

HSC results debacle

None passes from 17 colleges

From Anwar Ali

NATORE, Sept 24: The overall results of Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations this year came as a shock to several colleges. But it was a disaster to at least 17 non-government colleges under Rajshahi Education Board where not a single examinee managed to pass the examinations. And the Education Ministry is likely to take steps against these 'unsuccessful' college authorities.

The 'unsuccessful' colleges are Dr Mosarrat Hossain College at Singra upazila and Rukia Pilot School and College at Gurudaspur upazila in Natore district, Moharajpur Asma Khatun Chowdhury College, Annura Hazrat Buland Shah College, Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir College and Alinagar School and College of Chapainawabganj district, Selimpur College of Pabna district, Lalkuthi Girls' School and College and Hena Memorial College of Rangpur district, the Girls' College of Gaibandha district, Rajarhat Nasim Khan School and College in Kurigram district, Fulbari Purabi School and College, Shankarpur College in Dinajpur district, Bonda Maldandighi College, Tetulia Mashipara Girls' College, and Autoary Bangabandhu Dangihrat Ideal College in Panchagarh district and Barnamala School and College at Pirganj of Thakurgaon district.

The sources said that some 1,22,474 candidates from 786 colleges under Rajshahi Education Board appeared in the HSC examinations this year.

Of the total colleges, one to ten per cent examinees from 91 colleges managed to pass the examinations while the percentages of pass of 127 colleges ranged between 11 and 20 per cent. The rates hovered between

21 and 30 per cent in 126 colleges, 31 and 40 per cent in 150 colleges, 41 and 50 per cent in 101 colleges, 51 and 60 per cent in 78 colleges, 61 and 70 per cent in 38 colleges, 71 and 80 per cent in 21 colleges, 81 and 90 per cent in 9 colleges and 91 and 100 per cent in 9 colleges.

The overall pass percentage is 36.55 in the Board this year. Punitive measures are likely to be taken soon against the 'unsuccessful' colleges, sources said. Registrations and benefits of the colleges concerned might be suspended or cancelled and cautionary letters should be issued, sources added.

UNB from Kushtia says: Percentage of pass in the HSC examination held under Jessore Board dropped in almost all colleges of the district this year.

Official sources said the percentage has come down on an average 16 per cent, which was 60 to 80 per cent in previous years.

Pass percentage of some of the colleges are: Government Degree College-57.12, Government Mohila College-15.49, Islamia College-7.15, Adarsha College-6.47, Kushtia High School and College-15.5, Bangram College-7.4, Kumarkhali College-16, Kumarkhali Mohila College-4.9 and Pantu College-4.34.

The sources said the percentage dropped due to strict measures taken to check unfair means in the examination and change of examination centres.

When contacted, principals of two colleges welcomed the new measures and said although the year witnessed erosion in result, it will bring good to the nation in future.



It is a real torture for the passers-by to pass this muddy road at Chaul Patty in Tangail town. But the town fathers are still apathetic. —Star photo

Netrakona DIARY

Illegal power lines deprive govt of revenue

NETRAKONA, Sept 24: The government is being deprived of huge amount of revenue as a section people here use illegal power lines in houses and other establishments in connivance with a section of local Power Development Board (PDB) staff.

An investigation reveals that a large number of illegal connections from each electric pole have been given to illegal consumers. PDB staff allegedly realise between Taka 100 and Taka 150 a month for each connection. On the other hand, genuine consumers allege they are being received 'inflated' electricity bills almost every month. Officials concerned could not be contacted for comments.

Smuggling along border rampant

Smuggling along the border areas in the district has become rampant, much to chagrin of local businesses.

Local people alleged Gobindapur, Langura, Bruakona, Pasgong and Moheskola under Kalmakanda upzila, Goplapur, Bijoypur, Ranikong and Barnair under Durpapur upzila are safe havens for smugglers. Contraband like sugar, salt, fertiliser, phensidyl syrup, a popular item for drug addicts, and saree are being smuggled in the country through these points. Residents allege smugglers are carrying out the activities in connivance with border guards. A good number of grocers in Kalmakanda and Durgapur areas said they are selling smuggled goods because these are available in markets, adding that the prices are also cheap.

