

Upazila roundup

Medical college classes from this session

Dec 18: Classes of the proposed Medical College at Faridpur would start in the current academic session (1991-1992), reports BSS.

According to an official source, fifty students will be admitted into the first year MBBS class.

According to Faridpur Medical Assistant Training School (MATTS) source, academic activities will now be held at the existing MATTS campus where various facilities are already available. An official medical education team last week visited the MATTS to see the infrastructure facilities available for Medical College.

It may be mentioned here that government has decided to set up four medical colleges at Faridpur, Khulna, Bogra and Dinajpur in the current financial year.

Campaign for by-election going on

Dec 18: Campaign for the by-election in Bakerganj-5 has been gaining momentum as the polling date (Dec 21) is nearing, reports BSS.

Colourful posters, festoons and wall-writings are witnessed everywhere in the constituency. A triangular fight is expected in this by-election. Nine candidates of different political parties have been contesting the election. Prominent candidates are Mr Fazlul Huq (AL), Mr Majibur Rahman (BNP) and Mr Saikat Hossain (JP).

Meanwhile, election symbols have been allocated to the candidates.

Arrangements have been made to set up 474 booths in 90 polling centers in the area.

A total of 90 Presiding Officers, 474 Assistant Presiding Officers and 948 Polling Officers will be engaged to conduct the election. Total voters in the constituency is 2.50 lakh.

The seat has fallen vacant following the election of Mr Abdur Rahman Biswas as President.

Dacoits blast bomb, 2 killed

Dec 18: Two people including a dacoit were killed and another was injured Friday when a gang of dacoits hurled bombs at the chasing villages, reports UNB.

According to the police, a gang of dacoits armed with sophisticated weapons attacked the house of Keamat Bepari of village Harora in Sadar upazila at dead of night. On hearing the alarm, the villagers rushed to the spot and surrounded the dacoits.

At one stage while the dacoits were fleeing villager Kalmuddin son of Keamuddin caught hold one of the dacoits. The dacoits then hurled bombs at him killing both on the spot. The identity of the dacoit could not be ascertained. Another inmate of the house was also injured in the incident.

The dacoits later tried to snatch away the body of their accomplice but failed. Both the bodies were sent to the Kushiya General Hospital for autopsy.

A case was filed with Kushiya police.

Boro paddy will be cultivated in 50,750 hectares

Dec 18: Boro paddy will be cultivated in 50,750 hectares of land in seven upazilas of Gaibandha district in the current season, reports BSS.

According to an official source, production target has been fixed at 156,525 metric tons.

High yielding variety (HYV) boro will be cultivated in 57,250 hectares and local variety in 1,500 hectares.

The source said 31,520 metric tons of wheat would be produced in 16,000 hectares of land in the district this year.

Potato will be cultivated in 3,000 hectares, pulses in 4,633 hectares, and mustard in 7,000 hectares in the district in the rabi season.

The government has taken adequate measures to supply seeds and fertilizers to the rabi crop growers the district.

Human Rights Day observed

Dec 18: The International Human Rights Day was observed here Tuesday with a call for creating awareness and condition for protection and promotion of human rights for the sake of establishing pure democracy and welfare of mankind, reports UNB.

The Bangladesh Society for Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) organised a seminar on human rights and democracy in the premises of Comilla Press Club.

The seminar was presided over by Delwar Jahid, President BSEHR and Comilla Union of Journalists.

Ali Akbar Masum, Secretary BSEHR of Comilla presented the key note paper while Nazrul Islam Babul, Secretary Comilla Union of Journalists, Abdul Aziz Masud, Khairul Ahsan Manik, Sayed Nurur Rahman, S M Shammim Ahsan, Md Shahidullah, Abul Kashem, S M Masheh Rana and Ziauddin Mahmud took part in the seminar.

The speakers, focused on the violations of human rights and called for evolving ways and means for enforcing the rights of human being in the society.

The President and Secretary of the Comilla Union of Journalists expressed strong resentment at the attack by police on photo journalists in Dhaka recently.

"It birds can be protected. It will not only help promote the generation of birds, but also supplement national income," local experts opined.

