

Fund crisis Several projects left incomplete

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Apr 27: Several projects of different government departments have been left incomplete due to shortage of fund. These projects were taken up at a cost of Taka 4.26 crore.

According to sources, after the upgradation of Satkhira sub-division into district, the Public Works Department (PWD) had submitted 15 schemes developmental schemes to the government in 1986. The work of only nine projects were started and the rest of the project have been left incomplete for want of fund.

The construction work of the office of the District Judge and the district court building has not yet been started. The land for the district judge's office has not been acquired. In the absence of the judge court and court building the district court is housed in the old Munsif court, consequently, both, the bar and the bench have been experiencing great difficulties.

Similarly, two projects for the construction of the residential quarters for government officers at a cost of Taka 1.35 crore have not been taken up due to fund constraint. Many district level offices of various departments

have been housed in rented buildings as a result the government has to pay a huge amount of money as rent every year.

One gets life-term

The Additional Sessions Judge, Satkhira convicted one Sahidul Islam of village Katakhal Dhandia under Tala thana on charge of killing his wife and sentenced him to suffer life term imprisonment and to pay fine of Taka 10,000 in default RI for another two years. In the same case, one Afazuddin from the same village was awarded two years RI and a fine of Taka 1,000 in default RI for two months more under section 379/34 BPC recently.

The prosecution story in brief is, Sahidul Islam along with Afazuddin beat his wife, Rokeya Khatun (22), mercifully on August 5, 1989. She died on the spot. A case was lodged with Tala police station.

Neglected thana

Kaliganj thana, an important business centre in Satkhira district has been smarting under multiple problems which are retarding the people's efforts for a happy and prosper-

ous life. Lack of good drainage system, deplorable condition of roads, paucity of drinking water, lack of recreational facilities, inadequate street lights, shortage of accommodation, erosion of the river Kakshiali are the main problems.

There is no drainage system in Kaliganj thana town. As a result, stagnant water with filth and garbage remains blocked in the drains.

The markets have been in bad shape for quite a long time. There is no systematic arrangement of the shop in the market. The shopkeepers have been facing problems for want of space and adequate number of shades.

Most of the roads in the town area are narrow and unfit for traffic movement.

Shortage of housing facilities also poses a great problem to the town dwellers. New houses were not built in the thana headquarters town area either on public or private initiatives since long.

Frequent failure of electricity and fluctuation of voltage have become a regular phenomenon in the market area. The entire town occasionally plunges into darkness. There is no street light in the town at all.

The life in the town areas have become miserable due to mosquito menace and lack of adequate conservancy services. According to sources, silted drains, ponds and garbage dumped on roadsides help bulk breeding of mosquitoes.

The educational institutions of the thana area are beset with various problems. There are four high schools, two colleges, one for male and the other for the female students, one madrasa, five primary schools. However most of these institutions cannot run smoothly for shortage of teachers and accessories.

There is only one hospital in thana headquarters with only 30 beds for 4 about 2 lakh people of the thana. The hospital is beset with hosts of problems. The people are deprived of proper medical facilities. The condition of beds of the health complex is far from satisfactory.

Kaliganj town has no water supply system for the urban people. The scarcity of drinking water is one of major problems of the town dwellers. Forty per cent of the population here get drinking water through hand tubewells and the rest depend on water from rivers and ponds.

3 die in Pabna boat capsizes

PABNA, Apr 27: Three boys were drowned and two people missing when a boat capsized in the river Baral at Bhangura thana of the district today (Tuesday), reports UNB.

Witnesses said the boat with five passengers overturned by a strong wind as it was proceeding towards Handial from Bhangura this morning.

The villagers recovered the bodies of Mahfuzul Islam 5, Saddam Hossain 4 and Janu Pramanik 15 from the river. They all hailed from Khanmarich village of Bhangura thana.

The two other passengers could not be traced.

Brutal indeed!

GAIBANDHA, Apr 27: A 14-month old baby was allegedly brutally raped by a youth of sadar thana of the district on Tuesday, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, the girl Sima daughter of Shafiqur Rahman was violated by the hoodlum Tajul, 19 son of Kuddus of village Progotipara west Kamarnal of Sadar thana at noon.

