

Ullapara Sc College Principal's office ransacked by examinees

From Akhteruzzaman Bablu

SIRAJGANJ, Apr 28: Office of the Principal of Ullapara Science College in Sirajganj district was ransacked by the students on Thursday, the first day of Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations under Rajshahi Education Board.

Meanwhile, despite tight measures taken by the local administration, unfair means in examination centres is rampant in various centres in Sirajganj district, though it has been checked considerably in Sirajganj Sadar thana centre.

This year the total number of HSC examinees in Sirajganj district is 16,778. Of them the major number — 3,006 examinees in Kazipur thana, 2,945 in Shahjadpur, 2,676 in Raigonj, 2,273 in Ullapara, 1,320 in Kamarkhonda, 1,716 in five centres of Sirajganj Sadar thana, 821 in Tarash, 712 in Chowhall and 1,309 in Belkuchi thana are sitting for HSC examinations.



Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Sirajganj AFM Saiful Islam visiting the Baghati Degree College Centre under Sirajganj sadar thana during the English First Paper examination of HSC examinations on Thursday. He expressed satisfaction observing tight steps in the centre.

A total of 716 have been expelled on Thursday, the first day of English first paper examination.

The number of expelled students are thanawise: Kazipur — 46, Sadar thana centres — 54, Shahjadpur — 125, Ullapara — 67, Kamarkhonda — 151, Raigonj — 192, Belkuchi — 51, Chowhall — 26, and Tarash — seven.

Witnesses said, adoption of unfair means in these centres has broken the previous records. Some examinees and invigilators complained that they had been disturbed by the outsiders during examination hours on the first day of HSC examination.

Painting show on Liberation War, Language Movement

From Anwar Ali

NATORE, Apr 28: An amateur painter of Natore, Rumi Shaila Sharmin, a Masters final year student of Psychology Department of Rajshahi University arranged her first solo painting exhibition at the RU Central Shaheed Minar premises recently.

With 43 exhibits on show, this was a massive assemblage of works by one young artist drawing admiration. Out of the total 31 are exhibited for the first time.

Though Rumi had no academic background of art and drawing or Fine Arts, she in recent times, has emerged as one of the promising painter of the country with a special characteristic of her own.

The crisis, cries, and conflicts of life touched Rumi quite deeply and she tried to depict life in its varied aspects. A large number of people enjoyed the show. Of the exhibits, 'Bijoy Ullash', 'Bangla Ma', 'Amar Borna Mala', 'Dahon', 'Badhyabhumir Chhatare', 'Jananee Jannabhumir', 'Nirjanta', 'Prottyashito Prottyush', 'Obhijog', 'Prosranti', and 'Urechhilo Pakhira' have been highly appreciated and enjoyed by the visitors.



Rumi, a promising amateur artist, showing the visitors various aspects of her first solo painting show at RU Shaheed Minar premises recently.

Her paintings have depicted the nostalgic moments, a remembrance of the memories of our liberation war and language movement. At the same time her paintings have depicted the distressed of men, women and children.

Rumi, since her early age has been engaged in drawing, paintings, writing reports and participating in various functions. She is also programme conductor of magazine programme 'Nobaron' (of college and university students) and regular performer of drama in Bangladesh Betar, Rajshahi.

RU students face crisis of drinking water

RAJSHAH UNIVERSITY, Apr 28: Resident students of the university have been facing acute crisis of safe drinking water for a long time.

445 bottles of phensidyl syrup seized in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Apr 28: Four hundred and forty-five bottles of Indian phensidyl syrup were seized and three people were arrested in this connection in the city on Saturday.

Students have urged the authorities concerned to set up a water treatment plant to solve the problem. Students, particularly females, complain they are also facing hair loss problem because 'contaminated' water. Most of the female students bathe in ponds situated in their hall premises to avoid the problem.



Parliament Speaker Alhaj Humayun Rashid Chowdhury speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural function of the two-day celebration of the Silver Jubilee of Bangladesh Manipuri Sahitya Sangsad, a tribal literary association held here recently.

Ershad tells Pabna rally 4 parties united to protect country

PABNA, Apr 28: Jatiya Party Chairman H. M. Ershad on Wednesday said the four-party alliance would establish a welfare-oriented government ousting the Awami League government forever by waging a united movement, reports UNB.

"We the four parties have forged unity to protect the country from misrule, terrorism and extortion of Awami League government," he told a public meeting at Pabna town hall ground on Wednesday.

