

Midday meal for school kids at local initiative

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Thakurgaon

Nagar Kumari Government Primary School in Boda upazila under Panchagarh district has started midday meal programme for the learners, thanks to the initiative of district administration and generosity of local guardians and education enthusiasts.

Panchagarh Deputy Commissioner (DC) Md Tofazzal Hossain Mian on

Tuesday inaugurated the programme titled 'Chalo Schoole Jai, Dupure Khai' (let us go to school, have midday meal) on experimental basis. "The programme aims at protecting children from hunger during class hours, combating malnutrition, increasing school enrolment and attendance and reducing dropout," said Hosneara Begum, headmaster of the school. "We have arranged lunch free of cost for 303

children on school days. They will be given khichuri three days a week and rice and vegetables rest of the days. On the first day, khichuri was prepared with 30 kg of rice, five of kg pulse and five kg of potato. "Groups comprising mothers of the school children will do the cooking by rotation. Guardians of the children and local education enthusiasts are donating to run the programme," she said. "Due to poverty, most of the rural guardians cannot arrange even moderate food for their children. It becomes difficult for the underfed children to pay attention to classes. Eventually, they lose interest to come to school," said DC Tofazzal Hossain, who took the initiative and arranged cooking utensils for the purpose.

"Within a month, we will introduce midday meal programme in ten primary schools in different upazilas of the district. After evaluation of its progress for several months, we will start it in ten other primary schools. We hope the programme will be sustainable as locals have extended their cooperation to run it," he said. The school was established in 1965 and there are 303 students and seven teachers in the school. "I liked the food very much and I will come to school every day," said Raihan, a student of the school. Several others including Siddik and Taslim echoed the same.



PHOTO: STAR

Students of Nagar Kumari Government Primary School in Boda upazila of Panchagarh district stand in a queue to have their hands and plates washed before taking midday meal on Tuesday. The district administration with the help of guardians of the children and local education enthusiasts arranged the cost-free feeding programme.



PHOTO: STAR

Students of Rajshahi University bring out a procession on the campus yesterday demanding cancellation of the decision to increase price of the admission forms and seat rent at the dormitories of the institution.

Deaths of patients spark protests

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Two patients died in Khulna and Sirajganj yesterday, triggering protests by their relatives.

A nine-month-old baby died allegedly due to wrong treatment yesterday morning at Khulna Shishu Hospital in the city, reports our staff correspondent.

Victim Shuvendu Dey was son of goldsmith Robin Dey and Bithi Rani Dey of Binapani road under Daulatpur police station.

The child was admitted to Shishu Hospital on September 13 morning as he was suffering from intestinal disorder, high fever, cough, cold and dehydration.

His condition started deteriorating from Wednesday midnight showing no sign of recovery.

At about 9:00 am yesterday, the child died a few minutes after an injection was pushed into his body, alleged Bithi Rani Dey.

The death triggered violence in the hospital at about 11:00 am as the

relatives of the victim went on rampage in all the cabins of second and third floors of the hospital building.

They damaged window panes, chairs, tables and medicines of patients who were undergoing treatment in other cabins.

Contacted, superintendent of the hospital and also a child specialist Dr Kamruzzaman denied the allegation of wrong treatment and pushing a date-expired injection.

"The child was provided with the best possible treatment", he claimed.

In Sirajganj, a woman died early yesterday at Shahjadpur upazila health complex hours after giving birth to a baby, reports a correspondent.

Relatives of the woman and local people attacked and ransacked the health complex after the death alleging neglect of doctor.

Bulu Khatun, 30, wife of Ismail Hossain of Madla village of the same upazila was admitted to the health complex following labour pain on Wednesday evening.

Soon after giving birth to a baby at night she started to suffer from loss of blood. She was referred to Sirajganj General Hospital by Dr Rasheda Khanom over cell phone as she was away from the hospital at that time.

The woman died at around 2:45am due to severe loss of blood triggering accusation and protest.

Contacted, Dr Rasheda told this correspondent that she did not stay at the health complex as her duty was over.

DELAY IN GIVING EXAM RESULTS Students of Pabna Edward College go on rampage

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Pabna

Students of Pabna Edward College ransacked a few departments and forced closure of the classes yesterday protesting 'unjustified' delay in publication of their honours second year results.

As many as 261 students of 15 departments of the college are yet to get the results of honours second year examinations under the National University (NU) held in February this year although results of the same examinations of their fellows were published on August 14, said the agitators.

College sources said the aggrieved students supported by a section of Bangladesh Chhatra League activists got organised from different departments and college hostels and brought out a procession on the campus at about 10:30am.

They broke the glasses of Bangla, management, accounting and economics department buildings and forced closure of the classes at the college.

Md Sajib, president of the college unit of BCL, however, denied involvement of BCL in the matter, saying, "When the results were published, many students did not find their result in internet. A total of 261 students 15 departments, including 61 students

of Islamic history, faced the problem but the college authority has not taken any step for its remedy. And so, the students brought out the procession demanding publication of their results."

"If any BCL man becomes sufferer he may have taken part in the demonstration but it does not mean that the organisation led the programme. Rather the BCL leaders tried to calm the situation," said Md Mamun Haider, secretary of the college unit of BCL.

He demanded that the college authority take immediate step for publishing results of the 261 students.

"We are investigating why the college campus turned violent due to a trivial matter," Prof Md Shamsul Huda, principal of the college, said after an urgent meeting of the college academic council yesterday noon.

Asked why the results of 261 students were not published, the principal said, "We have already informed the National University authorities about the problem. But they are yet to respond as they are in problem after removal of their 821 staffs. We will again send letter to them in this regard."

Police has been deployed on the college campus to stave off further unwanted incident.



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Poacher held with traps

A CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Forest officials arrested an alleged deer poacher with 80 various types of traps from a trawler in the Sundarbans in Sharankhola upazila Wednesday night.

Arrestee Miraj Sardar, 25, is son of late Kuddus Sardar of Poshchim Badurtola village in Patharghata upazila of Barguna district.

A team of Sundarbans East Zone forest officials, while patrolling Kochikhali area by a boat, stopped and searched the trawler carrying Miraj around 8:30pm.

The team arrested Miraj and seized the trawler after they found the traps in the vessel.

According to Divisional Forest Officer Mihir Kumar Dey, forest guards held 9 poachers along with slaughtered deer, venison, deer skins and heads from Sharankhola and Mongla areas of the forest in the last two months.



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