

**District roundup**

**COMILLA**

**Dacoits loot valuables**

Nov 18: Valuables worth about Taka 80,000 were looted and a villager was injured in gun shots by armed dacoits in Sadar thana Wednesday night, reports UNB.

Witnesses said a gang of armed dacoits numbering between 12 and 15 stormed the house of Zulfi Mia at Banasua village and tied up hands and legs of the inmates with rope and looted the cash, ornaments and other valuables.

The dacoits opened fire at the villagers who surrounded them on hearing the alarm and one Ali Akbar sustained grievous injuries.

He was admitted to General Hospital in a critical condition. A case was registered with local police in this connection.

Another report adds: A man has been sentenced to 14 years of rigorous imprisonment for keeping unauthorised arms here.

The prosecution case, in brief, was that police nabbed Feroz Mia, son of late Tajul Islam who was absconding for long in connection with several cases and recovered a revolver and a pipe gun from Karunapur village area on the basis of his confessional statement.

Additional Sessions Judge Mohammad Modabir Hussain found him guilty under the relevant laws and awarded the verdict on November 8 after examining witnesses and records of the case.

Special PP Advocate Atiqul Islam conducted the prosecution while Advocate AHM Tahir Alam appeared for the defence.

**RAJSHAHI**

**RCC uplift plan taken up**

Nov 18: Rajshahi City Corporation has undertaken about 600 various development schemes for overall development of the city during the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

The City Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu told BSS that the government has so far sanctioned Taka eight crore the highest ever allocation since liberation for implementing various development projects of the corporation.

He said work on the water treatment plant with the assistance and cooperation of Japan government will start from December. Construction of the plant for supply of pure drinking water will cost over 135 crore.

For ecological balance in the region the corporation has so far planted 65,000 saplings during the current fiscal year.

Replying to a question the mayor said that Bhubonmohan park after proper renovation at a cost of taka ten lakh will be opened on December 16, the Victory Day.

Besides the corporation has undertaken a scheme to construct traffic signals at twelve points in the city during the current fiscal year.

**RANGPUR**

**One elderly man killed in road mishap**

Nov 18: An unidentified elderly man was killed and another injured seriously when a speeding minibus knocked them down from behind Friday, reports UNB.

Police sources said the accident took place near Rangpur bus terminal while the victims were walking beside the Rangpur-Kurigram road.

The injured person is now undergoing treatment at Rangpur Medical College Hospital while the body of the dead was sent to the morgue for autopsy.

**SIRAJGANJ**

**Three commit suicide**

Nov 18: Three people, including two housewives, in two thanas of the district allegedly committed suicide Tuesday last, reports UNB.

Police said Sufia (40) of Dhamkol village in Kamarband thana killed herself by taking poison following a brawl with her husband at about 7 am.

Fariha Khatun (37) of Bidhali in Kasipur thana also took her own life by pouring poison into her mouth after a quarrel with her husband Wazed Ali at about 9.30 am, family sources said.

Antaz Ali (25) of Muslimpara of Kasipur committed suicide at about 9 am as he could not tolerate his stomach pain, villagers said. Separate cases were filed with the local police.

**RANGAMATI**

**72 employees not getting salaries for last 18 months**

Nov 18: Seventynine employees of Rangamati Forest Circle including 27 from Bundarban Forest Division complained of non-receipt of their salaries for the last 18 months, reports UNB.

Officials here said the payment had been suspended because funds were not made available from the Forest Ministry in Dhaka.

They said the employees along with thousands others all over the country were usually paid from the project aid extended by the Asian Development Bank for the development of forestry under third five year plan.

The fund was totally exhausted as the ADB did not extend its aid programme for the project after the third five year plan.

The leaders of the Brihatar Parbatya Zila Sramik Karmachari Oikya Jote said that they would launch a movement if the services of the unpaid employees were not regularised soon.

Meanwhile, they observed a week-long work-stoppage from November 1 and warned that they would go on a hunger strike with their kids and spouses.

They sought Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's intervention in this matter.

**NARAIL**

**Construction work hampered**

Nov 18: Construction work is being seriously hampered in the district because of high price of bricks and non-availability of bitumen and other building materials, reports UNB.

Sources said, construction work on roads, bridges, culverts and residential buildings in the town and its adjoining areas have almost come to a negligible limit.

