

Shortage of English teachers in Chuadanga

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chuadanga

Most of the government and non-government high schools, government and non-government colleges and senior madrasahs of Chuadanga district do not have adequate English teachers.

As a result the academic activity in the educational institutions is being hampered.

According to the existing rules each senior madrasa should appoint a lecturer in English. An intermediate college should appoint two and a degree level college should appoint three or more English teachers. There must be one English teacher in a Junior high school and at least two English teachers in government and non-government high schools. But most of the senior madrasahs, intermediate and degree level colleges, both government and non-government and government high schools of the district fail to abide by the rules for want of English teachers.

Moreover, the educational institutions which are not financially sound cannot appoint English teacher with the required qualification.

There are also reports that the students are being deprived of full time

teaching facility of English in most of the secondary schools, senior madrasahs, degree level colleges and intermediate colleges of Chuadanga district for a long time.

There are many colleges and madrasahs which often do not receive a single application even after advertisements in the national dailies for an English teacher.

In some cases applicants do not face the interview board even after submitting application and receiving interview cards for the post of English lecturer.

English teachers, however, earn a good amount of money through private coaching. Because of scarcity of English teachers students have to depend on private coaching much to the sufferings of guardians.

In the recent past a good number of English teachers have taken retirement from their services resulting in the severe crisis of English teachers in those educational institutions, it is also learnt.

Besides, there are also a good number of English teachers who are about to take retirement shortly from different educational institutions of the district which include college, high schools and madrasahs.

Sarwar Jahan memorial lecture at Rajshahi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Our education policy is not fit for the modern era. It cannot cope with the increasing demands and ever changing trends of knowledge and technology.

Vice-chancellor of Rajshahi University (RU) Prof Sayeedur Rahman Khan said this in his address as the chief guest at a function of Professor Sarwar Jahan Memorial Lecture.

The function was organised by Professor Sarwar Jahan Smriti Sangsad, Rajshahi (PSJSS.R) on the occasion of the 58th birthday anniversary of late Sarwar Jahan, who was an eminent singer, writer and teacher in Bangla Department of Rajshahi University. Held at the Dainik Barta ground on last March 2 evening, the function was presided over by eminent fiction writer Hasan Azizul Haque, Professor in Philosophy of Rajshahi University.

The function was also addressed by eminent musician Pandit Raghunath Das as the special guest. The key-note was presented

by the Director of RU Institute of Education and Research Prof Shahidul Islam. Professor of RU Bangla Department Zulfiqar Matin discussed various aspects of late Prof Sarwar Jahan's life and his contributions, while PSJSS.R member-secretary Prof Sajal presented the address of welcome.

In his speech, Prof Sayeedur Rahman Khan said, the present education system has failed to give our children necessary and suitable education. "We need denoted, sincere and meritorious teachers which we are lacking very much now-a-days," he said.

Landing the praiseworthy contribution of late Prof Sarwar Jahan as a teacher and researcher, Prof Shahidul Islam suggested in his key-note that teachers and students should devote all their efforts towards study and research. Giving a picture of the prevailing unrest and in congenial atmosphere in the educational institutions, he said, "we have education minister, education ministry, educational institutions but, in fact, there exists no

education in our country."

Eminent singers Rafiqul Islam (brother of late Prof Sarwar Jahan), Abida Sultana, Farida Pervin and some local singers enthralled the audience.

RU VC distributed prizes among the winners of Prof Sarwar Jahan Memorial cultural competition-2001.

Bank loan realised BSS, Bogra

Certificate Courts, Bogra realised Taka 22446697.15 in settlement of 432 cases out of 7647 cases in Bogra district as Area Bank Loan in the year 2000, official sources said. Sonali Bank, Agrani Bank, Rupali Bank, Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank filed those cases to realise loan money.

The loan was sanctioned with insufficient securities in connivance with some unscrupulous bank officials. A total amount of Taka 14 crore 4 lack 77 thousand 836.70 was realisable from 7215 cases pending with the courts of 11 upazilas. The upazila-wise pending cases and the realisable amount of loans are as follows: A total of 585 cases are pending in Sadar upazila court for realisation of Taka 149585883.36 in Sadar upazila, 982 cases to realise Taka 15363074 in Gabtali upazila, 627 cases to realise Taka 7922603 from Shariatkandi upazila, 306 cases to realise Taka 6460891.91 from Sonatola upazila, 505 cases to realise Taka 6754760 from Kahaloo upazila, 320 cases to realise Taka 7202149.10 from Adamdighi upazila, 224 cases to realise Taka 4453204.26 from Dupchachia upazila, 657 cases to realise Taka 16616428 from Shibgonj upazila, 986 cases to realise Taka 22470883 from Nandigram upazila, 719 cases to realise Taka 14423852 from Sherpur upazila, 1304 cases to realise Taka 23849428.65 from Dhunat upazila.



