

Never cut a banyan tree

From Our Correspondent MOULVI BAZAR, Mar 15: Two day-labourers, cutting a tree, met with tragic end of their lives when a branch of the tree, they were cutting, fell on them.

The incident took place recently in the home of one Sirajul Islam Master of the village Taharlamua under Rajnagar police station.

On the day of incident, some day-labourers were engaged by the house-master for cutting an old banyan tree and they did this accordingly. All of a sudden a big branch of the tree fell on the labourers. The victims were rushed to the hospital in a critical condition but they succumbed to their injuries.

The victims were identified as, Junab Ali Mullah, 70, and Junab Ali, 35. They were from Chandpur district.

BKB to give Tk 53 cr as agri loan

BARISAL, Mar 15: Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB), Barisal region, has so far disbursed Tk 53.36 crore as agriculture loan in eleven southern districts under the region till January 31 compared to Tk 35.34 crore in same period during the last fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, BKB realised Tk 35.97 crore outstanding loan of this region through 191 branches of this bank during this period.

The districts covered by this programme are: Barisal, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur, Bhola, Patuakhali, Barguna, Faridpur, Madaripur, Rajbari, Gopalganj and Shariatpur.

This loan has been given for boro, aman, aus, potato, wheat, and vegetable cultivation, pisciculture, beef fattening, poultry and cattle rearing, purchase of agriculture equipment and oxen.

Purchase of milch cows, as well as assistance to small traders, cottage industry and self-employment, was also under the project, the source said.

Where do one taka coins go!!

From Our Correspondent JHENIDAH, Mar 15: It is reported that the newly introduced One Taka Coins are being sold between Tk 1.25 and Tk 1.30 at Benapole in Jessore, Khalipur in Jhenidah, Darshana in Chuadanga districts and many other border regions since the introducing of the coins.

According to sources, one taka coins are being smuggled into India. In India some imitation ornament manufacturers have been using the coins as raw materials and selling ornaments like chain, neckless or similar ornament. These ornaments are smuggled back to Bangladesh and marketed through hawkers in buses, coaches and in almost all cosmetics or stationery shops.

Some bank managers in these areas admitted the fact that there is actually only few one taka coins, though government has already released crores of coins in market.

It may be noted here that, there is acute crisis of one taka notes and coins in all markets of Jhenidah district causing much inconveniences to the people.

Arrest of student leader in Rangpur strongly protested

From Our Correspondent RANGPUR, Mar 15: An emergency meeting of Rangpur Press Club, was held on Monday at the Press Club auditorium with Abdus Salam president of the club in the chair.

The meeting strongly condemned the arrest of the student leader A H Lablu from the Press Club premises on March 12 when he along with some other members of the All Party Students Unity of Carmichael College was attending a press conference.

The meeting demanded his immediate release and removal of Police Super and Kotwali thana officer-in-charge.

They further decided to boycott all functions and news of the police administration until these demands were fulfilled.

At Benapole land check post

Allegation of unnecessary delays in offloading imported goods

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Mar 15: Benapole land port is facing host of problems harassing importers and causing financial losses.

Lack of accommodation in warehouse, limited manpower and poor office management of port authority have possibly led to this situation.

According to information, many valuable goods, imported against hard-earned foreign exchange, are lying dumped and scattered under open sky in the port warehouse for quite a long time. The goods are rusting and some have already experienced damages left in open sky. Space shortage in warehouse, has been cause of this scene.

On many occasions, large number of loaded Indian trucks with imported cargo reportedly remain stranded on the road in front of the warehouse, for more than, sometimes weeks, facing unnecessary delay in offloading the goods due to allegedly shortage of labourers and crane belonging to authority.

In such cases demurrage charges are realised from consignees for no fault of their own by port authority, it was alleged.

It is learnt, despite sharp rise in imports from this route between Customs Department and the Port author-

(port) in recent years, no steps have been taken yet either to increase capacity of existing warehouse or constructing new ones in a bid to meet the crisis.

Reports say that there are eighteen sheds in the Warehouse with total capacity to hold sixteen thousand six hundred metric tons of goods. Volume of imports have remarkably gone up through Benapole since fiscal 1989-90.

According to statistical report, in 1989-90, total imports rose to two lakh twenty-three thousand four hundred eleven metric tons. In 1990-91, it was two lakh fifty-one thousand five hundred ninety metric tons.