They said quality bricks are being sold between Taka 2,100 and Taka 2,300 per thousand as against Taka 1800 a year ago in the local markets.

Public Works Department, Roads and Highways Division and other government departments, however, plan to undertake a large number of schemes for construction of buildings, roads, culverts in the district.

Observers believe, many of these development schemes during the current fiscal year would remain incomplete.

**PABNA**

**Thalassemia claims 42 lives**

Nov 18: Thalassemia, a kind of anaemia claimed 42 children and attacked about 500 others in nine thanas of the district during the last two months, unofficial sources said, reports UNB.

Official sources admitted that 7 children died by the disease during the period.

Sadar hospital sources said 7 children came to the hospital for treatment of Thalassemia disease and all of them died in the hospital.

The victim were identified as Nishat (2), Tayes (4), Trisna (3), Khuku (3), Moselemuddin (8), Kanak (6) and Ramjan (2).

Doctors said Thalassemia is a hereditary disorder of blood causing anaemia. After being attacked by the disease the patients gradually become bloodless and the children are the worst victim of the disease.

**FARIDPUR**

**FP assoc biennial meet held**

Nov 18: The biennial general meeting and election of Family Planning Association of Bangladesh, Faridpur branch was held at the local high school auditorium Friday, reports UNB.

Advocate Abdur Razaque as the chairman of the 14-member executive committee meeting discussed at length about the development activities and achievement of the association during the last two years.

In the election, Advocate Abdur Razaque, A K M Nurul Islam and Syed Ali Khan were elected president, general secretary and treasurer respectively for 1992-94 term.

Candidates from the two panels contested the election. The panel led by Awami League MP Mosharraf Hossain was defeated in the polls.



MODERN FARMING: Scientific methods in farming promise better output. — Star photo

**Vested property worth Tk 100 cr under illegal possession**

NOAKHALL, Nov 18: About 10,000 acres of government vested property worth about Taka 100 crore in six thanas of the district are now under illegal possession of an influential section of the local people, reports UNB.

The government is deprived of a huge sum of revenue which would have come from bonafide lessee.

A total of 3072 acres of land have been leased out for one year term but the revenue income from these too is very poor and irregular, according to an official source.

About 300 civil suits are pending in the court for long and the land grabbers have been taking advantage of the long delay to evade tax payment.

A group of dishonest people have got false documents made in their names in connivance with a group of employees of the vested property office.

Local leaders have appealed to the government to find out the actual quantity of vested property by forming a special team and take action to dispose of the recovered property.

Chandpur Correspondent adds: About ten lakh acres of

land have fertility of the soil due to indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers in the district.

The farmers are continuing the cultivation of same crop on same plot of land without interval for years together. As a result the production capability of the soil is steadily decreasing day by day.

It is alleged farmers having little knowledge about soil components are using chemical fertilizers indiscriminately to get maximum production from the land and thus destroying the production capability of the soil. They are also in the habit of cultivating same crops on same plots of land continuously. They have almost forgotten the use of organic fertilizers. Most of the farmers of this district are using their lands twice or thrice for producing crops every year. The farmers use 60-80 kg of chemical fertilizers in per acre of land. The ignorant cultivators have got no proportionate knowledge about the use of chemical fertilizers. Sometimes they use more fertilizers to get more production.

As a result, the production capability of the land is rapidly decreasing. The production ca-

pability of the soil are also being destroyed with heavy iron of underground water.

It is suggested that chemical fertilizers should be used after proper test of soil in consultation with agricultural experts.

Organic fertilizer such as cowdung should be used to retain the fertility of the soil. But the scarcity of the organic fertilizer is prevailing in the rural areas.

It is reported that there are about three lakh acres of land in the embankment area at Chandpur and Matlab Irrigation Projects. This lands are deprived of natural fertility due to embankment of the projects. Due to continuous cultivation on these lands the production capability is decaying day by day. The cultivators are using fertilizers to a large quantity but they are not getting expected production. The yield has come down to 30-40 maunds in per acre with the application of the chemical fertilizer.

It is suggested that cultivators should be properly trained about the scientific method of using chemical fertilizers. The training should be arranged if possible upto village level.

