

## National

## News snaps

## Number of child labourers increasing

SUNAMGANJ, July 15: The number of child labourers is increasing alarmingly in the district due to abject poverty caused by river erosion and other natural calamities, reports UNB.

A large number of children aged between 8 and 12 with their families are coming the district headquarters from rural areas and opting for petty jobs like rickshaw puller, hotel boy, day labourer and domestic servant to earn their livelihood. A survey showed that 60 per cent of children come from poor family whose parents are very poor and jobless. They are forced to engage their children in hard work. For this, school dropout rate is increasing as the parents can not afford the expense of education for their children hampering the compulsory education programme in the district.

## By Speaker distributes old-age allowance

KISHOREGANJ, July 15: A total of 630 people of 63 wards in seven unions were given money in cash of the last three months and passbooks under Old-age Allowance scheme at Ostagram thana here on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Deputy Speaker Advocate Abdul Hamid distributed the cash and pass books at a function organised by thana Social Welfare Department at the Ostagram High School ground. Addressing the function he said the government undertook the scheme to alleviate poverty of the distressed people across the country. The Deputy Speaker urged the affluent section of people to come forward for welfare of helpless people of the society. He also sought all out cooperation from all concerned for successful implementation of the epoch-making scheme of the government.

## Scarcity of HYV Aman seeds

NETRORONA, July 15: Aman cultivation is being hampered during the current season as the farmer are facing acute shortage of High Yielding Variety (HYV) of transplanted Aman seeds in 10 thanas of the district, reports UNB.

The BADC approved dealers are charging higher price of the BR-32, BR-11, BR-30 variety seeds which are being sold at Tk 200, 170 and 190 per 10-kg packet respectively. Farmers could not procure Aman seeds due to heavy rainfall and other unfavourable weather condition during the last harvesting season. Although the dealers are getting commission at a considerable rate from the BADC yet they are charging a higher rate than of government rate. Local farmers urged the concerned authority to take necessary steps to mitigate the seed problem.

## Over Tk 1 cr uplift projects implemented

NOAKHALI, July 15: Companiganj Thana Parishad under Noakhali district has implemented 175 development projects at a cost of taka one crore and ten thousand in the fiscal year 1997-98 with the financial assistance of the Asian Development Bank and the Care, a non-government organisation, reports BSS.

The project, included constructions of roads, culverts, and bridges and repairs of primary schools in the rural areas, a thana parishad source said.

## Training course on vegetable farming

MANIKGANJ, July 15: A one-day training course on vegetable cultivation in the yard of dwelling houses was held at Saturia thana on July 13, reports BSS.

The training course included vegetable cultivation, preservation of seeds and vegetables, making and using compost fertilizer and cooking. A total of 30 women of Saturia thana took part in the training course. District Agriculture Extension Department conducted the course.

## Workshop on FP activities

RANGAMATI, July 15: A three-day workshop on "Motivation of Imam and Madrasa Teachers in Family Planning (FP) Activities" began on Tuesday at the office of the Family Planning Association of Bangladesh, here, reports BSS.

Chairman of Rangamati Hill District Local Government Council Ching Kieu Roaza inaugurated the workshop. Thirty imams and madrasah teachers are participating in the workshop.

## World Population Day observed

KHULNA, July 15: World Population Day '98 was observed here on Sunday as elsewhere in the country in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

The theme of this year's World Population Day is "Come Forward to Check Population Growth," the World Population will reach six hundred crore from five hundred crore in only 12 years from 1987 to 1999. Elaborate programmes were taken by the government, semi government and non-government organisations in observance of the day. The day's programme included colourful rally, discussion and exhibition of documentary films on population growth and its impact. A discussion meeting was held at the Khulna Officers Club under the auspices of Family Planning Association of Bangladesh. Khulna Presided over by Principal Malik Atahar Uddin the meeting was addressed, among others, by the Khulna Divisional Commissioner Abul Kashem as the chief guest and others.

## Housewife commits suicide

MYMENSINGH, July 15: A young housewife allegedly committed suicide on Monday at Nigurkanda village in Trishal thana following a family feud, reports UNB.

Police said Amina Begum, 27, took her own life by hanging herself from a branch of tree. A UD case was filed with Trishal thana.

## Swimming training course for boys

MADRIPUR, July 15: A ten-day training course on swimming for the boys under 16 concluded at Charmaguria Merchants High School recently, reports BSS.

District Sports Association organised the training. Alhaj M A Khaleque, TNO, Madripur sadar inaugurated the training course. Nowabjan, Headmaster of the school presided over the inaugural function. A total of 70 trainees participated in the course.

