

New IU VC, pro-VC and treasurer appointed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Authorities yesterday appointed vice chancellor, pro-vice chancellor and treasurer for Kushtia Islami University (IU), apparently to put an end to the stalemate that the university had been facing for the last two months.

Prof M Alauddin of applied chemistry department has been appointed vice chancellor, Prof Kamal Uddin of economics pro-vice chancellor and Prof Abdus Sattar of applied chemistry treasurer.

Academic and administrative activities of the university were badly hampered as the key posts remained vacant for several weeks.

Examinations at different departments got postponed while publications of results of at least 20 departments were shelved.

Earlier teachers of the university started indefinite strike from Saturday, demanding appointment a new vice chancellor.

BDR jawans clash with smugglers

Goods seized, 1 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) members yesterday opened fire at a gang of smugglers during a clash in Gachhar canal area in Sadar upazila.

The jawans also arrested a smuggler and recovered smuggled goods including Indian saris and imitation ornaments worth Tk 85,000, sources said.

The arrested smuggler is Matiur Rahman Babu, son of Fazar Ali of village Natungao in Tala upazila.

BDR sources said the jawans were attacked by a gang of smugglers as they chased them in the border areas when they were coming with the smuggled goods.

The clash continued for about half an hour and at one stage BDR men opened 12 rounds of fire at the smugglers, sources said.

BDR members in a drive also recovered one kilogram heroin worth Tk 1 crore from a Dhaka-bound night coach near Kazirhat in Kalaroa upazila on Satkhira-Dhaka road Saturday night.

The jawans searched the night coach of Eagle Paribahan and seized the heroin found in a bag kept behind a seat, sources said.

Women demand equal rights, end to violence

Human chains, processions and rallies in districts

STAR NATIONAL DESK

International Women's Day was observed in districts across the country yesterday with a call to join hands for an end to violence against women and ensure their equal rights in all spheres of life.

Various programmes, including rallies, processions, discussion meetings, seminars, cultural functions and

art competitions, marked the day.

Several hundred female students of Rajshahi University yesterday urged the government to implement Women's Development Policy of 1997 to ensure gender equality in the society, reports RU correspondent.

They formed a human chain on the Central Library premises and later held a rally

at the same venue.

Speakers at the rally said democracy cannot be established without ensuring women's rights in the country. They also demanded repeal of 'sun set law' for female students of RU.

The female students urged the progressive forces to stay united against repression on woman and press the government for implementation of

the Women's Development Policy in the country.

Earlier, they brought out a procession that paraded the campus.

Our Staff Correspondent from Khulna reported that Sammonito Nari Samaj arranged a discussion at Umesh Chandra Public Library auditorium in observance of the day.

Speaking at the discussion, KCC Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque said as women account for half of the population, the overall development of the country will not be possible if they lag behind.

He criticised the political parties for not fulfilling their pledge to ensure women's rights as per constitution of the country.

The discussion was followed by a painting contest participated by students from class one to class five.

Leaders of the United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) at a discussion meeting at Khagrachhari yesterday demanded due role of indigenous women in socio-development projects in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

They also urged the government to take necessary steps to protect culture and heritages of 11 ethnic communities living in Khagrachhari, Rangamati and Bandarban hill districts.

Later, several hundred indigenous women took out a procession in the town marking the International Women's Day.

The day was observed in Dinajpur with a call for ensuring equal rights of women in the society.

Different government and non-governmental organisations brought out processions and arranged cultural programme and art competitions at the district and upazila headquarters in observance of the day, according to our correspondent.

Dinajpur deputy commissioner's office, District Women Welfare Department, Rangpur-Dinajpur Rural Service (RDRS), NGO Network and Durbar Network organised the programmes.

Similar programme was also observed in Patuakhali, Pabna, Jhenidah, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Thakurgaon, Tangail, Barisal, Comilla, B'baria, Mymensingh, Jhalakathi, Manikganj and Netrakona.



