

Tension brews over RU Press Club polls

Journalist 'manhandled' by colleague

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, Nov 15: A newsman was allegedly assaulted by a fellow newsman on the campus on Saturday ahead of Rajshahi University Press Club elections scheduled on November 23.

Khaleque Mithu, RU correspondent of Bogra-based daily the Karotoa, lodged a complaint with election commission and president of the club that he was 'manhandled' by Md Anul Haq, RU correspondent of the Bangladesh Patrika.

Khaleque Mithu said he was assaulted as he lodged a complaint with the election commissioner, Prof Abdur Rahman Siddiqui, challenging the validity of Anul's membership with the club.

Anul, however, denied the allegation, saying they only 'traded of hot words'.

Insiders have attributed the incident to previous enmity and feud among two groups of the journalists working with newspapers and news agencies. Tension is brewing now on the campus

over the polls, say many.

Members of Rajshahi University Press Club are now divided into two groups. One faction is led by incumbent President of the club Anisuzzaman, RU correspondent of the Janakantha, and its General Secretary Zakir Hossain, RU correspondent of the Bhorer Kagoj. Mazdul Islam Sweet, correspondent of the Ittefaq, and Treasurer of the club Kamal Hossain Joy, correspondent of the Matribhumi, are leading the other faction.

Meanwhile, some members of the club, who are loyal to Sweet-Kamal group, alleged violating the rules the incumbent president and general secretary recently inducted five new members into the club in a meeting, where only five executive committee members were present.

They categorically said that they will demand resignation of the election commissioner if he fails to annul the membership of the five new members.

While talking to this correspondent, Mazdul Islam Sweet

said they (Anis-Zakir group) want to recapture the club at the cost of democratic norms and practices.

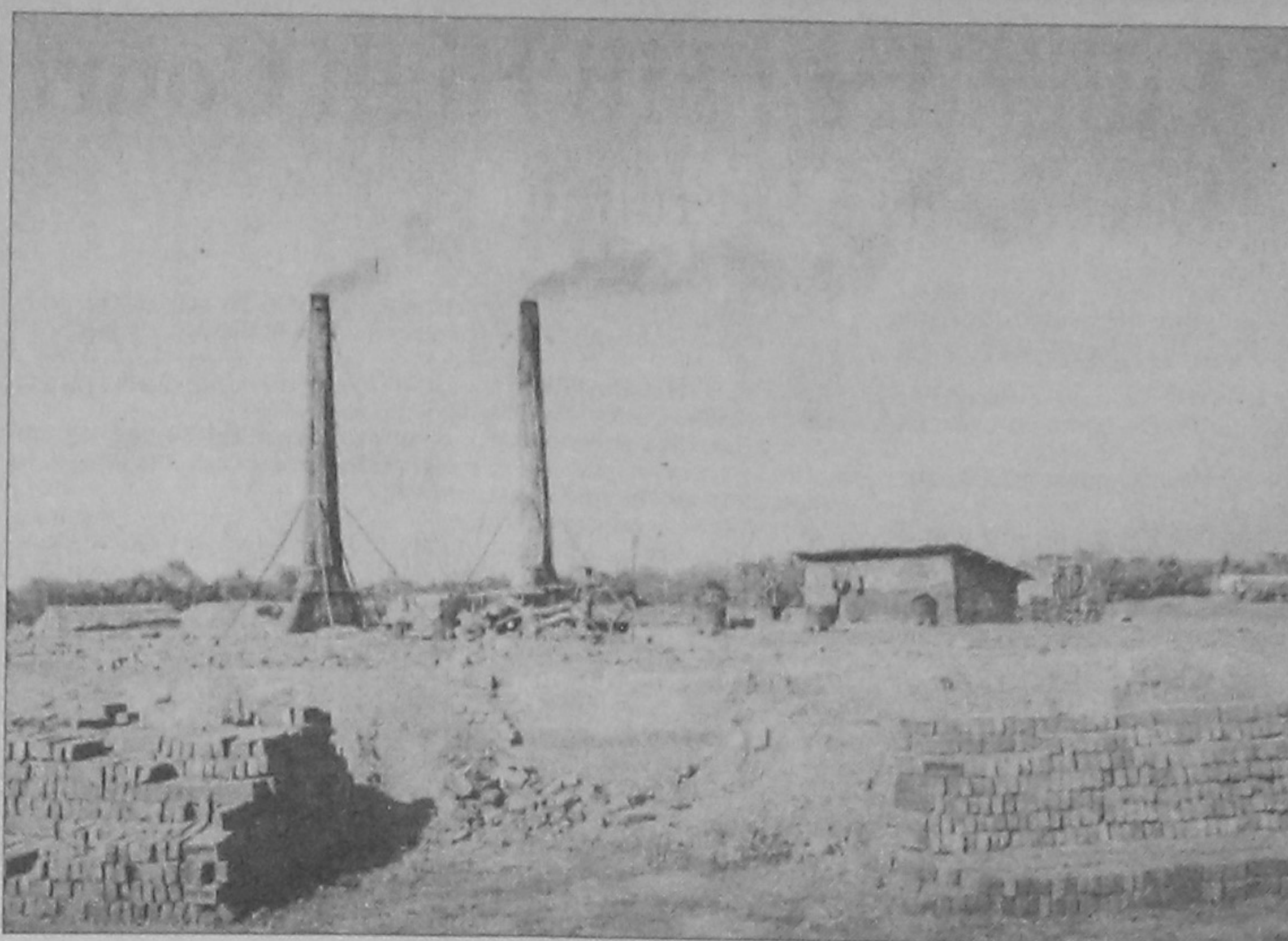
On the other, Anisuzzaman said the meeting had quorum and it lawfully granted memberships to five persons.

