

Rampant use of unfair means alleged Degree exam of Gurudoyal College cancelled

The Dhaka University authorities have decided to cancel the Degree examination of Kishoreganj Gurudoyal Government College following reports of rampant use of unfair means, reports UNB.

The university Controller Shah Mohammed Habibur Rahman on Monday told to the university correspondents that the local administration and teachers association requested the authorities to cancel the examination which started from February 5 and scheduled to end April 4.

A total of 164 students are appearing at the degree examination at the college.

The Controller said on the first-day of the examination, 3 local teachers, a magistrate and the ADC received injuries following an attack by the unruly examinees while they

tried to resist unfair means. "Examinees were seen freely using books and note books and forcibly ousted the invigilators from the exam rooms. They also forced the teachers to sign their examination answer sheets," said the Controller.

He said Kishoreganj district teachers association in a written petition to the university authority said the examinees even threatened to kill them if they (teachers) did not comply with their directions.

"I seized 3 and half bags of books and copy books from 164 examinees on the Accounting first part examination on March 30 when I went on a visit there", Habibur Rahman said.

He said he could not stay there for more than half an hour due to lack of security.



FLOOD IN DHAKA — Bahadurpur Lane of Faridabad in the national capital is under knee-deep water following light rain. Water remains clogged as sewerage lines are blocked. Thousands of people have an ordeal in movement due to water-logging assuming the spectre of a flood. — Star photo

A K Khan's death condoled

CHITTAGONG, April 1: Convener of Principal Abul Khasem Smriti Parishad Advocate Shamsuddin Ahmad Mirza and Movement for Press Freedom Chairman and the Secretary General Moinuddin Quaderi Showkat and Helal Humayun Sundry expressed deep sorrow at the death of eminent industrialist A. K. Khan.

In separate statements they said, the country had lost a worthy son in the death of A.K. Khan and his valuable contributions in the country's industrial and economic development would continue to inspire the people in this field. They prayed for the peace of the departed soul and expressed sympathy with the members of the bereaved family.

Col (Retd) Oli Ahmed
Communications Minister Col (Retd) Oli Ahmed expressed his deep shock at the death of the former minister and renowned industrialist A.K. Khan.

The minister prayed for the peace of the departed soul and conveyed his sympathy to the bereaved family.

Jamaat
Abbas Ali Khan and Maulana Matiar Rahman Nizami, Acting Ameer and Secretary General of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh, in a statement on Monday condoned the death of former minister A. K. Khan.

The leaders prayed for the salvation of the departed soul and expressed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Barrister Sultan
A former Deputy Speaker and Minister, Barrister Sultan Ahmed Chowdhury Monday expressed deep sorrow at the death of prominent industrialist and a former Industries Minister of the then central Pakistan government, A. K. Khan.

In a condolence message sent here from London, Mr. Chowdhury recalled his long association with A. K. Khan said he had played a pioneering role in the industrialisation of the country.

Mr. Chowdhury prayed for the peace of the departed soul and expressed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Buddhist community grets Khaleda, Hasina

The Buddhist community hailed emergence of democracy in Bangladesh and congratulated BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia for assumption of the office of the Prime Minister, reports BSS.

In a press release issued in Dhaka Jibanananda Barua, Chairman of National Committee of Bangladesh Buddhist Juba Parishad (World Fellowship of Buddhist Youth, regional centre), extended support to the government in realising the hopes and aspirations of the people, irrespective of caste and creed.

He also congratulated Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina on getting recognition as Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad.

The National Centre of the Asian Buddhists conference for peace congratulated Begum Khaleda Zia and expressed support to the national patriotic government under her leadership to lead Bangladesh towards progress and national reconstruction.

The centre hoped that friendly and cordial relations would be strengthened in the coming days between Bangladesh and Buddhist populated countries of Asia.

Earlier, the Bangladesh Buddhist Federation hailed Begum Khaleda Zia as the Prime Minister of Bangladesh.

Conflicting views presented to WB team Public sector jute mills incur Tk 2,000 cr loss

Public and private sectors of the jute industry have offered conflicting views to the World Bank which is planning to give a substantial loan for revitalising the loss-ridden industry, reports UNB.

Country's jute industry with more than 60 per cent in the public sector is estimated to have incurred a loss of Tk 2,000 crore over last seven years since 1983. The loss is said to be proportionately less in the private sector which account for the remaining 40 per cent.

Officials of the public sector jute industry, including Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC), are understood to have pleaded for the loan for balancing, modernisation and rehabilitation (BMR) of the mills.

They told a World Bank team investigating requirements of the jute industry that a balancing and modernisation of the mills with new and faster models of machinery will greatly help in reducing the production cost.

It has been worked out by jute officials that new machines will reduce labour cost by at least 30 per cent, thus minimising production cost to improve the competitiveness in the world market.

The jute mill owners, however, refuted the contention of the officials saying mere

BMR will not make the industry viable.

