

Upazila roundup

MADARIPUR

Science fair ends

From Our Correspondent
January 29: The weeklong 14th Science Fair of Government Nazimuddin College ended recently with distribution of prizes and colourful cultural function.

The science fair held in the auditorium of the college ended with a discussion on science which was presided over by Principal, Government Nazimuddin College. The discussion was participated by Assistant Professors Messers Wahiduzzaman, Berendra Nath Mondal, Khalilur Rahman and Alimuzzaman.

A good number of educational institutions took part in the fair with respective scientific display.

DINAJPUR

Rotary Club executives

From A Correspondent
January 29: The annual election of Dinaipur Rotary Club was held recently. A 13-member executive committee for the year 1991-92 was elected. The office-bearers are: President Rtn Abul Kasem Aru, Vice President-Rtn Mahbubur Rahman, Honorary Secretary-Rtn Md. Shaharjat Parvez, Treasurer-Rtn Hamidul Huq, Board members-Rtn Advocate Aminul Huq, Rtn Prof Azizur Rahman, Rtn Advocate Mushfiqur Rahman, Rtn Harunur Rashid, Rtn Paban Kumar and Rtn Md. Akbar Ali.

Bank Samity

The annual election of Mal-dhapaty Bank Samity in Dinaipur town was held recently. A 15-member executive committee for the year 1991-92 was elected with Mr. Sattya Narayan Agarwala and Mr. Md. Shaikat Ali as President and General Secretary respectively.

CHUADANGA

Betel leaf growers lose incentive

From Our Correspondent
January 29: The betel leaf growers of Chuadanga district has been facing various problems. As a result the number of farmers is being decreased. Production cost of betel leaf has increased manifold. Due to scarcity of essential materials like jute stalk, oil cake, rope, bamboo and straw, the growers have lost interest in the cultivation. The price of all sizes of betel leaf have abnormally gone down for the last few months. So the betel leaf farmers are not getting actual price of betel leaf.

C'NAWABGANJ

Soyabean price up by Tk 15 per kg

January 29: Price of soyabean oil has abruptly shot up by Taka 15 per kilogram over the last week adversely affecting the consumers, reports UNB.

Market sources said soyabean oil which was being sold at Taka 30 per kg only a few days back is now selling at Taka 45 per kg.

The wholesale traders said they are to purchase soyabean oil from Dhaka and Chittagong at high prices. They also alleged that frequent interference by law enforcing agencies and demand for bribe in different routes are the reasons behind the price hikes.

Meanwhile, law enforcing agency sources allege that the

wholesale traders are procuring soyabean oil beyond their quota fixed by the district administration and are smuggling the edible oil to India. Consumers here also complained that prices of other essentials have also shot up over the last few days due to outbreak of Gulf war.

BHOLA

Scientific equipment distributed

From Our Correspondent
January 29: The Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education distributed scientific equipment worth Taka 1,29,89,000 to 306 non-government schools and madrasas of Bhola, Barisal, Pirojpur and Jhalakati districts from June to December, '90.

Schools and Madrasas benefitted by these equipment include 37 in Bhola, 126 in Barisal, 58 in Jhalakati and 85 in Pirojpur districts.

CHANDPUR

Publication ceremony

From Our Correspondent
January 29: The fourth publication ceremony of 'Weekly Chandpur' was held recently at Chandpur Press Club.

Mr. Abdur Jabbar, Editor of the weekly presided over the function and it was addressed by Mr. Abul Kashem, Deputy Commissioner, Chandpur, Mr. Wahidur Rahman, SP, Chandpur, Mr. Kamruzzaman Chowdhury, President, Chandpur Press Club, Mr. Nurul Huq Bachchu, Chairman, Chandpur Poushava and Mr. Golam Kibria Jiban, Executive Editor of the weekly.

KUSHTIA

Kushtia-Goalundo road yet to be completed

From Our Correspondent
January 29: The Kushtia-Goalundo road is yet to be completed, which was started in 1978. The project was planned for having an easy link between Kushtia and Dhaka.

Out of 40 miles, 17 miles long road are under jurisdiction of the Kushtia Road Division while the rest 23 miles are under Faridpur Division.

