



Nothing strange! 'Matla,' as it's popularly known in the area in Hakimpur thana of Dinajpur district. Matla is used to cover paddy in rice mills. — Star photo

Main defaulters: RAJUK, WASA, BR, DC office

Municipal tax worth Tk 2.6 cr remain outstanding in N'ganj

From Ehsanul Haque

NARAYANGANJ, Jan 18: Tax worth Taka 2,60,32,403, both in the private and public sectors, remain outstanding for the last 20 years, with the Narayanganj municipality, and official of the authority concerned informed.

1,19,00,000 (about 36.88 per cent) was collected while the estimated tax came to Taka 2,78,00,000. So the backlog of tax payment for the year 1993-94 amounts to Taka 1,59,00,000, officials of the pourashava said.

9,570, sources said. The sources also informed that the main defaulters whose amounts are big are different private jute companies. Taka 26,00,000 remain outstanding with Mumudini Welfare Trust, with Taka 18,00,000 WASA with Taka 8,57,332 with Bangladesh Railway, with Taka 7,02,529 Bangladesh Police with Taka 4,91,159. RAJUK with Taka 3,49,000, vested properties under the local Deputy Commissioner with Taka 3,19,361. Government Tolaram College with Taka 2,07,400. BTMC with Taka

2,40,000. Shahid Zia Hall, under the local Deputy Commissioner with Taka 2,37,128. PWD with Taka 2,31,422. DESA with Taka 2,01,960. requisition house under the local Deputy Commissioner with Taka 1,99,936, government primary schools with Taka 1,82,173. Government Mahila College with Taka 1,73,240 and abandoned properties with Taka 1,31,711.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়
স্থানীয় সরকার প্রকৌশল অধিদপ্তর, রংপুর।
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি
নং ১১/৯৪-৯৫
এতদ্বারা পিএল-৪৮০, টাইটেল-১ পত্রের আওতায় নিম্নে বর্ণিত কাজের জন্য পিএল-৪৮০, টাইটেল-১ পত্রের পূর্বযোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন, প্রকৌশল/প্রকৌশলী পদবিহীন-এর নিম্নে বর্ণিত শীলমাত্রের কাজে বাংলাদেশ সরকার নং ১১/৯৪-৯৫ নং দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

Notice of RHD Inviting Tender For 2nd Call
1. Tender Notice No: Shown below
2. Name of work: Shown below
3. Name of office of availability: Executive Engineer, RHD Khagrachhari Road Division-I/II, Khagrachhari & Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Khagrachhari Road Sub-Division-VII at Manikchari/Ramgarh Superintending Engineer, RHD, Khagrachhari Road Circle, Khagrachhari & the undersigned.
4. Name of officers to receive the tender: Up to 12-30 PM on 25-01-95
5. Date & time of receipt of tender: Up to 12-30 PM on 25-01-95
6. Date & time of opening of bid: At 12-45 PM on 25-01-95
7. List of work:
Sl. No. Tender Notice No. Name of Work Location Estimated Cost Earnest Money Time Allowed Eligibility of Contractors

Rajshahi University: How it started

From Tareq Chowdhury

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY: Jan 18: Right after the first World War, Sadlar Commission, appointed by the Indian government felt the necessity of establishing a university at Rajshahi region. But for different political reasons the recommendation of Sadlar Commission was not materialised.



The sabaash Bangladesh monument inside the RU campus

The people of North Bengal raised the slogan demanding a university in that region. As a result, the Rajshahi University ordinance was passed on March 31, 1953 at the provincial assembly. The then governor gave his consent to this bill on June 6, the same year. And on July 6 the eminent educationist of English literature Prof Etrat Hussain Juberi, the then principal of Rajshahi College was appointed the first vice-chancellor.

