

Allegation of corruption in Mobarakganj Sugar Mills

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Mar 14: Irregularities and corruption have reportedly become a regular feature in Mobarakganj Sugar Mills of the district, it is alleged.

According to allegation of sugarcane farmers and sources, 'purjee committees' are usually formed for each sugarcane purchasing centres and the mills authorities purchase cane on the basis of the purjees. The validity of the purjees are ten days but some dishonest employees are treating the purjee valid upto twenty days. Further, a section of brokers are involved to sell sugarcane to mills authorities without purjee against a bribe of Taka two hundred to two hundred fifty at Mobarakganj Sugar Mills gate, Fatehpur centre, Bhatai centre, Khalkula centre, Brahmapur centre and some other centres, it was alleged.

The farmers also alleged that for bribery and corruption in mills they were not in a position to supply their sugarcane to purchasing centres and giving losses.

According to sources the mills authorities purchased a huge quantities of sugarcane without purjee from Fatehpur

Rickshaw strike in Lalmonirhat

LALMONIRHAT, Mar 14: A half-day rickshaw strike was observed in the district Saturday to protest the killing of a rickshawpuller, reports UNB.

Saidul Islam was killed by unknown assailants on March 2 and kept hanging at the cow shed of former MP Abul Hossain. Brother of the deceased filed a case with local police.

Four receive serious acid burn injuries

NARSINGDI, Mar 14: Four people, including a child, were injured seriously when a miscreant threw acid on them at a village in Polish thana of the district, says UNB.

According to villagers, Manir, son of Faizuddin of village Ramanadi in the thana had proposed to marry Ranu, daughter of Mafizuddin, of the same village.

But Mafizuddin, father of Ranu turned down the proposal and later solemnised her marriage with Aftab of neighbouring village.

At this, Manir became furious and on the night of March 7 threw acid through the window of a room of Mafizuddin's house assuming Ranu and his husband was sleeping in the room. As a result, Mafizuddin himself, his wife Mariam, elder daughter Monwara and 4-year old grand son Sohag received serious burn injuries.

Luckily Ranu and her husband were sleeping in another room.

Monwara Begum and her son Sohag have been shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition while Mafizuddin and his wife were admitted to Polish Hospital.

Manir remained absconding since the incident. A case has been filed with the police.

Pirates loot goods worth Tk 10 lakh in one month

MANIKGANJ, Mar 14: At least 20 people were injured and valuables worth about Tk 10.50 lakh looted in 20 piracies in different routes of Padma and Jamuna during the last one month, reports UNB.

BIWTA and traders sources said the piracies took place in Nakalia-Aricha, Aricha-Baghabari, Kazirhat-Aricha routes.

They said the armed pirates carried out several raids on cargo boats and fishing trawlers during the period.

The pirates mostly used mechanised engine boats during their misdeeds.

Local traders said the transportation of goods by river transports has become almost impossible as incidents of piracies increased in the recent days in this region. They said the poorly-equipped river police cannot face the pirates.

Poisonous waste kills fish worth Tk 5 lakh in rivers Kholisha-Dunga

NATORE, Mar 14: At least 200 maunds of fish worth Tk five lakh died in the river Kholisha-Dunga due to alleged disposal of poisonous waste by local factories, reports UNB.

Local people alleged that authorities of the North Bengal Sugar Mills and Jamuna Distillery Company discharged some poisonous wastes into the Singra canal and the river Narad which are linked with Kholisha-Dunga.

Consequently the poisonous elements spread into 16 kilometre areas in the river causing water pollution and emitting bad odour.

A group of fishermen of village Noagram in Baraigram thana took lease from the government for fish cultivation in the river. They alleged that fish worth at least Tk five lakh have already died due to the discharge of industrial waste.

People living near the banks of the river have so long been using the river water for domestic purposes, but now the water has become unfit for use due to its contamination and bad smell. They are also suffering from lack of drinking water for their cattle.

The affected fishermen and local people urged the concerned authority to probe into the matter and take immediate steps to save the fish from further destruction.