In 1991-92 import figure exceeded two lakh sixty thousand six hundred eleven metric tons. In 1992-93, import amounted to three lakh twenty thousand nine hundred six metric tons while in 1993-94, it was three lakh ninety-nine thousand five hundred fifty eight metric tons. During first six months of current fiscal, import was two lakh sixteen thousand three hundred seventy-seven metric tons. It is expected to exceed five lakh

metric tons before year ends, reports say.

When asked about the rela-

tion, Collector, Customs, Excise and VAT, Jessore, M A Kashem informed this correspondent that the port authority is independent organisation and Customs Department is separate link with each other.

During entry of any consignment into this country for placement in warehouse of port manifesto is shown to customs personnel in-charge of this duty at border check-post. A bill of entry is submitted to customs office for delivery order of goods from the port. The system is easily processed and completed.

When contacted, the acting president of Benapole Land Customs Clearing and Forwarding Agents' Association Shamsur Rahman said that the size of the Port is root of all problems. It is too small, he said, adding there is port of DTM (Deputy Traffic Manager) which remains vacant most of the time. The ATM (Assistant Traffic Manager) runs the office as in-charge. This office is no better than a post office, he added.

In support of his remark, he added that as an administrative officer he has little power. He can't make decisions even on a petty matter not to speak of complaint on loss, damage, theft or misplacement of goods within

warehouse. All sorts of disputed issues are referred to the Mongla Port Authority (MPA) for decision. Normally this takes more than months for execution. Benapole Port is under MPA and run by system of remote control from there. Mongla Port Authority is over 50 miles away from Benapole.

Under the present system of management sufferings of importers and C&F agents are on increase who are equally incurring financial losses. He accused MPA for centralising all powers in their hand. He said, discontent among importers and C&F agents against MPA for their continued policy of disservice was growing. He said that upgrading of Benapole into full-fledged land port was the only way to end all the problems and ensure its steady growth and expansion. It will not be out of place to mention here that from revenue earnings point, Benapole is next to Chittagong Port.

Port and Shipping Minister M K Anwar, accompanied by Post and Telecommunications Minister Tariqul Islam visited Benapole Port recently to see things for themselves. The minister assured of all help and cooperation to consider demand for raising Benapole to full-fledged landport on priority basis.

Legendary Bengali Muslim writer

Recalling M Musarrat Hussain

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Mar 15: The memory of a celebrated personality can go into oblivion if the deeds and works of his lifetime is not preserved. This has become true in case of legendary Bengali Muslim litterateur of 19th century, Mir Musarrat Hussain who made history, in Bengali literature writing 'Bishad Sindhu'. To utter dismay, the monument of this great man is lying uncared at the village Lahinipara near Kushtia town.

Mir Musarrat Hussain stepped into Bengali literature when the Bengali Muslims were seized by religious superstitions taboos and social backwardness. He took it as a challenge and went on writing books on different aspects of Muslim culture and tradition in order to earn honour for his community during the British rule. He wrote as many as 37 books of which Ratnabali (novel), 1873, Basanta Kumari (drama), 1873, Zamindar Darpan (drama) 1869, Gari Bridge (poetry) 1873, Er Upal Kee 1876, Bishad Sindhu (historical novel) 1885-91, Sangeet Lahori 1887, Prem Parjat, Bibi Kulsum, 1910 and Gazi Miar Bostani are worth mentioning. Besides, he excelled in writing similar books on socio-cultural aspects and revival of the down-trodden Bengali Muslims.

Born in an aristocratic Muslim family of village Lahini Para in Kushtia on November 13, 1847, his father Mir Moazzem Hussain and mother Daulatunnesa did much for him which helped him to be a intelligent writer. According to family history, his forefather, Syed Saadullah served in the Mughal Army who was married later to a Brahmin girl and settled at village Padamdi in Faridpur district.

Musarrat's father was the landlord in their native village. Musarrat began his early education at his village primary school then schooled in Kumarkhali MN High School, Kushtia High and Padamdi Schools. Later he had college education in Calcutta. Before this, he studied at Krishna Nagar College School.

Musarrat Hussain is still remembered for his book 'Bishad Sindhu', which is treated as a master-piece to the Muslims. During early years of his life, he used to write in Gram Barta Prakashika of Kagal Harinath Mozumdar and Sangbad Provakar of Poet Iswar Gupta. This helped him to be intimate with them and exchange ideas. He also published a monthly magazine in memory of his first wife. Later he published a weekly news paper 'Hitakari'.