However, according to constitution of the club, presence of 50 per cent executive committee members is needed to have quorum.

A 15-member executive committee runs the club. But at present, there are 11 members of the committee.

When contacted, the election commissioner said membership of all members will be scrutinised before final voter list is made.

Earlier, correspondent of the Dainik Dabani Zamilul Hasan, one of the five new members, lodged a general diary (GD) with Matihar police station accusing Mazdul Islam Sweet, Anul Haq, Kamal Hossain Joy and Aslam, correspondent of the Shikhal, of 'intimidating' him and 'attempting to his life'.



A brick field in Comilla polluting the environment. But the district administration or the Department of Environment seem to be indifferent to look at this environmental nightmare.

Brick fields pose threat to environment in Comilla

From A Correspondent

COMILLA, Nov 15: Unplanned and mushroom growth of brick fields in Comilla district has become a threat to the environment.

Unabated use of timber instead of coal is contributing to ecological imbalance.

With the start of brick cutting season thousands of maunds of timber are now being stocked in brick fields. Excepting bamboo branches, use of any other timber is prohibited in brick fields.

A violator of this rule is supposed to be punished with imprisonment or fined Tk 50 thousand or both. However, none seems to be careful in using timbers. Brickfield owners are collecting timbers from different fruit bearing trees by paying price in advance from the rural areas. If this trend is continued ecological balance is feared to be in disarray in near future. Brickfield owners are using timber instead of coal on the very nose of the authority concerned. Administration and

law-enforcing agencies remain silent due to reasons best known to them.

There is a clear directive from the Environment Department that brick field can be set up only on the banks of river or canal or beside any large water body. Earth should be used in the field which may be collected from that river canal or water body. Besides to release smoke there should be 120 feet high chimney. But almost all the chimneys used in the brick fields in Comilla are found to be 40-50 feet high.

People of Balrapur, Jagannathpur, Khetarher, Chhapaknagar, Bijra, Jhagurjhuli, Barhmongal Palpara, Jorkanan, Bagmara, Bijoypur where most of the fields are situated are the direct sufferers of brickmanufacturing hazards. Carbon mixed smoke is emitting through the short smoke releasers of those fields which cause illness among the children in these areas. Many fruit bearing

trees, nowadays, do not bear fruit.

Virtually government officials are encouraging unplanned and illegal setting up of brickfields by approving site, providing bank loan and conducting on the spot inspection. In this way they are regularising the irregularities. In such a situation some unscrupulous brick traders are damaging the environment unchecked and unhindered. None seems to have any headache about the matter.

Not only the carbon mixed smoke, but waste of brickfield is another threat to environment. Where a brick field is set up, the land loses its fertility for ever. This land can not be used for cultivation.