For want of adequate fund, work on this road is going very slowly. Earth filling and brick pavement work in 10 miles have been partly completed under Kushtia Division while in Faridpur it is yet to be performed, it is alleged.

BANDARBAN

Education fortnight observed

January 29: The education fortnight '91 was observed in Alikadam Ideal Upazila under Bandarban hill district from January 1 to 14, reports BSS.

A sports meet and cultural function were held at upazila sadar primary school premises on the concluding day. Upazila Chairman Mr. Abu Zafar Chowdhury distributed prizes as the chief guest of the function.

The function was presided over by Mr. Habibur Rahman, Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Alikadam.

8 killed in road mishaps

Star Report

Eight persons were killed and 45 injured in two road accidents in Rangpur and Narayanganj districts on Sunday last.

Our Narayanganj Correspondent adds: Three persons including a child were killed and at least 30 others injured in a bus accident at Bulta Bazar under Ruganz upzila on Sunday.

The accident occurred when Sylhet bound bus skidded off the road and fell into a way-side ditch.

Fire brigade personnels recovered two unidentified bodies from the bus. Police rescued the injured persons and sent them to the Narayanganj Hospital before the arrival of the fire brigade personnels.

The driver is absconding and a case was registered with Narayanganj thana.

UNB from Rangpur adds: Five people were killed and 15 others injured in a head-on collision between a jeep and a minibus at Shatbari on the Rangpur-Bogra highway, hospital sources said.

Three people died on the spot while two others succumbed to injuries at Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH) following the accident in the morning.

The victims include drivers of the two vehicles, the sources said but could not identify them.

Five of the injured were hospitalized. Ten others were released after first aid.

Notes from Dinaipur

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, Jan 29: Under open water pisciculture programme, the Bangladesh Fisheries Department has released one crore 20 lakh fish fries in 16 northern districts of the country during the current season.

Districtwise break-up of the released fries are: 3,85,000 in Dinaipur, 3,15,000, Thakurgaon-4,50,000, Panchagarh-8,60,000, Kurigram-4,50,000, Lalmonirhat-2,10,000, Nilphamari-4,35,000, Gabandha-4,30,000 Rangpur-7,00,000, Joipurhat-10,55,000, Bogra-9,70,000, Sirajganj-9,00,000, Pabna-26,68,000, Natore-7,57,000, Naogaon-6,41,000, Chapainawabganj-7,30,000.

One killed in road mishap

Bablu (12) of Birganj Sadar upazila was killed under the wheels of a truck near Mahagowd Bat Tala on Monday evening while he was returning home from Birganj Primary School. The truck hit him from behind. As a result, Bablu died on the spot. However, the local people managed to seize the truck with its driver. A case has been registered with Birganj PS in this regard.

Farmer murdered

Radhamohun Adhikari, a farmer of village Tagla in Kaharol upazila, was killed with sharp weapons by a gang of ripe-paddy lifters on Friday night while he was on guard in his paddy field. The body was found by the villagers in a ditch next morning which was later sent to the morgue for autopsy. A case has been registered with Kaharol PS in this connection.

Death anniversary

The sixth death anniversary of Shaheed Shahjahan Straj was observed in the district on Saturday last. Different student organisations including Chhatra Oikya arranged elaborate programme on the occasion.



MUNSHIGANJ: Summer is nearing. Farmers have started cultivating different kinds of summer fruits. Here a farmer is watering his watermelon field while his children are ready for his help. —Star photo

Enhanced excise duty hits sugar industries

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Jan 29: Sugar industry in the country is facing a setback with the introduction of enhanced excise duty of Tk. 4840 per metric ton effective from July 1, 1990, it is reliably learnt. Previous excise duty was Taka 2100 per metric ton.

With the enhanced excise duty mill price of sugar has jumped from Tk. 27,000 to Tk. 29,740 per metric ton and lifting of sugar from the mills was almost stopped resulting in the stockpile of the production in all the 16 sugar mills of the country and depriving the government of the benefit of excise duty. As a result the mills are also facing financial crisis in paying the sugarcane price to the growers.

