

1,300 posts in two dists vacant

Vacuum in govt bodies

From A K M Zahoourul Huq

Fiftysix posts of physicians and experts, four posts of health assistants as well as 53 posts of third and fourth class employees along with a few posts of technicians are lying vacant in Health Department in Rangamati hindering the medicare services to the people of malaria and diarrhoea prone district. One post of Thana Family Planning Officer, nine posts of Resident Physician, seven posts of Medicine Expert, four posts of Gynecology Expert, 19 posts of Medical Officers, eight posts of Dental Physicians and one post of Radiologist are lying vacant intensifying the sufferings of the ailing people of the district.

RANGAMATI, May 20: More than 1,300 posts of important ranks in the government departments in Rangamati and Bandarban districts are lying vacant for a pretty long period causing a inconvenience in administration and miseries in the life of the people of this region, local leaders and sufferers alleged.

More than 300 posts including officers and staff in the five important departments in Rangamati hill district like, Education, Health, Food, Agriculture and Family Planning are lying vacant creating a vacuum in the concerned administration and untold sufferings among problem-hit people of the district.

There are 111 posts in Health Department, 36 in Primary Education, 77 in Agriculture Extension, 53 in Family Planning and 25 in Food Department in Rangamati Hill District are lying vacant causing a virtual impasse in normal functioning of those sectors.

Fiftysix posts of physicians and experts, four posts of health assistants as well as 53 posts of third and fourth class employees along with a few posts of technicians are lying vacant in Health Department in Rangamati hindering the

medicare services to the people of malaria and diarrhoea prone district. One post of Thana Family Planning Officer, nine posts of Resident Physician, seven posts of Medicine Expert, four posts of Gynecology Expert, 19 posts of Medical Officers, eight posts of Dental Physicians and one post of Radiologist are lying vacant intensifying the sufferings of the ailing people of the district.

The vitally important post of Resident Physician is lying vacant in all the ten thanas of the district. The post of Dental Physician and Surgeon along with the post of Resident Physician are lying vacant in Kauhali, Balachhari, Rajshahi, Nariarchhor, Borkal, Langadu, Zurachhari and Baghaichhari thana of the district. The vacant post of Thana family planning officer in Borkal thana has created a bottleneck in running the family planning programme.

With the post of District Primary Education Officer, 36 posts are vacant in the thana level. The post of thana primary education officers in Kaptai, Balachhari, Kauhali, Nariarchhor, Borkal, Zurachhari and Baghaichhari Alongwith three posts of assistant thana primary education officer in Borkal and one each

in Nariarchhor and Langadu are also lying vacant. More over, 10 primary schools in the district are running without headmasters.

Eight and seven posts of first and second class Gazetted Officers as well as 62 posts of Block Supervisors alongwith a post of Training Officer are lying vacant in the Agriculture Extension Department in Rangamati hill district, which has been experiencing short production of foodgrain for the last ten consecutive years.

Fiftythree posts, including seven Medical Officers, six Family Welfare Officers, three Senior Family Welfare Visitors, seven Medical Assistants and eight posts of Family Welfare Visitors are lying vacant in the district family planning office of Rangamati hill district which created much odds in the on-going programme.

Twentyfive vacant posts of different categories in the Food Department have been jeopardising the supply system multiplying the sufferings of the poverty-stricken people.

Beside, vacant posts of officers, more than 1000 posts of third and fourth class employees in different government departments in Bandarban hill district has been causing a serious bottleneck in the functioning of the offices.

One taka coins, the latest item on smugglers' list

JAMALPUR, May 20: The newly introduced one taka coins are being smuggled to India through some transit points of the district creating an acute scarcity of one taka currency in the local market, reports UNB.

According to sources, some imitation ornament manufacturers in India have been using these coins as raw materials of the ornaments like chain, necklace and bangle.

For the higher demand of the coin in the neighbouring country these coins are being sold at Tk 1.50 a piece at Bokshiganj, Jhinagati, Nallatabari and Dewanganj thanas.

