

# RU Press Club polls uncertain

Some members demand resignation of EC

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, Nov 27: As a section of members of Rajshahi University Press Club are demanding resignation of election commissioner (EC) for his alleged 'partisan attitude', annual election of the club looks uncertain.

The members, loyal to Azad-Faruque panel, in a memorandum submitted to the chief advisor of the club, Prof AEM Moniruzzaman, demanded resignation of Election Commissioner Prof Abdur Rahman Siddiqui who what they said postponed the election, which was scheduled for November 23, without informing them (the members).

They said that they went to the club on the scheduled day to cast vote, but found the club closed. They (supporters of Azad-Faruque panel) said most members were ready to cast votes. They also said Azad-Faruque panel should be declared elected.

Meanwhile, the election commissioner dismissed the demand terming it as 'childlike'. He defended the postponement saying the decision came after consultation with the chief advisor of the club.

AEM Moniruzzaman and Vice Chancellor of the university were for avoiding untoward incident, he said. He also dismissed the members' claim of polls postponement without prior notice. He said the

postponement notice was sent to the club where most of the members were present at about 8.00 pm on November 22.

Earlier, Kamruzzaman Korban, the aspirant for the presidency, lodged a complaint with the election commissioner that one of the members of Korban-Mahbub panel, Farzana Islam Neela, was 'intimidated and evicted' by supporters of rival panel. He also alleged that few days back Khaleque Mithu of Korban-Mahbub panel was manhandled by his rival. He also appealed to Prof Siddiqui to postpone the election because of the incidents.

However, supporters of Azad-Faruque panel denied the allegation, saying Neela left Rajshahi for personal reason.

Prof Siddiqui, however, on Saturday dismissed the resignation demand and said the election will be held at a convenient time.

Two panels were vying for 13-member executive committee of the club. Shamsuzzaman Azad of UNB news agency and Faruque Hossain Chowdhury of the Pratham Alo are leading Azad-Faruque panel while Kamruzzaman Korban of the Inqilab and Mahbub of the Sonali Sangbad are leading the other panel.



Students of Rajshahi University recently brought out a procession on the university campus demanding cancellation of the result of 20th BCS Examination. --Star photo

# Where have all the fishes gone!

From Akhteruzzaman Bablu

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 27: Where have all the fishes gone? Not very long ago, the Jamuna abounded with so much fish during rainy season that it could feed a large population of the country. More over, Jamuna fishes enjoyed a vast market in neighbouring India.

During rainy season, papda, baspatari, shorputy, raikhe, boal, bagreire, rita, kol, khoisha, katal, bailla, tengra, kawria, khoshalla, aire, hilsa and many other species could be caught in tons. These fishes would also swarm the low-lying areas along the river where villagers would catch them during festivals.

The pressure of population and over fishing has taken toll on the river resources. Whatever catches reach the markets are destined to the kitchens of the rich people. The poor are simply content with the money to buy rice for their families.

Laheri Mohanpur, Dilapashar areas at the estuary of the Jamuna are two exceptions, where fishermen are reportedly catching schools of fishes. But hard-earned fishermen can hardly afford to sell their catches at the local markets. Instead, they look for buyers from the cities.

Experts say that fishes would return to the Jamuna with the



A fish market at Moti Shaheber Ghat in Sirajganj where fish supply is on the wane. The pressure of population and over fishing has taken toll on the River Jamuna, the prime source of fish here. --Star photo

cycle of lean period ending soon. During the prolonged deluge of 1988, an unusual number of fishes were caught along the rivers and other areas of the

district. The following years there was no flood and experts said that in the coming year the river will again be busy with happy fishermen.

# Storm damages crops worth Tk 60cr in Barisal

BARISAL, Nov 27: Farmers of six districts of the division could not celebrate 'Nabanna' a traditional festival of farmers in the current Bengali month of Agrayhan, reports UNB.

They could not observe the traditional festival as the crops worth about Tk 60 crore were damaged in the last month's storm.

The cyclonic storm with heavy downpour hit the districts on October 27-28 damaging standing Aman and vegetables on a 12

lakh hectares of land. Of the total, standing Aman on 31,419 hectares of land worth about Tk 26 crore was damaged during the storm.

