

News snaps

Loan distributed among destitutes
MEHERPUR, Feb 19: Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) has distributed more than Taka one crore among 12,000 destitute persons of the two thanas during the first six months of the current fiscal, reports BSS.

A BRDB source said the loan has been disbursed among the poor people through 213 cooperative societies for livestock, poultry, cottage industry and other small business under the poverty alleviation programme of the government.

Science Week in Satkhira
SATKHIRA, Feb 19: The 22nd National Science and Technology week began here on Monday at Satkhira Government College premises recently, reports BSS.

Dr. Muskhlesur Rahman MP inaugurated the week as the chief guest. Presided over by Khalilur Rahman, Additional Deputy Commissioner (general), the function was addressed among others by Principal, Government Girls College Abdul Mukhtar, Vice-Principal of the college Mokarram Ali and Prof. Abdus Sattar.

Rampant lifting of irrigation pumps
NETRAKONA, Feb 19: Rampant lifting of irrigation pumps and spare parts of it is hampering the IRRI-Boro cultivation here, reports UNB.

Farmers set up irrigation pumps in their respective crop fields for irrigation during the IRRI-Boro season. They said irrigation pumps and spare parts are being stolen by the muggers almost every night. An organised gang of thieves are engaged in lifting which are being sold at nominal prices to some dishonest traders which are again being sold to the growers at high rate. At least 10 irrigation pumps have been lifted from the land in different parts during the current season, but no step has yet been taken to check the malpractice by the administration.

Gun, drugs seized: Four arrested
LAXMIPUR, Feb 19: Police in three separate drives arrested four people and seized two pipe guns and drugs from them on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the house of Kabir Ahmed at Char Chamita village in Sadar thana and recovered a pipe gun. They also arrested Sabir Ahmed and Taslim Hossain along with a gun from a road in Srirampur. In yet another drive police recovered 1-kg hemp and rectified spirit from the house of Shahabuddin at Shakhar village in Sadar thana and nabbed him.

Revenue income down in Sherpur
SHERPUR, Feb 19: Revenue income from land development and miscellaneous heads in the district decreased during the last July-December period than that of the corresponding period of the previous year, reports UNB.

Revenue Department sources said the income during the first six months of the current fiscal year was over Tk 8,77,389. The income includes Tk 7,97,310 as land development tax and Tk 80,079 as revenue from lease of different markets and water-sand and stone quarries. The amount is Tk 38,900 less than the previous year's income. The officials said the target of revenue income this year was set at Tk 54,67,398 and the income during the first six months was only 14.58 per cent of the total target. Thana-wise break-up of the revenue income is as follows: Sherpur sadar Tk 3,57,490, Nakla Tk 1,82,467, Nalitabari Tk 97,679, Jhenaidga Tk 98,863 and Srirardi Tk 1,05,100.

Husband kills wife, daughter
JOYPURHAT, Feb 19: A cruel husband slaughtered his wife and strangled his minor daughter to death following a trifling matter at Baguri village in Panchbibi thana here on Saturday, reports UNB.

Police said the killer husband, Sekandar Ali, locked in a quarrel with his wife Rawshan Ara, 23, at night following the cooking of curry. At midnight he brutally slaughtered Rowshan to death. Witnessing the brutal incident when their minor daughter Poly started crying loudly Sekandar strangled her also to death. Immediately after the double murder the killer went into hiding.

Training concludes
COMILLA, Feb 19: A two-day training of trainers on implementation of bio-gas plant was held at the Local Government Engineering Department training centre on February 14-15, reports BSS.

Twenty-two thana level engineers from greater Comilla and Noakhali district participated in the training programme. The training was organised by the Local Government Engineering Department. The participants were imparted training on the production and use of bio-gas and organic fertiliser for maintaining environmental balance. Executive Engineer Kazi Mujibur Rahman inaugurated the training programme. District Training Officer Akhlaqur Rahman and Project Officer Swapan Kanti Chakraborty also spoke at the inaugural session.

Woman with phensidyl arrested
KUSHTIA, Feb 19: Detective Branch police arrested a woman with 50 bottles of phensidyl syrup from a bus stand in the town near Mujampur gate on Monday, reports UNB.

