

One killed in road mishap

From Our Correspondent
KUSHTIA, June 7: Sohagi, 10, a young girl was crushed under the wheels of a running coaster 'Rupali Paribahan' yesterday at Battail, four miles from here on Kushtia-Jhenidah road. Eyewitnesses and police sources said.

The victim was walking by the side of the road but the driver of the coaster bound for Jhenidah reportedly lost control and hit her from behind. She died on the spot. Sohagi is the daughter of one Abdul Khair of village Battail.

Another two persons on board the roof top of coaster fell from the roof and sustained serious injuries. They were identified as Rawsan Ali, 35, and Jabbar 23. Both were admitted to Kushtia General hospital. A case has been filed in Kushtia police station in this connection.

Those who ruled the country had done nothing for poor people: Menon

RAJSHAH, June 7: Workers Party general secretary Rashed Khan Menon said here Thursday that the political parties who ruled the country had done nothing for the poor people rather they plundered the wealth of the people and made their own fortune, reports BSS.

Addressing an election meeting here at Shahab Bazar area, Menon strongly criticised Awami League, BNP, Jamaat and Jatiya Party and said that "those who rigged the vote have no right for asking mandate again in the coming parliament election."

The meeting was addressed among others by Fazel Hossain Badsha, a left front candidate for Rajshahi-2 constituency. The Workers Party leader said that it was the duty of the people to elect honest, capable and patriotic candidates in the coming election for changing the lot of common people as well as to consolidate the democratic process in the country.

Present politics devoid of any ideology: Islami Oikya Jote

BAGHERHAT, June 7: Chairman of Islami Oikya Jote Allama Nazim Huj on Thursday stressed the need for eradication of corruption from the society, reports BSS.

Addressing two electioneering meetings at Mollahat under Bagherhat and Shipchar under Madaripur district he criticised the on-going politics in the country and termed the present politics as devoid of any principle and ideology. He further said corruption has gripped the whole nation and the Oikya Jote is working hard to establish an ideal Islamic state free from exploitation.

Special Power Act Political leaders, workers held in Jhalakati

JHALAKATI, June 7: Ten local leaders and workers of different front organisations of the major political parties were arrested from three thanas of the district on Wednesday night, reports UNB.

Police said district unit convenor of Jatiyatabadi Samik Dal Tipu Sultan, Rajapur own unit president of Jubo Dal Mizanur Rahman Monir, and members Masum Billah and Mahmud Mia Pakhi were detained under the special power Act.

The arrested also included Jhalakati Government College unit secretary of pro-Awami League Chhatra League Dipu Laskar, Rajapur town unit vice-president Anwarul Islam and Jubo League member Zahurul Islam Lal.

Rajapur town unit organising secretary of Jatiya Jubo Sanghati Rabin Ahmed Khasru, Chhatra Samaj leader Badrul Alam Plash and Faruq Mollah were also taken into custody under the Act.

Of the arrested, seven were picked up from Rajapur, two from Sadar and one from Nalchiti thana. All the arrested were sent to jail Thursday.

Gun battle: 20 Chokh Bandha party activists injured

MANIKGANJ, June 7: At least 20 activists of 'Chokh Bandha Party' were wounded in a factional arms clash here on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said, the two factions, Milon group and Ekshan group of the terrorist party locked in three hours (6-9 am) long gunfight at village Chouhata in Dhamrai following the killing of one group leader Milon on previous day.

Among the injured, commander Nur Alam was sent to Dhaka in a critical condition while others were taken to elsewhere to avoid arrest. A tense situation was prevailing in the area.



Awami League president Sheikh Hasina addressing a public meeting during her election campaign at Chalna Port in Khulna on Thursday. — Star photo

Triangular fight likely in most seats of Bogra

From Our Correspondent back from Bogra

RAJSHAH, June 7: Election campaign for the forthcoming parliamentary elections has got momentum in all seven constituencies of Bogra district.

According to information gathered from different political and nonpolitical sources while visiting some areas of Bogra, a very important district in the northern region of the country, triangular fights are expected among the candidates of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Awami League (AL) and Jamaat-e-Islami in most of the constituencies.

In 1991 elections, BNP and Jamaat bagged six and one seats respectively. Jamaat, Awami League and BNP candidates were the closest contestants in five, one and one constituencies respectively.