Brickfield owners make money. Land owners and contractors erect building, government officials make money taking bribes by allowing to continue the bad practice, but they are about to spoil the health of the next generation. But who cares?

Uncertainty over North Bengal Deep Tubewell Project

From Abdul Wadood

RAJSHAHI, Nov 15: Implementation of the North Bengal Deep Tubewell Project has become uncertain for bureaucratic red tapism and shortage of funds.

The project was undertaken about a couple of years ago with an aim to produce an additional amount of about 300,000 metric tons (MTs) of paddy and 90,000 MTs of wheat every year in 11 upazilas of Dinajpur, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh districts. It was targeted that a total of 1,217 deep tubewells would be installed to achieve the of the project.

Concerned sources in Water Development Board (WDB) and Agriculture Extension Department (AED) said out of the total, 1146 deep tubewells were supposed to be installed in the first phase by June 30, 1999 to bring a total of 59,500 hectares of land under irrigation facility in the 11 upazilas of the three districts.

The upazilas are Dinajpur sadar, Peerganj, Baliadanga, Ranishankol, Haripur, Beerganj, Kaharole, Panchagarh sadar, Boda, Atwari and Tetulia.

At the same time a power generating centre was also planned to be set up to meet the emergency need of electricity.

According to the sources, the government had declared that necessary steps would immediately be taken for bringing all the deep tubewells under operation smoothly. But the farmers pro-

tested the rules and regulations formulated by the concerned authorities to implement the project. The farmers had gone on movement and brought out processions, held protest rallies and submitted memorandums to the Prime Minister urging cancellation of the newly formulated rules and regulations. Lastly, considering the demands and interests of the farmers the government had changed the rules and decided to operate the deep tubewells on condition of payment of the electric bills by the farmers under supervision of water Development Board. Then the government also formed a steering committee at national level with the State Minister for Primary and mass education Shatish Chandra Roy as the chairman and the project Director of WDB as the member secretary. The steering committee included also representatives from the local government bodies, farmers' representatives and officials of local administrations.

The project was formally inaugurated on February 14, 1999 by operating the deep tubewell No 116 at Kutchabari. Since then, about 21 months have passed away but no necessary step has yet been taken to bring other deep tubewells under operation.

The project authority had announced at the time of inauguration of the first deep tubewell that

a total of 1146 deep tubewells, out of the total target of 1,217, would be operated one by one by June 30, 1999. But some 889 deep tubewells have so far been brought under operation.

The rest of the targeted number of deep tubewells could not be operated due to gross negligence of the contractors, frequent theft of electric wires and shortage of spare parts.

On the other hand, according to the concerned sources, 61, out of the total 889 tubewells, have already become out of order. The main reasons behind it include frequent stealing of transformer, motor, switch board and electric wire and delay in replacement of the stolen parts.

The project has been taken with a target to irrigate more than 59,500 hectares of land, but only about 50 per cent of target would have been achieved till date.

The power generating centre established for the project is now facing problems. The centre is now producing only about one megawatt of electricity against the target and capacity of 19 megawatts.

Longevity of seven generators have already expired, sources said adding that no step has yet been taken to replace the outdated generators. As a result short supply of electricity is hampering smooth operation of the deep tubewells.

Job market dull for Netrakona day labourers

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA, Nov 15: Day labourers, especially agricultural day labourers, have been passing their days in great hardship for want of jobs.

Hundreds of labourers are found to assemble at different labour markets of Taribazar, Satpai, Joyanagar and Kurpur in the town to sell their labour every day. But one fourth or one third of the labourers find job and the rest have to go back home being very disappointed. Many of the day labourers come back to these labour markets walking a distance of four to five miles to get jobs. They appear at the markets in the early morning and wait there till noon seeking even odd

job but in vain.

When interviewed with some day labourers who were going back home from the labour market getting no job they said to this correspondent that jobs are seldom available now-a-days. They added that a strong and stout day labourer earns Tk 35 to 40 a day at present as against Tk 65 to 75 a day one and half months ago.

Recent inclement weather has made the job market dull for day labourers. Some day labourers reportedly have been passing their days half-fed or unfed.

The government should introduce Test Relief Programmes here for the survival of these day labourers.