Police challenged the smuggler, Rokeya Begum, 40, for her suspicious movement near the bus stand and recovered the drugs from her possession. Police said Rokeya, wife of Zaidul Islam of Chatian village in Gangni thana of Meherpur district was engaged in smuggling phensidyl and other narcotics for a long time. Meanwhile, in separate drives police arrested four men and recovered two foreign made revolvers from different parts on Sunday. Police also arrested an absconding accused Abul Kashem, 45, from Gopalnagar village of Bheramara thana on charge of embezzlement of Tk 17 lakh of LGED here.

155 uplift projects progressing
NARSINGDI, Feb 19: A total of 155 projects are being implemented under Rural Infrastructure Development Programme in Narsingdi district in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

An official source said, 1,941 tonnes of wheat has been sanctioned for the project. Of the total projects 26 are being implemented in Narsingdi sadar thana, 29 in Raipura, 40 in Monohardi, 25 in Belabo, 22 in Shybar and 13 in Polash thana. According to District Relief and Rehabilitation Department, the implementation work is in full swing and will be completed by April.

The project included construction and re-construction of roads, re-excavation of canals and earthenwork in the premises of different educational and religious institutions.

Banned current nets seized
CHANDPUR, Feb 19: Banned current nets, worth Tk five lakh, seized in a recent drive by the police were burnt on the bank of Dakatia river here on Sunday, reports APB.

Mobile courts led by the magistrates of Sadar thana seized 2,25,000 metres of current nets from the Meghna river covering Chandpur to Haimchar and Chandpur to Matlab areas to prevent a section of unscrupulous fishermen from fishing fingerlings of the Hilsa. The banned fishing nets were burnt in presence of members of the law-enforcing agencies and local journalists.

Post of dist judge lying vacant
NETRAKONA, Feb 19: The post of the District and Sessions Judge here is lying vacant for the last two months causing sufferings to the litigants and delay in disposing of the pending cases, reports UNB.

Sources said a large number of civil and criminal cases are lying pending before the court of the District and Sessions Court following the transfer of Judge Jalal Uddin Ahmed to Jamalpur. Additional District and Sessions Judge Mahtab Uddin is performing the additional duties of District and Sessions Judge. Appeal and revision cases filed before the court of the Judge are also lying pending for hearing as the Additional District and Sessions Judge has no authority to do so. Local lawyers urged the authority concerned to fill up the vacant post immediately to mitigate the sufferings of litigants.

53 polling centres in Rangpur vulnerable
Nilphamari, Saidpur turn into towns of processions

From A Correspondent

NILPHAMARI, Feb 19: Election campaign has been gaining momentum in Nilphamari and Saidpur municipalities as the polls dates come near.

Nilphamari and Saidpur have turned into the towns of processions now. Candidates are campaigning in colourful processions. They are arranging projection meetings, door to door introduction meetings in each and every ward.

The sitting candidates are stressing on the need to elect themselves for another term in order to complete their ongoing projects. New Candidates' strategy is based on charges of corruptions and irregularities against the sitting candidates with pledges for transparent development work.

This year in Nilphamari Poursabha, a total of 42 candidates are fighting in nine wards. In three women seats, there are 14 candidates. Three candidates are fighting for the post of chairman in Nilphamari Poursabha. They are sitting chairman Dewan Kamal Ahmed from Awami League, Jahurul Alam from BNP and Aminur Rahman Coco from Jatiya Party (JP).

Earlier, AL Candidate and sitting chairman Dewan Kamal

Ahmed had been selected twice as chairman with JP ticket. Immediately after AL government came to power Kamal switched over to AL from JP for uninterrupted development work in the electorate as per his version. Many voters, however, do not see eye to eye with him. His opponents also raised specific charges of corruption and favouring his kith and kin to earn for himself through corruption. Still Kamal is aimable and well-educated.

Meanwhile, defying the BNP high command's decision of election boycott, Jahurul Islam, former VP of Nilphamari College Students Union is contesting. Jahur has mass popularity especially among the younger generation of the town because of his steadfastness and as an honest candidate. So, in spite of the odds which he is facing from his defying party high command's directives it will not be very astonishing if Jahur comes out successfully as chairman.