Prof Juberi and an eminent lawyer, who was a member of national assembly, Madar Baksh, jointly made the first draft of the university plan. A 23 member committee patronised by the then divisional commissioner M A Kureshed did all the primary works to establish the university. Prof Juberi and Madar Baksh were the joint secretaries of that committee. The university started its operation from few buildings of Rajshahi College and

Rajshahi city. The university classes used to be held in the morning at Rajshahi college buildings before the college session started. The "Fuller Hostel" of Rajshahi College was made available for the hostel of the university students. Later

'kutt' was made the girls hostel. The century old "Baro kutt" buildings, constructed by the Portuguese at the bank of river Padma was used as office building of vice chancellor, registrar, college inspector and other officials. The nearby BB academy was the controller of office. The library was also there. Lieutenant Colonel Showat Tomes, the Australian Engineer designed the plan of the university in 1964 at a place near Dhaka Rajshahi highway, three miles from the main city. From that time the university has an area of 743 acres of land on which the huge beautiful looking university campus was constructed.

From 1953-54 session, the university started with 156 male students and only five female students. In 1993-94 session the enrollment was about 16 thousand regular students and about 7000 student who suffers session jam. The total enrollment thus stands at about 23 thousand. In 1953-54 session the university had 7 departments which were English, Mathematics, History, Economics, Philosophy, Law and Diploma in education. At present the university has 35 departments including computer science, library science, Pharmacy, Applied Physics, Applied Chemistry, Mass Communication Library Science under six disciplines. There are also two institutions under the university, Institute of Bangladesh Studies, and Institute of Biological Science, Rajshahi University, Syndicate, senate and academic council conduct the varsity under this act.



On the occasion of Rajshahi University Day the then Vice-Chancellor of the university, Amanullah Ahmad addressing a crowd at the university campus premises on March 31, 1990

The teachers, students and employees of Rajshahi University played a vital role in the war of liberation in 1971. More than two dozens of teachers, students and staff lost their lives for the country. With these glorious history of the university the nation looks forward to the young generation of the present time to materialize the dream of the forefather who felt the necessity of establishing the university. Unfortunately, bad politics and violence has shed bloods of many innocent student who came to this varsity to fulfill the dream of their parents.

The present generation has the strongest desire and feelings to maintain peace and harmony amongst the students and different students organisations. No one wants to spend a single day in the campus than required for their four years education. Everybody should work in the direction to make the university free from session-jam, violence and bad politics.