Agricultural Extension Department sources said in Barisal standing Aman crops, vegetables and betel leaf on 42,409 hectares of land were damaged. Of the total, Aman crops on 9,082 hectares of land worth about Tk 3.39 crore were damaged.

In Barguna, crops on 1.03 lakh

hectares of land were damaged including Aman on 2,408 hectares of land worth about Tk 6.66 crore.

Standing Aman on 3,567 hectares of land worth about Tk 6.43 crore in Pirojpur and the crop in Jhalakathi on 1.92 lakh hectares of land worth about Tk 6.25 crore were damaged.

Meanwhile, Aman crops on 12,786 hectares of land in Patuakhali worth about Tk 6.48 crore and on 1,656 hectares in Bhola worth about Tk 3 crore were also damaged in the storm.

# Lack of treatment facilities for heart patients in Madaripur

MADARIPUR, Nov 27: The number of heart patients is increasing in the districts of the greater Faridpur day by day, reports BSS.

Solvent patients are going to the reputed nursing homes in Calcutta and Madras for treatment from this region. About one crore people in the region are not getting proper medical facilities in the district town.

Taking advantage of the situa-

# Robbery in Ctg market

CHITTAGONG, Nov 27: Robbers raided a market in Chandanailsh here early Wednesday and looted cash and valuables worth about Tk 17 lakh.

Local people said some 70 to 80 robbers armed with firearms encircled Yunus Market in front of the local union parishad office on the bank of the River Shankha and decamped with valuables, including gold ornaments, worth over Tk 16 lakh and Tk one lakh in cash.

The robbers, who created panic in the area by firing in the air, tied up tow night guards of the market.

tion many private clinics have been established in the region with a view to serving the people.

According to local people, most doctors serving in the hospitals are connected with the clinics or in some cases they have their own clinics.

It is alleged that the doctors on duty in many hospitals suggest the patients to go to their clinics from the hospital for better treatment. As a result, the solvent patients are being benefited but the poor patients are deprived of proper medicare for want of money. In the case of heart patients, treatment is needed at clinics. But poor patients cannot think of going to such clinics.

Moreover, comparatively solvent patients are going abroad for treatment as they do not get treatment from the clinics up to their expectation. At present, the Upazila Health Complexes and Health Subcentres at union level are facing shortage of specialist physicians and medicines. As a result, the poor patients including the heart patients are not getting proper treatment locally.

Statistics show that most of the patients who come to the local

health complexes are suffering from heart disease. The number of such patients is increasing overwhelmingly in the region in recent years.

A source of Benapole Border Checkpost of the region informed that about half of the people going to India daily are heart patients. Local elite said the concerned ministry and the directorate should take measures to ensure proper medicare services in the country.

# 20,000 vie for 2,705 seats in Edward College

From Our Correspondent  
SIRAJGANJ, Nov 27: Some 20,000 students vied for 2,705 first year honours seats in several departments in Edward College, Pabna this year.

Admission tests of different departments were completed on Wednesday.

According to college sources, a total of 61 posts of teachers have been lying vacant for a long time, hampering the academic activities of the college.

# Kishoreganj DIARY

## Workshop

KISHOREGANJ, Nov 27: A daylong workshop on 'Advocacy on Reproductive Health and Gender Issue through Department of Mass Communication' was held at the Primary School Teachers' Association Hall at Katiadir on Wednesday last, reports agency.

District Information Department organised the workshop which was presided over by Assistant Commissioner Land M Motilul Islam and addressed, among others, by M Omar Faroque, Information Officer, M Abu Tahar, Assistant Information Officer, Kishoreganj, Dr Jalaluddin, Medical Officer Katiadir Health Complex, M Sarwar Jahn, Director (KIDS).

## Ducks looted

A gang of terrorists attacked a duck farm and snatched away 350 ducks at West Jawar village in Tarail upazila on Nov 13. Police said the miscreants of East Jawar village of the same upazila following previous enmity ransacked the farm of Bablu Mia at dead of night and looted the ducks. A case was filed with the police.

## Body found

The body of a newly married housewife was recovered from a Beel at Pakundia upazila on Nov 10.

Police recovered the body of Marzia Khatun, 19, wife of A Salam, and sent it to Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy. She is believed to have been killed following a family feud. A case was filed against nine people including Salam and his parents, of whom two accused Ziauddin and Azizur Rahman were arrested.

