

CPEP in northern districts

Attendance in pry schools increasing gradually

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 26 : The Compulsory Primary Education Programme (CPEP) in 17 selected thanas of 16 northern districts is getting positive response.

The Directorate of Primary Education organised 68 rallies in 60 primary schools which were attended by 29,055 mothers of school going children in the northern zone of the country.

It is learnt that under the Compulsory Primary Education Programme (CPEP), the government primarily took up some selected primary schools of 17 thanas of Sirajganj, Pabna, Bogra, Jaipurhat, Natore, Chapainawabganj, Naogaon, Rangpur, Gaibandha, Nilphamari, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Dinajpur, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh districts.

Programme of mothers' rallies was taken up to motivate the housewives in alleviating illiteracy.

Official sources said that due to the rallies, the attendance in the primary schools has increased to 75.04 per cent from 74.44 per cent earlier. The rate of attendance is increasing gradually. Following success of mother's rally, few more such programmes have been taken up in two primary schools each from 124 thanas in the northern 16 districts.

About 18,000 acres of land have been remaining uncultivated due to acute crisis and abnormally high price of aman paddy saplings in Sirajganj district.

It is learnt that the seed-beds of High Yielding Varieties (HYV) of aman saplings were badly affected by floods rendering the farmers helpless. Besides, some 25,000 acres of aman transplanted land were in undated by the recent flood water in Kazi, Sirajganj Sadar, Belkuchi, Chowdhali, Raiganj, Sahzadpur and Tarash thanas.

At present a 'pon' (80 bundles) of aman saplings are being sold at Taka 200 which is said to be too costly and the marginal farmers can hardly afford to buy at such a price.

In the previous years, same quantity of saplings were sold at Taka 50 only.

Due to monsoon preparation of new saplings is not possible. UNB adds: About 6,523 certificate cases were filed against the farmers in Jamalpur district to realise huge amount of outstanding loan.

About Taka 108.46 crore remained outstanding with the farmers in seven thanas, many of whom rendered homeless on account of the recent erosion by the rivers Jamuna and Old Brahmaputra.

The loans were disbursed among the farmers by various commercial banks to support them in purchasing cattlehead, agricultural equipment and augmenting food production and fish cultivation, official sources said.

Despite repeated reminders, they could not repay their arrears due to acute poverty. Many of the farmers lost all their belongings due to natural disasters including recurrent floodings, local people said.



LOUHAJANG : Md Giasuddin, ex-Chairman of sadar UP and a rice trader distributing rice among the erosion victims of the area. He has so far distributed 100 maunds of rice. It is learnt that no government help has yet been given to the affected people. — Photo by A K M Mohsin

College closed as rival groups clash

NAOGAON, Sept 26 : Naogaon Government College was closed Monday for a week following a clash between rival student groups that left scores of students injured, reports UNB.

College sources said the authorities also asked the students to leave their dormitories to avert further untoward incident on the campus.

Witnesses said the trouble in the college flared up as a sequel to recent bloody clash at Rajshahi University.

One killed in road accident

JESSORE, Sept 26 : One, Zakaria (35) a rickshaw van puller was allegedly killed in a road accident at Bosundia, twelve miles from here Thursday, reports BSS.

A minibus hit him from behind as he stood along the road with his van. Mob put up barricade on the road and barred road communication between Khulna and Jessore for three hours.

The driver of the minibus is absconding. The body has been sent to Jessore hospital for postmortem.

District roundup

BARISAL

Tk 9.98 cr sanctioned for 10 projects

Sept 26 : Taka 9.98 crore have been sanctioned for ten projects in Barisal, Jhalakathi and Pirojpur district under Barisal road division during the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the projects are earth work, haring bond, bridge and culvert, pavement, R C culvert etc. Roads and Highways Department (RHD) will implement the projects.