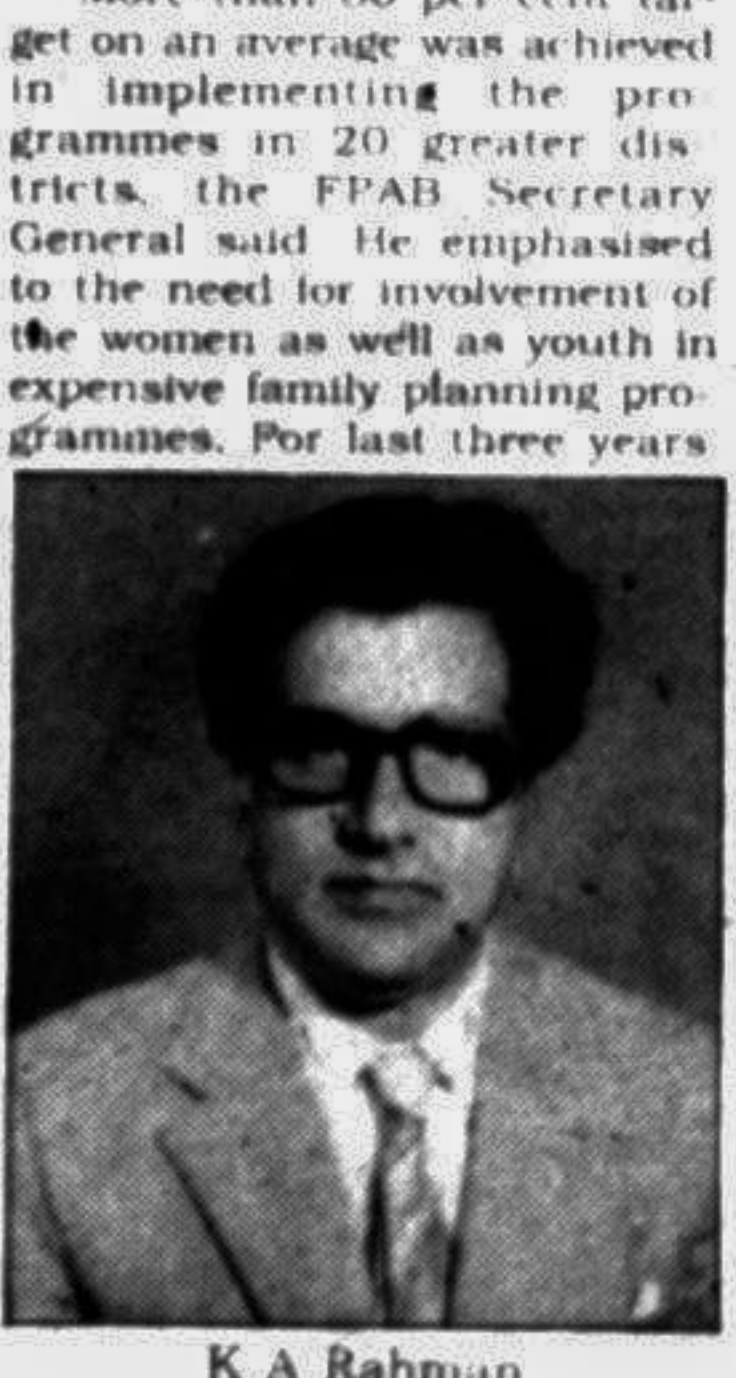
'I don't expect any miracles'

From Aroop Talukdar

BARISAL, Jan 18: We expect planned families where couples will be ensured of good food, health, proper medicare, education and shelter including other social securities, said Kazi Anisur Rahman, Secretary General, Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB). He is also the Vice-Chairman, Central Committee of International Parenthood and Planning Federation (IPPF) and the Chairman, South Asian Region IPPF.

more.

More than 80 per cent target on an average was achieved in implementing the programmes in 20 greater districts, the FPAB Secretary General said. He emphasised the need for involvement of the women as well as youth in programmes. For last three years



K A Rahman

poorest level people of our country. There is no alternative. If we cannot provide them with least of their day to day necessities and minimum education or training nothing would be fruitful, he added.

When asked about the success of FP programmes in the country, he said, I'm hopeful about the subject. But I obviously don't expect anything miraculous as some quarter believe. The growing birth rate is the main hurdle in the goals of our programmes.

There is success already visible, he further said. I should say, achieved in motivational programmes where miraculous changes were noticed especially among the poor.

There are, say, more than 14000 women who have already achieved remarkable success in their family planning programmes, Rahman said.

Any human related development effort in Bangladesh must be coordinated with the problems of the poor and it is equally needed to understand that who are really poor, how they behave and manage to survive.

Kazi Anisur Rahman was on way to Dhaka after attending a workshop on GO and NGO coordination programme for better relationship in Family Planning programmes at Patuakhali.

Ground nut cultivation bright in northern dists

NATORE, Jan 18: The prospect of ground nut cultivation is bright all over the northern district of Natore, reports UNB.

According to agriculturists, vast areas of sandy land across the river banks and char areas are suitable for ground nut cultivation.

A survey report of the Agriculture Extension Department revealed that there are more than 10 lakh hectares of such sandy land lying almost unutilised round the year. But initiative to motivate farmers to put these barren land under ground nut cultivation can help boost the production.

There are three varieties of ground nut now grown in different areas in small scale in the northern districts at the own initiative of the farmers. The varieties are known as 'teel', 'things' and 'basanti'.