**Four to suffer life-term for murdering boy, girl**

From Our Correspondent

GAZIPUR, Nov 18: The Additional District and sessions judge Motiur Rahman Chowdhury sentenced three persons to life-term imprisonment for murder and fined Taka 5,000 each in default to suffer one year more.

The convicted persons are Shahidul Islam Khan Shahid, Habibur Rahman Khan Sayed and Md. Atar Ali. Seven more accused to suffer rigorous imprisonment for three years RI and fined Taka one hundred each in default to suffer six month imprisonment more.

According to prosecution of story in brief is that the convicted persons killed one Khokon (16) a student of class eight of Aral High School in Kapasia thana of the district on October 30, 1990.

The deceased returning home of that day after witnessing a football match nearby Kalgo primary school ground. The accused persons killed Khokon and kept the body in a paddy field. The next day Kapasia thana police recovered the body from Maduri Paddy field of the thana.

After registration of a case in this connection, police put up a chargesheet against nine accused persons.

The court after examining the records and the prosecution witnesses, found three person guilty and sentenced them all to suffer life-term imprisonment and fined Taka 5,000 each in default to suffer imprisonment for one year more. The court also sentenced other six accused persons three years imprisonment and fined Taka one hundred each in default to suffer six-months more.

The some judge of Gazipur in another judgement sentenced one Isamuddin to life-term for murdering Salina (13) a school girl of class six of Nilar Para High School in Sadar thana of the district on April 16, 1989.

The prosecution of case in brief is that one Salina (13) was going to her classmates house near by their village Nilar Para evening. The convicted Isamuddin and his accomplices picked up Salina force by near jungle and murdered after rape. Then her body was kept laid on near rail line.

Salina's elder brother, lodged a case with Joydebpur Thana in this regard. After investigation, police filed chargesheet against the ac-

cused.

Our Sirajganj Correspondent reports: Md Manir Uddin Ahmed, Assistant Sessions Judge of Sirajganj awarded punishment for different terms to nine accused persons in connection with abduction case of one Shiuli Khatun (14) of village Sanduria under Tarash Thana.

According to the prosecution, Shiuli Khatun, daughter of Amzad Hossain while came out of room to respond nuptial call was abducted by nine persons including Rabul Karim of same village. Later Shiuli was recovered by Chalmohar police under Pabna district along with accused Ashraf Ali and Abdul Karim Talukder.

After inquiry, Tarash police submitted chargesheet against nine accused person.

After examining the witnesses and evidences, the learned judge awarded 10 years RI and fined amounting to Taka five thousand in default more six months' imprisonment to Rabul Karim, seven years RI and fined Taka five thousand in default six months' imprisonment each to other eight accused persons under sections 4 (c) and 9 of women's - Repression Act, 1983 and under-section 26 of Special Power Act 1974.

Assistant Public Prosecutor Adv Mahabubul Islam stood for the government while Advocates Abdul Karim and Moazzem Hossain defended the accused persons.

Our Brahmanbaria Correspondent adds: Assistant district Session Judge Mohd Firoz Alam sentenced 11 persons to suffer rigorous imprisonment for 10 years each and fined taka 5 thousand in default to suffer rigorous imprisonment for six months more on charge of kidnapping.

The convicted persons are Mohd Ali, Rahmat Ali, Habib Miah (absconding), Kabil Miah, Hafiz Miah (absconding), Surat Ali, Jamshed Khan, Harun Miah (absconding), Kalachan (absconding), Mujibur Rahman (absconding) and Latif Miah.

The prosecution case in brief is that the accused persons kidnaped minor boy Musa Miah son of Abdul Majid of village Bainsabpur under sadar thana as previous enemy on September 6, 1988. After kidnapping the accused persons killed the boy and concealed the body. In this connection a case was filed in the sadar

**Across the country**

**Where spirits whisper from across centuries**

By Nazme Sabina

Time will never die in Salban Bihara, Comilla. The spirits from across a millennium still move around among the great structures of the Buddhist Monastery. One can feel it with one's third eye.

The spirits were buried with the structures there from the 8th century till 1955, when modern men sensed their presence and started excavation.

Mainamati—Lalmal range is an isolated eleven-mile long spur of dimpled hills, and it stretches through the middle of Comilla district from North to South. Mainamati echoes with the memories of King Govind Chandra's mother who is very popular in local legends and folk ballads.