According to the observers and political sources, BNP has lost popularity to some extent and on the other hand Awami League and Jamaat have gained people's support proportionately. Still then, BNP has been in leading position in some seats.

In 1991, BNP candidate Dr. Habibur Rahman won Bogra-1 (Sariakandi and Sonatola Thanas) seat. He got 62,644 votes. Jamaat candidate Shaabbuddin was the nearest one who got 21,521 votes.

Five candidates are contesting for Bogra-2 (Shirganj Thana) seat which was won by Maulana Shahadatuzzaman of Jamaat-e-Islami in 1991 election. He got 33,968 votes and his nearest contestant Motiur Rahman of BNP bagged 24,213 votes. For June 12 election BNP nominated a new candidate, Advocate Hafizur Rahman, who has not, reportedly, very close relations with his party in Bogra.

Mahmudur Rahman Manna of Awami League is also a new face in the area. Jamaat candidate, an old face, has an advantage to capture this seat again though a close triangular fight is expected to take place among the candidates of Awami League, BNP and Jamaat.

Bogra-3 constituency comprises of Adomdighi and Dupchanchia thanas. Abdul Ma-

jid of BNP won the seat by securing 40,188 votes and his nearest contestant Mofajjal Huq of Jamaat got 29,563 votes in 1991 elections. Along with them, Solaiman Ali of Awami League, A B M Shahjahan of Jatiya Party, Jakirul Islam (Independent), Sirajul Islam of Jaker Party and Ismail Hossain, of Khelafat Andolon are contesting for the seat this time.

A total of eight candidates — Dr. Jiaul Huq Molla of BNP, Shahidul Alam Duda of Awami League, Najir Ahmed Mondol of Jamaat, Mamdudur Rahman Chowdhury of Jatiya Party, Saidul Islam of Freedom Party, Atiqul Mahbub of Gono Forum, Rezaul Karim of JSD-Inu and Shahidul Islam Dula of Jaker Party are contesting in Bogra-1 constituency (Kahalu and Nondigram Thanas) for the forthcoming election. This seat was won by late Azizul Huq Molla of BNP and the nearest contestant was Abdur Rahman Fakir of Jamaat. They got 43,247 and 24,371 votes respectively. Both the parties have fielded new candidates who are supposed to be the main contestants. Ex-minister Mamdudur Rahman Chowdhury may get a considerable amount of votes but that will not be sufficient for the main contest, political observers say.

Awami League candidate is rising and he may 'many voters feel, join the triangular fight with the BNP and Jamaat candidates.

Bogra-5 constituency comprising of Sherpur and Dhunot thanas was bagged by BNP candidate Golam Mohammad Siraj in 1991 polls. He got 69,388 votes. His nearest contestant Ferdous Jaman Mukul secured 63,564 votes. Jamaat candidate was in third position with a small margin. There are seven candidates this year contesting for the seat. They are: Golam Mohammad Siraj of BNP, Ferdous Jaman Mukul of Awami League, Monjurul Huq Sarkar of Jamaat, S M Ferdous Alam of JSD-Rab, Abdul Hakim of Jaker Party, Abu Taher of Islami Oikya Jote and Mojahar Ali of Workers Party.

Candidature of Mozammel Huq of Jatiya Party was cancelled. Awami League and Jamaat may gain an advantage by capturing larger portion of the voters of Jatiya Party.

Bogra-6 constituency comprises of the sadar thana. Begum Khaleda Zia of BNP, Mahmudul Hasan of Awami League, Golam Robbani of Jamaat-e-Islami, A H Golam Zakaria Khan of Jatiya Party, A K M Rezaul Karim of JSD-Inu, M R Renu (Independent) and A N M Shahidullah (Independent) are contesting for the prestigious seat. In 1991 election, BNP candidate Advocate Mujibur Rahman won the seat securing 96,229 votes. His nearest contestant Golam Robbani of Jamaat-e-Islami got 48,035 votes.

To save the important seat, Begum Khaleda Zia, chairperson of BNP and the former Prime Minister herself is contesting in this constituency. Her fresh commitment seems to be very promising, observers say, though total amount of votes will decrease. Candidates of Jamaat and Awami League may perform better than in 1991.

