

No principal in five govt colleges in Faridpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Posts of principals in five government colleges in Faridpur district have been lying vacant for a long time, hampering administrative and academic activities.

The colleges are Government Rajendra University College, Government Yasin College and Government Saroda Sundari Mahila College in the district headquarters and Char Bhadrans Government College at Char Bhadrans upazila and Sadarpur Government College at Sadarpur upazila. Besides, the

two colleges in the upazila headquarters have no vice principals.

Vice Principal Md Nazrul Islam has been working as acting principal of Rajendra College following retirement of Principal Professor Subash Chandra Ghosh, Vice Principal Md Abdul Aziz has been working as interim Principal of Yasin College after its Principal Professor Abul Kalam Talukder retired and Vice Principal Md Shahjahan is the acting Principal of Government Saroda Sundari Mahila College since its Principal Dr Giasuddin Ahmed was transferred.

Associate Professor Md Abdul Wadud has been working as acting principal of Sadarpur College and Associate Professor Abdul Mannan is the acting principal of Char Bhadrans College.

Moreover, sources with the colleges said more than 30 per cent posts teachers have been lying vacant for a long time.

Teachers have urged the authorities concerned to take necessary steps to appoint teachers in the vacant posts.

Eight unnatural deaths in Habiganj in 13 days

UNB, Habiganj

Eight unnatural deaths were reported from different parts of Habiganj district in last 13 days ending Tuesday.

Police said a 70-year-old woman of Bangoon village hanged herself on February 2.

On the same day, Panchalaxmi Dev Varma, 35, died of injuries at Sylhet Osmani Hospital. He suffered

critical wounds in a clash between two rival groups of villagers.

In another incident, Mizanur Rahman, 20, a businessman was killed when a fire broke out at Ganinganj Bazar in Baniachang upazila on February 5.

On February 6, Nasir, 30, was stabbed to death at Natunnagar village in Sadar upazila while Sazia Begum, 13, daughter of Abdul Kuddus, committed suicide at

Kargaon village in Nabinagar upazila.

Another fire incident at Chikonpur village in Laghai upazila on Saturday left two minors Basit, 3, and Rashed, 5, son of Taher Ali dead.

On February 13, Tutul Sheikh, 26, of Faridpur district was run over by a coach in Shayestaganj Puranbazar area on Dhaka-Sylhet highway. Separate cases were filed.

Work on six Ashrayan projects going on in full swing

UNB, Bandarban

Work on six Ashrayan projects for rehabilitation of destitute people is progressing fast in Bandarban district.

The authorities had allocated 97 metric tons of foodgrains for land development and earth filling at Bachuripara Ashrayan scheme in Lama, 160 mts for Merakhola Ashrayan project in Lama Sadar and 60 mts for Sualok Ashrayan project in Sadar.

The allocation also include 240

mts for Tamrupara Ashrayan project in Sadar, 35 mts for Wayjunction Ashrayan project in Roangchhari and 118 mts for Patal Kata Ashrayan project in Naikhongchhari.

Bangladesh Army is providing technical assistance for implementation of the projects.

A total of 70 families were rehabilitated under the scheme at Purba Palong Para in Ali Kadam Upazila last year.

Another report said, local Zila Parishad has spent over Tk 13.82 crore for implementation of 533

uplift schemes from fiscal 1996-97 to 1999-2000.

The works included construction and reconstruction of roads, bridges and culverts, maintenance and development of educational institutions, improvement agriculture and irrigation facilities.

The parishad received a total of Tk 4.6 crore for implementation of various uplift schemes during the current fiscal year.

Ekushey observed in dists

UNB, Dhaka

Amar (Immortal) Ekushey, which is elevated to International Mother Language Day, was observed on Wednesday with elaborate programmes at district levels.

Various socio-cultural, political and professional organisations and educational institutions took respective programmes to mark the day of paying homage to the martyrs of the language movement 1952.

Day's programmes included hosting national flags half-mast and organisation flag, holding discussions and cultural functions.

In Khulna, people from all walks of life gathered at the Shaheed Hadis Park and placed wreaths at Shaheed Minar at zero hours.

State Minister for Relief and Disaster Management Talukder Abdul Khaleq and Whip SM Mosafa Rashidi Suja placed floral wreaths on the altar of the memorial to language martyrs and passed a few silent seconds.

Local administration, Press Club, Bar Association, Muktiyoddha Sangsad, different socio-cultural organisations, political fronts, professional organisations and students of local schools and colleges placed petals and wreaths.

In the morning different political and social organisations arranged discussions and cultural and sports functions were arranged in different educational institutions.

Amar Ekushey was also observed in Rajshahi and Chittagong cities as well as other towns with floral tributes to the language martyrs and taking fresh vow for building a democratic, exploitation-free prosperous

nation.

Like other areas of the country, the Great Amar Ekushey was observed in Rajbari with due respect and solemnity.

To mark the day, local Awami League hoisted national and party flag half-mast. In the morning AL activists placed flower wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and walked barefoot to the Shaheed Minar and placed petals on its altar.

In Magura, different political parties, socio-cultural organisations, local administration took elaborate programmes to mark the day.

Magura Shishu Academy arranged children's competition on different subjects and held discussion meeting. Local Deputy Commissioner AKM Rafiqul Islam inaugurated the competition and distributed prizes among the winners.

