

Ban on student politics to be lifted soon : RU VC

By RU Correspondent

The ban on student politics in the Rajshahi University (RU) would be lifted as soon as situation becomes normal, said newly-appointed Vice-Chancellor of RU Professor M Eusuf Ali.

Talking to The Daily Star he said, the dates of RUSSU and hall union poll will be announced after the withdrawal of the ban.

He informed that the RU authorities are planning to set up a central science laboratory with a view to facilitate research works. There are also plans for modernising the library.

Replying to a question on session jam, Prof Eusuf said, attempts are being made in this regard to free the university of session jams. The authorities are trying to coordinate among students, teachers, officers and employees. Professor M Eusuf Ali was made the VC on August 22 this year.

School teacher awarded life-term for murder

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 11: A school teacher was awarded life imprisonment with a fine of Tk 5,000, in default, to suit for one year more for killing his wife, court sources said Tuesday, reports UNB.

According to prosecution story, Tofazzal Hossain, 30, a teacher of Humkuria High School in Tarash thana married Taslima Khatun, 20, daughter of Tazuddin of Debipur village of the same thana a few years back.

After their marriage Tofazzal demanded Taka 25,000 as dowry of which Taslima's father managed to give him Tk 23,000. But Tofazzal started torturing his wife for the rest of the amount. On June 19, he forced Taslima to go to her father's house for the amount.

On the same day, she returned with Tk 1,000 only which angered her husband. Tofazzal then demanded the rest of the money and when she expressed her inability he started beating her mercilessly causing her instantaneous death.

Taslima's father lodged a case and police after investigation submitted a charge-sheet against Tofazzal.

The District and Sessions Judge ATM Fazle Kabir after examining witnesses and records awarded the punishment last week.

Three killed in separate road mishaps in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 11: Three persons were killed and three others injured in separate accidents in Raiganj and Ullapara thanas Thursday morning, police said, reports UNB.

In one accident Parul Khatun, a nine-year-old girl, was knocked down by a speeding bus on New Bogra Road when she was passing through the Chandidasgati bailey bridge in Raiganj thana around 10 am. Parul, who hailed from Nalka, died on the spot.

The killer Pabna-bound bus fled from the scene.

In another incident at Ullapara, a truck rammed into a roadside shop on the Bogra-Nagarbari road after it lost control killing two people on the spot and injuring three others at 11 am.

Abu Bakar, 26, the helper of the truck and a bystander near the shop Annul, 25, died instantaneously. Anul hailed from Hatikmuri of Ullapara thana.

Police seized the Bogra-bound truck from Sirajganj road. The driver, however, managed to flee.

The injured were treated at the Purnimagati health complex.

Separate cases were filed in Ullapara and Raiganj thanas.

Taka 15.5 crore telephone bills collected from Barisal zone

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Sept 11: About Tk 15.5 crore outstanding telephone bills were collected from eleven southern districts of Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur, Boguna, Faridpur, Madaripur, Sariapur, Gopalganj and Rajbari under T&T Barisal circle during last financial year.

The revenue office of T&T in Barisal informed that the total telephone bills remained outstanding was Tk 15.85 crore. About 70 lakh bills still remains outstanding among some 800 telephone subscribers.

Only one jute purchasing centre for 11 S-dists, traders suffer

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Sept 11: The only government jute purchasing centre for eleven southern districts located in Charnmuguria of Faridpur district is causing much inconveniences for both producers and sellers.

Like every year, jute cultivation target in the southern zone had been fixed at 70 thousand hectares of land out of which 20 hectares alone was used in Faridpur district this year. The rest of the 50 hectares of land was spread across Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Barguna, Pirojpur, Jhalakathi, Madaripur, Sariapur, Gopalganj and Rajbari districts.

Problem arises when the produce — jute is to be transported to the government purchasing centre a long distance from most of the districts.

Normally the producers sell their produce to a middleman who carries jute all the way to the Faridpur jute purchasing centre. This has not been an easy job. A dealer (jute) who wishes to sell jute at the centre has to add his transportation cost. Jute at the centre, however, is bought at a fixed rate. So, a dealer from Bhola, Jhalakathi or Barguna may not get any profit at all.

Hundreds of such dealers, especially from remote areas of Barguna, Bhola, Barisal, Jhalakathi and Patuakhali are being deprived of fair price of jute.

It was learnt that there was a government jute purchasing centre in Shikarpur of Barisal district. Unfortunately the centre was closed down in 1990 as the jute production from the areas, other Faridpur, Gopalganj, Madaripur and Sariapur has been recorded too poor. The authorities were compelled to shut down the centre as output of jute gradually decreased, said a source.