Aminur Rahman Coco, an upcoming businessman who came to limelight for his successful leadership in establishing the EPZ project in Nilphamari, is contesting as JP

candidate. He is also facing similar odds like the BNP candidate.

The electorate is stunned at the stand taken by Ahsan Ahmed, the Jatiya Party MP of Nilphamari who is supporting the BNP candidate instead of his own party candidate. This opposing move of the Party MP has put Rahman in an embarrassing situation. Otherwise, his possibility of being elected was brighter. But due to Jatiya Party's popularity in mass level, Rahman's chances of being elected cannot be brushed aside.

UNB from Rangpur reports: Rangpur district administration has identified 53 centres in two poushas of the district as vulnerable for the coming municipal polls.

Officials said in Rangpur Poursabha 41 centres out of 57 are perilous while in Haragach Poursabha 12 centres out of 20 are vulnerable.

The district administration has taken adequate measures to conduct the polls in a free, fair and transparent manner.

Thirty-four police personnel will be deployed in every vulnerable centre while 28 in each

normal centre. One magistrate will be posted in every two centres alongside army and BDR as striking force.

As the election inches closer, electioneering has gained momentum with candidates trying to woo the voters into their folds.

They have geared up their electioneering by holding meetings, processions and making door-to-door campaigning.

In Rangpur Poursabha, seven candidates are contesting for the post of chairman while 118 for 15 commissioner posts and 25 for the five seats reserved for women.

In Haragach Poursabha, eight candidates are contesting for the post of chairman, 61 for nine commissioner posts and 12 women candidates for three seats reserved for them.

There are 1,00,174 voters, including 52,519 male and 47,655 female, in Rangpur Poursabha where the election is scheduled for February 23.

In Haragach Poursabha, the poll will be held on February 25. Some 28,994 voters, including 14,420 males and 14,574 females, will exercise their right to vote.



SYLHET: Prof Habibur Rahman, Vice-Chancellor of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology speaking as the chief guest at a discussion meeting arranged in observance of the 15th death anniversary of General MAG Osmani, Commander-in-Chief of the Liberation War in 1971. Shamsuzzaman Khan, Director General, National Museum presided over it. The programme was arranged by Osmani Museum, here on Tuesday. — Star photo

FEMA programme to supervise Patuakhali poura poll

PATUAKHALI, Feb 19: The district unit of Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA) has taken up a programme for supervising the forthcoming municipal election in Patuakhali, reports APB.

Advocate M A Kader, President of Patuakhali unit of the FEMA, said that a meeting had been held to discuss about the modalities of supervising the polls.

It is apprehended that there may be violent conflict between two chairman candidates both of whom belong to the Awami League.

Local newsmen have expressed their intention to cooperate with the FEMA. A K M Enayet Hossain, M A Gafur, A K M Nurul Huq, Nazrul Islam, Manash Kanti, Sishir Mondal and Abdul Mannan Howlader intend to work as FEMA members in the upcoming polls.

Irregularity in distribution of VGF cards

SHERPUR, Feb 19: The district authorities are probing into all alleged irregularities in distribution of VGF cards by a UP member of Rouha union of the district, reports UNB.

According to the allegation, Emdadul Haq, UP member of ward number one of the union, distributed 18 cards out of the total 60 allocated to him to his near and dear ones depriving the needy and destitute people of the locality.

Besides, the member managed to issue cards to many well-off people.

Local people submitted a written complaint with the TNO and DC and the authorities entrusted the District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer to investigate into the matter.

Man gets life term RI for killing wife

From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAHI, Feb 19: The Additional District and Sessions Judge of Rajshahi, Juliker Ali recently in a judgement awarded life term rigorous imprisonment (RI) with a compensation of Taka 2,000, in default to suffer 15 days more imprisonment to a man for killing his wife.

Shamsuddin, 26, of village Gokul in Tanore thana hacked his wife Rujjan, 22, with a sherp weapon at midnight on March 21 of 1995. Seriously injured Rujjan was rushed to Tanore Health Complex where the attending doctors declared her dead. A case was filed accusing Shamsuddin and others in this connection.

After cross-examining the witnesses the judge awarded the punishment to the killer husband.