## Conviction

A court here has sentenced three people to 14 years' rigorous imprisonment each in an arms case.

The convicts are Hanif, Julhas Mia and Shahjahan of West Gobria village in Kuliarchar upazila. The case, in brief, was that police acting on a tip, arrested the accused along with a loaded revolver after raiding a house at dead of night on Oct 25, 1999. After examining the records and witnesses, special tribunal judge Nandakumar Sarker awarded the punishment on Nov 14.

## Loan for winter farming

In a bid to boost cultivation of winter crops in Netrakona and Mymensingh districts Janata Bank Mymensingh region has taken up a programme to disburse Tk 3.70 crore.

Official sources said the bank would disburse the loan among the farmers of the two districts under its 'Winter Crop Farming Programme'. Bank sources said to ensure timely disbursement of loan to the genuine farmers and oversee the disbursement and collection procedures a high powered team headed by the regional chief of the bank was formed. The loans will be given to cultivate Boro, wheat, potato, mustard seeds, sugarcane, ground nuts and other winter vegetables in the two districts.

# Luttu murder: Relatives under pressure

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Nov 27: Accused in the sensational Luttu murder case are allegedly putting pressure on the family members of the victim to withdraw the case.

Ehsan Ali Luttu, a young engineer, was brutally killed on January 9 this year at Beldar Para in the city.

Fear and grief still hunt us as we are under pressure to withdraw the case, said Sohrab Hossain, father of the slain engineer, at a press conference held here last week.

Main accused of the murder case, Javed, was recently released on bail.

Javed, a known extortionist, demanded money from Luttu, family members of the victim said. On the night of January 9, accused Javed visited Luttu at his residence and called him out.

Later the victim was found injured on the road. Locals rushed the injured to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Javed confessed to the crime before court. He was released on



Ehsan Ali Luttu August 7 this year on bail.

Sohrab Hossain alleged that an influential quarter backed by the ruling Awami League is trying to protect Javed. He demanded immediate cancellation of the bail and arrest of the accused.

'We want nothing but justice and security of our lives', Sohrab Hossain, a trader, added.

# Guest birds arriving in three hill dists

RANGAMATI, Nov 27: With the onset of winter a large number of guest birds are arriving in the three hill districts including Rangamati from the Siberian region, reports UNB.

But the amateur hunters are catching the guest birds indiscriminately and selling in the market openly before the very nose of the law enforcers.

There is a strict law on preserving wild animals and prohibiting the killing of birds in the country with a maximum punishment of seven years' imprisonment to a violator. But it could not be implemented due to the indifference of the law enforcers.

A section of people in the region took the guest bird hunting as their profession and is engaged in hunting birds

throughout the day.

In the evening they sell these birds at high prices to the well off section of the society, visitors and tourists.

About 50 youths in eight points including Assam Basti Bazaar in the town took up the bird hunting as their profession. Some of them are seen going to the doorsteps of buyers.

Besides they have developed a strong network in the three hill districts. A group hunts the birds from the river, canal and other water bodies and then supplies to their agents in the district headquarters.

Though there is a special force of the government to preserve the wild animal and guest birds but no activities of such force were visible in the hill districts.

# Date juice extraction begins in Madaripur

MADARIPUR, Nov 27: Collection of date juice has begun throughout the district, reports BSS.

With the onset of winter, preparation for extraction of juice from the date-trees usually starts in Madaripur and its adjoining districts. The date-juice collectors move from village to village and in the town areas for selling juice.

Winter brings a festive mood among the rural people. Farmers carry home new Aus paddy from the fields. They are full of joy with the smell of new paddy. Wives of the farmers husk paddy to get rice with much enthusiasm.

They arrange 'nabanna' festival on the first day of Bengali month Agrayhan. The housewives prepare various kinds of cakes with rice powder.

Preparation of various cakes can not be thought of without molasses of date juice. The solid molasses is locally known as patal. The molasses is prepared by boiling date juice.

Madaripur and its adjoining districts are famous for date juice. Date trees grow abundantly in these areas due to favourable climate.

A survey conducted by International Project for Rural Advancement (IPRA), an NGO, revealed that there are about 25,000 date trees in the district. About 300 tons of molasses are produced from the juice extracted from these trees annually.