The baby was rushed to the hospital in a critical condition.

Village elders were said to be trying to hide the matter considering the future of the baby and hence no case has yet been registered with the police.

3 of a family roasted alive

DINAJPUR, Apr 27: Three members of a family were roasted alive in a fire incident at Shibrampur village in Kotwali thana on Sunday night, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, a fire broke out at the house of Altaf Hossain in which his wife, Hallma Khatun, 22, son, Forman Hossain, 10 and daughter, Salma Khatun, 3 were killed on the spot.

The fire originated from the kitchen and rapidly engulfed the straw-made house.

10 kilowatt radio station soon in Barisal

BARISAL, Apr 27: A ten kilowatt (kw) radio station will be constructed at Rupatali, about three kilometres from here at a cost of Taka 18.65 crore including a foreign exchange component of Taka 6.50 crore during the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, government has sanctioned 18.50 acres of land for the construction of the radio station.

Of the total, Taka one crore will be spent for the project during the current fiscal year.

The work on this project will be completed in 1995-96 fiscal year, the source said.

Information Minister Nazmul Huda along with Mujibur Rahman Sarwar MP, and Md Shamsuzzaman Chowdhury, DG, Radio Bangladesh, visited the site of the project recently.

Another report adds: Bangladesh Telephone and Telegraph Board will install four ISD card phones here in Barisal and Patuakhali districts very soon.

According to an official source, Japanese government will finance these projects. Necessary equipment have already reached the sites. Nine card phones are now in service in six southern districts of Barisal Division. Eight more card phones will be installed in phases in this division soon, the source said.

Phone card, of Taka 50, Taka 100 and Taka 200 denominations are being sold in different post offices.

The card phones were first introduced in the districts of Barisal and Patuakhali on April 20.

5 inter-dist dacoits held

JHENIDAH, Apr 27: Five notorious inter-district bus dacoits were arrested following gun-light on Jhenidah-Magura road at Aruakandi in sadar thana recently.

According to reports, five armed dacoits had made a road barricade placing a truck near Aruakandi road, some six kilometres off Jhenidah town.

The dacoits had stopped a Khulna bound night coach of Rajdhani Paribahan (No Dhaka Metro Ba-02-0178) at 3:30 am and looted valuables from the passengers. A patrol of police from Jhenidah thana luckily reached the spot and challenged the dacoits. The miscreants shot five rounds of bullets on police. In the counter-attack police fired eight rounds of bullets and arrested Shaheb Ali, Matiar Rahman, Anis Mollah, Abdur Rouf and Ekramul along with one pipe gun and one round of ammunition. A case was lodged with Jhenidah thana.

India takes control over Muhurir Char by force

Violating the 1974 Indo-Bangla border agreement, the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) has established full control over a 111-acre char (shoal) of the Muhurir river in Parshuram thana of Feni district.

Local people told PROBE News Agency that after several incidents of firing the BSF was now constructing electric towers in no-man's-land, a few yards from Muhurir Char, threatening about 50,000 villagers of the neighbouring areas.

They said, the BSF men had already dug numerous bunkers in an area of four square kilometers creating panic in the locality. The frightened villagers are also digging bunkers to save themselves from possible BSF attack.

Tension mounted as the BSF resorted to firing on October 26 last year following dispute over the newly-emerged shoal.

Since then 21 incidents of firing have taken place in Muhurir

directly dependent on agriculture. They cannot use the water of the Muhurir river for irrigation due to a BSF restriction.

Two residents of Nizkalpur village in the north of Muhurir Char — Nurul Islam and Yunus Ali — said they resided in the now disputed land 20 years ago. The BSF had forced them to stop cultivation there.

"I paid taxes for my land even after independence. I had my own house there," said Ali Akbar, who said he owned 24 acres of land in Muhurir Char.

Bachchu Mia of Uttar Kawkhal village stated that the cultivation of 10,000 acres of land had become uncertain as the Indian security force did not allow them to use the river water for irrigation.

There have been 13 meetings between the two countries at the BDR-BSF level following conflicts over the disputed char. The civil administration was not included.

