

District roundup

TANGAIL

College student commits suicide

Feb 23: Jahanara Begum (18), a student of first year Arts of Kumudini Government College allegedly committed suicide Tuesday night by taking sleeping pills, reports BSS.

Teachers, students and staff of M Kumudini in a meeting expressed deep shock and condolence at her death. She is stated to have drawn the end of her life to escape poverty. The college bore the funeral expenses of the deceased from its social welfare fund.

RANGPUR

Jatiya Party unit secy arrested

Feb 23: Police arrested secretary of the district unit of Jatiya Party Shohrab Hossain Sunday on charges of gambling, reports UNB.

Shohrab was arrested while gambling at Lalbagh hat area in the town, police said.

A case was filed with the Kotwali police in this connection.

Another report adds: Power Development Board has disconnected electricity supply in Rangpur Pourashava for non-payment of arrears bill of Taka 1.30 crore.

The pourashava administrator said they could not repay the outstanding bills of PDB due to shortage of fund.

The Deputy Director of PDB said they were forced to cut power supply as the poura authorities failed to repay the arrears bills after repeated reminders.

Playing of vehicles has been hampered for want of street lights after sundown. Water supply remained stopped due to lack of power supply causing untold sufferings to the town dwellers.

The dwellers have urged the authorities to restore power supply without further delay.

SATKHIRA

Regional scouts rally held

Feb 23: Prof Essor Hasan Waez, Chairman, Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board, Jessore, inaugurated week long twelfth Khulna regional scouts rally at Satkhira Government High School premises recently, reports BSS.

About two thousand scouts from eighteen districts are participating in the camp. Mujibar Rahman, Deputy Commissioner Satkhira presided over inaugural function.

Another report adds: A young housewife allegedly committed suicide by taking poison on Sunday at Dhapa-danga village in Debhata thana.

Family sources said the victim Amana Begum (20) wife of Asar Ali allegedly killed herself out of frustration. She was leading an unhappy family life.

The body was sent to morgue for autopsy and a case has been filed with the local police.

PATUAKHALI

32 Awami League leaders join BNP

Feb 23: A large number of political leaders and workers including union parishad chairmen and Awami League general secretary of Galachipa thana under Patuakhali have joined BNP expressing their solidarity with and confidence to the leadership of Begum Khaleda Zia and the ideals of the party, reports BSS.

They formally joined BNP here yesterday in the presence of Minister for Post and Telecommunications Mohammad Keramat Ali.

The persons joined BNP included 32 leaders of the minority communities, two union parishad chairmen, and a large number of supporters and workers of Galachipa thana Awami League under the leadership of its general secretary.

BRAHMANBARIA

Samabaya Kallyan Samity executives

Feb 23: A 63-member Samabaya Kallyan Samity was formed at village Ulukandi under Banchharampur thana recently, reports BSS.

Mrs. Razia Shaifuddin, A Z M Mahfuzuddin, Golam Masum and Md Majibur Rahman have been elected chairperson, vice-chairman, secretary and treasurer of the executive committee of the samity.

RAJSHAHI

Dr. Zoha's death anniversary observed

Feb 23: Rajshahi University observed Shaheed Dr Shamsuzzoha death anniversary in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

Dr Shamsuzzoha a professor of Chemistry of the university was brutally killed by Pakistani army during mass upsurge near Kajla in 1969. Various organisations including Rajshahi University Teachers Association (RUTA) and Rajshahi University Central Students Union (RUCSU) observed the day through holding discussion, mlad mahfil, Quran khwani, hosting of black flag atop.

Administrative and other hall buildings, and placing wreaths at the mazar of Dr Zoha.

Chemistry Department of Dr Zoha at Senate Bhavan in which Prof Fazlul Halim Chowdhury, former Vice Chancellor, Dhaka University, was main speaker.

Rajshahi University Teachers Association also organised a discussion the life of Dr Zoha at Zubery Bhavan.

