Fresh polarisation ahead of JU polls

STAFF CORRSPONDENT

Fresh polarisation of teachers of Jahangirnagar University (JU) has taken place ahead of election to four JU bodies on November 18.

The hardliner pro-BNP and pro-Jamaat teachers have jointly formed one panel while the liberal pro-BNP and pro-Awami League teachers have floated another panel to contest for 16 posts.

Of them, four for Deans, five for Syndicate, six for Academic Council (AC) and one for Finance Committee (FC).

Vice-Chancellor Prof Jasim Uddin Ahmad and Pro-Vice-Chancellor Prof M Imamuddin lead the first panel while Prof Khandaker Mustahidur Rahman and Prof MA Matin lead the other panel.

Poll will be held at the Teachers' Club from 9.00am to 2.00pm.

A total of 301 teachers are likely to cast their votes to elect 16 representatives.

Candidates of the liberal pro-BNP and pro-AL teachers' panel for deans are Prof Enamul Haq Khan (Arts Faculty), Sheikh Monjurul Haq (Social Science Faculty), Dr Mahmuda Gani Ahmed (Science Faculty) and Prof Abul Khayer (Life Science Faculty).

The panel's candidates for teachers' representatives to Syndicate are Prof Khandaker Mustahidur Rahman (Professor category), Dr Mostafa Firoj (Associate Professor), Mafruhi Sattar (Assistant Professor) and Alamgir Kabir (Lecturer).

Shamsul Alam Selim and Prof Swapan Kumar Dhar of the same panel will contest for provosts' representative to Syndicate and teachers' representative to FC respectively.

Candidates of hardliner pro-BNP and pro-Jamaat teachers' panel for Deans are Prof Khandaker Muzammil Haq (Arts Faculty), Dr Golam Hossain (Social Science Faculty), Prof Rabiul Islam (Science Faculty) and Prof Zahed Uddin Mahmud Khan (Life Science Faculty).

The panel's candidates for teachers' representatives to Syndicate are Prof Mirza Mafizuddin, Dr Enamullah Parvez, Meher Nigar Kabita and Sharif Uddin.

Fahmina Ahmed and Monwar Hossain Bukhari of the same panel will contest for provosts' representative to Syndicate and teachers' representative to FC respectively.

Six candidates from each panel are contesting for six posts in the AC.

Swiss diplomat calls on DU VC

UNB, *Dhaka*

Charge d'Affaires of Switzerland Jurg Casserini paid a courtesy call on Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters of mutual interest, particularly the academic activities of Dhaka University.

They also discussed possibilities of collaborative academic programmes between the DU and the higher educational institutions of Switzerland.

