

2.38 lakh acres of arable land left untouched in greater Sylhet

From Iqbal Siddique

SYLHET, Mar 18: Several lakh acres of cultivable land have been lying uncultivated for years together in different districts of the greater Sylhet region. Taking advantage of the situation, some influential quarters have been engaged in grabbing the valuable government land while due to the absence of proper planning for bringing these uncultivable land for cultivation the country is being deprived of crops worth about Taka one hundred and fifty crore, said an official source.

According to a survey, a total of about two lakh 38 thousand acres of arable land have been lying uncultivated in this North-Eastern region of the country. It includes, one lakh 19 thousand acres in 10 thanas under Sunamganj, 62 thousand acres in 11 thanas in Sylhet,

Two groups clash, 15 injured

BARISAL, Mar 18: At least 15 persons were injured, three of them critically, following a clash between two groups at Naikathi village under Sadar thana of Jhalakathi district around 3 pm on Monday.

Witnesses and police said, the clash was the sequel of previous enmity over land dispute in that village.

During the clash two houses were ransacked and at least 15 persons were injured. Critically injured Jainab Begum, 43, Abu Hossain, 34, and Jamaluddin were admitted into Jhalakathi Sadar Hospital.

An official of the Department of Agricultural Extension told this correspondent that, different crops like IRRI-boro paddy, wheat, jute, sugarcane, tobacco, betel nut, mustard and others could easily be produced in these areas. The total yield of crops would be about three lakh metric tonnes, he said. The total value of the crops would be about taka one hundred and fifty crore, the source added. In addition to this total areas, some considerable area could also be used for afforestation, he expressed.

It is alleged that, due to the absence of proper planning to utilise these land, some interested quarters in connivance with a section of government employees and officials have been trying to occupy the government owned land.

Valuables worth Tk 50,000 robbed

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Mar 18: An armed dacoity took place at the house of one Nonee Gopal Sarkar of village Tarapur under Sunderganj Thana recently.

A gang of about 15 to 20 miscreants armed with deadly weapons raided the house of Nonee Gopal and looted valuables worth about Tk. 50 thousand. The miscreants assaulted three persons during the dacoity. On filing a case with Sunderganj Thana police on March 10 police in a drive arrested one Ashruddin of village Charitabari under Sunderganj Thana in this connection. He was an absconding accused of another dacoity case.

Peace meeting gets poor response

BANDARBAN, Mar 18: A peace meeting scheduled to be held at Rajbari ground here Friday was not held as most of the invitees did not turn up there, reports UNB.

The district administration convened the meeting of local elite, MPs, representatives of Local Govt Council and members of the Raj family after Wednesday's violent clashes between tribals and non-tribals leaving scores of people injured and several hundred houses burnt.

It was not immediately known why the invitees did not attend the meeting.

After Wednesday's incident, the situation in Bandarban appeared to be normal. But several thousand people whose houses were burnt have been living under open sky for last three days.

The district administration was learnt to have asked the concerned authorities to send relief materials for the victims.

Fertilizer recovered, one arrested

BRAHMANBARIA, Mar 18: Police rounded up a trader and recovered 28 bags of urea fertilizer from his rice godown on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Police, following a tip-off, raided a shop — Shaon Traders in Annanda Bazar rice shopping centre and recovered the fertilizer bags worth over Tk. 60,000 from the godown.

A case was registered with the police.

Kuakata — an attractive tourist spot yet it remains neglected

From Aroop Talukdar

BARISAL, Mar 18: Kuakata — a beautiful, natural tourist spot along the longest seashore of the country. The place needs proper attention of the concerned authority to attract more tourist for the spot.

There is a special attraction here in Kuakata for the tourists as they can enjoy both, sunrise and sunset sceneries from the place which cannot be witnessed from any other spot in the country.

Kuakata is situated along the sea coast in Latachapali union under Kalapara thana of Patuakhali district. Some portion of this union is along the seashore which is 12 kilometres long and five kilometres wide.

During 1972 the then government undertook a programme to develop the spot into a tourist resort and acquired 2.33 acres of land for the purpose. In 1975 a tender was called with an estimated cost of Tk 27 lakh which was later abandoned for unknown reasons. In 1981 a ministerial cabinet meeting was also held to decide what to do with the incomplete stage of the programme. Unfortunately until today no development has been achieved to make Kuakata into a standard tourists place.

