

## National

**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 RUCSU 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.

Replies 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 Maitan, a nine-year-old girl, was knocked down by a speeding bus on New Bogra Road when she was passing through the Chandidasgati bazaar 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 accident 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 Ainal, 25, died instantaneously. Ainal hailed from Hatikumri of Ullapara thana.

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

The injured were treated at the Purnimagar 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, Borguna, Faridpur, Madaripur, Sariatpur, 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 15.5 crore. About 70 lakh telephone subscribers 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 Chittagongia 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, Sariatpur, 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 product 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.

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 unearmed in ten districts of south-western zone of the country due to scarcity of water.

It is learnt, sufficient water is required for green jute to decompose in any waterbody in Jessor, Jhenidah, Chaudanga, Meherpur and Sathkhira 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 Quanurul 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 Rumy, Alhaj Nurul Islam Siddiqui, Executive Engineer Abdus Samad and foreign consultant Seck Bard Pam Green.



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 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. 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**

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.

Loadshedding, 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 and Ghorashal power generation centres this odd situation has been arisen.

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

**'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.

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.

**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 delayed message received on Friday, reports UNB.

Police said Aliman Nesser 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 suffer two months more imprisonment.

Police said Aliman Nesser 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 suffer two months more imprisonment.

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

**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 Bishash. Mour area on last Saturday and recovered the contraband.

A case was filed with Brahmanbaria police.

**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 play grounds 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. Girls 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 in all institutions to ensure better education facilities.