PHOTO: STAR

Rajshahi University Vice Chancellor Prof Sayeedur Rahman Khan distributing prizes among the winners of Prof Sarwar Jahan Memorial Cultural Competition-2001 at a function held recently in the divisional city.

Worker commits suicide UNB, Habiganj

UNB, Habiganj

A tea garden worker allegedly committed suicide by taking pesticide at Chanpur tea garden in Chunarughat upazila of Habiganj district Saturday. The deceased was identified as Surendra Kurmi, 50.

Reasons behind the suicide could not be known. The body was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy. A UD case was filed. In another incident, Shaheed Miah, 40, was killed allegedly by his nephew Mortuz Ali of Doupad village in Chunarughat upazila over a minor dispute at Moshajan village in Sadar upazila on Friday. A case was filed.

Erosion renders 50 families homeless UNB, Chapainawabganj

UNB, Chapainawabganj

Some 50 families of a cluster village, rendered homeless due to erosion by the River Mahananda, have long been leading inhuman life. They have been facing hardships to maintain their livelihood, as 30-kg of wheat allocated for each family per month remained stopped just after they were rendered homeless a year ago. A cluster village, first of its kind in Chapainawabganj district, was set up on the bank of the River Mahananda at Islampur union in Sadar upazila in 1997 and some 50 families were rehabilitated in the village. However, the Mahananda ultimately swallowed the entire cluster village in 1999 plunging the people of the newly built village into deep uncertainty once again. During his visit in 1998 and 1999, State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Talukder Abdul Khaleq assured the people repeatedly of protecting the village from erosion by constructing a dam. As the dam was not constructed due to reasons unknown, the mighty river grabbed the entire village and rendered the homeless people once again homeless.

Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Rana Dutta, a social worker and businessman of Kamalganj upazila in Moulvibazar district, died of cardiac arrest recently. He was 43.

His funeral ceremony was held at his village home. He left wife, two sons and a daughter and a host of relatives to mourn his death. Rana Dutta was an activist of different socio-cultural organisations. He was organising secretary of Kamalganj upazila unit of Hindu Bouddha Christian Oikya Parishad.

Step to check accidents along Bangabandhu Bridge area

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Construction work of speed breakers from Bangabandhu Jamuna Bridge West point to Nalka point along the Dhaka-Dinajpur Highway has been completed.

JOMAC, a company responsible for the overall maintenance of Bangabandhu Jamuna Bridge constructed the speed breakers with a view to protecting the passengers from frequent road accidents. Since opening of the bridge about 200 passengers were killed at the area which stretches from Bangabandhu Bridge West point to Nalka point.

BNP lawmaker Rafiqul Islam Bakul of Pabna Sadar died of road accident in this area in November 2000 last. The speed breakers were constructed at Nalka Bridge point, Konabari point, Railway overbridge point, Koddarmore intersection and Saidabad.

Local people heaved a sigh of relief observing the construction of the speed breakers.

Meanwhile, Sirajganj Police have urged the drivers of the plying vehicles to drive slowly so that life and property of the passengers and passers-by can be saved at the aforementioned area.

Traffic jam a routine affair in Netrakona

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Some temporary shops have also been set up near the roads. This is another cause of traffic jam.

The bazaar areas where traffic jam occurs are Bangla, Takurakona and Atitpur on Netrakona-Mohonganj Road, Chaliisha, Hironpur and Shanganj on Netrakona-Mymensingh Road, Lakmiganj, Aboypasha and Teligati on Netrakona-Madan Road, Madampur and Rampur on Netrakona-Kendua Road, Zaira, Zanjil and Chorerasta crossing on Netrakona-Durgapur Road.

Due to traffic jam, accidents occurs every now and then. Passenger buses, auto-rickshaws, trucks, tempos plying along these routes reach the destinations, after one or two hours late causing immense suffering to the passengers.

Besides, a large number of vendors sit near the roads with their commodities causing traffic jam.

Believe it or not!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Believe it or not, a housewife handed over her dead husband's body to her father-in-law for burial after taking back dowry which her father paid to her late husband during their marriage ceremony and all the money which was fixed in the 'kabin' (a document made during a marriage ceremony where a husband has to pay his wife an amount of money fixed through an accord by the guardians of both the parties).

Total amount of the entire money was 50,000.

Her father-in-law paid back the entire money through a village arbitration. Of the total money, dowry was Tk 25,000 and 'Kabin' was Tk. 25,000.

The incident took place at village Baroteptry under Shajadpur upazila in Sirajganj district on April 2 following a suicide committed by Haider Aali, 25, son of Monser Ali of the same village on February 28 last after an altercation with his father.



