

## Vote for honest, competent candidates: Abbas

KHULNA, Jan 28: Jamaat leader Abbas Ali Khan on Wednesday urged the people to vote for honest and competent candidates in the ensuing mayoral election of the four city corporations to save the cities from "looters and terrorists," reports UNB.

"Vote for the honest and fittest candidates. Otherwise, the cities will be in the hands of looters, terrorists and corrupt people," he told an election meeting organised by the city unit of Jamaat-e-Islami at the local Circuit House premises.

Khan said the condition of the people will not be changed and the country will plunge into deeper crisis if competent leaders are not elected in the January 30 mayoral elections.

Terming the mainstream political parties as the two sides of the same coin, he urged the people to discard their politics and refrain from

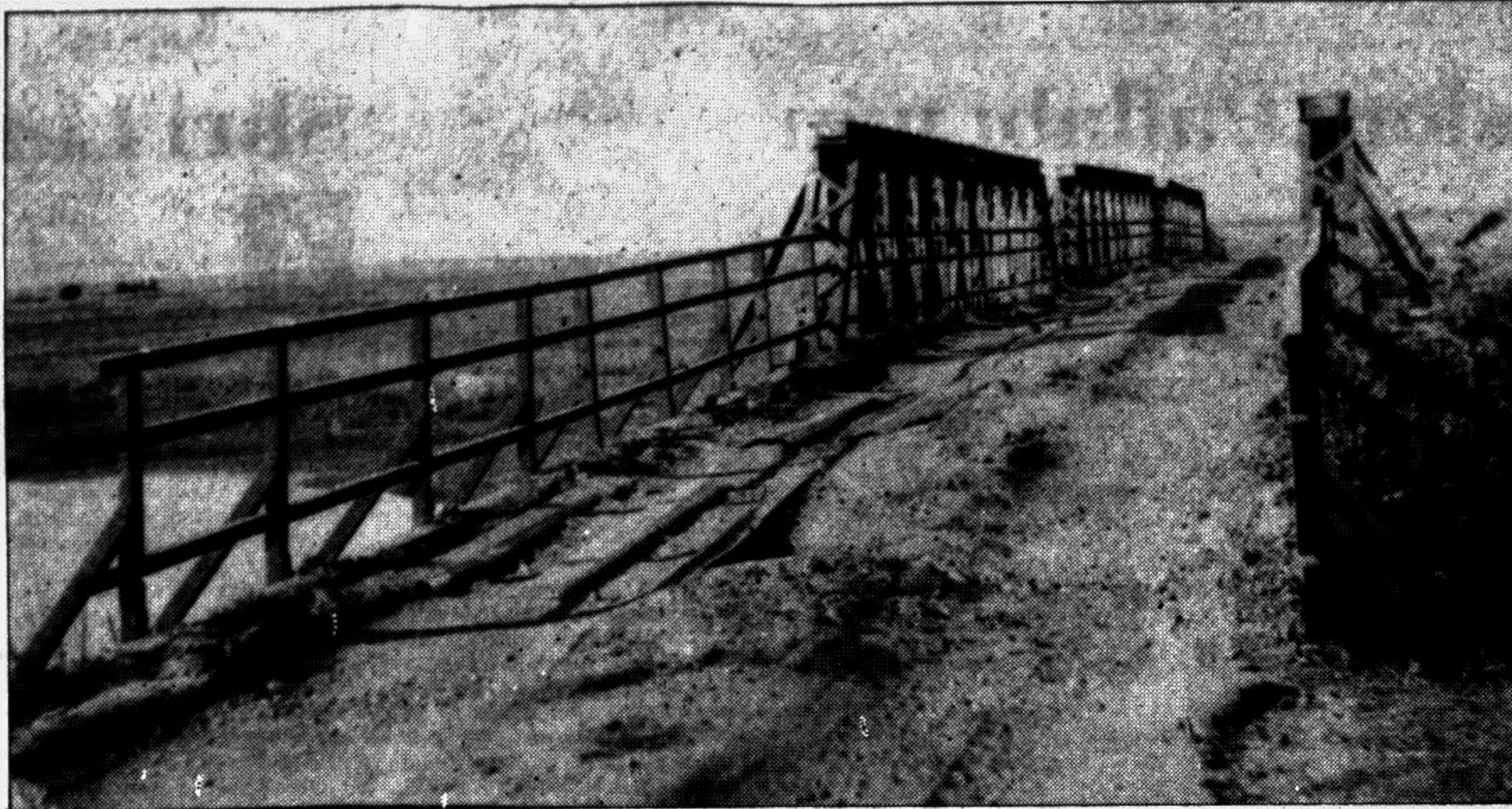
voting for their candidates. Criticising the ruling BNP, the Jamaat leader said it had introduced "Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim" in the Constitution but "it is during their regime that repressive measures against Islam have been the most."

