

District roundup

MYMENSINGH

Seminar on research system concludes

Jan 17: A seminar on national research system for agricultural development in Bangladesh was held at Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin auditorium of Bangladesh Agricultural University on Thursday, reports BSS.

Organised by the Bangladesh Association for the Advancement of Science (BAAS), Mymensingh chapter, the seminar was presided over by Prof. ASA Iluque, President of BAAS, Mymensingh Chapter Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University Prof. M Ashraf Ali Khan was chief guest at the seminar.

Prof. Aminul Islam, President of BAAS and Ashrafuzzaman Secretary of the BAAS, Mymensingh chapter also addressed the seminar.

The chief guest said that science and technology must play dominating role in the future Bangladesh research institutions should come forward for the development of agriculture in the country, he added.

NOAKHALI

Obscene films shows unabated

Jan 17: Obscene films are being screened at various club of the rural areas of the six thanas of the district eroding the morality of the youths, reports UNB.

A section of dishonest people are engaged in this heinous act for a long time with the cooperation of some unscrupulous officials.

Most of the school and college going boys who enjoy these films are often found engaged in anti-social activities.

The guardians have urged the authorities to stop showing of such films.

SATKHIRA

JCD sweeps Kalaroa College Union polls

Jan 17: The election of Kalaroa Government College Students' Union was held peacefully on Wednesday, reports BSS.

Chhatra Dal won all the seats. Rafiqul Asad and Shahin Rabi were elected vice-president and general secretary respectively of the students union.

COMILLA

Zoo fails to give recreational facilities

Jan 17: Comilla Zoo and Botanical Garden failed to provide the citizen with minimum recreational facilities though the Zila Parishad has to bear a deficit of Taka 7 lakh every year for its maintenance, reports UNB.

Established on 10.15 acres of land in May 1986, Comilla Zoo and Botanical Garden has a few species of common birds and beasts which has by this time lost its importance to the visitors. It is not properly maintained and inmates suffer from food shortage. The big animals like tiger and bears seem to have become sick and weak.

The botanical garden has turned into a guava plantation field as plants of other species are rarely found.

The annual budget for the maintenance of the zoo and garden for the year 1991 showed an expenditure of nearly Taka 9 lakh against the income of Taka 2.31 lakh. The deficit of Taka 7 lakh is being borne by the zila parishad every year.

Local leaders have urged the authorities to look into the matter and take necessary steps against the mismanagement of the zoo and garden.

PATUAKHALI

Subidkhali College Union polls on Feb 11

Jan 17: The students union elections of the Subidkhali Degree College will now be held on February 11, reports UNB.

Earlier the angry students staged demonstration and damaged the Principal's office following the postponement of the polls, scheduled to be held on Monday last.

The college authority announced the fresh date after a meeting with student leaders, political parties and district police officials.

They urged all concerned to help hold the polls peacefully.

KHULNA

Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad executives

Jan 17: The biennial conference of the Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad was held at the Khulna Umesh Chandra Public Library auditorium Tuesday, reports UNB.

Chaired by Dr Mahbubur Rahman, it was attended by central committee president Dr. Sanjida Khatun as chief guest. Among others, the conference was addressed by Prof Aziz Hassan, Moqbul Hossain Mintu, Bishnupada Sinha.

A 21-member Khulna committee with Prof Kaikobad as president and Prof Hafizur Rahman as secretary was elected.

BRAHMANBARIA

Training camp on diarrhoeal diseases held

Jan 17: A 10-day-long diarrhoeal diseases training camp for village and palli doctors was held at Kasba health complex, reports UNB.

On the concluding day, ABM Siddique, Additional Secretary, Family Planning and Health Department attended as chief and Dr Humayun Faruk as special guests.

Among others, it was addressed by Abdul Mannan, Deputy Director, Family Planning Department and some local elite.

The speakers urged the village doctors to serve the village people with sincerity and honesty.

BARISAL

Strike observed in support of college union polls

Jan 17: The students of Government Barisal College observed strike on January 12 in support of their demand for students' union election, reports BSS.

Bangladesh Chhatra Dal, Bangladesh Chhatra League and other students organisations joined hands together to make a demand for a fair election of the students' union.

On the day, the students brought out processions in the college campus.

