

SSC, Dakhil students forced to pay extra exam fees

Poor guardians worried as institutions in Lalmonirhat ignore official instructions

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Guardians of SSC and Dakhil examinees from different schools and madrasas in five upazilas of the district are being forced to pay excessive fees for the examinations as the institution authorities ignore the instruction from the education board in this regard.

The situation puts added burden for guardians, especially the insolvent ones, ahead of the important public examinations.

The education board authorities have fixed Tk 1150 as fees for the SSC examinees of the humanities and business studies groups, Tk 1240 for the science group, Tk 950 for Dakhil examinees of general groups and Tk 1065 for the science group.

But the school and madrasa authorities are taking Tk 2200 to 2400 from the students of humanities and business studies groups and Tk 2600 to 2800 from the students of science group, said students and guardians.

Forty-five candidates of Chandrapur High School in Kaliganj upazila held a rally

at the school ground yesterday morning protesting realisation of excessive fees by the school authority.

The school authority is charging Tk 2200 as SSC examination fees from each candidate, students said.

"The school authority is charging excessive fee which is too much for we poor guardians," said day labourer Mohir Uddin, 35, father of an SSC examinee from Chandrapur High School.

Several other guardians including Masudur Rahman, Mobin Uddin, Shamsuddin and Johir Ali echoed the same.

Lalmonirhat District Education Office sources said, 8708 students of 143 high schools, including 137 non-government and six government institutions, and 3751 students of 67 madrasas, including 65 non-government and two government ones, in five upazilas of the district have passed the test examinations and they will sit for the SSC and Dakhil examinations under Dinajpur education board.

The students belong to science and humanities groups, except a handful of candidates from business studies group.

But the authorities of the institutions are taking much higher examination fees than the rates fixed by the education board.

The management of Kobi Shaikh Fazlul Karim Girls High School in Lalmonirhat town has fixed a fee of Tk 2400 for the students of humanities group and Tk 2800 for the students of science group.

The authorities of Lalmonirhat Government Boys High School and Lalmonirhat Government Girl's High School in the town have fixed Tk 2400 for humanities group, Tk 2650 for science group. The management of Khuniyagahh High School at Teesta River char in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila has fixed Tk 2200 for humanities and Tk 2400 for science group.

Authorities of Mogholhat and Mohendra Nagar Dakhil Madrasa in Sadar upazila are taking Tk 2100 from the students of general group

and Tk 2300 from the students of science group.

The authorities of different schools and madrasas claimed that they are taking the extra money from the students as coaching fees and contribution to poor fund.

But coaching should not be made mandatory, said several guardians of examinees.

On November 1, Lalmonirhat District Education Officer issued a letter to the authorities of all government and non-government high schools and madrasas for taking fees money from the candidates that is fixed by education board but authorities of the institutions are allegedly violating it.

Contacted, Lalmonirhat District Education Officer Moslem Uddin Sarker said,

"If I get any written allegation from the students or their guardians regarding realisation of extra fees, I will take necessary action against the management or authority of the institution concerned according to law."



PHOTO: STAR

A large number of vehicles get stranded in a long tailback on Sunday and yesterday as vehicular movement had to be halted on one side for conducting operations to rescue a tank-carrying lorry that had fallen into a ditch beside Dhaka-Tangail highway at Jamurki in Mirzapur upazila under Tangail district on Saturday.

TANK-CARRYING LORRY RESCUED

Tailback on Dhaka-Tangail highway yet to ease

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Army men finally succeeded in lifting onto the road the tank-carrying lorry that had fallen into a roadside ditch at Jamurki in Mirzapur upazila of Tangail on Saturday.

However, the two-day rescue operation created kilometres-long tailback on the Dhaka-Tangail highway from Gorai of Mirzapur upazila to Baoikhola of Basail upazila,

much to the sufferings of passengers.

The army men under the direction of Lt Col Mohammad Taher from the Engineering Core of Savar Cantonment conducted the rescue operation, lifted the 30-tonne tank and the truck onto the road yesterday evening.

The army truck carrying a tank going to Rajendrapur Cantonment in Gazipur from Jamuna Cantonment near the Bangabandhu Bridge fell into a 30-foot-

deep ditch while giving side to a passenger bus at Jamurki, leaving three army men injured, said Sub-inspector Mamun Miah of Gorai Highway Police Station.

Hundreds of vehicles got stranded in the tailback on the narrow highway as the army men started rescue operation with their own wrecker, blocking a side of the road on Sunday noon, said drivers and locals.

The strenuous task took a long time and the traffic jam

worsened, causing untold sufferings to the passengers, mostly the ones returning to the capital from northern districts after celebrating the Eid-ul-Azha.

"I along with family members was going to Dhaka after celebrating Eid at my village home but our bus has remained stranded at Natiapara for the last four hours due to the traffic jam," said Mohammad Rabbani, a service holder returning from Dinajpur, yesterday afternoon.



PHOTO: STAR

Vehicles and passers-by remain highly vulnerable to accident before an approaching train as a temporarily appointed gateman puts up a bamboo barrier only on one side of the busy No 2 level crossing in Gaibandha town.

Most of Gaibandha level crossings without gates, gatemen

K M REZAUL HOQUE, Gaibandha

Surprisingly though, 34 level crossings out of a total 54 ones in the district Gaibandha district are without any gatemen or arrangement for stopping movement of vehicles and pedestrians during passage of trains.

In Gaibandha district, there are 11 railway stations, namely, Salmara, Mohimaganj, Bonarpara, Badiakhali, Trimohoni, Gaibandha, Kuptola, Kamarpara, Naldanga, Bamondanga and Hasanganj, said sources at Gaibandha rail station.