Referring to last year's killings in BL College and Altya Madrasa, Khan regretted that the killers were yet to be punished.

Describing Awami League as "the representative of the Indian Congress Party", he alleged that they were out to make the country an Indian colony.

Turning to Jatiya Party, he said people still remember the misdeeds of the ousted party during its nine years of autocratic rule.

"The Jamaat leader said, "it is Islam which can give solutions to all problems."



SYLHET: The bridge on Sylhet-Tumabil road requires early reconstruction.

—Star photo

## Shortage of teachers, inadequate facilities to hamper prying

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Jan 28: Shortage of teachers, furniture and the dilapidated conditions of buildings will hamper the education of about 34,97 Lakh children in Rajshahi division.

There are 12,134 government and non-government primary schools in the division.

According to sources, out of the total 34,97,195 children of this division, education of about 1,74,228 children in Natore will be hampered as 523 government and non-government schools of the district are facing problems including shortage of 279 teachers.

Education of 2,57,314 children in Rajshahi will be hampered as 769 schools of the district have shortage of 273 teachers.

About 1,40,570 children in Chapainawabganj will face problems as 488 schools are facing problems for shortage of 209 teachers. About 2,51,261 children in Naogaon district will face problems as 996 schools of the district are facing various problems including shortage of 397 teachers.

About 2,75,113 children in Pabna will face educational problems as 876 schools of the district have shortage of 348 teachers.

About 3,37,236 children will face problems in Sirajganj as 303 posts of teachers are

laying vacant.

About 3,19,300 children in Bogra will face problems as about 376 posts of teachers are lying vacant.

About 91,793 children in Jaypurhat will face problems as 299 schools of the district have vacant posts of 193 teachers.

Education of about 2,54,748 children will be hampered in Rangpur as 397 posts of teachers are lying vacant.

About 2,43,113 children in Gaibandha will face problems as 938 schools of the district have shortage of 313 teachers.

About 1,64,473 children in Nilphamari will face educational problems as 626 schools of the district are facing problems including shortage of 424 teachers.

About 1,89,433 children will face educational problems in Kurigram as 742 schools have vacancy of 245 posts of teachers.

About 1,22,832 children will face problems in Lalmonirhat as 388 schools of the district have vacancy of 208 posts of teachers.

About 3,07,123 children will face problems in Dinajpur district as 1,133 schools of the district have vacancy of 811 posts of teachers.

About 1,40,142 children will face problems in Thakurgaon as 548 schools of the district have vacancy of 319 posts of teachers.

Education of about 99,142 children will be hampered in Panchagarh as about 218 posts of teachers are lying vacant.

One of 12,134 schools of the 16 districts 9,262 are government and 2,872 are registered non-government primary schools. Shortage of teachers is a most common factor in these schools. A total of 5 thousand 313 posts of teachers is lying vacant in those schools.

According to reports, out a total of 42 lakh 20 thousand children of Rajshahi division between the age group of 6 and 10 year, have got themselves admitted to the schools this year.

A government report says that 8.94 lakh children will not be able to attend schools as there is no primary school in 11 thousand 365 villages of the division. There are 23,494 villages in 124 thanas under 16 districts of Rajshahi division.

According to the report, about 43,743 children will remain out of school this year in Natore.

About 47,214 children will remain out of school in 1,146 villages of Rajshahi.

Over 28,440 children will remain out of school in 587 villages of Chapainawabganj.