Excavation at a number of sites such as Salban Bihara, Kautila Mura, Ananda Rajar Badi, Charpata Mura and Mainamati Rani Badi exposes many Buddhist monasteries, stupas and rich collection of stone and bronze sculptures.

In 1943-44, the headquarters of the 14th Division of the British Army was stationed in Comilla from their use, a number of buildings were constructed at various points of the Mainamati-Lalmal range. This was Dr. Abdul Momtin Chowdhury, Professor, Department of History, Dhaka University, speaking of the beginning of the excavations.

During the construction, the contractors discovered remains of a number of ancient buildings. They dismantled these buried buildings for bricks to be re-used in new structures. Then numerous terra-cotta plaques, ornamental bricks and a few pots full of votive bronze images were rifled away from the site. Prompt intervention of the then Department of Archaeology put a stop to such a destructive activity and a large number of sites were declared protected," he added.

Lat T.N. Ranechandan conducted a brief survey of the

area during the war and detected 18 ancient sites. But actual spade-works could not be undertaken before 1955.

From 1955 to 1963, regular seasonal excavations were conducted every year. Report of this prolonged excavation was in its final form at Karachi, the then headquarters of the Directorate. But with the Liberation War, the archaeology department had to leave behind all records, plans and photographs of the report. So, it is now not certain when the essential records would be retrieved and final report published.

Salban Bihara consists of 115 monastic cells, built around a spacious courtyard with a cruciform temple in the centre facing its only gateway complex to the North. Deep digging inside the monastery has revealed six distinct rebuilding phases, four of which produced intelligible plan forms. On inner verandah connects the cells.

Thick monastery walls serve as the outer wall of the cells. It is pierced by only one gateway to the North, flanked on either side by guard rooms.

Each cell is provided with three corbelled niches on three walls, which were intended as receptacles of small icons on lamps.

"In the later period of the monasteries' life, thickness of the enclosure wall was reduced from 16'-6" to 10' only and verandahs on its front were correspondingly set back," said Dr. Chowdhury.

The earlier two periods were exposed in a very limited area and so, offer no intelligible plan.

However, the cruciform central temple of the third and most studied building period

has been excavated fully. There is a seven feet wide ambulatory uninterrupted passage around the shrine the entire basement wall was originally decorated with terra-cotta plaques — but unfortunately the majority of these are now missing.

In the fourth building period, the plan of the central temple was radically changed from a cruciform to rectangle and its size was reduced to pillared hall in the central.

The main prayer cells were placed to the near or southern side. During this period, the shrine faced north and was provided with a professional path around it.

In the fifth building period, the size of the temple was further constructed. But it retained its oblong forum to this day or and its circumambulatory passage. The entrance hall was connected to a livelike pillared inner mandope from which access could be gained to the main prayers chamber.

But the remains of the temple that are now visible, belong to this fifth building period.

The last or sixth rebuilding period was found in a highly disintegrated condition, with no intelligible jay out plan. So, it seems to have been removed, says Dr. Chowdhury adding that, "large-scale excavations are yet to be done."

Like any beautiful and historic places in the country, Salban Bihara also can be developed into a tourist centre.

In the 8th century, during the reign of Bhava Deva, the fourth ruler of Dewa dynasty, this monastery was constructed. And in 20th century the soil still inscribes the Buddhist image.

**Office of the Executive Engineer**  
Local Govt Engineering Directorate  
Habiganj

**Re-Tender Notice**  
No. 8/1992-93

For implementation of the works of 1992-93 Growth Centres as per the schedule below under the project titled "Rural Development Project-3: Infrastructure, Greater Sylhet District," tenders under sealed cover in Bangladesh Form No. 2911, as per stated terms & conditions are hereby re-invited from only such contractors of Local Govt. Engineering Directorate as enlisted for the said projects having prequalification & valid licence

- Tender form, schedule, additional terms & conditions of tender notice etc. can be purchased at prescribed price (non-refundable) up to 21-11-92 during office hours from the office of the undersigned, Project Director, project titled "Rural Development Project-3: Infrastructure, Greater Sylhet District", Local Govt. Engineering Directorate, 5/7, Lalmita, Block-B, Dhaka-1207 & Executive Engineer, LGED's Office, Sylhet/Sunamganj/Moulavibazar.
- Tenders will be received at the said offices up to 1.00 PM on 22-11-92 and will be opened on the same day at 1.15 hrs before the tenderers (if any) present.

