

543 expelled on first day of SSC, Dakhil exams in 3 dists

14 lakh mini answer guides on sale in book stalls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 543 examinees were expelled on Thursday, the first day of SSC and Dakhil examinations from Sirajganj and Faridpur and Netrakona districts.

Our Sirajganj Correspondent reports: At least 364 SSC and Dakhil examinees, out of total 30,090 candidates in 20 centres of the district, were expelled on Thursday for adopting unfair means in English first paper examination.

Meanwhile, about 14 lakh mini guides with short cut computer composed answers to relevant questions were sold throughout the northern region including Sirajganj district in three days. About three lakh such books were sold in different book stalls of Sirajganj district alone, a survey of a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) said. Some unscrupulous publishers have published the mini guides which can easily be smuggled into the examination halls. These guides have already flooded the markets ahead of SSC and Dakhil examinations. About 90 per cent students wrote down answers in their scripts from the smuggled mini guides openly with the help of hall guards. But the authority did not take any action against the publishers and sellers of the mini guides.

Local people said that the ten-

decy of adopting unfair means in the examination halls has surpassed all the previous records. In the meantime, at least 25 people were injured in a clash between police and copy suppliers at the Ullapara High School centre. Witnesses said, when some of the copy suppliers tried to supply answers scripts to the examinees then on-duty police snatched the answers scripts from the suppliers. At this stage copy suppliers beat up the on-duty police and the clash spread all around the area. The copy suppliers threw stones at police. Police lathi-charged and brought the situation under control. Reports of chase and counter-chase between police and copy suppliers in the different centres of the district poured in Sirajganj town.

Local guardians have been urging the local administration to crack down on the book stalls where such harmful mini books are on sale. They also suggested arrangement of invigilation work by the teachers of one upazila in the centres of some other upazilas.

Our Faridpur correspondent reports: A total of 22 SSC and 20 Dakhil examinees were expelled on the first day of examinations from different centres of the district.

A teacher who was on invigilation duty was also expelled for helping the Dkhil examinees at

Biswa Zaker Manzil centre. The invigilator was identified as Kazi Basher, Assistant teacher of Zaker Manzil Government High School. The centre-wise expulsions are: 12 from Nagarkanda, two from Bhanga, two from Kamarkhali, four from Sadarpur, one from Faridpur sadar and one from Char Bhadrasan centre.

Besides, 14 Dakhil examinees including woman candidates were expelled from Biswa Zaker Manzil Madrasa centre, while two from Bismillah Sha Madrasa centre and four from Salamia Madrasa centre in the district for adopting unfair means in the examination halls.

About 8,628 out of 8,658 SSC examinees appeared in the examinations in nine centres, while 1,728 out of 1,804 Dakhil examinees appeared in four centres on the first day of the examinations.

BSS from Netrakona reports: A total of 137 SSC examinees were expelled from different centres of Netrakona district on charge of adopting unfair means on the first day of examination on Thursday.

However, police arrested two persons from around a SSC examination centre, seven kilometers from Netrakona town on charge of supplying copies to the examinees.

Official sources said, a total of 12,278 students are appearing the SSC examinations from the district,

this year. Twenty-five centres have been set up.

UNB from Bagerhat says: Jessore Education Board has taken special measures for checking unfair means in the ensuing SSC examinations.

Under the new arrangements, no SSC candidate will have the opportunity to appear in their exams at their own school or institution.

The Board has already sent letters to all Deputy Commissioners who directed the UNOs to take measures in line with the instruction of the Board.

Meanwhile, local administration has taken necessary steps for holding the ensuing SSC examinations peacefully.

UNB from Pabna reports: An SSC examinee, who was expelled on the first day of the examinations, committed suicide by taking poison at Shalgaria area in Pabna town on Friday.

Salah Uddin Ahmed, 16, son of Prof Amrul Islam, chairman of Political Science department of Pabna Edward College, took insecticide after he was expelled for adopting unfair means, family sources said.

He was rushed to local General Hospital where he died in the afternoon

65 Dakhil examinees deceived !

UNB, Jhalakati

Some 65 examinees of two madrasahs of Jhalakati and Sherpur districts could not take part in the ongoing Dakhil examination for various reasons, including non-availability of admit cards.

Of them, 33 students are of Lehubunia Darul Sunnat Hasania Dakhil Madrasa in Rajapur district of Jhalakati district and 32 students of Nayabeel Ghatpara Dakhil Madrasa in Nalitabari upazila in Sherpur district.