Demands for dowry rising

Parents of marriageable girls in the district are facing problem to marry their daughters off because of dowry.

Although an anti-dowry law exists in the country, parents of grooms or the grooms themselves demand dowry, much to the sufferings of guardians, especially poor ones. The demand for dowry has been increasing alarmingly in recent days in the district, said Manjurul Hussain, a schoolteacher in the town. Sirajul Islam of Doyaj union of Atpara upzila said he could not marry his daughter off as guardians of prospective bridegrooms demanded dowry. Anisur Rahman, who teaches at a private college in the town, said mere law cannot help solve the problem. Social consciousness in needed to fight the problem, he added. Strict application of anti-dowry law is also needed to get the society freed from the problem, said Monirul Islam an officer of a nationalised commercial bank.

Delayed viscera reports: Obstacle to UD cases

A large number of unnatural death cases have remained pending for a long time with courts only because of non-availability of viscera reports.

Delay in receiving viscera reports from the laboratory in Dhaka has been an obstacle to early disposal of unnatural death cases. Viscera tests are done on parts of human organs to find out the causes of death. The laboratory usually takes a long time to send the reports. When contacted, civil surgeon of Netrakona said it is difficult for the lone laboratory in the country to send all the reports in time. More laboratories should be set up in different parts of the country, he opined.

Sound pollution increasing

Most of vehicles in the town use horns that cause intolerable sound pollution in violation of traffic rules. Drivers of vehicles use horns quite unnecessarily while playing on roads.

Besides, youths in different parts of the town play music in full volume through loudspeakers, causing immense sound pollution.

Dull jute market

From Muhammad Ali

JAMALPUR, Sept 24: Jute markets here have become dull as traders are not in a position to buy jute from growers because they are yet to receive bills from jute mills. Several state-run and private jute mills owe a huge amount of money to them.

The jute traders with shortage of cash are showing reluctance to purchase jute, leaving the markets under full control of middlemen, who have become active following sharp decline in jute prices.

About Taka seven crore has remained outstanding with twenty-two jute-purchasing centres of several public and private jute mills.

The jute mills include Adamjee Jute Mills Ltd, Karim Jute Mills Ltd, Bangladesh Jute Mills Ltd, Amin Jute Mills Ltd, Nishat Jute Mills Ltd, Hafiz Jute Mills Ltd and MM Jute Mills Ltd under Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) and private Janata Jute Mills Ltd, Shahadat Jute Industries Ltd, Popular Jute Mills Ltd, Alhaj Jute Mills Ltd and ARA Jute Mills Ltd.

However, jute-purchasing centres have started activities in Sarisabari, Malendah, Islampur and Dewangan upzila headquarters and in Nandina, Nurundi and Piarpur under Sadar upzila.

However, at the beginning of the purchasing season, the jute

traders had realised only 50 per cent of total dues from twenty-two jute purchasing centres.

Due to lack of capital the traders could not buy jute. Growers who are in urgent need of cash are inviting the middlemen increasingly. Taking advantage of the situation, the middlemen are buying jute at much lower rates.

At present, local variety jute sells between Tk 250 and Tk 270 while HYV tosa variety between Tk 290 and Tk 310 per maund.

Growers said about Tk 400 is required to produce a maund of jute fibre, but we are selling our products below production cost.



Jute farmers are taking their products to markets. The photograph was taken last week at a village under Sadar upzila. The growers say jute, once popularly known as golden fibre, sells below production cost. —Star photo

Hybrid tomato gains popularity

SHERPUR, Sept 24: Due to their high yields and early harvesting qualities, the cultivation of 'hybrid tomato' varieties gained popularity among the growers in the district, reports UNB.

According to the agriculture scientists, the size of hybrid tomatoes are much bigger and their production is several times higher than that of the local varieties.

Besides, they take only 50 to 55 days to harvest and they could be cultivated at any time of the year.

As the appearances of the hybrid tomatoes are attractive, their market value is also higher. The hybrid varieties could also be supplied at the very beginning of rabi season fetching extra money for the growers.

The growers can cultivate other vegetables with hybrid tomatoes as co-crops.

