

## Malpractice by staff in Dinajpur Telephone subscribers deprived of services

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, July 24: The telephone subscribers of the district of Dinajpur have been facing untold sufferings due to the malpractice of the local staff of the Telephone Department. It is alleged by the local telephone subscribers.

Some of the telephone operators have an understanding with a class of dishonest subscribers who get their internal and overseas phone connection easily, it is alleged.

The general subscribers do not get their connection after several reminders. The phone operators lame excuse for the non-availability of the connections, it is informed.

The subscribers, in case of emergency, are not given connection after a lot of requests. On the other hand, the dishonest subscribers easily get it. They do not have to pay the charge even. One of this kind of subscriber who did not want to be identified told that they to pay monthly payments to the operators and that is why they are given connections as early as possible. The subscribers also informed that he pay a nominal bill and monthly payments.

The subscribers who pay monthly payments use the phone frequently and keep the line engaged for a long time. The monthly payments also help them keep their telephone sets always in order.

The common subscribers complained that their sets remain dead for maximum time. Though the operators make it operative, it works for few hours only.

The dishonest subscribers earn money through their phone as it work as a exchange.

## Power failure becomes regular feature in Faridpur

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, July 24: Frequent power failures in the district have become a regular feature for over two months causing immense suffering to the people at large and the HSC examinees in particular.

Everyday four or five times the electricity goes off without any previous information to the consumers and the break continues for about one hour each time.

The HSC examinees scheduled to sit for the final examination on August 1 are the worst victims. They cannot read in the evening as electricity fails regularly just after dark severely taking upon their concentration.

Besides, the production in mills and factories are being greatly hampered owing to the absence of electricity for six or seven hours daily in total.

Patients in the hospitals and clinics are suffering much. Emergency operation cannot be performed due to power failure.

Anti-social elements are taking advantage of the darkness.

Concerned authorities are urged to look into the matter and take steps to mitigate the sufferings by restoring regular power supply.

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KISHOREGANJ: The Karimganj Bazar-Nayakandi Road in Karimganj thana is in very poor condition. Water remains stagnant on the road following slight rainfall. The photo shows condition of the road after ten minutes of rainfall in the area recently. — Star photo

## Fish scarcity acute in Dinajpur district

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, July 24: Acute scarcity of fish has been prevailing throughout the district of Dinajpur causing great hardship to fisherman community for the last few months.

The pisciculture in the district has been badly affected due to massive siltation in the rivers Purnavaba, Kanchan, Karatoa and Atrai and different beels, canals and other waterbodies, local people informed.

Moreover, unplanned use of chemical fertilizers and insecticides to crop fields has affected the growth of different kinds of fishes hampering overall production.

Meanwhile, the existence of the professional fishermen is at a stake and finding to other alternative some of them have given up their ancestral profession for their very survival.

Different kinds of fishes were available in abundance in ponds, beels and rivers of the district in the past but now the situation has become quite opposite.

Besides, some dishonest fishermen are catching fry by using current nets adversely affecting the growth of fish resources, local people alleged.

They are alleged that members of the law enforcing agencies are remaining silent over the violation of the government restriction on catching fish fry under nine inches.

Meanwhile, the price of meat has shot up due to scarcity of fish in the markets and local people are facing protein deficiency due to this.

Influx of baggers in the district has been creating immense inconveniences to the public.

Hundreds of people who became homeless by recurring flood, cyclone and river erosion tried to maintain their livelihood in the remote villages through manual labour. But finding no job opportunities they were compelled to rush to the town areas in search of food and shelter.

Moreover, the situation deteriorated further due to stoppage of development work under pond food for works programme in the rural areas of the district.

The homeless people are living in temporary thatched houses on footpaths and use open places for excrement polluting the environment. Local people alleged that many destitute people are engaged in various anti-social activities.

Travelling by trains without tickets on most railway routes has become a regular feature in western zone causing a huge loss to the exchequer, it is learnt.

Inadequate ticket-checkers on Parbatipur-Panchagarh, Parbatipur-Birol, Parbatipur-Kurigram, Kaunia-Hatibandha, Parbatipur-Haldibari and Parbatipur-Santahar routes is the only cause for the increase in the said malpractice, it is widely alleged.