Sources said 18 students of Lehubunia Darul Sunnat Hasania Dakhil Madrasa did not get admit cards while 15 ones received faulty admit cards which barred them from taking part in the examination.

Sensing the impending trouble,

madrasa superintendent Moulana Mohammad Hanif went on hiding handing over the charge of distributing admit cards to his colleague Bazlur Rahman, who was assaulted by the enraged students.

Police took Bazlur Rahman in safe custody.

Another report from Sherpur says: Some 32 students of Nayabeel Ghatpara Dakhil Madrasa of Nalitabari upazila could not attend the on going examination as they did not receive admit cards.

Police arrested assistant superintendent of the madrasa Moulana Abdus Samad for deceiving students while its superintendent went on hiding.

The victim students brought out a procession in Taraganj Dakhil Madrasa centre.

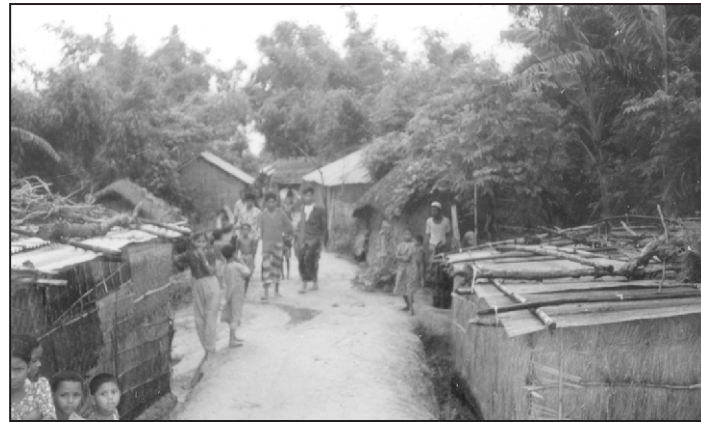


PHOTO: STAR

The Teesta river erosion victims in Rangpur have been leading sub-human life for years together who took shelter on an embankment. They need proper rehabilitation immediately.

Faridpur erosion victims need rehabilitation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Eleven unions under three upazilas Char Bhadrasan, Sadarpur and Kotwali were badly affected by the erosion of the River Padma and the Arial Kha during the last three years.

The river erosion affected unions are Char Jhawakanda, Char Harirampur, Char Bhadrasan, Gazirtek, Char Nasirpur, Diara Narikelbaria, Akoter Char, Char Manayer, North Channel, Decree Char and Char Madhabdia.

Of these unions, Char Jhawakanda, Char Harirampur and Char Nasirpur were totally eroded by the Padma while the other unions were partially eroded.

The erosion victims have taken shelters on embankments, roads, and high lands by making shanties.

Most of the erosion victims were marginal farmers. Now they have become landless and pauper due to erosion. They are living from hand to mouth by doing odd jobs. Sometimes, they have to remain half-fed and unfed.

They can not send their wards to schools for education because of extreme poverty. On the other hand these wards have been struggling as child labourers in the locality to earn their breads. Their guardians can not even provide medical treatment to them in times of need owing to poverty.

When this correspondent recently visited the erosion affected areas

Molla Dangi, Haji Dangi, Khalashi Dangi and Mridha Dangi under Char Bhadrasan upazila, 100 marginal farmers urged the government to remit the agriculture loans they had taken from the local branch of Krishi Bank as their lands were already eroded by the Padma.

The concerned authority should look into the matter and take immediate steps to remit the agriculture loans and to relieve the landless lonees of the above mentioned areas.

Four women commit suicide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Four women committed suicide by taking poison in Baghmara upazila in Rajshahi district Monday.

They were identified as housewife Rozina, 18, of Machmoi village; Begum, 22, wife of Afsar Ali of Chaisara village; Aroza Begum, 30, wife of Atabur Rahman of Gobindapara village; and schoolgirl Nargis Khatun, 12, daughter of Amzad Hossain of Katila village. Family feuds have been attributed to the suicides.

Four separate UD cases were recorded with Baghmara police station.