## Rectified spirit seized

THAKURGAON, July 15: Eighty litres of rectified spirit were seized from a homeopathic medicine shop of Thakurgaon town recently, reports BSS.

On a tip-off Narcotics Control Officer went to the shop in disguise and wanted to purchase rectified spirit. When the owner of the shop agreed to sell the spirit the owner of the shop was arrested and 80 litres of rectified spirit were seized from the shop. In this connection a case against owner of the shop was filed with Thakurgaon police station under the Narcotics Control Act.

## Touchstone statue recovered

THAKURGAON, July 15: A statue of 'Lord Krishna' made of touchstone was recovered recently by the police from Mujibnagar, a village near Thakurgaon town, reports BSS.

On secret information a police contingent from Thakurgaon thana... aided the house of Abdur Rahman, a driver of village Mujibnagar under Thakurgaon sadar thana and recovered the statue of 'Lord Krishna' made of touchstone. The price of the statue would be about taka one lakh, police said.

## Manikganj jail work completed

MANIKGANJ, July 15: Public Works Department (PWD) completed the construction work of district jail at a cost of Taka eight crore and forty-four lakh on six acres land, reports BSS.

The newly constructed district jail will accommodate 400 prisoners. It includes main cells for prisoners, separate cells for women and juvenile prisoners office, hospital kitchen and quarters for jail police.

## Food Deptt to purchase wheat

RANGPUR, July 15: The district food department will purchase 13,000 tonnes of wheat from the growers of the district in the current wheat procurement drive, reports BSS.

At least nine purchasing centres have been established by the Food Department for procurement of wheat directly from the growers.

## 10,967 brought under EPI programme

CHUADANGA, July 15: A total of 10,967 children of four thanas and three pourashavas of the district have been brought under EPI programme during the last six month, reports BSS.

Under the programme children between age from 0 to one year have been immunised against six dangerous diseases like tuberculosis, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, measles and polio. According to an official source the local EPI Department has fixed up a target for the current year to immunise a total of 22,600 children in the district against the said six dangerous diseases. The source further said that of the total 22,116 children have been immunised in Chuadanga thana, 2885 in Alamdanga thana, 2521 in Damurhuda thana, 1824 in Jibanganagar thana, 922 in Chuadanga pourashava, 258 in Alamdanga pourashava and 341 in Darsana pourashava in the last six month of the current year. Implementation of the rest work is in full swing.

## Barisal 5 by-election

## Candidates striving hard to woo voters

## From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, July 15: As the by-election date is drawing nearer, the supporters and workers of Awami League (AL), Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and Jatiyo Party (JP) are becoming more and more involved in the election campaign.

Activists of contending political parties are now visiting the voters' homes very off and on in the town area. They are also going to village areas by boats, speed boats and other marine vessels. They are using mikes and wooing the voters from door to door. They are requesting them to cast their votes in favour of their candidates.

Earlier, PM's Political Advisor Suranjit Sengupta MP, and Presidium member and Commerce Minister Tofael Ahmed MP, Tele-Communication Minister Md Nasim and some other MP's of the ruling party visited Barisal. They met with the local leaders and workers and attended party meetings in different places of

the electoral area. BNP General Secretary Mannan Bhuiyan MP, Major Ireti Halif MP, other members of parliament (MPs) of BNP also visited different areas here. On Sunday evening BNP central leader KM Obaidur Rahman, Selim Rahim including the local leaders and workers of BNP met with the local journalists at the Barisal Press Club. Here they categorically alleged that the AL central leaders, ministers and chief whip are violating the Election Code of Conduct.

They are using government machinery, frequently alluring the people here with promises of development programmes in near future. It is unfair, they added.

Earlier Mannan Bhuiyan, Secretary General of BNP said, the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) in a letter to the Prime Minister requested her to ensure that no minister, state minister, deputy minister or any person having same status

will pay any official or unofficial visit to the Barisal-5 (sadar) constituency for keeping the by-election above any controversy.

Jatiyo Party leaders are also raising some allegations against the ruling party members.

Evidently it has become clear that both the Awami League and BNP are heading towards a tougher contest to win the electoral race here.

It may be recalled that since independence AL candidate won this seat only once in 1973 while BNP candidate won the seat in 1979, 1991, 1991 by-election, 1996 and the controversial election of 15th February, 1996. Jatiyo Party candidate won this seat in the general election of 1983 and 1988 during Ershad's regime.

Ershad will address a public meeting here on 17th July and Begum Khaleda Zia is also expected to visit Barisal on July 18.

## 4 vigilance teams to monitor election process

## From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, July 15: Four vigilance teams have been formed by the Returning Officer (Deputy Commissioner, Barisal) here for Barisal-5 Constituency by-election following a directive of the Election Commission. The by-election has been scheduled to be held on July 20.