Floods damage Tk 28cr crops in Magura

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, Nov 15: Floods and water-logging have damaged standing crops worth about Tk 28 crore on over 7,000 hectares of land and affected 81 educational institutions in the district, official sources said.

According to the estimate prepared by the local Agriculture Extension Department (AED), standing crops on 2,211 hectares of land have been damaged in Sadar upazila, 246 hectares in Sreepur upazila, 4,150.64 hectares in Shalukha upazila and 460.1 hectares in Mohammodpur upazila.

Floodwaters receded from many parts of the district, where floods were very uncommon, but residents in many areas are still facing water-logging.

Marginal and landless farmers have been hit hard by the flood. They are still passing hard days.

Meanwhile, AED has taken up a rehabilitation scheme for the affected poor farmers. Under the plan, seeds of 'Boro' paddy, wheat, and vegetables worth about Tk 15.8 lakhs will be distributed among the affected farmers to recoup the loss.

News snaps

Bangladeshi gets peace award

BANDARBAN, Nov 15: Principal of Ujanipara Buddha Bihar Vadanta Sumangli Mahathero has received Myanmar's religious and peace title, reports UNB.

The Myanmar Ambassador in Bangladesh formally conferred the title 'Agramahasadharma Jyotikadhwa' on him at a function here Sunday in recognition of his contributions to five basic religious principles. This year, the Myanmar government awarded the title to seven religious leaders of six countries - Sri Lanka, Laos, Bangladesh, Malaysia, USA and Nepal. Among others, CHT Development Board Chairman Beer Bahadur MP was present at the function.

Handloom factories face closure

KISHOREGANJ, Nov 15: Handloom factories are facing closure due to numerous problems, including price hike of raw materials and smuggling of Indian sarrees, threatening the livelihoods of over 10,000 weavers, reports UNB.

There are some 4,500 weaving factories in Jagannathpur, Krishnanagar, Jamalpur, Chandiber, Madyarchar, Banshgari, Shilpur, Akbarnagar and Gazaria areas. "Of the factories, only 500 are now in operation," said a weaver adding, "Once our products dominated the market, now our local products have been sidelined by Indian ones." He also alleged that some fake weavers in connivance with a section of bank officials and employees are taking loan depriving the genuine weavers.

73 arrested in Joypurhat

JOYPURHAT, Nov 15: In a special drive police arrested 73 people in one month since Oct 15 from different parts of the district, reports UNB.

Police said the arrested were wanted in connection with murder, woman repression, drug trafficking, drug trading and drug addiction cases. Police also said the drive would continue till significant improvement of the law and order situation. Meanwhile, BDR personnel in separate drives on Monday seized contrabands including 355 bottles of phensedyl syrup worth about Tk 5.50 crore from Joypurhat and adjacent border areas. They also seized one goods laden truck the value of which was estimated at Tk 15 lakh. The goods included Indian sugar, salt and green chili. None was arrested in this connection.

Contraband goods seized

BENAPOLE, Nov 15: Border guards here in separate drives seized contraband worth over Tk 15.28 crore in the last 10 months, reports UNB.

BDR sources said they filed 1,494 cases and arrested 48 people during the drive from January to October. The goods worth over Tk 13.98 crore were seized while being smuggled into the country and the contraband worth over 1.29 crore were recovered while being smuggled out to India. The seized goods included sarree, lungi, spare parts, sugar, salt, drugs and fruits.

5 policemen hurt in road mishap

NAOAGANJ, Nov 15: Five policemen were injured in a road mishap in Panchbibi upazila when their pick-up hit a roadside tree early Saturday, reports UNB.

The accident took place at Balaghata when the driver of the pick-up failed to drive properly due to the dense fog. The policemen were on patrol duty. The injured ASI Moktar Hossain constables Azzar Rahman, Rawshan Ali, Abdul Mannan and Abdul Hamid were admitted at Joypurhat Modern Hospital. Police Super visited the spot.

6,54,017 saplings distributed

COMILLA, Nov 15: Department of Agriculture Extension distributed 6,54,017 saplings of various trees among different organizations and individuals this year, reports UNB.

The department under Tree Plantation Programme 2000 distributed the fruit bearing and timber saplings in 13 upazilas. Official sources said the department distributed the saplings among schools, colleges, madrasahs and individuals to make the programme a success.