They urged the government to take necessary steps in this respect.

Illegal timber trade rampant

Dec 18: Illegal timber trade across the border continues unabated despite anti-smuggling drive launched by the authorities, reports UNB.

Local people said some forest employees are patronising the timber smugglers in the pilferage of the costly construction material from the forest areas.

Timber from this area is carried through the river Balawwar, crossing over several check posts without difficulty, sources close to the local forest office said.

Some timber merchants said they pay Taka 1,000 to the forest employees at the check posts to cross without valid transit pass.

The timber there are transported across the border through Amtali and Betagi upazilas.

One kidnapped by Indians, succumbs to injuries

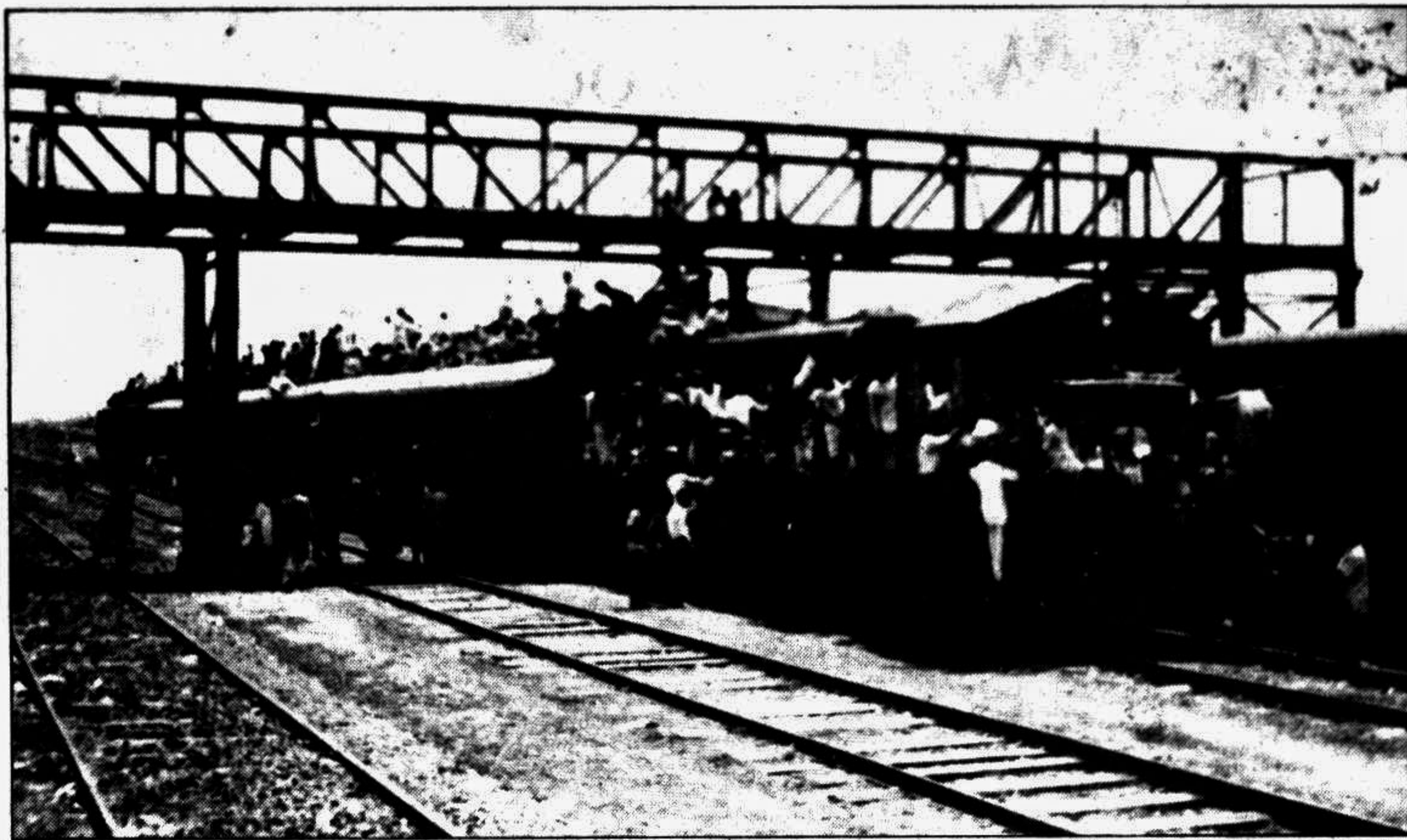
Dec 18: A Bangladeshi national has succumbed to his injuries inflicted on him by some Indian kidnapers Saturday night, reports UNB.