Local Bank Managers admitted that there is a scarcity of one taka coins in the market despite the release of adequate coins by the government.

MATS reopens after six yrs of closure

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, May 20: The Medical Assistants' Training School (MATS) in Kushiya has started functioning after six years of closure. Students have been admitted this year.

Established in 1979, with the financial assistance from the Netherlands, the institute offered a three-year diploma course to train Medical Assistants. After functioning for a few years the institute was closed down by the then government in 1989.

Admission of students remained suspended from 1988. However, the employees continued to enjoy facilities including salaries, telephone bills and others.

It is learnt that salaries worth Taka one crore were drawn by the employees of the institution during the last six years. Besides, Taka 10 lakh was reportedly spent by the institution as municipal tax, water, electricity and telephone bills during the period.

The institution has 135 fourth class, 17 third class employees, six tutors, one administrative officer, four lecturers, one senior lecturer, and the principal all of whom were enjoying the facilities during the period of closure.

The training school was set up to facilitate accommodation of both male and female students. It also has a library, auditorium and of course, class rooms and dormitories.

With the reopening of the institution a long felt demand of the people here have been met.

Maid-servant seriously hurt as can explodes

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, May 20: A maid-servant was seriously injured in a bomb blast at village Jalabari under Palashbari Thana recently.

The victim Sufia Begum, 40, was engaged as maid-servant at the house of Montu Mia. On the morning of May 8 she was working in the bed room of Manto. While she was casually handling a can, the can exploded. She was rushed to Rangpur Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

According to the family source someone kept the can-cocktail to kill the house owner that might be an outcome of a past feud.

Another report adds, Sadullapur Thana police recovered a decomposed body of a woman from an abandoned well at village Neepara under Sadullapur thana recently. The corpse could not be identified and was sent to morgue for post mortem.

An UD case was lodged with Sadullapur thana.

In another development, Fulchari thana police in a drive recovered a shallow pump from a ditch on the bank of river Jamuna on Saturday. On getting a secret message, police raided the spot and recovered the machine from under the earth. The machine was used in a pirate boat, it is alleged. The police earlier seized the boat from mid-stream after a piracy took place at Jamuna bed few days back, police source said.

Arms recovered, one arrested in B'baria

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, May 20: A country-made pipe-gun was recovered from Tekpara village under Bancharampur thana of the district recently.

According to police sources, acting on a tip-off Bancharampur thana police raided a house of Tekpara village and recovered a pipe-gun and arrested a person.

A case was filed in this connection.



A three member foreign delegate of Bangladesh Work-camp Association recently visited the Community Development Library (CDL) in Gaibandha. The library has 887 books, most of which were recently published. The library also provides statistical and investigative reports. The library so far extended service to some 24,133 persons. — Star photo

A laudable example

From Rezaul Hoque

GAIBANDHA, May 20: Community Development Library (CDL) a voluntary organisation set up a centre here at Gaibandha in 1991 with only 50 books. Now the total stock of books in this library stood at 887 including upto-date information and statistics on different issues concerned the district.

CDL mainly rendered services to the community on research work providing with latest information and references materials. Besides, it creates mass awareness through publications, workshops, seminars, study circle and networking activities. In addition the centre provides statistical and investigation reports on different aspects. News clippings and references on different important issues are also preserved for future references.

When contacted, organiser of the library, Siddique Alam Dayal told The Daily Star that

readers of the library have been increasing day by day. It serves the news paper readers supplying different dailies and weeklies. This gave an enormous impact on readers. The library could not accommodate increasing rush of readers. He further informed that meanwhile, the library extended services to about 24,133 persons with information and references. Moreover, on several occasions, the library is holding seminars workshops on different subjects and issues.

The library has a selling centre from where books on different subjects including its own publications are being sold at fair price.

The central or CDL located in Dhaka has a wide range of future plan to introduce Fax service. The organisation plans to set up auditorium large reading rooms and audio-visual services in the rural areas of different districts.

