

News snaps

22 injured in road accident

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, May 26: Twenty-two persons were injured when a overloaded bus fell into a roadside ditch after losing its control on Bheramara-Raita road at Arkandi village on Friday last.

Passengers said the bus was driven by its helper Abdul Aziz who lost control when giving side to a van. Of the injured, 12 were admitted in Kushtia General Hospital and Bheramara Health Complex. Seriously injured are Niaz, Hamida Begum, Kafeer Sardar, Moksed, Mozaffar, Moslem, Sabuz and Akil. Police have seized the bus.

Massive Aman farming scheme

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, May 26: A total of 4,800 hectares of land will be brought under broadcasting 'Aman' cultivation in all the four thanas here during the current Broadcasting Aman cultivation season.

According to an official source, of the total land 950 hectares will be brought under its cultivation in Chuadanga thana, 1,650 hectares in Alamdanga thana, 700 hectares in Damurhuda thana and 1,500 hectares in Jibannagar thana. The production target of Broadcasting Aman paddy in the district during the current season has been fixed at 7,200 metric tons.

Ansar, VDP confce in Faridpur

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, May 26: The annual conference of the district unit of Bangladesh Ansar and VDP was held at Kabi Jasimuddin Hall recently.

Colonel Md Golam Mostafa, Director of Bangladesh Ansars and VDP attended the conference as chief guest while Md Shamshul Haq, Deputy Director of Ansar and VDP of Dhaka Range was the special guest on the occasion.

Md Ala, Ansar-VDP group leader of Kajirji union and Faridpur, group leader of Krishnanagar union read out the papers projecting their achievements and problems of their respective union at the conference chaired by Md Farhaduddin ADC (General).

Shortage of English teachers in schools

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, May 26: Secondary education in all the seven thanas here is being hampered seriously for want of experienced English teachers for a quite long time.

About 100 secondary educational institutions here have been facing shortage of English teachers causing untold sufferings to the students. Finding no other alternative the school authorities engaged teachers of other subjects to teach English. Local guardians informed that most of the so-called English teachers have no command on the subject.

Fries on sale in Netrakona markets

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA, May 26: Current nets are on open sell in the local markets despite a government ban, local fishermen said.

Members of the law enforcing agencies are yet to take positive steps to stop the illegal practice of fishing fries. Sale of fish measuring less than nine inches is going on unabated in the markets. The local elite have suggested to set up mobile courts to punish the persons responsible for violating government ban on the use of current nets and fishing fries.

Boy crushed under wheels of bus

From A Correspondent

MAGURA, May 26: An eight-year-old boy was killed recently in a road accident here.

Kassel, 8, is the son of Showkat Hossain of Bhaina in Magura porousabha area. He was crushed under the wheels of a bus on Magura-Jessore road. After the accident the driver fled away with his bus. Police sources said, the ill-fated boy was playing in front of their house beside the road when the accident occurred. The bus was allegedly overtaking another bus at that time.

Kaliganjthana JP confce

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, May 26: The biennial conference of Kaliganj Thana Jatiya Party (JP) was held at the auditorium of Mahila College here recently with Latifur Rahman Khan in the chair.

Advocate Abdur Rahim was present as the chief guest, while Advocate S M Salah Uddin, Advocate Abdur Rehman, Abdus Sattar and Ashrafiuzzaman were present as special guests. A 71-member committee of Kaliganj Thana JP was formed headed by Latifur Rahman as president and Mahbubur Rahman as general secretary respectively.

Best DC adjudged

MAGURA, May 26: Deputy Commissioner (DC) of the district has been adjudged as the best DC for his laudable role in eradicating illiteracy under non-formal education programme, reports UNB.

Government has taken the decision in favour of Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Nuruzzaman Khan for his relentless efforts for eradicating the curse of illiteracy from the district under the "Bikoshito Magura" scheme and playing important role in implementing the non-formal education programme.