NEWS SNAPS

Two housewives killed by husbands

UNB, Gazipur

A housewife was killed allegedly by her husband at Outpara in Sadar upazila in Gazipur district on Friday. Police said Raihanuddin Sumon strangled his wife Shahhaj Begum, 35, of Kapasia upazila to death following a family feud. Sumon went into hiding after the incident. A case was filed. In Bagerhat, another housewife was chopped to death allegedly by her husband at Garfa village in Mollahat upazila on the same day. Meanwhile, police arrested the killer husband. A case was filed.

Youngman shot by unidentified terrorists

UNB, Munshiganj

A Youngman was critically injured when he was shot by unidentified terrorists following previous enmity at Mirapara village in Sadar upazila of Munshiganj district on Saturday, police said.

They said Abul Hashem Salu, 30, who received bullet injury in his abdomen at about 8 pm was first admitted to a local clinic and then shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

Clash leaves 11 injured

UNB, Manikganj

At least 11 people were injured, five seriously, in a clash between two groups of people in Sadar upazila of Manikganj district on Wednesday. Witnesses said the trouble ensued when a landowner, Chunnun of village Dauli, charged the manager of an irrigation project, Fazlu, with providing inadequate water to his cropland. Later, the supporters of Chunnun and Fazlu fought a pitched battle in the village, leaving 11 injured. Five of the injured, including Fazlu, 20, and Chunnun, 35 were admitted to the Sadar Hospital. A case was filed.

Fish looted

UNB, Bagerhat

Armed pirates swooped on six fishing trawlers in the Bay Wednesday midnight and looted fishes and fishing nets worth over Tk 10 lakh. According to the fishermen who returned from the Bay Saturday, the pirates who came in three trawlers attacked the fishermen at Lalboyain Mongla upazila of Bagerhat district and looted the fishes and the fishing nets. They also beat up three fishermen Jaiil, 25, Nuruzzaman, 50 and Jazfar, 35 as they tried to resist them.

Terrorist with gun arrested

UNB, Sunamganj

Villagers caught a member of an organised group of terrorists along with a gun after a fierce clash with them in Tahirpur upazila Sunday. The alleged terrorist Abdul Haye, 35, of Kandiganj village in the upazila was handed over to police.

According to the villagers, the gang, allegedly led by Selim, 25, has long been perpetrating criminal acts like extortion and hijacking in the neighbourhood. They said the gang abducted Nizam of Lamaganj village recently and released him after realising a ransom of Tk 20,000 prompting the villagers to hit back. Inhabitants from three neighbouring villages joined the clash and caught Abdul Haye along with the firearm. A case was filed.

Three youths suffer burn injuries

UNB, Satkhira

Three youths suffered serious burn injuries when a bottle full of acid was broken in a van in Satkhira, Tuesday. The victims Tarek, 20, Kazi Shamsuddin, 22, and Kazi Fayeze Uddin were admitted to sadar hospital. Police said Tarek was carrying the acid bottle in a shared rickshaw van and it was broken when the van was hit by another van, leaving the three injured.

New Shilpakala Academy building in Sunamganj

UNB, Sunamganj

A new building will be constructed for Sunamganj District Shilpakala Academy at a cost of Tk 2.30 crore as the government has decided to upgrade the academy.

Meanwhile, Cultural Affairs Ministry has allocated necessary fund under its annual development programme to implement the project.

New mass grave unearthed

UNB, Thakurgaon

A mass grave of the liberation war in front of Government Primary Model School in Ranisangkoil upazila of Thakurgaon district was unearthed last week. Villagers said the grave was detected while they were moving earth in front of the school before Eid.

According to them, Pakistani occupation forces with the help of Rajakars had killed 35 innocent villagers and buried them in the grave. They called for constructing a monument at the site of the mass grave.

Reception

UNB, Comilla

Buddha monk and eminent organiser of liberation war Mohasagaraj Joytipal Mohathero was accorded a grand reception at his village Boroigram in Laksam Upazila under Comilla district recently.

Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru, whip Mujibul Haq Muji, AHM Mustafa Kamal MP and Tajul Islam MP attended the programme. Comrade Dilip Barua was the main speaker at the programme chaired by Sanagaraj Sremata Pragga Joyti of India.

Magura DIARY

Under-trial prisoner dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

An under-trial prisoner died of diarrhoea at Magura Sadar Hospital recently, prison authorities said. The victim was identified as Baki, 30, son of Maseem Mollah of village Jagdal under Sadar upazila. Baki was an accused in a criminal case under Women and Children Oppression (Prevention) Act. His family members, however, alleged he died at the prison and he was not admitted to hospital, a charge denied by the prison authorities.

