Upazila roundup

KISHOREGANJ

90 posts of pry teachers lying vacant

From Our Correspondent

June 29 ! A total of 90 posts of primary school teachers have been lying vacant over the years hampering education of the students in 13 upazilas of Kishoreganj district.

According to an official source out of the vacant posts, 64 are of Headmasters and the rest 26 are assistant teachers. Of the vacant posts, 11 each in Pakundia, Bajitpur and Itna upazilas, 7 each in Kathiadi upazilas, four each in Kishoreganj Sadar and Hossainpur upazilas, two each in Bhairab and Nikli upazilas, 16 in Austagram upazila, nine in , Karimganj upazila, five in Kuliarchar upazila and one in Mitamain upazila.

It deserves mention here that there are 807 government and 181 non-government primary schools in the district where over 2,64,000 students are studying now.

GAIBANDHA

Chadni Bazar Bureau opens

From Our Correspondent

June 29: Gaibandha bureau

of daily Chadni Bazar published from Bogra was formally inaugurated on June 18.

On this occasion, a discussion meeting was held at the local Mohila College auditorium where A.K.M. Monirul Islam. Additional District Magistrate was present as the chief guest. M Zahedur Rahman, Editor of the daily. Maksuder Rahman Khuku, publisher and Dipanker Ghosh were also present as special guests. The meeting was presided over by Gaibandha Bureau chief Gobinda Lal Das.

expenditure rationalisation on

the non-development side for

breaking the fetters of appar-

ent built-in inflexibilities

(which are the legacies of the

fallen authoritarian regime)

could have raised further the

ing the overall budgetary

move on the economic front,

the government announced on

to "encourage investments, in-

without declaration, and rais-

ing the quotas in foreign ex-

change for travels abroad.

While announcing the mea-

sures, the Finance and

Planning Minister observed

that the economy would be de-

controlled as far as possible to

relieve the potential investors

of any harassments and diffi-

culties and boost the badly

needed investment. "Our

economy must match the

global wind of liberalisation to

attract investors both local and

cause the rest of the world,

now moving at a faster pace

towards liberalisation and de-

controls, would not wait for

Bangladesh. It must however

be pointed out that the new

government could not an-

nounce in its first 100 days in

office the industrial policy.

though most groundwork for

the same was completed much

earlier. There is a stronger

case to pursue a well-coordi-

nated policy to promote indus-

trial development more vigor-

ously, side by side with efforts

in stimulating agricultural pro-

duction. Most of the industrial

sector still suffer from lacklus-

ter growth, brought on by ad-

ministrative bottlenecks, dis-

torted tariff and trade struc-

ture, and wasteful rent-seeking

activities including smuggling

or underworld trade. This

heightens the need for com-

pleting deliberation on the

new industrial policy frame-

work and expediting its an-

nouncement. Uncertainties

Such steps are welcome be-

foreign," he stressed.

liance at the earliest.

and, thus, facilitated higher the donors.

NANDAIL

Plan to develop poultry rearing

From Our Correspondent

June 29: Nandatl Livestock Department has set a special drive to develop poultry rearing system at Nandail upazila through motivating the rural people.

In an interview with this correspondent Nurul Islam, the upazila Livestock Officer said that three persons including two females and a young active man from each ward of 12 unions of the upazila will be selected by the department for training on poultry rearing and vaccination to extend the poultry rearing throughout the

SINGAIR

Govt aims at people-oriented uplift schemes

June 29: Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan yesterday said present government was committed to implement the people-oriented development programmes for improving the lot of the people, reports BSS.

He was addressing the conference of the Singair Thana Unit of Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal at the Singair Upazila Parishad.

The Minister said that the government has already taken up some specific welfare programmes in this connection.

