

Most Moulvibazar colleges face acute student crisis

6000 seats in 20 colleges while only 2000 students pass SSC this year

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

At least a dozen out of 20 colleges in Moulvibazar district are facing acute shortage of students.

Some colleges in rural areas may be closed down for lack of students, their authorities apprehend.

August 30 is the last date for admission to HSC classes in colleges under Sylhet Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board. But according to reports available from different areas, most of the colleges have failed to fill up seats.

Around 2000 examinees passed in the SSC examinations in the district this year. The pass percentage was 49 percent.

Out of the 20 colleges in Moulvibazar district, eight including three government colleges are

reputed and well established.

The rest 12 were set up when SSC pass percentage was much higher than now.

Moreover, in last seven years, some high schools in the district opened X1 and X11 classes. This has also reduced the number of students seeking admission to colleges, sources said.

Of the colleges in the district, four are in Sadar upazila, two in Rajnagar, five in Kulaura, three each in Kamalganj and Srimangal, two in Baralekha and one in Juri upazila.

Two of the government colleges are in Moulvibazar district town and another is at Srimangal upazila headquarters.

The 20 colleges have a total of 6000 seats in class X1, including 1500 in the three government colleges.

Against this, only around 2000 students passed in the SSC examination this year.

Talking to this correspondent, Prof Md Quresh Khan, Principal of Rajnagar Degree College, said HSC seats will remain vacant in large members in most of the colleges in Moulvibazar.

He alleged that the government colleges are enrolling more students in each group than their quota of 150, fixed by the education board. This has also added to the students' crisis in private colleges.

Md. Mushfiqur Rahman, Principal of Shah Mostafa College at Moulvibazar town, claimed that the three government colleges also enroll students getting GPA.2.

17 Bangladeshis held by BSF sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

An Indian court on Tuesday sent to Baharampur jail the 17 Bangladeshis held by BSF on Sunday from Padma river along Ramkrishnapur border in Daulatpur upazila in Kushtia, sources said yesterday.

They may not be freed soon as they will possibly face investigation, police sources said.

At a flag meeting on Tuesday, BSF returned the body of Bangladeshi national Rezaul Islam. He was shot dead by BSF Saturday night.

BDR sources said BSF declared 'red alert' and hoisted red flag along borders in Nadia and Murshidabad districts following the August 17 serial bombing in Bangladesh.

"The Indian authorities now want to be sure that the persons they arrested (17 Bangladeshis) were not involved in the August 17 incident", BDR Sector Commander in Kushtia Lt. Col. Didar told this correspondent yesterday.

"The Bangladeshi citizens were caught after BSF was alerted following the August 17 incidents", he said.

Local sources said the 17 were held from Bangladesh waterline of the Padma by a BSF team from Jalangi camp in Murshidabad district.

Later BSF claimed that they caught the Bangladeshis as they crossed the Indian waterline and handed them over to Baharampur police. BSF also seized the engine boat on which the 17 Bangladeshis were traveling.



Two students of Music and Drama Department at Rajshahi University yesterday presenting a traditional dance at a cultural function organised to mark the rainy season.

PHOTO: STAR

Include HIV/AIDS in SSC, HSC syllabuses

Youths are the worst victims, seminar in Nilphamari told

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

HIV/AIDS should be included in SSC and HSC syllabi to create awareness among youths about the deadly disease.

Speakers at a workshop held here yesterday made the suggestion, saying the disease is spreading alarmingly across the world.

They told the workshop that about 15,000 people are being attacked with HIV/AIDS daily and half of them belong to the 15-24 age group.

About 8200 people died of AIDS every day in the world and a large of the victims are young people. So, it is very important to introduce HIV/AIDS at SSC and HSC levels to create awareness among the young generation, they said.

The workshop on 'Creating Awareness About HIV/AIDS at Grassroots Level' was organised by a local NGOPIACTwith funds from Bangladesh government and Save the Children, USA.

With Nilphamari Civil Surgeon Abdur Rahim in the chair, it was attended by Family Planning Deputy Director Toufiqueur Rahman, the Social Welfare Department Deputy Director, teachers, students, scouts, Imams (religious leaders), journalists and NGO representatives.

They said young boys and girls should know about the disease.

Parents and teachers should also talk freely with boys and girls about AIDS and other health related matters.

They said the disease spreads mainly through certain type of travelers, who enter the country through land routes. The government can examine the possibility of creating facilities at land ports to check travelers for HIV/AIDS, they said.

Nilphamari Civil Surgeon said the government has taken various measures at different levels to create awareness among people and check spread of the disease.