Speakers at the discussion recalled the selfless service of Dr Zoha and said that he laid down his life for the cause of Bangladesh. They said that the country was liberated from the clutches of Pakistanis. Now it was the duty of all to make the country prosperous and to give democracy an institutional shape.

FENI

Miscreants stab youngman

Feb 23: A young man was stabbed and abducted by some miscreants from the court premises in the town when he came to appear before the court in connection with a case on Tuesday, reports UNB.

According to police, Mahbulul Haq of village Melokha in Fulgazi thana was beaten mercilessly and stabbed several times. Later he was forcibly taken away by the miscreants numbering 20-22 by a jeep.

Police later in the evening rescued the victim in a serious condition from GM hat area in Fulgazi thana.

A case has been file with the police.

Another report adds: A boy was electrocuted when he came in touch with a live wire in Sadar thana on Monday last.

The victim was identified as Abdur Rahim (15) of Sharshadi in Sadar thana.

Witnesses said the boy died on the spot as he came in touch with a live electric wire near his house while on way back home.

BARISAL

6,064 apply for 102 posts of pry teacher

Feb 23: A total of 6,064 candidates appeared in written test examination for 102 vacant posts of government primary schools in Barisal district recently, reports BSS.

According to an official source, successful candidates will be posted as assistant teachers of government primary schools of the district during the current fiscal year.

Besides, a panel of about 300 teachers will be made from among these examinees for posting in government primary schools in future, the source added.

NETRAKONA

Class rooms of school, shops gutted

Feb 23: Three class rooms, a science laboratory of a school and five stationary shops were gutted in a devastating fire that broke out recently at Madanpur, about 7 kms from here, reports BSS.

Netrakona Fire Service sources said the fire originated from a room of Madanpur High School and quickly engulfed to the adjacent areas.

Netrakona fire service personnel rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control in three hours.

Another report adds: A meeting of convening committee of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad, Netrakona district unit, was held at its office premises here recently with Deputy Commissioner Netrakona Dewan Alsaruddin in the chair.

The meeting discussed matters relating to making of final list of genuine Freedom Fighters of Netrakona district and rehabilitation of unemployed Freedom Fighters and family members of martyred Freedom Fighters.



RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY: Prof. Fazlul Halim Chowdhury, Prof. Md. Azizul Islam and Vice-Chancellor, RU Prof. M. Anisur Rahman (From left to right) are seen in the commemorating lecture on Zoha held here recently. — Star photo

Drinking water scarcity acute in Rangamati

RANGAMATI, Feb 23: Drinking water scarcity has taken an alarming turn in the hill tracts region causing serious problems to the people, reports UNB.

About 10 lakh people living in the rural areas of three hill districts of Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban have been using contaminated water of Kaptal Lake, canals and fountains due to scarcity of supply of pure water.

At least 70 per cent tubewells and ringwells have gone out of order due to abrupt fall of water level in both rivers and underground. Ringwells, canals and fountains are drying up gradually intensifying the scarcity of water. Meanwhile, water borne diseases have broken out in many areas causing panic among the people.

The blue water of 58,300-hectare Kaptal Lake which criss-cross the hill district has been contaminated beyond safe limit. In every 100 millilitre water contains average 500 coliform, a dangerous bacteria, where water with only 2 coliform bacteria is said to be hygienically safe for use. This has been revealed in a recent survey and chemical test on water sample of Kaptal Lake conducted by officials from Public Health Engineering Directorate and experts from Environment Control Department.

The existing arrangement for supply of drinking water to some 1.5 lakh people of Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban district headquarters is quite inadequate. The water treatment plant in Rangamati can hardly supply 50 per cent of the required water. It supplies only 300-400 litre per head against the

requirement of 1200 litre. The residents of old Rangamati town are not getting any supply since long due to leakage in the water tank, it is learnt.

The problems have been communicated to the higher authorities but nothing tangible has yet been done in this respect.