Protyasha Protibandhi Nari Parishad forms a human chain in front of Rangpur Press Club yesterday demanding six reserved seats in parliament for physically challenged women and ensuring their participation in all local government bodies.

PHOTO: STAR

PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN

Human chains demanding six reserved seats in JS

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Physically challenged women yesterday formed human chains in Rajshahi and Rangpur demanding six reserved seats for them in parliament.

They also urged the government to ensure their representation in all local government bodies, our correspondents report.

In Rajshahi, several hundred physically challenged women formed a human chain at Shaheb Bazar zero point in the city in support of their demand. Protibandhi Nari Odhikar Bikash Sangstha in association with Action on Disability and Development (ADD) organised the programme, according to RU correspondent.

They later took out a pro-

cession in the city and submitted a memorandum containing some other demands to the deputy commissioner. The demands include allocation of Tk 1,500 monthly allowance for each poor physically challenged woman, loan facilities and job security for them, ensuring their social rights and dignity, trial of physically challenged women torture cases in speedy trial tribunal, formation of a new law for their welfare and reserved seats for physically challenged women on buses, trains and launches.

They also submitted the same memorandum to Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton and lawmaker Fazle Hossain Badsha.

Protibandhi Nari Odhikar Bikash Sangstha also

launched mass signature campaign in Rajshahi city and university area in support their demand.

Physically challenged women held a number of programmes at Rangpur district headquarters yesterday to press home their demand for six reserved seats for them in parliament and ensuring their participation in all local government bodies, reports our correspondent.

They formed human chain in front of Rangpur Press Club at 11:00 am, held a discussion meeting at the same venue, launched signature campaign and gave a memorandum to the deputy commissioner.

Protibandhi Nari Parishad in association with Action on Disability and Development (ADD) organised the programmes.

Drug peddler dies in Rab custody

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A 'drug peddler', arrested by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) on Saturday night, allegedly committed suicide by hanging from the ceiling while he was under custody, police said.

Family members of the dead, Md Zohurul Islam, 30, hailing from Sonapur village under Panchbibbi upazila of Joypurhat, however, claimed that Zohurul Islam was tortured to death in Rab custody.

Rab sources said they arrested Zohurul, a drug peddler and wanted criminal of Joypurhat, with 491 bottles of phensidyl from Dugdugi village in Ghoraghat upazila of Dinajpur at 11:00pm on Saturday and recovered 491 bottles of phensidyl from his possession.

Rab officials found his body hanging from the ceiling when Rab men went to serve his breakfast yesterday morning, Rab said, adding that later the body was sent to Joypurhat Sadar Hospital for autopsy after visit by Joypurhat Sadar UNO and a first class magistrate.

When contacted, Major Shah Ali of Joypurhat Rab-5 said the drug peddler hanged himself from the ceiling with his trouser.

Two youths murdered in Rangamati

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Two youths were murdered and another injured seriously in a gang attack in Karnaphuli Paper Mills (KPM) area in Kaptai upazila headquarters early yesterday.

Criminals led by Jasim, Kader and Hukka killed Raju Ahmed, 22, and Hassan, 23, over sharing of booty, Kaptai police said. They were involved in smuggling KPM machinery parts for a long time, police informed.

The killers went to the victims' houses at around 1 am. They called them out and took them to a nearby jungle where they slaughtered them with sharp weapons. Later, the criminals threw the bodies under a culvert.

Raju and Hassan died on the spot but Murad sustained serious injuries whom Kaptai police rescued later and sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

Murad disclosed to police that the three attackers, Jasim, Kader and Hukka, are known to him. A murder case was filed with Kaptai police station accusing the aforesaid three and some unidentified people, police said.



PHOTO: STAR

A doctor and a nurse at Bogra plant clinic examining samples from a diseased guava plant.