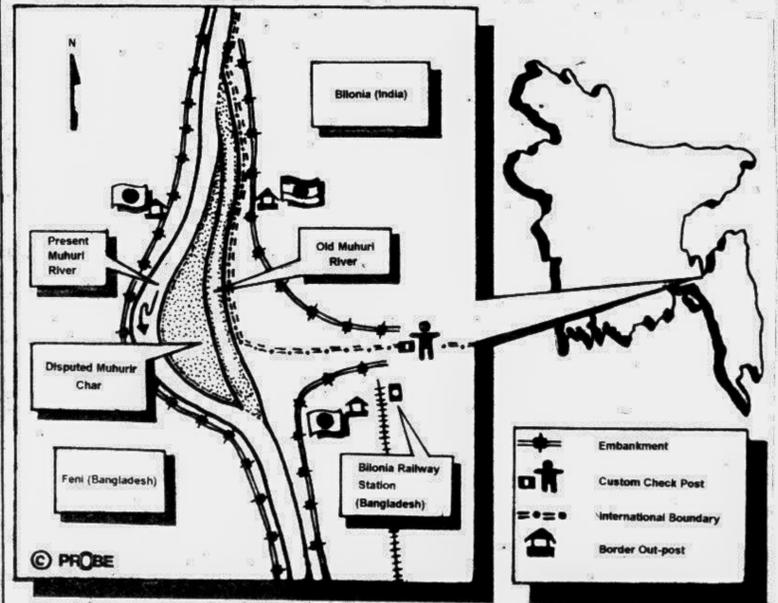
of a land (Muhurir Char) which was earlier the bank of the river on the Bangladesh side.

India claimed this land but failed to bring it under cultivation in the face of opposition from the local people. A border meeting between the two countries in 1974 restricted cultivation until a joint survey. This decision was later endorsed by a meeting of the Joint River Commission in 1979.

The BSF occupied 53 acres of land in 1986 violating this agreement. Subsequently another border meeting restricted the cultivation as well as cattle grazing in the disputed land.

Informed sources said the State Government of Tripura recently leased out the disputed char to Indian citizens. The October 26 BSF firing followed Bangladesh's resistance against the Indian attempt at bringing the land under cultivation.

"Muhurir Char is an inseparable part of Bangladesh," said Prof



Char, leaving a Bangladeshi woman killed and 15 others seriously wounded. The injured included four Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) men.

After visiting the bordering areas a special correspondent of PROBE stated that a large number of BSF men had been camped in the Bilonia High School, Ballamukh, Amlad Hat and Bidyapuri High School ground across the border.

They have also intensified patrol along the Muhurir river and use powerful searchlights to observe the movements of the BDR and Bangladeshi people. The BDR commanding officer in the area Major Jamal Naser Chowdhury said that a written complaint had been lodged with the Indian authorities in this regard.

Muhurir char is situated near Bilonia railway station, five kilometers off the Parshuram thana headquarters. Four neighbouring villages have about 50 thousand residents who are

Deputy Commissioner of Feni AHM Nurul Islam said those affected by the BSF offensive were not given any compensation as the district administration didn't have any funds for the purpose.

Even the family of Bidadhan, who was killed in BSF firing, was not paid any compensation. Her husband Ali Ahmed said the Civil Surgeon had given him 500 taka for the burial after the DC had expressed his inability to help him.

Officials said the midstream of the Muhurir river was determined as the border between the two countries at a meeting of the Indo-Bangla Joint River Commission after the independence of Bangladesh.

Later, India constructed groynes in Bilonia which changed the course of the river, causing an intensified river erosion inside Bangladesh territory. The meandering river gradually entered deeper into Bangladesh at Bilonia point, leading to the emergence

Ainun Nishat of the Water Resources Department at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET).

He told PROBE that the Radcliffe Boundary Commission had identified the midstream of the Muhurir river as the border of the two countries during the 1948 Indo-Pak border agreement. The 1974 Indira-Mujib accord had also stressed on immediate resolution of conflicts concerning all common rivers, including the Muhurir.