The government is going to introduce a new liberal industrial policy soon for the rapid industrialization of the country and creation of more job opportunity for the youth, he

Local Upazila chairman. central and local leaders of the Jubo Dal also addressed the meeting.

now loom large over interest

fluctuations, duty structure,

tariff and other protection, and

blanket import liberalisation

and their likely impact on in-

dustrial operations in the con-

text of conditionalities report-

edly being tagged to industrial

a strong rationale in the pre-

opportunities are gelting thin-

ernment and private sectors

because of a stagnating situa-

burdened with the cost of inef-

ficiency in other sectors. For

agriculture in particular, the

latest announcement of price

hikes for fertilizer by the pub-

lic sector producing units, for

whatever reasons, is certainly

A more vibrant private sec-

tor, to the growth of which the

BNP has made explicit com-

mitments, is indeed necessary

for reducing poverty by gener-

ating employment opportuni-

ties and expanding markets for

goods and services. But this

goal will remain elusive with-

out hard actions for institu

tional innovation, real decen-

tralised participatory planning.

and efficient administration.

Such actions in a country

where 50 per cent of the pop-

ulation are below the poverty

line and 80 per cent of the

people operate in the informal

sector with low level of mon-

etisation, are pending for long.

The BNP's commitments for

the same are yet to be trans-

lated into bold initiatives. Its

first one hundred days in office

did not see any tangible ac-

stressed, will make no sense if

the poor and the disadvan-

taged are not brought from the

periphery to the centre of de-

velopment. If they are not

brought to the centre of devel-

opment, a market-oriented

competitive economy, to

which the BNP is committed.

will by-pass the overwhelming

segment of the country's popu-

Democracy, it must be

tions on this line.

not welcome.

For a democratic govern-

Economic Front

But more serious exercises for rate policies, exchange rate

development expenditures sector credit programmes by

disbursement ratio for about The new government has

six billion dollar aid, already in relaxed the age-limit for new

the pipeline. Or, this would employments of the University

have at least made it possible graduates and post-graduates

for a greater dependence on in view of the chronic problem

domestic resources for meet- of session jams. This move has

deficit, matching the com- sent context but this will

mitments of the new govern- hardly make any operational

ment for attainment of self-re- sense when the employment

June 11 a package of measures tion in the overall economy.

duce new remittances through ment, the most formidable

official channels and plug ille- task on the economic front is

gal transfers of money." The to break the vicious cycle of

incentives come into effect low annual average growth rate

from July 1. These include fa- of 3.8 per cent, as was wit-

cilities for allowing invest- nessed in the last few years.

ments in shares by non-resi- There is now greater consen-

dents including the sus that the most efficient sec-

Bangladeshis, maintenance of tors of the Bangladesh econ-

foreign currency accounts for omy today are agriculture.

both resident and non-resi- dominated by small farmers, dent Bangladeshis, enhancing and small enterprises. And

the limit for import of foreign sustaining their efficiency will exchange into the country be impossible if they are over-

In yet another new policy ner and thinner in both gov-



Universal primary education programme faces a setback. Photo shows children taking lesson under the open air having - Star photo no school building or a shed at a remote village in Noakhali.

Primary schools plagued with problems

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, June 29 Most of the government and non-government primary schools in 13 upazilas of Kishoregani district have been facing manifold problems including shortage of teachers and accommodation, lack of necessary appliances like black boards, chalk, dusters etc., paucity of pure drinking water, shortage of funds, furniture and irregular payment of salary.

According to district primary education department, there are 807 government and 181 non-government primary schools in the district.

The total number of the students, in government schools is 2.35,557 while the non-government schools have 28,288 students. As many as 90 posts of primary teachers have been lying vacant for a long time.

Most of the non-government primary schools established under local initiatives

ment recognitions although these institutions have a good inadequate. number of students and other requisite facilities. Some of these schools were setup before the liberation war and have been running in deplorable condition. Due to fund constraints payment of salary

of the teachers remain irregu-

lar over the years. As a result,

many teachers have already left

their respective institutions in

utter disappointment. On the other hand, the government schools have also been plagued with innumerable problems hampering the very purpose of the Universal Primary Education Programme

to a great extent. Most of the schools have been lacking requisite number of benches. As a result, students are to sit on bricks or mats. In some schools there is not a single chair and the teachers are to sit on benches. The supply of necessary ap-

have not yet received govern- pliances including blackboards, chalk, duster is too

No playground in 90 pc schools

Ninety per cent of the schools do not have playgrounds. Besides, most institutions have no lavatory and urinal except a few schools much to the affliction of the students. Most of these institutions do not have sufficient accommodation and classes of those schools are being held under the open sky but that too becomes impossible during the rainy season.