# Certificate awarding ceremony at BMA

CHITTAGONG, Nov 27: The Graduation Degree certificate awarding ceremony of the 43rd long course of the Bangladesh Military Academy (BMA) was held at the Academy's Bellman Hangar on Monday, reports BSS.

Food Minister Amir Hossain Amu attended the function as the chief guest and distributed degree certificates among the Gentlemen Cadets who had passed the Bachelor of Arts and the Bachelor of Science examinations under the National University.

# News snaps

## Misappropriation of govt medicine

KISHOREGANJ, Nov 27: A maid of a senior staff nurse of Karinganj Upazila Health Complex was caught red-handed recently while she was taking medicine from the hospital to the residence of the nurse, reports UNB.

According to a delayed report some employees of the health complex caught the maid with the government medicine on November 15 and took her to the Health and Family Planning Officer. The maid confessed that senior nurse and ward in-charge Shirin Akhter gave the medicine to reach her residence. When contacted Upazila Health Officer told that departmental actions would be taken against Shirin Akhter and all others related with the misappropriation of government medicine.

## Valuables looted

COMILLA, Nov 27: Muggers tactfully entered into a residence in the town and looted valuables including 20 tola gold ornaments and Tk 30,000 in cash last week, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said three unidentified youths riding in a motorcycle came to the residence of Haji Abdul Aziz at Bagichagan with a packet of sweetmeat and immediately held the inmates hostage at gunpoint. Later they decamped with the booty safely. A case was filed with the police.

## Training for journalists

SHARIATPUR, Nov 27: A five-day foundation training course on journalism for newsmen concluded here recently, reports BSS.

The training was sponsored by Shariatpur Development Organisation (SDO). Twenty journalists working in different national and local dailies participated in the training course. Chairman of SDO, M Shah Alam attended the programme as chief guest on the inaugural function.

## New RAKUB branch opens

THAKUGOAN, Nov 27: Two new branches of Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (RAKUB) opened here on Sunday, reports BSS.

Additional Secretary, Government of Bangladesh and Member, Board of Directors, RAKUB, AMA Jabbar opened the branches at Lahirihat under Balaidangl Upazila and at Choto Khochabari under Thakurgoan Sadar Upazila. On the occasion AKM Sajedur Rahman, Managing Director and Hafizul Islam, General Manager, respectively of RAKUB, were present. Abdul Baki, Deputy Commissioner, other officials, bankers, elite of the respective areas were present in the opening ceremonies.

## Road barricade

CHAPANAWABGANJ, Nov 27: The degree examinees appearing from Adina Fazul Haq Government College centre here laid a siege on Shibganj-Khagerhat road in front of the college on Thursday demanding reinstatement of examination centre. Some 340 examinees gathered at the spot to lodge protest against cancellation of the college centre by the National University on charge of gross copying on the first day of the examination. Vehicular movement on the road remained suspended for two hours from the morning till the law enforcers along with a magistrate reached the spot. However, no untoward incident was recorded.

## Tragic end of housewife

PIROJPUR, Nov 27: A newly married housewife allegedly committed suicide at Jolagati village in Kaulkhali upazila on November 19, reports UNB.

Police and family sources said Rosy Akhtar, 20, daughter of Hanif Farazi went to visit her uncle's house at the neighbouring Vitabaria village on November 18. Her uncle and male inmates of the house went to a nearby area to attend a Waz Mahfil on the night. Taking advantage of the situation, some local terrorists abducted Rosy at gunpoint and raped her one after another. Later the victim was rescued from a neighbouring house and sent her to her parent's house the following day. But being disgusted with her shameful distressed life she allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself in her house. A case was filed with the police.



Certificates were distributed among students, teachers and supervisors of Hard-to-Reach Project-3 of DNFE under the sponsorship of Pacificare, a health and development organisation, on Saturday at the Provakar Club Auditorium in Chittagong. H M Nasir Uddin, Executive Director of Pacificare presided over while Nazimuddin, a banker was the chief guest. Shahab Uddin Chowdhury conducted the programme.

## Wife throws acid on husband!

BOGRA, Nov 27: Now a husband fell victim of acid throwing by his wife in the town as he tried to prevent her from developing an illicit relationship with a co-villager, reports UNB.