Plant clinics make crops healthy, farmers wealthy

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU, Bogra

Farmers in Shajahanpur upazila in Bogra district are reaping benefit as three plant clinics are prescribing them in black and white treatment of plant disease and steps to control insects.

Under rural plant clinic (RPC) project initiated in 2004, Bogra Rural Development Academy (RDA) trained up six local housewives to help identify and suggest remedy for 800 diseases of seasonal crops including paddy and 1200 insects.

These women working at three clinics at Maria, Radhanagar and Rajarampur villages in Amrool union of Shajahanpur upazila give necessary information for cure of plant diseases and show ways to use environment-friendly pesticides in proper dosage.

The first phase of the research project was completed last year with the assistance of Global Plant Clinic at a cost of US\$ 12,500 (around Tk 8 lakh 60 thousand), said Bogra RDA Joint Director AKM Zakaria, also the project director of RPC project.

"We have trained up three women, namely Payara, Anjuara and Afroza, as plant doctors and Aklima, Mahmuda and Rozina as sisters for the three clinics," he said.

"During the last four years, three RPCs, locally known as Palli Foshol Clinics, have provided suggestions to 10,000 farmers about protection of their crops and fruit bearing trees from different diseases and insects. Such initiative for written prescription is the first time in Bangladesh.

"We had maintained a free plant clinics for local farmers for three years after starting the project. Now the

plant doctors are taking Tk 2 to 10 as fee from farmers, considering the nature of diseases and tests.

"The purpose of the project is to reduce the use of chemical pesticides, help applying its proper doses, selecting appropriate pesticides, maintaining environment for human health and set examples of community-based plant clinic model, said Zakaria.

"Survey on the rate of chemical pesticide before and after starting the plant clinics show that the use of chemical pesticides have fallen by five percent in our project area. Health hazards like respiratory problems have also reduced," he said showing report of a survey conducted by Global Plant Clinic UK.

"Brinjal on my 16 decimal land was seriously attacked by some unknown diseases last year. I used several chemical pesticides to protect the vegetable but it failed. Then I went to local plant doctor Payara.

As per her suggestion, I bought some pesticide from an authorised dealer and used it in proper doses. This proved effective and I collected brinjal worth over Tk 18,000 from the damaged field," farmer Khorsheed Alam Ranju of Demajani village said.

Plant doctor Payara said "On completion of training on diagnosis and treatment of diseases and techniques to prevent insects from RDA Bogra four years ago, I started giving prescription to farmers."

There is also a provision for contacting the plant doctor over cell phone for suggestions to protect crops and fruit bearing trees for 24 hours, said plant doctor Afroza.

Dr Eric Boa, chief of Global Plant Clinic UK, conducted a programme to train up a group as plant doctors in Bogra a few months ago.



Office of the CMES (Army) Chittagong

Chittagong Cantonment, Chittagong

Notice for Invitation of Tender

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Defence.
2	Agency	Military Engineer Services.
3	Procuring entity name	CMES (Army) Chittagong.
4	Procuring entity district	Chittagong.
5	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).
6	Budget and source of funds	Revenue Budget and Govt of Bangladesh (GOB).
7	Tender invitation Ref No. & date	4012/99/E-4 date 24-2-2009.
8	Tender publication date	11-03-2009.
9	Tender last selling date	24-3-2009.
10	Tender closing date and time	25-3-2009 at 12.00 hrs.
11	Tender opening date and time	25-3-2009 at 12.30 hrs.
12	Name & address of the office for selling, receiving and opening tender documents	CMES (Army) Chittagong, Chittagong Cantonment.
13	Eligibility of tenderer	MES enlisted 'D' & 'E' class contractors and enlisted with other govt/semi-govt/other organization having security clearance from DGFI.
14	Brief description of goods or works	As per SI/No-17 (a).
15	Brief description of related services	-NA-
16	Price of tender document (Tk)	As shown in SI/No-17 (a).
17	Name of work & location	Tender security in the form of Bank Draft/Pay-Order in favour of CMES (Army) Ctg. Cantt (Tk)
a.	Supply of different materials for electric, water, B/R, F/S, Fan and sanitary works for SDO I/C Dignala Cantt under AGE (Army) Khagrachhari	11,500.00 500.00 01 (one) year
18	Name of official inviting tender	CMES (Army) Chittagong.
19	Designation of official inviting tender	Superintendent Engineer.
20	Address of official inviting tender	Chittagong Cantonment, Chittagong.
21	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel Mil No. 3046 NA NA
22	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.	
23	If the date of selling, submission and opening is disturbed under any unavoidable circumstance, next working day at same time and same place will be applicable for the same respectively.	