Indian sugar has also flooded the markets of the country crippling the sugar industry.

With the beginning of this crushing season up to date total production in 16 sugar mills stands approximately at 1,10,000 metric tons cost of which comes to Taka 327.14 cr. Out of this production only 2000 metric tons of sugar have been lifted so far and as a result mills capacity to make payment to the growers have been lost.

In Kushtia Sugar Mills two crores taka are needed immediately to make payment to the growers but for want of buyers of sugar they have failed to procure money and the growers are giving constant pressure to make their payment.

It is interesting to note that there is no crisis of sugar in the markets where as sugar is not being purchased from the mills. Then how this sugar is made available abundantly in

the markets is a question to ponder. Either sugar is being imported into the country in a large quantity or it is being smuggled into the country in large volume. Otherwise there would have been crisis of sugar in the markets in absence of lifting of sugar from the mills.

An expert in this industry, told this correspondent that still there is time to withdraw the enhanced excise duty and allowing the traders to make business with country made sugar otherwise Indian sugar will continue to occupy the Bangladesh markets crippling the sugar industries in the country permanently.

It may be mentioned that Indian has a bumper production of sugar this year and it is capable to export 20 lakh metric tons of sugar it is gathered from Indian news media.

Fate of 400 landless families uncertain

From Our Correspondent

MAULVI BAZAR, Jan 29: The fate of 400 landless families living in Kalenga area under Kamalgonj upazila since 1964 is still uncertain.

It is alleged that these landless families came to erstwhile Pakistan from Tripura state of India in 1964 and the then sub-divisional administration, Maulvi Bazar rehabilitated them in Kalenga, an area covering 715.16 acres khash lands of Dearachera Tea Estate and they have made the excess lands fit for cultivation with their hard labour and are living on the land since 1964. But records show that 715 acres of land out of 715.16 acres have been leased out to Mr. Mohibur Rahman, Ex-MNA by the erstwhile Board of Revenue vide memo No. 402(2)V-335/62 in the year 1969 for cultivation of tea. Knowing this the landless families in possession of the lands prayed for leasing out the lands in favour of them and for the last 18 years several inquiries were made by the local authorities and they recommended to the higher authorities justifying and cause of landless refugees and lastly the then Additional Deputy Commissioner (Rev). Sylhet issued a show cause notice to Mr. Mohibur Rahman, Ex-MNA saying that why the allotment of land should not be cancelled as he did not utilise the lands for tea cultivation but fate of the show cause notice issued in 1979 is still unknown.

Secretary, Landless Co-operative Society Kalenga informed the journalist that the people living in the Kalenga area exercising their right of vote since 1969 and they are

paying all sorts of union taxes under Rahimpur Union Parishad. Besides, various development works including construction of a government primary school, installation of 11 tubewells, construction of roads have been done in the area by the government. But as regard settlement of the lands with the nothing has yet been decided.

Money lenders active

Maulvi Bazar town and its adjoining areas have been turned into a haven for the unauthorised money lenders. The peasants and small business concerns are the worst victims of such money lending.

The peasants and small traders who took loan from these lenders are made to pay interest against their borrowed money at an exorbitant rate. The unregulated rates of interest amount to Taka 20 percent to Taka 30 percent varying with nature of business trans-

action. The mode and tactics of lending are quite different and the borrowers fall easy prey to these money lenders having no way out to escape from their clutches.

The money lenders are not registered with the authority concerned and they have not to pay any incometax. Their business has no risk or liability and they court interest only having nothing to pay to any authority.

Their illegal business has rendered hundreds of peasants and small traders and middle class families helpless losing their ancestral lands, homes and movable properties.

These money lenders very often advance money against standing crops grown by peasants in such a way that the growers are made to hand over their crops against nominal borrowings by them. As a result the peasants never enjoy the fruits of their labour and are at the mercy of these people.

Drug addicts on rise in Magura

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, Jan 29: The number of drug addicts has been increasing in the district alarmingly. The addicts include rickshawpullers, transport drivers, college students and the unemployed people at large, and even a section of government employees is

develped in illegal deals. It is alleged that inadequate measures taken by law enforcing agencies and undaunted criminals connected with illegal trade, smuggling theft, and anti-social activities have led the people towards drug addiction.