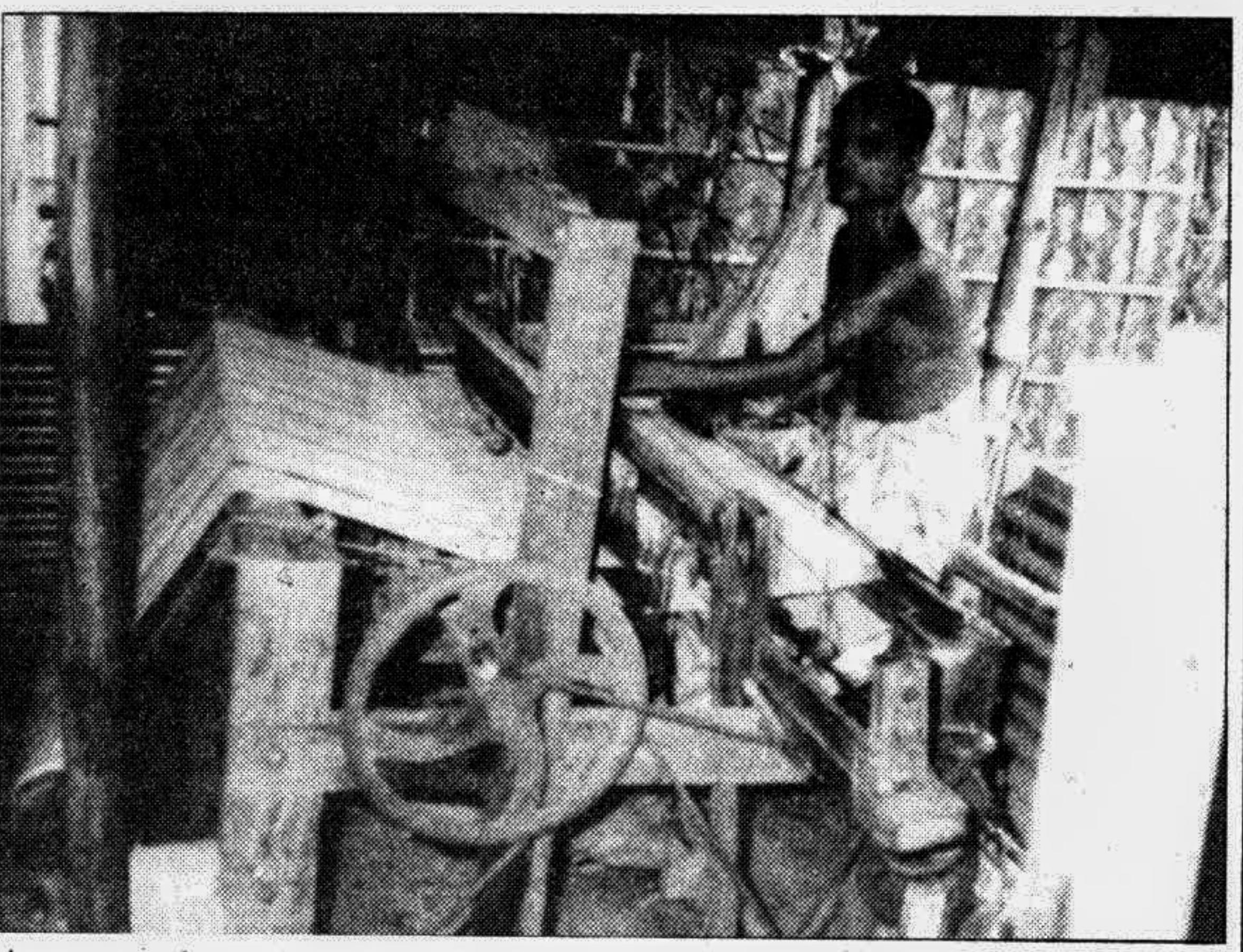
Sanitation fair concludes

NETRAKONA, May 26: A two-day sanitation fair '99 concluded here at Kalmakanda Pilot High School premises in Kalmakanda thana, reports BSS.

Kalmakanda Thana Engineering Department and UNICEF jointly sponsored the fair aiming at creating awareness among the people about the modern sanitation system. Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) Matur Rahman Khan inaugurated the fair. Over a dozen of well-decorated stalls with different sanitation equipments were on at the fair.

Over 42,000 handloom factories of greater Pabna remain idle

From Ranesh Maitra



A weaver working at a small handloom factory in Santhia thana.

—Star photo

PABNA, May 26: Over 42,000 handloom factories in greater Pabna district have remained idle due to absence of proper national policy.

As a result the national economy has been suffering. Dependence on foreign cloth has been increasing. Over 1,30,000 handloom weavers and owners have become unemployed.

