

Development projects worth Tk 10 cr being implemented in Hobiganj, M'bazar

From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, Jan 15: Different departments of the government are implementing eight development projects in Moulvibazar and Hobiganj districts during current financial year involving Tk 10 crore and 1651 metric tons of wheat.

These projects are being implemented in six thanas of Moulvibazar district and eight thanas of the Hobiganj district.

According to the sources of concerned departments, some of the projects have been financed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), though most of the projects have been financed from own fund of the government.

The Facilities Department of the Ministry of Education is implementing two development projects under the Secondary Education Development Programme in 117 non-government high schools of Moulvibazar and Hobiganj districts with a total expenditure of Tk nine crore 14 lakh 55 thousand 273.

According to the source of

the facilities department at Moulvibazar zonal office, one project is being implemented for 64 non-government high schools of Moulvibazar district with an expenditure of Tk five crore 26 thousand 816 and another project is being implemented for 53 non-government schools of the Hobiganj district with a total cost of Tk 4 crore 14 lakh 28 thousand 457.

The project included construction of one school building with 3 classrooms in each of 117 schools of the two districts. In the meantime, the source added, construction work of 25 school buildings in Moulvibazar district and 22 school buildings in Hobiganj district have already been completed and the rest are expected to be completed by March 1995.

The Zila Parishad of Moulvibazar has taken up ten different schemes with an estimated expenditure of Tk 85 lakh.

According to Zila Parishad source, the schemes included development work of three roads under the supervision of the parishad with a total cost of Tk 59 lakh. The roads are — Kulaura-Kushinagar road, Moulvibazar-Deoraghera road and Tengrabazar-Panchagaon road. Construction of the two union parishad office buildings will be done involving Tk 13 lakh. The union parishads are, Bhatara UP under Kujaura thana and Chadnighat UP under sadar thana, construction of two passenger sheds at roadside with Tk 2 lakh. The sheds are located at Jagatshi on Moulvibazar-Shamsenigaj road and at Shabondar on Moulvibazar-Sylhet road, and construction of a resthouse and a canteen at Madhabkunda Water Fall Picnic Spot and supply of furniture for the resthouse. The estimated cost of this schemes is Tk eleven lakh.

Besides this, the department has also taken up another 2 schemes for re-creation of two canals. The canals are Binnajuri Khal under Rajnagar thana and another canal from Dipiarghat to Gwpla river under sadar thana. A total of 243 metric tons of wheat has been sanctioned to implement the schemes.

On the other hand, the Relief and Rehabilitation Department has taken up 82

schemes under the Food for Works Programme in six thanas of the district.

The schemes included reconstruction of road and embankments, excavation work of different canals and earth filling work in different educational institutions. Of the total schemes, 13 in sadar thana, 10 in Rajnagar thana, 22 in Kulaura thana, 13 in Baralekha thana, 11 in Sreemongal thana and 13 in Kamalganj thana.

A total of 1407 metric tons of wheat has been sanctioned to implement the schemes. Besides this, the department has also taken up another 2 schemes for re-creation of two canals. The canals are Binnajuri Khal under Rajnagar thana and another canal from Dipiarghat to Gwpla river under sadar thana. A total of 243 metric tons of wheat has been sanctioned to implement the schemes. After implementation of this scheme, about 5 thousand acres of crop land will be protected from flood water.

Thana health complex faces numerous problems

MAULVIBAZAR, Jan 15: The Rajnagar Thana Health Complex has been beset with manifold problems due to lack of proper management, says UNB.

The health complex has been facing shortage of doctors, surgical equipment, life saving drugs, adequate supply of water and other essentials like X-ray machine and ambulance for a long time.

Local people complained that due to lack of accommodation patients with serious symptoms are to wait in outdoor and many are to go elsewhere to save their life.

Patients from remote areas through the health complex for better treatment but due to shortage of doctors and necessary medicines are to go back disappointed. Moreover, food supplied in the hospital is also low quality and many serious patients are to arrange food from outside much to their inconveniences.

Housewife commits suicide

JHENIDAH, Jan 15: A housewife of Sharabaria village in Harinakundu thana allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself in her room on Friday, reports UNB.

The deceased was identified as Mosammam Nazala Khatun (22) wife of Billal Hossain.

According to family sources, Nazala was married with Billal three years back and since then she could not give birth to a child in spite of treatment by the doctors and quacks. She was given an idea that she would not be able to give birth to a child. At this she was passing her days in great mental agony.

Meanwhile, Billal's decision for second marriage has made her upset and on the night of Friday allegedly committed suicide.