According to information received here, the victim Hulasu (35) of village Gubda of Aditmari upazila was kidnapped by some alleged Indians of border village Kaimari Saturday night.

He was detained in India.

When the victim was trying to flee from his detention, the kidnapper shot arrow at him wounding him seriously.

The BDR personnel of Doorgapur Border Post, during their patrol, recovered him from a field in a critical condition at night and sent him to his base where he died hours later.



Train Journey — This is not the scene during any of the festivals. The local passengers on different routes have to travel on foot-boards, roofs and engine rooms due to shortage of engines and bogies. — Star photo

Over 10,000 tubewells out of order Scarcity of drinking water

JAMALPUR, Dec 18: Acute scarcity of pure drinking water has been prevailing in the rural areas of the district.

The number of tubewells maintained by the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) is quite inadequate to meet the bare requirement of the people, it is learnt.

According to an estimate, about 12,000 tubewells have been sunk so far in the district during the last 15 years. The pump-handles with the head of 6,000 tubewells were stolen in the meantime.

Besides, about 5,000 tubewells are either completely or partially out of order for a long time. Still now, no effective measures have been taken for the repair or reinstallation of the same.

Neither the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) nor the concerned union parishads took any action after repeated complaints, it is disclosed.

Cattle disease

The people of the rural areas have been drinking impure waters for non-repair of tubewells and as a result they are attacked by the water-borne diseases.

Cattle diseases have claimed 500 and have attacked more than 10,000 in the district.

The diseases have broken out in an epidemic form. The people of the locality fears that they would face much difficulties to cultivate their lands.

The diseases locally known as khura, tarkha and badla rogs. The diseases are so serious that the cattle can not eat even.

Most of the cows and buffaloes are dying without treatment as the field workers of the Livestock Department do not visit the affected areas for treatment. The officials say that they had no plan now, it is alleged.

When contacted, the Livestock Department source said that they were aware of the diseases but they had no sufficient medicine or people to combat the situation.

The farmers however managing treatment at their own cost which is quite inadequate to the requirement.

400 people regain eyesight

CHANDPUR, Dec 18: About 400 people have regained their eyesight after operations conducted at five mobile eye camps in the district, reports UNB.

Besides, about 4800 patients were given treatment and provided medicines free of cost in these camps, medical sources said.

Organised by Chandpur Rotary Club in collaboration with local eye camp committee, the camps were held in Chandpur, Matlab, Bherganj and Choudhagram upazilas.

The medical team of the Mazharul Haq BNSB Eye Hospital, Chandpur, led by Dr Sk. Anwar Hossain and Dr Mukit Shafiqul Alam conducted the operations.

About 100 cataract patients were, successfully operated upon at Kalyanpur Family Welfare Centre in Chandpur Sadar and 1200 others were given proper treatment and medicines.

Another 100 cataract patients were successfully operated upon while about 1200 others were given treatment and medicines free of cost at Matlab J B Pilot High School Camp. Other eye camps were held at Tarashal Government Primary School in Choudhagram, Comilla and Rasulganj High

Union Parishad polls drawing nearer Candidates busy with door to door canvass

CHANDPUR, Dec 18: The campaign for the union parishads election is gaining momentum in the district after the declaration of the date of election.

The candidates of the election have already started visiting their respective areas to mobilise support in the coming election. The supporters are gathering at different places of the villages for gaining support.

The supporters of the candidates are moving from door to door of the voters. The candidates are also using their other sources to win the support of the voters.

The incumbent chairman, the defeated candidates of the last election and some new faces are participating in the elections.