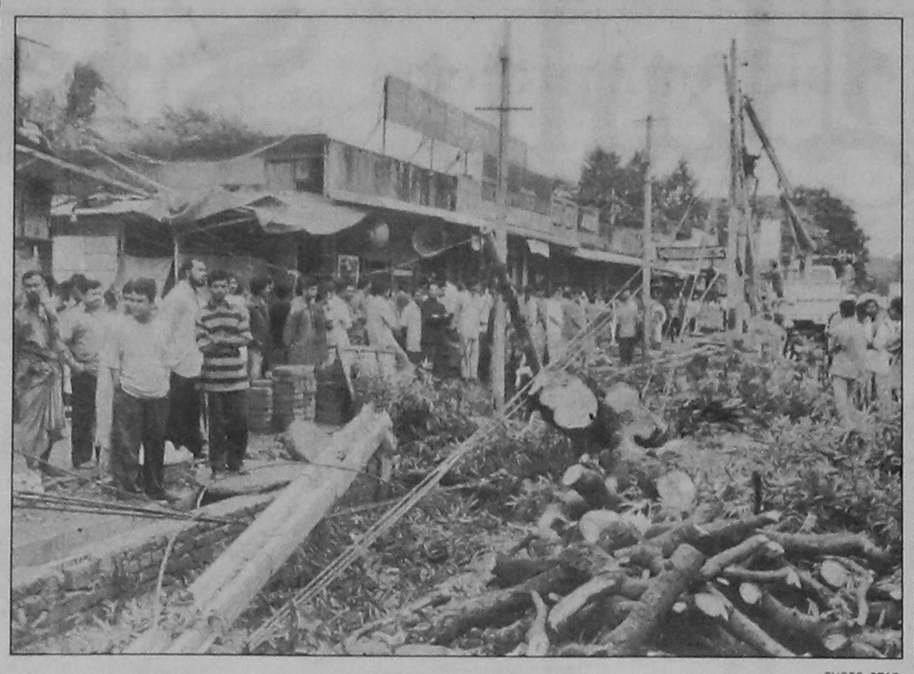

PHOTO: STAR

Strong winds brought down trees and power lines at Nilkhet in the city on Tuesday night.

'Involve local people in flood warning system'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Involvement of local people in flood forecasting and warning system is vital to tackle recurrent floods in the country, said the officials of a pilot project on flood forecasting and warning system yesterday.

They also said flood forecasting messages should be disseminated among the local people regularly to reduce the scale of damage and sufferings during the flood.

The officials revealed the lessons learned from the two-year pilot project at a press briefing at the DRU auditorium yesterday.

The PRIP Trust, an NGO, with the assistance of the government and the DANIDA conducted the project titled 'consolidation and strengthening of flood forecasting and warning services' in Louhajang, a flood-prone upazila in Munshiganj district.

"We got encouraging results from the people-oriented flood forecasting and warning system," said project co-ordinator A R M Saidul Huq.

A large number of people took part in the flood warning exercise and they responded positively, he said.

Executive engineer of Flood Forecasting Centre Mohammad Selim Bhuiyan, DANIDA acting team leader Dr. Fleming Jakobson and PRIP Trust director training M A Rashid also spoke on the occasion.

Selim Bhuiyan noted that the flood forecasting system in the country was heavily dependent on neighbouring India. The country often faces problems in flood forecasting due to lack of information regarding the water level at upstream, he said.

"We could give flood forecasting and warning much ahead if all information was available," he said. Although the situation improved to some extent recently, the system should be strengthened further, he observed.

Project coordinator A R M Saidul Huq briefed the journalists about the activities of the project.

Under the project, status of water level in the Padma was monitored every three hours at two locations in two unions in Louhajang during the monsoon.

Local people were involved in the process through flash committees comprising government officials, local body representatives and NGO workers.

A number of mock drills of warning system were conducted during the project period.

The results of the pilot project would be submitted to the government soon for taking follow-up actions.

BKL demands adequate supply of boro seeds

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Krishak League (BKL) staged a demonstration in the city yesterday demanding adequate supply of boro seeds to the farmers.

But police intercepted a procession of the agitating leaders and activists of the BKL in front of the Awami League office at Bangabandhu Avenue when they tried to march towards the Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) office to stage demonstration there.

A brief scuffle with the police also took place during the police action. The workers also chanted slogans demanding resignation of the agriculture minister.

Earlier, the BKL held a rally at the AL office where former minister and AL presidium member Abdur Razzak MP spoke as chief guest.

Razzak said that the farmers have been suffering most during the rule of the BNP-led coalition government.

Among others, BKL President Haji Rashed Mosharaf and general secretary Harun Ar Rashid also spoke.

Programme for noise-free Dhanmondi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A comprehensive programme has been taken up by the Rate Payers Association (RPA) to help restore peaceful atmosphere of Dhanmondi Residential area in the city.

In a statement yesterday, the RPA said traffic jam, sound hazards and air pollution in the area have reached to an intolerable extent.

In order to reduce traffic jam, the association has urged the authorities of different schools located in the area not to open and close their institutions at the same time. They can arrange separate school-hours through mutual discussion, said a RPA press release.