On the other hand, a good number of schools are running in dilapidated buildings and may collapse at any moment. The roofs of the school buildings soak water even after a slight rainfall which forces the teachers to suspend classes frequently.

Due to shortage of funds the

Farmers apathetic to jute farming From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, June 29: The production target of jute in Jhenidah district is not likely to be achieved this season due to growers' apathy to jute farming and absence of fair

Having been deprived of fair price of jute last year, the growers of Jhenidah district have reduced their acreage of jute cultivation to a great extent. On the other hand prolonged drought in the beginning of sowing jute seeds also forced the farmers to curtail the acreage of jute cultivation n the area.

According to District Agriculture Extension

Victims of terrorism

From Our Correspondent managements are not in a po-

JESSORE, June 29: Altaf (28), one of the six victims of the recent terrorism at Kaudia village succumbed to his injuries on Thursday night at Jessore General Hospital.

Altaf and five members of his family, his father Ismail Biswas (70) and brothers Razzaque (32), Malek (35), Samad Mr.Ilias Ahmed Chowdhury (26) and Nawab Ali (22) were injured when a gang of people led by Ali Hossain of the same village attacked them with axe, ramdao, rod, and other weapons on Friday last.

A case was registered with Kotwali police. One Motiur was arrested in this connection.

People of Kaudia and Natuapara villages have submitted memoranda to the State Minister for Social Welfare and Women Affairs Tariqul Islam, the Deputy Commissioner and the Police Super on Wednesday last demanding exemplary punishment to the miscreants.

Department (AED), a total of 10,000 bales of jute is expected to be produced in 41,500 acres of land in six upazilas of Jhenidan district this season. But only 14,965 acres of land could be brought under the programme as against 32,200 acres last year.

The upazila-wise break up is as follows: Jhenidah Sadar 520 acres, Kaligang 2200 acres, Shailakupa 2270 acres, Kotchandpur 990 acres, Mohespur 7900 acres and Harinakundu 1085 acres.

While talking to some farmers of village Meakundu and Kushabaria they told this correspondent that they had cultivate jute only for ropes and jute sticks to meet up their own requirements as they denied fair prices last year. Sometimes they do not get production cost selling their products, some farmers added.

Notes from Madaripur

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, June 29: To commemorate the death of MP, a milad mahfil was held recently under the auspices of Madaripur district AL in the Party Offfice.

Shah Alam (25) of village Shanmandi under Madaripur Sadar Upazila committed suicide by consuming endrine recently.

It is learnt that he was unable to bear horrible Gangrenous pains.

Arrest of newsmen protested

The District Union of Jatiya Sangbadik Sangstha protested the arrest of three journalists of daily Ajker Kagoj and said it is not merely an act of harassment but also tantamount to an attack on the Press and the journalist community.

In a joint statement, JASAS President, Furkan Ahmed and General Secretary Delwar Dishari urged the government to withdraw the case against Chairman of Editorial Board of the daily and also its Editor and senior correspondent.

Zia's death anniversary

In observance of the 10th death anniversary of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman, Madaripur College unit of JCD arranged a discussion meeting at the college ground recently with Md. Jahandar Ali Jahan in the chair.

The speakers said that it was beyond any controversy that late Ziaur Rahman declared the independence from Kalurghat Radio Station and fought dauntlessly during the liberation war.

The annual conference of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) Madaripur district unit was held recently with Mr. Jhandar Ali in the chair.

A new committee was also elected with Md. Jahandar Ali and Kazi Enamul Haq as President and Secretary respectively.

C' nawabganj

truck labourers union executives From Our Correspondent

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, June 29 : A 13-member Executive Committee of Chapainawabgan Truck and Motor Labourers Union was elected recently. Faziul Karim Shelly and Abdul Khaleque were elected President and Secretary respectively.