JESSORE

Merchants' assoc chief laid to rest

Jan 17: The Namaz-e-Janaza of late Nurul Islam, President of Jessore Market Merchants Association, was held at the Daratana Jame Mosque after Juma prayer here on Friday, reports BSS.

Later he was buried at the Karbala graveyard here.

Minister for Social Welfare and Women Affairs Tariqul Islam and thousands of people from all walks of life attended the Janaza.

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman and Agriculture Minister M Majid-Ul-Haque went to the residence of late Nurul Islam here this morning and expressed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Nurul Islam, an industrialist and social worker died in a tragic bus accident at Uthali in Manikganj on Thursday. He was coming from Jessore to attend the Bishwa Itjema at Tongi.

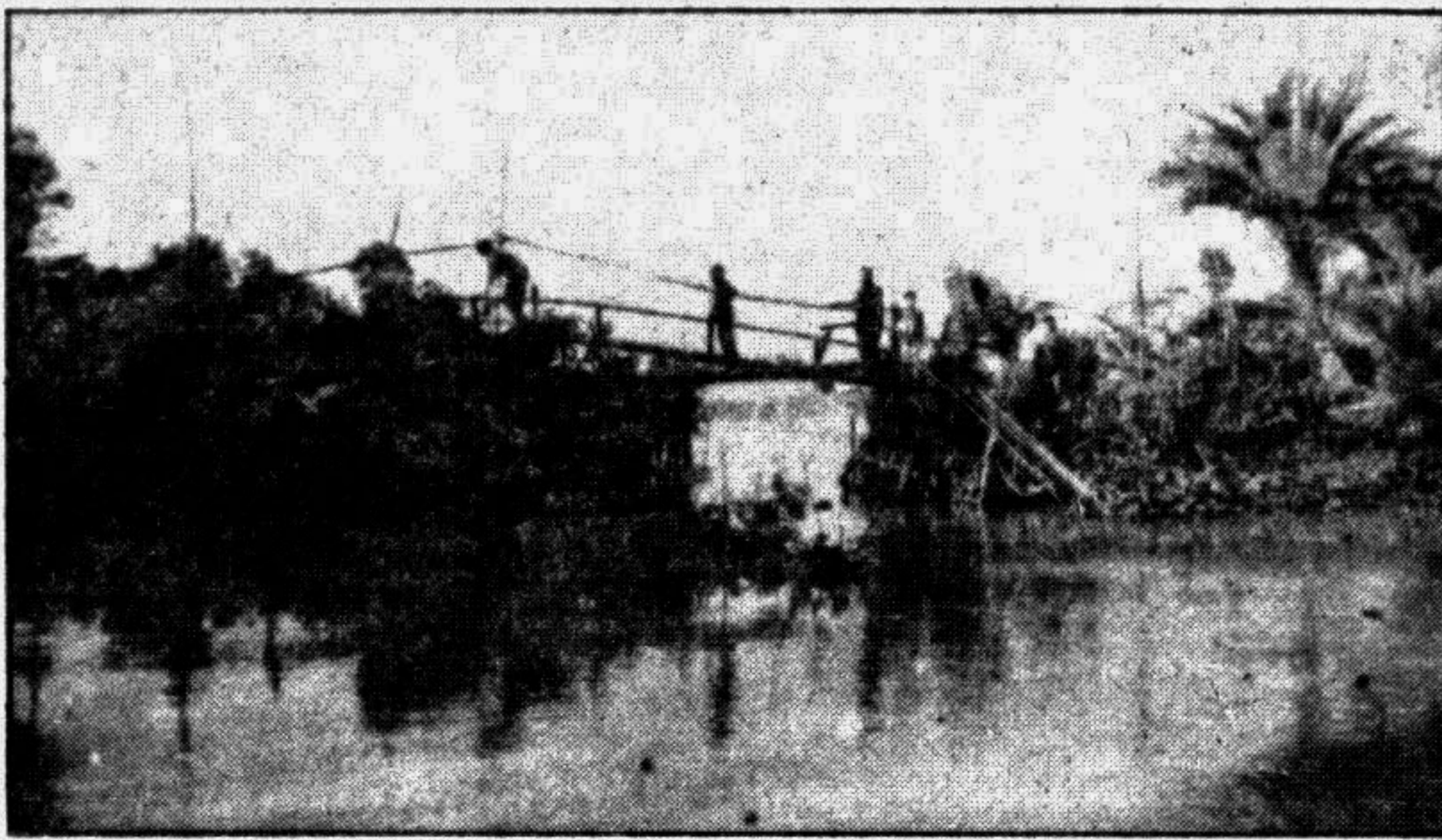
CHITTAGONG

Discussion on peaceful co-existence

Jan 17: Speakers at a discussion on "Buddhists and peaceful co-existence" held at Buddhist temple here on Friday called for concerted efforts to promote peace and fraternity among the members of different communities to ensure peaceful social life, reports BSS.