Considering the above benefits, the farmers became interested in cultivating the early varieties of hybrid tomato.

Agriculturist Hassan Sohel of Damdama Kaliganj village in Sadar upzila cultivated 16 high yielding varieties of tomatoes, including five hybrid varieties Udayan, Delta, Hightom, Ananta and Sabal.

For the cultivation of the early variety, Sohel prepared the seedbeds in the second week of Bengali month of Shrabon and seedlings were planted in the second week of Bhadra.

Besides, bean and other vegetables were cultivated as co-crops at the same time.

When contacted Sohel told the news agency that he is hoping to market his produces in the last week of Kartik.

BSS from Bogra says: Cultivation of papaya has been gaining popularity all over the district as elsewhere in the country.

Agriculture Extension Department (AED) sources said that during the current year about 600 hectares of land have been brought under papaya cultivation entirely on individual initiative. The papaya has been used as fruit as well as vegetable.

AED sources said that the department has not fixed any target and achievements of the production officially.

Upazila-wise cultivation of papaya has been recorded as below: 2 hectares in Adamdighi, Dupchachia 4 hectares, Dhunat 10 hectares, Gabtali 5 hectares, Kahaaloo 9 hectares, Bogra Sadar 49 hectares, Nandigram 7 hectares, Sherpur 8 hectares, Shariakandi 10 hectares, Shubganj 10 hectares and Sonatola 16 hectares.

Experts said that the cultivation of papaya and its use could be enhanced creating awareness among the people in view of its nutrient and medicinal value.

Kirtankhola erodes Charkawa Bazaar

BARISAL, Sept 24: Charkawa Bazaar on the outskirts of the district town went into the gorge of the Kirtankhola on Monday, reports UNB.

Over 200 shops of the bazaar were shifted to safer places earlier on Saturday night as erosion by the turbulent river has taken a serious turn. The river devoured an 80-metre area adjoining to the bazaar in last one week.

A concrete-made establishment and a bolder constructed by Water Development Board in 1995 also disappeared into the river during the period.

Meanwhile, a madrasa, two mosques and some other establishments have been under threat of erosion.

As the river erosion continues to intensify, Charkawa Bus Terminal has been relocated to a place half a km east off the present one.

An unspecified number of erosion-hit families have taken shelter on khas or highlands and are passing days in miseries for lack of assistance.

Another report from Manikganj says: River erosion took an alarming turn in the district as the rivers devoured a vast track of land in six upazilas.

Twenty villages, including five schools, 17 mosques, five shrines, three bazars, two bridges and 10 culverts of Dhulsura union in Harirampur upzila disappeared into the Padma river rendering hundreds of people homeless.

Daskandi, Bhojra, Harukandi, Azimnagar and Kanchanpur villages of the upzila also are under threat of erosion.

Besides, a vast area of Jafarganj, Teota, Goaria, Beparipara and Dupulia in Shibdal upzila, Bhagutia, Chakdipul and Gongakanda in Daulatpur upzila were washed away by the river Jamuna.

River Dhaleswari engulfed a vast land of Sreedhar, Nagarkanda and Ghior Purbapara in Ghior upzila while Kaliganga threatened Savar, Ainapur, Jhalsuka, Tili

and Gopalpur in sadar and Satturia upzilas.

Meanwhile, a large portion of the flood control embankment in Sadar upzila went into the riverbed threatening more areas of Kavarjani, Nayvakandi, Nalra, Balirtek and Komarpura.

BSS from Chittagong says: Leaders of Hatiya Janakalyan Samiti (HJS) have appealed to the government for taking immediate necessary steps to save the coastal island of Hatiya from continuous erosion by the Bay of Bengal.

The demand was made at a press conference at the press club here on Monday.

"We fear, the whole island situated at the mouth of the mighty River Meghna would be devoured if erosion continues", leaders said adding 500 square kilometres area of the island have already gone into the River Meghna.

Sixty thousand families were affected and many public and private offices were also devoured by the river, they said.

Leaders said, the present upazila headquarters, health complex, a number of government and non-government schools and colleges, post office and silo of food department are threatened by erosion.

