

National

Polls fever grips RU teachers

PUTA, Dean, Syndicate, AC, P&D committee elections Thursday

From Kamran Reza Chowdhury

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, Jan 22: Hectic campaign has been going on here on the campus over the ensuing Rajshahi University Teachers' Association (PUTA), Dean, Syndicate, Academic Council (AC), and Planning and Development (P&D) Committee elections scheduled to be held on Thursday (January 25).

Seven hundred and fifty teachers of the university are going to elect 15-member PUTA committee, five deans, five teacher representatives for the university syndicate, six AC members and one Planning and Development Committee member.

Polls fever has gripped teachers who are now busy campaigning door to door. Teachers belonging to pro-government Yellow panel and pro-opposition White panel are contesting in the polls.

In PUTA polls, Prof Muhammad Mianuddin of Sociology Department and Shafiqunnabi Samadi of Music and Dramatics Department have been contesting for the posts of president and

general secretary respectively from Yellow Panel, while White Panel fields Prof AKM Sahadat Hossain Mondol of Institute of Biological Science and Prof Jagul Haider of Political Science for the posts of president and general secretary respectively.

Other candidates from the Yellow are Prof Md Shah Nawaz Ali (Vice President), Sushanta Kumar Bhattacharya (Treasurer), Dr Rostom Ali (Joint Secretary), Prof Md Atar Ali, Prof AHM Mostafizur Rahman, Prof Nasim Anjum, Md Rezaul Karim, Md Walil Hasan, Md Jafikar Ali, Abu Bakar, Md Ishanai, Dr Muzibor Rahman, Prof Moshfique Ahmed, and Prof Shahidul Islam (Members).

Other candidates from the White are Dr Md Rakibuzzaman (Vice President), Dr Md Zillur Rahman (Treasurer), Md Rafique Azad (JS), Dr Abdul Hye Talukdar, Dr Md Nurul Amin, Kazi Md Mostafizur Rahman, Md Sazau Raihan, Md Abdul Matin Talukdar, Dr Md Zamshed Ali Sarker, Dr Md Shamin Khan, Md Omar Ali, Dr Md Rabiu Hossain, Dr Md Abul Bashar Mia (Mem-

bers).

In Dean elections, Prof Md Haibur Rahman and Prof Md Abul Khaleque, who belong to Yellow, have been elected deans unopposed of Law Faculty and Agriculture Faculty respectively.

Other candidates from the Yellow are Prof Khanam Mamta Ahmad, (Arts), Prof Md Abdul Jalil Mia (Science), Prof Nishith Kumar Paul (Life and Earth) Prof Abdur Rahman (Social Sciences), and Prof AKM Abdul Md Motiur Rahman (Business Studies).

Other Dean candidates belonging to White panel are Md Sahjanan (Arts), Md Abdur Rahman Siddiqui (Social Science), Faisul Islam Faruki (Science), Abdus Salam (Life and Earth) and Md Amanullah (Business Studies).

Yellow Panel-backed candidates for the Syndicate are Prof Md Mokhlesur Rahman (Provost Category), Prof Md Mozaffar Hossain (Professor Category), Dr Md Rafiqul Islam (Associate Professor Category), Md Fayek-Zaman (Assistant Professor Category), Pranab Kumar Pandey (Lecturer category).

White Panel-backed candidates for the Syndicate are Prof M. Keramat (Provost category), Dr Abdul Quadir Bhuiyan (Professor category) Md Rafiqul Islam (Associate Professor category), Md Enamul Haq (Assistant Professor category), and Md Abdul Haq (Lecturer category).

Md Ansar Uddin, Dr Md Aktar Faruk, Dr Md Abu Taher, Dr Sarkar Sujit Kumar, Dr Abu Younus Khan Md Zahangir, and Md Mozibul Haq Azad Khan have been contesting for AC memberships from Yellow Panel.

On the other, Prof Md Abdul Wahed, Md Motiur Rahman, Md Norul Islam, Md Nirjhar Rahman, Md Shariful Islam and Monjurul Alam have been contesting for AC memberships from White Panel.

Yellow panel-backed Prof Md Shah Alam of Botany Department and White Panel-backed Md Abdul Aziz Mia of Applied Physics and Electronics Department are contesting for the membership of Planning and Development Committee.

