

WDB plans to implement Tk 7 cr development project in Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent
GAIBANDHA, Mar 11: The Water Development Board (WDB) will implement five projects in Gaibandha district during this current fiscal year. A fund of Tk seven crore 90 lakh was allocated for the implementation of the projects. These projects are Gaibandha town protection project, erosion project at Belka, Fulchhari thana protection work, Karotoa embankment for controlling flood water and construction of embankment with regulator in between Manash and Alai river. The detail programme of works under these projects included protection work along the river Ghagot from erosion of Bridge Road, Kalibarpara, David Co. para, Shandherpara, Shawshanghat, Nutun Bazar areas under Gaibandha pourashava, protection work of Fulchhari thana headquarters from erosion of river Brahmaputra and resisting a cross embankment of river Teesta at Belka under Sunderganj thana.

Besides, with a view to controlling flood water an embankment will be constructed along the bank of river Karotoa under Gobindaganj thana and another embankment with two regulators will be built in between the rivers Manash and Alai under Gaibandha sadar thana for outlet of the stagnant water and controlling flood water. It may be mentioned here that last year a fund of Tk seven crore was spent for the construction of 40 kilometre long embankment along the river Karotoa. It will cost another Tk 12 crore for the completion of work. On the other hand, a total expenditure of Tk nine crore for the protection of Fulchhari thana headquarters from erosion of river Brahmaputra was estimated. Accordingly, this year a fund of Tk one crore 50 lakh was sanctioned for the implementation of work.

3 women given one yr RI for carrying smuggled Indian sarees

From Our Correspondent
JHENIDAH, Mar 11: Three women were awarded one year RI each and fined Taka one hundred in failure they will have to suffer another ten days in jail. This judgement was given by the Assistant Special Tribunal Judge, Jhenidah, Mohammed Mahatabuddin recently.

The case in brief is that Khulna GRP police had seized a railway boggy of 16 down train at Kochandpur railway station and recovered smuggled Indian sarees and blouse pieces from accused Renu Begum, Jahan Ara and Nurjahan on 10.3.93. After thorough investigation GRP police submitted a chargesheet to the court against the accused women. The court after examining the records of the case awarded them punishment under Special Power Act of 1974 under section 25 (Kha) 2.

Dispute over land leaves one killed in Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent
GAIBANDHA, Mar 11: One person was killed and four others received injuries in a clash over the issue of a disputed land property at village Chachimirganj under Sunderganj thana recently. On that day, victim, Abul Kashem together with some other associates went to the disputed plot for taking possession which was instantly resisted by the rival group. At one stage rival group attacked Abul Kashem and his associates with deadly weapons in which the victim received serious injuries and died on way to Rangpur Medical College Hospital. During the incident four other persons, supporters of the victim, also were injured. A case was registered with Sunderganj thana.

Son assaults father for refusing to give money

SATKHIRA, Mar 11: A father filed a case against his son for beating him up mercilessly, reports UNB. Police said, the father Fazar Ali, 60, filed the complaint saying that his young son Bidula on March 4 demanded money from him. On his refusal the arrogant son assaulted him in front of other people. The case has created sensation in the area.



SYLHET: Director General of Family Planning Directorate, Khairuzzaman Chowdhury speaking as chief guest at a seminar on "Role of family planning in establishing Human Rights" organised by Bangladesh Palli Shishu Foundation held in village Bhadeswar of Golapganj thana recently. — Star photo

Electricity bills worth Tk 25 cr lying unrealised in greater Sylhet

SYLHET, Mar 11: An amount of Taka 25 crore 88 lakh and 50 thousand has been lying unrealised in four districts of the greater Sylhet region as electricity bill. The Power Development Board (PDB) has got its Sylhet Circle with five divisions in the region comprising four districts. According to a PDB official source, during the period of the first 7 months of the current financial year that is from the month of July '94 to January '95, in total, 21 crore 70 lakh 59 thousand units of electricity were brought to the Sylhet Circle from the national grid of this, 16 crore 7 lakh 27 thousand units were sold.