Bogra-7 constituency comprises of Gabtoli thana and is the homeland of late President Ziaur Rahman. Begum Khaleda Zia won in 1991 election from this seat. She secured 83,852 votes. Her nearest contestant Musa Pesta got 24,760 votes.

This time, a total of six candidates are contesting for the constituency. They are Begum Khaleda Zia of BNP, Walit Huq of Awami League, Fazel Rabbi of Jamaat-e-Islami, A B M Sirajul Islam (Independent), Rezaul Bari of JSD-Rab and Shamsul Alam Dulu of BSD-Khalequzzaman.

Evaluating the prevailing situation, observers and political sources said that BNP may lose four seats from Bogra in the coming June 12 election and among the candidates of Awami League and Jamaat-e-Islami. A few analysts, however, observe that BNP may manage the situation in the last minute.

80pc polling centres in Khulna city identified as 'trouble spots'

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, June 7: At least eighty per cent polling centres are being apprehended as 'trouble spots' in the city. But the KMP Commissioner, when asked, put the percentage down saying that vulnerable points will be closely guarded with the highest attention.

It is learnt from a source of KMP that a total of five thousand Ansars, police and BDR forces will be deployed for the sake of ensuring free and fair elections on June 12. Besides, mobile and stand-by forces will be ready to meet any eventuality.

According to the Deputy Election Commissioner, a total of 153 polling centres have been set up out of which only seven centres will create no problem at all. Yet, the KMP

has taken precautionary measures in 96 centres.

There will be 45 polling centres under Kotwali thana out of which 24 have been earmarked as 'vulnerable'. Thirteen out of 32 polling centres under Sonadanga thana have been identified as vulnerable.

The same source of KMP said that out of 5,262 Ansars, police and BDR, 444 BDR Jawans will be deployed as 'striking force'. In addition to this, 2,760 Ansars and 957 metro police will be posted in the polling centres. A total of 1,062 Reserve Police will also be utilised for patrol duty all over the city.

Supervising officers and fifty constables will also be engaged for maintaining law and order on the day of elections.

Pre-polls clashes leave 20 hurt in Mymensingh

MYMENSINGH, June 7: At least 30 people were injured, eight of them seriously, in clashes between Awami League and BNP activists during election campaign in two constituencies this evening, reports UNB.

A clash erupted when BNP supporters allegedly attacked AL workers with lethal weapons like dao, sticks just after Magrib prayers, which left 10 people injured.

The AL workers then gave a short break in their campaign which was held at Bir Bamothkhal school ground in Mymensingh-9 constituency (Nandail) for prayers.

The seriously injured in the violence are Helal Uddin 28, Mutaleb, 35, Lal Kha, 40, and Dulaluddin, 40. They were admitted to Nandail thana health complex.

Another victim at Dapunia bazar in the Mymensingh-4 constituency left at least 20 people injured, four of them seriously.



SYLHET: The Chief Election Commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena addressing a meeting with the political leaders, elite, candidates and government officials of four districts of Sylhet Division on Wednesday. — Star photo

Chief Adviser's interview with VOA

Chief adviser Muhammad Habibur Rahman has said that his government was all set to accomplish its main task of holding free and fair election. In an interview with the "Voice of America", which was broadcast on June 4 and reported by BSS, the chief adviser expressed his confidence that power would be peacefully transferred soon after the finalisation of the election results.

Following is the full text of the chief adviser's interview with Daud Khan Majlis of VOA:

Question: What are the major problems, you think, you are facing in the discharge of your duties as the chief adviser?

Answer: I am facing no major problems. There are, however, more than one thousand nitty-gritties that crop up during an election season. They are minor problems. They do not call for any serious concern.

Question: Do you think you are getting full cooperation from all the political parties?

Answer: Because of the seven words in the thirteenth amendment, the last retired chief justice of Bangladesh, the burden of the non-party caretaker government has fallen on my shoulder. I advised myself that I should refuse to bear the burden unless principal political parties assured me of full cooperation. I was advised that I should ask for a written commitment. I said no word of mouth would be good enough for me. One political leader preferred to speak to the press that full cooperation would be extended to the non-party caretaker government. All other principal political leaders spoke personally to me and assured of their full cooperation. I have no complaint against any political leader or any political party. Political parties are engaged in a very difficult adversary system like an election. I have fullest sympathy for them. I should not talk whether I am getting full cooperation from them. I am rather anxious to extend full

governmental cooperation to them.