At least 67,629 children will remain out of school in 1,762 villages of Naogaon district.

About 58,724 children will remain out of school in 673

villages of Pabna.

Over 84,875 children will remain out of school in 812 villages of Sirajganj.

More than 74,201 children will remain out of school in 1,477 villages of Bogra.

About 16,586 children will remain out of school in 621 villages of Jaypurhat.

Over 99,298 children will remain out of school in 605 villages of Rangpur.

About 89,892 children will remain out of school in 247 villages of Gaibandha.

Near 46,785 children will remain out of school in 199 villages of Nilphamari.

Over 70,910 children will remain out of school in 1,185 villages of Kurigram.

About 42,023 children will remain out of school in 73 villages of Lalmonirhat.

Over 65,793 children will remain out of school in 1,031 villages of Dinajpur.

At least 30,907 children will remain out of school in 85 villages of Thakurgaon and 26,532 children will remain out of school this year as there is no primary school in 421 villages of Panchagarh district.

A source informed that most of the children could not be enrolled in Primary schools as their guardians prefer them to work for earning livelihood.

An official pointed out that present government is trying to increase the illiteracy rate.

called the memory of their student life in this school. They paid rich tributes to some teachers who are now dead. They said, the contribution of Rajnagar Portous High School has enriched our educational heritage.

The speakers called upon the students of the school to hold the tradition and image of the school through activities.

In the second session of the centenary, a luncheon party was given to the invited guests and spectators.

A cultural competition of the student was held at the third session. "Bratacharya Nitya" presented by the student was the main attraction of this session.

The fourth and concluding session was also a cultural function. Television artists from Dhaka Rathindra Nath Roy and Layla Parveen rendered songs. The Hindi songs rendered by Layla attracted the audience. Arif Hussain, Deputy Commissioner of Moulvibazar declared Taka 5,000 prize to Layla for Hindi songs.

The centenary celebration committee also published a magazine.

It can be mentioned here that there are three century-old high schools in Moulvibazar district. The two other institutions are Moulvibazar Government Boys' High School and Kulaura Ali Amzad High School at Pritham Passa.

## College needs fund to extend facilities

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Jan 28: Shortage of teachers, books in the library, accommodation problem and absence of auditorium hampering education in Narayanganj College.

The number of students is increasing day by day but the college cannot accommodate them as the college house could not be expanded for want of necessary funds. The college established in 1980 as a private college has three departments — science, commerce and arts. There are only 20 teachers in the college for about 900 students.

The furniture in the classrooms are inadequate. The science laboratory is not equipped with necessary apparatus for holding regular practical classes.

There is a common-room which is too small to accommodate the students. As a result, most students pass their leisure at the college corridor and its premises.

The library has no adequate number of books due to shortage of funds. In the absence of necessary books the students mainly the poor ones are facing difficulties.

There is no auditorium in the college. As a result, func-

tions can not be held properly and smoothly. In the absence of play ground students are deprived of recreational facilities.

The college has got no hostel facility for which the intending candidates from far-flung areas can not get themselves admitted into the college.

There is no residential accommodation for the teachers in the college. Even the principal of the college has no official quarter.

The condition of the old tinshed college home is deplorable and unhealthy.

The principal of the college informed this correspondent that a prayer was given to open degree course and Taka 20 lakh has already been sanctioned for the development of science department. He also informed that the local municipality has allotted a piece of land measuring 1.4 bigha for the college to construct new building and to ease accommodation problem.

The local people have urged the government to take steps for the development of the college to meet the demand of increasing number of students.

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## District roundup

NARSINGDI

### Two killed in separate incidents

Jan 28: A young mother of two children was killed by her husband here when she refused to manage dowry-money, police said, reports UNB.

According to villagers, Shahjahan Mia of village Ghagatia in Shibpur thana used to torture his wife, Majda Begum (30) since their marriage a few years back for dowry.

On the fateful night of January 10 the cruel husband picked up a quarrel and beat her mercilessly causing her instantaneous death.

The body was sent to the local hospital for autopsy.

Another report from Brahmanbaria adds: A minor boy was killed over a sequel of a guardian level clash between two families at Moheshpur village in Nabinagar thana.