Pre-poll violence Chairman candidate in Chhengarchar Poursabha injured

CHANDPUR, Feb 19: A chairman candidate for the forthcoming election to the Chhengarchar Poursabha in Matlab thana here along with a friend were seriously injured in a sloop by unidentified assailants early Wednesday, reports APB.

The victims were identified as the chairman candidate Rafiqul Islam George, 42, and his friend Babu, 32, of the poushabha.

Police said the miscreants assaulted Rafiq and his friend at Jobdarga road in Chhengarchar at about 3 am while they were returning home on a motorcycle after electioneering.

The miscreants, suspected to be the supporters of one of his rivals, also set ablaze the motorcycle of Rafiq.

Election to the Chhengarchar Poursabha is scheduled to be held on Tuesday next.

Additional police force has been deployed in the area to avert further violence.

Another report from Khulna

Young tribal woman kidnapped
RAJSHAHI, Feb 19: A young tribal woman was kidnapped in Godagari thana on February 9, police said on Saturday, reports APB.

Mosila Tudu was abducted when she was returning home after working in the field.

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Tense situation in Ghugudah beel

PABNA, Feb 19: A tense situation has been prevailing in Ghugudah beel area of the district's Santhia thana over the dispute between land less people and local landlords about the possession of khas lands, reports UNB.

Local sources said the armed men of the influential landlords of the locality attacked and injured a number of people on February 7 as the landless people went there to till their lands.

The sources feared that the bloody conflict might occur at any time if the authorities failed to take adequate measures immediately.

They said there has been a series of clash and rivalry between the two groups over the land of Ghugudah beel, a vast marshy land in the thana. Local landlords grabbed about 900 acres of khas land in the beel for the last six decades by making forged deeds.

About 1,000 landless poor families living around the water body use to fish there for their livelihood. But illegal occupants started preventing them from the beginning of the 1970s.

Landless people protested and a local NGO, Sainata Samaj Kalyan Sangshtha, came forward to help them. They started legal battle from early 1980s for recovering the khas lands from the clutches of the landlords uniting all the associations of the poor people around the beel.

Oxfam, an international donor agency, provided financial aid for going to the court seeking redress against 10 deeds of the influential people.

The court delivered its judgement in favour of the landless people and the trouble started when they tried to take possession of the lands.

A serious bloody clash occurred on June 10, 1985 as the poor people attempted to take possession of their lands. The incident was followed by a series of clashes and conflicts between the two groups leaving at least 10 people dead and many others injured.

Some 70 people became crippled following the clashes and 56 criminal cases were filed against the rivals in connection with these incidents.

Later the government allocated khas lands among the poor families as the court favoured their claim over the land. Local officials said that so far over 681 acres of land out of the total 900 acres have been distributed among the poor and landless families.

Poor families are gradually taking possession of their allocated lands and due to strong support from the present government and due to its policy of providing land to the landless have been enjoying support and backing of the local administration, said the sources.

Poll fever grips Nalitabari

SHERPUR, Feb 19: Election fever gripped the newly formed Nalitabari Poursabha in the district as campaign is gaining momentum day by day, reports UNB.

Procession, mass contact and publicity through loud speakers are the regular features in the town. Candidates have set up election campaign centres at different points of the town to gear up their propaganda activities.

Inmates of the town became very enthusiastic about the first ever election of the municipality, established in 1995 with a total land area of 9.02 square km.

The total number of voters in nine wards of the Poursabha is 12,705. Of them, 6,639 are males and the rest 6,066 are females. Voting in the local government body here will be held on February 25.

The authorities have taken up all preparatory measures for smooth holding of the balloting in a peaceful and fair environment.

A total of three candidates are running for the post of Chairman and 41 are vying for the commissioner posts and 11 for women commissioner posts.

One of the women candidates, Anwara Begum, has already been unofficially elected in ward-number 1 as her only rival Chhamir Begum withdrew her candidature.

The chairman candidates are Abdul Halim Ukil, President of Awami League thana unit, Sirajuddola, his General Secretary and Akhtar-Uz-Zaman, another Awami Leager. The candidates are organis-

ing wayside rallies and public meetings and giving many commitments to the voters to win their support.