Kuakata is well known for holy place for the Hindu and Buddhist community. Thousands of people from both the communities come here to participate in the 'Holy Rash' and 'Maghi Purnima' every year.

The strange way of living by the local tribal people of Kuakata attracts the tourists very much. The 134 maunds heavy brass 'Buddha' idol and 'Buddha Bihar' made by the local Rakhain community are some of the attractions for the tourists in the area.

The rows of coconut and betelnut trees along the seashore here are no less attraction than any other spot.

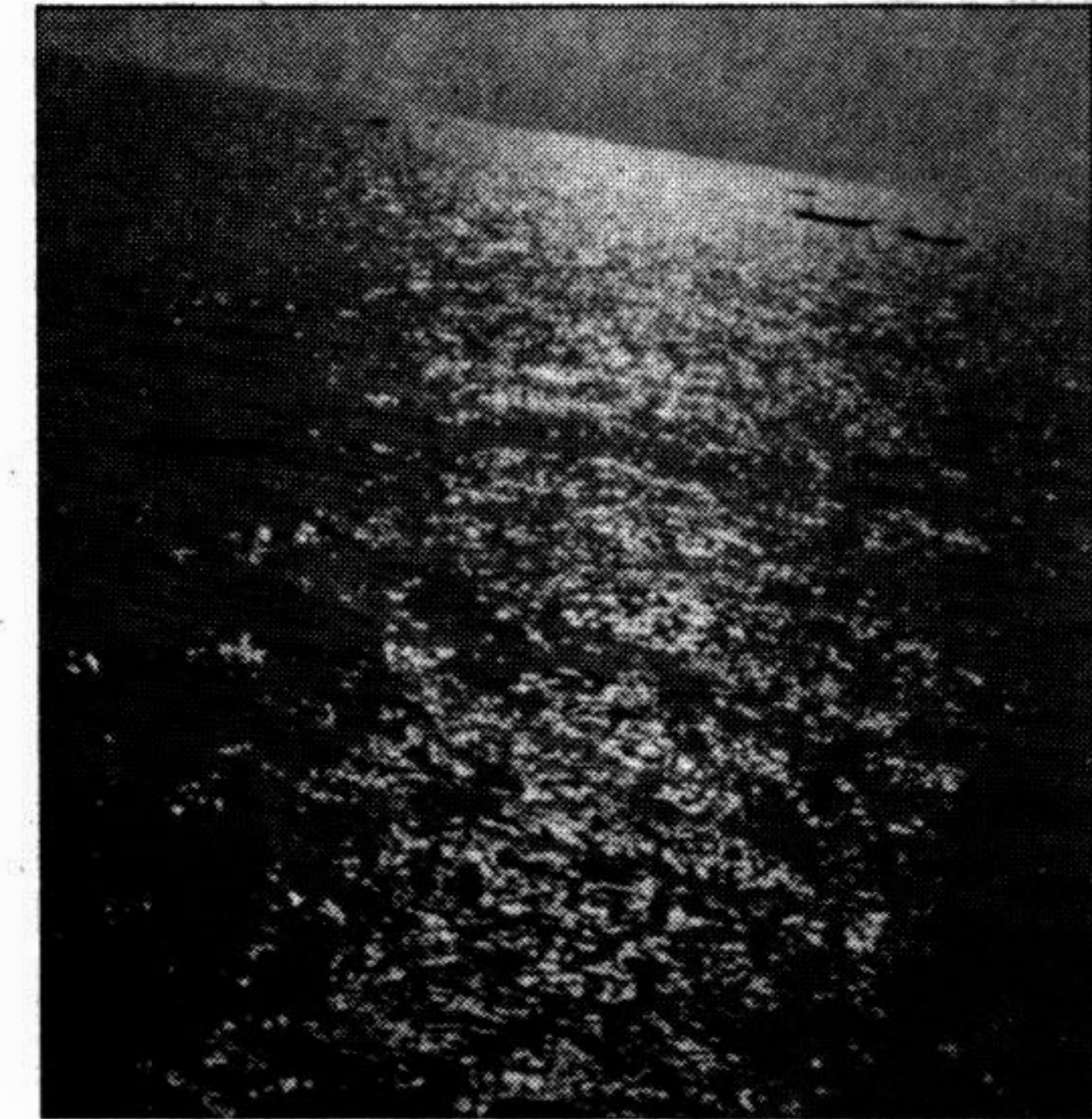
The concerned authority, the tourist bureau is not doing much as it needs to be done.