Saidpur now a haven for smugglers

From EAM Asaduzzaman

NILPHAMARI, Jan 22: Saidpur, the busiest town in the district, is also known as the Railway City.

Country's largest railway workshop is located here. From Saidpur Railway Station, inter-city trains Rupsa, Simanta, Varendra, Titumir and many local trains start long journey for different destinations of northern and southern districts. The station platform is crowded with passengers when the trains depart and arrive. Passengers departing empty handed return with bags and luggage. Most of these passengers carry the smuggled goods. A section of BDR and police personnel remain silent spectators. After these trains start moving from Hili station, rail police, TTC and attendants divide the compartments amongst themselves. Based on the value of smuggled items, they collect their tolls from them openly. With their help, trains are stopped here and there and smugglers disappear with smuggled goods in no time.

Reports are ripe that Parabatipur, Santahar, and Iswardi railway police have leased out their routes to influential smugglers. Reliable sources on condition of not disclosing their names state that auctioneer 'P.C.' by name pay more than lakhs of taka to the police stations in this area for a single rail route.

In this way, with the direct patronisation of a section of corrupt railway men and rail police, smugglers in this region have established their huge network. The government is deprived of revenues of large amount. Railway is being deprived of large amount of its income. It is also the more dangerous that with these smuggled goods are coming firearms posing threat to our national security.

Unless effective measures and steps are taken against these activities, the slogan of the railway authorities for rendering 'safe and enjoyable' journey to the passengers will never come true. At the same time, national and economic security will also remain threatened.

News snaps



Mohammad Faruk, Chittagong Divisional Director of Family Planning Directorate distributes certificates among the participants of a two-day long workshop at Cox's Bazar. The workshop was held recently on Family Planning, Reproductive Health and Gender issues for the journalists of Cox's Bazar district. Deputy Director of Family Planning in Cox's Bazar Umme Hasina Begum is also seen in the picture

--Star photo

Man burnt to death

KURIGRAM, Jan 22: A mysterious fire burnt to death a night guard and valuables worth about Tk 5 lakh in the office of Motor Owners' Association in Sadar upazila on Saturday morning, reports UNB.

The deceased was identified as Farid Ali, 60. Witnesses said the fire broke out at about 7:30 am. Local fire fighters rushed to the spot and with the help of local people put out the flame after frantic efforts. The cause behind the fire could not be known immediately.

Foodgrains misappropriated

KISHOREGANJ, Jan 22: A case was filed against the former In-charge of Bangalpara food godown in Ashtagram upazila for misappropriation of rice and wheat worth about Tk 4.44 lakh, reports UNB.

Official sources said Farid Ahmed Chowdhury misappropriated 28.48 mts of rice and 7.93 mts of wheat from the godown during his working period from July to November 2000. After preliminary investigation the concerned food officer filed a case against him on January 11.

Tragic!

MUNSHIGANJ, Jan 22: A little girl met watery grave when she fell into the River Dhaleswari from a Barisal-bound launch on Saturday night, reports UNB.

A threat to wildlife in Cox's Bazar

From Abdul Monayem Khan

COX'S BAZAR, Jan 22: Wildlife, particularly mammals, are gradually disappearing from Cox's Bazar forest region.

Rampant poaching and unabated deforestation are threatening the existence of wild animals in Cox's Bazar, causing imbalance in ecosystem in Chittagong Hill Districts.

It is learnt that 21 species of wild life have already disappeared and 45 other species are on verge of extinction.

Experts said, poaching, expansion of human settlements, industrialisation and extension of arable lands are the reasons behind the natural degradation.

According to forest officials, the 21 extinct species of animals include nil cow, wild buffalo, wild cow, big horned deer, wolf and three types of rhinoceros.

The species gradually disappeared mainly after the liberation of the country and were totally wiped out in the last 15 years. Besides, the number of

tigers, elephants, deers, monkeys, ghorial and dolphin are also decreasing, they added.

The number of wild animals is decreasing every day in five of the seven upazilas of Cox's Bazar due to various reasons for quite a long time. Teknaf, Ukhia, Ramu, Chokoria and Cox's Bazar Sadar upazilas of the district were once teeming with different types of wild animals such as fox, jackal, wild cat and wolf.

But these are now rarely found. These animals mainly live on rats and harmful insects and thus saved the crops.