The jobless workers are in misery. Their families are also facing an uncertain future.

This has been revealed recently in a survey conducted by a non-governmental organisation.

The handlooms are situated in Kushtia, Sirajganj and Pabna.

Out of 3,00,000 weavers, over 77,000 have remained idle.

The situation arises due to non-availability of raw materials, financial constraints absence of marketing facilities and lack of government protection to this industry.

The report further says that 42,000 more looms had gone idle due to poor economic condition, natural calamities like flood and drought.

A total of 5,75,00,000 yards of clothes were produced annually earlier, but at present the production is only 3,45,00,000 yards.

A total of 215 looms out of 600 in Faridpur thana, 1,154 looms out of 4,038 looms in Bera thana, 1,912 looms out of 4,480 in Santhia thana, 1,060 looms out of 2,941 in Sujanagar thana, 250 out of 650 looms in Chatmohar thana, 660 out of 1,400 looms in Atgharia thana, 135 out of 930 looms in Ishardi thana, 125 out of 230 looms in Bhanga thana, 2,700 out of 3,650 looms in Pabna Sadar thana, 8,181 out of 27,000 looms in Belkuchi thana, 7,710 out of 16,000 looms in Ullapara thana, 500 out of 1,240 looms in Kamarkhanda thana, 7,300 out of 24,500 looms in Sirajganj Sadar thana, 180 out of 575 looms in Kazipur thana, 2,600 out of 6,025 looms in Chouhali thana and 8,000 out of 24,475 looms in Shahjadpur thana have already been closed down.

Meanwhile, the owners of

the handloom factories were given a loan at the rate of Taka 5,000 to Taka 6,000 per loom by the then government in the eighties with the declared objective of rehabilitating and developing the neglected handloom industries.

But thousands of fake handloom owners, having no loom at all, were given the loan.

A section of dishonest bank managers and other officials played a collusive role then, it is further alleged.

The purpose for which crores of taka were sanctioned and disbursed, was ultimately frustrated. Most of the loanees did not repay the loan amount till today. Very few number of loanees, however, repaid their loans to genuine handloom weavers for boosting and developing the handloom industry.

Thousands of cases were

filed by various banks for recovering their dues. A large number of warrants have also been issued against the defaulters and the handloom owners have been faced with untold harassments now.

Mofazzal Hossain, a leader of the Weavers' Association of Pabna, told The Daily Star that the government and the concerned banks should now withdraw all the cases, stop harassments to the weavers.

Mofazzal Hossain demanded of the government to provide the handloom owners with raw materials at a competitive price, ensure marketing facilities for the products and issue fresh loans to genuine handloom weavers for boosting and developing the handloom industry.

Deep Tubewell Project benefits 75,000 Dinajpur farmers

ter inauguration of the project at Kachubari in Sadar thana of Thakurgaon district by the Prime Minister on February 14 this year.

Considering the interests of

Novel way of selling heroin !

From A Correspondent

MAGURA, May 26: Empty match boxes filled with so-called "hero" are being sold at Nutan bazaar here now-a-days.

The local heroin addicts have named "heroin" as "hero". A heroin seller of Nutan bazaar has adopted the technique of selling heroin in such a novel way. He sells heroin in disguise of selling match.

The heroin seller and his accomplices pack heroin in small packets. Then they fill up an empty match box with five small packets of heroin. Afterwards he sells the same to the addicts at the rate of Taka 750 per box. It is also alleged, at the time of packing they also mix the iron pills used for family planning purpose. The iron pills are similar to heroin in colour. The addicts are also being deceived this way.

The members of law enforcement agencies are unable to check such open sale of drug.

About 20,000 hectares of land have been brought under irrigation facilities in the current season, the sources said.

Local farmers alleged that irrigation network is being hampered seriously due to the theft of the transformers, motor, starter and electric wires by a section of dishonest people. Erratic power supply also hampers the irrigation, they added.

The project will help produce additional 1.10 lakh mts of rice and point 90 lakh mts of wheat annually, it was learnt.

Alleged corruptions in a madrassa

From Delwar Kabir

JHENIDAH, May 26: The superintendent of a madrassa here has allegedly been collecting money illegally in the name of development.

Moulana Sultan Ahmed, Superintendent of Koncherkole Islamia Senior madrassa is doing so by allegedly printing false and duplicate receipt books.