In absence of a jute purchasing centre the growers are also being discouraged as the dealers hesitate to buy jute from them now-a-days.

It is clear that the distance has affected both growers and dealers who in future give up producing jute.

Meanwhile, our correspondents from Gaiabandha, Kushtia and Jessore say: Procurement of green jute is yet to be started in northern districts. According to government decision, North Bengal Paper Mills will open procurement centres at different locations of northern areas for collection of green jute from the farmers.

The farmers are facing great trouble with the jute plants. They can not decompose them for want of adequate water, nor can they dispose them of as raw jute. Due to prolonged drought almost all the marshy land and water pools went dry. So the farmers could not process their jute plants.

In many places farmers are carrying their jute plants to distant places for processing and need additional expense which the farmers can not afford.

This year trading of raw jute in the local markets is said to be very dull. Jute growers could not sell their produce as price of raw jute in the markets has declined. Government agencies as well as private agencies have not yet started procurement of raw jute. As a result, growers may lose crores of taka they had invested. On the other hand, facing acute hardship jute growers are compelled to sell their produce to middlemen at much lower price that does not cover the production cost.

Facing various difficulties jute growers of the areas have decided to give up cultivating jute from the next season. Jute growers in greater Kushtia district have been facing immense difficulties for want of adequate water reservoir. Water from most of the ditches and ponds is being used in cultivating other crops. Rainfall this year was not sufficient and as a result most of the jute plants reportedly were destroyed.

The jute growers are selling their produce at a low price for want of buyers. There are no purchasing centres of jute. The growers can not sell their produce at fair price it is

alleged. Middlemen, in the meantime, are taking advantage of the bad economic condition of the farmers and are depriving the jute growers of fair prices.

Jute is being sold between Taka 180 and 220 per maund which is said to be much lower than the production cost.

About 80 per cent jute growers of the district depend on income out of selling jute. In the absence of jute purchasing centres price of jute has abnormally fallen and at the same time the high price of commodities have thrown the growers into wilderness.

Thousands of tons of jute plants are rotting in the field uncared in ten districts of south-western zone of the country due to scarcity of water.

It is learnt, sufficient water required for green jute to decompose in any waterbody in Jessore, Jhenidah, Chuadanga, Meherpur and Satkhira districts is not available. All waterbodies have dried up as severe drought continues.

It was reported that the Khulna Newsprint Mills authority was purchasing green jute for manufacturing mould recently.

But the latest report say that the jute trade has been stopped suddenly. Jute market in the area is said to be sluggish.

NGOs, foreign donors may provide fund for LGED projects

KUSHTIA, Sept 11: Chief Engineer of LGED Quamrul Islam Siddique on Sunday inaugurated the LGED functional building here constructed at a cost of Tk 50 lakh, says UNB.

Speaking as the chief guest at the function, Siddique said, the building will not only accommodate office staff but also a laboratory equipped with modern machineries for testing construction materials.

He said, LGED has taken up the task of rural development and construction of primary education infrastructure buildings. He called upon all to extend cooperation in its efforts for rapid communication build up in the rural areas.

Chief Engineer said, NGOs and foreign donor agencies have shown their eagerness to provide fund for the LGED projects.

Deputy Commissioner Nazrul Islam was the special guest at the function which was also addressed by Syed Masood Rumi, Alhaj Nurul Islam Siddiqui, Executive Engineer Abdus Samad and foreign consultant Seek Bard Pam Green.

One killed, 35 injured as bus collides with truck

DHAMRAI, Sept 11: One person was killed and 35 others were injured, 10 seriously, when a bus collided with a truck near Fulbaria bus stand at Savar on Dhaka-Aricha highway Thursday, reports UNB.

The driver of the truck, Sikandar Ali, 50, died on the spot. He hailed from Amirabad in Madaripur district.

Among the injured 10 were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital while 5 others were admitted into Savar Health Complex.

Police and witnesses said the Dhaka-bound coach coming from Rajshahi collided with a medicine loaded truck of Pharmadash Laboratories at 4:30 pm near the bus stand.

The body was sent to DMCH morgue for autopsy. A case was filed with Savar thana.

Six get 10 yrs' RI in Feni

FENI, Sept 11: A Special Tribunal Court here has sentenced six people to 10 years rigorous imprisonment for possessing illegal fire arms, reports UNB.

