

Students demand postponement of admission test in RU

RAJSHAHI, June 3: Uncertainty grips the holding of the first year admission test for honours courses in Rajshahi University scheduled for Saturday as some student organisations called a strike on the campus demanding postponement of the test, says UNB.

An Enquiry Committee, formed to investigate into the allegation, found nothing in this regard. It termed the allegation as false and baseless.

The Admission Committee decided to hold the admission test as per schedule.

A tense situation was prevailing on the campus as Islami Chhatra Shibir is reportedly backing the authorities in holding the test tomorrow (Saturday).

Rickshawpuller brutally injured

JAMALPUR, June 3: A young man pushed a sharp and pointed screw driver into the left eye of a rickshaw puller when he asked for the fare from him (young man) at Raniganj Bazar here Thursday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, the ruthless young man Piploo, 20, boarded the rickshaw for Raniganj Bazar at 2 pm.

After having reached his destination, he disembarked from the rickshaw and was about to leave when rickshaw puller Chanu Mia, 30, demanded of him to pay the fare.

With ironic grin on his lips Piploo, on the contrary, asked the hapless rickshaw puller to give him Tk 20 to foot the bill for his drinks.

Adamant rickshaw puller insisted on his demand for payment of the fare. In return Piploo pushed the pointed screw driver into his left eye.

The rickshaw puller was rushed to Jamalpur General Hospital where the attending doctors declared his left eye non-functional. He was later shifted to an eye clinic.

Kakraid road in progress

TANGAIL, June 3: Local Government Engineering Department is constructing a 16 km long pucca road from Kakraid to Moterhat under Ausimara union of Madhupur thana at a cost of Tk three crore in this fiscal year, says BSS.

Official sources said that the road in the remote hilly area will include a number of box and ring culverts. The road was designed to connect Tangail-Mynensingh highway to Hatubhanga point of Dhaka-Tatubahi highway through Madhupur via Garo bazar and Shakhira.

Local people said that the road was fulfillment a long felt demand.

Meeting discusses development of rural infrastructure

TANGAIL, June 3: Rural development project-14 of LGED held a discussion meeting on the role of people in the maintenance of rural infrastructures.

Held at the Ausimara high school premises the meeting stressed the need of public participation in maintaining the costly rural infrastructures. Cart wheels were described as the cause of damage to pucca road use of rubber tyre wheels instead of the wooden ones can remove this damaging effect they claimed.

Ctg, Sandwip island Adequate measures still await to tackle post calamity situation

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, June 3: Crisis of house building materials has reportedly become acute in Sandwip Island and other coastal areas here battered by recent storm and tidal surge, sources said. Consequently, the coastal people whose dwelling houses were damaged fully or partially, are facing difficulties to rebuild their houses.

Several thousands of homeless people have reportedly taken shelter at different places as they are yet to reconstruct their houses, sources informed.

When contacted, District Relief Officer (DRO), Rahim Dad Khan here admitted the shortage of house building materials in the affected areas and said that efforts were on to provide necessary help to the victims.

Meanwhile, process is underway to allot 500 bundles of CI sheet for the affected people here, official source said. However, sources said adequate measures were not yet taken in the affected areas to tackle the post-calamity situation.

In the coastal areas of Chittagong where the recent tidal surge and storm claimed lives of 11 people and caused harm to some 82 unions including city wards out of 195 unions,

according to official reports. The loss of lives included — four in Sandwip, three in Patiya, two in Chandanai and two in Lohagara respectively.

Official reports add: A total of 3,57,719 people belong to 73,059 families were affected while 14,175 houses were totally damaged and 21,845 partly, official reports confirmed.

The loss of cattle heads stood at 4,770, crops on 2,801 acres of land totally destroyed, crops on 6,521 acres of land also suffered partial loss.

About 33 km long embankment and 119 km long pucca road in the areas were totally damaged, official reports confirmed.

Meeting demands construction of Ganges Barrage

From Our Correspondent

KUSHIYA, June 3: A big meeting organised by Ganges Barrage Implementation Committee was held on Saturday last at Majampur gate to press home their demand for construction of Ganges Barrage near Hardinge Bridge in order to counteract the unilateral withdrawal of Ganges water by India creating desertification process in south western part of Bangladesh and threatening closure of Ganges-Kobadak Project, the biggest irrigation project of the country.

The districts are: Rajshahi, Chuadanga, Kushtia, Chapainabaganj, Naogaon, Sirajganj, Narail, Magura, Jhenidah, Jessore, Natore, Satkhira, Jhalokati, Khulna, Bagerhat, Pirojpur, Shariatpur, Faridpur, Gopalganj, Pabna, Meherpur, Rajbari, Madaripur and Bhola.