According to Election Office sources, election will be held in 75 parishads out of the 89 union parishads in the district. A total of 397 candidates have filed nomination papers for the posts of chairman and 1878 candidates are contesting for the posts of member.

Election camps have also been set up by the candidates in different villages under different upazilas of the district.

The candidates are found more active this year as the government has assured the holding of polls free and fair.

Hand bills, posters and leaflets are being distributed among the voters and these are seen in plenty on the walls, fences and other lucrative points which can attract the voters.

Some candidates have already started using microphones in their canvass and in meeting holding in different places of the concerned areas.

It can be mentioned here that the election authority has not yet distributed the polls symbols among the candidates.

Spurious drugs and medicines have flooded the markets in different upazilas of the district.

It is alleged that worms, flies, and fungus had been found in some of the medicines. A section of medical practitioners are patronising the sub-standard medicines, it is alleged.

Many pharmacies have been selling medicines without any valid licences and the law enforcing agencies are found silent regarding the matter after repeated complaint, it is informed.

The local people urged the concerned authorities to take necessary steps to stop the malpractice in medicine sale.

Sirajgonj

Our correspondent from Sirajgonj adds: Activities on Union Parishads election are gradually reaching to the peak.

In Sirajgonj, election will be held in 78 union parishads out of 79 seats. The Shazadpur Union Parishad has been included under the local pourashava and thus there will be no election there.

It is learnt that a total of 213 candidates including one woman have submitted nomination papers for the posts of chairman and 2006 for the posts of Member in nine upazilas of the district.

The only female candidate, Ashanur Biswas submitted nomination paper for the post of chairman. Daulatpur Union Parishad under Belkuchi Upazila.

The tea-stalls at different bazars, hats and other commercial places have turned into the main places of union parishad polls campaign points.

The candidates and their workers are working round the clock to mobilise support in their favour. Blood relationship, friendship are also being used as ways for collecting votes in the ensuing election.

In the past, the different political parties did not involved themselves in UP polls but in this turn Awami League, BNP, Jamaat and Jatiya Party workers are contesting the polls with the party affiliation, it informed.

With the passage of time the campaign will reach to the highest peak.

Maulvibazar

A UNB reports adds: The campaign for Union Parishad Election is gaining momentum all over the district after the declaration of the date for the election.

The candidates have started visiting their respective areas to persuade the voters to cast their votes in their favour in the ensuing polls. The supporters, workers and relatives of the candidates are also moving from door to door of the voters.

The supporters are usually gathering at the local tea-stall after the sunset.

Informed sources say seriousness in the local elections is derived from the assurance given by the authorities that the election would be free and fair.

Exchange of wives

BRAHMANBARIA, Dec 18: Childhood friendship between two young men of Sadar upazila here led to swapping of their wives and the village community solemnised both the marriages, reports UNB.

Villagers said, Mizan Miah of Monseff Para and Sattar Miah of village Hrasnar maintained their childhood intimacy even after marriage visiting each other every now and then.

Sakhina Begum, wife of Mizan became attracted to Sattar, fell in deep love, left her husband's house one day and got married to Sattar.

Akhena Begum, wife of Sattar settled the score with the help of the villagers and got married to Mizan.

Newsprint output likely to fall

KHULNA, Dec 18: Acute shortage of raw-materials and excessive salinity are hampering normal production at the Khulna Newsprint Mills, reports UNB.

According to a highly placed source, the mill has already incurred a huge loss of Taka 1.10 crore on account of salinity and dredging.

The mill has to fetch sweet water from Faridpur at its own cost. It spends Taka 10 lakh every year for removing siltation from its own ghat where barges carrying wood and other raw-materials are moored.

With the production target set at 49 thousand metric tons this year, the mill needs 4.7 million cubic feet of gewa wood.

But it is apprehended that the target may not be achieved for shortage of fund which forced the mills to buy less than the required quantity of gewa.

The source said that till December 7, this year, a total of 22 thousand metric tons of newsprint has been produced.

A BSS report adds: A seminar on "Significance of Victory Day, independence and democracy" organised by Khulna Divisional Islamic Foundation was held here at the foundation auditorium yesterday to mark the Victory Day.