How the rural poor are benefiting from RD-12

Rural Development-12 is the largest poverty alleviation project of the Bangladesh Rural Development Board. Its main objectives are to promote socio-economic uplift and self-reliance of the rural assetless poor through education skill training, healthcare, awareness building and income generation. The project covers 139 thanas located in 17 districts, and has over 16,000 societies with 450,000 members.

The project has a Revolving Loan Fund of Tk 4769 lakh which is provided by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The present outstanding loan of Tk 4794 lakh is in the hands of 308,363 assetless society members. The project has also mobilised society members' share and savings deposits of Tk 1983 lakh. Seventyfive per cent of it is currently made available for lending to the members.

RD-12's Management Information System (MIS) is a computerised database which gives data on society mobilisation, registration credit performance and narrative feedback on the activities of the *bittahen* (landless) society members. The following entries are from the MIS reports for May to September 1994 showing outstanding achievements of the members.

PANCHAGARH

Thana Tetulia: Sakhina Begum, manager of Mathafatah MBSS Mahila Bittahen Samabaya Samity, has been elected as a member of Union Parishad with a very high margin of votes, which is a reflection of social development through creation of leadership among the have-nots. She took loans of Tk 4.25 lakh in 5 years from the society and repaid them regularly. She admits that BRDB has put her up to a respectable position. She achieved a remarkable economic development.

Jobeda Begum, a member of Mathafatah MBSS, now owns 0.15 acres of land purchased with the sale proceeds of two cows. She purchased two calves with the loan taken on two terms from RD-12 for rearing cattle. With the third loan she purchased a cow. She is now leading a comfortable life.

Amirunnessa, a member of Birhali MBSS, took 4 loans amounting to Tk 8,500 for cattle rearing and has repaid the loans fully. She now owns 4 cattle and has purchased 3 decimal of land. She has also taken lease of land and is getting it cultivated by her husband. She is now leading a comfortable life.

Kadbanu of Taiyagach MBSS took 3 loans to purchase three cows and has been repaying loan instalments regularly with the sale proceeds of 6 litres of milk. She says BRDB has taught her how to lead a comfortable life.

Selina Begum, manager of Tyabad MBSS, took 3 loans for beef fattening and cow rearing and has repaid the loans in full within due date. She now owns five cows. She is leading a comfortable life with the sale proceeds of milk.

Thana Debiganj: Sharifa Banu, who was leading a sub-human life, is now leading a comfortable life after joining RD-12 society. She now owns 2 bullocks, which she hires out for earning. She also maintains a small grocery shop. She has sent her children to school.

Alema Begum, manager of Sabujpara MBSS, who was leading a sub-human life prior to joining the society, is now leading a comfortable life. She started a poultry farm with loan from society. She constructed a house and purchased two goats and a rickshaw van besides accumulating cash of Tk 12,000 with the income of the farm.

Abdul Khaleque, member of Ramganj Basuniapara BSS (Bittahen Samabaya Samity for men), took loans of Tk 10,000 for different IGAs, took lease of land of 10 bigha for cultivation. He has been repaying the instalments regularly. He reared two rabbits, which gave birth to 30 kids. By selling the young ones he earned Tk 1,350.

Thana Panchagarh Sadar: Md. Sohrah Hossain started a poultry farm with a loan taken from RD-12. On repayment of earlier loan he has taken another loan amounting to Tk 5,000 to expand the farm. He is now rear-

ing 100 chicks — both local and improved — in the farm. He is repaying the loan regularly.

THAKURGAON

Thana Ranishankali: All the members of Sandharoi MBSS have installed sanitary latrines, which they were lacking before joining the society.

Firoja Begum, a member of Mahalbari MBSS, on taking training as a para-technician, is earning on average Tk 35 per day vaccinating chicks. She is also running a poultry farm with 140 chicks.

BOGRA

Thana Nandigram: Lutfunnessa, chairperson of Deota MBSS, earns Tk 1,500 per month by vaccinating chicks. She learnt this skill from RD-12.