Although time will remember him, his monument may go into obscurity if timely renovation of his monument (final resting place) is not made by the concerned authority. That will possibly be paying due honour to the torch bearer of Muslim Renaissance during the British rule.

Villagers protest reck less driving

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Mar 15: Villagers and students of 15 schools brought and a procession at the Thana headquarters of Jaintapur, demanding stern action against those responsible for road accidents. About two thousand processionist later held a meeting at the bus stand with ex-UP Chairman Anwar Ali in the chair. The speakers said, at least 25 village road accidents during the last 18 months. They demanded, punitive measures against the defaulters.

IRRI-boro cultivation target in greater Sylhet may not be achieved

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Mar 15: The IRRI-boro cultivation throughout the greater Sylhet region will be hampered seriously during the current farming season due to various reasons, it is apprehended.

Serious crisis and abnormal rise in the prices of chemical fertilizer, non-availability of seeds of high yielding varieties, widespread anomalies in disbursement of agricultural loan among the farmers are some of the main causes behind the forecast. Defective system of supplying the irrigation equipment has also attributed to the situation, it is alleged by the farmers. Economic hardship of the poor and marginal farmers is another reason.

According to the official sources, an intensive programme has been taken up to bring 3 lakh 14 thousand 742 hectares of land under boro paddy in all the four districts of the region during the sea-

son. The total area includes, one lakh 89 thousand 435 hectares under different high yielding varieties and the rest one lakh 25 thousand 207 hectares under different local varieties, the source informed. The total target of paddy production has been fixed at 5 lakh 94 thousand 403 metric tonnes.

The sources further informed that, in the Sylhet, one lakh 21 thousand 443 metric tonnes of paddy would be yielded on 23,422 hectares of high yielding varieties and 30,995 hectares of local varieties. In Moulvibazar district, 95,045 metric tonnes of paddy would be yielded on 25,349 hectares of high yielding varieties and 9019 hectares of local varieties. In Habiganj district, 2 lakh 28 thousand 49 metric tonnes of paddy would be yielded on 67,153 hectares of high yielding varieties and 8,773 hectares of local varieties. In the district of Sunam-

ganj, 3 lakh 49 thousand 865 metric tonnes of paddy would be yielded on 73,511 hectares of high yielding varieties and 76,420 hectares of local varieties, the source added.

Abnormal rise in the prices of chemical fertilizer has thrown the farmers in great miseries. The situation went worst during the last few months throughout the region. The supply of high yielding varieties of seeds are also quite scanty. These are not available in the thana-level godowns, they are being sold in the open markets at exorbitant prices. It is learnt that, the very poor stock of seeds of the farmers, even of the middle class ones had been exhausted during the last few months.

Utilisation of the irrigation equipment by the farmers had fallen since the government withdrew the system of renting these to the farmers few years back. Now, only a handful of farmers can afford the ir-

rigation system. The poor and marginal farmers have to buy water from these people at high rates during the peak season of irrigation. Rise in the prices of fuel would also worsen the situation, it is learnt. Besides, the use of irrigations equipment in the greater Sylhet region, is comparatively lower than the other regions of the country, said some official sources.

Disbursement of agricultural loans to the farmers is also unsatisfactory, it is alleged. Though there is sufficient sanction of the loans by different nationalised commercial banks including Bangladesh Krishi Bank, a section of officials and employees of bank branches in the remote areas are found less interested in disbursing the loans to the farmers, it is alleged. But a section of brokers and influential people are getting the loans from the banks easily, it is reported.

Effect of Farakka Barrage

Colossal losses: Who shall pay the prices?

RAJSHAHI, Mar 15: The unilateral withdrawal of Ganges water by India at Farakka has 'badly affected' twenty-one districts of north and south east of the country.

Official sources told BSS that the Farakka is not only creating environmental and ecological problems but also posed a serious threat to our agriculture, irrigation, navigation, fisheries, forest, industry and livestock in the affected districts.

Due to inadequate flow of the Ganges water and gradual lowering of ground water level, Bangladesh has so far incurred losses to the tune of over Taka sixteen thousand crore in agriculture, fisheries, forest, livestock and industrial sectors during the last eighteen years, official experts said.