**Schedule of Work**

Sl No	Name of Project	Price of Tender form including all papers Tk.	Time limit for completion of work
1	Mirpur Bazar Growth Centre Development 1992-93	500/00	90 days
2	Goplar Bazar Growth Centre Development 1992-93	500/00	90 days
3	Syedpur Bazar Growth Centre Development 1992-93	500/00	90 days

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**Office of the Executive Engineer**  
Local Govt Engineering Directorate  
Habiganj

**Re-Tender Notice**  
No. 6/1992-93

For implementation of the works of 1992-93 financial year projects as per the schedule below under the project titled "Rural Development Project-3: Infrastructure, Greater Sylhet District."

Tenders under sealed cover in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 as per stated terms & conditions are hereby re-invited from only such contractors of Local Govt. Engineering Directorate as enlisted for the said projects having prequalification & valid licence:

- Tender form, schedule, additional terms & conditions of tender notice etc. can be purchased at prescribed price (non-refundable) up to 21-11-92 during office hours from the office of the undersigned, Project Director, project titled "Rural Development Project-3: Infrastructure, Greater Sylhet District", Local Govt. Engineering Directorate, 5/7, Lalmita, Block-B, Dhaka-1207 & Executive Engineer, LGED's office, Sylhet/Sunamganj/Moulavibazar.
- Tenders will be received at the said offices up to 1.00 PM on 22-11-92 and will be opened on the same day at 1.15 PM before the tenderers (if any) present.

**Schedule of Work**

Sl No	Name of Project	Price of Tender form including all papers Tk.	Time Limit for Completion of Work
1	Aushkandi-Bahubul Road Development 1992-93 (Chainage 10240 M-11310M) 1.07 KM, Gr. No. 'A'	1400/00	75 days
2	Aushkandi-Bahubul Road Development 1992-93 (Chainage 11310M-12348M) 1.03 KM, Gr. No. 'B'	1200/00	70 days
3	Aushkandi-Bahubul Road Development 1992-93 (Chainage 12348M-13362M) 1.02KM, Gr. No. 'C'	1200/00	70 days
4	Aushkandi-Bahubul Road Development 1992-93 (Chainage 13362M-14232M) 0.87KM, Gr. No. 'D'	1200/00	60 days
5	9.00M Box Culvert Construction at 6.75KM chainage on Bahubul-Dubai-bazar-Aushkandi Road 1992-93, Gr. No. 'E'	500/00	45 days

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**Office of the Executive Engineer**  
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**Re-Tender Notice**  
No 7/1992-93

Tenders in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 under sealed cover as per the stated terms & conditions are hereby re-invited from contractors/contractor firms enlisted with different projects of Local Govt. Engineering Directorate having prequalification & valid licence for the works of the projects of 1992-93 financial year as per the following schedule under North East Small Irrigation Project

- Tender form, schedule, additional terms & conditions of tender notice etc. can be purchased at prescribed price (non-refundable) up to 21-11-92 during office hours from the office of the undersigned, Project Director, project titled "Rural Development Project-3: Infrastructure, Greater Sylhet District, Local Govt. Engineering Directorate, 5/7, Lalmita, Block-B, Dhaka-1207 & Executive Engineer, LGED's office, Sylhet/Sunamganj/Moulavibazar/Kishoreganj/Netrakona.
- Tenders will be received at the said offices up to 1.00 pm on 22-11-92 and opened on the same day at 1.15 PM before the tenderers (if any) present.

**Schedule of Work**

Sl No	Name of Project	Price of Tender Form including all Papers	Time Limit for Completion of Work
1	Construction of 4.50 M (Double cell) span box culvert on Ratanpur-Chhatain Bazar Road of Madhabpur Thana, 1992-93 (Chainage 7325 M) Gr. No. 'A'	Tk 600.00	60 days
2	Construction of 4.50 M span box culvert (Double cell) on Madhabpur-Chowki Road of Nabiganj Thana, 1992-93 (Chainage 450 M) Gr. No. 'B'	Tk 600.00	60 days

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