Family sources said the victim, Abdur Rahim (10) was called out from his house on January 9 by the family members of the rival group.

The body of Abdur Rahim (10) was recovered on January 10 from a mustard field of the village.

It may be mentioned here that the mother of the victim had a quarrel with another family of the neighbouring area. Police arrested two people.

SATKHIRA

### Three bodies recovered

Jan 28: Three bodies were recovered from Shridharpur beel area in Assamuni thana of the district on Saturday, reports UNB.

The bodies were identified as Abu Jafar (25) of Shibkhali, Rafiqul (24) of Bhandaria in Pirojpur district and Solaiman (23) of Khulna town.

Family sources said, they could not be traced out since January 10 when some unknown people called them out from their house. Later, relatives of the deceased identified the bodies at Satkhira morgue.

The bodies bore several cut marks. A case has been filed with the police.

N'GANJ

### Businessman robbed of Tk 9.5 lakh

Jan 28: A businessman was robbed of about Taka 9.5 lakh by a group of miscreants in the town Tuesday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, four youths riding in a car followed the car of a cement trader, Haji Rokanuddin from Paga and snatched a suitcase with the money at BB road in front of Janata Bank Tuesday afternoon. They fled away blasting a bomb.

A case was filed with the local police.

RANGPUR

### Smuggling of cattle skin rampant

Jan 28: Rampant smuggling of Indian raw skins through the Burimari border area is going on before the nose of law enforcing agencies, reports UNB.

According to the local people the dishonest traders following purchasing these skins at favourable prices from the border areas are sending the contraband to Rangpur town by train and truck.

Informed sources said, at least 1500 raw skins are coming to Rangpur from the Burimari area every day depriving the government of huge revenue.

Meanwhile, Indian goods including sugar, saree, cattle, spares and crockeries have flooded the local markets of the district causing alarm to indigenous commodities. Local people said, Burimari border has become the transit point for smuggling huge Indian goods.

Local leaders have urged the authorities to tighten the border security to stop such menace.

NETRAKONA

### Cold wave disrupts normal life

Jan 28: Netrakona district has been experiencing severe cold wave for the past few days, says BSS.

Normal life has been disrupted due to this cold wave. Light to moderate rainfall accompanied by north-westerly squally winds on Tuesday and Wednesday forced the mercury to fall down, an official source said.

Biting cold has caused extreme sufferings, particularly to the distressed and floating people.

The slum dwellers have been leading a miserable life, many of them are seen warming up in small bonfire.

SHERPUR

### Malaria kills nine, 500 more attacked

Jan 28: Nine persons died of malaria and more than five hundred people were afflicted by the disease in Sherpur district during last one year, reports BSS.

Local people alleged swarming mosquitoes all across the district and absence of measures against them were cause of this large scale prevalence of the disease.

People urged the concerned authorities to take proper measure to free the area from this sufferings.

KUSHTIA

### One killed in road mishap

Jan 28: One, Rahela khatun, wife of Niamat Zarder, was allegedly killed in a road accident on Kushtia-Jhenaidah road recently, reports BSS.

An oil tanker ran over her at Vadalia village, a few miles from Kushtia. She died on the spot.

Kushtia police registered a case but could arrest the driver or seize the tanker.

Another report adds: Police recovered one pistol and two rounds of ammunition from a leader of an underground political party recently.

Mirpur police recently arrested the leader from Amla. During interrogation he disclosed the whereabouts of the arm and ammunition. Accordingly police recovered them.

SATKHIRA

### Head, limb recovered

Jan 28: Police recovered two heads and one leg from Sridharpur beel during their search for the recovery of the limbs of three persons allegedly killed recently, reports BSS.

Abu Jafar and Rafiqul Islam of Singhati under Bhandaria police station of Pirojpur district and Solaiman of Custom Ghat of Khulna city were allegedly killed by assailants. The bodies of three persons were recovered from Sridharpur beel on January 16. Head of one person still remains untraced.

KHULNA

### Teachers urged to remove illiteracy from society

Jan 28: Speaker of Jatiya Sangshad Shaekh Razzak Ali called upon the people to implement the education programme in order to impart primary education to each and every child of the country, reports BSS.

