

80 pc primary schools gripped with problems

MADARIPUR, July 20: About 80 per cent government primary schools and almost all the non-government ones in seven thanas are beset with manifold problems hindering the universal primary education programme in the district, reports UNB.

A total of 104 government registered primary schools have not yet allegedly received any financial grant. Most of these schools do not have adequate furniture, accommodation and other educational appliances to cope with the increasing number of students.

The schools which were damaged by the devastating flood, cyclone and erosion in the last few years have not yet repaired. The repairing works of the selected schools are also not satisfactory, local people alleged.

Besides, shortage of teachers and lack of accommodation have aggravated the situation. In some areas classes are being held under the open sky and during the rainy season suffering of the pupils go beyond description.

Most of these schools do not have any tubewells and sanitary latrines. In addition, the teachers do not come to the schools regularly and some attend for only an hour or two. Most of them have kept themselves engaged in other business, it is alleged.

The local people urged the authorities to look into the matter and take necessary steps to solve the problems to

pave the way for the successful implementation of the universal primary education programme in the district.

The number of women labourers is on rise in the district town in the recent days.

According to social welfare and labour leaders, these poor women, including unmarried girls and divorcees, are compelled to take odd jobs to earn their livelihood. Torture for dowry and pressing unemployment are the main reasons for the village women to set out for the town with the hope of getting jobs to maintain their livelihood.

They are seen husking paddy, working in the brickfields, taking part in earth digging and serving as maid servants.

Moreover, recurrent floodings, drought and other natural calamities in the last few years have damaged crops in the district affecting the small and marginal farmers adversely. As a result, many families have been rendered destitute.

It is alleged that finding no job opportunities some young women are engaged in immoral activities vitiating the serene atmosphere. After the sun set they are seen roaming at the station areas and cinema halls to allure the customers.

Local elite have urged the government to take schemes to rehabilitate the floating women at the outskirts of the town and arrange vocational training for them so that they can lead a decent life.

'Hons, master's degree courses in govt colleges planned'

NAOGAON, July 20: Government has undertaken a programme to introduce honours and master's degree courses in the government college for expansion of higher education, reports UNB.

This was disclosed by Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar while speaking as chief guest at the installation ceremony of students union of Naogaon Government Degree College here recently.

The minister called upon the students to put their efforts for giving institutional shape to democracy through establishing rule of law in the country.

Presided over by the Principal of the college, the function was addressed by State Minister for Establishment Barrister Aminul Haq, and local MP Samsuddin Ahmed.

Sircar said government has give highest priority to education sector for strengthening the foundation of democracy and achieving national development.

He said national university has been established to restore academic discipline in the campus through eradicating session jam.

Addressing as special guest State Minister for Establishment Barrister Aminul Haq said, the government has taken epoch making programme for eradicating illiteracy from the country.

He called upon the students to maintain academic atmosphere in the campus through resisting violence and all evil designs.

Six commit suicide on same day in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, July 20: Six persons committed suicide on same day in Jhenidah district recently.

According to reports, Sajeda Khatun (17) of village Parnandul and Hasna Khatun (20) of village Saheb Nagar in Jhenidah thana, Mahrinnessa (15) of village Shyampur and Buddhi Khatun (17) of village Abaipur in Salkupa thana, Manwara Khatun (18) of village Jhingpara in Harinakundu thana and Sabina Khatun (20) of Bus Standpara in Kotchandpur thana committed suicide.

Acute colic pain were the causes of their suicide. It was noted with police but family troubles were mainly responsible for the same, it was learnt.

Separate UD case were filed with respective thanas in this connection.

School boys missing

SIRAJGANJ, July 20: Three school boys of the district headquarters were reported missing since Wednesday, police said here Friday, reports UNB.

They are, Rezaul Karim Swapan 13, son of Motahar Ali, Sajid Rahman, 12, son of Eusuf Ali and Md Nazmul Huda 12, son of Iftekhar Azam of Duita Bari area in the town.

All of them are students of class VIII. Rezaul and Nazmul are students of Railway Colony High School and Sajid of B L Government School.

The boys were missing since they set out together for school on Wednesday.

Later, several search parties looked for the boys but their whereabouts could not be traced, family sources said.