Moreover, vigilance team is hardly seen on the running trains of those routes during the duty hours creating serious inconveniences to the bona fide passengers.

The ticket-collectors are very often manhandled by the ticketless passengers, particularly the youth who travel in groups as so-called students.

It is allegedly reported that ticket-checkers have been left at the mercy of the mastan, who have created a reign of terror on these western railway routes.

The local people have urged the concerned authority to take necessary action without delay to stop the malpractice.

## Huda tells JCD meeting at Fatulla Concept of caretaker govt unconstitutional

FATULLA (Narayanganj), July 24: Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda yesterday said the concept of caretaker government advocated by the opposition parties is unconstitutional and confusing, report BSS.

Besides, a caretaker government cannot be more accountable and powerful than an elected one", he said.

Huda said this at the installation ceremony of the new committee of the Jatayatadhi Chhatra Dal Fatulla unit here.

Among others, local MP Sirajul Islam, Central JCD leader Shirin Sultana, JCD leader and senate member of Dhaka University AEFM Iqbal, vice president of Narayanganj Law College Syeduzzaman Syed, newly elected general secretary of JCD Fatulla unit Lokman Hossain spoke on the occasion. Newly elected president of the committee Syed Mohammad Akbar was in the chair.

The minister said the people have elected the opposition members to parliament to raise their problems and issues in the House and get them solved. But the opposition members have been boycotting

parliament sessions for a caretaker government.

Huda said the opposition want BNP to bring a bill in the House for a caretaker government. "But as BNP does not believe in caretaker government, there is no ground on its part to raise the bill in parliament," he said and observed that it is the job of the opposition themselves to bring the bill in the House if they want.

"But those who are boycotting the parliament have lost their rights to seek vote in future", he said.

The minister said BNP government has taken up several human development and poverty alleviation programmes to fulfil the five basic needs of the people.

"We want to turn our whole population into human resources for attaining self reliance because only self reliance can guarantee the nation's freedom and sovereignty", he said.

Huda said some vested quarters want to disrupt the development process towards self reliance for their petty interests. He urged the people to identify these quarters.

## Crisis of Aman seeds in Rangpur

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, July 24: Crisis of aman seed is persisting all over the greater Rangpur zone during the current season.

According to the information received from the remote places of the zone, hundreds of farmers everyday rush to the BADC's seed sale centres and elsewhere in search of aman seeds, but they are returning back in empty hands since all these centres are running without stocks of seeds.

In black markets BADC's aman seed of BR-II variety which is much popular among the farmers for its high yield, being sold at an exorbitant price at Taka 15 to Taka 20 per kg as against fixed government rate of Taka 11 per kg.

During the current aman season BADC has distributed six hundred metric tonnes of aman-seed particularly BR-II variety to its dealers for selling among the farmers at Taka 11 per kilogram.

But the dealers had sold in blackmarkets almost the entire quantity of seed they lifted from the BADC godowns, it is alleged.

## Sugarcane growers face various problems

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, July 24: The sugarcane growers under Dewanganj Zeal Bangla Sugar Mills zone of the district have been facing various problems for long time.

The sugarcane growers mainly produce different qualities of sugarcane for supply to this mill.

Some growers produce rhotasses from sugarcane for want of proper transport system for supply of sugarcane to the mills area.

It is learnt that about 1.5 lakh areas of land have been brought under sugarcane cultivation in the mills areas of Dewanganj, Bakshiganj, Islampur, Melandah, Madarganj, Sarishabari and Jamalpur Sadar thanas. Every year 3.5 lakh tons of sugarcane are produced. But the farmers do not get fair price.

Sugarcane growers of these

## Sharp fall in cultivation of local varieties of paddy

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, July 24: The cultivation of local varieties of paddy has been decreasing in Chuadanga, Meherpur and Kushtia districts for the last few years.

The farmers of the district previously grew different local varieties of paddy namely kele, dawne nagra, meghi, karshail etc on their land.