Question: It is being often said that there might be serious law and order problems during the election campaign and at the time of actual voting. How are you preparing to face that challenge?

Answer: Cassandras appear in a legion in any election in any developing country. We are not complacent. We are prepared for every eventuality that we may have to face before, during or after the election. I am saying again and again that the whole might of the republic is behind us. We are determined not to tolerate any violence. We shall overcome. There will be a peaceful election which will be acceptable to all.

Question: Are you considering bringing in the armed forces to help the civil authorities during the election?

Answer: We have already decided that the defence forces will be deployed to assist the civil administration in the maintenance of law and order for a specific period, a few days before and a few days after the election.

Question: Is your government dealing with any constitutional problem? If so, what are those problems or issues?

Answer: We are dealing with no constitutional problem. Everyday numerous opinions are being published in the newspapers though. This is because of the unfamiliar character of the caretaker government.

Question: What role President Biswas is playing in the process of holding free and fair election? And what will his position be after a new elected government is in place?

Answer: The president is the head of the republic. He will remain the president till the next president is elected. He has certain specific constitutional responsibilities. I am the head of the government. I have got some specified constitutional responsibilities. We are working together. We are giving all possible aid and assistance to the election commission so that election may

be held peacefully, fairly and impartially.

Question: Do you sincerely believe that the election in June will be free and fair?

Answer: Of course, I do. I am quite confident about it. We are all set to accomplish our main task of holding a free and fair election. Power will be peacefully transferred soon after the finalisation of the election results.

Question: How is the law and order situation in the country now?

Answer: The law and order situation has improved significantly during the past seven weeks. Improvement is gaining momentum each succeeding week as we go along. We are conducting a special drive for this purpose. This drive will continue and further geared up to ensure a peaceful atmosphere during the election.

Question: Are the law enforcement agencies, in Bangladesh fully non-partisan and capable of performing their duties without favour and/or fear?

Answer: I think we have succeeded to creating an environment where the law-enforcing agencies can work independently without any fear or favour. They are doing their job well. I have full confidence in them.

Question: Hundreds of observers from all parts of the world are planning to go to Bangladesh to monitor the election. Do you think all of them are needed and welcome?

Answer: I would not say we need foreign observers, but we welcome them whatever their number may be. Their presence in Bangladesh may encourage all participants to work for a fair and impartial election.

Question: Has the country's economic condition stabilised and improved since your government took over?

Answer: There has been perceptible improvement in the economic condition of the country since our government took over. This has been possible due to some quick steps

taken by us in the economic field. Achievement of overall stability may take some more time. We are working towards that direction.

Question: What advice are you going to give to the next government that comes to power?

Answer: I am the chief adviser of the non-party caretaker government. I would not like to give any advice to the next government that is going to be formed on the basis of a multi-party election. I hope, they will be true to their election promises and will be able to satisfy appreciably the hopes and aspirations of the people of Bangladesh.

Question: And finally a couple of personal questions. Are you enjoying the responsibilities that have been thrust upon you? What are you planning to do once you complete your term as the head of the caretaker government? Would you accept any office, if offered, by the new government?

Answer: On the 53rd day of our government our staff got the first half-day off. We were working from 9 am to 9 pm with about two hours break. My wife sarcastically said you must be enjoying your new job. One evening my eldest daughter telephoned me in office. She burst into tears and inquired of me, "Are you alright, dad?" I said, "I am alright. I will be back home by nine and we shall hear my message to the nation together." When I was called upon to take the responsibility of the government I was involved in some stimulating work which could have been very satisfyingly remunerative. Ten weeks stint of caretaker government is enough. As the head of the non-party caretaker government it is anathema to me to dwell on any offer or acceptance of any office from the new government.

After completion of my term as the chief adviser, I will go back to my own pasture where I will do a little reading and, occasionally, a little writing.