Many tourists alleged that there is no accommodation arrangements like bungalows, standard hotels, scope for swimming, boat riding, water skiing or any other entertainments to attract tourists.

Transportation facilities to and from Kuakata is hazardous



KUAKATA (Patuakhali): Rows of coconut trees along the coast of Bay of Bengal. — Star photo



KUAKATA (Patuakhali): The vast expanse of the Bay of Bengal. — Star photo

as the only road linking Kuakata and outside is yet to be completed. Still thousands of tourists

are visiting Kuakata to witness the natural beauty along the longest seashore of the world.

Meanwhile, Department of Civil Aviation and the Ministry of Tourism have taken play to develop Kuakata into an ideal tourists centre.

According to the plan taken, initially a 'Tourist Estate' will be established on 500 acres of land. Besides, hotels, motels and cottages will be established on 500 acres of land. The proposed 'Tourist Estate' will be expanded if necessary.

To implement the project a nine-member committee has been formed for feasibility study. The committee will submit a survey report to the Civil Aviation Authority and the Tourist Bureau immediately observing the proposed estate area and examining all sorts of feasibility.

The Deputy Commissioner, Patuakhali and a representative of Patuakhali Chamber of Commerce and Industries were included in the committee.

There is possibility as well as ample scope of producing cashnuts at Kuakata, local people said.



SYLHET: Children are being immunised at a centre by the volunteers of Girls Guide on the first day of National Immunisation Day. — Star photo

বাংলাদেশ শিল্পকলা একাডেমী
সেগুন বাগিচা, রমনা, ঢাকা
ফোনঃ ৮৬৪৬৭৩-৭৬

দরপত্র

বাংলাদেশ শিল্পকলা একাডেমীর জন্য সর্বশেষ মডেলের ৯/১০ সিস্টের সম্পূর্ণ নতুন ২ (দুইটি) "টয়োটা"/"মিতসুবিশি" "নিশান"/"ইসুজু" ইত্যাদি অথবা সমমানের প্রস্তুতকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্রস্তুতকৃত ২(দুইটি) মাইক্রোবাস দেশীয় মুদ্রায় ক্রয়ের জন্য প্রস্তুতকারী/প্রস্তুত সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হইতে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে। পঞ্জীর পূর্ণ বিবরণ ও অন্যান্য শর্তাবলীসহ দরপত্র সিডিউল নম্বর ৭৫০/= (সাতশত পঞ্চাশ টাকা মাত্র) (অফিসেরযোগ্য)

১০-০৪-৯৫ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে একাডেমীর হিসাব বিভাগ হইতে ক্রয় করা যাইবে। দরপত্র নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দস্তরে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাক্সে আগামী ১১-০৪-৯৫ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২.০০টা পর্যন্ত গৃহণ করা হইবে এবং ঐদিনই দরপত্র খোলার দিন কোন সিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হইবে না। একাডেমী কর্তৃক সর্বোচ্চ বা সর্বনিম্ন অথবা যে কোন দরপত্র কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে গৃহণ অথবা বাতিল করার সর্বময় ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

কাজী সিরাজুল হক
সচিব
বাংলাদেশ শিল্পকলা একাডেমী

DFP-6032-14/3
G-406

3 member KU team leaves for UK

Mar 18: A three member team of Khulna University, headed by Prof. Muhammed Golam Ali Fakir, Vice Chancellor of the University, left for UK Friday evening on a short study visit for ten days. The aim of the visit will be establishing link programmes with the universities of Bangor, Aberystwyth and Kent in UK, says a KU press release.

Other two members of this team are: Md. Abdul Matin, Asstt. Professor and Head-in-charge, Forestry and Wood Technology Discipline and Dr. Khairul Azam, Asstt. Prof. of Marine Biology Discipline.

Through this visit opportunities will emerge an effective linkage between Khulna University and appropriate universities at UK will be established. This will help expedite the launching of future activities of Khulna University concerning its education, research, and development, especially carrying out of research on the Sundarbans and its coastal ecology and their materialisation.