The authorities have been lifting water from nearby river in Khagrachhari and Bandarban with utmost difficulties as the water level has gone almost beyond the suction level. Moreover, lifting of water from underground failed earlier in both the district headquarters, said an official from Soil Research Centre.

Moreover, many choked up tubewells are yet to be repaired in the rural areas while many remote areas of 25 thanas of hill tracts region have no tubewells at all, said local leaders and social workers. Tubewells are normally sunk either in plain land or low lying areas.

The project to sink ringwells in the locality on the hill tops is not being implemented due to mysterious reason, local leaders alleged.

However, an official from Rangamati PHED said steps are afoot to solve pure water scarcity problem. Quotation has been invited to sink new tubewells and dig ringwells and repair the existing old and disordered tubewells and ringwells, he added.

But other sources said the scheme to solve the pure water crisis has been lying hanging on complaints filed by some contractors of malpractice by some vested quarters in

connivance with the concerned officials. The PHED in Bandarban has been supplying 1.10 lakh gallons of water daily against the requirement of 3 lakh gallons for about 40,000 consumers. In many areas, the consumers do not get the supply at all, it is alleged.

Only three out of seven water lifting pumps have been operating. The other four pumps have gone out of order since its operation in 1985. Due to non-availability of spare parts and shortage of necessary funds, the repair work of these four pumps could not be possible, an engineer from PHED said.

As the supply water in Bandarban town contains excessive iron and contaminated beyond safe limit, an estimate to modernize the existing plant at a cost of about Taka 4 crore was sent to higher authorities in 1988, but nothing has yet been done in this respect.

The problem was brought to the notice of the Prime Minister in August last year who assured the Bandarban town dwellers of immediate solution. But file remained shelved in Dhaka for unknown reason, the sufferers alleged.

Some 450 people of the three hill districts died due to various water-borne diseases in the last three months due to intake of contaminated water. Of them, 170 died of diarrhoea in December last year alone, local leaders and officials of PHED said.

Over two lakh people have been suffering from intestinal disorder which the PHED experts said was the main reason of taking contaminated water.

Facilities needed for proper edn

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Feb 23: About 200 recognised non-government secondary schools in nine thanas of Kurigram district are beset with multifarious problems hampering education of about 1,00,000 students.

According to sources, dilapidated condition of school buildings, scarcity of furniture, accommodation, science building, playground, library facilities, common room and fund are hindering smooth education in these schools.

Many school houses are in pitiable condition. Some schools are holding classes in decaying buildings which many collapse any moment.

During the rainy season water leaks through the roof of the buildings. Besides, only 10 per cent schools have one or two storied buildings while

others are houses in semi-pucca finished. These schools are facing difficulties to accommodate the increasing number of students. About 70 per cent of these schools have neither science building nor necessary science equipment.

Absence of playground in 25 per cent of these schools, students are deprived of recreational facilities.

Sports facilities are very meagre at almost all the educational institutions.

In most of the schools scarcity of pure drinking water persists due to non availability of requisite number of tubewells and as a result, the students, have to take pond water.

Only 10 per cent schools have libraries having shortage of text and reference books

and there is no part time or full time librarian in those libraries.

There is no separate common rooms for girl students in the co-education schools in the rural areas. The girl students are compelled to stay in class rooms during leisure time.

All the high schools excepting a few are facing acute fund crisis and as a result, the teachers do not get their salary regularly.

Besides, the schools which were damaged by floods, storms and cyclones during the last few years have not yet been repaired.

Teachers, students and guardians have urged the concerned authorities to take necessary steps to mitigate the sufferings of the students.