The noted water expert emphasised that the Muhurir Char problem should be resolved on the basis of the course of the river shown in the maps of 1947 and 1974.

International river law expert L Oppenheim, in a book, has said that "No state is allowed to alter the natural condition of its own territory to the disadvantage of the territory of a neighbouring state."

Mathabhanga-Bhairab Irrigation Project still in embryo stage

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Apr 27: The Mathabhanga-Bhairab Irrigation Project, approved in 1985-86 fiscal year still remains incomplete in its construction stage.

According to official reports, the aim of the project was to provide irrigation facilities to a huge area of land and to remove stagnant water from the two rivers. The project was financed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Following feasibility study, the government had okayed Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) to implement the project. An estimated of Taka 15 crore was required to construct the whole project. Unfortunately, the construction work was delayed and not started.

The Bhairab river originates

from India which enters Bangladesh territory through Chuadanga district. The normal water flow is ultimately slowed down due to diversion of a major quantity of water through canals which have been excavated at many points for irrigation purposes. This has gradually lead to large scale siltation, hence, a poor water flow down stream. In addition to this, construction of cross dams in India has further arrested water flow in Bhairab river. Similar is the case with Mathabhanga river which connects Padma river.

Discharge of water in these rivers has subsequently affected the internal water supply system which badly affected large irrigation projects. About 102 square miles area of

land in Dhamurhuda and Jibannagar thanas of Chuadanga district, Kotchandpur and Mohepur thanas of Jhenidah district and Kotwali thana of Jessore district are deprived of sufficient water supply for irrigation.

The Mathabhanga-Bhairab Irrigation Project was planned to remove these problems.

Engineers said, if the project work was to start this year, the cost of construction would stand at Taka 30 crore which is twice the original estimate. However, if the project work still goes into effect, about eight thousand hectares of land would benefit irrigation facilities and some twelve hundred acres of land would be saved from flood water.

District roundup

KISHOREGANJ Programme to cultivate summer vegetable

Apr 27: A programme for summer vegetable farming has been taken up in seven districts under Dhaka Agricultural Zone (DAZ) during the current season, reports UNB.

According to official sources, 61,000 hectares of land will be brought under cultivation with production target of 9,15,000 metric tons. Of the total, 5,000 hectares of land will be cultivated in Dhaka district, 5,000 hectares in Narayanganj, 3,000 hectares in Narsingdi, 10,000 hectares in Gazipur, 30,000 hectares in Munsiganj and 5,000 hectares in Tangail.

To make the programme a success Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation will supply high yielding variety seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and other necessary inputs to the growers at fair prices, the sources added.

Meanwhile, another scheme has been taken up to bring over 17,000 hectares of land under the summer vegetable farming in five districts of Mymensingh Agricultural Zone during the current season.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, of the total land, 7,000 hectares have been brought in Mymensingh, 3,000 hectares in Jamalpur, 2,000 hectares in Sherpur, 2,000 hectares in Netrakona and 3,000 hectares in Kishoreganj districts.

HABIGANJ Hailstorm claims one, damages 10,000 houses

Apr 27: Hail-storm has claimed one life and damaged about 10,000 houses and paddy on 10,000 acres of land in Baniachong and Nabiganj thanas during the last two days, unofficial sources said, reports UNB.

Mohon Dashi, 22, of village Jamalpur under Baniachong thana, was buried under her house, which collapsed during a storm on Sunday evening. The storm damaged IRI and Boro crops on 7,000 acres and destroyed more than 4,000 houses in the thana.

On Monday, similar storm hit five unions of Nabiganj thana, damaging some 600 houses and IRI and Boro crops on 3,000 acres. Affected unions are: Korgaon, Sadar, Baosha, Dewpara and Gajnalpur.

NARAYANGANJ Prostitute killed in brothel

Apr 27: A prostitute in Tantibazar brothel of Narayanganj was killed Tuesday morning following a tussle with her alleged customer over a money-matter, police said, reports UNB.

She was identified as Farida Akhter, 20. The customer, Uttam Kumar Das, 26, of Nitaiganj area of the port town took acid. He is under treatment at local Victoria Hospital.