Jatiya Party District convener Azizur Rahman Arzu presided over the meeting. He said instead of fulfilling its pledge to build a Sonar Bangla, the government unleashed a reign of terror across the country, he said adding that some 82 people were killed in the capital alone last month.

The deposed president said mills and factories were closed after the government came to power. The country is flooded with Indian goods and drugs smuggled into the country from India are destroying the youths, he added.

JP Secretary General Nazim Rahman Manzur, president member Kazi Firoz Rashid and former MP A K M Shamsuddin also addressed the meeting.

Boy killed in Jhenidah road accident

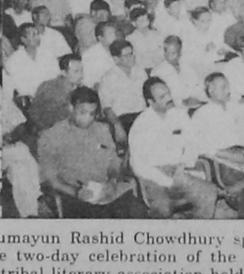
JHENIDAH, Apr 28: A boy was crushed under the wheels of a passenger bus on Tuesday at village Laudia under Sadar upazila.

The victim was identified as Moktar Hossain, 8. According to police, a Barisal-bound bus hit the boy from behind, killing him on the spot. The boy was crossing the road.

Viral fever breaks out in Faridpur

FARIDPUR, Apr 28: Viral fever has broken out in the town in an epidemic form, affecting a large number of people. People are pouring into hospitals and private chambers of doctors complaining high temperature, severe headache and cough.

Doctors have attributed the outbreak of the disease to the seasonal change in weather. Even then the bad news is there. Despite a bountiful production of wheat, the government has decided to procure only 19,000 mts of wheat from the district this year dampening the enthusiasm of the growers.



Various peasant organisations demanded of the Food Department to take steps for procuring at least 50,000 tons of wheat.



A recent nor'wester in Jamalpur uprooted many electric poles. Photo shows such an uprooted pole near Jamalpur Pali Biddyt Samity, Rural Electrification Board headquarters.

155 incidents recorded in Moulvibazar last yr Fire incidents increasing, one killed in Feni

By Staff Correspondent

One person was killed and many houses were gutted in devastating fire incidents in various districts recently, reports agencies.

A fire station doused the blaze after about an hour. In another incident seven shanties were gutted at OR Nizam Road rendering about 100 people homeless recently.

A shop owner was feared dead inside his stationery shop in a fire at Jagannathbari Road in Feni town on Sunday.

At least four houses were gutted in a devastating fire at Shasanghata village near Primary Training Institute (PTI) under sadar thana of Sathkhira district recently.

Witnesses said the fire broke out while the victim, Murari Mohan Saha, 72, was lighting a lamp in his shop adjacent to an oil store.

The fire originated from an electric short circuit from a house and immediately engulfed other houses. The firefighters rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze after one hour of hectic efforts.

However, local people later recovered a burnt skeleton from the shop and it was thought to be of Murari.

Meanwhile our Moulvibazar correspondent says: A total of 155 fire incidents occurred in Moulvibazar district during the last year (1999).

The extent of loss by the fire was estimated at Tk 10 lakh.

The loss on account of fire was estimated at about Taka 77 lakh 69 thousand 768.

Fire Brigade sources said the fire originated from an electric short circuit at about 3 am and soon engulfed the entire area.

Md Amir Hussain Majumder, Assistant Director of District Fire Service and Civil Defence Department told The Daily Star correspondent in Moulvibazar that at least 26 people died in 164 incidents including road and water transport incidents.

Fire Service sources said, four houses were burnt into ashes in a fire that broke out at Berek Building Square recently. The fire originated from an electric short circuit at a dwelling house and soon engulfed the surrounding areas.

The source of fire incidents recorded during the year 1999 in Moulvibazar district were furnace. In 38 fire incidents which caused loss of Taka 22 lakh 77 thousand 800. Electric short circuit caused 32 fire incidents and loss from it estimated at Taka 5 lakh 02 thousand 268.

Two fire units from Agrabad

thousand 200, setting fire on property by unruly mobs or by unknown criminals-16, which caused loss of Taka 12 lakh 96 thousand, burning ashes and other fire works-26, and losses from it estimated at Taka 27 lakh 72 thousand 600 and fire incidents of unidentified reasons-3 and losses from it taka 3 thousand.

Procurement target dampens enthusiasm of wheat growers

THAKURGAON, Apr 28: Revivuated by successive bumper productions, wheat growers of the district have embarked on harvest, reports UNB.

There have been allegations that some influential people have stored a huge quantity of wheat to supply it to government godowns, depriving the genuine farmers to sell their produces to the government.

Some 1.5 lakh metric tons of wheat are expected to be produced in the district as 60,000 hectares of land were brought under the cultivation.