They viewed that the high cost BMR as planned by the public sector officials, which caught the imagination of the World Bank, will ultimately overload the production cost by way of repayment burden of huge loan and its interest.

Chairman of Bangladesh Jute Mills Association (BJMA) Syed Moshen Ali suggested the following measures for making the industry viable and to survive stiff competition from synthetics:

1. Eighty per cent of the industry should be left to the private sector.
2. Wages and all other benefits to workers to be decided by the Association (BJMA), which will be applicable to the public sector as well.
3. At no stage, government should interfere in the fixation of wages, salary or any other fringe benefits to workers.
4. Law and order situation should be adequate to protect the management in the greater interest of the industry.
5. Aggressive foreign marketing policy of the BJMA should be supported by the government, and trade/commercial offices of Bangladesh missions abroad geared accordingly.
6. Government/political parties should refrain from

using the jute mill workers for narrow party interest to the detriment of the industry.

Asked why and how they are operating the mills at a huge loss, the BJMA chief said they were doing it considering their prestige, social obligation and expectation of profit in future.

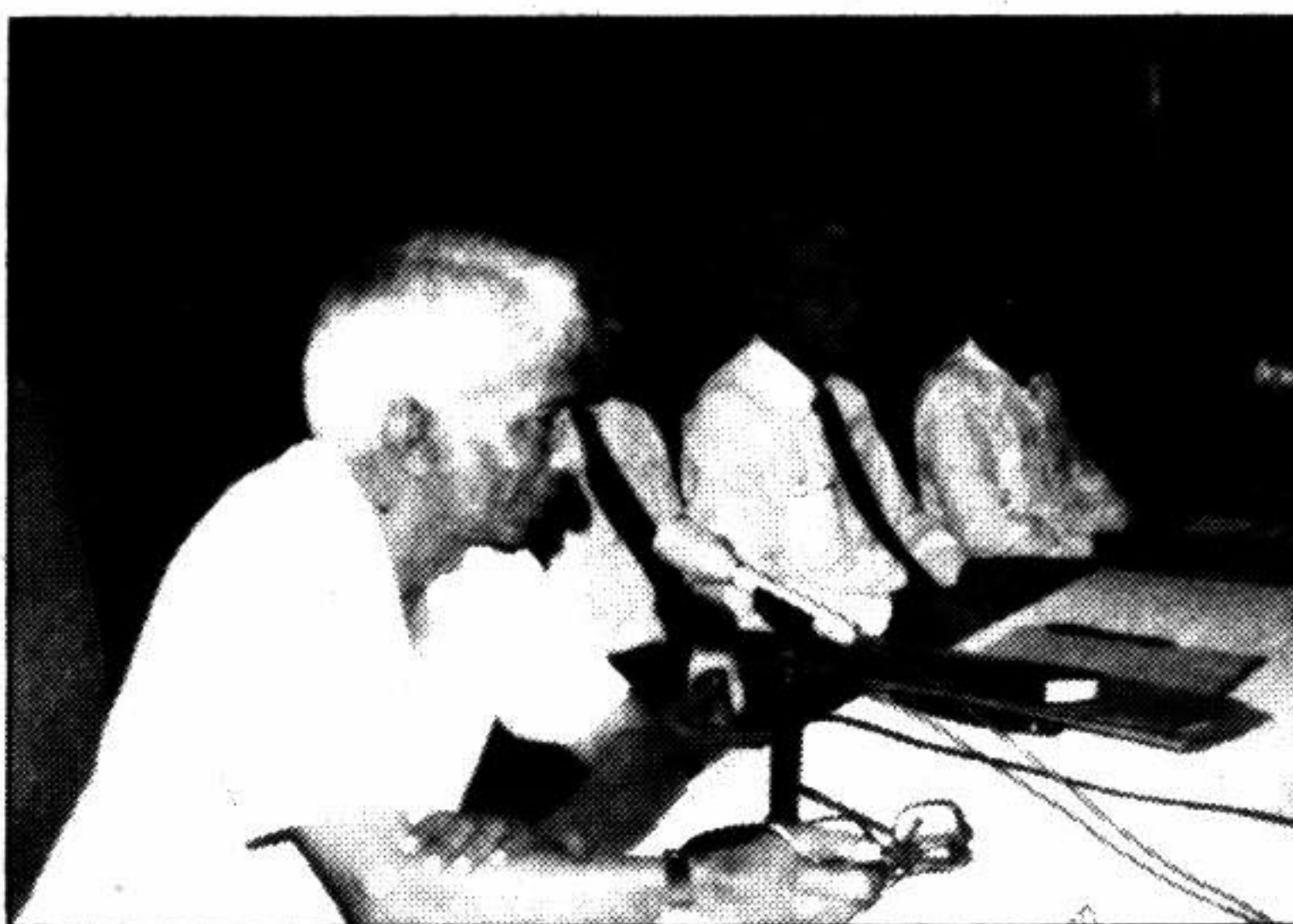
Besides, closure of mills would involve huge money for payment of benefits to workers which, he said, was not possible for them at any point of time.