During the same year, a project implementation cell was formed under the auspices of Water Development Board (WDB) and later in 1984 a separate office was established styled 'Ganges Barrage Project' for its successful execution.

Official sources said about Tk 4 crore has been placed till now and with the amount only a portion of survey work could be completed. An amount of Tk 6 crore is required to complete the first phase of the work, they added.

But it is surprising that during the current fiscal year no fund has been allocated for the said project in the Annual Development Programme throwing its future into uncertainty, said a local expert.

The project included the construction of three pump houses having lifting capacity of 16,000 cusecs of water each, three regulators and 775 kilometre long flood control embankment.

These will facilitate preservation of water round the year and ensure adequate water lifting for irrigation, project officials said.

This will also be helpful for the Ganges-Kobadak Project area which suffers a setback every year during the dry season for want of adequate water in the river Ganges, they

added. It was estimated that after the completion of the project, the annual maintenance cost will be around Tk 16 crore.

Due to construction of the dam across the border the climate of the whole area has been changed. Rainfall decreased, ground water level lowered, 40 tributaries have almost dried up. About 10 thousand shoals are now shining under the scorching rays of the sun in the riverbeds. About one and half lakh ponds, canals and beels including the largest in the country, Chalan Beel have dried up. The flow of water in the river Goral has stopped last February.

It has affected the standing IRR-Boro crops on about 50 thousand acres of land in Kushtia, Meherpur, Chuadanga, Jhenidah and Jessore.

Withdrawal of water at Farakka and rainlessness have further lowered the ground water level even at 60 feet depth at some places in the northern districts.

The local Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) officials say the ground water level measured at 20 to 25 feet has further gone deeper. As a result, more than one lakh shallow and hand-tubewells (Tara) have become inoperative throughout the northern districts resulting in scarcity of drinking and irrigation water in those areas.

A study conducted in 1991 shows that the direct losses caused by Farakka Barrage in agriculture sector due to soil moisture depletion, delayed planting and increased salinity exceeds Taka 500 crore annually, while the indirect losses in financial term stood at about Taka 2300 crore a year.

Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) estimated the direct losses in its own projects due to withdrawal of the Ganges water at about Taka 2645 crores in 13 years from 1975-76 to 1987-88 fiscal year. The rate of loss up to 1994-95 would be higher and the total national losses in financial terms could stand at Taka 5,000 crore per year, sources further added.

TB patients in Satkhira increasing every year

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, June 3: The number of TB patients is increasing alarmingly in seven thanas of Satkhira district. In addition to this, the only TB clinic in the district is beset with enormous problems causing much sufferings to the increasing number of patients.

The clinic, established in 1964, is providing facilities to the patients. Over 18 lakh people of the district depend on the clinic for their medical treatment but the TB patients are deprived of proper treatment as the clinic lacks life saving drugs, blood bank, necessary instruments, ambulance etc.

It is learnt from clinic source that normally ten to fifteen patients visit the hospital everyday and every year about 1500 to 2000 new TB patients are being admitted to the clinic who get outdoor treatment facilities on fixed dates subject to prior appointment.

There are fourteen staff members including one medical officer. The post of one consultant has been lying vacant for the last few months. The doctors are busy with private practice in their own chambers. It is alleged.

Though there are two X-ray machines in the clinic, for want of films the patients are

advised to have their X-ray done from private clinics. The clinic has no ambulance to carry fatally ill patients for treatment. The hospital has no separate ward to treat patients suffering from TB and contagious diseases.

According to the sources, the overall environment of the clinic is not at all hygienic. Toilet and urinals remain dirty as they are not cleaned regularly.

Besides, in absence of boundary wall, a section of miscreants of the locality engage themselves in anti-social activities in the clinic compound after office hours.

15th BCS results

Table containing 15th BCS results for various departments including Agriculture, Engineering, and others. It lists roll numbers and marks for candidates.

Bamboo groves face extinction in Chuadanga

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, June 3: Bamboo groves of Chuadanga district are on the brink of extinction due to indiscriminate cutting of bamboos. Thousands of bamboos are cut and sold every day in the villages of four

thanas of the district to fulfill the demand. According to reports, most of these bamboos are brought to the town for higher prices by some farias. Then the bamboos are purchased by contractors and people who intend to build or repair their houses.

Only a small number of bamboos are used for domestic consumption. According to an unofficial source, there are more than 50,000 bamboo groves in the district. But most of those bamboo groves are in poor condition with only a few unusable bamboos in each grove.

Many groves have already been destroyed. The poverty stricken villagers not only sell their bamboos but also uproot the bamboo roots and sell them as fuel to the brick fields or potters.