But the prime concern of the government is that Bangladesh is surrounded by countries where the disease is spreading fast and that cross-border visits by people are frequent for trade and other purposes.

In present day world, travel can neither be restricted nor foreign visitors checked for HIV/AIDS. So we must strengthen measures inside. Creating awareness is the only viable and most effective option, he said. The civil society, NGOs and the media can play a vital role in this regard.

He said spread of the disease in Bangladesh is still very insignificant. But there is no scope for complacency.

PIACT Monitoring Officer Md Ziauddin in key note paper said the print and electronic media can play a vital role in creating AIDS awareness among common people.

Five women rescued from traffickers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Five women were rescued yesterday by a BDR team from Chanduria on the Indo-Bangladesh border in Kalaroa upazila while they were being trafficked to India.

The rescued women are Shirina, 18, daughter of Sirajul Islam of Daudkhali village, Sufia Khatun, 25, wife of Anwar Hossain of Tatkhal village, Monowara Khatun, 35, wife of Wahab Ali of Bamunia village, Rizia Khatun, 41, wife of Selim Mia and Anwara Khatun, 22, daughter of Moslem Ali of Rudrapur village under Sharsha upazila in Jessore district.

On a secret information, a BDR team from Chanduria border outpost (BOP) chased the traffickers and rescued the women. The traffickers fled the scene leaving the women.

Later, the rescued women were handed over to Kalaroa police.



Freedom Fighters formed a human chain in Tangail town on Tuesday demanding execution of the verdict in Bangabandhu Murder Case and impartial probe into the August 21 grenade attack on an Awami League rally in Dhaka.

PHOTO: STAR

Build social movement to stop food adulteration

Speakers tell CAB workshop in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Speakers at a workshop here hailed the drive against sale of adulterated food and urged the government to enact law to protect consumers rights to save people from the clutches of dishonest traders.

Such a law will also encourage genuine businessmen, they said.

They also called upon the people to launch a social movement against food adulteration and to ensure rights of consumers.

The workshop on "Protection of Consumers Rights" was organised jointly by Satkhira district unit of Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) and the Satkhira

Unnayan Kendra (SUK), an NGO. It was held at the SUK office in the town on Tuesday.

With Asit Kumar Majumdar in the chair, it was addressed by CAB officials Abdul Khaleque, Parvin Akhtar and Uday Chatterjee; Sheikh Abdul Wadood; human rights activist Prof. Pabitra Mohon Das; Ananya Mahila Samitty Director Tahmina Islam; Bina Das and Hasanuzzaman.

They said after launch of the drive, people have now become conscious about the harmful effects of toxic chemicals being used in foods and fruit. But they can not go for any legal course in absence of law.

They suggested that such drives should also be launched in rural areas and upazila headquarters to create a mass awareness against food adulteration.

The attacks by diseases will come down and government's expenditure on healthcare will also be reduced if food adulteration can be checked, they said.

Due to lack of consciousness consumers mostly in rural areas are being deprived of their rights, they said.

Member of civil society, teachers, human rights activists and NGO representatives attended the workshop.



A student receiving a certificate from Moulvibazar Deputy Commissioner Md. Eunusur Rahman at a ceremony held on Tuesday after completion of basic IT training, provided for free under Dishari programme of British-American Tobacco, Bangladesh.

PHOTO: STAR

BREACH IN BHAIRAB RIVER EMBANKMENT 50,000 marooned in two upazilas in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

At least 50,000 people in 14 villages in Dumuria and Batiaghata upazilas have become marooned following breaches in the Bhairab river embankment at Jaliakhali Saturday night.

At least 156 families have become homeless as strong current of water after the breaches washed away their houses, official sources said yesterday.

They estimated crop loss at about Tk three crore by the sudden inundation of fields and homesteads.

Immediately after the breaches, local people tried to mend those but failed.

The inundated villages are Jaliakhali, Chandgarh, Bohira Khra, Ratankhali, Rutmari, Modna, Bhulbaria, Sharapur and Syedpur

in Dumuria upazila and Barhoaria, Sundarmahal, Kodol, Shumvonager and Mathbaria in Batiaghata upazila. At many places, homesteads are now under waist-deep water, the officials said.

Many of the homeless people have taken on high lands and are in dire need of food and drinking water.

All academic institutions in the villages have been closed as they have become inundated. Shrimp in over 100 enclosures have also been washed away.

Dumuria UNO Rakibul Bari told this correspondent that eight metric tonnes of rice have been sanctioned for distribution among the affected people.

Khulna Deputy Commissioner could not be reached over phone despite repeated attempts.

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