It is also reported that local people are not getting co-operation from the law enforcing agencies to curb the menace.

The guardians alleged that some of their wards become drug-addicts in the wake of unusual social conditions prevailing in the locality.

The Magura Government High School is beset with a number of problems. It is learnt that some of the teachers of the school have been transferred, some died of old age and some have retired. But the vacant posts numbering 10 have not yet been filled up hampering the education.



CHANDPUR: Begum Afia Kashem, President, Chandpur Women's Sports Association distributing prizes among the winners of annual sports competition of Udayan Shishu Biddalaya recently. —Star photo

Political scene

Public rallies devote more time to war

Star report

Public meetings are now being held across the country demanding immediate halt to Gulf war. This is a new development in the political history of Bangladesh that severe public protests have been centering round an international conflict.

Reports of the observance of hartal were received from different parts of the country for an early solution to Gulf crisis.

Leaders of various political parties are taking more time in elaborating Gulf war than their own election manifesto.

However the election day is now knocking at the door.

Our Maulvi Bazar Correspondent writes: The internal crisis of newly formed Gonoatantrik Oikya Jote (GOJ) has brought the election campaign to a stand still, because the leaders and workers of GOJ have failed to reach an understanding for the adjustments of the seats in Maulvi Bazar district. In Maulvi Bazar district a section of leaders and workers has full support to GOJ and another section has expressed its disappointment over the 8-Party central decision.

Meanwhile Gulf war has shadowed election campaigns and gossips in every places of Maulvi Bazar district. In some places election processions turned into anti-war processions.

However, wall writing, poster, graffiti and miking are on in every places of the district to draw attention of the voters.

It may be mentioned here that 16 candidates in four seats of Maulvi Bazar withdrew their candidature on the last date of withdrawal. Now, the total number of candidates in four constituencies stands at 24, of which six in Bara Lekha (Maulvi-2), six in Kulaura (Maulvi-2), six in Sadar and Rajnagar (Maulvi-3) and six in Sreemongal and Kamalgonj (Maulvi-4).

Munshiganj

Our Munshiganj Correspondent adds: Twenty persons out of 60 have withdrawn their nomination papers from Munshiganj. The remaining 40 candidates are contesting in the election from four constituencies.

The constituency wise break-up is:

Munshiganj-1 (Sreenagar-Sirajdikhan): Dr. Badruddoza Chowdhury (BNP), A. R. Khandaker (AL), Shah Muazzam Hossain (Jatiya Party), Adilur Rahman Khan (5-Party alliance), Shamsul Hoq (Independent), S. M. Tofazzal Hossain (Independent), and Mursheedul Ashhan (Jaker Party).