SYLHET: Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman unveiled the plaque of the foundation stone of the head office complex building of Jalalabad Gas Transmission and Distribution System Ltd in Sylhet on last Friday. Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khondoker Mosharraf Hossain is also seen in the photo while offering a munajat at the function. — Star photo

Check misuse of natural gas : Saifur

SYLHET, Mar 14: Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman stressed the need for checking misuse of gas for the greater interest of the future generations, reports UNB.

He made this warning while addressing as chief guest at the inauguration ceremony of the 10-storied Jalalabad Gas Transmission and Distribution (T and D) head office building at Sylhet on Friday. Jalalabad Gas T and D head office building will be built within the next 2 years at a cost of Taka 15 crore.

The Finance Minister said, 'our known gas reserve will be finished by the year 2020 if the present tempo of use of

gas continues.' He said natural gas is our invaluable national resource. During the current financial year this vitally important sector is expected to contribute Tk 1250 crore to our national exchequer. He further said, each year Taka 2500 crore foreign exchange is saved due to gas which is used as an alternative to petroleum in our thermal power projects.

He also said, the present democratic government wants to ensure maximum utilisation of gas to put our economy on a solid footing.

The Finance Minister said, Kulara thana of Moulvibazar district will be brought under gas supply network very soon. He recalled that Sylhet proper was brought under the gas network due to the kind action of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman in 1976.

He added that a liquefied petroleum gas plant will be set up at Golapgonj thana at a cost of Tk 40 crore in near future.

Energy Minister Dr Khondakar Mosharraf Hossain, Khondakar Abdu Malik MP, Energy Secretary Faizur Razzak, BNP central leader Ilyas Ali, Safi Ahmed Chowdhury also spoke on the occasion, said an official hand-out.

The Energy Minister said, Jalalabad gas is not only used for household and commercial purposes but also it is supplying gas to one fertiliser factory, three power projects and 63 tea gardens of this area.

He said the government is looking for alternative source of energy for future thermal power projects to ease pressure on the nation's vitally important gas sector.

Two arrested with stolen cows, goat

BRAHMANBARIA, Mar 14: Police recovered 10 cattle-head and nabbed two cattle lifters in Sadar thana, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, police raided Attapara, Manipara, Chaurakhola, Moshapur and Golaikhola villages on March 1 and recovered 10 stolen cows and a goat.

They also rounded up two people from the villages in connection with the lifting of the cattlehead. A case has been filed with the police.

Mentionable that the cow lifters have become active in the district and the villagers are guarding their cows at the sheds passing sleepless nights.

The villagers alleged that the some lifters under the backing of some influential people are lifting the cows for ransom money. If the demanded money is not paid in time the cows are slaughtered.

No noticeable improvement in law, order situation in Kushtia dist

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Mar 14: Security of life and property are threatened in six thanas of the district following deterioration of law and order situation.

The inhabitants of the district have been passing their days in fear as they can be victim of terrorist act at any time. Untoward incidents, free movement of terrorists, carrying lethal weapons, murder in broad day light, stabbing, raping, hijacking, toll collection and campus violence have become common feature.

Illegal sale of wine and its use, cultivation of ganja and other immoral activities are also on rise. Campus violence in the educational institutions and its retaliatory measures have led to several killings. Clashes among underground parties have also vitiated the atmosphere.

Police conducted several raids to curb crimes but the law-enforcing agencies failed to check the crime. During raids police pick on innocent people, it is alleged.

Unofficial sources informed that over 1000 cattle were stolen from different villages of the district during last one year. It is also informed that some organised gang of miscreants demand ransom to free the cattle.

Armed clashes occurred at different places where the activists used different kinds of fire arms. Police, however, failed to recover any arms so far.

During last one year beginning from January 1, 1994 to December 1994, 44 murders, including women, were recorded in six police stations of the district. Number of injured in clashes and terrorists activities were over two thousand. Of the injured about seven hundred were admitted in different hospitals and health complexes. But the

number of arrests by police, were very few in comparison with the crime committed. Out of a total 44 murder cases, 21 persons were killed by gunshot while 23 murders were committed using sharp weapons, severe beating and by other means. Those who were admitted in hospitals were injured mostly by bullet wounds, sharp weapons or bomb blast. In sadar police station there were records of 12 murders — three in Khokhsa, two in Kumarkhali, six in Bheramara, three in Daulatpur and 18 in Mirpur police station. There are two groups of underground parties believe to have committing murders one after another when ever the resident fail to meet their demand.