Mahbubul Alam, brother of Sajid Rahman, filed a case Friday morning with sadar thana.

Police suspect that the boys might have fallen victims in the hands of traffickers.

Number of beggars on rise in Cox's Bazar

From Our Correspondent July 20: Beggars are on the rise in Cox's Bazar town and thana sadar creating much inconveniences to the dwellers.

The beggars mostly floating people affected by the natural calamities are coming to the town in large number specially from the districts of Noakhali, Feni, Rangpur, Barisal, Comilla and Laximpur with the hope of better earnings.

Town-dwellers complained that with their influx, various infectious diseases have broken out in the town. These destitute people regularly respond to nature's call in open drains and road sides polluting the environment.

It is alleged that some women beggars have allegedly resorted to prostitution.

The district administration has been urged to take a scheme for their rehabilitation at the outskirts of the town and save the dwellers from inconveniences.

BKB lodges 8,955 certificate cases in 11 southern districts

BARISAL, July 20: Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) has lodged 8,955 certificate cases against defaulter loanees up to April '94 to realise 27,51,51,000 taka as outstanding agri-loan in eleven southern districts under Barisal zone.

According to BKB divisional office sources, the total outstanding loan amounting Tk 297 crore 28 lakh is still remaining outstanding to 3,09,548 loanees in these districts of which defaulters are 1,20,000 farmers.

Target of disbursement was Tk 86.30 crore, achievement of which was Tk 67.21 crore during '93-'94 financial year. Besides, target of realisation was fixed at 70 crore but achievement was 57.37 crore during that time, the sources said.

Districtwise breakup of certificate cases lodged to realise outstanding loans as in Barisal 1259 cases to realise

Taka 2,19,44,000, in Bhola 758 cases for Tk 3,90,45,000, in Peropur 719 cases for Tk 1,34,07,000, in Jhalakathi 867 cases for Tk 2,98,82,000, in Patuakhali 369 cases for Tk 80,57,000, in Borguna 385 cases for Tk 63,44,000, in Faridpur 915 cases for Tk 4,03,17,000, in Gopalganj 883 cases for Tk 3,31,74,000, in Madaripur 1225 cases for Tk 4,11,66,000, in Saripatpur 864 cases for Tk 1,92,14,000 and in Rajbari 711 cases to realise Tk 2,26,01,000.

Ganja plantation on rise in rural areas of Jamalpur

JAMALPUR, July 20: Ganja plantation in different villages of Malandah and Dewanganj thana has increased for last few years.

A reliable source said that about 4000 acres of land are now under illegal ganja cultivation in 55 villages at Durgora, Hatibandah, Bahadurabad, Parampur, Bagarchar, Chikajani and Char Amkhaya unions under Dewanganj thana, Shihuri, Fulkucha, Jugipara, Rajapur, Kulia, Durmut villages under Melandah thana during the current year.

The source said that four kg of ganja is produced from a

plant and per kg of ganja is selling at Taka 2,500 to 3,500.

Ganja is being transported to Dhaka, Mymensingh, Barga, Pabna, Serajganj, Rangpur, Tangail, Rajshahi, Khulna, Chittagong and other parts at the country.

Melandah thana police led by inspector Serajul Islam, SI M A Khayer, SI Mahfujur Rahman recovered 100 ganja plants from village Shihuri here recently.

The Narcotics and Liquor Department, Jamalpur, recently seized some ganja plant. From Dewanj thana, local people alleged that the ganja culti-

vators have been paying money regularly to the staff of the Narcotics Department and are continuing the illegal cultivation in a large-scale.

Illegal sale of liquor is going on in different areas of the district town and other places of the thana towns of the district.

A number of stationary and grocery shops in the district and different market areas of the district are selling ganja and liquor illegally, it is alleged.

Some consumers alleged that the sellers of ganja and liquor are charging exorbitant prices. A good number of gentlemen, customers are found waiting in corners to procure the same and there are so-called waiters to supply the goods.

The number of such unauthorised wine and ganja shops is increasing in the district. As a result, anti-social activities are increasing day by day.

Recently, a powerful task force headed by Jalal Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner was formed to control and eliminate ganja plantation in the district.