24 phensedyl bottles recovered

JHALAKHATI, Nov 15: Police recovered 24 bottles of phensedyl and arrested three people from Rajapur upazila on Monday and Tuesday, reports UNB.

Police said they arrested Kanchan and Belal with 16 bottles of phensedyl from hospital road in the upazila headquarters on Monday and following their confessional statement arrested Kabir with eight bottles of phensedyl on Tuesday. A case was filed.

Three get life term

BAGERHAT, Nov 15: Additional District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Afiauddin on Tuesday awarded three persons life-term imprisonment and fined Taka 5,000 each for stabbing to death a student, reports UNB.

The case in brief is that Jahangir, a student of class-X of Mongla port was killed on August 24 in 1995 by his class friends. The incident occurred among them for affairs with a girl. The accused killed him by stabbing. Brother of the deceased Abdul Khaleque lodged a case against six persons with Mongla Thana. The charge sheets were given against them. But three persons Ayub Ali, Akbar and Shiraj were found guilty for their involvement in the killing. The court, after examining the prosecution, convicted them life-term and fined Taka 5000 each. Three others were acquitted from the charge as allegations against them were not proved.

Tailoring training course

MANIKGANJ, Nov 15: A training course on Tailoring was arranged under the auspices of Social Development Project, an NGO, at its office at Beutha Road recently, reports BSS.

The inaugural function for the training course was presided over by Vice-President of Social Development Project Abul Kalam Biswas. Eminent woman leader and social worker Fatema Mahubb was the chief guest in the function. Gias Uddin Ahmed, ex-upazila Chairman of Manikganj Sadar, journalist M A Mannaf Khan, M Hazrat Ali, DPMG (Retd), Advocate ATM Jahurul Alam Khan Lodi and Advocate ASM Mahmudul Hassan spoke on the occasion.

Youth suffers burn injuries

NAOAGANJ, Nov 15: A youth suffered serious burn injuries in an acid attack allegedly by his two friends over a love affair near Tulshiganga Bridge in the municipality area recently, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Ahsan Habib, 17, son of Matabah Hossain of Bhanipur village in Sadar upazila. He was undergoing treatment at Sadar hospital. A case was filed.

Training on pest management

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Nov 15: A 15-day training programme on pest control management concluded at Baladanga union in Sadar upazila recently, reports UNB.

The main objective of the training was to make the farmers aware on the natural techniques relating to pest control and increased production. About 450 local farmers were present at the concluding session presided over by Deputy Director of Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) Aliaf Hossain.



Muhammad Musa, chairman of Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation, distributing winter clothes among the flood affected people at Bharukhali-Gangry relief camp in Sathkha district on Monday.

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এসপটেক ও মডন মোহন কলেজ অর্থাৎ চক্র প্রযুক্তি সেন্টার
তথ্য প্রযুক্তি: একুশ শতকের সোনা
সং: ১৯৯৯-২০০০
স্বাধীন মোহন কলেজ অর্থাৎ চক্র প্রযুক্তি সেন্টার

Sylhet centre of Aptech Computer Education and Modon Mohon College jointly arranged a seminar on 'IT as a career in 21st Century' on Saturday. Held at the Modon Mohon College Auditorium in Sylhet, it was chaired by the Member of Parliament, Jebunnessa Hoque. Local press club president Muktabisur-Nur was present as the special guest, while the principal of Modon Mohon College, Muhibur Rahman, presided over the seminar. Centre Head of Aptech, Sylhet centre Mahmudul Hoque was the moderator and Aptech Network Head Nafiz-A-Ahmed presented the keynote speech of the seminar. Photo shows the chief guest delivering her speech.