Poor villagers with scanty income are compelled to sell the bamboos to earn their livelihood. Sometimes bamboo groves are also destroyed while preparing land for building houses.

Meeting on health, sanitation held

TANGAIL, June 3: Tangail district information department and different NGOs jointly held a motivational meeting at Natipara girls school campus recently on maternity and child health care, reports BSS.

The indiscriminate destruction of the bamboo groves has rendered about 75 per cent bamboo-artisans jobless. As

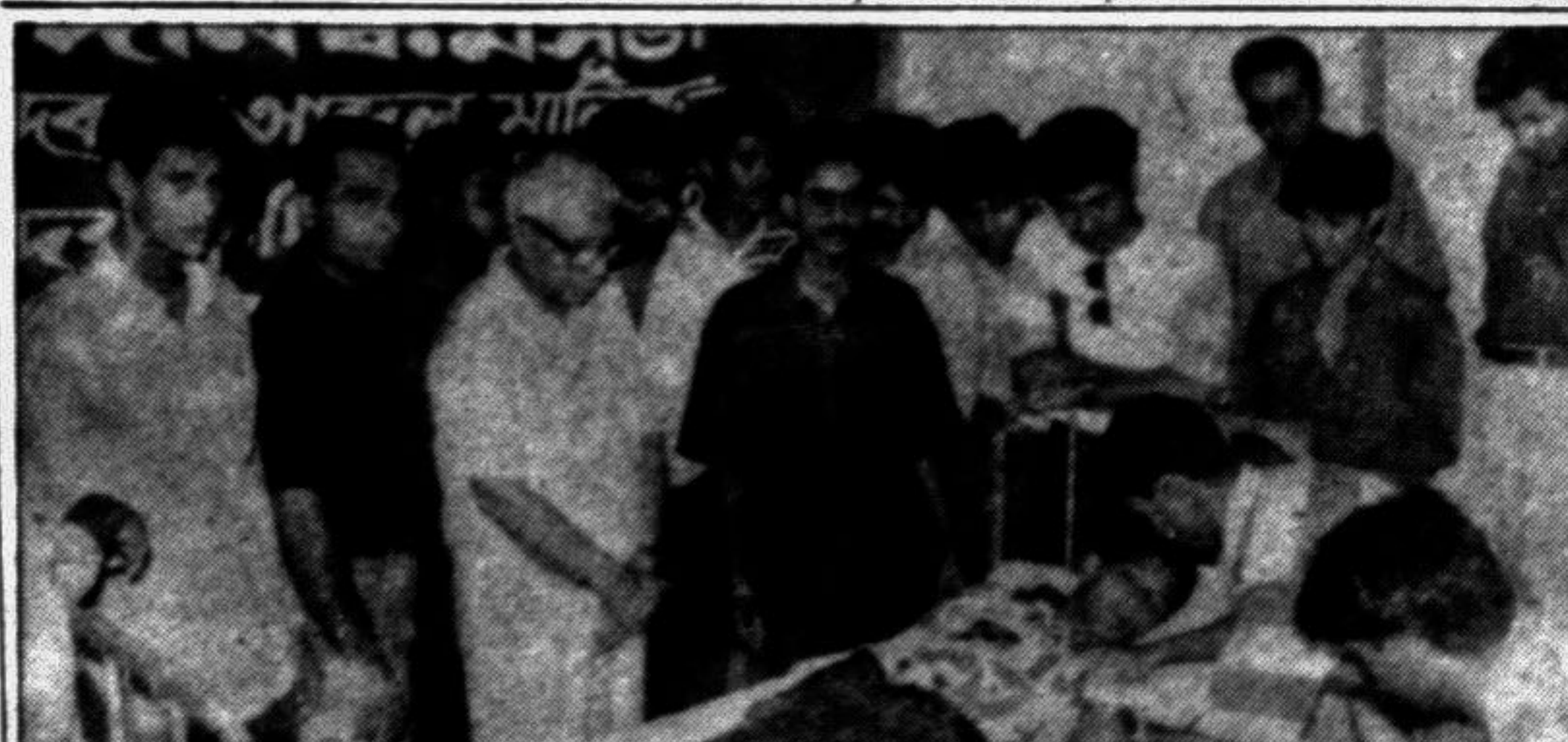
price of bamboos have skyrocketed, they find their profession unprofitable.

Special police drive: 14 held

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, June 3: The police in a special drive arrested 14 persons on various charges. They include a Sarbahara party member Iskandar Ali, 28, held from Deberghat village under Babuganj thana of Barisal district in last 24 hours.

The operation has been continuing for the last two weeks in six southern districts of Barisal division.



SYI.HET: Khandaker Abdul Malik MP recently inaugurated a blood donation programme organised by the Syfhet City Club.