The elite of the district have urged the concerned higher authorities to enforce the anti-drug law to halt the consumption of ganja and liquor without further delay.



JAMALPUR: Melandah thana police recovered 100 ganja plants recently from Shihuri village. — Star photo

Train services irregular in Chuadanga, Khulna

CHUADANGA, July 20: The train passengers of Chuadanga-Khulna, Chuadanga-Ishwardi, Chuadanga-Goalonda and Darasana-Paradah section are facing immense difficulties owing to irregular train services and negligence of the railway staff. Most of the trains also run late.

According to passengers the number of trains in these sections are very few. The number of compartments in each train is meagre to cope with the rush of passengers.

The number of passengers travelling without tickets has increased in recent days in these lines causing difficulties to the genuine passengers.

Sometimes trains lack first and second class compartments creating inconveniences for the upper class passengers.

On the otherhand compartments are not kept clean and sometimes water is not available in the latrines. The door of many latrines in the inter-city, local and express trains are found broken. The toilets have no electricity and the fans remain out of order in most of the times.

Some unscrupulous railway staff members are involved in stealing of lights, fans and other valuables, it is also alleged.

All the third class compartments both in local and express trains have been made second class compartment but

the amenities are not enhanced.

Waiting rooms in most of the stations in the said train routes have no proper sitting arrangements for the passengers. The waiting rooms in almost all the stations of this section are in a pitiable condition and remain dirty. Most of the time these are found under lock and key.

No time table

The trains running on these routes do not maintain any timetable. In most cases the trains arrive and leave the stations behind the schedule time. As a result the passengers particularly those who have to attend schools, colleges and offices are to suffer much.

Regional resource centre of BOU to be opened in Bogra July 24

The second regional resource centre of Bangladesh Open University (BOU) will be opened at Bogra on July 24, says a press release.

Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar will be the chief guest at the inaugural function while Vice-Chancellor Dr M Shamsheer Ali will preside.

It is further alleged that some corrupt railway employees are allowing a section of passengers to travel without tickets after taking illegal gratifications from them and thus depriving the government revenues.

There is no permanent arrangements to clean the platforms of the stations of these rail routes.

Besides in the absence of power supply to the compartments as well as the stations anti-social elements carry on their heinous activities.

Ticket-counters open late

It is also alleged that booking counters start functioning just a few minutes before the arrival of the train following which many passengers fail to purchase tickets in time causing loss to the railway authority.

Besides shortage of railway slippers and ballasts, nut-bolts, stones, partly damaged bridges and culverts, single rail-lines, corrupt railway administrations, old railtracks, stopping of passengers trains by the smugglers by pulling chains, overcrowding of the passengers in the compartments which cause the undue delay of trains.

It is alleged that ticket checkers are too inadequate to cope with the rising passengers travelling in the trains.

District roundup

PATUAKHALI

Shortage of postal stamps

July 20: High-priced postage stamps have fallen short in rural and urban post offices of the district causing much inconveniences to the people, reports UNB.

Postal officials said due to non-availability of high-priced postages from the higher office, the shortage has cropped up at some post offices of the district.

It is, however, reported that low-priced postages are available in all the post offices.

Local people said that their suffering added further as many of them have been facing inconveniences in sending their parcels and letters.

They urged the concerned authorities to look into the matter and take immediate steps so that high-priced postage stamps are readily available in all post offices of the district.

SATKHIRA

Foreign cinema films seized

July 20: Bangladesh Rifles seized foreign cinema films worth about Tk 5 lakh while being brought into Bangla-desh territory illegally recently, reports UNB.

A patrol party of BDR at Madra border post saw two large boxes were being carried by two people from the other side of the border. When challenged, they fled the scene leaving the boxes containing the films.

The films have been deposited with the local customs office and a case has been filed with the police.

Mentionable that violent and obscene films are being brought into the country by a section of unscrupulous traders which are being shown in various cinema halls. Owners of VCP and VCR are also seen showing these obscene films on commercial basis in certain parts of the town and other areas of the district with the collaboration of some dishonest officials.

Local elite time and again demanded of the authorities to stop showing of these films but no action has yet been taken in this regard.