Witnesses said Rebeka, wife of Akhlik at Kankarnpara in the town developed an extra-marital relation with her neighbour. Akhlik time and again tried to prevent her from keeping relation with the man. But on the fateful Friday night when he tried to understand her about their future life she became furious and at one stage of altercation threw acid on his body injuring him grievously. He was rushed to Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital in a critical condition. Both Rebeka and her fiancée went into hiding after the incident.

## Tk 13.91cr for academic buildings

PANCHAGARH, Nov 27: Facilities Department has allocated Tk 13.91 crore for constructing academic buildings for 59 educational institutions in 10 upazilas of Panchagarh and Thakurgoan districts in the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

Officials sources said Tk 3.70 crore has been allotted for construction academic building of 11 colleges, Tk 6.35 crore for 38 government and non-government high schools, Tk 1.59 crore for eight madrasahs, Tk 1.59 crore for an SSC vocational complex building and Tk 66.21 lakh for a DTI building in the two districts. Besides, the Facilities Department has already constructed a number of academic buildings costing Tk 37.05 lakh for each institution in the two districts.

## Robbery bid foiled

BOGRA, Nov 27: Police recovered a gun after foiling a robbery attempt of bandits at Nayamile area in Sadar upazila on Bogra-Sirajganj road early Thursday, reports UNB.

Police said they chased a gang of bandits, while they were committing a robbery after stopping a truck in the area at late night. Police recovered the gun, which the muggers left behind. Police later on arrested Chand Mia, son of Bulu, and Dulal, son of Ashu Mandol of the area. For their alleged involvement in the robbery bid.

## Rivals' clash leaves 13 hurt

MANIKGANJ, Nov 27: At least 13 people, including three women, were injured in a clash between two rival groups over playing cards at Tyagi in Sadar upazila on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said first an altercation ensued over a trifling matter and later both the groups equipped with 'ram dao', hockey sticks and batons locked in violent clashes for hours together. The injured Alauddin, 27, Shahajan Master, 50, Shahar Ali, 18, Farid, 25, Nasima, 18, Solim, 25, Farooq, 27, Hamid, 20, Shahin, 27, Vanu, 40, Zayed, Ali, 35, Emdadul, 30, and Sharmim, 65, -- were admitted at the Sadar hospital. A case was filed.

# Netrakona tribals are no more backward

From Jahangir Alam

NETRAKONA, Nov 27: Here is a success story of a non-governmental organisation (NGO) which has changed the educational, cultural, health, economical and social condition of the people of the bordering Durgapur and Kalmakanda upazilas. The organisation is World Vision Bangladesh, which came here in 1972 to improve the living condition of the tribal people in the bordering areas here.

From 1972 till now many development activities have been done by World Vision in the fields of economical, educational, public health and communication which changed radically the living condition of poor people in this border belt.

Previously 95 per cent tribals here were illiterate, unconsciousness, uncultured and insolvent. World Vision came here as a conductor of the tribals.

World Vision gives sufficient grant to many

poor tribal students who have no capacity to run their education. With the help of this NGO many tribal young men and women have become educated and many of them already got jobs in government and non-governmental organisation. Now the percentage of educated people in this tribal society is 80. This miracle has become possible due to help of World Vision.

In the arena of communication, World Vision played an important role by building culvert, dam, road repairing and such other work. This NGO has developed the communication system of the bordering area.

Previously the tribal people had no idea about health care, World Vision has made them consciousness about health care.

The NGO renders free health care service. It distributes medicine, sanitary latrine and grant to the tribals for major treatment and

also for building dwelling houses.

For economic solvency of the tribals it gives draft animals for cultivation, grant for small business and milch cows. Many tribal families have become solvent with the help of World Vision.

With a view to making them conscious about the surrounding society, World Vision organised many seminars. The tribal society is now a conscious society.

World Vision is also working relentlessly to succeed various programmes taken by the government. On every National Immunisation Day the workers of World Vision help the Health Department of government. On the 8th National Immunisation Day-2000 World Vision worked in Durgapur, Birishiri and Kullagora unions.

Ashuk Kumer Chisim, co-ordinator of ADP of Durgapur World Vision has been organising all the activities of the NGO efficiently.



A health worker of Durgapur World Vision administering polio vaccine and feeding Vitamin-A capsule to a child at Durgapur in Netrakona district recently on the occasion of the Eighth National Immunisation Day-2000. --Star photo