MYMENSINGH: AFM Matiu Rahman, Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh speaking as chief guest in the change over ceremony of Apex Club of the district held here at local hotel recently. Mahfuzur Rahman — National President of Apex Bangladesh, Apxn. Mahbul Alam Farid — Outgoing President, Apxn T Ali Montu — DG (I), and Apxn. Jasimuddin Sarkar Ranju — installed President are also seen in the picture. — Star photo

Notes from Chandpur

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Feb 23: The use of chemical fertilizers gradually decreasing the productivity of agricultural land in the district. It is reported that chemical fertilizer are used regularly in various land to grow more crops. But due to lack of knowledge about the use of chemical fertilizer the rural agricultural lands are losing the fertility of the soil. The rural people do not use properly the natural manure like cowdung. As a result, the fertility of land is decreasing day by day.

It is reported, cowdung is rarely used in the land following the degeneration of livestock population. On the otherhand, the use of cowdung as fuel has increased in the rural areas.

Pye-dog panic

The number of pye-dog has been increasing in the town causing concern to the town dwellers.

The dogs have no masters and are always at large abstracting movement of pedestrians particularly the school going children. Buyers and sellers in the markets are disturbed by the pye-dogs.

2,000 tubewells out of orders

About two thousand tubewells of seven thanas of the district are out of order for want of repair for a long time.

Various diseases have broken out in the rural areas due to scarcity of pure drinking water.

It is reported pilferage of parts including head and pump by an organised group and chock up of filters fall in ground water level have created the situation more acute in the rural areas. Public Health Engineering Department is not coming up for repairing the tubewells due to shortage of staff.

Adulterated food-stuff causing health hazards

Adulterated food-stuff are being sold freely in different markets of the district causing health hazards of the people. Oil, milk, flour, bread, biscuits are found adulterated in most shops and bazars and rotten food are being sold in hotels and restaurants.

It is reported that sub-standard and expired medicines are also being sold by some dishonest businessmen.

Review meet on law, order held

A meeting was held at DC's conference room recently to review the law and order situation of the district.

Md Yakub Ali, DC, Chandpur presided over the meeting. The law and order situation in the district has improved to a great extent with the imposition of anti-terrorism ordinance and action taken by the lawenforcing agencies.

Jaundice spreading as epidemic

Jaundice has been spreading in different thanas of the district for last few days.

A large number of people were affected by the disease. About two thousand people of the district are expected to be affected by the disease. The affected people are going to the quacks for herbal treatment as there was no allopathic medicine for the disease.

One killed in road mishap in Magura

MAGURA Feb 23: A man was killed and another injured in a road accident near Abulpur in Sadar thana on Magura-Jhenidah road, police said here on February 23, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, the victims Akkas Ali (40) of village Dakkin Mirzapur and Rabulul Islam (25) of village Kashinathpur of Sadar thana while coming to the town on February 16 were run over by a speeding truck at the point.

Crops on 1000 acres of land under pest attack

GAZIPUR, Feb 23: Over one thousand acres of land in six thanas of the district have been attacked by Pamri and Majra pests, reports UNB.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, Kalganj and Kapasia thanas are the worst affected.

The department sprayed insecticides on 648 acres of land while Block Supervisors of the same department launched a campaign to catch pest with sweeping nets.

Meanwhile they caught 40 kg of pests from 540 acres of land to bring the situation under control. About 120 agriculture squads have been formed to combat pest attack.

Facilities Department of the district has taken up several projects at a cost of Taka 24 lakh in the current fiscal year.

1314 people arrested in Barisal during one yr

BARISAL, Feb 23 Police arrested 1314 people including 355 outlawed Sarbahara Party activists on various charges in the district during last year, reports UNB.

During the period police recovered huge quantity of arms and ammunition from different places. These include three Rifles, one country made guns, one cut rifle, two DBBL guns, eight shutter gun, one country made pistol, five revolvers, 40 pipe guns, one SMG, five daggers, five Chinese axes, 55 cocktails, 53 bombs and 30 rounds of bullets etc.

Police sources said special operation is being conducted to curb the ongoing criminal activities of the Sarbahara Party and the miscreants.