Local people said in some cases there are violations of the code of conduct set by the Election Commission for the candidates.

Another report from Natore says: As many as four candidates are in the race for the post of chairman, 11 are contesting for the women members' seats and 32 for ward commissioners of Natore Poursabha.

Meanwhile, one Monjuri Lahiri has been declared elected unopposed in the women's seat of Ward No-1.

The candidates for the post of chairman in Natore Poursabha are Advocate Kamrul Islam, Aminul Huq, Mir Abdul Rahman and Chhitaranjan Shaha.

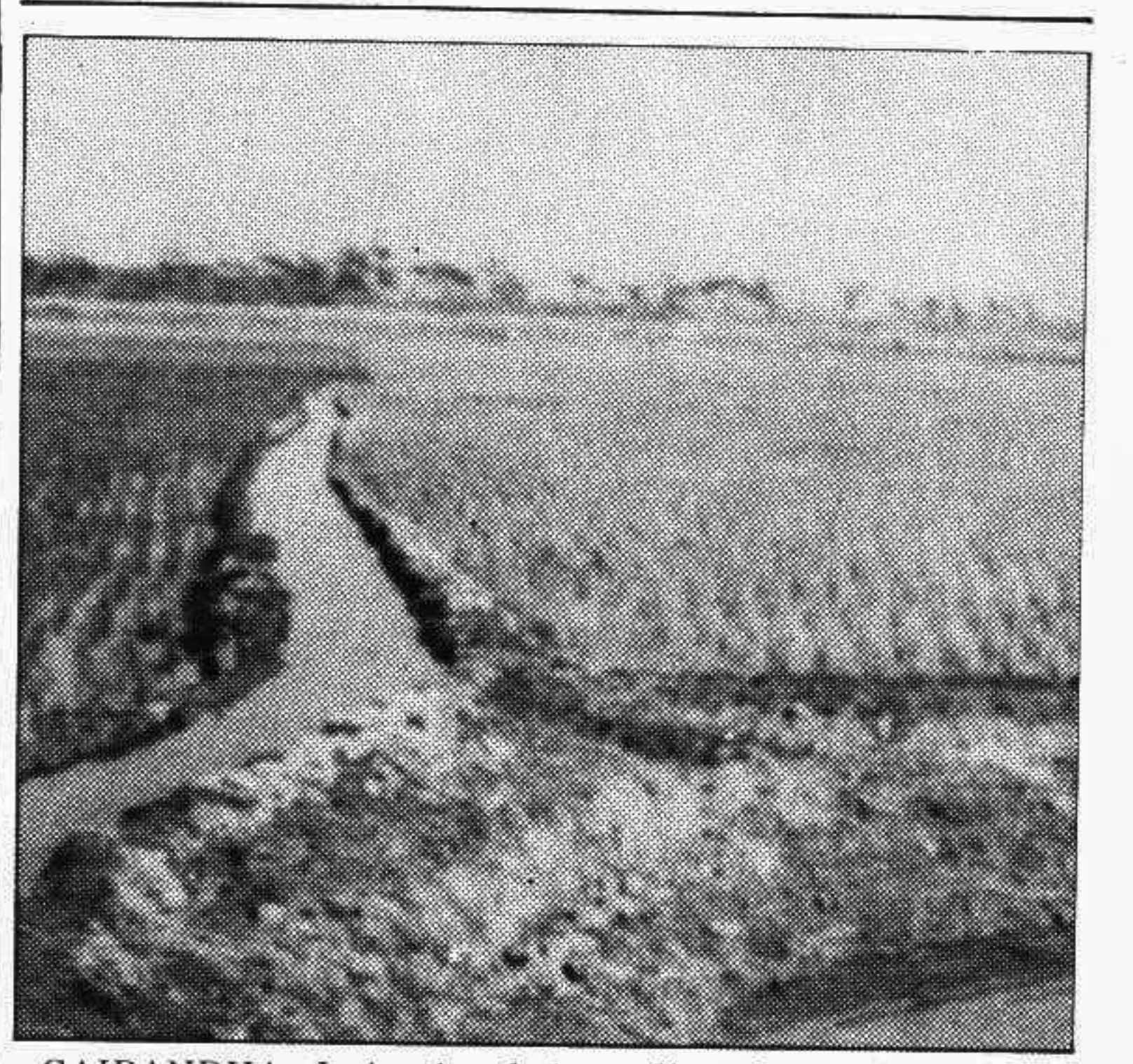
Total number of the polling centres in the pousasava is 18 and the number of voters is 33,292.