The average system loss in the circle stood at 21.88 during the month of January, the source said. The authorities failed to bring down the percentage in many electric supply areas. Of them, there are eight electric supply areas in the distribution division, Sylhet and two electric supply areas in the Distribution Division, Moulvibazar, the source added. Concerned officials of these electric supply areas had already been warned for the failure. The Distribution Division, Sylhet is comprised of eight electric supply areas in different thanas of Sylhet district and five electric supply areas

From Our Correspondent
of Sunamganj district. The Distribution Division, Moulvibazar is comprised of four electric supply areas in Moulvibazar and three electric supply areas in Habiganj district, while the Sales and Distribution Division, Sylhet-I covers Ambarkhana, Subdabazar, Zindabazar and upto Shahjalal Upashahar of Sylhet town. The Sales and Distribution Division, Sylhet-II covers the area from Shahjalal Upashahar, Shibganj and upto the Jalalabad Cantonment. The Sales and Distribution Division, Sylhet-III covers the south Surma area of Sylhet sadar.

Of the total amount of outstanding bill, Taka 5 crore 76 lakh 78 thousand have been lying outstanding in the four electric supply areas of Moulvibazar district and three electric supply areas in Habiganj district. These are, Kaulaura, Shamshearnagar, Barlekha and Moulvibazar in Moulvibazar and Ajmiriganj, Baniachang and Habiganj electric supply in the district of Habiganj. An amount of Taka 4 crore 53 lakh 36 thousand had been lying outstanding in the Distribution Division Sylhet comprising eight electric supply areas of Sylhet district and five electric supply areas of Sunamganj district. These are, Balaganj, Beanibazar, Fenc-

huganj, Biswanath, Golapganj, Jaintapur, Kanaighat and Tajpur of Sylhet and Chhatak, Deral, Jagannathpur, Jamalganj and Sunamganj of Sunamganj district, the source added. Besides, Taka eight crore 94 lakh and 54 thousand have been lying in the Sales and Distribution Division, Sylhet-I, while Taka three crore 20 lakh 41 thousand had been lying in the Sales and Distribution Division, Sylhet-II and the amount stands at Taka three crore 43 lakh 41 thousand in the Sales and Distribution Division, Sylhet-III, the source added. All these three divisions are comprised of the Sylhet town and its adjoining areas.

Meanwhile, system loss in the circle is yet to be brought down as per instruction of the higher authorities of PDB. Though some officials of the department are claiming that, it has been brought down, but the targets fixed by the authorities in this regard is yet to be achieved. The Superintendent Engineer, Sylhet Circle had issued official warning letters to ten resident engineers of the circle for their failure in reducing the system loss. The number includes, three in Sylhet district, five in Sunamganj and two in Moulvibazar and one in the district of Habiganj.

Youth commits suicide, another killed in road mishap in Bhola

BHOLA, Mar 11: A youth allegedly committed suicide by drinking endrine at village Balurchar in Lamohon thana of the district, reports UNB. According to family sources, a village arbitration fined the victim Ohidur Raman, 16, Tk 1000 for grazing his cattle on the lintel field of another farmer which caused extensive damages to the standing crops. At this his father also punished him for the offence. Being shocked Ohidur on the night of February 23 allegedly took endrine and met the tragic end of his life. The body was sent to the Sadar hospital for autopsy. A case was lodged with the police.

Another report says: Nur Mohammad, 25, of Balurchar in Chafferson thana was crushed under the wheels of a running bus recently. According to local police, a Bhola-bound speedy bus ran over him while he was going to nearby college riding on a bicycle. The body was sent to the Sadar hospital for post-mortem. Police seized the bus but the driver managed to flee. A case was filed with the police.