Of the total, Taka 8.13 crore have been allocated for the construction of 39.8 kilometres earth work, 29.55 kilometres haring bond, 50 bridges and culverts and 39.65 kilometres of pavement and Taka 1.35 crore for repair of two kilometre of earth work, and 7.50 kilometres of road.

Another report says: Police seized 300 grams of hemp and five bottles of phenyl in Vatikhana and Kaunia areas of the town Saturday, a police source said.

Police also arrested two persons.

RAJSHAHI

Acute housing problem

Sept 26 : Housing problem has become acute in the city over the last two years as the population has increased considerably, reports UNB.

But with the increase in population new houses or residential quarters could not be increased due to high prices of land and construction materials. Government has also not taken any step to solve the accommodation problems of its employees.

Many government, non-government and business organisations opened their offices in this metropolitan city. Private houses are being used as offices and residential quarters for them.

Taking advantage of the situation many house owners are charging exorbitant rents for their houses.

M'BAZAR

21.43 lakh cattlehead, poultry birds vaccinated

Sept 26 : The District Livestock Department has vaccinated about 21.43 lakh cattlehead and poultry birds in six thanas in the last fiscal year, says UNB.

According to official sources, it helped reduced the foot and mouth diseases of cattle and 'ranikhet' diseases of poultry birds and increase production.

Usually, the vaccines FMD (foot and mouth disease) for cattle, and RDV (ranikhet disease vaccine) and BCR (baby chicks ranikhet) for adult and baby chicks respectively are given once or twice a year.

Another report says: Police recovered the body of a day labourer from a pond near Kathalkandi area in Kamalganj thana of the district last week.

The dead was identified as Md Kodu Miah (35), a day labourer of Chyghori village under the thana.

Police suspect that the victim was strangled to death. But the motive behind the murder could not be known.

A case has been filed with local police in this connection.

KHULNA

Reception to successful SSC students

Sept 26 : A formal reception was accorded on Thursday to the students who secured positions in the merit list of the SSC examination held under Jessore Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education this year, reports BSS.

Khulna City Corporation organised the reception at the auditorium of the corporation. Fourteen meritorious students including ten females attended the reception. The Mayor of the Khulna City Corporation was present at the chief guest.

Mayor Shaikh Tayyub Rahman distributed prizes among the students.

LALMONIRHAT

Housewife commits suicide

Sept 26 : A housewife allegedly committed suicide by jumping from a running train near outer signal of Lalmonirhat Railway Station, reports UNB.

The dead, identified as Sufia Begum (30) wife of Ahmed Ali of Dauljor village committed suicide on Sept 12 following unbearable abdomen pain and poverty.

Police sources said Sufia Begum jumped from the Lalmonirhat bound 452 down train coming from Burmari.

A case has been filed with the local police.

FARIDPUR

Principal of college receives stab injuries

Sept 26 : Five people, including the Principal of the Rajbari Government College, his wife and son received grievous stab and axe injuries by a group of masked miscreants at Sajjankanda area in Rajbari town on Thursday night, police said here Friday, reports UNB.

Police said three youngmen wearing mask and armed with lethal weapons entered into the house of Principal Ehyia Islam Chowdhury, 55, at Sajjankanda area in the town while the family was watching a weekly TV drama at 9 pm.

The miscreants hit Principal Ehyia, his wife Rabeya Begum, 46, and Associate Professor of the Political Science Department of the same college and their son Ripon, 18, with knife and Chinese axe indiscriminately.

On hearing their hue and cry, Mukshed, 15, a student of class ten of the Rajbari Government School and Santu Mollah, 40, who was visiting local MP Kazi Keramat Ali's residence, a nextdoor neighbour of the principal, rushed to the house and also received knife injuries.

All the injured were admitted to the Rajbari Sadar Hospital and a Mobile OT team including the Civil Surgeon of Faridpur rushed there. They were later shifted to Dhaka for better treatment.

Meanwhile police picked up three people for interrogation but motive behind the attack could not be identified immediately.