Elections to Natore Poursabha and Gurudaspur Poursabha will be held on February 23.

There are three contenders for the post of chairman of Gurudaspur Poursabha, while 10 candidates are seeking election to the reserved seats for women and 40 are vying for the posts of ward commissioners.

The chairman candidates of Gurudaspur Poursabha are Amjad Hossain, Aynal Huq Talukdar and Ariful Islam Bilal.

The total number of voters in the Poursabha is 14,285.



GAIBANDHA: Irrigation being affected greatly during the ongoing IRRI-Boro cultivation season as the farmers passing days in hardship due to last year's crop loss. — Star photo

Tangail AL seeks cooperation of all for holding peaceful polls

TANGAIL, Feb 19: Tangail district Awami League held a meeting with local newsmen on Wednesday at local press club, reports BSS.

They spoke on general situation prevailing here on coming poura election.

Ahah Abdul Mannan MP, president member of Awami League, Alhaj Shamsur Rahman Khan, Joint Secretary, Bangladesh Awami League Fazlur Rahman Khan Faroque, Secretary, District Awami League and Md Faroque, Organising Secretary, took part in discussion on coming election.

They said that although local government election like poura poll will not be held on party basis, they are working for the candidate who has party affiliation and support. They said there is no division in Awami League here on poura election issue.

The Awami League leaders said, the coming election will be free and fair. They expressed their confidence that the government will take necessary steps to conduct the poll successfully. They also hoped that poura people will elect right person for the betterment of Tangail Poursabha.

Awami League leaders sought cooperation of all concerned to hold the coming election peacefully and successfully.

They also disclosed that district Awami League will hold a public meeting, on February 20 at Bindubashini High School playground in support of chairman candidate Abtabuz-zaman Khan Feroz.

Among others, Advocate Mirza Tozazz Hossain Mukul and Moazzem Hossain, President and Vice President respectively of District Awami League and other leaders of the party including Sharif Hazari, Shohel Hazari and Mamunur Rashid were also present in the press conference.

Another report from Barisal says: Preparation for holding election of three pousasabhas of Gournadi Banaripara and Bakergonj has already been completed. Election Office sources told on Tuesday.

According to the sources 10 polling centres and 51 booths

were set up in Gournadi Poursabha areas, nine polling centres and 18 booths in Banaripara Poursabha and nine polling centres and 30 booths in Bakergonj Poursabha.

Altogether, 10 Presiding Officers, 51 Assistant Presiding Officers and 102 Polling Officers have been appointed for Gournadi Poursabha, nine presiding officers, 18 assistant presiding officers and 36 polling officers for Banaripara and nine Presiding Officers, 30 Assistant Presiding Officers and 69 Polling Officers for Bakergonj Poursabha.

Besides, police and ansars will remain engaged round-the-clock to maintain law and order in and around the polling centres.

A total of 31,238 voters including 15,012 women will exercise their voting rights in the pourasava election.