Narail public library in poor condition

NARAIL, Mar 11: The Narail Public Library has been facing various problems including fund shortage, causing suffering to the readers particularly the student community, reports UNB. The library is facing shortage of books, furniture and necessary accommodation. Absence of tube-well and latrine aggravated the suffering. Established in 1957, the library has been catering to the needs of people of different tastes in the district headquarters. Founder members Advocate Sharif Abdul Hakim and Md Abul Kalam Azad have set up the library with only 250 books.

At present the library has 300 books, of which 250 are for school and college students. At least 100 readers regularly come to the library. It subscribes five dailies, three weeklies and five monthlies regularly for the readers. But the number of books could not be increased due to shortage of funds. Local people urged the concerned authorities increase the number of books and other facilities for the convenience of the readers.

Four killed in separate incidents in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Mar 11: Four persons including a minor girl were killed and another five persons were injured in separate incidents in Jhenidah recently. Report says, Anukul Chandra Sarkar, 45, of village Chhaibhanga was shot dead at village Huda Kushobaria in Saikupa thana of the district recently. According to police, some armed miscreants numbering about 10 to 12, attacked a house to commit robbery. They exploded hand bombs for creating panic. When neighbours came forward to resist them the dacoits opened fire. At this Anukul received serious bullet injuries and succumbed to the spot. A case was lodged with Saikupa thana. The body was sent to morgue. Police could not arrest anybody in this regard yet.

According to another report, Rima, 7, a minor girl was crushed to death by a police van near Dakbanga bazar in Jhenidah sadar thana on the same day. Eyewitnesses said, while Rima was crossing the road she was hit by the police van and died instantly. Another report says, Akram Hossain, 33, of village Nandapur in Magura district was killed while he was hit by a rickshaw van at Hatgopalpur in Jhenidah-Magura highway recently. Local people and police said, while the victim was riding on a rickshaw van, a speeding truck No Khulna T-156 was hit by another truck No Dhaka Metro Dha-638 and the truck then dashed the rickshaw van killing the victim on the spot. Another five persons were injured in this incident. Another report adds: Serajul Islam, 22, was crushed to death by a speeding truck near Kushadanga on Dattanagar-Jibannagar highway recently. According to police, Serajul Islam was standing by the roadside when the truck allegedly crushed him to death on the spot and fled away. Separate cases were filed with respective thanas.

Smuggled goods worth Tk 1.28 cr seized in Feb from Brahmanbaria

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, Mar 11: Bangladesh Rifles in separate drives, seized smuggled goods worth Tk 1.28 crore from different parts of the district during the last month, reports UNB. The goods include 688 bottles of phensidyl syrup, 705 kg salt, 1382 pieces of Indian sarees, 2,782 kg sugar, 5,039 pieces of spare parts, 77 metre carpet cloth, 19 kg ganja, a statue made of touch tone, cosmetics, spices and crockeries. According to official sources, smuggling in the area is on rise as some influential people are backing the smugglers. Several cases were filed with the police.

One held for possessing fake Bangladeshi currency note
SATKHIRA, Mar 11: Police arrested a man with a 100 Taka forged note from the Ratanpur market in Kaliganj thana on March 3, reports UNB. Acting on secret information, police arrested Abdur Rahman of Bhadrakhal village of the same thana while he was exchanging the forged note after shopping in the market. A case has been filed against him. It is alleged that a gang of forged note smugglers are active in the border areas of the district for a long time. In collaboration with the smugglers of the other side of the border the local agents are smuggling forged notes and the ignorant people are being cheated by them at different markets. Local complained that it is very difficult to pinpoint the fake notes as these are quite akin to the local currency. Local leaders have urged the concerned authorities to nab the gang by proper interrogating the people arrested for possessing the forged Bangladeshi currency.

In Moulvibazar Development schemes worth Taka 34 lakh taken up

From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, Mar 11: The Moulvibazar Zila Parishad (MZP) has taken up seven development schemes involving Tk 34,45,000. The schemes include construction of Crematorium, Passenger shade, road and culverts, re-construction and repair work of four Union Parishad buildings and roads and earth filling of a college playground.