The discussion held under the auspices of Bangladesh Sangaraj Bikku Mohasava with Ven Shilankar Mahathero in the chair was participated by over a dozen Buddhist leader including Kaalkanta Barua, Engineer Dibendu Bikash Chowdhury, Bodipal Barua, Pradip Kumar Barua, Devpal Chowdhury, Prof Riton Kumar Barua, Anjana Chowdhury and Prasanta Barua.

The participants pointed out that lord Buddha's message and teachings love for all and hatred for none when followed, would ensure peace and harmony among followers of different communities. Equality, fraternity, peace, non-violence and non-hatred are essence of all religions, they said adding "If we adhere to these principles we all can live in peace and amity."



BARGUNA: The bridge over the river Kukua is now in deplorable condition. Everyday hundreds of people cross this bridge facing much inconveniences. — Star photo

About 12000 tubewells lying out of order in 18 dists

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 17: About 10,000 tubewells in 16 northern districts have been lying inoperative for a long time causing paucity of pure drinking water in the concerned areas.

Out of total, 1,43,637 tubewells installed by the Public Health Engineering (PIE) Department, 9,961 tubewells lying inoperative.

According to a source, there are two circles of PIE, one at Rajshahi, comprising six districts and the other at Rangpur with 10 northern districts.

Out of 47,090 tubewells under Rajshahi Circle, 4,238 lying inoperative and out of 96,547 tubewells, 5,723 have been remaining inoperative for long time.

District-wise break up shows that in Rajshahi district 472 tubewells are inoperative against 12,080, in Chapainawabganj district 973 are inoperative out of 8,973 tubewells, in Natore district 832 are inoperative out of 9,832, in Pabna and Sirajganj districts 606 are inoperative out of 10,238, in Naogaon district 1,093 are inoperative out of 15,400, in Bogra district 412 are inoperative out of 15,628, in Rangpur district 928 are inoperative out of 12,330, in Gaibandha district 352 tubewells are inoperative out of 7,895, in Nilphamari district 302 are inoperative out of 5,228, in Dinajpur dis-

trict 828 tubewells are inoperative out of 5,222 in Lalmonirhat 828 inoperative out of 7312, in Kurigram district 490 are inoperative out of 6,400 and in Panchagarh district 442 tubewells have been remaining inoperative out of 5,292 tubewells.

It can be mentioned here that during every dry season, the operative tubewells also can not pull out water due to fall of water level.

As about 10,000 hand tubewells in 16 northern districts, are lying inoperative, the consumers have been facing crisis of pure drinking water. During the ensuing dry season, the situation will deteriorate further, it is feared.

While contacted a source of PIE Department told this correspondent that steps are being taken to repair the inoperative tubewells by replacing the spare parts.

Sherpur

Our Sherpur Correspondent report says: About 1000 tubewells have been lying out of order in the district for long time.

As a result, scarcity of pure drinking water is prevailing in the rural areas. Many tubewells have either been lying inoperative or choked up.

Most of the tubewells went out of order due to poor maintenance and shortage of spare parts. The villagers informed that plastic pipes used in many

tubewells become out of order within a short time.

There are about 14 thousand tubewells in five thanas of the district.

Public Health Engineering Department has undertaken a scheme to re-sink only half of the inoperative tubewells in different areas of the district.

Meanwhile waterborne diseases like diarrhoea, dysentery and jaundice have broken out in many parts of the district due to paucity of pure drinking water.

Brahmanbaria

Our Brahmanbaria Correspondent says: At least 656 tubewells have been lying out of order in seven thanas of district.

Scarcity of pure water has been prevailing in 7 thanas and water borne diseases like diarrhoea, dysentery and other intestinal ailments have broken out in the rural areas.