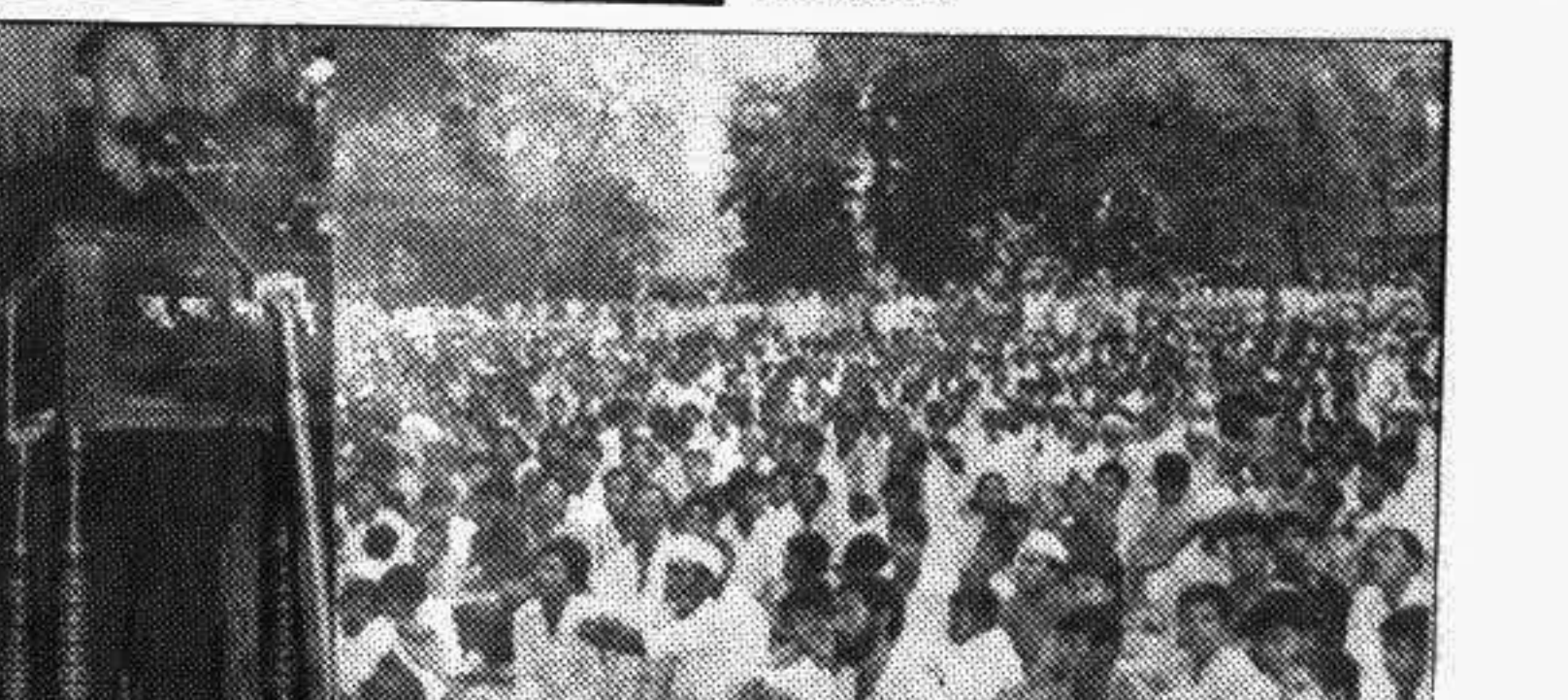
Reception

By Staff Correspondent
Veteran freedom fighter Maj Gen (Retd) Subed Ali Bhuiyan has said the politics of terrorism and money cannot bring any welfare and development of the people.

Addressing a grand reception accorded to him at Goalmar Chowdhury Bari ground under Daudkandi thana in Comilla district on Sunday, he said the politics of this thana is being controlled by money and terrorism.

Calling upon the people for building strong resistance against terrorism and extortion, MSA Bhuiyan, said that he joined the War of Liberation for political and economic emancipation, but the leadership failed to improve the socio-economic condition of commonman.

Presided over by former Chairman of Fisheries Department Muzaffar Hussain, the meeting was addressed, among others, by NAP (Bhanshi) leader Abdul Matin Master, freedom fighters Goli Mostafa Reu and Shawkat Ali, social worker Nuruzzaman, Goalmari UP chairman Moktar Hossain Bhuiyan, student leaders Foyez Ahmed and Monir Hossain.



DAUDKANDI: Veteran freedom fighter Maj Gen (Retd) Subed Ali Bhuiyan addressing a grand reception which was accorded to him at Goalmar Chowdhury Bari ground here on Sunday.

A SERIES OF SEMINAR ON RECENT ISSUES OF MARKETING IN ANANCE
FEB. 16-20, 1999
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, JAHANGIRNAGAR UNIVERSITY

JAHANGIRNAGAR UNIVERSITY (Savar): The Business Administration Department of the university organised a series of seminar from 16-20 February. On the opening day Reza Iftekhar Patwary presenting his key-note paper on 'Marketing of Environment-Friendly Products.'