A workshop on programme for safe water and sanitation in Barisal region was held here at the Caritas Auditorium.

The workshop was arranged by NGO Forum to chalkut the

elaborate sanitation programmes for 1993.

A total of 64 participants from 53 non-government organisations attended the workshop.

Superintendent Engineer, PHE, Barisal Division Kazi Nasruddin was present as chief guest while Ali Akbar, Acting Regional Director of Caritas presided over the inaugural session.

BSS reports: A week-long programme has been chalked out by the Barisal Sangskriti Sangathan Samwya Parishad to observe February 21 in a befitting manner.

The programme included discussion, recitations, musical soiree in the Central Shahid Minar premises.

Barisal unit of Shilpakala Academy has also arranged a musical programme on 21st February. Udichi Silpi Goshti of Barisal unit has arranged a week-long bookfair.

Lack of civic amenities in Narail Pourashava

NARAIL, Feb 23: The residents of Narail Pourashava are deprived of minimum civic amenities due to absence of proper drainage system, scarcity of pure water, inadequate street lights, recreational facilities and deplorable road condition, reports UNB.

The dirty water remains stagnant in the drains polluting the environment. Most of these drains remain filled with filth, water hyacinths and garbages which are cleaned very rarely and as a result these have been turned into mosquito breeding centres.

Moreover, reckless dumping of garbages in hats, bazars and roadsides the environment is also getting polluted day by day.

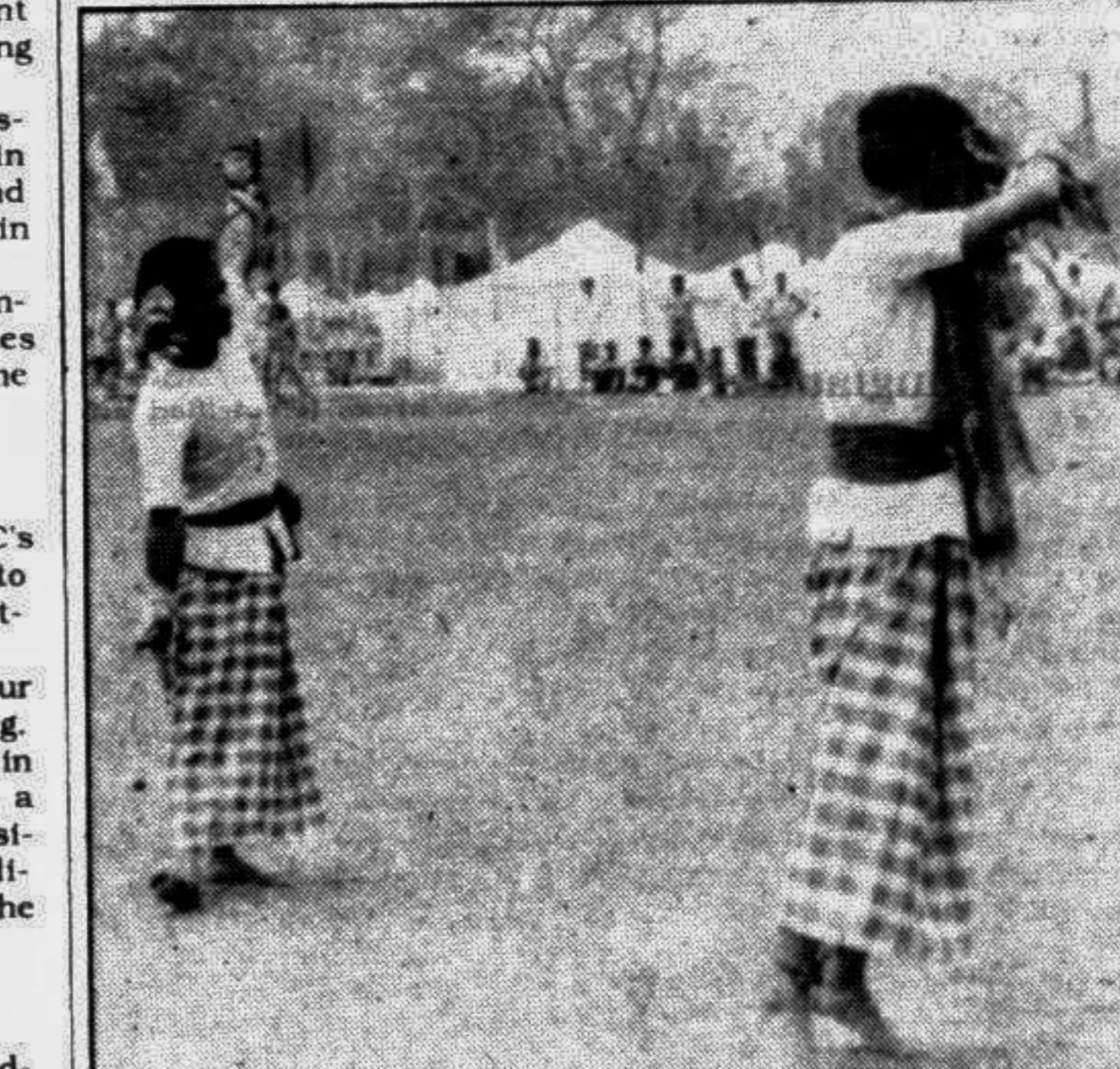
In the absence of proper water supply system the residents are compelled to use