Thana Sherpur: Sajeda Begum, a member of Kafura Modhyapara MBSS is earning Tk 3,000 per month through cultivation of 'kakrol' and potato. She constructed two tin-shed houses

Rowshon Ara Begum, chairperson of Madhya Sitalpur MBSS, joined the society in 1992. She purchased a sewing machine after getting loan from the society. She is repaying loan instalments out of the income of the sewing machine. She is depositing Tk 200 per week as savings and thus accumulated Tk 4,100 as savings. She has been able to repay the loan fully. She has purchased another sewing machine by taking a further loan and became the owner of two sewing machines. Now, her annual income is Tk 12,000. She works as a vaccinator of poultry birds among the members of her society and thereby earns Tk 1,500 annually. Now, she can provide money for the education of her two brothers and helps her father financially. This has created a demonstration effect on the other members of the society.

with her additional earnings. Anwara Khatoun, manager of Italy MBSS, on receiving paratech training is earning Tk 3,500 per month by vaccinating chicks and is leading a comfortable life.

Thana Adamdighi: The manager of Ujjalata MBSS took paratech training on nursery, started a nursery of her own and sold plants for Tk 50,000. She purchased six decimal of land and extended her nursery.

Thana Sonatala: Julekha Begum, member of Lahirpara MBSS has bought six cows with loans from RD-12. The cows are now worth Tk 20,000.

SATHKHIRA

Thana Kalaroa: Peara Begum, a member of Brojapaksa MBSS, is now leading a comfortable life. She took Tk 18,000 as loan on cow rearing on four terms and repaid instalments regularly. She attends weekly meetings regularly and deposits share and savings without fail. So far, she has accumulated Tk 1,757 as savings

Sheikh Shahidul Islam, member of Kharnia BSS, received skill development training on poultry rearing, took a loan of Tk 2500 and started poultry raising with 100 birds of improved variety. In 1993, he earned a net income of Tk 17,485. Later in 1994, he purchased 300 chicks and earned a net income of Tk 16,800. This has created a favourable demonstration effect in the area, and as result three more poultry farms have been established by other members.

and Tk 460 as share. Maimitaz Begum, a member of Bhadiali Ps. MBSS since her joining the society in 1991 deposited Tk 350 as share. Tk 5,000 as savings and Tk 600 as group fund. She took loans three for a total of Tk 12,000 and purchased two cows. The present worth of which is Tk 18,000. She repaid the loans in full with the sale proceeds of milk. She is now leading a comfortable life.

Abdul Jabbar became a member of Dakhin Panchpota BSS in May 1990. He took 4 loans of Tk 17,500 for cow rearing and has repaid the loans fully within due date. He has planted 130 guava trees in his 40 decimal of land, wherefrom he is earning an income of Tk 20,000

regularly with the sale proceeds of milk. Present worth of the cows is about Tk 10,000. She has accumulated Tk 2,450 as savings, Tk 50 as share and Tk 675 as group fund.

The chairperson of Khajurbaria MBSS, Marjina Khatoun, taking 3 loans amounting to Tk 12,000 purchased 3 cows.

annually. He also developed a flower garden. He has become owner of a van worth Tk 12,000. He is now leading a comfortable life.

Md. Nur Ali Khan Khan, manager of Jalalabad Purba BSS, became a member of the society in December 1990. He has so far taken 5 loans of Tk 21,500 and repaid them without fail. He has become the owner of a cow and a rickshaw van, valued at Tk 12,000. Now, he is leading a hardship free life.

Thana Sathkhira Sadar: Anwara Khatoun, manager of Teghoria MBSS, on receipt of skill development training on cattle rearing, took a loan of Tk 2,500 and purchased one calf. Rearing it for about one year, she sold it for Tk 5,200 and then purchased two calves and has been rearing them for six months. The present value of the cows is Tk 7,200. She has already repaid the loan in full.

Moslema Khatun of Kasia Aminbari MBSS, Rashida Begum, of Rajar Bagan MBSS and Anena Khatun of Kasia Laskarpara MBSS have each earned a net profit of Tk 3,500 by culti-

ating 'kakrol' a vegetable.