The statement also urged the school, college and clinic authorities including parents not to use the horn of their vehicles to reduce noise pollution in the area.

The association also expressed its willingness to extend all possible assistance to concerned institutions in maintaining residential atmosphere of Dhanmondi.

World Diabetes Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

World Diabetes Day will be observed in the country today as elsewhere in the world.

This year the theme of day is 'Diabetes is serious risk for eyes: Control Diabetes to avoid the risk of losing eyesight'.

International Diabetes Federation (IDF) declared November 14 as the 'World Diabetes Day' in 1991 and from then the day has been observed in around 140 countries of the world.

The main objective of the day is to create mass awareness about the disease.

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia have given separate messages on the eve of the occasion.

In his message, the president laid emphasis on mass awareness about diabetes and said a diabetic patient can lead a normal life if he remains conscious about it.

The prime minister, in her message, said most of the diabetic patients suffer from complications due to lack of awareness.

Bangladesh Diabetic Samity (BDS) organised a press conference at BIRDEM in the city yesterday to mark the occasion.

Speakers at the press conference said heart, kidney, leg as well as eyes of the patient could be affected if diabetes is not controlled.

They said around 6 per cent of our total population are diabetic patients and 50 per cent of them do not know that they have diabetic disease.

Every body should test their blood and glucose to know whether they have diabetes or not, the speakers added.

Prof A K Azad Khan, secretary general of the BDS presided over the press conference while Dr Selina Ahsan, joint secretary, health and family welfare ministry, Major General (Retd) Prof A R Khan, Registrar of BDS Prof A H Saidur Rahman, Mahabub-uz-zaman, Dr Wazedul Islam Khan and Dr Arup Ratan Chowdhury spoke on the occasion.

The health and family welfare ministry has taken elaborate programmes to observe the day.

These include distribution of posters and leaflets, rally from Shishu park to National Press Club and discussion meeting.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain will attend the discussion as chief guest.

The BDS has also arranged a children's drawing competition tomorrow.

Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television will broadcast special programmes while national dailies will bring out special supplements highlighting the significance of the day.

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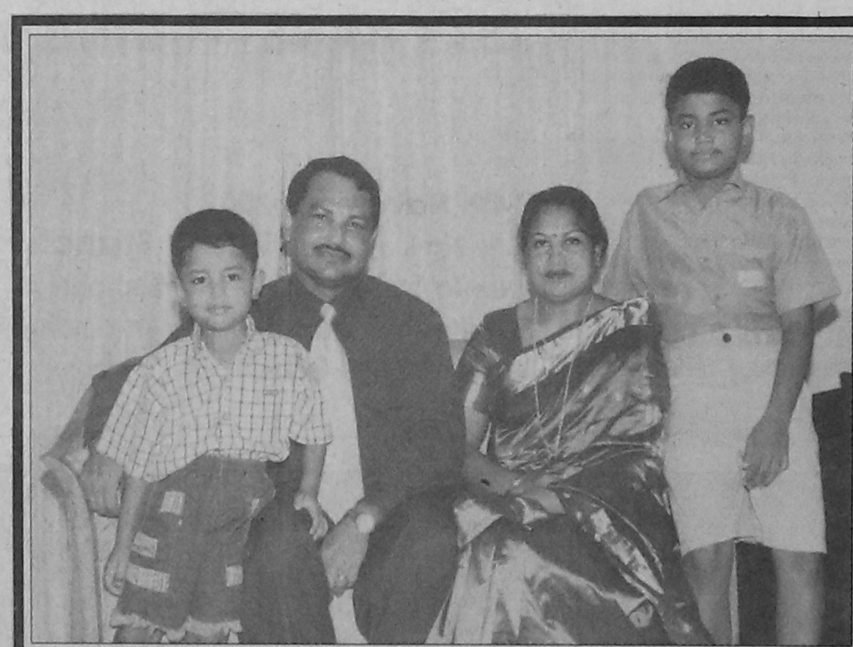

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