Jiniara Khatoon (12) and Asadul (13) of Kailabari village under Shibganj upazila were killed and three others were seriously injured by lightning recently.

One killed in road mishap

Md Kabir, (17), an

Intermediate student of Chapainawabgani Government College was killed when a minibus knocked him from behind near Chapainawabganj upazila complex recently. The driver fled away immediately after the accident. The police seized the bus.

Student drowns

Rezaul Karim, an Intermediate student of Kalitola Lane of Municipal area drowned when he was bathing in the Mahananda river recently. His body was recovered from Akandabaria Ghat, two miles away from the spot after two days of the incident.

Terrorist held

Mojnu (30), a notorious terrorist of Ramchandrapur area under Chapainawabgani Sadar Upazila was apprehended by washed away and over 50,000 the police recently.

Hijackers active in Pabna

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, June 29: Hijackers have become active on roads in Pabna district. In a recent incident Swapan Kumar Karmarker and two other unknown persons were hijacked from Radhanagar area. The hijackers took away Taka 35,000° ple. in cash and gold ornaments worth abut Taka 5000 on gun Indian sarees worth about

Taka 20,000 were seized by Bangladesh Rifles and Dasuria customs with the help of Ishwardi thana police recently from a Kushtia-Pabna service

Dacoits loot Tk 2.80 lakh in Habiganj

HABIGANJ, June 29 Dacoits looted about Taka 2.80 lakh in cash from a small trader in Sadar upazila, police said here today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said a gang of 6-8 dacoits equipped with lethal weapons broke into the house of Matai Mia, a leather-trader of Sultanshi village recently and took away the amount.

The robbers attacked the trader and his family members when they tried to resist.

Jamuna swallows 3 Pabna villages

PABNA, June 29: Three villages of Bera upazila went down the river Jamuna during the last 24 hours ending 6 am today, official sources said, reports UNB.

The villages Rakhsha, Singhashan and Ganapaddiya were lost into the river as erosion took a serious turn with the recession of water in the Jamuna.

About 500 people were rendered homeless as the turbulent river ate up some portions of 11 other villages during the period.

The villages are : Madhupur. Nakalia, Roghunathpur, Puran Varenga, Latifpur, Verakhula, Pechakhula, Nagarbari, Dhalarchar, Taratia and Kalayanpur.

72 FWP schemes completed

PATUAKHALI, June 29: Seventy-two projects under Food for Work Programme (FWP) have been completed in six upazilas of Patuakhali district during the current season, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the government sanctioned about 3,300 metric tons of wheat worth about Taka two crore for the implementation of the projects.

The projects were construction and re-construction of roads, embankments, educational institutions, clearing of bushes and jungles, excavation or re-excavation of canals and development of play-grounds.

Some women smugglers

were caught with sarees wrapped over their bodies. Water level of the Padma at Hardinge Bridge is rising with every passing day creating panie among the nearby peo-

On the other hand incessant rainfall has submerged standing crops on about 20,000 acres of land in four upazilas of the district during the last one week. The affected upazilas are Pabna Sadar, Bera, Santhia and Chatmohor. Besides, low-lying areas were inundated damaging numerous kutcha houses.

Meanwhile, a section of dishonest businessmen is creating artificial scarcity of essentials to earn maximum benefit. As a result, prices of essentials are showing upward

Pipegun recovered

Shujanagar thana police recovered a pipe gun with two rounds of ammunition and arrested Makbul Hossain of vil lage Hudarpara under Tatiban union of Shujanagar upazila re-

A case was filed with Shujanager thana in this connec-

KISHOREGANJ, June 29: Bajitpur police arrested Ashek Ali, ex-Chairman of Maijchar Union Parishad from Sararchar railway station on the charges of dacoity and murder recently.

sition to repair the schools

Shortage of teachers is another

hindrance to proper education

of the students. Besides dearth

of trained teachers has aggra-

vated the problem. Some of

the teachers who are clinging

to their jobs complained that

they were not receiving their

Social leaders expressed

salaries for months together.

the fear that many of the exist

ing schools will face closure

shortly, if remedial measures

are not taken. Moreover, some

of the teachers are not dis-

charging their duties regularly

had been damaged by floods,

storms, cyclones and other

natural calamities during the

last few years have not yet

pealed to the authority con-

cerned to take effective steps

so that the long standing prob-

lems of the primary schools

Ex-Chairman held for

murder, dacoity

From Our Correspondent

are redressed.