Thana wise break up of the out of order tubewells: B'Baria sadar thana - 164, Sarail - 160, Kasba - 60, Akhaura - 65, Nabinagar - 72, Nasirnagar - 74, Bancharampur - 61.

It is learnt from local Public Health Department that to ensure adequate supply of pure drinking water in the rural areas 120 new tubewells and 108 tara pumps will be installed and 472 out of order tubewells will be renovated.

Four killed in incidents

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, Jan 17: Two persons were killed and several others injured in separate road accidents in the Sadar thana of the district recently.

According to witnesses, an accident occurred when a Ashugang, bound local bus (Chattagram-936) from Brahmanbaria fell into roadside ditch while trying to overtake another vehicle at Sunarampur under Sadar thana on Dhaka-Sylhet Highway. The helper of the bus, Zahed Miah (18) died on the spot. The injured persons are: Dubraj (40), Shahid Miah (50) and Mustakul Islam (30). They were admitted in the Sadar hospital. Other injured persons were released after first aid. The driver of the killer bus managed to escape

and the bus was taken under police custody. A case has been filed in the Sadar thana.

In another incident, a young girl, Malati Rani Pal was killed in a baby taxi accident in Singerbill union of Sadar thana.

UNB report adds: Two children who happened to be brothers while playing on the bank of a pond near their Medda residence in the pourashava met watery grave Friday.

According to police, the father of the victims Shahin (7) and Sohag (5) suspecting them missing searched different areas of the pourashava but at last found them floating in the pond after sundown.

Private tuition — now a commercial practice

NETRAKONA, Jan 17: Private tuition has become a commercial practice in the town and 10 thana headquarters of the district, reports UNB.

Teachers of both the government and non-government schools and colleges are engaged in private tuition to earn extra money.

The guardians informed that the teachers do not teach the students sincerely in the classes. As a result, the students find it difficult to understand their lessons and the guardians are compelled to

engage private tutors.

Students enrolled in primary and secondary school and colleges belonging to affluent families usually engage their teachers as house tutors.

The elite of the town specially the guardians feel that private tuition has now become regular practice of the teachers. Science and commerce teachers get a large number of students for coaching in batches.

Private coaching by the teachers in batches starts before and just after the school and college hours.

Bar assoc (taxes) executives

The annual general meeting and election of the Maulvibazar Bar Association (Taxes) were held recently.

Abdul Matin and Fayzul Karim Mayun were elected president and General Secretary respectively of the association for the year 1993.

Besides, a 11-member executive committee was also elected in the general meeting. The elected office bearers are: Vice-President—Ashrafur Islam, Joint Secretary—Manjul Debnath, Treasurer—Mostafiz Ahmed, Members—Abid Ali Chowdhury, Ashutosh Deb, Anwarul Hoque, Mahmudur Rahman, Makbul Hussain and MA Matin.

DC Badminton Championship

Moulvibazar Abahani Krira Chakra won the Deputy Commissioner's Badminton Championship at local pourashava Model High School playground recently.

Abahani bet Young-Star in 2-0 sets in the final tournament.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman inaugurated the Deputy Commissioner's Badminton Championship on December 18, a total of 13 team took part in the tournament. The participating teams were: Young-Star — Blue, Green, Red, White, Yellow teams, Shantibag Yellow and Green teams, Mohamadan Green and Red teams, Mitali Club-Blue and Red teams and Abahani Krira Chakra.



RAJBARI: The BDR men arrested Hossain Ali (35) and Ayesha Begum (30) recently at Jibannagar, near the border with one Asma Akhter (13), when they were trying to cross the border. They were handed over to the Moheshpur police. — Star photo

Pourashava election campaign getting momentum

From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, Jan 17: With the submission of nomination papers for the pourashava polls on January 30, the candidates for the post of chairman and commissioner of Moulvibazar Pourashava launched their campaign.

The candidates have already started arranging tea parties at their respective residences and elsewhere in the town.

Most of the candidates started visiting the areas for mobilising support of the voters.

Four candidates are contesting for the post of chairman. The candidates are: Sajjadur Rahman Putul of Nagorik Committee, Sayed Mahasin Ali of Awami League, Sayed Ameer Khasru (Independent) and Bashir Uddin Ahmed (Independent).