Occupation of charland Armed clashes between lathials, farmers continue every year

From Aroop Talukdar

BARISAL: For several years farmers of different char areas particularly of southern region riverine districts are becoming victims of the jotdar backed armed lathials.

Meanwhile, hundreds of armed clashes took place in these districts. According to a survey report, at least three helpless farmers were killed on the spot, more than three hundred were injured, five were reportedly untraced and more than seventy dwelling houses were gutted in several incidents in these districts during last one and a half month. All these clashes occurred between the jotdar backed armed lathials and the local farmers or villagers over reaping of paddy or capturing new charlands in different areas of five southern districts.

During last one and a half month incidents of clashes occurred in Jalirchar under Mehendiganj thana of Barisal district, Nandipara, Laukathi and Mithaganj and Chakaria villages of Patuakhali district, Ilishar char of Bhola district, Harinapala Junior char of Perajpur district and Banshtala village under Patharghata thana of Barguna district.

Fire arms were also used in some incidents during the clashes, local sources said.

According to police, at least twenty-five persons were arrested in connection with the clashes.

In the first week of the new year at least 35 persons were injured, 15 of them seriously who were admitted into hospitals in critical conditions in two incidents in Patuakhali and Barguna districts.

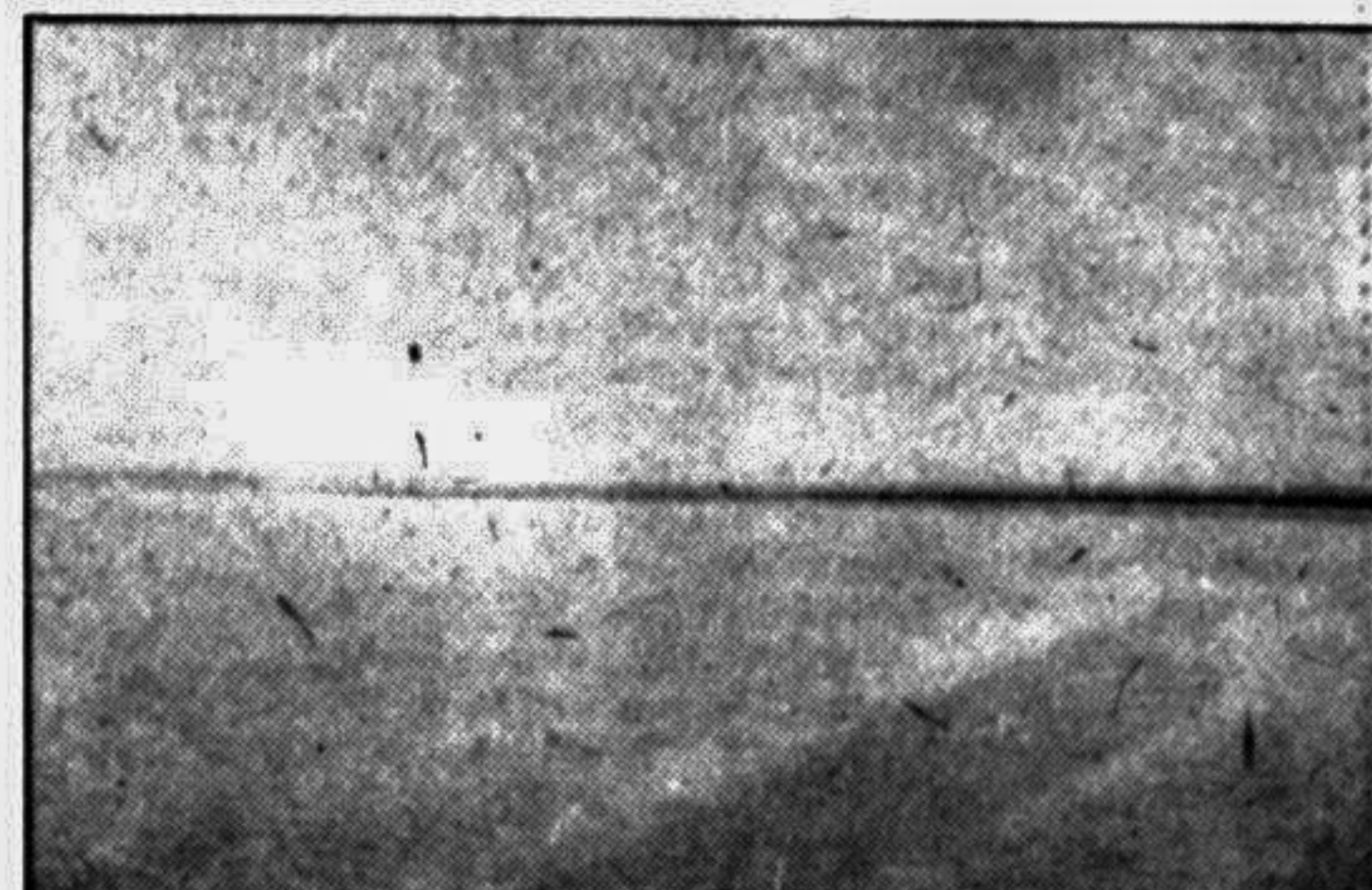
Police and local sources said 15 persons were injured.