Another report from Kishoreganj says: The government is destined to suffer loss due to inefficiency of Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) in Kishoreganj region.

The good news is that this year's wheat corns are much healthier than previous years," said Deputy Director of the district Mohammad Abdus Salam.

BADC has decided to sell 11,62 lakh kg of wheat seeds in the open market for the consumption as the seeds remained unsold.

As agriculture workers got engaged in wheat harvesting, labour wages have shot up in the district.

Like previous years BADC stored 11,62 kg quality wheat seeds to supply to the farmers and encourage them in wheat cultivation.

Day-labourers are demanding Tk 700-800 for harvesting one acre of land, villagers said.

But the farmers did not buy the BADC seeds this year as they were disappointed using its seeds last year. As a result 11,62 lakh kg seeds remained unsold.

Meanwhile, wheat price continues to show an upward trend in the district. It is now selling at Tk 330 per maund and likely to exceed the government rate of Tk 356 soon.

Deputy Director of BADC regional office M Helal Uddin Chowdhury, however, said the wheat will not be sold if the quotation was lower than the market price.

Even then the bad news is there. Despite a bountiful production of wheat, the government has decided to procure only 19,000 mts of wheat from the district this year dampening the enthusiasm of the growers.

Local people and eyewitnesses said the clash erupted over harvesting at a disputed paddy field.

Various peasant organisations demanded of the Food Department to take steps for procuring at least 50,000 tons of wheat.

The farmers cultivated wheat on 9,840 hectares of land against the target of 13,500 hectares this year due to non-availability of good seeds.

As the farmers did not take BADC seeds, more than 10.24 lakh kg remained unsold in Kishoreganj godown, 22,000 kg in Pakundia godown and 1.18 lakh kg in Netrokona godown.

The costly seeds are now being sold in the market at nominal price causing a huge loss to the government. Tender has been invited from the buyers to sell the seeds.

A competent source said an influential quarter is trying to buy the wheat at throwaway price through manipulation in collusion with a section of dishonest BADC officials.

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News snaps

Shroud procession

LALMONIRHAT, Apr 28: More than one thousand Awami League activists attired in shroud on Monday paraded in the town demanding immediate execution of the verdict of Bangabandhu murder case, reports UNB.

Allowance for women

SYLHET, Apr 28: Some 4,410 poor women of 98 unions in 11 upazilas have been brought under a monthly allowance programme, reports UNB.

Two commit suicide

MANIKGANJ, Apr 28: Two people allegedly committed suicide in two thanas on Friday, reports UNB.

2 killed in road mishap

MYMENSINGH, Apr 28: At least two persons were killed and 20 others injured in a road accident on Mymensingh-Sherpur highway at Rupchandrapur under Tarakanda thana on Monday, reports BSS.

Two fugitives held

COX'S BAZAR, Apr 28: Police on Saturday arrested two more fugitives, who fled from court *hazat* early this month, from Kaurkhop forest area in Ramu thana, reports UNB.

Smuggled goods seized

RAJSHAHI, Apr 28: Plainclothes police seized Indian goods from a minibus here Tuesday and arrested a man in this connection, reports UNB.

Bumper Boro output likely

BAGERHAT, Apr 28: Boro production appears to surpass its target due to favourable weather and easy availability of fertiliser, reports UNB.

Art for people's development

A mobile art exhibition was arranged recently by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in collaboration with Chandpur district administration. Eminent artist Hashem Khan inaugurated the exhibition.

Rivals' clash leaves man dead

MANIKGANJ, Apr 28: A man was killed and 15 others were injured, four seriously, in an attack of the rival group while harvesting paddy at Nalgaira *beel* in Daulatpur thana on Monday, reports UNB.

Efforts on to remove illiteracy

NARSINGDI, Apr 28: Deputy Speaker Advocate Abdul Hamid on Friday said the present government was continuing sincere efforts to erase illiteracy from society, reports BSS.

Rangpur AL leader dead

RANGPUR, Apr 28: Rangpur District Awami League Vice-President and Bangladesh Bar Council member Advocate Nazrul Islam on Thursday died at Mohakhali Metropolitan Hospital in Dhaka, reports BSS.

Man killed in clash over harvesting

MAGURA, Apr 28: A man was killed and 11 others injured in a clash between two rival groups at village Amuria in Sadar upazila on Sunday.

Loan for cooperators

SHARIATPUR, Apr 28: RISDA, a non-governmental organisation has disbursed over taka 2.96 lakh as loans among the members of the Cooperative Societies in seven thanas recently, reports BSS.

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