Additional Divisional Commissioner, Md Yunus Ali, Mr Abdus Salam Khan Pathan, Director Islamic Foundation, Khulna, Md Nazimuddin, Principal, Khulna MM City College and Md Shahidul Islam, Principal, Sundarban Adarshya Mahabidyalaya took part in the discussion. Mr. Monirul Huda presided.

The speakers underscored the need for making the hard-earned independence meaningful so that the people of the country could enjoy its fruits. They opined that after the restoration of democracy scope for improvement of economic condition of the people had improved. They said that time had come to be united to establish a long-cherished exploitation free-society.

Tobacco dust factories hit town people

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 18: At least 2000 people including women and children have been attacked by tuberculosis due to pollution of environment by tobacco dust, reports UNB.

At least 50 tobacco dust preparation factories have been set up in the residential areas of TB Clinic Medical School, Muktijoddha Sangsad Office, Bogra Road and Kandapara. These factories were set up violating government rules.

According to medical to medical science dust of tobacco affects human blood resulting in attack of bronchitis, pneumonia, tuberculosis, ulcer and gastric ulcer. The dust also creates problem to the eye sight.

Beggars on rise in Kishoreganj

KISHOREGANJ, Dec 18: Beggars are on increase in the district and upazila towns and banders. The beggars are creating very much inconveniences to the dwellers of the concerned areas.

The beggars are mostly floating people. Continuous floods, cyclones, drought and erosion the rivers have compelled them to sail for unknown destinations. They come to the towns and bandars in search of work but most of them beg for mere existence.

Having no shelter, the beggars use to stay at railway stations, launch ghats and the verandas of schools and colleges. So they have to respond to the call of nature at open places and that pollutes the environment.

Some dwellers informed that various infectious diseases have been spreading in the town as the beggars are carrying the germs.

Finding no other alternatives, they find some illegal ways to manage their daily food. The young women beggars allegedly choose the profession of prostitutes for mere living. These no doubt increase the corruption and anti-social activities.

The district administration have been urged to take schemes to rehabilitate the uprooted people at the outskirts of the town and help save the dwellers from the inconveniences.

Illegal occupation

Illegal occupation of vast areas of Roads and Highways by a section of people is creating problems both to the government and public.

It is alleged that a section of Roads and Highways officials are involved in the matter and earning money illegally.

Video shows

The exhibition of Indian and blue films by a section of people has become rampant throughout the district.

The exhibitors are mainly video clubs who manages the shows. The young boys are the main spectators. They manage money illegally for the shows and ultimately indulge in anti-social activities.

Some school students used to enjoy the shows leaving their classes.

The town dwellers urged the concerned authorities to take steps to stop such illegal shows.

Inspectors hardly visit schools Pry education faces crisis in Gazipur

GAZIPUR, Dec 18: Primary education in the district is facing serious set-back with multifarious problems affecting the primary institutions, reports UNB.

District Primary Education sources said there are 667 primary schools in the district. Of them, 517 are government and the rest 150 are private schools with an enrolment of 22,814 students. A total of 3091 teachers are working in these schools.

The sources said the teacher-student ratio was 1:74 against the recognised ratio of 1:50 hampering education at the primary level.

A recent survey regarding attendance of the teachers, revealed that the attendance is satisfactory in the schools situated by the side of the high-ways and places connected with good roads with zila and upazila headquarters.

But the situation is reverse in the schools located in the far flung areas connected by bad roads where inspectors can hardly pay surprise visits.

There are six Upazila Education Officers and 28 Assistant Upazila Education Officers to supervise the overall performance of the teachers working in those schools.

Sources said that each of the inspectors have to visit 20 schools in a month and they can visit each school at least 10 times a year but it was observed that they do not visit a schools even once a year.

Absence of subject-wise recruitment of the teachers is another factor causing degradation in the standard of education. There are many madrasa degree holder teachers working in many schools who also teach English.

The school building of 150 government primary schools have become quite unfit for use as they may collapse any time.



RAJSHAHI: A drama workshop. Samakal Natyo Chakra of Rajshahi University (RU) organised it recently. — Star photo