Khulna police comm says Strict measures taken to ensure security in polling centres

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, June 7: The Police Commissioner Mohammad Fazul Huq has made it clear that nobody will be allowed to violate law and order on the day of national elections on June 12. Anyone who tries to violate code of conduct will be severely dealt with, he said.

Addressing a discussion meeting on law and order at the KMP conference room on last Thursday he said that adequate measures have been taken to meet any sort of eventuality for ensuring security in the polling centres and other areas.

He said 96 out of 153 polling centres have already been marked as vulnerable in the city which will be guarded by BDR striking force.

Khulna-2 Complaint filed against AL candidate

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, June 7: Masudur Rahman Rana, Press Secretary of BNP candidate from Khulna-2 Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali has filed a complaint with the Electoral Inquiry Committee against AL candidate Advocate Monzurul Imam alleging violation of code of conduct.

It has been stated in the complaint that the AL candidate has let loose a reign of terror in Ward no-31 under Khulna-2 constituency to resist any BNP meeting there.

The complaint said that BNP office there has been attacked and its activists and supporters are being physically tortured and posters torn off.

Not only this, BNP leader in Ward no-31 Sultan Ahmed was recently roughed up mercilessly by commissioner Mohammad Hossain Mukta, the complaint further alleged.

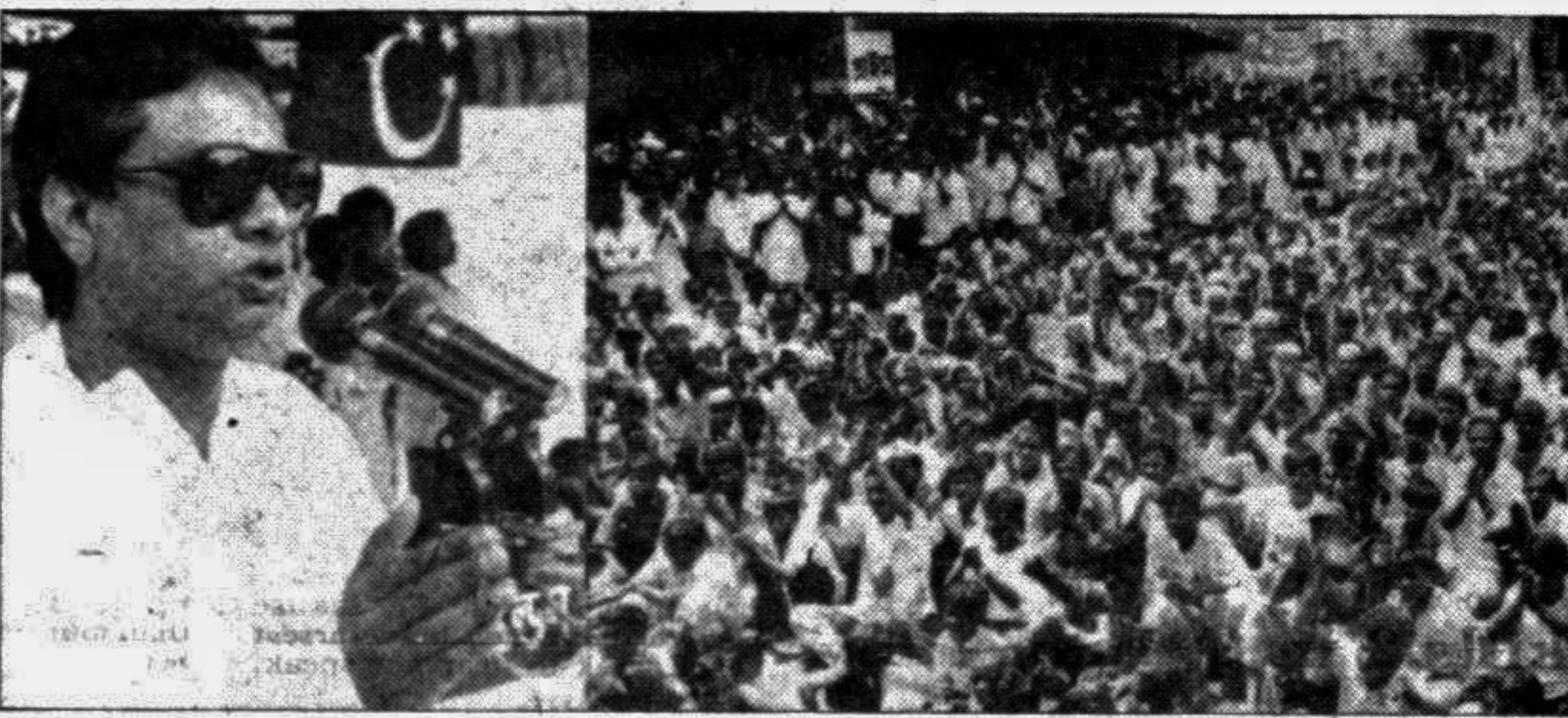
Nor'wester lashes 35 villages in Kishoreganj, one killed