The guardians have ap-

been repaired in rural areas.

The primary schools which

as alleged by the guardians.

Police nabbed the ex-Chairman while he was waiting for a Dhaka bownd train at try. Sararchar Railway station. It may be mentioned here that the accused earlier stabbed a boatman Abdus Satter Mir to death recently in the haor near village Chhatirchar in Nikli

away a cash of Taka 2000 from

In the absence of a terminal at Kuliarchar launch ghat hundreds of people have been experiencing much inconveniences in travelling from Kuliarchar to the district town and other places of the coun-

Launch is the only means of communication for the people of the entire haor area and Kuliarchar which serves as a veri table gateway to and from Itna Nikli, Bajitpur, Austagram, upazila of the district and took Karimganj, Bhairab



They have lost everything in the recent cyclone and tidal surge. But the calamity failed to dampen their spirit. These fishermen are knitting nets to start life anew in Cox's Bazar. - Star photo

50,000 Jamalpur fishermen in distress

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, June 29: About fishermen. They are also being ruption in the fishermen co- Melandah. Sarishabari and upazilas of Jamalpur district are not in a position to carry on their ancestral occupation due to non-availability of fishing appliances and necessary

The fish production in the district is on the decline since last one year following price hike of fishing appliances including nets and boats. The situation has aggravated due to past floods that have completely shattered the economic condition of the fishermen. The flood ravaged fishermen were not properly rehabilitated to run their trade afresh, some fishermen alleged. A fishing boat along with a

net in local market is being sold at Taka 1.5 lakh which is beyond the purchasing capacity of the fishermen. The abnormal prices of fishing net, boat and other appliances persisting in the district

50,000 fishermen in seven deprived of government allocation extended to Fishermen Co-operative Societies due to nepotism of local influential Previous beels and hoars

were the main source of fish production but it is declining very fast because of massive siltation, unplanned irrigation and reckless fishing by the non-professionals considerably ffecting the production in the beels and hoars. Meanwhile, a large number

of fishermen has left their profession and has taken other jobs. It may be mentioned here that genuine fishermen previously used to get haors beels and jalmahals on lease but now-a-days a section of fake fishermen in collusion with the vested quarters are taking lease of water bodies.

Despite government proviston, the local fishermen are not being supplied with yarn at fair price due to alleged corhave erippled the professional

operative societies. On the other hand, bank

loan facilities are not adequate to help boost pisciculture in the district. Reports from Jamalpur, Is-

lampur and Melandah upazilas say that fishermen were totally frustrated due to fund constraints and lack of government patronisation. Non-professional fishermen make monopoly business in connivance with the local influential persons while the genuine fishermen are being deprived of minimum facilities.

Erosion continues

Jamuna and Brahmaputra erosion has devoured 1500 houses rendering a large number of people homeless in seven upazilas of Jamalpur district recently.

The affected upazilas are Dewanganj. Bakshiganj. Madarganj, Islampur.

took shelter at Jamalpur, Dewanganj and Sarishabari railway stations and on flood control embankments. The district administration

Sadar upazilas. The victims

has reportedly undertaken measures to rehabilitate the homeless people. The Water Development

Board sources said that, the erosion has now made repair work of the flood control embankment from Bahadurabad ghat to Jagannathganj ghat uncertain. The eroston may even affect the embankment at Nowapara, the source added. During the last floods the

embankment was badly dam-

aged at several points which was supposed to be repaired before monsoon, but it was delayed due to fund constraints. Erosion is continuing unabatedly since last 20 years and 200 square miles area was

people rendered homeless.