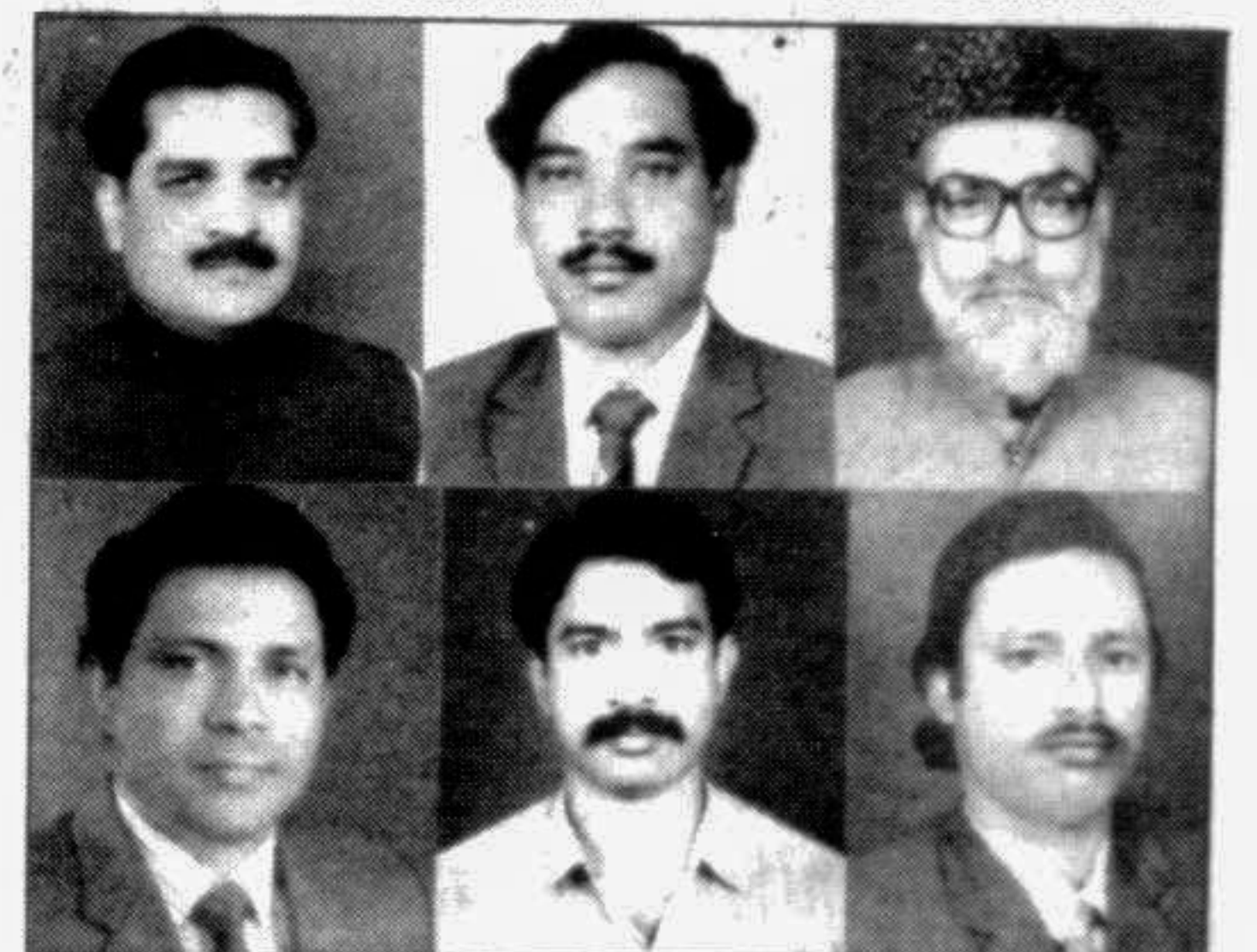
(Munshiganj-2 (Lohojong-Strajdikhan): M Hamdulh Khan (BNP), Nazrul Islam Khan

Hoq (Independent), and Fazle Elahi (Jaker Party).

Our Chuadanga Correspondent says: Electioneering throughout Chuadanga district is now gaining momentum with every passing day. In all, 14 candidates are contesting for two seats Chuadanga-1 and Chuadanga-2 in the ensuing Sangsad election. Of the total candidates six candidates are contesting for Chuadanga-1 seat while eight-candidates are contesting for Chuadanga-two seat. In all 12 parties are participating for the two seats of the district. The parties are Awami League, BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, Jatiya Party, IOF, Bangladesh Muslim League, Jaker Party, CPB, Jatiya Jana Mukti Party, (JSD-Rab), Freedom Party and Workers Party. The Candidates who are contesting for the two seats of the JS in the district are (seat No. One)-Mia Monsur Ali (BNP), Major Bozul Huda (Freedom Party), Solaiman Hoque Joarder (AL), Bablu Rahman (Workers Party), M. A. Bari (Jaker Party), and Mohammad Shahjahan (JSD-Rob) and the candidates who are contesting from seat No-2 are Maulana Habibur Rahman (Jamaat), Habibur Rahman Hobi (JP), Abdul Mannan (IOF), Nafisuddin (BML), Saidur Rahman (Jaker Party), Shaheedul Islam (CPB), Mirza Sultan Raja (Jatiya Jana Mukti Party and 8 Party Alliance) and Mozammel Haque (BNP). The total voters in seat No-one are 2, 44, 924 while 2, 11, 887 in seat No-2.

