

'Faulty' SSC questions

OUR CORRESPONDENT, JESSORE

"Faulty" question papers of Mathematics was supplied among SSC (Secondary School Certificate) examinees under Jessore Education Board on Saturday.

As a result, no examinees could work out two sums, which has created disappointment among examinees and their guardians.

According to a number of examinees, part 'c' of question No. 3 and 'a' of question No. 15 in 'B' set question papers were "faulty" and no student could work out the two sums.

When contacted over phone yesterday, Controller of Examinations of the Board, Md. Aminul Alam Khan told The Daily Star that an inquiry committee has been formed to find out who is responsible for the "mistakes" in the question paper.

He said the marks for the two questions will be distributed among other questions.

Bidding bye to child marriage, polygamy



PHOTO: STAR

Marriage registrars, Imams of mosques and Union Parishad leaders at a meeting at Aur Kaur village yesterday, which decided to say goodbye to child marriage and polygamy.

SHEIKH SHAHIDUL ISLAM, B'baria

A great decision was taken at a remote village in the district, which will go a long way in curbing child marriage and violence against women.

Thirty-six marriage-registrars, Imam of mosques and Union Parishad leaders at a meeting held at Aur Kaur village in the Sadar upazila said good by to child marriage and polygamy.

The meeting on 'Role of Community to Implement Muslim Law' was organised by 'CHANGE', a local NGO with assistance from Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA).

Moderated by Advocate Kamrul Huda of BNWLA, the meeting was addressed by, among others, lawyers Jobaida Pervin and Aleya Chowdhury of BNWLA, Md. Abdul Bashar of CHANGE, KHM Rashidul Islam, lawyer Islam Uddin Dulal, UP

leaders Md. Mubarak Munshi, Nadira Begum, Helena Begum, Anwara Begum, Md. Bahar Uddin, Momotaz Chowdhury, Romana Begum and Namita Rani Deb, marriage registrars Reaz Uddin, Tajuk Ali and Md. Nazrul Islam, Poet Joydul Hossain, Md. Abu Bakar Siddiqui and Nurul Islam.

They all vowed to work against dowry, child marriage and polygamy in their respective areas.

They also called for building a social movement against these vices.

People of all sections should come forward to free the society from the vices.

UP member Navera Begum said she stopped a marriage when she came to know that the boy and the girl were aged 14 and 10 respectively.

A large number of local people were also present at the meeting.



PHOTO: STAR

Journalists with faces covered with black cloths marching Rajshahi city streets yesterday, protesting government leaders' remarks on media.

Remarks on media under fire

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi Sangbadik Samaj (Rajshahi Journalist Society) yesterday brought out a procession in the city covering their faces with black cloths and held a rally at the Zero Point demanding punishment of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) men responsible for assaulting SM Gorky, a chief photo journalist of Dhaka-based Daily Jugantor and recent comments made by some ministers on freedom of press.

The speakers alleged that the attitude of law enforces including Rab towards the media is detrimental to free journalism.

They also expressed deep concern at the derogatory comments made by the government high-ups.

Such comments by government leaders would tarnish country's

image abroad and not bring any good to them and the people.

They also demanded speedy trial of murders of all journalists including Humayun Kabir Balu, Manik Shaha, Shamsur Rahman and Dipankar Chakrabarti and of all bomb and probe into all grenade and bomb attacks in the recent past.

The meeting was addressed by, among others, Shafiqul Islam of Janakhantha, Prothom Alo photo journalist Azhar Uddin, Janakhantha photo journalist Salim Jahangir, Amar Desh photo journalist Asadul Islam, Jugantor photo journalist Jibid Apu, Amar Desh RU correspondent Shahidul Islam and Daily Star RU Correspondent Abu Kalam.

It was presided over by daily Sangbad's Rajshahi correspondent and human right activist Jahangir Alam Akash.

3 lakh brace for a repeat of flood

Breached Bhogai river dam at Hatipagar in Sherpur not repaired for only Tk 4.34 cr

JAHANGIR ALAM back from Nalitabari, Sherpur

Netrakona: Over three lakh people in about 100 villages in Nalitabari upazila in Sherpur district and Fulpur and Haluaghat upazilas in Mymensingh district brace for a flood havoc this year also, only because the breached Bhogai river embankment at Hatipagar in Nalitabari have not been repaired.

A Tk 4.34 crore project was submitted in November last year for repair of the embankment but it is yet to be approved by the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), official sources said.

Last year's flood caused by water rolling down the Bhogai river

from India's Meghalaya state damaged crops on several lakh acres, besides causing miseries to people. Vast areas of cropland were covered with thick layers of sand, making those uncultivable.

With the wet season approaching, people in the three upazilas are worried, taking it for sure that their IRRI-Boro crops will be lost this year also. This correspondent visited the area on Friday and talked to many people, who said last year's flood displaced several thousand people and made as many affluent farmers pauper as their sand-covered lands are uncultivable now. Lands in about 25 villages in Nalitabari upazila became uncultivable.

They said they did not want

relief. They wanted repair of breached embankment, which was not done in the dry season due to alleged negligence of the authorities and public representatives.

The Daily Star published three reports on the damage on December 29 last year and on January 9 and February 14 this year.

When contacted, Whip Jahad Ali Chowdhury, lawmaker from the area, said the project has been approved by the Chief Engineer of LGED but the papers are yet to reach the office of Sherpur LGED Executive Engineer (EXN). These will reach offices of Sherpur EXN and Nalitabari Upazila Engineer soon, he hoped.

Asked when the work will begin and whether it will be completed before the rainy season, he said, "I will try my best. I have nothing to do if it (breached embankment) can not be repaired before the rainy season".

Nalitabari Upazila Engineer Ashraful Haque said, "Higher authorities in LGED assured us of approval of the project but we did not get any papers regarding this.

"Even if the project is approved and funds placed, it will not be possible to repair the breach before the rainy season", he said. Hill waters from across the border may cause flash flood in the area any time.

Mohammad Jamal Hossain, EXN of Sherpur LGED, said he did

not get any papers regarding sanction of the project. Repair work should start in November, he commented.

He said last year's flood affected 25 villages in Nalitabari upazila and covered vast croplands with sand. This will repeat this year, he said.

Yunus Ali, Chairman of Nayabil Union Parishad said last year's flood made several hundred acres of land uncultivable in his area, besides displacing many people and damaging ready-for-harvest IRRI-Boro crops. As their lands have become uncultivable, many people left homes and went to Dhaka and other cities for survival. More lands will be covered by sand when waters roll down the Bhogai

river, he apprehended.

He said local lawmaker Jahad Ali could get the project sanctioned in time had he been sincere. He also blamed LGED for this.

During the visit this correspondent saw many people in Nalitabari preparing to leave homes before floods come.

Widow Karimunnasa, living in a hut at Andaru Para village in Nalitabari upazila, said last year's flood covered her small cultivable land with sand. She will go to Sherpur town before rains start in about a month this year, she said.

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