

Chuadanga telephone exchanges in complete disarray

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chuadanga

Telephone subscribers in Chuadanga district face manifold problems due to poor services by the phone exchanges. There are eight telephone exchanges-- Chuadanga and

Sarajganj exchanges under Sadar upazila; Alamdanga, Munshiganj and Gokulkhali under Alamdanga upazila; Damurhuda and Darsana under Damurhuda upazila and Jibannagar under Jibannagar upazila-- in the district.

According to official sources,

excepting the Chuadanga and Alamdanga exchanges, other six exchanges now remain 'almost' outdated, causing immense sufferings to subscribers.

The main problem facing the subscribers is to get connection outside Chuadanga either by direct

dialling or call booking.

There are only 17 channels in Chuadanga telephone exchange through which calls are passed outside the district headquarters with 1200 lines, but at present eight channels have gone out of order. These channels have not been

repaired for at least two years.

In Alamdanga telephone exchange, Nationwide Dialling (NDW) system remains out of order for 5 to 6 hours every day due to trouble with the tower.

When any call is booked outside Chuadanga through the exchange it takes minimum two to five hours to

get the connection.

Other six exchanges-- Sarajganj, Munshiganj, Gokulkhali, Damurhuda, Darsana and Jibannagar-- do not have NWD system, much to the chagrin of many subscribers.

Cross connection, connecting

wrong numbers, feeble sound and 'ghost' billing are the constant problems the subscribers under the exchanges are experiencing.

Subscribers allege if any complaint regarding 'ghost' billing is made, the authorities often overlook it.

Meanwhile, officials said Chuadanga telephone exchange will be brought under digital system soon.

Local people have urged the authorities to take immediate steps to solve the problems of the telephone exchanges.

Record IRRI-Boro likely in SW dists

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessor

A record production of IRRI and Boro paddy is expected in 10 south-western districts this season.

According to the local Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) office, IRRI and Boro were cultivated on 4,26,310 hectares of land in the region, widely exceeding the goal of 4,16,300 hectares.

It may be mentioned here that during last season, the total cultivation area for IRRI-Boro was 4,14,330 hectares, which was 11,977 hectares less than the current season. The production of the crops may well beat the target by two lakh tons this year.

Official records show that in Jessor IRRI and Boro was cultivated on 1,26,735 hectares of land, in Jhenidah on 70,765 hectares, in Margura on 45,870 hectares, in Narail on 22,675 hectares, in Khulna on 168,25 hectares, in Bagerhat on 23,438 hectares, in Satkhira on 49,925 hectares, in

Kushtia on 28,204 hectares, in Chuadanga on 32,325 and in Meherpur it covered 1,95,432 hectares of land.

Five out of these ten districts in the south-western region were the worst hit by the last flood, causing extensive damages. These flood-battered districts are Jessor, Jhenidah, Chuadanga, Meherpur and Satkhira.

The rest of the districts were also partially hurt during the devastating and unprecedented flood.

However, in a bid to recoup the flood-related losses, the farmers of the region decided to go for record IRRI-Boro cultivation during the current season with co-operation from the irrigation department.

The department arranged for massive installation of shallow tube wells and low-lift machines, enabling the farmers to avail themselves of irrigation facilities for their fields.

Meanwhile, sources said the role played by the local banks with loans on easy terms is also noteworthy.

Will she ever get justice?

UNB, Narayanganj

Will the killers ever be brought to book? Shamsunnahar Begum, a widow with 7 young children, whose husband was murdered by identified terrorists about three months ago, still doesn't know the answer to her own question.

Osman Gani was employed as manager of an irrigation project in Panchgaon. He used to pump water to the fields and collect the actual expenses incurred on oil and electricity from the farmers.

But some musclemen of the ruling party would not pay the genuine charges against the water supplied to their lands, which led to a quarrel.

On February 10 at about 7.30 pm, some armed terrorists came by a car near the pump house in the field. They called out Osman, brutally hacked him with Chinese axe and chapati, killing him on the spot. The killers dragged his to the hut from where he used to operate the power pump, and left the place.

Residents of Panchgaon in Araihazar upazila have condemned the killing of innocent Osman Gani Bhuiyan, a 48-year-old man.

They also held meetings demanding immediate arrest of the killers, but without any result yet.

A case was filed and police investigated into the cold-blooded murder, but they are yet to arrest the killers and submit charge sheets against them before the court.

The villagers and the plaintiff alleged that the police were heavily bribed by the accused who enjoy support from the local ruling party leaders.

Osman's wife filed the case accusing Selim, Habib, Nabiullah, Razzak and some others on the basis of information from those who witnessed the gruesome murder from a distance, but did not dare oppose the action.

Some of the residents, requesting anonymity, said the police were helping the accused to secure bail. But, they said, the killers should be prosecuted under the non-bailable sections of the CrPC.

"Where will the poor complainants go if police and the judiciary let the killers go unpunished?" is a question asked by many in Panchgaon village these days.



PHOTO: STAR

Picture shows the dilapidated building of Moshirul Rahman Memorial High School at Shinghajhuly under Chowgachhaupazila in Jessor. Despite repeated requests, the authorities are yet to take measures to repair the building.

A school in dire straits

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessor

Unlike many other educational institutions in the country crippled by a series of problems and limping with average results, Moshirul Rahman Memorial High School at Shinghajhuly under Chowgachha upazila in the district presents a steady record of progress, regardless of the frustrating hurdles.

Established in 1970, the school which takes pride in its qualified teachers, has already drawn attention of all sections concerned thanks to its better results in SSC examinations over the last few years. The 1998 SSC examination results bore pretty well for this institution if compared to others under the Jessor Education Board.

Founder Head Master of the school Adhir Kumar Bhadra told this correspondent that the school's

SSC examinations results in 1998 and 1999 saw success rates of over 80 per cent and 98 per cent respectively.

Detailing the problems facing the school these days, the headmaster said that due to accommodation problems, they fail to hold classes properly. During the rainy season, the problem intensifies, as students cannot sit in the old dilapidated tinshed building of the school.

Describing his experience as the headmaster, he said that the school was launched with locally managed funds and without any government assistance.

The school was named after a renowned politician Advocate Moshirul Rahman, who was killed by the Pakistani occupation forces during the Liberation War in 1971.

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