Anwara Khatoun, a member of Kasia Laskarpara MBSS has become a successful vegetable cultivator. During the current season she has cultivated kakrol in a plot of 11.50 katha and has been able to sell kakrol valued at Tk 2,105. Moreover, she is advising others on the cultivation of vegetable. Now, she has taken up a project on production of wax candles with the help of her two sons and been earning an income of Tk 1,500 per month. She is now leading a good life.

Thana Debhata: Shamsun Nahar, a member of Dakhin Kulira MBSS on taking two loans amounting to Tk 6,000 purchased two cows, which are yielding six kg of milk a day. She repaid in full the first loan, and is repaying regularly the second one. The two cows are now worth Tk 12,000.

Johra Khatun, a member of Uttar Sakhipur MBSS on taking loans amounting to Tk 13,500 on three terms purchased two cows with calves. She has been repaying loan instalments

regularly with the sale proceeds of milk. Present worth of the cows is about Tk 10,000. She has accumulated Tk 2,450 as savings, Tk 50 as share and Tk 675 as group fund.

The chairperson of Khajurbaria MBSS, Marjina Khatoun, taking 3 loans amounting to Tk 12,000 purchased 3 cows.

Now, she has become the owner of 6 cows and getting 4/5 kg of milk from 2 cows and repaying loan instalments regularly with the sale proceeds of milk besides creating her own capital. She has sent her children to school.

Kalaf Dasi, a member of Debhata MBSS took a first loan of Tk 2,500 for cow rearing and later took another loan of Tk 5,000 for same IGA and purchased a cow along with a calf. The

cow is giving two kg of milk every day and she is selling 1.5 kg milk keeping 0.5 kg for her home consumption. She is repaying weekly loan instalments out of the sale proceeds of milk regularly. She has accumulated Tk 1,985 and Tk 60 in savings and share.

Krishnapada Sarker, a member of Andulpota BSS, has availed of 2 loans of Tk 7,500 for pisciculture. He repaid loan instalments regularly and earned a profit of Tk 8,500.

Thana Assasuni: Budhata Purbapara MBSS is a well-performing society. So far, it has taken loans amounting to Tk 1.73 lakh, which is being repaid regularly. It has accumulated Tk 6,710 as savings and Tk 1,180 as share.

Kajal Rani, a member of Borodol MBSS, took 31 loans amounting to Tk 10,000 and has now become the owner of 1.5 bigha of land and one cow. She has established a nursery in a plot of 40 decimal of land and is cultivating the raw materials of mat locally called 'melemadur'.

She has one son and 3 daughters. She got her son and a daughter married after giving them education upto the level of class ten and class five respectively. The other 2 daughters are studying in class six and eight. Kajal Rani herself never went to school.

Thana Kaliganj: Rowshon Ara Begum, chairperson of Madhya Sitalpur MBSS, joined the society in 1992. She purchased a sewing machine after getting loan from the society. She is repaying loan instalments out of the income of the sewing machine. She is depositing Tk 200 per week as savings and thus accumulated Tk 4,100 as savings. She has been able to repay the loan fully. She has purchased another sewing machine by taking a further loan and became the owner of two sewing machines. Now, her annual income is Tk 12,000. She works as a vaccinator of poultry birds among the members of her society and thereby earns Tk 1,500 annually. Now, she can provide money for the education of her two brothers and helps her father financially. This has created a demonstration effect on the other members of the society.

Thana Kaliganj: Purba Bara Simla BSS during 3 years has accumulated Tk 1,45,000 as savings, share and group funds and availed of loan of Tk 650,000 which has been fully repaid. The members of the society have established a primary school and helped in constructing a road. Fifty members of the society have planted 1,050 saplings of different trees. All the members have accepted family planning and literacy programme and have been running the activities of the society as per rules and regulations.

KHULNA

Thana Dumuria: Halima Khatun, a member of Gutudia Kabirajpara MBSS, started a poultry farm with 200 chicks with a loan of Tk 2,500. The number of chicks has now increased to 450. After a couple of months, the chicks will start delivering eggs.