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, June 7: One minor boy was killed and at least 100 people were injured when a nor wester lashed 35 villages in Ishwarganj thana recently.

The victim was identified as Suman. He met the tragic end of his life when a boat carrying passengers capsized near Zilker ghat in the Brahmaputra river during the storm.

About 2000 thatched houses were damaged and a large number of fruit-bearing trees were also uprooted. The worst-hit villages are — Mouzattia, Char Shankar, Durgapur and Alokber in Majibag union, Narayanpur and Naori in Magtula union, Sreenagar, Charpara, Shahaganj, Rudrapur, Majibhat, Debastan, Bhati Nawapara, Gagra, Pullarchar, Bhabanipur, Sutibhar, Ahamedpur, Latiamari, Machudanga and Jaduarchar in Rajibpur union and Char Aigi and Haripur in Uchakhila union.



Zaker Party chairman Mostafa Amir Faisal addressing a public meeting during his election campaign in Narayanganj on Thursday. — Star photo

Hectic electioneering in Noakhali

From Our Correspondent

NOAKHALI, June 7: With the nearing of June 12 national election hectic electioneering is on in all the six constituencies of the district, reports UNB.

Sixty candidates of different political parties and independent are contesting the ensuing election. Some 10,15,106 voters will exercise their right to franchise in 352 centres.

In 1991 election BNP won four seats, AL and JP got one each. According to local people this time, main fight will be limited between BNP, AL and JP.

In Noakhali-1 seat, there will be a neck-and-neck fight between BNP candidate Joydul Abedin Faruq and JP candidate Barrister Moudud Ahmed.

In Noakhali-2 constituency, a triangular fight is expected between Barkatullah Bhulu of BNP, Abdus Sattar Bhuiyan of Awami League and Jatiya Party candidate Morshed Alam. Some eight candidates are fighting in the seat.

A tough fight is expected between Awami League candidate Mahmudur Rahman Belayet and BNP candidate Mahabubur Rahman in Noakhali-3 seat. A total of nine candidates are in the race.

Awami League candidate Khairul Alam (Selim) will face

BNP candidate Mahammad Shahjahan among the 11 candidates in Noakhali-4 constituency.

In Noakhali-5 seat, there will be a tough fight between Awami League candidate Obaidul Kader and Jatiya Party candidate Barrister Moudud Ahmed. There are eight candidates in the race.

In Noakhali-6 constituency, there are 16 candidates and there will be a triangular fight among Awami League candidate Oli Ullah, Jatiya Party candidate Mohammad Ali and BNP candidate Fazul Azim.

Supporters, activists and kins of the respective candidates are found busy from dawn to midnight to win the support of the voters. The candidates are passing busy days visiting door to door of the electorate and attending social functions.

Best teacher of Comilla

COMILLA, June 7: Principal of Comilla Government Girls' College Prof Anwarul Azim Siddiqui has been adjudged as the best teacher of the district, reports UNB.

Construction work of stadium on progress in Noakhali

NOAKHALI, June 7: The construction work of Noakhali Shahid Bhulu Stadium is going on in full swing, reports UNB.

The programme taken up by the National Sports Council is being implemented at a cost of Tk 2.34 crore from its own fund.