Housewife beaten to death

A housewife was beaten to death by allegedly her husband for dowry at village Rajibempra under Sadar upazila recently.

The dead was identified as Champa Khatun, 28. Local people said husband Akbar Ali Sardar beat his wife to death following an altercation. A UD case was lodged with police in this connection. The body was sent to hospital for autopsy.

Two killed in road mishap

Two men were killed in a road accident in Parnanduali area on Magura-Faridpur highway recently. The dead were identified as Kazi Amir Hossain, 35, and Kazi Mitul, 33, of village Goalkahi in Sadar upazila. Police and witnesses said the accident occurred when a motorcycle carrying the two collided with a Dhaka-bound bus. The two died on the spot.

3 statues stolen in Sunamganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Three statues have been stolen from a Hindu temple in Sadar upazila in Sunamganj district. Local people said price of nearly three hundred year-old statues would be about one crore taka.

Binoy Krishna Goswami, who looks after temple, said he found the statues missing Monday morning. A case was lodged with police.

New president of Khulna Press Club

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Begum Ferdausi Ali, editor of local English newspaper The Daily Tribune, has been elected president of Khulna Press Club unopposed.

Other candidates for the post-editor of the Danik Tathya Shaikh Nazrul Islam, news editor of the Jammabluni W Rahman Panna and staff correspondent of The Daily Star Quazi Amanullah-- withdrew their candidatures in her favour of Begum Ferdausi Ali on Thursday.

Election of the press club will be held on March 23. Begum Ferdausi Ali was also elected president of Khulna Press Club in 1987, 1990 and 1994.

February 16 incident

RU VC urges govt, NGOs to help rehabilitate locals

RU CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi University

Rajshahi University Vice Chancellor Sayeedur Rahman Khan has appealed for help from the government, non-governmental organisations and affluent people to rehabilitate the affected people whose houses and business establishments were destroyed in a series of clashes on February 16. On the day some 200 shops and 40 houses were torched in clashes between the university students and residents of Meherchandi area, adjacent to the campus. The university was closed following the incident.

The vice chancellor made this appeal on Friday while addressing a gathering of Meherchandi residents on the campus.

Local people said the group of students went berserk in the area in retaliation for 'beating up' of three students, who were believed to be the members of a fundamentalist student organisation, by some of the residents of Meherchandi. The three students were beaten up when they

were 'trying to preach' against the recent High Court verdict banning fatwa (edict).

The university administration has termed the incident as 'sabotage by some anti-liberation and fundamentalist forces on the campus'.

"I have already appealed to the government to grant funds to rehabilitate the people who lost everything in the incident as it is impossible for the university administration alone to do it", Prof Sayeedur Rahman Khan said.

"Besides the government, I appeal to the NGOs, donor agencies, political parties, business leaders and elite to contribute to the rehabilitation", he added.

The affected residents and shop owners estimate the loss at 6 crore taka while the university authorities' assessment ranges between Tk 2.5 crore and Tk 3 crore. The affected people, however, have filed a case against the university authorities claiming the loss of Tk 40 crore.

Meanwhile, the university administration recently offered Tk 15 lakh for settling the dispute. But the offer was rejected.



PHOTO: STAR

Lalon festival was held at the play ground of Water Development Board (WDB) in Jhenidah recently where some renowned artistes of the country took part and enthralled the local audience.

17 sued under PSA in Pabna

UNB, Pabna

Seventeen people, including a little boy, were sued under Public Safety Act (PSA) for allegedly ransacking and damaging a house at village Balughata in Atgharia upazila in Pabna district Tuesday.

But the accused claimed that they were falsely implicated in the case due to previous enmity with the plaintiff Mohammad Ataur Rahman. Meanwhile, police arrested three of the accused. The plaintiff in his case alleged that the accused Abdul Karim, Latif, Salam, Muksed, Hanif, Saiful, Munnaf, Alam and Mohsin of the village ransacked his house and looted valuables worth Tk 58,000.

When contacted the officer-in-charge of the local police station said the court would decide whether the case was conspiratorial or not.

Indian cattle seized

UNB, Thakurgaon

BDR jawans seized a good number of Indian cattle and huge smuggled goods from Chakda Pukurpar area in Thakurgaon district Wednesday. The BDR men recovered 30 cows, four buffaloes, 175 kgs of sugar and 40 kgs of salt.