The bittahen cooperators are encouraged much due to the telecast of their annual rally and a feature on the poultry farm of Shahidul Islam, manager of Kharnia BSS, through BTV.

In July a nursery exhibition was held under the auspices of the Khulna district administration. Among others, Ashok Bairagi of Tetulia BSS was able to sell saplings of different fruit bearing and timber trees worth Tk 11,750 and earned a net income of Tk 5,200. His stall was visited by the Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad, the Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Forest, and the Additional Director General of BRDB. They showed keen interest in the operations of RD-12 Project.

Sheikh Shahidul Islam, member of Kharnia BSS, received skill development training on poultry rearing, took a loan of Tk 2500 and started poultry raising with 100 birds of improved variety. In 1993, he earned a net income of Tk 17,485. Later in 1994, he purchased 300 chicks and earned a net income of Tk 16,800. This has created a favourable demonstration effect in the area, and as result three more poultry farms have been established by other members.

Source: *Ideas and Actions*, a newsletter for RD-12 Project.

One killed, two injured in clash over land

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, May 20: One person was killed and two others were injured in a clash between two groups centering on a land dispute in village Char Borol of Islampur thana of the district, police sources said.

The wounded persons were rushed to the Islampur Thana Hospital in a critical condition. Police raided the disputed area and arrested two persons in this connection.

A case has been filed with Jamalpur General Hospital for autopsy.

The dead body was sent to Jamalpur General Hospital for autopsy.

Hannan Shah reviews development process in Kapasia

GAZIPUR, May 20: Some 132 development projects have been implemented in Kapasia thana at a cost of Tk 90 lakh and 684 metric tons of wheat under Food for Works, Test Relief and Annual Development Programme during the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

This was disclosed as the thana Development Coordination Committee reviewed the progress of implementation of projects with Jute Minister AMS Hannan Shah in the chair at the thana auditorium on Thursday.

The Minister expressed satisfaction over the progress of the work and also urged the officials to complete the remaining work in scheduled time.

Later Hannan Shah addressed a gathering of 'village representative' conference of thana BNP at Kapasia Pilot School premises.

He assured the work of the 1365 km long rural electrification lines in the area will be completed by December next.

Speaker visits tidal surge-hit regions in Khulna

KHULNA, May 20: Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali visited the areas inundated by tidal waters in Sholaghar union of Pakegacha thana in the district on Thursday, reports UNB.

During the visit the Speaker was informed that shrimp cultivation of around 6000 acres of land in the union was washed away. The loss in this respect is estimated at about Tk 50 crore, it was added.

He distributed saarees, lungis and cash money among the affected people.

The Speaker is also scheduled to visit the affected areas of Kayra thana on Friday.

Law Minister opens soil test programme of Karotoa Bridge

DEBIGANJ, Panchagarh, May 20: Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz said completion of the Karotoa Bridge will reduce 50 km distance from Tetulia to Dhaka, reports UNB.

He was addressing a public meeting as chief guest at Debiganj River View School premises on the occasion of the soil test of Karotoa Bridge site on Thursday.

He said China has built three friendship bridges over Buriganga, old Brahmaputra and Mahanadra rivers. Now the 575 metre long and 10 metre broad fourth friendship bridge over Karotoa river is going to be built. It will be completed within two years, he added.

The Minister urged the engineers of the Roads and Highways division and local people to participate actively in the construction work of the bridge.

Earlier, Mirza Hafiz inaugurated the soil test programme of the bridge, said a PID hand-out.

17 injured as bus plunges into ditch in Sarail

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, May 20: At least 17 persons were injured when a speeding bus plunged into a road side ditch on Dhaka-Sylhet highway, under Sarail thana of the district on May 16.

According to eye witnesses, a Madhabpur bound passenger bus from Dhaka plunged into a road side ditch when the driver lost its control. 17 persons were injured of them 6 critically injured persons were admitted into Brahmanbaria sadar hospital, and the rest others were admitted to Sarail thana health complex.

Police arrested the driver of the bus and filed a case in this connection.