A two-day seminar on "Removing Barriers to Socio-economic Development of the Aborigines" was held recently at Uchai village under Panchbibi upazila in Joypurhat district. (L-R) Dr Dwijendra Nath Sarker, advocate Babul Rabidas, Deputy Commissioner of Joypurhat Abu Nasser Ahmed are seen on the dais

Cooperation sought for uplift of aborigines

A two-day long seminar on "removing barriers to socio-economic development of the aborigines" held recently at Uchai village of Panchbibi in Joypurhat called for effective administrative intervention and cooperation in undertaking and continuing development

programmes for the neglected and oppressed communities of the aborigine people, says a press release.

Held with Dr Durjindra Nath Sarker in the chair, the seminar was attended, among others, by Abu Nasser Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner of Joypurhat as the chief guest. The chief guest in his address assured of his allout cooperation to the efforts. Community representatives from other districts as well as Panchbibi upazila TNO Jilur Rahman, Rajshahi University teacher Dr TN Shafiqul Islam and Dr Sujit Sarker of Dhaka University History Department, Professor Mesbah Kamal and Joypurhat Judges court Advocate Babul Rabidas also spoke at the meet.

Valuables gutted UNB, Shariatpur

UNB, Shariatpur

Valuables worth Tk 10 lakh were gutted in a devastating fire at a market at Rajnagar union in Naria upazila of Shariatpur district on Sunday.

The fire originating from a blazing electric wire of the main line that fell on a shop at Andhar Manik Bazaar soon engulfed the adjacent 25 shops.

Firemen from Sadar upazila with the help of the local people brought the blaze under control.

Some 10 shopkeepers were also injured in the fire incident. They were admitted to the local hospital.

Former MP of the upazila Dr KA Jalil visited the spot and gave financial help to the poor shopkeepers.

Another report from Jessore adds: Three shops of Bagharpar bazaar in Bagharpara upazila were gutted in a fire of Feb 26. The loss was estimated at Tk 3 lakh.

The fire originating from an electric short circuit in a godown of the market soon engulfed the adjacent shops.

In absence of a fire station in the upazila local people brought the fire under control.

NEWS SNAPS



A discussion meeting was held recently inside Haiderpur (Madhabbari) Rabidas community compound in Muktagachha on the occasion of the the birth anniversary of Guru Rabidas Maharaj.

Birth anniversary of Guru Rabidas

A commemorative meet on the occasion of the anniversary of birth of Guru Rabidasji Maharaj was held recently inside Haiderpur (Madhabbari) Rabidas community compound in Muktagachha district, says a press release.

Organised by Muktagachha Guru Rabidas (Dham) Mission, the meeting was attended, among others, by Master Kanailal Rabidas Mahanta, Director General, Bangladesh Guru Rabidas (Dham) Mission as chief guest and Md A Hannan, local UC Chairman as special guest, and presided over by Jagesh Rabidas. Speakers discussed the life and deeds of the founder saint of Rabidas community and called upon to follow his ideals and sermons of equality and justice.

Separate incidents claim two

UNB, Madaripur

Two people died, one in bomb explosion and another by committing suicide, in Madaripur district on Tuesday and Friday. The deceased were identified as Jamal Hawlader, 25, and Zakir Kazi, 22.

Police said Jamal Hawlader, an alleged snatcher, was killed as a bomb in his possession went off while running away after public chase in front of Mostafapur Textile Mills in Sadar upazila on Tuesday. Zakir Hossain reportedly committed suicide in the town Friday following a dispute with his wife. Separate cases were filed with police.

CPB leader dies

BSS, Thakurgaon

Comrade Moksedul Haque, member, Thakurgaon district committee and vice-president, Ranisankail upazila committee of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) died of heart failure on Friday at his Ranisankail residence. He was 60. He was in a deep coma for about a month after a severe heart attack.

He left behind his 90-year old father, wife, one son, two daughters, large number of party comrades, friends and well-wishers to mourn his death. He was buried in his family graveyard at Ranisankail. Comrade Moksedul Haque was an active member of CPB and Khelmajor Samity for the last 25 years.

Man chopped to death

UNB, Munshiganj

A retired government employee was killed and six other people, mostly his family members, were injured in a terrorist attack on them at village Baroikhal in Srinagar upazila of Munshiganj district on Thursday. Police and witnesses said a gang led by Monir, Humayun and Rashed swooped on Nurul Islam, 65, while working in the garden in the afternoon. "The hoodlums beat and chopped him to death," says an eyewitness account.

Islam's wife, Rabeya Khatun, 60, son Delwar Hossain, 40, Moniruzzaman, 30, Ibrahim alias Nayan, 22, Kabir Hossain, 24, and Kabir's wife, Akhi Akhter, 18, and relative Taizuddin, 50, were injured in the reign of terror. They all were admitted to nearby Nawabganj Upazila Health Complex. A case was filed with Srinagar police station. Nobody was arrested.