BARISAL

Certificate course on English to be introduced

July 20: A six-month certificate course for English language will be introduced to three government university colleges under Barisal Division from this academic session, reports BSS.

According to an official source, government Brojomohan University College of Barisal, Patuakhali Government University College and Bhola Government College will introduce this course.

The source said that twenty-seven colleges will introduce such course throughout the country.

Students having SSC certificates or higher diplomas will be eligible to get themselves admitted into this course, the source said.

KISHOREGANJ

Cattle-lifting rampant

July 20: Rampant cattle lifting has created panic among the poor farmers of the district, reports UNB.

According to farmers 18 cows were stolen from Sadar, Hossainpur, Katiadi, Karinganj, Pakundia and Tarail thanas during last one month.

The lifters often demand ransom for the stolen cows and in case non realisation of the money they kill the cow. Many farmers said they have become destitutes as their cows were stolen by the lifters. The poor farmers said they have been forced to keep their land fallow as they could not afford to buy new bullocks.

They said they are to pass their sleepless nights at the cow-sheds protecting their cows. They said an well organised gang is active in the district who are lifting cows from various parts of the district almost every day.

They urged the authorities to take immediate steps to nab the cow lifters and give them exemplary punishment.

NETRAKONA

Installation ceremony held

July 20: The installation ceremony of newly elected office bearers of Bangladesh Diploma Medical Association Netrakona District unit was held at the conference room of Netrakona Press Club here recently, reports BSS.

Civil Surgeon Netrakona Dr Abu Mohammed Hasan and Deputy Director of Family Planning Department Netrakona attended the ceremony.

The function was presided over by Dr A K M Golam Robbani President of Netrakona Unit Of Diploma Medical Association.

C'NAWABGANJ

Over 600 suffer from heart disease

July 20: Over 600 people of five thanas of the district have been suffering from heart disease, medical sources said, reports UNB.

Unofficial sources said about 300 people died of the disease during the last four years.

The facilities for treatment of heart disease is very poor. There are a little specialists and equipment in the district. A few number of affluent patients used to go to Dhaka for treatment.

Mental threat, high blood pressure, eating of excess rich diet, smoking and rise in blood cholesterol are the main cause behind the disease, doctors said.

Local elite said steps should be taken to set up heart disease hospital and clinics in the district to avail the treatment facilities without cost involvement.

RANGPUR

196 distressed families rehabilitated

From Our Correspondent RANGPUR, July 20: At least one hundred and ninety-six distressed families have been rehabilitated in two newly constructed ideal villages in the district.

Of these, one is situated at Rostomabad village under Badarganj thana, in which one hundred distressed families were rehabilitated.

The other one is at Saran mauja in Mithapukur thana, in which 96 distressed families were rehabilitated.

Two community centres have also been constructed in these ideal villages at a cost of Taka ninety thousand each.

The EEC and the relief and rehabilitation department of the country have jointly provided required funds towards construction of these ideal villages.

SUNAMGANJ

253 die of malaria in five months

July 20: Some 253 people died of malaria in Sunamganj district in last five months, official sources said, reports UNB.

Of them, 192 died in Tahirpur, 57 in Dharam-pasha and 4 in Bishwam-barpur thana. The disease broke out in January this year.

Unofficial sources, however, claimed over 500 people died and about 5000 were attacked during the period.

About 1400 mosquito nets absorbed with mosquito killer medicine Deltamethon have been distributed in the badly affected area of Tahirpur thana from May.

Representative of World Health Organisation Dr Richard Manteanary and Assistant Director of the Directorate of Health Dr Kanak Ranjan Talukder have been staying in the thana.

The disease has also broken out in Netrakona, Khagachhari, Bandarban, Rangamat and Chittagong district in an alarming proportion.

COMILLA

Mobile court to check traffic jam

July 20: Local administration has decided to deploy mobile courts in the town to help check traffic jam and remove unauthorised footpath shops, reports UNB.

The decision was taken at a law and order committee meeting held recently, official sources said.

They said a large number rickshaws and their indiscriminate parking and illegal occupation of footpaths by the vendors create traffic jam in the town endan-gering lives of the pedestrians.

Some 8,000 rickshaws are plying in the town with licence, but the town dwellers alleged that the actual number of rickshaws plying in the town would be much higher.