HJS leaders also placed an eight-point demand which included: development of internal roads, transport service from Hatiya to Noakhali, Chittagong and Dhaka, easy telecommunication system with district headquarters Noakhali and rest of the country, bridge between Charbata and Beyerchar, establishment of a technical institute and loan for cottage industries.

General Secretary of the Samiti Mohammad Nasir Ullah read out the written statement at the conference while President Mohammad Nazmul Hossain and other leaders Mohammad Illias, Mohammad Bodiuazzaman, Mahmud Ali Ratul, Obaidul Karim Nasrat and Nur Uddin Ahmed were present.

Acute urea scarcity

NETRAKONA, Sept 24: Transplanted Aman cultivation has been hampering in the district due to acute scarcity of urea fertiliser in the local markets, reports UNB.

Market sources said the price of urea has gone by Tk 25 to Tk 35 per 50-kg bag. Retailers were selling at Tk 8 per kg as against its previous price of Tk 6.

A trader said the sudden crisis of urea cropped up due to the negligence of the local fertiliser dealers as none of them lifted the August quota of urea from the mill.

Some dealers, however, told the news agency that the crisis is purely temporary and the situation will be improved within a week.

Another sources disclosed that the wholesalers of the district to earn windfall profit have created

the artificial crisis.

District administration sources said they were thinking to arrange a buffer stock of the fertilizer to meet the emergency needs of the farmers.

BSS from Madaripur says: A two-day long training course on integrated soil fertility and fertiliser management was held in the town recently.

Local Agriculture Extension department organised the training course. It was held at its auditorium.

A total of 80 block supervisors from Sadar, Kalkini, Rajoir and Sibchar upzilas took part in the training course.

District Agriculture Extension Officers and Deputy Director, Agriculture Extension Department, Madaripur, were the resource persons.

Pests invade Aman

NILPHAMARI, Sept 24: Widespread pest attack on Aman paddy fields in six upzilas may dash the hope to harvest a bountiful production, reports UNB.

According to the Department of Agriculture Extension, a total of 1.12 lakh hectares of land have been brought under Aman cultivation this season.

Of the total land, Ulsi was cultivated on 86,000 hectares and local varieties on 26,000 hectares.

The farmers said they could not irrigate their lands adequately and failed to spray pesticides in time due to their ignorance.

They also alleged that field workers of the Agriculture Department did not advise them to apply insecticides on the paddy fields.

Aman paddy on a vast tract of

land in the district also destroyed last season due to severe attack by maza'ra pests, sources said.

Another report from Patuakhali says: A scheme has been taken up to bring 2.20 lakh hectares of land under Aman cultivation in all the six upzilas of the district during the current season.

Agriculture Extension Department sources said of the total land, 55,000 hectares will be brought under high yielding 'Ulsi' variety and the rest 1.65 lakh hectares under local variety.

Several demonstration plots have been set up.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation will provide the farmers with quality seeds, pesticides and other necessary inputs at fair prices to make the programme a success.

Textbooks of primary students recovered

BARGUNA, Sept 24: When the primary students of the district were facing serious trouble in getting their textbooks, a huge number of books under universal primary education were recovered from an abandoned building of Koraitala Government Primary School in the town recently, reports UNB.

The textbooks, published by the National Curriculum and Textbook Board, Dhaka, were allocated to distribute among the students at free of cost.

Sources said the district primary education office had long been using the abandoned building of Koraitala Government Primary School adjacent to Gagan Secondary School as its godown.

Stocks of textbooks were found in the old building while it was being bulldozed in the first week of the current month.

Later a four-member inquiry committee headed by the ADC (general) was formed to find out irregularity.

According to the report of the committee there were 2 lakh textbooks in the stockpile.

When contacted, Assistant Monitoring Officer of the District

Primary Education Office Lutfar Rahman said the stockpile was made due to the cumulative surpluses of every year's books.

But sources said most of the textbooks recovered from the abandoned building were this year's.

When asked, Sadar Upazila Education Officer refrained from making any comment about the matter.

TNO Ajit Kanti Das, who is also the president of textbook distribution committee, said he was totally ignorant of the matter, as the upazila Education Officer did not inform him about it.