persons were injured, eight of them seriously, who were later admitted into Patharghata thana Health Complex and one of them into the Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

In a very recent incident at

avert clash, yet in reality that helped little. In some vulnerable spots police camps were also set up to control any untoward incidents, police sources said.

Still then joddars and lathials are always looking for



BARISAL: A new char land has appeared in Tetulia river in Bhola district. — Star photo

the Chargaguria, located between Barisal-Bhola border under Mehendiganj thana of Barisal district, lathials from Vedula of Bhola district last Sunday swooped on the innocent farmers of Chargaguria around 1 pm and ransacked some houses.

The lathials also had taken away about fifty cows and some other valuables setting some houses on fire.

Bhola police reportedly refused to lodge case against the lathials when the farmers of Char Gaguria went to Bhola police for filing a case.

This incident was really unexpected as to settle dispute the border between Barisal and Bhola districts along Char

disputed land, new chars in any riverbed where they will shed blood of innocent farmers.

The greatest charland massacre occurred at Char Zahiruddin, with an area of nine thousand acres of land along the Bhola-Laxmipur border on February 6, last year.

On that day, hundreds of lathials equipped with lethal weapons and fire arms reportedly backed by police from Laxmipur swooped on at least 15 thousand innocent and helpless farmers of Char Zahiruddin of Bhola.

During that atrocity of the armed lathials not less than two thousand residents of Bashir colony, Patwary colony



BARISAL: The green land-scape of Char-Zahiruddin where hundreds of farmers pass days in fear of any attack by the lathials. — Star photo

seven of them seriously, following an armed clash between two groups of Khaleque Howlader and Maqbul Sharif, over harvesting of paddy at Lebukhali village under Dumki thana of Patuakhali district on January 2 last.

The second incident took place on January 4 at Tangra village of Charduan union under Patharghata thana of Barguna district over reaping of paddy between two groups of people — Khabir and Jalal groups.

During the clash at least 20

Gaguria and Vedula was demarcated by setting up pillars in March 1992 by the district administrations of Barisal and Bhola.

Armed clashes between jotdar supported lathials and farmers in charlands particularly near border areas of different districts in southern region of the country is a chronic problem — informed sources said.

Though district administrations meanwhile put pillars along the border areas, particularly in disputed places, to

and Selim colony of Char Zahiruddin were rendered homeless. Some 60 people were also killed. In that day-long war numerous bombs were exploded, indiscriminate gunshots rocked the whole area. Many of the residents lost their hands, legs or eyes.

Amena Khajun, Nurjahan, Sahed Ali, Sahjahan, Altaf, Ruhul Amin of Char Zahiruddin feel shaky remembering that inhuman activities of the lathials. They don't know, when they will be attacked this year.

Smuggled sugar flood markets, sugar mills in North Bengal face problems

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Jan 15: Influx of smuggled Indian sugar and deliberate production of gur (molasses) by power crushers in mill zone areas have been hampering functioning of sugar industry, particularly in northern districts.

According to an informed source, 15 sugar mills of the region including two in Natore have been facing acute fund shortage.

According to the source, arrears of about Tk three crore of the sugarcane growers remained pending since start of the crushing season of 15 sugar mills of this region. The inability of the mill owners to pay the arrears made the cane growers hostile. The salary and other payable allowances of the employees and labourers of the mills have also become irregular.

The worst affected mills are Mahimganj, Shyampur, Joupurhat, Tahkurgaan, Panchagarh, Setabganj, Horian of Rajshahi, Gopalpur and Natore Sugar Mills.

It is learnt that locally produced sugar is facing hard competition with smuggled Indian sugar which is being sold at a comparatively cheaper price. Indigenous sugar is now being sold at Tk 30 per kg while Indian one is being sold between Tk 22 and 24. As a result a huge quantity

of locally produced sugar is lying unsold with the godowns of the respective mills.