polluted water from the river Chitra. The drinking water pipeline covers only a few areas of the pourashava and people of other areas are deprived of these facilities.

The tubewells cannot fulfill minimum need of the dwellers as most of them are out of order.

With the upgradation of Narail as district various government and non-government offices have been established in the district headquarters but nothing tangible has been done to improve health and sanitation.

Moreover, the electric lines covering the town are not sufficient. Most of the electric poles are without bulbs, or with fuse bulbs plunging many areas into darkness after sundown.



RANGPUR: Two scouts, Salekeen and Obaidullah of Chapainawabganj displaying folkdance at the 12th Rajshahi Regional Scouts Rally held at Rangpur Zila School ground recently. — Star photo

Mosquito menace turns alarming in Cox's Bazar

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Feb 23: Mosquito menace has assumed an alarming proportion causing much suffering to the tourists as well as the inhabitants of the district.

It is very inconvenient to sit peacefully even for a moment. The poor people who are unable to purchase mosquito nets pass sleepless nights. The ponds, ditches uncleaned and choked drains, open latrines, bushes, water logging and garbages stockpiled in roadside places are the main breeding points of the mosquitoes. Almost half of the road has been occupied and blocked by the temporary shopkeepers and are left uncleaned since long. The residents of Cox's Bazar town alleged that no action has yet been taken by the local municipal authority to start mosquito eradication campaign.

The situation becomes horrible during winter season. The drainage system is so deplorable that water always remain stagnant in the drains. Conventional method of spraying mosquito oil occasionally proved ineffective and consequently mosquito breeding continues unabatedly. It is high time for the poura authority to take up balanced scheme for proper drainage and regular cleaning to get rid of these serious problems.

Cox's Bazar Municipal Authority sources said that an anti-mosquito scheme was launched in 1962-63 which continued till 1980. Later non-availability of funds from the government forced the authority to stop the scheme.

JCD, Islami Chhatra Shibir sweep college union polls

KHULNA, Feb 23: Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Islami Chhatra Shibir swept over the students union elections of two colleges of the district held on Saturday peacefully, reports UNB.

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal bagged 17 out of 18 seats in Daulatpur Day-Night College students union polls including VP and GS.

Mohammad Mohuddin and Harun-ur-Rashid were elected Vice-President and General Secretary respectively.

Bangladesh Chhatra League (M-I) got the rest one seat. Islami Chhatra Shibir and Chhatra Samaj also took part in the election.

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