According to the MZP source, they have taken up a scheme to construct a modern crematorium at Moulvibazar town for the Hindu community. Taka 4 lakh 20 thousand has been sanctioned for this purpose. The MZP has taken up another scheme with an allocation of Taka nine lakh 65 thousand to repair and reconstruct four Union Parishad Office buildings. These are Mansurnagar and Munshibazar UPs under Rajnagar thana, Bhukshimul UP under Kaulaura thana and Munshibazar (east) UP under Kamalgonj thana. The source added that, a scheme involving Taka Four lakh 60 thousand has also been taken up for the construction of two RCC box culverts, on Chadnighat-Bejbari road at Moulvibazar town and another on Jagatshi-Radhakantapur road. Besides this, the MZP will construct Monu-Tilakpur road and a village road at Buddhimontapur. Taka 11 lakh has been allocated for the scheme. A passenger shade will be constructed with an estimated cost of Taka two lakh at Sherpur bazar on Dhaka-Sylhet highway. Taka three lakh has been sanctioned for earth filling of the playground of the Gopal Krishna College at Jagatshi village under sadar thana. Works of the schemes are expected to be completed by May next.

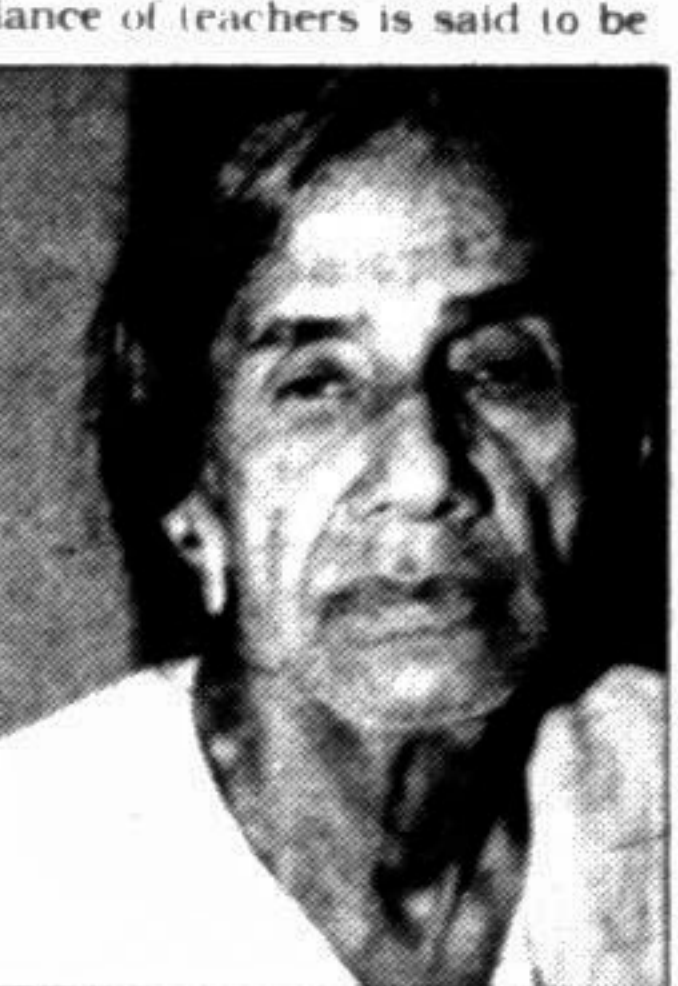
Sharp rise in prices of imported rice, paper is Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 11: Price of Indian rice and paper have registered a sharp rise in the local markets as supply of local rice and paper are meagre, reports UNB. The artificial shortage in supply of the local items has increased the demand for the Indian goods, local traders said. The Indian coarse rice is now being sold at Tk 13.23 per KG against Tk 12 while the fine rice is selling at Tk 15 against Tk 13. Indian white paper is now being sold at Tk 16 per dista against Tk 11, same as the Karnafull white paper sold two months back in the local markets. The price of newsprint was Tk 20 per KG against Tk 8. The crisis has deepened further due to the toll collectors while the goods being imported from India. Besides, price hike of paper in the market has added to the crisis.