The vigilance teams will monitor the overall election process and inform the higher authorities about the conditions and irregularities, if there be any from time to time.

The entire electoral areas here have been divided into four sections to monitor the election situation time to time smoothly.

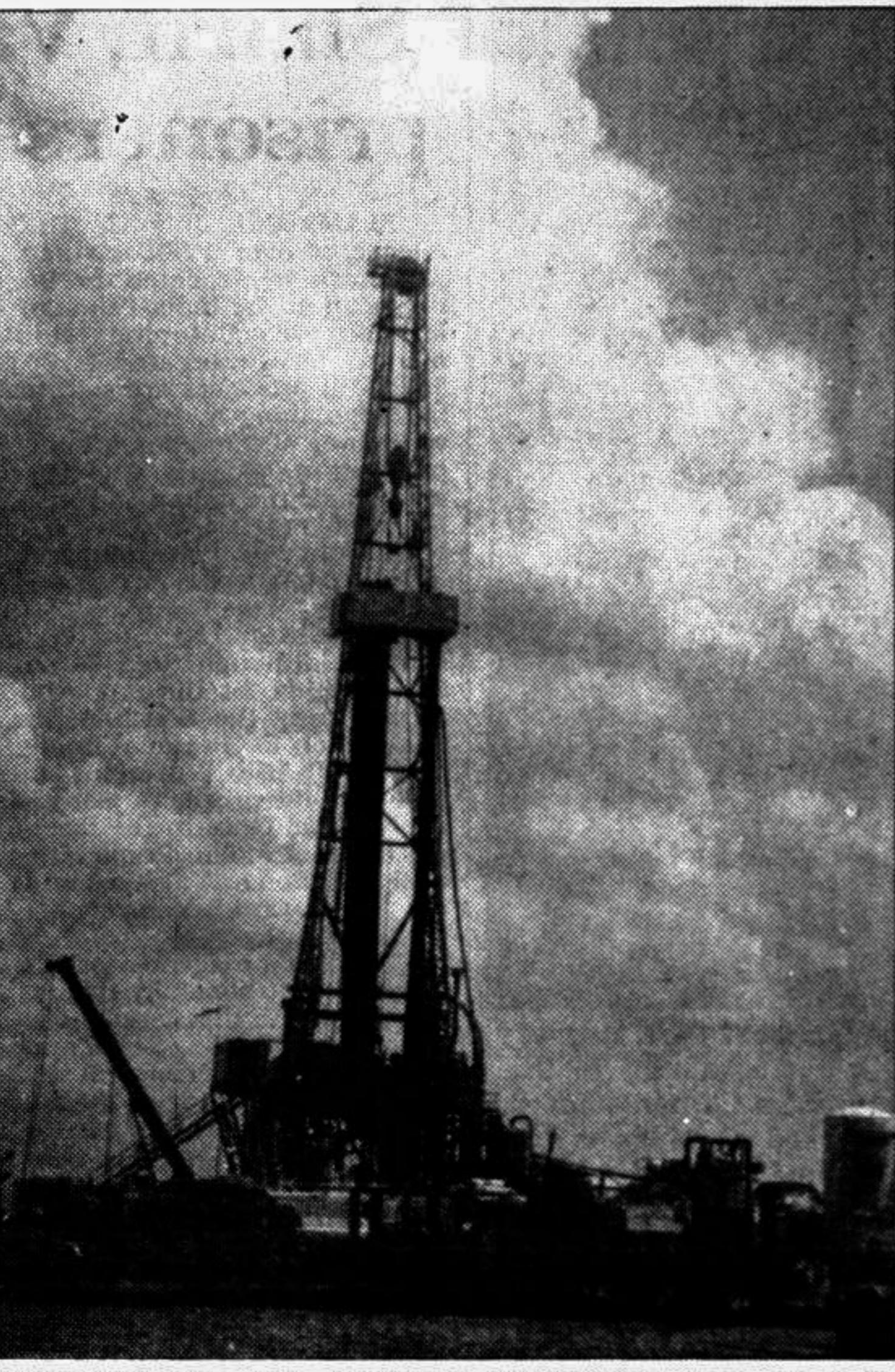
The Election Commission has already deputed 93 presiding officers, 453 assistant presiding officers and 906 polling officers to conduct the by-election fairly and peacefully on July 20. On the date a total of 2,12,083 voters (of which 1,10,353 males and 1,01,730 females) of Barisal-5 Constituency consisting of 10 unions and a pourashava area, will cast their votes in 906 polling booths of 93 centres.