Apart from these, a 7-day book fair started in the premises of Magura Government Public Library in observance of the day.

In the district of Shariatpur, elaborate programmes were taken up to celebrate the International Mother Language Day on the occasion of Amar Ekushey.

The Agricultural University, Mymensingh arranged various programmes to mark the day. Programmes included placing floral wreaths, wearing black badges, hoisting national flags half-mast, holding discussion and offering prayers for peace of the departed souls of country's great sons who sacrificed their lives for mother language.

Similar programmes were arranged in all other districts to mark the day.

A day of hard toil

PHOTO FEATURE: AKHTERUZAMAN BABLU



The working people in Sirajganj district live their simple, self supporting lives. They are totally engaged in a grim battle for survival. (Top left) Some day labourers shifting the sacks of fertiliser to a standing truck from a loaded boat in the River Jamuna which came all the way from the fertiliser factory situated at Tarakandi in Jamalpur district, (top right) a group of workers engaged in breaking bricks, (bottom left) some fishermen coming back from fishing in the River Jamuna, (bottom right) women do not lack behind as they are emerging as a labour force gradually. Some woman workers carrying sand in baskets on their heads in exchange for Taka 45 only per head as daily wage.

NEWS SNAPS

Clash leaves man dead

UNB, Habiganj

One person was killed and at least 50 others were injured in a violent clash on Thursday in Baniachong upazila under Habiganj district over irrigating rice paddies. Witnesses said the clash took place between the supporters of the lessee of Chakua Beel, Badsha Mia, and villagers of Bogi at about 7 am following long dispute over pumping water from the water-body. During the rioting, Kala Mia, 50, of village Bogi was killed on the spot while at least 50 people suffered injuries.

Critically injured Motaher Mia, 25, and Nurul Huq, 40, were rushed to Habiganj Sadar Hospital. The body was sent to hospital morgue. A tense situation was prevailing in the area over the bloody clash. No case was filed till filing the report at about 7 pm.

Film show begins

UNB, Rangamati

A three-day long film and cartoon show on human rights began in Rangamati on Sunday. Jotinindra Bodhi Pno Larma, chairman of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council, inaugurated the show jointly organised by British Council and the Foreign and Commonwealth office.

Ching Que Roaja, chairman of Rangamati Parbatya Zila Parishad, and Habibur Rahman Habi, municipal chairman, were present at the inaugural function as special guests with Barrister Debashish Roy, chief of Chakma circle, in the chair.



Chairman Gen Secy

Nautical Instt executives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

A new executive committee of the Nautical Institute (UK) Bangladesh branch, was elected in its annual general meeting held at Chittagong port rest house recently.

The newly elected office-bearers include Captain Kamrul Hossain chairman, Captain Mohiuddin Abdul Kadir general secretary and Captain Nazmul Alam treasurer, while the members are Captain M A Rahim, Captain Altafur Rahman, Captain Kazi Kamal Newaz, Captain A M Nasim Khan and Captain M A Malek respectively. The annual general meeting was presided over by the outgoing chairman of the institute Captain Kazi Ali Imam.

Library extended

UNB, Bogra

Aiming at facilitating local readers a new annexed building of Bogra Woodburn Public Library has been constructed at the local municipal park. The newly constructed building on 40 decimal lands was constructed at a cost of Tk one crore, official sources said.

Main Woodburn Public Library on the bank of the River Korotoa was constructed with the initiative of the then District Magistrate and Registrar Henry Russell during the British Rule in 1854. Sources said Woodburn Public Library would be merged with the public library of the town and an announcement in this respect is expected during the inauguration ceremony of the annexed building, which is likely to be held soon. They hoped that after the formal opening of this library it would solve space shortage problems of the local readers.

Brisk business of quacks on

UNB, Kushtia

Treatment facilities in the rural areas of Kushtia district are totally under the grip of quacks who use hawkers for giving publicity over microphone about the efficacy of their medicines in local hat-bazaars. Quacks in every village of Sadar, Bheramara, Mirpur, Daulatpur, Kumarkhali and Khoksa upazilas are found offering treatment to the poor villagers who cannot afford to go to the qualified doctors.

Jobless young men of different areas of Kushtia district have taken up this profession for their bare survival. The main centres of business of the quacks are local hats and bazaars. The apathetic attitude of some dishonest physicians to the poor patients at the Upazila Health Complex and unusual high charge for giving prescriptions compel them to go to the quacks for treatment. The quacks taking advantage of the situation are carrying on their brisk business at the expense of the poor rural people.

Education facilities improve

UNB, Rangamati

Facilities Department of Education Ministry has implemented 25 academic infrastructure development projects in Rangamati hill district costing Tk 5.50 crore in last three years.

Of the projects, 10 were implemented in fiscal 1997-98 at a cost of Tk 1.87 crore and rest 15 projects during the fiscal 1998-99 costing Tk 3.61 crore. The works under the projects included construction of academic buildings of Kachalong Degree College, Rangamati Government Women's College, Jurachhari Government High School, Rangamati Girls High School, Longodu Government High School, Kaptai KRC School and Monghar Residential School, Female Dormitory of Rangamati Government College and Laboratory-cum-Academic Bhaban of Kaptai Sweden Polytechnic Institute. With the implementation of these projects education facilities in Rangamati district have improved to a great extent.