Date: 24 Feb 2009
ISPR/Army/09/2093
GD-1189

CMES (Army) Chittagong

'Enact laws to ensure rights of CHT women'

Ching Koai honoured for her 55-yr service to humanity

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Speakers at a discussion marking the International Women's Day yesterday called upon the government to enact laws to ensure equal rights of indigenous women in the hill districts.

Organised at Bandarban Tribal Cultural Institute auditorium, it was attended by former advisor to caretaker government advocate Sultana Kamal.

At the function she handed over Ching Koai Prue Marna 'award of honour' for her 55 years of social work for women and service to humanity.

Chittagong Hill Tracts Women Organisation Network (CHTWN) in cooperation with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) arranged the function.

Ching Koai Prue started serving as a teacher in 1954, when she was 28.

Herself deprived of higher education due to poverty and lack of facilities, Ching Koai got involved in various programmes for development backward people, especially women, in the area.

She is still unmarried and at the age of 83, the dedicated woman continues her social service.

In his keynote paper presented at the function, Mong Kew Sue Nue said CHT indigenous women, especially those belonging to the Buddhist community, are deprived of their rights in absence of laws.

In her address as the chief guest, Sultana Kamal urged the

government to take immediate steps to frame an up to date law for indigenous women in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) to ensure their rights.

Other speakers at the function demanded steps for CHT women's development, especially in education, employment, healthcare and family decision making.

Among others, Bandarban municipality Commissioner Dilip Barua, former woman lawmaker Mya Ma Ching, UNDP gender specialist Tuku Talukder, Vice-Chairman of Bandarban Sadar upazila Shuchitra Tanchangya, Chairperson of CHTWN Daw Nai Prue, Prof Abu Taher Bhuiyan, NGO activists Daw Nai Prue, Jhuma Dewan, were present at the function.