## One chopped to death

## From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, July 15: One person was chopped to death by unidentified miscreants at village Gokul Nagar under Sainolupura thana of the district on Monday afternoon.

The victim, Monihar Biswas, 65, was a witness in a murder case, police said.



SYLHET: The US company Occidental has started downing the Rig at its exploratory well 'Bibiana-1' at Digbalik in the remote village of Nabiganj thana last week.

— Star photo by Iqbal Siddiquee

## Road accidents decrease after opening of BJMB

## From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, July 15: Road accidents, which occurred frequently previously have come to a halt since opening of Bangabandhu Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge (BJMB) on June 23.

Reports gathered from different places of the northern region revealed, no major road accidents occurred during the past two weeks since June 23.

At present, there are no traffic jams, no mad rush of vehicles, no queue of vehicles on either side of the BJMB. No race of the vehicles to overtake each other is visible now. These are now common scenes in the long routes of the northern districts. It is most interesting to note here, all the long route passen-

gers are running through BJMB in a pleasant manner.

The experienced circles have opined, BJMB has practically brought a sigh of relief in minds of passengers. People of all sections are treating the BJMB as a blessing.

Farmers of the region are now very much hopeful that they would get fair marketing facilities to sell their products at fair price. No more they will be kept as hostages in the hands of the middle-men 'dalais' and farias.

According to a survey report, since January '97 upto June '98 about 1,245 persons were killed and 5,000 injured in road accidents in the northern region. At least 3,000 road mishaps oc-

curred during this period in the region, police and other sources said.

Most of these mishaps took place following rash driving and mad race of the long route passenger buses, trucks and other motor vehicles to avail of first chance of the ferries.

Bus and truck owners are now very much happy with the opening of BJMB to traffic since its inaugural day. Moreover, they have expressed satisfaction for safety of their property and human life. The night coach owners, in the meantime, called upon the government to provide sufficient security measures for long route bus passengers as armed miscreants are active along the national highway.

## Fate of Rajshahi Silk City project hangs in balance

PABNA, July 15: Setting up of proposed 'Rajshahi Silk City' project is still hanging in the balance due to bureaucratic bottleneck and lack of proper initiative, reports UNB.

To implement the project, several meetings were held during five and a half years since

1992 and a plan was also undertaken to set up 'Rajshahi Silk City' on 30 acres of land in city's Banagram area costing Tk 8.25 crore in order to expand silk market abroad, but could not make any headway so far in this regard, said an official wishing anonymity.

Industries Ministry directed the BSCIC to undertake the necessary initiative for the project work after a decision was taken in this regard in an inter-ministerial meeting held at Uttara Ganabhaban on January 21, 1992.

After selection of the project site through Project Site Selection Committee, BSCIC sent a Project Concept Paper (PCP) to the ministry showing the estimated cost of Tk 7.74 crore on September 1992.

Later, another meeting, held at Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Department (IMED) on December 24 that year on PCP, formed a six-member inter-ministerial Observation Committee comprising the representatives from IMED, Planning Commission, Industries Ministry, Silk Board and BSCIC.

Police also recovered one pipe gun including four rounds of cartridges from their posses-

s. The arrested persons are Maniruzzaman of Khalishpur in Khulna district, Zahid of Bagerhat, Elias and Haroon both of Pirojpur and Endamul Haq of Barisal district. Police sources said, the arrested persons were suspiciously moving in the bazar area. Police personnel on duty challenged and arrested them.

After placing the report by the committee, another meeting was held on September 30, 1993 to finalize the project and un-

A case was filed with the local police.

## Attack on magistrate in Natore court room

## From Our Correspondent

NATORE, July 15: Some unscrupulous persons numbering about 20 have allegedly attacked a magistrate in the court room recently after cancellation of a bail prayer by the magistrate of two accused of an arms case, court and police sources said.

According to court sources, a prayer for bail for the two accused persons was placed before the court of First Class Magistrate Selim Akhtar on the day

and the magistrate rejected to issue bail.

After the rejection, unscrupulous people who were present at the court room got aggravated and assaulted the magistrate. They fled from the place soon after the incident.

However, when contacted, the DC, Natore expressed his ignorance about the matter.

## BANGLADESH FREEDOM FIGHTERS' WELFARE TRUST "SWADHINATA BHABAN" PROCUREMENT SECTION 88, MOTIJHEEL COMMERCIAL AREA, DHAKA-1000.

## INTERNATIONAL/ LOCAL TENDER NOTICE

S <sup>N</sup> NO	TENDER NO & DATE	NAME OF ITEM	EARNEST MONEY	COST OF SCHEDULE (NON REFUND - ABLE)	LAST DATE & TIME OF DROPPING<br
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