Godagari and Charghat thanas of Rajshahi district and Arani, Nandangachhi and Lalpur of Natore district have been turned to be the regular transit of smuggled goods particularly sugar from India. Every night 20 to 30 trucks carry sugar from these border areas before the nose of the law enforcing agencies, local people alleged. The sacks of sugar are being carried to other parts of the country by train and other transports.

Moreover, it is alleged that about 2000 power crushers and 4500 hand crushers are

involved in producing 'gur' which at present crush about 15,000 metric tons of sugarcane violating the government ban. Consequently sugar mills are facing shortage of sugarcane.

The GM of Natore Sugar Mills told UNB that they have already filed cases against the owners of the power crushers but to no effect.

The growers to maintain their bare necessities of daily life are forced to sell sugarcane on cash payment at throw away prices to the brokers of money lenders which are being used in making molasses.

It is present situation continues it is obvious that the cane growers will lose interest in its cultivation. The cane growers and mills owners have urged the government to take immediate steps to overcome the present situation.

The experts said government should take immediate steps to stop influx of smuggled Indian sugar to regain the vital role of sugar mills in the country. They also called for immediate action against the illegal power crushers to save the sugar mills.

Mentionable that at present the domestic mills produce only 2.5 lakh metric tons of sugar against the annual demand of 3.5 metric tons.

JU virtually has no recreational facilities

By Gobinda Bar

JAHANGIRNAGAR UNIVERSITY, Jan 15: The lone residential university of the country, the Jahangirnagar University (JU) has almost no cultural or recreational facilities in the campus.

The students, teachers and employees of the university live a monotonous and mech-

anised life on the campus. After the class hours, the same routine is followed by most of them, sleeping, viewing TV, gossiping or roaming around in the campus. On rare occasions, they have the opportunity to enjoy a drama or any other cultural programmes at the amphitheatre of the uni-

versity.

There are some 15 cultural organisations on the campus. But it seems that they only exist in black and white as they have almost no cultural activities on the campus. Some of the cultural organisations are the Sangskrit Sangsad, the Bibartan Sangsad, Jahangirnagar Theatre, Kranti Natyaya, Shaheed Titu Theatre, Natyashilpi and Baitalik. Most of these organisations are drama troupes. Among these troupes, the Jahangirnagar Theatre, Sangskrit Sangsad and the Baitalik, have some very rare activities. Previously the Jahangirnagar Theatre had an excellent role to extend the cultural facilities to the residents of the campus and to improve the cultural atmosphere of the university. But, at present the organisation seems almost inactive as well as the other organisations of the campus.

Condition of sports facilities is no different from others. There is only one play ground and a gymnasium in the university. But, it is regrettably true that the students can not make proper use of those facilities due to the absence of proper arrangement or management by the authority. The authorities very occasionally organise football or cricket competitions on the campus. "But these are not sufficient at all," Mahub Kabir Mukti, a second year student of Anthropology, "Why is there no initiative to organise debate or cultural competitions?" he asks.

There is a debating society in the university. Some 20 students said they were not aware of any existence of the society. "I do not know of any debating society as I haven't noticed any activity of the so-called society during the last one year," said Tushar Sen, a first year student of Philosophy. The authorities should take note of the society as the university has a splendid record in debating at the na-

tional level," he added.

Most of the JU students leave for Dhaka in the evening, almost regularly, only to gossip at the DU TSC, for shopping, to enjoy any cultural programme or for any other type of recreation. That is why, the university transport system faces huge budget shortage every year as the students only pay one taka to travel some 20 miles between Dhaka and the campus. As a result, the university authorities have to spend some Taka 70 lakh every year to subsidise the transport system. At the same time, the sectors, such as dining, library and academic are being neglected. Besides these, some 400 students out of nearly 4000, attend their classes everyday from Dhaka due to the absence of recreational facilities and the low quality food at the dining halls. As the consequence of these, the residential university is losing its residential character.

The teachers also have very limited recreational facilities of the campus. They have no other means of recreation after the class hour except reading, viewing TV or to participate in the indoor games. A very few number of teachers have the opportunity to play tennis as there is a one court for them in the university.

Cultural activities are facing problems due to the absence of infrastructural facilities. There is no auditorium and TSC in the university. The TSC building was completed some 14 years ago but it is yet to be opened for the students, teachers and the cultural organisations. On the other side, a new auditorium is under construction now and it is expected to be opened within this year.

The only one venue for the cultural activities is the amphitheatre. But it is not sufficient for about 4000 students and nearly 250 teachers. The students and teachers, face space constraint at the amphitheatre while enjoying a programme. Besides these, ac-



RAJSHAHI: This year cotton output from Rajshahi region is expected to be very good. A bumper cotton production is expected from the region. — Star photo

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