A large number of rickshaws having licence for 10 miles from the adjoining areas are also pouring into the town making the situation more worse.

The meeting decided to earmark the parking areas, particularly in the busy commercial parts of the town and planned to strictly enforce the traffic laws.

Matsya Bhaban opens in Jessore

Fisheries sector has gained momentum : Noman

JESSORE, July 20: Institutional infrastructure is very important to increase professional skill and speed up the implementation of different development programmes, said Minister For Fisheries and Livestock Abdulla-al-Noman, reports UNB.

He was addressing as chief guest at the inaugural function of the district Fisheries Administrative Building here Friday. Minister for Post and Telecommunications Tariqul Islam was also present on the occasion.

Noman said the fisheries sector now gained momentum as the planned pisciculture has increased in the country.

"The present democratic government has taken massive programmes to provide infrastructural facilities for the expansion of pisciculture in the country and to create great enthusiasm among the people for this purpose," he said.

The minister also said the inauguration of the Matsya Bhaban in the district was a milestone in the process of development of fisheries in the region and called upon the people to come forward to utilise all the facilities and assistance from the administration.

Stressing the need for training and transfer of technical know-how to boost fish production, Noman said the present government has also undertaken a number of programmes to provide primary knowledge through demonstration farms and field level training programmes.

The minister again called upon the private sector to take the benefit of the liberal policy of the government to encourage establishment of hatcheries and nurseries in suitable places.

Presided over by the Deputy Commissioner, the function was addressed, among others, by Project Director of Fisheries Department Tabeur Rahman.

After the function the Fisheries Minister visited some shrimp culture farms in Fakirhat thana under Bagerhat district and talked to the local farmers about different matters relating to shrimp culture. Noman also visited a fish-meal producing factory to see for himself the method of producing fish-meal mixing various ingredients.

Local BNP leader Mujibar Rahman and Shrimp Culturists Association leader Surendra Nath Sikdar were also present on the occasion.

Madaripur pourea area beset with problems

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, July 20: Madaripur pourea area is beset with manifold problems causing inconvenience to residents of the municipal area.

The residents said the dilapidated condition of the roads lack of proper drainage system and inadequate water supply have made the civil life miserable.

Most of the roads in the poure area are kutchas having numerous cracks and potholes at many points due to lack of proper maintenance and repair works. During the rainy season the roads become muddy hindering the movement of pedestrians and vehicles.

Almost all the kutchas drains are filled with garbage and stagnant water which creates scope for mosquito breeding lack of dustbins in the pourea

area compels residents to dump their waste by the side of the road blocking the water outlets.

Street lights at the town are insufficient, many electric pails are lying without bulbs for a long time hampering the movement of vehicles after sunset.

Besides water supply is irregular in the area causing suffering to the residents. The pedestrians are also facing much trouble due to mushroom growth of unauthorised shops on the roads and footpaths.

Meanwhile the number of pye-dogs has increased alarmingly in the pourea area posing threat to the town residents.

Local people urged the concerned authorities to solve the problems of the residents without further delay.

Mostafiz tell gathering

Govt taking measures to preserve ancient places

BAGERHAT, July 20: Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman said that the present government had been taking various effective measures to preserve and develop our ancient and historical places in order to reflect our cultural heritage and uphold national image, reports BSS.

He said this at a gathering while visiting the development activities of Ghoradighi near historical Stagambuj Mosque of Bagerhat Friday. The work is being done as part of the preservation of ancient monuments of Paharpur and Bagerhat project undertaken by the archaeological department.

It is being done with the assistance of Japan through UNESCO. This project has been included in the conservation project of world and ancient civilization and archaeology. The project was undertaken in 1987 with the objectives of ensuring conservation and preservation of ancient monuments of Paharpur and Bagerhat, enhancement of tourists facilities and development of environment. Under the second phase of this project comprehensive development programmes were being implemented in Bagerhat at a cost of about Taka two crore which include preservation of ancient Muslim heritage and monuments.



SYLHET: Md Ashraf Ali, a former Member of Parliament speaking at a discussion meeting arranged to condole the death of Poet Ziauddin, a renowned peasant leader and politician. — Star photo