Besides, three other stations between Trimohoni to Balashi Ghat remain operational for transport of mainly goods to Balashi Ghat river port for four months during the rainy season.

Of the 54 level crossings on the track between

Salmara to Hasanganj stations under Santahar-Lalmonirhat Section, only 20 crossings have safety measures as railway authorities arranged gatemen and cross bars there.

The 34 others remain virtually open all the time, including during passage of trains.

Five level crossings in Gaibandha municipality area are without any gateman from the railway department. Most risky one is No 2 rail crossing at the heart of Gaibandha town as a large number of buses, trucks, microbuses, three-wheelers and pedestrians including school and college going students daily pass through the crossing.

Considering gravity of the problem, Gaibandha municipal authority has deployed a temporary gateman at the busy point.

"There is not proper equipment to create barrier

cade on both sides of the rail track. As the train appears I place an ordinary bamboo to stop movement of vehicles and pedestrians on one side while the other side remains open," said Akalu Das, the gateman.

Four other level crossings at Adarshapara, Adarsha College, old SP office and Khamar points remain vulnerable to accidents any time, said Shahidul Huq, a student of Gaibandha Government College.

Bamon Hazra crossing near Mohimaganj rail station, three crossings to the north of Badiakhali station, and those at Kuptola station, Naldanga point and Trimohoni are some other highly risky level crossings. Those points are remained crowded with pedestrians, motorcycles and three-wheelers.

Last year two passengers were killed as a running train knocked a three-wheeler at

Bonarapara crossing and another tempo driver was killed at Kuptola crossing. Both the vehicles were smashed and skid off the roads, said sources of Gaibandha GRP.

"Authorities of Western Zone of Bangladesh Railway could not deploy adequate gatemen in level crossings due to acute manpower crisis. The recruitment process has remained stopped for a pretty long time although the higher authorities are frequently informed of the matter," said Abdul Wahed Mandol, station-master of Gaibandha rail station.

With vehicular movement on the rise, it has become all the more necessary to arrange gatemen and traffic control at the level crossings, said Dipok Kumar Singha, a sub-assistant engineer of Bangladesh Railway at Bamondanga rail station.

Poacher held with venison in Khulna

A CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Coastguard members arrested a poacher along with seven kilograms of venison in Khasitana area of Koyra upazila early yesterday.

The arrestee was identified as Sayeed Sheikh, 30, son of Ishaq Sheikh of the area.

Lieutenant Commander Mustafizur Rahman of coastguard, Mongla, said acting on a tip-off, a team raided the area and arrested Sayeed along with the venison at about 3:45am.

Four rawhides of deer were also recovered from his possession. Later, the arrestee was handed over to Khasitana forest office.

Sayeed used to sell venison to smugglers, said Mustafizur.

Six drug peddlers arrested

UNB, Faridpur

The law enforcers in separate drives arrested six drug peddlers from different parts of the district yesterday and the day before.

They also recovered 2,711 bottles of Phensidyl from their possession.

Police conducted a drive at Sutakanda in Nagarkanda upazila and arrested four drug peddlers along with 2,009 bottles of Phensidyl yesterday.

The arrestees are Sentu, Tutul, Tuku Miah and Sohel Matabbar. Police also seized the truck.

On Sunday, members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested two drug peddlers along with 702 bottles of Phensidyl from Majhkandi in Madhukhali upazila.

The arrestees are Mafizur Rahman and Kutub Uddin.

ROKEYA UNIV ADMISSION TESTS START TODAY 60 students to vie for each of 1,260 seats

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

The admission tests for first year honours courses under the academic session 2012-13 at Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur will begin today.

The tests will continue till November 8, said university sources.

At least 75,802 applicants will sit for the admission tests against 1,260 seats under six faculties while 60 students will vie for each seat.

Of the applicants, 15,762 will appear in the test from A-unit under arts faculty against 180 seats, 18,353 from B-unit under social science faculty against 360 seats, 16,190 from C-unit under business studies faculty against 240 seats, 8,594 from D-unit under science faculty against 240

seats, 8,473 from E-unit under engineering and technology faculty against 120 seats and 8,430 from F-unit under bio and earth sciences faculty against 120 seats.

Admission test for D-unit will be held at 10.30 am while A-unit at 03.00 pm today.

On November 7, admission test for E-unit will be held at 10.30 am and B-unit at 03.00 pm on the same day.

The test for F-unit will be held at 10.30 am and C-unit at 03.00 pm on November 8.

Meanwhile, the admission tests will be held on the campus along with 14 educational institutions in the city.

The institutions are Charmichael College, Charmichael Collegiate School and College, Collectorate School and College, Rangpur

Government College, Police Line School and College, Government Girls High School, Rangpur Technical School and College, Teachers Training College, Salema Girls High School, Samaj Kalyan Bidyabithi School and College, RCCI Public School and College, Darshona Basiron Nessa High School and College, Lions School and College and BIAM Model School and College.

Seat plans and other admission related information will be available on the university website (www.brur.ac.bd) and (www.admission.brur.ac.bd).

Vice Chancellor Muhammad Abdul Jalil Miah said necessary steps have been taken to ensure a peaceful atmosphere on the campus during admission tests.



PHOTO: STAR

Freedom fighter Dr Syeda Badrun Nahar (second from left) inaugurates the blood donation and free blood group testing programme organised by Prothom Alo Bandhusava at Shapath Chatter in Chandpur town yesterday.