Court sources said the accused Abul Kalam Babul, Wahider Rahman, Shah Alam, Rasul Amin, Abdul Wadud and Abdul Latif have also been fined Tk 10,000 each, in default to suffer two months more imprisonment.

According to prosecution, police arrested the accused from the residence of Abdul Wadud with two revolvers, five rounds of bullets and one knife on August 19, 1990.

The Judge Tanjani Ismail, delivered the judgement on September 3.

5-day course on Demand Driven Production Promotion ends

From Our Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Sept 11: A five-day long training course on Demand Driven Production Promotion (DDPP) under the "Marginal and Small Farm Systems Crop Intensification Project" concluded in Kurigram sponsored by the German Agency for Technical Co-operation (GTZ) recently.

Thana level officers of Kurigram Agricultural Extension Department and Rangpur-Dinajpur rural Service (RDRS) took part in the training course.

The course was an IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development) — German-Bangladesh project in Kurigram district with an objective to increase income of the marginal and small farmers through the crop intensification off-farm activities and employment generation.

Phensidyl syrup worth Tk 50,000 seized

BRAHMANBARIA, Sept 11: Police recovered 253 bottles of Indian Phensidyl syrup worth about Tk 50,000 from a night coach last week, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip off, a contingent of police raided a Dhaka-bound night coach coming from Sylhet at Bishaw. Mour area on last Saturday and recovered the contraband.

A case was filed with Brahmanbaria police.



AGRI-VARSITY (Mymensingh): Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr Shah Muhammad Farouk releasing fish fry in the lake next to Isha Khan Hall.

— Star photo

IUJA submits memo to VC protesting police action

From IU Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Sept 11: The Islamic University Journalists' Association (IUJA) on Saturday has submitted a memorandum to the Vice-Chancellor of the university protesting the police action on the students that left 70 injured, 20 of them seriously.

Students, at the call of the Syllabus Resistance Committee, staged demonstration and put up a blockade on Kushtia-Jhenidah road on Thursday.

Several university correspondents of the national dailies including Saminur Rahman of the Inqilab, Abul Hossain of the Janata, Ali Azam of

the Sonar Bangla and Mostafizur Rahman Litu of the Sangram were severely beaten up by the police while they were covering the incident.

In the memorandum it also demanded punishment of the police responsible for the incident.

The students were agitating against the inclusion of Islamic Studies in the honours courses.

Meanwhile, a half-day hartal was observed peacefully in Kushtia and Jhenidah towns on Saturday protesting the Thursday's police atrocities on the students and journalists.

Apply new tech, ensure maximum agri production: Majid

MAGURA, Sept 11: Agriculture and Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister M Majid-ul-Haque on Sunday called for ensuring maximum agricultural production by minimum expenditure through applying updated and newly innovated techniques, reports BSS.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) system was a successful programme which could reduce the use of about eight per cent pesticide and the system was an effective and environmentally friendly alternative system which could help reduce environmental pollution significantly, he added.

He was addressing as chief guest at the inaugural function of a day-long cultivators' training course of Integrated Pest Management at newly-established IPM field school of Angurdaha under Magura sadar thana.

About fifty local peasants took part in the training. Meanwhile, three such IPM field training schools have been established in Magura sadar, Sreepur and Shalikhathanas under Magura district so far.

Presided over by Additional Director of Agriculture Extension Department, Jessore Fazul Haque the function was addressed with demonstration by IPM expert of FAO Dr S Ramaswamy.

Describing IPM as an epoch-making programme in agricultural arena the agriculture minister said, about seventy-eight field schools have so far been established in thirty-five districts of the country and about twenty-five thousand cultivators have been given training in this respect.

He said that the farmers should be motivated to accept the system through making them aware about the adverse

impact of pesticide so that IPM system could be spread out throughout the country soon. He underscored the need for providing IPM training to each and every farmer.

The minister also visited agricultural field to see for himself the application of IPM system.

Later, the minister formally inaugurated the newly-constructed buildings of eight primary schools under Magura district.

BAU training course on farm water management ends

AGRI-VARSITY (Mymensingh), Sept 11: Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) Dr Shah Muhammad Farouk stressed the need for scientific irrigation system in Bangladesh in order to raise production in the field of agriculture, says a press release.

Speaking as chief guest at the certificate awarding ceremony on the concluding day of

a ten-month long higher training course on "Minor Irrigation System and on-Farm Water Management", the Vice-Chancellor said that training for professionals is necessary for national development.

Held at the Graduate Training Institute (GTI), the function was presided over by Professor Dr M Tazul Islam, GTI Director. Professor Dr Md Monayem Dad, Dean, Faculty of Agricultural Engineering and Technology and Dr Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Head, Department of Irrigation and Water Management attended as special guests.