Fish and agriculture production had drastically fallen

during the last few years due to setback in irrigation network and drying up of water resources in the region.

Official sources said that over forty million trees had already been destroyed due to Farakka impact in the Sunderbans and it is apprehended that other areas would also be destroyed in phases.

Meanwhile, desertification process has already started in the region due to ecological imbalance and environmental degradation caused by the adverse effect of Farakka.

During the lean period (March-April) rivers, ponds, wells and other water resources are drying up every year in the affected areas. The ground water level in the region is gradually going down from 20 feet to 65 feet in different parts of the region and

the people as a result are being deprived of the supply of pure drinking water from shallow tubewells. Meanwhile, ground water level has already gone down by about 50 feet in different parts of Tanore, Mohanpur and Godagari of the district during the current month. Water level of Padma at Rajshahi has already fallen by about one and a half feet in March. The water level of Padma at Rajshahi was recorded on March 13 at 9.54 metre.

Due to diversion of Ganges flow by India at Farakka, the region experienced ecological imbalance for which the areas become familiar as the 'hottest and coldest' of the country.

Officials said that the average flow of the Ganges at Hardinge bridge as recorded on March 13 was 24304 cusecs.

Diarrhoea claims one in Moulvibazar

From Our Correspondent

MOULVI BAZAR, Mar 15: Diarrhoeal disease has claimed life of one person at village Taharlamua under Rajnagar police station of the district. The epidemic has reportedly affected at least 50 people in this village.

The victim was identified as, Raseel Ahmed Chowdhury, 14, son of Abdul Muht Choudhury of the village. The family source said, three other members of the same family have been admitted into the Moulvibazar sadar hospital.

Patients alleged that shortage of necessary medicines has been prevailing in the Rajnagar thana health complex.

Chicken pox breaks out in Moulvibazar

From Our Correspondent

MOULVI BAZAR, Mar 15: Chicken pox has broken out in different areas of the district in last fortnight causing panic among the residents.

About one thousand people so far have been attacked by the disease, according to unofficial sources. In some families almost all the members are being attacked by this infectious disease one after another.

The medical officer on duty in the Civil Surgeon office said, chicken pox is a viral disease and usually breaks out with the advent of spring season. He however could not give any figure of the patients attacked by the disease.

Hospital sources said, patients from various parts including remote areas were pouring into different thana health complexes and hospitals for treatment. But most of them were reportedly going back due to lack of necessary medicine in the hospitals.



RAJSHAHI. The General Manager of Bangladesh Railway (BR), West Zone, M A Rahim distributing medal to a best trainee of Special Security Force, first batch, at the passing out parade ceremony of BR, West Zone held at Badra Railway field on March 9. — BR photo

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয় (সওজ)
সড়ক বিভাগ, বি-বাড়িয়া
ইজারা বন্দোবস্তের কোটেশন বিজ্ঞপ্তি
(২য় আহবান)
এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে অত্র সড়ক বিভাগীয় সরাইল নাছিরনগর সড়কের ৮ম ও ১০ম কিঃ মিঃ এ অবস্থানরত কুড়া ও পুটরা খোয়াঘাটসমূহ ১ (এক) বৎসর ২ (দুই) মাস ১৬ (ষোল) দিন মেয়াদে অর্থাৎ ১৪-৪-৯৫ইং হইতে ৩০-৬-৯৬ইং পর্যন্ত ইজারা বন্দোবস্ত দেওয়া হইবে এবং এই মর্মে আর্থী প্রার্থিপনের নিকট থেকে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে কোটেশন আহবান করা যাইতেছে। আপাদী ২৮-৩-৯৫ইং বেলা ১২.৩০মিঃ নিম্নাঙ্ককরকারীর এবং তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী (সওজ), সড়ক সার্কেল, কুমিল্লা-এর দফতরে রক্ষিত নমবপত্রের বায়ে কোটেশন গ্রহণ করা হইবে এবং একই দিনে বেলা ১২.৪৫মিঃ কোটেশনদাতার সমুখে (যাহারা উপস্থিত থাকিবে) খোলা হইবে।
আর্থী প্রার্থিপনকে আপাদী ২৭-৩-৯৫ইং তারিখের মধ্যে (অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে) কোটেশন-এর দলিলাদি নমঃ ২০/- (বিশ) টাকার বিনিময়ে নিম্নাঙ্ককরকারী এবং উপবিভাগীয় প্রকৌশলী (সওজ), সড়ক উপবিভাগ, বি-বাড়িয়া দফতর হইতে ক্রয় করা যাইবে।
মোঃ কামালউদ্দিন
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (সওজ)
সড়ক বিভাগ, বি-বাড়িয়া
DPP-5770-11/3
G-387