But during the last three decades the number of wild animals have decreased in an alarming proportion.

According to sources, Cox's Bazar Sadar, Ramu, Ukhia, Kutubdia, Moheshkhali, Chokoria and Teknaf upazilas were once famous for abundant production of jackfruit, lichi, mango, palm, guava and pineapple.

But now these trees are very few in number due to indiscriminate felling of trees. As the eco-

nomic condition of the rural people is rapidly deteriorating they are compelled to sell their fruit bearing trees to a section of traders.

Agricultural experts said, the district situated in a region where fruit bearing trees grow with minimum care and cost. A huge quantity of surplus fruits were marketed by the growers.

Some farmers said, they took loans from the money lenders by mortgaging their trees to meet their daily expenses. They failed to refund the loans and ultimately they lost their trees after a few years.

It may be mentioned that there are 80 brickfields and 65 saw-mills in the district.

Hundreds of wood-loaded trucks are seen on their way to different areas of the country every day. On the other hand, planting of fruit-bearing trees is rare, causing ecological imbalance which is changing the rainfall and weather pattern of the district.

Faridpur DIARY

50 injured in clash

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Jan 22: At least 50 people were injured, 15 of them critically, in a clash between two rival groups at Baliahati Bazar under Nagarkanda upazila recently.

According to local people, supporters of Yakub Matubbar and Nuru Matubbar clashed over establishing supremacy in the area. On receipt of information police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. The 15 critically injured were admitted to Faridpur Medical College Hospital and Faridpur General Hospital.

FFs' list prepared

A list of 3531 freedom fighters in the district has been prepared.

Captain (Rtd) Nurulhammad Babul, district unit president of Freedom Fighters' Scrutiny Committee, at a press conference held at Faridpur Press Club recently said the list was finalised on the basis of the principles set by the central command council of Mukti Joddha Sangsad. The upazila-wise break-up of freedom fighters is as follows: 336 in Sadar, 396 in Madhukhali, 148 in Char Bhadrashan, 395 in Boalmari, 758 in Alfadanga, 727 in Nagarkanda, 254 in Sadarpur and 517 in Bhanga. Hasibul Hasan Lablu, chairman of Faridpur Municipality was also present on the occasion.

Corruption at Atpara Health Complex alleged

From Jahangir Alam

NETRAKONA, Jan 22: People of Atpara upazila in the district brought out a procession on Wednesday demanding stoppage of alleged irregularities and corruption going on at Atpara Health Complex.

People of Atpara upazila are being deprived of minimum health care service for a long time. Poor patient, are getting only paracetamol tablets from the hospital since long. Doctors and nurses often misbehave

with the patients and their attendants. Paucity of water, absence of regular cleaning, shortage of medicine, irregularities and negligence of doctors and corruption going on at Atpara Health Complex.

On January 4, local people of Atpara went on rampage and damaged the office room of the Upazila Health Officer. Angry people also manhandled the doctors and Upazila Health Officer Dr. Jahir Uddin.

Sirajganj cold victims need warm clothes

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 22: Unprecedented cold wave during the last few days has almost halted normal life in this district town.

Severe cold wind coming from the Himalayas has made lives of the dwellers, specially the homeless people of this small town miserable. At least 10 people died here due to cold wave who had been attacked with various cold related diseases. Intensity of cold worsens after mid-day and turns extremely unbearable in the evening. Everyday, fog clouds the town until 8 to 9 am and vehicles ply in the streets with their headlights still on.

Although the sun appears for a while around 10 am, but it soon disappears to the dismay of the dwellers. Last Monday morning drizzles made things even more worse. Destitutes are trying to combat this bitter wave through heat generated from burning heaps of straws and old rubber tyres. On the other hand second hand warm clothes sellers are making best use of this situation, are earning handsomely by raising the prices two and even three times. Disease like fever, cough, cold and dysentery have also alarmingly increased. The only government hospital is crowded with bronchitis and a asthma patients. But the hospital is short of oxygen and do not have the 'lobolizer machine.' As a result distress and sufferings of the patients know no bounds. The owners medicine pharmacists also making good use of this abnormal situation have doubled prices of life saving 'salbutamol inhalers.'



A big procession was brought out recently in Khulna by the All-party Action Committee demanding immediate cancellation of the Public Safety Act (PSA).

--Star photo