

Posts of edn officers vacant in Netrakona

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Netrakona*

Posts of education officers in Netrakona district have been lying vacant for a long time, hampering the supervision activities in schools.

According to official sources, ten posts of assistant upazila education officer and four posts of upazila education officer are vacant in addition to one post each of district primary education officer (DPEO) and assistant district primary education officer (ADPEO).

Shortage of primary teachers is also causing hindrance to primary education in the district.

Sources also said there are 2,422 primary teachers out of sanctioned 2,540 posts in 684 government primary schools in Netrakona.

Seeking anonymity, an official of District Education Office said actually some 4,325 teachers are needed for providing smooth education facility to 2,92,220 primary students in the district.

Religious education in some schools is also being hampered due to dearth of religious teachers, guardians said.

Local people have urged the authorities to take immediate steps to solve the problems with the schools.

BSS from Habiganj adds: Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria said the government would create 8,000 more posts in schools of Sylhet region to eradicate disparity in primary education of the region.

The minister was addressing a

RU students asked to remain alert against anti-liberation forces

RU CORRESPONDENT, *Rajshahi*

Rajshahi University (RU) Vice Chancellor (VC) Prof Sayeedur Rahman Khan has blamed 'anti-liberation forces' for the February 16 on the campus and urged the students to remain alert against them.

On that very day, a clash erupted between the RU students and people of Meherchandi, a nearby village. According to local people, the students went berserk in the area in retaliation of the 'assault' on three students, who were believed to be members of a fundamentalist student organisation, by some the residents of Meherchandi.

The three students were beaten up when they 'tried to preach' against the recent High Court verdict banning fatwa (edict).

About 50 people were injured and 94 shops of the University Station Bazar and 35 houses in the village gutted in the ensuring attack by students. The loss was estimated at Tk 2.5 crore.

While addressing the first year (Hons) students of the 2000-01 academic session on the occasion of the Freshers' Reception at Kazi Nazrul Islam auditorium recently, the

Fish production declines in SW districts

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Magura*

Fish production faces decline in south-western districts including Magura due to manifold problems.

The problems include absence of proper planning, dearth of capital and recurrent floods and dispute over ownership of canals, lakes and bils leading to non-cultivation in the water bodies.

Official sources said the government plan to bring derelict ponds and other water bodies under

pisciculture was not implemented. At least 52,379 ponds and tanks under Fisheries Department in 10 south-western districts are yet to be brought under fish farming net.

A source with the Fisheries Department said fish worth Tk five crore could be cultivated if all the ponds and tanks are brought under extensive pisciculture scheme.

According to Fisheries Department, some 4,792 derelict ponds and tanks in Magura district can produce more 27,000 maunds

of fish per year. In Jhenidha district there are about 13,432 uncultivated ponds and tanks which also can produce 27,000 maunds of additional fish.

Narail district can produce more 14,000 maunds of fish by bringing 1,572 abandoned ponds and tanks under pisciculture scheme. There are some 6,300 silted ponds and tanks in Kushtia district, which can produce more 13,000 maunds of fish. In Shatkhira, there are 6,375 silted ponds and tanks, which can

produce additional 27,500 maunds of fish. In Chuadanga, there are some 3000 derelict ponds and tanks that can produce 500 maunds additional fish every year.

However, statistics of Jessore, Khulna, Meherpur and Bagerhat districts was not available.

Many people think fish production can be enhanced if the Pond Development Act 1993 is made fully effective. The law allows the deputy commissioners and upazila nirbahi officers to cultivate fish in ponds and water bodies under the government

management if their owners fail to cultivate fish within a stipulated time. Under the law, the water bodies can also be leased out to any individual or organisation for 20 years for pisciculture.

UNB from Jessore adds: Indian fishes have flooded the markets in the frontier district, discouraging local fish cultivators.

Sources said fish-traders import or illegally bring fishes, specially 'rui', from India to meet the gap between local fish production and demand.

Some 20,748 tons of fish were produced in the district last year against the requirement of 31,422 tons, according to Fisheries Department estimate.

Fisheries officials said some 750 hectares of water bodies, out of 7,075 hectares in the district, are used as nursery hatchery of fish fry.

If fishes are produced in these hatcheries, the requirement would have been fulfilled, said SM Jahangir, director of Baor Fisheries Project.

NEWS SNAPS

Young man killed by brother

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Rajshahi*

A young man was killed by his elder brother at Samaspur village under Mohadevpur upazila of Naogaon district Sunday.

The dead was identified as Abdul Zail, 30.

According to hospital sources, the two brothers engaged in an altercation over a family matter. At one stage, the elder brother struck Zail on the head with a lethal weapon. Zail was taken to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) in a critical condition, where he succumbed to his injuries. A UD case has been filed with Rajpara Thana in this connection.

One murdered

UNB, *Laxmipur*

A man was killed and five members of his family were injured in a violent attack by rivals in Alexander village of Ramgati upazila in Laxmipur district on Monday.

Qamrul Islam Patway, 47, died on the spot. His wife, daughter and three others of the family were admitted to local hospital. Witnesses said a group of terrorists, backed by an influential quarter, attacked the house of Qamrul in the morning and mercilessly beat him and members of his family. The attack is related to dispute over land.

69 opposition men get bail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Sirajganj*

Sixty-nine local leaders and activists of four-party opposition alliance were granted bail on Monday after they appeared before Additional District Magistrate Court in Sirajganj.

The opposition activists were sued on April 1 in connection with an alleged attack on ruling Awami League men on March 31. Among others, local BNP leader Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku, Sirajganj JCD president Nazmul Hasan Rana, JCD district general secretary Rashedul Hasan Rajan, Advocate Ruhul Amin Babu, Advocate Rafiqul Islam Selim, Advocate Ruhul Amin Khosru were granted bail.

Tagore's birth anniversary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Sirajganj*

The 140th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore was celebrated on Tuesday at Shahjadpur, where a residence of the poet is located, in Sirajganj as elsewhere in the country.

Sirajganj district administration, Shilpakala Academy, local unit of Sammilta Sanskritik Okhya Jote took up various programmes on the occasion. A three-day programme was also inaugurated at the residence of the Nobel laureate. Presided over by Deputy Commissioner Hedayetullah Al Mamun, the opening function was addressed, among others, by Chayan Islam MP, former deputy minister Hasibur Rahman Sawapan, Zannatul Ferdous MP, former MP Abdul Rahman, and Superintendent of Police Mostafizur Rahman, Professor Abdul Khaleq and Professor Zulfikar Matin of Rajshahi University.

10 hurt, 50 shops looted as hoodlums raid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Barisal*

At least ten people were injured and more than fifty shops ransacked and looted by a group of armed terrorists at Insturhat bandar under Swarupkati upazila of Pirojpur of the district Sunday night.

Police and witnesses said that 20 to 25 terrorists from Bharsakati, a nearby village, suddenly attacked the bandar area over a past brawl with some people and opted for establishing their hold on the whole area. The damaged shops included stationary, confectioneries, tea-stalls etc. The unruly terrorists looted valuables including lakhs of taka in cash during the swoop, local sources said. Saha Alam Rezbi, Proprietor of Nasir Garments, was seriously injured during the raid. At one stage, the attackers broke through the collapsible gate of a cinema "Sandhyarani" and damaged it badly. On their way back, the terrorists entered the house of one Tarek and went on rampage.