Clashes also occur between these groups on order to establish their supremacy over the area. In last December three brothers were murdered in village Aburi and a result of enmity between two underground partymen. Police, however, could not arrest any person in this connection. In June last year three persons were killed during gunbattle between two extremists groups. In the month of August two brothers and another persons were killed in bullet wounds in village Ramgor. Thus during six months 10 persons were killed by gunfire. But police failed to arrest any persons responsible for those murders.

Police source said that although cases were filed but for want of proper evidence accused could not be arrested. It may be mentioned that on September 19, a procession was brought out with dead body of Abdul Latif who died in Dhaka Medical College Hospital on September 18 and gheraoed the Kushtia police station pelted bricks at police and damaged three vehicles

kept inside thana premises. Police made baton charge to disperse the mob. About 50 persons including seven police personnel were injured. Processionists later went to the DC Court building where deputy commissioner listened to their demand and assured punishment to those responsible for killing Abdul Latif.

Abdul Latif, 28, an electrician of Housing Estate, got married to one Sharmin, daughter of Suraiya Zaman Piar of the same area who could not accept the marriage and called Abdul Latif at her house on August 29. He was allegedly tortured by hired goons. After that Latif was handed over to police along with three arms. Police filed a case against him under Arms Act.

Out of total 712 cases during the year 11 dacoities, 22

robbery, 42 burglaries, 23 theft, 61 riots, 6 riots involving murders, 40 arms cases, 24 cattle lifting, 24 smuggling, 11 kidnapping and five police harassment cases were recorded in six police stations of the districts.

Local people alleged that actual number of incidents will be double the figure recorded with police station. They also alleged that anti-social activities of the outlawed Sarbahara Party members as well as Bi-plobi Communist Party members have increased in Mirpur and Khokhsa thanas.

Police have failed to control law and order in Mirpur where one after another murders are being committed every month. When ever local people fail to meet the demand of the outlawed party members some one is killed.

Shortage of fertilizer hampering IRRI-boro cultivation in Manikganj

MANIKGANJ, Mar 14: Acute fertilizer scarcity has been persisting in the district threatening the production of IRRI-boro during the current season, farmers said, reports UNB.

According to Agriculture Extension Department (AED), a scheme has been taken to bring about 20,095 hectares of land in seven thanas under IRRI-boro cultivation.

'Some 3600 metric tons of fertilizer are required for the crops,' AED officials said adding, 'but supply is very poor in comparison with the demand.'

Official sources said till now only 1195 metric tons of fertilizer have been allotted for the

district. Local growers said, taking advantage of the situation, a section of traders has started hoarding fertilizer in their godowns for earning windfall profit.

As a result, the prices of fertilizer have increased abnormally causing untold suffering to the growers, particularly the marginal farmers.

In Aricha ghat a bag of urea is being sold between Tk 500 and Tk 550 instead of its fixed price of Tk 215. On the other hand, TSP and MP are being sold at Tk 450 and Tk 580 respectively.

Farmers also staged demonstration in different areas demanding immediate supply of fertilizer at fair prices.

Developing road network in rural areas

By Naimul Haq

MANIKGANJ, Mar 14: Since 1984 the government has planned to upgrade rural roads through Rural Development Projects (RDPs). There are three main areas which RDPs focus on. One of them is development of physical, infrastructure including development of roads and bridges. RDPs are financed by multilateral and bilateral agencies.

The Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), a major donor in this sector (RDP) has made substantial contributions supporting construction of feeder roads between growth centres in Manikganj district.

On behalf of the government the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) with SDC is co-financing the project with a 20 per cent share.

The Road Development Projects (RDPs) in the district are being implemented in Kalampur, Daragram, Nabagram, Kaulhabazar Laxmipur and Bangladesh Hat areas. The LGED engineers along with trained contractors are supervising the road construction work in the areas.