সওজ সংক্ষিপ্ত দরপত্র
আহবানের বিজ্ঞপ্তি
১। দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং : ৯০/সওজ ফেব্রুয়, ফুলনা/৯৪-৯৫ইং।
২। কাজের নাম : ১১৯৪-৯৫ইং অর্ধ বছরে (সওজ) সড়ক বিভাগ, যশোর-এর অধীন জেএম রেলসার এবং রোড মার্শাল রেলসার এর জন্য ফুটরা জালেশ সরবরাহের কাজ।
৩। প্রাক্কলিত ব্যয় : টাকা ২,৭৪,৫০০/-
৪। ব্যয়নার টাকা : টাকা ৫,৪৯০/-
৫। কাজ সম্পাদনের জন্য অনুমোদিত সময় : কার্যসেপ জারীর তারিখ হইতে ১৫ (পনের) দিন।
৬। ঠিকাদারের যোগ্যতা : 'এ' হইতে 'সি' সাধারণ শ্রেণী (সওজ), অধিদপ্তরাধীন তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদারবৃন্দ। 'ডি' সাধারণ শ্রেণী (সওজ), ফেরী সার্কেল, ফুলনার তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদারবৃন্দ। 'ই' সাধারণ শ্রেণী (সওজ), ফেরী বিভাগ, ফুলনার তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদারবৃন্দ।
৭। দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী কর্মকর্তা : তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, ফেরী সার্কেল, সড়ক ভবন, যশোর, ফুলনা। নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, ফেরী বিভাগ, ফুলনা/বরিশাল।
৮। দরপত্র প্রাপ্তির স্থান : নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, ফেরী বিভাগ, বরিশাল/ফুলনা এবং উগ্রবিঃঃঃঃ (সওজ), ফেরী উপ-বিভাগ, রেলিগেট, ফুলনা।
৯। দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ : ২২-০৩-৯৫ইং/০৮-১২-১৪০১ বাৎ।
১০। দরপত্র গ্রহণের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময় : ২৩-০৩-৯৫ইং/০৯-১২-১৪০১ বাৎ ১২-৩০ মিঃ পর্যন্ত।
১১। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময় : ২৩-০৩-৯৫ইং/০৯-১২-১৪০১ বাৎ ১২-৪৫ মিঃ।
মোঃ জাহির
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, যাজ্ঞিক ফেরী বিভাগ, শিরোমনি, ফুলনা।
ডিএফপি-৫৭৩০-১০/৩
সি-৩৯১

Tender Notice

Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 are hereby invited.
1. Tender Notice : 08-EE/RRD/1994-95. No
2. Name of work : Construction of flexible pavements, repair of pavement with carpeting and seal coat work at different roads in different locations under RHD, Road Division, Rangpur during the year 1994-95. In 6 (six) Groups.
3. Estimated cost :
4. Earnest money :
5. Time allowed for completion :
6. Eligibility of contractor for all groups : As per group list.
7. Name of offices where tender documents will be available : i) Executive Engineer (RHD), Road Division, Rangpur/Kurigram/Bogra/Gaibandha/Planning Division (Roads & Bridges), Dhaka/Planning & Design Division, Rangpur. ii) Sub-Divisional Engineer (RHD), Road Sub-Division-I/II, Rangpur.
8. Name of offices where tender will be received : i) Addl. Chief Engineer (RHD), Rangpur Zone, Rangpur. ii) Superintending Engineer (RHD), Road Circle, Rangpur/ Monitoring & Evaluation Circle, Dhaka. iii) Executive Engineer (RHD), Road Division, Rangpur/Kurigram/Bogra/Gaibandha.
9. Last date of selling tender : 22-3-95 up to 5.00 PM.
10. Last date and time of receiving of tender : Up to 12-30 PM on 23-3-95.
11. Date & time for opening of tender : At 12-45 PM on 23-3-95.
Md Asmatuddowla
Executive Engineer (RHD)
Road Division, Rangpur
DPP-5716-11/3
G-388