টেন্ডার নোটিশ
ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

নিম্নে বর্ণিত কাজের জন্য ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদারদের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত টেন্ডার আবেদন করা যাবে।
ঠিকাদারগণকে বামের উপর কাজের নাম ও তাহাদের ফর্মের নাম স্পষ্টাক্ষরে লিখতে হবে। কোন প্রকার কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে
কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন টেন্ডার অথবা সকল টেন্ডারসমূহ গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত
বলে গণ্য হবে। কাজের পূর্ণ বিবরণ নিম্নে দেয়া হলো।

ক্র	কাজের নাম	প্রাপ্যিত বয়	বায়নার টাকা	সিডিউলের মূল্য	কাজ সম্পাদনের সময়সীমা	টেন্ডার খোলার তারিখ
১	ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের রোক্সা হল বর্ধিত ভবনের আংশিক বৈদ্যুতিক সেরামত ও পুনঃ বৈদ্যুতিকরণ	৩,৪১,৩১০/-	৬৮৩০/-	৩০০/-	১ (এক) মাস	২৭ শে নভেম্বর ২০০০ইং
২	ঠিকাদারদের যোগ্যতা					
৩	যে সমস্ত অফিসসমূহ হতে সিডিউল সম্বন্ধ করা যাবে					
৪	যে সমস্ত অফিসসমূহে সংরক্ষিত বাস্তব টেন্ডার ফেলা যাবে					
৫	টেন্ডার সিডিউল ইস্যু করার শেষ সময়					
৬	টেন্ডার দাখিল করার সময়					
৭	টেন্ডার খোলার তারিখ ও সময়					

মোঃ মুজিবুল্লাহ
ভারপ্রাপ্ত নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (বিদ্যুৎ)
ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়।

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer (R&H)
Sylhet Road Division, Sylhet
Phone No. 716339

Dated: 06-11-2000

Tender Notice

- Tender Notice No. 05/SRD 2000-2001.
- Name of work: Tender for construction of diversion road of No 16/1 bridge on the 16th km of Darbasta-Kanaihat Road under Sylhet Road Division during 2000-2001 fiscal year.
- Head of expenditure: 266 (Development).
- Approval authority: Superintending Engineer (R&H), Sylhet Road Circle, Sylhet.
- Estimated cost: Tk 8,29,002/00.
- Earnest money: Tk 16,581/00.
- Time allowed: 45 (forty-five) days.
- Offices in which tenders will be received: Additional Chief Engineer (R&H), Comilla Zone, Comilla/Superintending Engineer (R&H), Sylhet Road Circle, Sylhet/Procurement & Monitoring Circle, Dhaka and Executive Engineer (R&H), Sylhet.
- Offices in which tenders will be sold: Executive Engineer (R&H), Road Division, Sylhet/Moulvibazar/Sunamganj/Hobiganj/Planning & Programmes Division, Dhaka/Planning & Design Division, Comilla/Sub-Divisional Engineer (R&H), Sylhet/Golapganj/Vishwanath Mechanical Sub-Division, Sylhet. 27-11-2000 during office hours.
- Last date and time of selling tender: 28-11-2000 till 12-30 pm.
- Last date and time of receiving tender: 28-11-2000 till 12-30 pm.
- Date and time of opening tender: 30-11-2000 till 12-45 pm.
- Date and time of tender lottery: Will be held on 04-12-2000 at 11-30 am (if necessary) in the office chamber of the undersigned.
- Requisite eligibility of contractors: 'A' to 'C' general of R&H Department and 'D' general category of contractors of Sylhet Road Circle.

Manzur Ahmed Bhuiyan
Executive Engineer (R&H)
Sylhet Road Division, Sylhet

DFP-27249-9/11
G-2012

Tk 25 lakh fish perished

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Nov 15: Unidentified miscreants poured poison into a water body stretching on 14 acres of land at Jatragachhi village in Maria union in Bagmara upazila in the district recently, perishing fish worth about Taka 25 lakh.

Police said a group of 16 unemployed educated youths of the area took lease of the khas water body, known as Jatragachhi Dighi, and cultivated fish.

Meanwhile, some 150 manudns of the dead fish were sent to Rajshahi markets on Tuesday morning, local people said.

Skeletons of lightning victims in great demand

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Nov 15: Stealing of skeletons of lightning victims is increasing in remote villages of the district.

Villagers said organised gangs are involved in the thefts. There is superstition that skeletons of lightning victims possess power to heal any kinds of diseases. Sections of people also believe that the skeletons possess valuable maginate.

On October 22 night, at village Chalk Dateya under Shaghat upazila a bid to steal skeletons of two lightning victims was foiled by villagers. The miscreants, however, managed to flee the scene. Relatives of the victims are now guarding graves.