A case was filed with the Rajbari sadar thana, but none was arrested yet.

One killed, 7 injured in clashes

RANGPUR, Sept 26 : A woman was killed and three others were injured in a clash over possession of char-land in river Teesta at Nahali union in Gongachara thana of the district on Monday, police said here on Friday, reports UNB.

Feroza Begum (36), was killed when she tried to prevent rival party from occupying the disputed land.

The body was sent to Rangpur Medical College Hospital for autopsy. The injured were admitted to local thana health complex.

A case was filed with Gongachara police station in this connection.

Another report says: Four students of Mithapukur Degree College were injured when alleged Shibirites attacked on a procession brought out on the college campus Tuesday, protesting the killing of Rajshahi University students Jubayer Chowdhury Rimu.

Pro-Awami League, Chhatra League and JSD backed Chhatra League brought out a joint procession on the college campus to protest the gruesome killing of Rimu by the Shibirites on Rajshahi University campus on Sunday.

Unhygienic condition of hotels, restaurants

KISHOREGANJ, Sept 26 : Public health at the district headquarters is being threatened due to unhygienic condition of the hotels and restaurants causing great concern among residents, reports UNB.

Over the years most of the hotels and restaurants at the district headquarters, Bajitpur and Bhairab river port towns have sprung up by the side of lanes and by-lanes haphazardly.

Most of these hotels are dirty. Foodstuffs have been prepared and stored in most unhygienic way. The people who come to the town for various purposes are to eat this and many reported fell ill.

Local people informed that time and again they brought the matter to the concerned authorities but no action has yet been taken in this regard.

Inaction of the poura authorities and district administration in this regard pave the ways of the traders to carry out their illegal business freely.

Local leaders demanded of the district administration to look into the matter for the greater interest of public health.

Alarming rise of

pye dogs

Another report says : Alarming rise of pye dogs in different parts of the district

has become a menace and causing great inconvenience to the people for the last six months.

With the advent of rainy season, the pye dogs have taken shelter in different localities including hats and bazars of the district posing a great problem to the people.

These pye dogs now confined in the highland and mainly in the hats and bazars, frequently bite the people especially the children, local people said.

School going children are the worst sufferers as they are being frightened by the dogs.

On their way to schools, the disturbing creatures follow them in a body. Sometimes, the pye dogs bark at them and try to bite them. Having afraid of dogs bite, most of them are confined to their homes.

Some guardians informed that they can not send their kids alone to school in such a situation. Most of them have to accompany the children while coming and going to schools.

Sometimes, after getting dog bite, people failed to procure ARV to encounter the dreadful consequence due to lack of the essential medicine in the local medicine shops and hospitals.

Notes From Magura

MAGURA, Sept 26 : A day-long workshop on compulsory primary education was held at Sreepur thana auditorium under the auspices of Education Department, reports UNB.

Deputy Commissioner of the district Chandra Sarker attended the function as chief guest.

Speakers at the inaugural function discussed on development of compulsory primary education programme and urged the local people to come forward to make it a success.

The meeting was addressed, among others, by the thana Nirbahi Officers, UP Chairmen, teachers and local elite.

Boy killed in tree fall

A body was killed as a tree fell on him at Kapashhati village in Sadar thana last week.

Family sources said Al Amin (7), son of Mokhesure Rahman was sawing the same tree cutting by others. Suddenly the tree fell on him killing him on the spot on Sept 15.

The body was sent to Sadar Hospital for autopsy and a case was filed with the police.

Another report adds : A worker of a poultry farm at Gopalpara of Sadar thana of the district was electrocuted on Tuesday.

The victim Omar Ali (20) died on the spot when he came in contact with a live electric wire while working in the farm.

20 injured in

road accident

Twenty passengers were injured, six seriously, in an bus accident on Magura-Kumarkhali road at Parnanduli village in Sadar thana last Saturday.