You can't just do it for jute and jute goods fetch more than 50 per cent of the country's foreign exchange earning, and no less than 30 million people are directly involved in jute and jute industry, said a jute mill owner.

Informed sources, however, said situation in jute industry was not as bad as might be reflected in the balance sheets of the mills.

"There is enough scope of fraud in keeping accounts in respect of buying raw jute and in foreign sales through under invoicing, and that is what most of them are doing", alleged a senior official involved in jute.

A proper and secret investigation may unearth the real reasons of huge losses incurred by the industry.



Dr. Kazi Badruddoza, Scientist Emeritus, National Agricultural Research Systems presiding over a workshop on 'national conservation strategy (agriculture)' at BARC auditorium in the city on Sunday.

Ban on import of toxic pesticides urged

Speakers at a seminar Sunday called for restricting the import and use of toxic pesticides and for measures to ensure balanced application of fertilizers to conserve soil fertility.

The workshop on 'National Conservation Strategy (Agriculture)' was organised by the government of Bangladesh and the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) at the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) auditorium.

Presided over by Dr. Kazi Badruddoza, scientist emeritus of the national agricultural research systems, the workshop was participated by experts from the Ministries of Environment and Forests, and Agriculture; Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, Soil Resource Development Institute, Water Development

Board, Jahangirnagar University, Agricultural University, Palli Unnayan Sangstha, United Nations Development Programme.

Harun-er-Rashid, Senior Adviser, IUCN, Dr. M.S.U. Chowdhury, Vice Chairman.

Industrial training programme

By BUET Correspondent

A 15-day long industrial training programme has been chalked out by the Chemical Engineering Department of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology for the 3rd year chemical engineering students under the auspices of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC).

In order to encourage the practical approaches of the students in the field of chemical engineering BCIC has arranged for on-the-spot obser-

Mosharraf shocked at loss of lives in storm

State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Dr. Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain expressed his deep shock at the death of six persons, injury of others and extensive damage of property and houses including educational institutions by a severe cyclonic storm that lashed Comilla Sunday, reports BSS.

In a condolence message Monday the State Minister expressed sympathy to the members of the bereaved families and prayed for the peace of the departed souls.

He also assured of all possible help from government

FAO support to uplift efforts assured

Peter John Mayer, Resident Representative of Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), called on Foreign Minister A S M Mustafizur Rahman at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Monday, reports UNB.

Mayer delivered a message of felicitation from FAO Director General Eduard Souma to Mustafiz on his assumption of the office of the Foreign Minister.

FAO official assured of his organisation's continued support to Bangladesh in her development efforts.

The UN organisation with its head quarter in Geneva, has been contributing to various food and agriculture upliftment programmes in Bangladesh since independence.

FAO is at present financing three vital projects in the country which are transformation to irrigated agriculture, horticulture research and development and promotion of tissue culture.

The main objective of the Rome-based organisation is to raise level of nutrition, standard of living, efficiency in production and distribution of food and agriculture, officials said.

Mizan demands release of JP leader

By Staff Correspondent
Acting Chairman of Jatiya Party Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury has stressed the need of consensus between the government and the opposition parties on basic national issues.

He was addressing a meeting of Jatiya Sramik Party divisional and regional leaders at Gulshan on Sunday.

Chowdhury urged the government to repeal the Social Power Act, 1974. He demanded release of detained Jatiya Party leaders including former President Ershad and withdrawal of warrant of arrest against the fugitive party leaders.

The adjourned meeting of Jatiya Party Parliamentary group will be held at Gulshan office of the party at 5 pm on Monday.

Workshop on Plant Quarantine Regulations will begin in Dhaka at the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) April 2, reports UNB.

The one-day workshop will be inaugurated by Major General (Retd) Majid-ul-Haq, Minister for Agriculture, Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control. It is organised by BARC in collaboration with DANIDA.

About sixty experts and agricultural scientists from home and abroad are expected to participate in the workshop. The workshop is expected to make some specific recommendations for the improvement of the existing quarantine system of the country.

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Each intending bidder will have to deposit an amount of Taka 25,000 (Taka twenty five thousand) only (refundable) in the form of Pay Order/ Bank Draft in favour of M/S Al-Amin Traders before taking part in auction.
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It is notified for all concerned that the notice inviting tender published on 26.03.91 in "The Daily Star" and on 28.03.91 in "The Daily Ittefaq" for the sale of condemned vehicles of the Ministry of Relief is hereby amended with an extension of time for receiving tenders upto 2 pm on 10.04.91 (26th Chaitra, 1397 BS). Other terms and conditions of the tender will remain unchanged.
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ASSISTANT SECRETARY
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It may be mentioned that an amount of Taka 5,000/= (five thousand) only will have to be deposited as Earnest Money in the form of Bank Draft drawn on any scheduled Bank along with the tender. Tenderers are requested to enclose photocopies of their respective Trade Licences with the tender. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without showing any reason.
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