Shishu Swarga, a dream of late SM Sultan, must come true

By Atiur Rahman

JESSORE, Mar 11: Children's Paradise (Shishu Swarga) founded by noted painter late SM Sultan in Narail, is lying in a very poor condition. Exhaustion of fund, lack of management, policymaking and guidance following death of its founder have cropped up this situation. According to reports attendance of teachers is said to be



Late SM Sultan
irregular. They are losing job security and reportedly trying luck elsewhere. It is learnt that salary of teachers has not been paid due to non-availability of fund since death of SM Sultan. Death of seriousness of the authority to arrange fund for the institute has been largely blamed for the failure, a source added. It is surprising that none from any corner has so far come forward to extend help. The number of teachers at the institute is now four while that of students is over four hundred.

Classes at the Paradise are held once a week, on Fridays. This system was introduced by late SM Sultan Dulal Shah, a teacher of this institute, is now handling operation of the institute. According to sources, students feel discouraged to attend classes under new system. Their guardians feel worried also about their wards future. Latest information indicates that attendance of students is thinning day by day. Favourite zoo of SM Sultan is facing destruction. For want of food and care a number of young animals and birds have died. Rest including bear, horse, monkey, stork, dogs are following suit. Some cattle and ganders from the zoo have been sold in a bid to reduce number, told a source. During a day long visit to the Children's Paradise, this correspondent learnt that five members of staff out of seven have already left for non-payment of wages. Two who were still working were trolley driver, Zakir Hossain and mechanic, Moznu Nihar Bala 55, and his brother (teacher) Dulal seemed not to give up. When asked, Nihar Bala said that she was staying with late SM Sultan for last 22 years to look after him as a nurse. In reply to a question how they were passing days, Nihar Bala said that allowance of Taka three hundred was being paid to Children's Paradise by the authority per day for its maintenance which was too small amount to meet requirement. This system has been effective very recently she informed. Condition of the boat (Bajra) built at a cost of Tk 13 lakh appears pitiable. It is lying uncared docked beside the river Chittra, near Children's Paradise. It was built designed by SM Sultan, funded by a Ger-

man NGO, said a member of managing committee of Children's Paradise, M A Hanif. When asked what they were thinking about utilisation of this boat, Hanif said that they were yet to decide whether to put the boat on rent business shortly against contract. He hinted that a third group has emerged after death of SM Sultan to sabotage the achievement of SM Sultan out of personal grudge and enmity. Professor Nowab Ali told this correspondent that the entire construction of the Children's Paradise was reportedly made on disputed land. A case was pending with Narail district Judge's court for decision. It was an appeal case proffered by plaintiffs after they lost it in lower court. It was, however, clearly understood that a third party was determined to grasp the property by showing false and fictitious documents. Hanif further disclosed that in first phase, Taka one lakh was sanctioned by present government last year for construction of the Hall-room of the paradise. It has been constructed up to roof 4 level. The Deputy Commissioner of Khulna, and Deputy Commissioner, KMP (Khulna Metropolitan Police) jointly donated one hundred fifty bags

of cement during construction, he acknowledged. Another one lakh Taka was donated at disposal of local administration to complete the work and it will start soon, he added. A senior member of managing committee, distinguished social worker Abdur Rajjak briefing The Daily Star on how the institution was established said, it was a dream of Sultan. He developed it during his life. There was a committee headed by Deputy Commissioner of Narail for this institute. In fact, Sultan was given blank cheque to grow it in the manner he desired. He financed it out of his income, earned through selling paintings and receiving donations from time to time. According to Abdur Rajjak, he used to sell six paintings to Shilpakala Academy each year and get a total of Taka sixty thousand. He spent the whole amount for cause of Children's Paradise. Some of the animals and birds of the zoo were sold after Sultan's death under decision of the managing committee to create fund. He also informed that Deputy Commissioner, Narail has suggested to the ministry for appointing curator to raise this zoo into a full-fledged one. For further development of the Children's Paradise fund was needed. Abdur Rajjak hoped that soon it will be taken up by the government.