75 non-govt schools beset with problems in Manikganj

MANIKGANJ, Sept 11: At least 75 non-government high schools in seven thanas are beset with innumerable problems hampering education greatly, reports UNB.

According to official sources, deplorable condition of school buildings, shortage of teachers, furniture, accommodation, library and common room facilities and fund constraints are hindering the education of some 35,000 students of these schools.

Many schools are holding classes in the dilapidated buildings which may collapse at any moment. During the rainy season rain water trickles through the leakages of the roof.

Besides, only 25 per cent of the schools have two-storied buildings while others are tin shed.

The science students of most of the schools could not gain practical knowledge due to lack of science equipment.

Moreover, due to lack of playgrounds in most of the schools, the students are denied recreational facilities.

Shortage of textbooks and reference books are common in libraries of these schools. The sources added. Girl students are also facing difficulties due to lack of common room in many schools.

Local guardians and leaders urged the authorities to take immediate measures to improve the condition of non-government education institutions to ensure better education facilities.



Professor M A Saleh, Dean, Faculty of Science, Chittagong University, speaking at a farewell accorded to the out-going students of the Institute of Marine Science recently.

— CU photo

Power disruptions make life miserable in Barisal region

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Sept 11: Frequent power disruptions in different southern districts under Barisal PDB zone have made life miserable.

Loadsheddings, at the same time, hit hard the production sectors in the districts, as well.

Loadshedding, according to PDB sources, will continue for another two weeks in this region as the power generation centres at Rauzan, Ghorashal and Kaptai suddenly have fallen short for different reasons.

At least 38 to 40 Megawatt electricity is necessary for this region normally where only 10 to 15 MW is being supplied from national grid over the past six days. As a result, four districts under Barisal region — Borguna, Patuakhali, Bhola and Madaripur — were in complete darkness for about two days while the other districts were not getting required supply.

The divisional headquarters, Barisal needs 10 to 14 MW electricity where supply of power varies between 6 to 8 MW. As a result 2 to 3 hours of

power cut is being experienced by the consumers.

When contacted, the PDB officials said, due to sudden shortage in power generation particularly at Rauzan and Ghorashal power generation centres this odd situation has been arisen.

'Illogical demand'

KUSHTIA, Sept 11: Vice Chancellor of Islamic University Prof MA Hamid termed the demand for exclusion of Islamic Studies courses from the syllabus of the new session of the university as illogical, says UNB.

He was addressing as the chief guest at a reception to freshers and farewell to LLM students at the seminar room of the Faculty Bhaban on Saturday. The function was arranged by Ideal Law Students Organisation (ILSO) of the Department of Law and Muslim Jurisprudence.

Such irregular and short supply of power causing frequent loadshedding naturally hit the production sectors. Mills and factories were forced to suspend their regular production, it was learnt. Irrigation in this vast region has also been seriously affected.

Problems have been added for the fishermen in this fishing season in the coastal areas particularly of Borguna and Patuakhali districts as they could not procure necessary ice for preservation of their fish. The ice mills of Borguna and Patharghata failed to produce required amount of ice for the fishermen in time. Huge amount of fish, particularly hilsa, is rotting in the coastal areas. Fishermen alleged that they face similar problems almost every year in the fishing seasons. Fishermen also alleged that during the fishing season in the Bay piracy becomes rampant. To control this menace regular marine police patrol is necessary along the coastal areas of the southern districts.

All for dowry

BRAHMANBARIA, Sept 11: A pregnant housewife was allegedly beaten to death by her husband for dowry at a village in Nasirnagar thana of the district on August 27, said a delayed message received on Friday, reports UNB.

Police said Aliman Nasser was married to Abdul Rahman of Gokrana village in the thana five years ago. Since their marriage, Abdul Rahman used to create pressure on Aliman and beat her every now and then to bring dowry from her poor father.

On the fateful day, Rahman, along with his mother and others asked Aliman to bring the dowry. When their proposal was turned down they became furious and started beating Aliman mercilessly causing her instantaneous death.

To hush up the killing, they hanged the body and claimed that Aliman had committed suicide by hanging herself.

On suspicion, police rushed to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to Brahmanbaria sadar hospital for autopsy.

A case was filed against eight people including victim's husband with Nasirnagar police.



NOAKHALI: Meghna river erosion turned serious in the district recently engulfing fresh areas. The photo shows a part of Hatia thana of the district threatened by the river erosion.

— Star photo