These can be grown twice a year which needs ploughing once or twice before cultivation. But the ground nut hardly requires irrigation and fertilisers, according to the experts.

With minimum money involved, the farmers can harvest about one metric tons of ground nut worth Tk 20,000 per hectare of land. Each ground nut grain contains about 40 per cent oil and as such one maund oil can easily be extracted from 100 kg ground nut.

Ground nut oil has a high food value, according to health experts. The existing edible oil shortage can be met by ground nut oil with its massive farming all over the country utilising barren lands without affecting other crops.

It is learnt that total requirement of edible oil in the country is about 4 lakh metric tons whereas 1.35 lakh metric tons are produced annually. The rest 2.65 lakh metric tons are to import every year.

In order to popularise ground nut farming, the motivation programmes, distribution of required seeds and bank loan facilities are needed, the experts said.

'Govt will ensure right place for women in society'

GAZIPUR, Jan 18: State Minister for Science and Technology Prof MA Mannan said that the government had taken specific programme to ensure the right place of the women in the society, says UNB.

The government had given priority for women in different fields including education and employment. Mannan told a one-day workshop on 'Women and Development' organised by Project Five-O Bangladesh at Gacha in Gazipur on Friday.

Number of landless farmers on rise in B'baria

BRAHMANBARIA, Jan 18: The number of landless farmers in eight thanas of the district is gradually increasing day by day due to river erosion and other natural calamities, reports UNB.

According to a report, out of the total 21 lakh population of the district, 70 per cent depend on agriculture, 10 per cent on other professions and 20 per cent are unemployed.

Moreover, among the farmers, about 60 per cent are landless. Besides, a large number of farmers have become shelterless on account of continuous erosion of river Maghna over the last few years. Local elite said, the farmers have already lost their interest in cultivation as they are being deprived of fair prices of their produce in the absence of proper market facilities. It is alleged that the farmers are not getting proper loan facilities due to its complex procedure and interference of middlemen. Moreover, shortage of high quality seeds and high prices of fertilisers have made the farmers less interested in cultivating their land.

While explaining various problems and difficulties faced by the municipality, one of the officials of the pourashava said irregular collection of taxes and lack of coordination with other developing agencies, lead to public suffering.

One of the causes of the financial crisis of the municipality is the increase revenue expenditure, he informed. The authorities concerned have taken all possible measures to streamline its working method with a view to providing maximum services to the people and to redress their grievances.

Referring to the accumulation of such large amount of areas bills, the source said that a tendency had developed among a section of citizens not to be serious about payment of the bills. The municipal authorities further informed that there were certain handicaps and problems which must be tackled immediately.

It is worth noting that tax collection increased remarkably due to the issuance of the government special circular in connection with the overdue taxes in the years 1973 and 1976. But absence of this sort of government circular in other fiscals has lead to this staggering figure of arrear taxes. Other major causes are political turmoil in the country and depression in the jute business.

Sector wise observation reveals that the jute sector has become the biggest defaulter in terms of huge outstanding arrear taxes. As because the municipal authority possess no legal right to confiscate immovable property of the tax defaulters, it is not in a position to take action against jute-based companies which are under lock and key. Other causes of backlog of taxes, the authority informed, are that the higher income group of the society showed more aversion to paying municipal taxes.

Municipality is also being deprived of the taxes of the properties vested in the government officials as both the government and government officials are unwilling to pay the taxes. Last year a tax-payment cheque from Bangladesh Railway worth Taka 2,80,000 was dishonoured. As Municipality has difficulty in starting proceedings against the high government officials, they feel it is necessary that government should take measures in connection with this outstanding taxes.

In the private sector, Mumudini Welfare Trust is the largest defaulter with a tax of Tk 18 lakh. This company failed to pay the taxes despite several reminders, sources added.

Presently a massive legal action from municipality office against all those tax defaulters is under process, the authority informed.