Kushtia

Our Kushtia Correspondent adds: Begum Khaleda Zia, Chairman of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and leader of Seven-Party Alliance was congratulated by Mr Abdur Rashid, President of Jatiatabadi Chhatra Dal, Kushtia unit, Mr Abdus Salam, leader of Jubadal and Mr Mohasin Ali, General Secretary, Jubadal Kushtia for nominating Mr Abdul Khalaek Chantau, a reputed social worker to Kushtia Sadar seat in place of Mr Ahamed Sarif, a well-known film star cancelling his nomination.



Candidates contesting from Gazipur-2 constituency: From top left A.K.M. Mozammel Huq (AL), M.A. Mannan (BNP), Alhaj Moulana Abu Sadeq Mohammad Najibullah (Jamaat), Hafizuddin Sarker (Jaker Party), Md. Osman Ali (BSD) and Firoz Khan Bengal (Jatiya Party). —Star photo

Ovarian tumour weighing 20 kg removed

CHITTAGONG, Jan 29: An ovarian tumour, weighing 20 kilograms, has been removed in a successful operation by a team of surgeons at the Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Hospital sources told UNB, the operation, rare and highly complicated in the medical science, was carried out on Laila Begum (22) recently.

Laila, from Ramu upazila of Cox's Bazar district, was admitted to the hospital on January 14 last with severe pain accompanied by some other complications.

Ex-Gram Sarkar chief killed in Netrokona

NETROKONA, Jan 29: A former Gram Sarkar chief was killed by some unknown assailants Sunday night at Chalisha Bazar area, three kilometers from here, police sources said, reports UNB.

Problems grip BIT

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, Jan 29: The Bangladesh Institute of Technology (BIT) is plagued with a number of problems. The BIT Students Union has been continuously demanding of the authority for solutions to the problems.

The previous name of Khulna BIT was Khulna Engineering College which was established at Teligati near Phulbari gate of the city on 100 acres of land in 1973. In 1986 Khulna Engineering College was turned into BIT, Khulna through an Ordinance. At present, it is an autonomous educational institution which offers degree in engineering. Some institutes like it are also in the cities of Dhaka, Chittagong and Rajshahi which are controlled by the BIT Council.

As there is a number of problems and irregularities in Khulna BIT, dissatisfaction and unrest are prevailing among the students. But the authority seems to pay no heed or a little attention to these problems. Although the institute was named as BIT, Khulna long four year ago, still the sign-board on its main gate is bearing the old name of Khulna Engineering College.

A plan was taken up to

make a garden and a lawn in front of the Shaheed Minar, which has not yet been implemented.

Most students both males and females are residents. But no separate hostel has been constructed for the women students. Now they are to reside on the upstairs of a primary school within the BIT premises. And now just in front of this temporary women hostel Teachers' Club Building is being constructed. There is a restriction for the male students to enter into the women hostel, but construction of Teachers' Club in front of women's hostel has created dissatisfaction among all the students.

Khulna BIT has an auditorium of its own, but it is unfit for use. The BIKSU-planned student union building is yet to be constructed.

The institution is situated 12 km of the main part of Khulna city, and the only means of communication of the resident students with Khulna city is telephone. Five coin-box telephone sets were supposed to be installed within the BIT, but only one coin-box telephone set has so far been installed there, which often

remains out of order for days together. As a result the communication problem of the students with outside people is grave. The students have repeatedly drawn the attention of the authority to this problem but in vain.

The buses of other BITs, apart from carrying students, are also allowed to carry students for study tour. But the bus of Khulna BIT is not allowed to go beyond Aricha Ghat, thus its students cannot go on study tour by their own bus. The students have demanded to allow BIT transports to go any where in the country on study tour.

The play ground of Khulna BIT is completely unfit to use for any game. Chattleheads are often seen grazing in this play-ground. But the authority seem to be quite unaware to look into the matter.

Apart from the above, there are many more problems prevailing in Khulna BIT now for which the students have expressed their grave concerns and demanded early their solutions.