

Higher edn of sacked jute workers' children now uncertain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

About a hundred children of the retrenched workers of People's Jute Mills and Platinum Jute Mills could not get themselves admitted to any college here for want of money.

The National Relief Committee financially helped only 66 children of workers of Peoples Jute Mills for their admission to three colleges on July 23.

The colleges are Haji Mohsin College, Bhasani Vidyapith, Polytechnic Institute and Daulatpur Day-Night College situated in Khalishpur and Daulatpur.

When asked, the college authorities expressed their inability to arrange any more seats for the poor students.

Over 200 students passed the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations this year from high schools run by the authorities of People's Crescent and Platinum Jute Mills.

On contact, the acting principal of Haji Mohsin College told this correspondent that he had appealed to the authorities of Jessor education board to arrange more seats in science and arts groups.

"But I am yet to get any positive response from the authorities concerned", the acting principal said. Similar situation prevails in other colleges also, he said.

Meanwhile, the publicity secretary of Patkai Sangram Parishad (PSP) alleged that the authorities of People's Jute Mills are pressing the workers to vacate old and new colonies.

Tk 30 lakh heroin seized

BSS, RANGPUR

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) yesterday seized 300 grams of heroin from a train at Hilli railway station in Dinajpur, BDR sources said.

Acting on a tip-off, a BDR team from Hilli outpost searched a compartment of a Goalundo bound passenger train and seized 300 grams of heroin worth Tk 30 lakh. The packet of the heroin was kept inside the toilet.

However, none could be arrested during the raid.

FRIDAY'S CLASH WITH COPS

Hundreds flee homes to evade arrest at Rajshahi village

RU CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of villagers yesterday fled their houses at Darshanpara village in Mohonpur upazila in Rajshahi to evade arrest as five cases were filed against them in connection with the police-villagers clash on Friday.

Rajshahi Anti-Drug Directorate inspector Shafiqul Islam and assistant sub-inspector (ASI) Abu Bakkar Siddique filed the cases with Mohonpur Police Station against the villagers including Keshorhut Pourasabha chairman Shahiduzzaman Shahid.

They brought allegations against the villagers for attack on government officials, creating hindrance to Anti-Drug staff while doing their duties,

snatching illegal goods and drugs.

About 30 people were injured in police-villagers clash at the village on Friday. Earlier, Mohonpur police led by officer-in-charge (OC) Atzal Hossain raided the village at around 12 am and searched some houses of the villagers and drug traders. During the raid, police allegedly tortured innocent women and villagers and damaged houses and other property, sources alleged.

Police also arrested three people, including a 14-year-old boy in this connection, sources said. The arrested are Monarul Islam, 14, Abul Kalam Azad, 26, and Khorshed Alam, 26.

Police also raided the house of Keshorhut Pourasabha chairman in a bid to arrest him but at that time he was not present at his house, sources said.

On contact, the officer-in-charge (OC) of Mohonpur Police Station, Atzal Hossain confirmed the report on filing five cases against the villagers. He said the arrested were accused in the clash.

Chairman Shahid alleged that the cases were filed against them to hide fault of Anti-Drug staffers.

In reply to a query, Mohonpur OC denied to have damaged houses and torturing of innocent villagers.

When contacted, Anti-Drug Directorate inspector Shafiqul Islam denied to have demanded bribe from the drug traders saying we have launched the drive against drug traders, but the villagers attacked them. Later police recovered them, he said.



PHOTO: STAR
Vehicles cross the Teesta railway-cum-road bridge, in bad shape for long, in Lalmonirhat risking lives of passengers.

10 schoolboys attacked with 'mass hysteria' in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Ten students of SK Pilot Boys' High School in Mirzapur upazila were attacked with 'mass hysteria' yesterday.

The students fell unconscious at the school ground during assembly in the morning, school sources said.

Among them, five were admitted to Mirzapur Kumudini Hospital. They are Shohag, Hassan, Khalid, Sagar and Zahir. Of them, Shohag, Hassan and Khalid are students of Class 10 while Sagar and Zahir are students of Class 7.

The authorities of SK Pilot Boys' High School and the adjoining SK Pilot Girls' High School closed down their schools following panic among both the students and guardians.

Mirzapur Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Emdadullah visited the hospital and saw the ailing students.

When contacted, the UNO said to The Daily Star the students might have attacked by the disease due to physical weakness. Because, many of them come to school without taking breakfast, he said.

This is the first such incident in any school in Tangail.

workshop for journalists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A three-day workshop for journalists began at the VIP auditorium of Khulna Press Club on Friday.

Bangladesh Centre for Development Journalism and Communication (BCDJC) organised the workshop which

focused on gender, human rights and good governance.

The programme was inaugurated by Joint Director of BCDJC Muhammad Nurul Hasan while editor of The Daily Tribune Begum Ferdousi Ali, Staff Correspondent of Dainik Janakantha Gouranga Nandy, Toufik A Mannan of Ain-o-Shalish Kendra and programme officer of NGO Rupantar Shahadat Hossain acted as resource persons.

About 29 participants attended the workshop. Fifteen of them were women.

FLOOD IN DISTRICTS



PHOTO: STAR / FOCUS BANGLA
(From top) Flood-hit people pass days under open sky as they take shelter on highland in Bahirgola Gurer Bazar area in Sirajganj, Madhumati damages portion of Mongalhata ring dam as villagers fear flood any time there in Narail, flood grips dwelling house at railway colony on the southern bank of Surma in Sylhet.

Youths come to the aid of hapless erosion victims

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A group of young men have come forward voluntarily to help poor and destitute erosion victims at Baguria village of Gideri union in Sadar upazila.

Fifteen young men, mostly college and school students, have volunteered to shift houses, structures and other moveable property of poor erosion victims to safer places.

River erosion has intensified stretching one kilometre area from Baguria to Majipara on the western bank of the Brahmaputra in Gaibandha Sadar upazila during the last several days.

The Brahmaputra has devoured at least 30 homesteads during the period and hundreds others were threatened by erosion.

People living on the bank of the river are mostly destitutes and ultra-poor. Many of them even cannot afford to pay the labour cost for shifting huts and moveable property to elsewhere. Previously, structures and household articles of poor erosion victims were washed away by the surging water of the river.

Observing the pitiable situation, the young men came to the aid of the poor erosion victims.

While visiting the erosion affected areas, this correspondent saw a group of young men working to shift tin shed houses

and other household articles of the erosion victims to safer places from the erosion affected area.

"We are not only shifting houses and other valuables of the erosion victims, but also helping them take shelter to the nearby embankment or high land, said Jaharul Islam, a volunteer.

While talking to other volunteers, Emrul, Babul, Rafiz, Sumon, they told this correspondent they are trying to do welfare of the erosion victims. Their example would inspire others to service the needy, said Sumon, youngest member of the team.

"I have lost all of my belongings as the river devoured my home-stead within an hour. Now I am a pauper", said Moni Das, a fisherman at Baguria village.

The Water Development Board (WDB) is now engaged in constructing a counter embankment to protect people from the scourge of flood, but they have done nothing to save people from erosion, said Sankar Das. Last year, the WDB officials committed to dump sand bag to arrest erosion in the area, but in vain, he said.

While talking to Rafayel Tusher Chakravarti, Disaster Management Officer of Heed (Bangladesh), he said they already trained 50 young men so that they can extend help to disaster victims at the time of need.

5X3

3X2

7X3