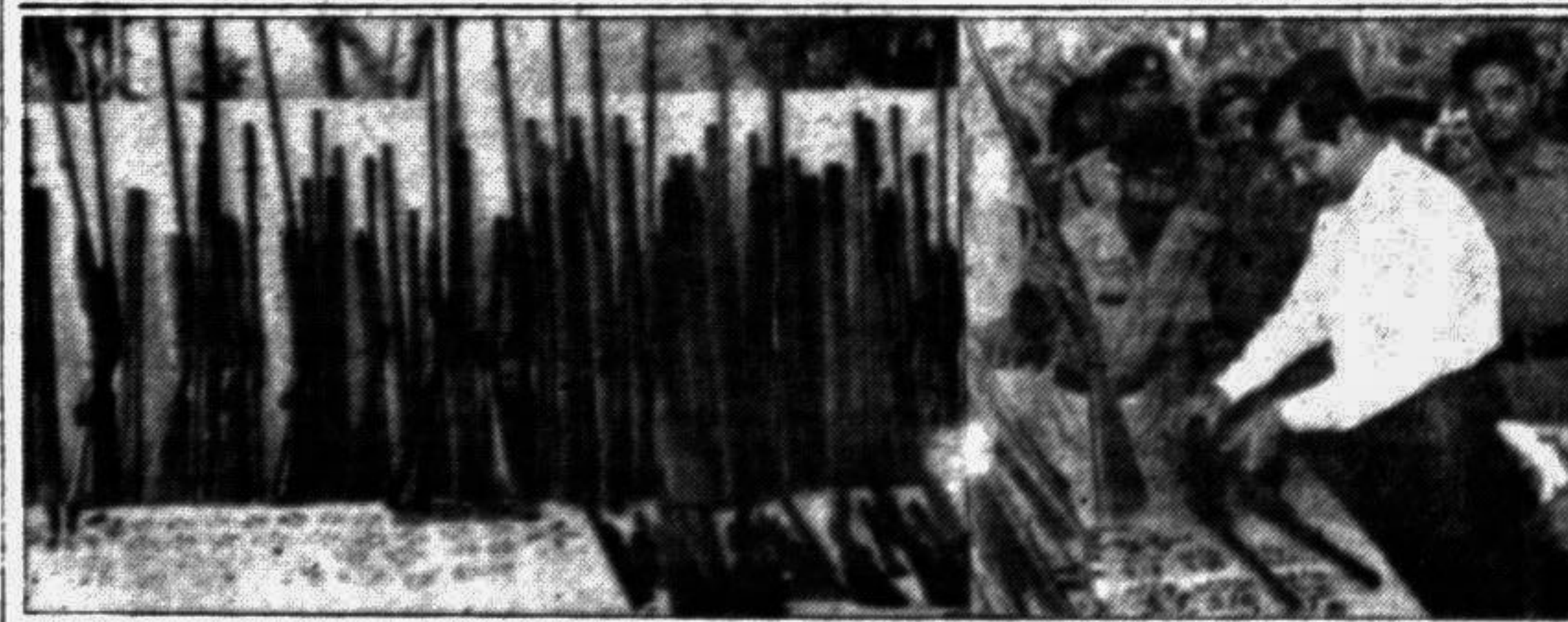
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JESSORE: The Deputy Inspector General of Police, Khulna Range Ashraful Huda, flanked by SP Ali Imam Chowdhury examining the illegal arms seized recently. — Star photo