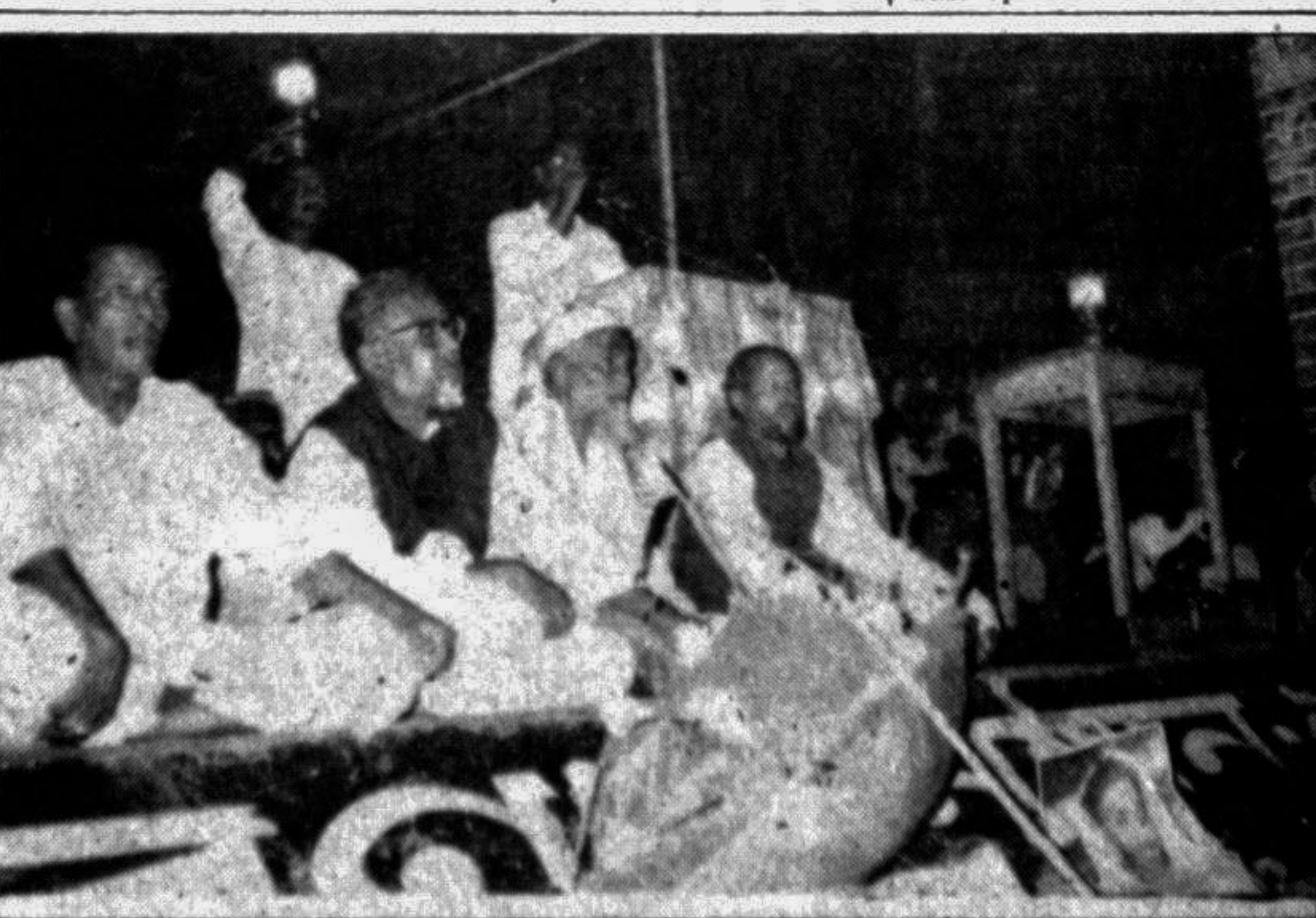
The construction work included two storied building, galleries around the stadium and earth filling.

Housewife beaten to death

MAGURA, June 7: A young housewife was beaten to death allegedly by her husband at a village in sadar thana of the district last week, reports UNB.

Police said Khairul of Parla village beat his wife Rabeya Khatun (30) to death as her father failed to pay the dowry money amounting to Tk 20,000.

Khairul, who went into hiding after the incident, tried to bury the body hurriedly to hush up the murder.



MAGURA: Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Md Hanif addressing an election projection meeting at Sripur Degree College premises in favour of AL candidate M S Akbar of Magura-1 constituency Tuesday night. — Star photo