Uttam confessed to the police that he had an affair with Farida, which developed during last four months. Police suspected that Farida was killed by Uttam.

MAGURA Two alleged dacoits, woman arrested

Apr 27: Police arrested two alleged dacoits and a woman from a house at Badhanpur village of Sreepur thana, reports UNB.

The arrested were identified as Lokman Ali, Dabiruddin and Sukurmesssa. Acting on secret information, police raided the house at the midnight of April 19 while they were preparing to commit a dacoity in the neighbourhood with the help of the woman.

A case has been filed with the police. Meanwhile, police arrested a toll collector from Bandanga village of Sadar thana on Friday.

Police said, a group of young men gheraoed the house of Swapan Kumar of the village and demanded Tk 10,000 from him as toll.

But local people caught one of them, identified as Basharul, 18, and handed over him to the police.

BARISAL Faulty water supply network

Apr 27: Acute scarcity of water is prevailing in the district headquarters for quite a long time causing suffering to the dwellers, says UNB.

Frequent disruption of power supply and faulty water supply network are the main causes of the problem, local people alleged.

The present ratio of water supply can not even meet the minimum demand of the town-dwellers.

An extension work of water supply system in the town areas under six districts water supply project at a cost of several crores of taka was completed in 1991 with the financial assistance from Asian Development Bank (ADB).

But drinking water scarcity remained acute due to anomalies made by the assigned contractors and engineers of Public Health and Engineering Department (PHED), town-dwellers alleged.

Water supply pipelines, water-tanks and pumps in many areas are yet to be repaired or changed to ensure normal water supply, they added.

RAJSHAHI RMC student commits suicide

Apr 27: A student of Rajshahi Medical College allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself on Tuesday noon, reports UNB.

He was identified as Nazrul Islam, fourth year MBBS student of the college.

Police said, Nazrul's roommate on the following day found the room closed from inside at 1:00 pm. Getting no response from inside, he along with other students broke the door open and found Nazrul hanging from the roof.

He was taken to emergency ward but the attending doctors declared him dead.

Medical sources said, Nazrul was mentally disturbed and under treatment of Dr Ahsan Habib.



The Chief of Army Staff, Lieutenant General Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan presenting Regimental Colours to the Armoured Corps Centre and School, the Bengal Cavalry and the 4 Horse at the Bogra Cantonment on Tuesday. — ISPR photo

Gen Noor Uddin hands over Regimental Colours

BOGRA, Apr 27: A ceremonial parade marking the presentation of regimental colours to the Armoured Corps Centre and School (ACC and S), the Bengal Cavalry and the 4 Horse was held at the Shahid Badruzzaman parade ground at Bogra cantonment Tuesday morning, reports BSS.

According to an ISPR press release, Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan was present as the chief guest and ceremonially handed over the Regimental Colours. He also reviewed the smartly turned-out parade and took salute at the impressive march past.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief of Army Staff said that the members of the army should ensure proper maintenance and utilisation of the hard earned military equipment made available to them so that they could face any challenge.

The Chief of Army Staff said that the ACC and S, the Bengal Cavalry and the 4 Horse were presented with Regimental Colours as a mark of confidence and trust of the army in them and added that all members of the armoured corps would be able to uphold the glory of the regimental colour through rigorous training, strict discipline and self-

sacrifice. General Noor Uddin paid glowing tributes to the members of the corps who had embraced martyrdom during the war of liberation in 1971 and said that the officers and troops of the corps would follow the path of their predecessors.

Earlier on his arrival at the parade ground, the Chief of Army Staff was received by the local Area Commander Major General Sadiqur Rahman Chaudhury, the Colonel Commandant of the Armoured Corps Major General Muhammad Abdul Matin, Bir Protik and the Acting Commandant of the ACC and S Lt Col Mohammad Naquebur Rahman.

The ceremonial parade commanded by Lt Col Mashud Ahmed was attended, among others, by senior military officers including general officers commanding and principal staff officers, the press release said.



The dacoits held in Jhenidah. — Star photo



The Bangladeshi Community in United Kingdom recently held an anti-racial rally in London