These varieties grow abundantly. After the harvest of the varieties of paddy, the farmers used to procure sufficient straws which were used as fodder and there was no scarcity of fodder then.

Owing to sharp fall in the cultivation of local varieties of paddy many problems including scarcity of fodder have now been created.

The production cost of IRRI-boro is increasing day by day with the increased price of agricultural inputs. Farmers alleged that the price of the agri-inputs have now gone beyond the purchasing capacity of the peasants.

Some farmers of Chuadanga, Damurhuda and Jiban Nagar thanas of Chuadanga district told this correspondent that

## Primary schools in Satkhira district face various problems

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, July 24: Most of the government and non-government primary schools in seven thanas of Satkhira district have been facing manifold problems hampering the implementation of the universal primary education programme.

According to officials, there are 713 government and 365 non-government primary schools in the district. Most of these schools have been facing accommodation problem due to increasing number of enrolments in every academic session.

Mentionable that the government has been implementing 'food for education' to raise the number of students in the

## Number of quacks increase in Cox's Bazar district

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, July 24: The number of quacks is increasing in all the thanas of the Cox's Bazar district day by day. Quacks are in every village of Cox's Bazar Sadar thana, Ramu, Teknaf, Ukhia, Kutubdia, Chokoria and Moheskhal thanas of the district.

Over 40 per cent people of the district live below the poverty line. The problem of unemployment is becoming acute day by day.

Being faced with unemployment problem, many young men of different areas of the district are seeking sources of income for their survival. Finding no other alternatives, a good number of jobless young men of the district have taken quackery as their profession.

A large number of graduates have become quacks. The number of HSC passed young men taking up quackery is also high. The main cause of business of the quacks are the local haats, and bazars of the district. They are also found in other places of the country for earning the livelihood.

Some government health workers are also found in this profession in the rural areas of the district. They informed that the poor people of the rural

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country, and implementation the programme Education for All.

But due to shortage of teachers, furniture and necessary appliances many schools cannot afford additional students. Most of the schools also lack adequate water supply system, sanitary latrines and urinals.

Moreover many schools damaged by cyclones, floods and other natural calamities are yet to be repaired. In some schools children are attending their classes in open spaces causing much inconveniences.

It is found that teachers in many schools do not attend their classroom duties regularly. Some guardians alleged

## Number of quacks increase in Cox's Bazar district

that on the basis of understanding with the local education officers some teachers attend the school once in a week just to put their signature on the attendance registers. Most of the time they remain busy with their household or other jobs.

It is also alleged that in some government primary schools there are more teachers than the actual requirement while there are less than the actual need in some other schools.

Local leaders have urged the authorities to look into the matter and take immediate steps to remove the problems to ensure better education of the children of the district.

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## District roundup

JAMALPUR Drought hampers cultivation

July 24: Cultivation in Sherpur and Jamalpur districts has been hampering greatly due to prevailing drought for the last two months, reports UNB.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, over 30,000 acres of the standing crops have been damaged in the areas and harvest of 99,000 acres of land are also threatened.

An expert said minimum 25 mm required rainwater was not available during the Bengal month of Ashar and at present hot spell is prevailing here.

The water of river, canal and beel has dried up and due to lack of water cultivation of transplanted aman on 8000 acres of land has become impossible. Aman seedlings are also being damaged in the field throwing the farmers into uncertainty.

Jute growers are also facing similar problems as they cannot process their harvested jute due to lack of water.

One killed, 40 hurt in clash

July 24: One person was killed and 40 others were injured in a clash between residents of two villages over playing of cards here recently, police said, reports UNB.

The clash between the residents of Sarisha village in Santhia thana and Bhitapara village of Bera thana continued for three hours till 7.30 pm disrupting traffic movement on Bogra-Nagarbari highway. Both the groups used lethal weapons.

The dead was identified as Amjad Hossain (28) of Sarisha village.

Of the injured, 12 persons were admitted to Bera Hospital and 4 to Shahjadpur Health Complex.

Armed youths hijack Tk 2 lakh

July 24: Armed youths hijacked about Tk 2 lakh from an employee of a multinational company at gun point in broad daylight in the town recently, police said, reports UNB.