Thousands of taka were allegedly defalcated against the building head for electricity, Hezfa Khana, teachers and students, but no register was maintained by the madrassa authority. The superintendent has allegedly shown an amount of Taka 1,700 in the name of bribe (Voucher no 82).

He has allegedly appointed an English teacher and a class four employee (Malee) ignoring the governing body in 1997.

Over Taka one lakh have allegedly been defalcated against the "Lillah Boarding" of the madrassa. Food and lodging are supplied to only 13 students and the rest 20 students manage their food through mess system, but the super allegedly collects rice and other items for about 250 residential students of the Lillah Boarding.

The super has allegedly enrolled the name of some Islamic University students in Degree class violating the government rules. It has sparked tension among the guardians as well as some executive committee (EC) members.

When contacted Golam Mortuza, TNO, Saikupura and Chairman of Koncherkole Islamia Senior Madrassa said

that he had received a copy of allegations against the superintendent. He would look into the matter immediately, he added.

Alleged dacoit killed in mass beating

CHITTAGONG, May 26: An alleged dacoit was killed and another critically injured in mass beating in the city's Phartoli rice wholesale market early on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Police said local people laid seige to a gang of dacoits, caught and beat two of them while they were trying to loot a rice-shop at the market on Monday midnight.

Of them, an unidentified man aged about 30 died on the spot while another Mohammad Ismail suffered severe injuries. The injured was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

The other members of the gang fled the scene with a microbus under cover of bomb blasts and gunshots.

Meanwhile, four policemen, including SI Mizan of Phartoli thana, were injured as angry people attacked them while they went to rescue the dacoits from mass beating. They were admitted to CMCH.

Reception

By staff Correspondent

Barisal district administration has recently accorded a reception to Father of Barisal Oxford Mission Church Francis Arunesh Pande for his heroic role in the War of Liberation in 1971.

Pande directly joined in the liberation war under Sector No 5 and fought against the Pakistani occupation forces. Some 75,000 peace loving people laid down their lives for the independence of Bangladesh during the liberation war under this sector.

Deputy Commissioner of Barisal Mohammad Alauddin handed over a citation to Pande at a simple ceremony held at local Mukijoddha Sangsad auditorium.

Those arrested are Fariduddin of Farid & Sons, Mohammad Russel of Russel Traders and Abdul Khaleque of Khaleque & Sons from the town.

They all are hardware traders and dealing in harmful spirit without license.

Informers said rectified spirit, phenyls, heroin, home made alcohol smuggled from neighbouring India and Bhutan were being sold at least 200 clandestine places in five thana towns of the district. But many of the dealers went into hideouts and some shifted the hub following the Narisingdi incident.

Police officials in the drive against alcohol, drugs and addicts expressed hope that the dealers and manufacturers would be rounded up soon.

Methanol spirit seized: Three traders held in Lalmonirhat

LALMONIRHAT, May 26: Police on Monday seized 450 litres of methanol spirit procured illegally and held three traders from the town, reports UNB.

The seized methanol like rectified spirit, said Narcotics Inspector Abdul Latif.

The drive against spirit and home made alcohol was launched jointly by Narcotics Control and police on the heels of Narisingdi disaster in which some 120 people died after taking positions this week.

Worried at the reports of large scale smuggling of phenyl and home made liquor (cholai mad) from across the border, the administration on Monday went into action, officials said.

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Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Dated: 24-5-99

Credit No. 2791-BD

IFB No. 22/98-99

Credit No. 2791-BD

1. The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) in various currencies towards the cost of 1998 Flood Rehabilitation Project and intends to apply part of the credit proceeds to cover eligible payments under Repair and Maintenance of regulators/slides of Pigna-Jokerchar Project.

2. The Executive Engineer of Tangail O&M Division, BWDB, Tangail invites sealed bids for construction and completion of the following works. This invitation for bids is open to all bidders enlisted with Bangladesh Water Development Board. In addition foreign bidders are eligible to bid without this enlistment but if awarded contract would be required to enlist with Bangladesh Water Development Board. Furthermore, when enlistment is done at district level, Bangladeshi contractors enlisted with Bangladesh Water Development Board in other districts are also eligible to bid. Note that only 'C' category contractors are eligible for this work.