A total of 41 candidates are contesting for 9 posts of commissioner. Of them, 14 in Ward No-1, 8 in Ward No-2 and 19 in Ward No-3.

Political parties have been playing a key role as most of the candidates came from different parties.

Moulvibazar district Awami

League selected Sayed Mahasin Ali as their party candidate for the post of pourashava chairman. The selection was made at the meeting of Awami League and its front organisations where Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the parliament Abdus Samad Azad was present.

Another powerful chairman candidate, Sajjadur Rahman Putul have no political identity. A non-political organisation "Moulvibazar Nagorik Committee" given nomination to Putul for contesting as chairman. Anti Awami League minded political parties including Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) have extended their support to Sajjadur Rahman Putul.

The candidates of Nagorik Committee and Awami League are under consideration of the voters. Sajjadur Rahman Putul of Nagorik Committee and Sayed Mahasin Ali of Awami League were in the chair for two terms each.

Sixty years old Moulvibazar pourashava have a record that none of the

other chairman candidate is a new face in the race. After the nomination, he is considered as the candidate of the "third world group."

Pabna

UNB Pabna correspondent reports says: A total of 20 candidates are contesting for the post of pourashava chairman and 151 for ward commissioners in Sadar, Bera and Iswardhi municipalities election scheduled for January 30.

In Pabna Sadar 10 candidates are contesting for the post of chairman while 65 for commissioners.

In Bera municipality, three candidates are in the post of chairman and 41 for commissioners while in Iswardhi seven candidates for chairman and 45 for commissioners.

Chapainawabganj

A UNB report from Chapainawabganj says: Hectic campaign for the pourashava polls is gaining momentum as the election date is coming nearer.

Five candidates are contesting for the post of chairman while 81 for 15 posts of

commissioner are contesting the polls scheduled to be held on January 30.

Tea stalls, markets and commercial centres are the main centres of the campaign. A good number of camps have been set up by the candidates in the pourashava area. Walls of various private and government buildings are decorated with colourful posters, pictures and slogans. All the candidates are visiting door to door of the voters seeking votes.

In Nawabganj Pourashava 78, 733 males and females have been enrolled as voters.

Sirajganj

Our Sirajganj Correspondent adds: Campaigning on Sirajganj poura polls is gradually getting momentum with active public relations of the willing candidates. A total of 68,069 voters including 32,719 female voters will take part in the ensuing polls of Sirajganj pourashava consisting of five wards. Besides, 32,000 voters will take part in Shahzadpur pourashava polls comprising of three wards.

Naogaon

An UNB report from Naogaon adds: A total of 10 candidates are contesting for the chairmanship and 59 for nine posts of commissioners from three wards in the coming pourashava election which will be held on January 31.

The district poura area wears a festive look as the colourful festoons and placards are hanged at different areas. Hectic campaigns by the candidates and their supporters are going on to gain support of the voters in the election.

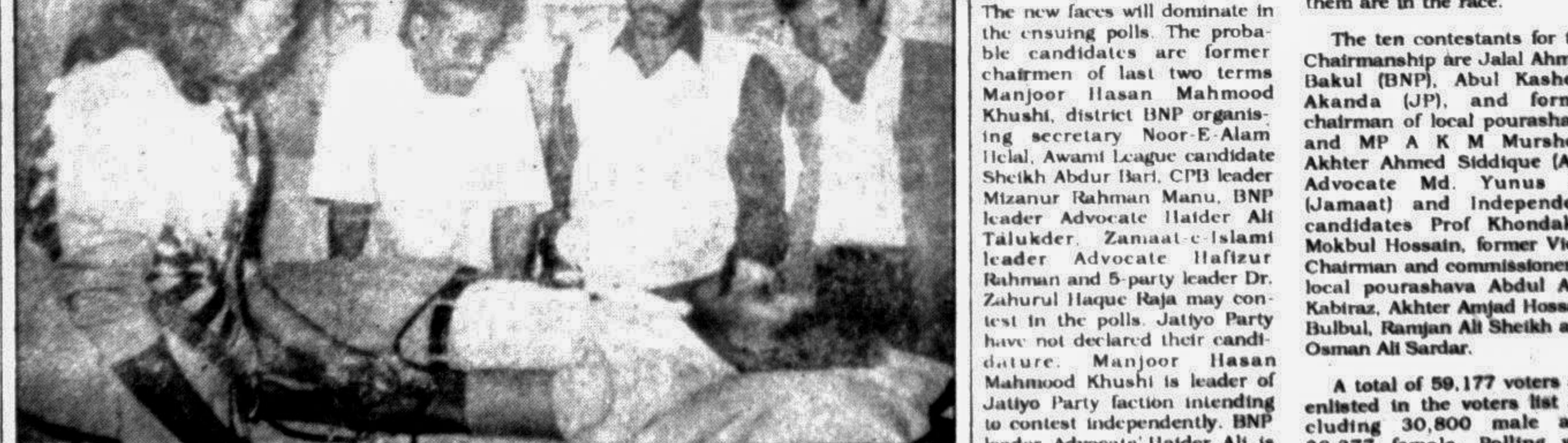
Tea-stalls, hats, bazars and commercial centres have already turned into busiest propaganda centres and the waysides walls have been decorated with the writing and posters.