The government had attached top priority on education thereby removing the scourge of illiteracy from the society, he added.

The speaker was addressing the Khulna Divisional educational conference held at the local Zia Hall auditorium Monday. It was organised by Bangladesh Government Primary School Teachers Association. The conference was addressed among others by Chief Adviser of the association Abu Abbas MP, Syeda Nargis Ali, MP and President and Secretary General of the association Suruzzaman and Ma Awal Talukdar respectively.

Referring to various problems Ali said, effective measures were being taken by the parliamentary standing committee on education for solving the problems in education sector.

RAJSHAHI

### Priority given to education

Jan 28: State Minister for Establishment Barrister Aminul Haq recently said the BNP government had laid utmost emphasis on education and introduced stipend for girls students studying in class six to ten, reports BSS.

He was addressing a function at Gogran under Godagary thana in the district while inaugurating new building of B L Jagarany non-government primary school.

Local Government Engineering Department constructed the school at a cost of Taka four lakh 20 thousand.

The state minister elaborated different programmes undertaken for spreading education and said, these programmes were aimed at eradicating the curse of illiteracy from the country by the year 2000.

He called upon all sections to cooperate with the government in implementing its pro-people policies.

The function was addressed, among others, by Azizur Rahman, MP, union parishad chairman of Gogran, Ram Kumar Chandra and BNP leaders.

## Case filed against Suranjit Sen

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Jan 28: A case has been filed Tuesday against Ganotantri Party leader Suranjit Sengupta, MP on charge of hitting the religious sentiment of the Muslims by using the name of Hajrat Mohammad (SM) before the name of former president HM Ershad while addressing a big public meeting at Sylhet Alia Madrasah maidan on December 28 last.

The complainant Mohammad Abdul Matin of village Barokandi of sadar thana filed the case Tuesday (January 25) under section 298/295 A of penal code in the court of Sylhet sadar thana Magistrate Nurul Islam.

The magistrate recorded the initial statement of the petitioner under section 200 of CR. PC and fixed the next date of February 15 for order.

The petitioner in his case stated "the comment passed by Suranjit Sengupta in the public meeting had hit the sentiment of the Muslim community, including the petitioner. It is punishable offence under law," he said.

## 'JP' contesting city polls to test party popularity

CHITTAGONG, Jan 28: Central leaders of the Jatiya Party said today that they were participating in the upcoming city corporation elections to test party popularity, reports BSS.

Addressing an election projection meeting at Lalidighi Maidan here they urged the city people to cast their votes in favour of JP mayor nominee Mahmudul Islam Chowdhury.

Held under the auspices of city chapter of the Jatiya Party, the meeting was addressed by acting chairman of the party Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, former vice president Moudud Ahmed, former prime minister Kazi Zafar Ahmad, former minister Kamrun Nahar Zafar, mayor candidate Mahmudul Islam Chowdhury, local leaders Ibrahim-bin Khalil, Dastgir Chowdhury, and Advocate Shamsul Huda.

## Rajnagar wore festive look during celebration of centenary

From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, Jan 28: Rajnagar Portious High School, a three-century-old institution of Moulvibazar district observed its centenary on January 19, at the school premises.

The day-long festival was attended by hundreds of people including the present, old students and teachers and people from all walks of life.

Rajnagar thana headquarters wore a festive look on this day with multi-coloured festoons and other decorations.

The gorgeous festival was arranged for reunion of old students and teachers with the new and for recalling its past bright tradition and contribution.

The day-long centenary programmes were divided into four sessions.

Fazlur Rahman, one of the oldest student who was also a former teacher of the school inaugurated the festival. The inaugural function was presided over by renowned economist of the country and old student of the school Dr Quzi Khaliqzaman. Major General M A Rob PSC an old student of the school was the chief guest.

The special guests of the meeting were old student Colonel M A Salam, Azizur Rahman MP and Whip of the Opposition in Parliament, and Mr Arif Hussain, Deputy Commissioner of Moulvibazar.

Fazlur Rahman, Thana Nirbahi Officer of Rajnagar and

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