About a dozen types of road surfaces are on trial since 1993 to choose best and cost-effective road surface in the area. All the works are being strictly supervised by the consulting team contracted directly by SDC.

Huge number of saplings were planted on both sides of the roads in three rows as part of complementary activities employing more than 100 women from the area as caretakers. Each of the woman, all of whom are destitute, is being paid Tk 700 as salary. These women have already been trained on how to look after the saplings, in addition to this they will be given training from time to time on technical issues arranged by the LGED.



MANIKGANJ (Clockwise from top left): A group of caretakers nursing the saplings by the feeder road side between Bangladesh Hat and Manikganj town. A caretaker tying stem of a sapling with a bamboo stick for support. Two women working as day labourers at a road construction site carrying stone chips. Women cleaning roads in Laxmipur. A group of caretakers maintaining the roadside saplings. — Photos: SDC

Notice Inviting Quotation

1. Quotation Notice : 5/94-95 (2nd call)
No
2. Name of work : Supplying of spare parts for 100 HP Hydramaster Ford Engine (Model:BSD-666T) under Ferry Maint. Sub-Divn., Dhaka.
3. Earnest money : 2% quoted rate.
4. Time allowed : 20 (Twenty) days from the date of issue of work order.
5. Form No : Bangladesh Form No 2908.
6. Eligibility of contractors : Enlisted 'A to C' general category contractors of RHD, 'D' general category contractors of Mechl. Ferry Circle, Dhaka & 'E' general category contractors of RHD, Ferry Maint. Divn, Dhaka.
7. Name of office of availability of quotation documents : EE RHD, FMD Postogola, Dhaka/EE RHD, Procurement Civil Divn, Sarak Bhaban, Dhaka/EE R&H, Ferry Divn., Sylhet & SDE R&H, Ferry Maint. Sub-Divn., Dhaka. Quotation documents will be available on or before 22-3-95.
8. Name of officers to receive quotation bids : SE RHD, Dhaka Ferry Circle, Dhaka, EE RHD, FMD Dhaka & EE R&H, Ferry Divn, Sylhet.
9. Date of receipt of quotation : Up to 12.00 Noon of 23-3-95.
10. Date & time of opening of bids : 12.30 PM of 28-3-95.

Md Golam Mowla
Executive Engineer, R&H
Ferry Maint. Divn.
Postogola, Dhaka

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

নং-৭৮ (১৯৯৪-৯৫)

তারিখ: ১৭-৩-৯৫/১০-১১-১৯০১

১. ঢাকা শহরে সরকারী কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারীদের জন্য নির্ধারিত ৩০০০ ট্রাট নির্মাণ কাজের আওতাধীন পাইলপাড়া সরকারী ট্রাফ কোর্টারে অভ্যন্তরে নির্মিত ৫০০ বর্গফুটের (৫ তলা ১০ ট্রাট বিশিষ্ট) ২টি আবাসিক ট্রাট বাড়ার অভ্যন্তরীণ বৈদ্যুতিককরণ কাজ (২টি সলান ২০টি ট্রাট) (২২ পর্যায়) (স্পেস-নম্বর-১)

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১.	ঢাকা শহরে সরকারী কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারীদের জন্য নির্ধারিত ৩০০০ ট্রাট নির্মাণ কাজের আওতাধীন পাইলপাড়া সরকারী ট্রাফ কোর্টারে অভ্যন্তরে নির্মিত ৫০০ বর্গফুটের (৫ তলা ১০ ট্রাট বিশিষ্ট) ২টি আবাসিক ট্রাট বাড়ার অভ্যন্তরীণ বৈদ্যুতিককরণ কাজ (২টি সলান ২০টি ট্রাট) (২২ পর্যায়) (স্পেস-নম্বর-১)	টাকা ৩,২৪,৯৬০/৯০	টাকা ৬,৪৯০/৬১	৩ (তিন) মাস

সেখ মোঃ ওয়ালিদুল্লাহ
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী পল্লভূমি
বিভাগ/ফার্ম বিভাগ-৪, ৮
ঢাকা : ফোন নং ৯৪৯০৮৮

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