When his attention was brought to a rumour that all rare and valuable collections of SM Sultan in his library have been stolen after his death, Abdur Rajjak categorically denied this saying that all books are carefully preserved in the library, locked under order of DC, Narail in presence of local VIPs. He mentioned that Sultan's library was furnished by rich collections. Some renowned scholars of Narail zamindar families and others from undivided Bengal presented a good number of rare works on art and culture to him, which he preserved. Giving outlines of origin of Children's Paradise Abdur Rajjak told that Children's Paradise was a dream, he dreamt for providing true education to

children by creating environment congenial to development of their faculties of fine arts and cultural beauty. He said, SM Sultan is no more but his remaining task

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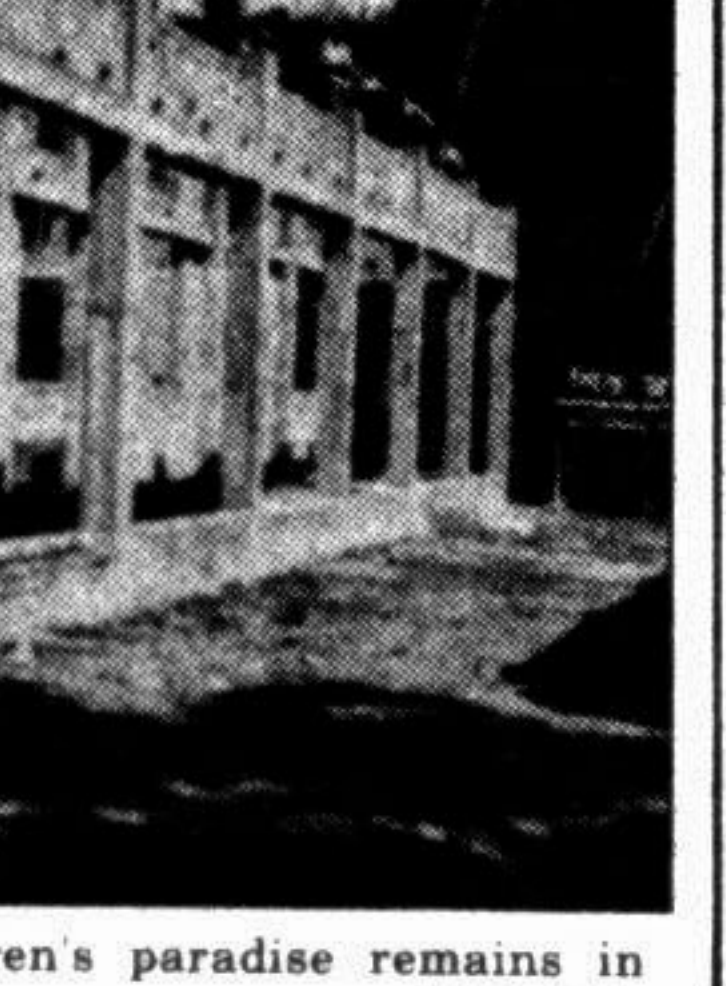
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The hall room of the children's paradise remains in incomplete stage. — Star photo

has to be accomplished. He has done his part, now we should do ours. He said mere aid and assistance will serve no purpose. He called upon all irrespective of class to rise to the occasion and contribute for its development to uphold memory of SM Sultan. Rajjak told that birth of an illustrious son like him in a place in Narail, was a point of pride for all of us. He urged upon Narail municipality authority to respond to the call without delay in greater interest of arts and culture. However, Deputy Commissioner, Narail and Chairman, Narail Municipality, were not readily available for comments on this subject.

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The boat, Bajra built under instruction of late SM Sultan at a cost of Tk 13 lakh is lying unused for quite sometime. — Star photo

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