Police said a Khulna bound night coach from Dhaka tumbled into a road side ditch after its driver lost control at midnight on September 18.

Of the injured 10 were admitted to Sadar Hospital. They are Ansar Ali (60), and Humayun Kabir of Jessore, Mamun Ali (34) of Barisal, Uttam Kumar (20) of Patuakhali and Monarajan (30) of Faridpur.

A case was filed with the local police in this connection.

Fugitive accused

arrested

Police arrested a fugitive from Ashba village in Salika thana last Saturday.

The arrested Madan Chandra Mandal (55) of Dhane-shwargati village in the thana was a convict and has been wanted by police for long.

Tk 4.62 crore for post flood agri rehabilitation

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Sept 26 : A total of Taka four crore 62 lakh 52 thousand has been sanctioned by the government for executing the post-flood agricultural rehabilitation programme in four districts of greater Sylhet region during the current year.

An official source informed this correspondent that, the programme was taken up with a view to recouping the huge loss caused by the devastating floods in the region this year. Of the total amount sanctioned, Taka one crore 53 lakh had been sanctioned for 11 thanas under Sylhet district, Taka 95 lakh 35 thousand for six thanas under Habiganj district, Taka one crore three lakh 98 thousand for six thanas under Moulvibazar district and Taka one crore nine lakh 20 thousand for 11 thanas under Sunamganj district, the source added.

Implementation of the programme had already been started in all the district, the source further informed.

Another report says : Indian smuggled goods worth over Taka three lakh were seized by the police of Sylhet Kotwali thana recently.

According to an official source, a contingent of police and officials of Customs

Excise and servellence headed by class I Magistrate, Jahangir Hossain Chowdhury, swooped on two engine boats carrying the smuggled goods like 4500 kilograms of sugar, 1485 kilograms of chilli and 2600 safety match boxes and seized goods alongwith the boats from the river Surma. The men on the boat, however, managed to swing and escape. The total value of the seized goods and boats had been estimated to be about Taka three lakh 45 thousand, informed an official source.

Preparation to observe world aboriginal year

SHERPUR, Sept 26 : The Sherpur sadar thana unit of the Tribal Welfare Association held a meeting here recently in connection with the observance of the international aboriginal year, reports BSS.

Dinesh Simsang, Acting Chairman of the Tribal Welfare Association (TWA) presided over the meeting. Promode Mankhin MP and Abdur Razzaque Ashish Chairman, Sherpur Paurashava were among those who spoke on the occasion.

A large number of tribals attended the meeting.

Help establish national consensus for uplift

CHITTAGONG, Sept 26 : Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Abdullah-Al-Noman said here on Friday that the BNP government was striving to establish a national consensus for accelerating the democratic process, reports BSS.

Participating at a seminar as chief guest the minister said it was Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman who fought for establishing a national consensus among the people for national prosperity.

The seminar, "Flourishment of newspapers in a democratic system and right to know information" was held at the city corporation auditorium here with editor of the Itihad Mainuddin Kaderi Sawkat in the chair.

Held under the auspices of Purbanchally Sangbadpatri Parishad, the seminar was participated among others by President of Federal Union of

Journalists (BFUJ) Gias Kamal Chowdhury, BFUJ General Secretary Amanullah Kabir, Managing Editor of the Daily Azadi M A Malek, president of Chittagong Union of Journalists Nazir Ahmed, journalists Mainul Alam, Mohammad Muslen Khan, and Fazley Rabbi.

The convenor of the parishad and the president of the seminar Mainuddin Kaderi Sawkat presented the main paper.

The environment minister said in a democratic society it was fundamental rights of the people to know the information.

Referring to the distribution of advertisements, the minister said present government was equally distributing government advertisements but some newspapers are not getting equal allocation because of increase number of newspapers in the country.

Solution to water-logging problem sought

COMILLA, Sept 26 : A vast area of south Kotwali remains water logged for several years causing untold suffering to the farmers, reports UNB.