20 hurt in clash

MANIKGANJ, Sept 24: A clash between two rival groups at Gulutia village in Sadar upzila last week left 20 people injured, eight of them critically, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the clash ensued in the evening when the two groups clashed over a land dispute.

The injured were rushed to the Manikganj Sadar Hospital.

A case was filed with the police.

News snaps

Flood deteriorates in Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 24: Flood situation in the district deteriorated on Saturday with more low-lying areas in nine upzilas going under water.

About three lakh people have been affected by the flood caused by incessant rain and onrush of water from up stream. Meanwhile, panic gripped people after an under-construction spur of Sirajganj Town Protection Embankment at Shubhagachha was washed away by the River Jamuna last week. At least seven houses were damaged after the floodwater washed away 100-metre portion of the 150-metre spur.

3 killed in road mishaps

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 24: Three people were killed and 14 others injured in two separate road accidents in the district on Friday.

The first accident occurred when a Dhaka-bound passenger bus from Joypurhat fell into a roadside ditch on Dhaka-Bogra highway at Tarabaria under Raiganj upzila at 9 pm after the driver lost his control over the wheel, killing two people on the spot and injuring eleven. Identity of the dead could not be known. Driver and helpers of the bus managed to flee the scene after the accident. In another accident, a young man was killed and three others were injured when a tempo fell into a roadside ditch at Khidir on Sirajganj-Belkuchi road. The dead was identified as Rezaul Karim, 26. The youth hailed from Garamashi village under Belkuchi upzila. The injured were sent Sirajganj General Hospital. Separate cases were lodged.

Discussion on social worker

A discussion was held recently at municipality auditorium in Faridpur to commemorate noted social worker late Jahurul Haque, says press release.

Presided over by Hasibul Hasan Lablu, Chairman of Faridpur Municipality, the discussion was attended, among others, by the deputy commissioner and the Superintendent of Police. Speakers, who included a cross-section of people, dwelt on the life and works of the late social worker, Jahurul Haque was a dedicated officer in the Police Department. After his retirement in 1979, he associated himself with social works. He was associated with Diabetic Association, Children's Hospital, Association for the Blind, Faridpur Muslim Mission and several organisations.

Workshop on mustard farming

SHERPUR, Sept 24: A daylong training workshop on 'Scientific method of groundnut and mustard cultivation' was held at Upazila Parishad auditorium here recently, reports UNB.

In a bid to make farmer acquainted with the scientific methods of cultivation to boost groundnut and mustard production in the country Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute, Jamalpur unit organised the workshop on September 12. A total of 35 farmers from Sadar and Nakla upzilas participated in the training workshop. Chief Scientific Officer of BARI Dr Farid Uddin Mia, Scientific Officers, Abdul Awal, Mritonjoy Biswas and Monjurul Kader delivered the lectures on various techniques of scientific production.

Foreign cigarettes seized

COMILLA, Sept 24: Police in their separate drives seized a huge quantity of foreign cigarettes worth Tk 3.63 lakh and arrested two people recently, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, plainclothes police searched a van at Poduar Bazar on Dhaka-Chittagong highway and recovered eight master cartons of Benson & Hedges cigarette worth about Tk 3.2 lakh. Van driver Jamshed Hossain and his helper Aminul Islam were arrested in this connection. In another raid 72 mini cartons of cigarette worth of Tk 43,000 were recovered from the house of Kalu Mia at Chandur village in Barura upzila. Separate cases were filed.

300 bottles of phensidyl seized

SATKHIRA, Sept 24: Police arrested four people and seized 300 bottle of phensidyl and huge VCP and VCR spare parts in separate drives in the district recently, reports UNB.

Police said on information, they arrested three people along with 300 bottles of phensidyl from Patkelghata on September 16. In another drive, police recovered huge quantity of VCP and VCR spare parts worth about Tk 2 lakh from a microbus on the same place and day. The recovered goods were deposited to Customs. Police also arrested the driver of the microbus. Separate cases were filed.



A group of aboriginal people demonstrate recently at village Chaitrohati under Ullapara upzila in Sirajganj district protesting the alleged move to grab their land. They said Ram Kishnupur UP Chairman Altaf Hossain and his men are trying to grab their land. They also said a section of people are causing hindrance even to their movement in the locality. —Star photo