Mohammad Ramzan, driver of Ciba-Geigy area office here, was injured seriously in the attack while going to Ambarakhanha branch of Uttara Bank from his office by a rickshaw with the money in a medicine carton at 9:30 am.

Numbering about 10, the hijackers came in four motor-bikes, swooped on Ramzan and snatched the carton, police said.

He was admitted to Sylhet M A G Osmani Medical College Hospital in critical condition, hospital sources said. He was struck with sharp weapons.

A case was filed with Kotwali thana in this connection. None was arrested yet.

Tree plantation drive opens

July 24: Deputy Minister for Shipping Zahidul Haq inaugurated the tree plantation drive at Pakundia Ideal College in the district Tuesday, reports UNB.

Addressing a gathering the Deputy Minister said in maintaining ecological balance the role of tree is very significant. The green tree emits oxygen — the vital element for survival of human being and other living entity. It also absorbs poisonous carbon dioxide from the environment.

He called upon all to come forward to plant more trees for conservation of environment and ecological balance.

Zahidul Haq also visited the ongoing construction work of the administrative building of the college to see the progress of the work.

Later, the Deputy Minister presided over a meeting of the officials, chairman and members of the thana and discussed about the progress of various development activities of the thana.

Diarrhoeal diseases claim fifteen

July 24: Diarrhoeal diseases claimed 15 lives and attacked 250 others in the district over the last fortnight, reports UNB.

Doctors said at least 15 to 20 people attacked by diarrhoea, dysentery and other water borne diseases are being admitted to the hospital every day for treatment.

Of the deceased six died in Nawabganj pourashava, four in sadar and five in Bhohlahat and Shiganj thanas. Scarcity of drinking water and consumption of adulterated food were said to be the reasons behind the outbreak of the diseases.

No medical teams have yet been sent to the affected areas. Oral saline packets and necessary medicines are also reportedly scarce in the areas.

Private tuition practice on rise

July 24: The on rise trend of private tuition practice by the local teachers causing serious affect to the students for getting proper education in their respective institutions, reports UNB.

Local people alleged that most of the school teachers in the district headquarters are engaged in private tuition and earn a large amount of money by teaching students in different batches.

The teachers do not give proper attention in the classes and inspire the students to enroll themselves for the private coaching, they added.

"It is quite difficult to do good results in the examination without private tutors or coaching", alleged some guardians.

Children of the poor families are the worst sufferers as their parents are not able to assist them by providing private tuition.

Meanwhile, most of the doctors in the district town are carrying out their private practices neglecting their hospital duties.

## Call to strengthen tree plantation programme

PATUAKHALI, July 24: Minister for Religious Affairs Muhammad Keramat Ali has called upon all to strengthen the tree plantation programme to ensure better environment and ecological balance and quicken economic upliftment, reports UNB.

He was addressing as chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of a three-day tree exhibition and fair at local PDSA Maidan organised by Patuakhali district forest office here Saturday.

The forest office has also organised a discussion on the process of plantation and the quality of saplings. Local Shilpakala Academy has planned programme to organise cultural function on tree plantation. The local information office will hold documentary film show on this aspect.

The minister said, the contribution of tree in maintaining the balance of environment cannot be exaggerated. He said, it also expedites economic emancipation of the rural people.

## Seminar on moral development approach held at RU

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, July 24: A seminar on "a proposal to the United Nations on moral development approach: a new world order for peace" was held recently in the Philosophy Department of Rajshahi University. Prof. Anisur Rahman, Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University attended the seminar as the chief guest says a press release.

The key note paper on the seminar was presented by Dr. Abu Obaidul Haque, Director of the Bangladesh Institute for Advancement of Science and Technology Teaching (IASTT).

The participants of the seminar termed this proposal as very urgent and timely and they appealed to the UN to consider this proposal for universal moral development programme in the greater interest and welfare of mankind for promoting the causes to establish peace, discipline and justice at individual, social and global level.

Prof. Abad Ali Mondal, Chairman of Philosophy Department of Rajshahi University presided over the seminar.