Local farmers time and again urged the authorities to make necessary arrangements to bring the hundreds of acres of these lands under cultivation, but no step has yet been taken in this regard.

The South Comilla Biplobi Banya Protirodh Committee in a rally at Sikerpur bazar on Tuesday called upon the concerned authorities to take immediate measures for water outlet of the area to enable them to bring the land under cultivation.

Addressing the rally as chief guest Principal Abul Kalam Majumdar, ex-MP, stressed the need for permanent solution to the problem. He said with the reclamation of the land thousands of tons of crops will be produced in the south Kotwali area.

Presided over by Hakim Ali,

it was also addressed by Golam Zilani, Salauddin Ahmed, Abdul Majid Majumdar, Ali Taher Majumdar, Rustam Ali Malsahan, Ali Akkas and Manirul Haq.

The speakers demanded stoppage of the construction of the sluice gate at Sreemantapur which will be of no use for the permanent solution to the problem.

Public library executives

Advocate Bazlur Rahman and Zahurul Haq Dulal were elected Vice President and General Secretary respectively of the Executive Committee of Birchandra Public Library and town-hall last Saturday.

Deputy Commissioner, Comilla is the ex-officio President. Advocate Zahurul Islam Shelim and Paura Commissioner Zamiruddin Khan Jampi were elected Assistant Secretaries.

Comilla Paurashava distributed Taka 1.85 lakhs as loan among 94 destitute women of three slum areas under Slum Development Scheme.

The loans were distributed by Chairman, Comilla Paurashava Kamaluddin Chowdhury in a function held on the occasion last Saturday (September 18).

The loan facilities were extended as a step to make the slum dwellers self-reliant. The recipients of the credit were from Katabael, Kashwaripatty and Moulavipara slum areas.

Among others the function was addressed by Shafiqul Islam Bhuiyan, Shalim Munshi, Hoshan Mia.

One killed in road accident

A boy was killed when a speeding jeep knocked him down on Comilla-Laksam road at Shaktala Tuesday.

The victim identified as

Anwar Hussain (11) of village Shaktala died on way to hospital.

Witnesses said the killer jeep hit the boy in its attempt to evade a bus parked at the place of occurrence.

Ten injured in road mishap

Ten passengers including a newlywed couple were injured when a tempo carrying a bridal party turned turtle near Viralla in Comilla-Sylhet road on Monday.

Bride Minara Begum (16) and Birdroom Khorshed Alam (20) along with five others were admitted into Devidwar hospital.

The bridal party was returning after the ceremony in a over loaded tempo when it turned turtle near Viralla.

Cash and ornaments of the bride worth Taka 40,000 were looted when local people came to rescue the victims, the passengers said.

Primary school going children decreasing in rural areas

NARAIL, Sept 26 : Number of primary school going children is decreasing in remote areas of the district due to acute poverty resulting in drop outs from schools, reports UNB.

According to a study a large number of children between age 8-12 are engaged in different petty jobs to earn their livelihood instead of going to school.

Landless and poverty stricken farmers prefer to engaged their kids in jobs instead of sending them to school, the study revealed. The children are compelled to take up odd jobs like cattle grazing, rickshaw pulling and hotel boys at a poor remuneration.

Most of the marginal and landless farmers in the district have to run a family of six members or more and can not afford educational expenses of their kids. Finding no other al-

ternatives they encourage their children to take up jobs.

During harvesting season, a good number of land labourers along with their kids migrate to other places in search of work.

As a result, the primary schools in remote areas are facing acute shortage of students and the problem is being intensified day by day.

Another report from Maulavibazar adds: Twenty-two registered non-government with be reconstructed under the Registered Primary School Development Scheme in the district.

A sum of Taka 92.40 lakh has been sanctioned for the implementation of the scheme.

These schools were damaged due to natural calamities like flood, storm and cyclone long ago.