18 houses gutted in Ctg

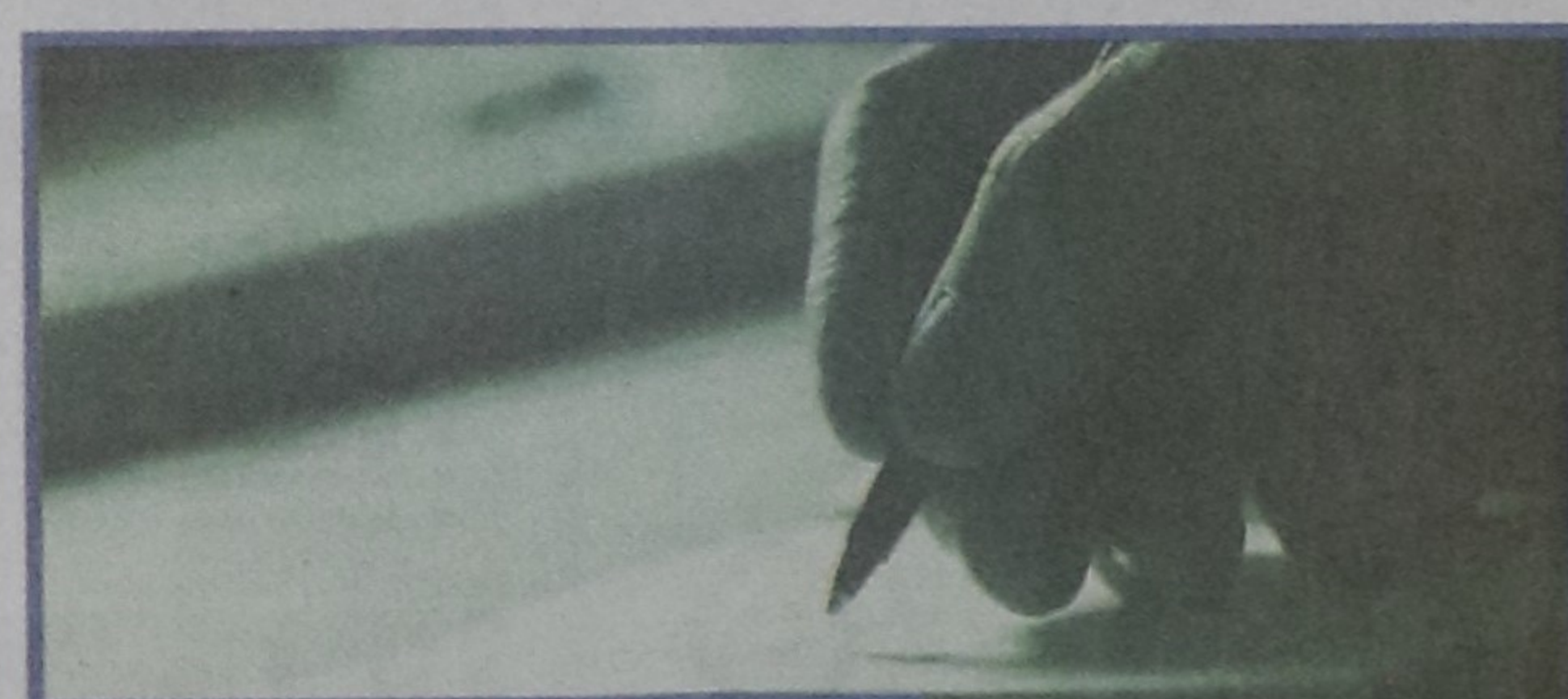
CU CORRESPONDENT

Eighteen dwelling houses were gutted in Bakolia area in Chittagong city yesterday morning.

Originating from short-circuit, the fire broke out at a thatched house owned by Mohammad Alamgir on DC Road at about 9.40am. Soon it engulfed 17 nearby houses.

The loss has been estimated at Tk 3.5 lakh.

Four fire fighting units from nearby fire stations rushed to the spot and extinguished fire after one hour.



Career in Banking

Mercantile Bank Limited, a progressive private commercial bank in Bangladesh with a vision to be the leading financial institution in the country, intends to recruit a few highly capable, skilled, confident and enthusiastic experienced Bankers for Credit / Foreign Exchange departments.

First Assistant Vice President

Post graduate/Graduate degree having minimum 9 years banking experience with adequate working knowledge in Credit and Foreign Exchange of the Bank. Age limit maximum 39 years.

Principal Officer

Post graduate/Graduate degree having minimum 7 years banking experience with adequate working knowledge in Credit and Foreign Exchange of the Bank. Age limit maximum 37 years.

Senior Executive Officer

Post graduate/Graduate degree having minimum 5 years banking experience with adequate working knowledge in Credit and Foreign Exchange of the Bank. Age limit maximum 35 years.

The deserving candidates fulfilling the above criteria may send application/resume incorporating detailed personal information with **contact phone number** and 3 copies of recent passport size attested photographs addressed to the **SVP, Human Resources Division**, Mercantile Bank Limited, Head Office, 61, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka -1000 by **March 31, 2009** in a sealed envelope mentioning the Post applied for. The above criteria may be relaxed for exceptionally deserving Candidate.

Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any application without assigning any reason whatsoever.

মার্কেটব্যান্ক লিমিটেড
Mercantile Bank Limited
efficiency is our strength