Candidates are rushing to the door to door and found attending public gatherings at places including the mosques during the prayer time to exchange greetings with the voters.

In this election campaign, political parties have been playing a key-role as most of them are in the race.

The ten contestants for the Chairmanship are Jalal Ahmed Bakul (BNP), Abul Kashem Akanda (JP), and former chairman of local pourashava and MP A K M Mursheed, Akhter Ahmed Siddique (AL), Advocate Md. Yunus Ali (Jamaat) and Independent candidates Prof Khondakar Mokbul Hossain, former Vice-Chairman and commissioner of local pourashava Abdul Aziz Kabir, Akhter Anjad Hossain Bulbul, Ranjan Ali Sheikh and Osman Ali Sarfar.

A total of 59,177 voters are enlisted in the voters list including 30,800 male and 28,377 female. Polling will take place in 20 polling centres.



NATORE: One Manzurul Hasan is donating blood at a camp arranged recently by the local Press Club. — Star photo

Notes from Maulvi Bazar

From Our Correspondent

MAULVI BAZAR, Jan 17: Moulvibazar town now over-crowded as all of the thana level courts have been shifted to the district headquarters. Main points of the district town particularly the court, arca and katcha bazar have turned into over-populated.

Lawyers and their assistants from rural thana headquarters have also migrated to the district town. They face problem to take a house on rental basis. Taking this opportunity, owners of the houses in the town increased the rent of their houses. Some of the lawyers taken shelter at local hotels.

On the other hand, respective thana headquarters turned as loneliness. The thana parishad buildings which have other government offices continuing its business at sparsely populated.

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Founding day observed

The 4th founding anniversary of Masabir Karim Shishu Sadan (MAKSHIS) was observed here recently at the conference room of Unnayan Sahayak Sangstha.

The meeting was presided over by MAKSHIS President Fayzul Karim Mayun while Abdul Kadir Mahmud, Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Social Welfare and Women's Affairs attended as chief guest.

It was addressed by Deputy Director, Social Service Department of Sylhet Samshul Haque and Principal-in-Charge of Moulvibazar Women's College MA Khaleque and General Secretary of MAKSHIS Lecturer Shah Abdul Wadud.

Students asked to develop as worthy citizens

PATUAKHALI, Jan 17: Minister for Post and Telecommunication Muhammad Keramat Ali recently called upon the students to devote themselves to studies to develop themselves as the worthy citizens for building a happy and prosperous Bangladesh, reports BSS.

He was addressing the students of Tunki-Nasim Keramat Ali Madhanki Balika Bidhalaya here.

"There is no problem that we cannot be solved with the combined efforts, sincerity and patriotic zeal," he opined.

Need for canal digging stressed

NARSINGDI, Jan 17: Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan on Friday stressed the need for canal digging to meet additional food requirement, reports BSS.

He was addressing a public meeting while inaugurating the re-excavation of Ailartek Khal, Dara Khal at Sadar thana here.

Among others, local MP Moira Khan and Abdul Aleem Mridha spoke on the occasion.

The Manpower Minister called upon the people to make success the canal digging programme by rendering voluntary service.

On completion of the re-excavation project, 150.89 acres of land will come under irrigation.

Later, the minister addressed another public meeting arranged by shaheed freedom Fighter Siraj Smriti Sangsad.