Keeping this future link programme in view, two teachers — one from Marine Biology Discipline and another from Forestry and Wood Technology Discipline of Khulna University will be leaving for UK to pursue higher studies under the auspices of the British Council.

Property worth Tk 73 lakh gutted in Bhola, Comilla

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Mar 18: Twenty-two houses were gutted and worth property worth about Tk 40 lakh have been completely destroyed in a devastating fire that broke out from a house in Balurchar village under Kalma union of Lalmoan thana of Bhola district on Wednesday.

Witnesses said, the fire originating from the house of one Gura Mia the fire engulfed the houses one after another.

It may be mentioned that as there were no Fire Service unit at the thana headquarter any fire incident occurred have to be controlled by the local people.

Our Correspondent from Comilla adds: A rice mill and two houses were gutted when fire broke out in two separate places here Friday.

According to witnesses, an electric short circuit sparked off the fire which gutted the Modern Rice Mill at the industrial estate here at about 1 pm. Owners claimed that property worth about Taka 20 lakh have been damaged in the incident. Five employees of the mill also received minor burn injuries.

Another fire, also believed to be originated from electric short circuit, burnt into ashes two houses the same day. Details of the incident could not be gathered.

Another report from Gaibandha adds: A devastating fire originating from the house of one Montezur Rahman of village Barokona under Shaghta Thana, damaged properties worth about Taka three lakh

Move to upgrade educational facilities in Bhola

From Staff Correspondent

BHOLA, Mar 18: The Facilities Department under the Ministry of Education has taken up a scheme for construction of 95 non-government junior high schools in greater Barisal district, reports UNB.

The project will be implemented during the current fiscal year at a cost of Tk 11.56 crore, said an official source.

Under the programme, 35 schools will be constructed in Projpur, 25 in Jhalokathi, 20 in Barisal and 15 in Bhola districts.

According to the source, the construction work will start soon and is expected to be completed by June next.

Another report adds: Sadar thana police recovered a body of an unidentified oldman from a launch recently.

Police said, the man coming from Katpatti ghat to Bhola by the launch Karnaphuli, was found dead at Ilisha ghat here.

Being informed by the Ansar squad of the launch, sadar thana police recovered the body. A case has been filed.

Kerosine oil furnace explodes, 15 injured

From Staff Correspondent

BHOLA, Mar 18: At least 15 persons were injured, two of them critically when a kerosene oil pump furnace burst out in a sweetmeat shop at the Charfasion bazar of Bhola district Tuesday.

Critically injured Kanai, 23, and Bashir, 28 were admitted to the Charfasion Health Complex.

Sharp rise in price of rice in different dists

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Mar 18: Price-hike of rice is going on unabated in different regions of Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Borguna, Jhalakathi and Projpur.

Concerned authority has failed to control the price hike, several sources said.

Now rice is being sold between Tk 17 and Tk 20 per kg in different areas of these districts.

Some 36.5 tons of rice have been distributed among the people through 78 centres under OMS programme in 10 thanas of Barisal district.

But the amount is meagre for 22 lakh people of the district where minimum requirement is not less than one thousand tons of rice per day.

According to sources, price hike is going on unabated particularly in rural areas. This decision had been taken by the district food authority which is a wrong decision — local people said. Following that decision only the people who are coming to bazar area in two 'hat days' are getting rice from OMS centres. For rest of the week people are deprived from getting rice from OMS centres.

This situation is prevailing in other districts of Barisal division.

Rice price registers abnormal hike

BHOLA, Mar 18: The price of rice is increasing in the district day by day causing hardship to the poor and low income group of people, reports UNB.

Local people said, per kg coarse rice is being sold between Tk 14 and Tk 15 medium quality between Tk 16 and Tk 17 and fine quality between Tk 18 and Tk 20.

Local traders said, the supply of rice is quite inadequate comparing with its demand.

Local leaders said the government supply of rice in the Open Market Sale centres is quite inadequate and as a result, hundreds of people have to wait for hours together for only three kg of rice.

Our Correspondent from Rangpur adds:

Upward trend of the prices of rice and *atta* is persisting all over the district. Rice is being sold at a price between Tk 15 and 18 per kg in poura and village markets, while *atta* is being sold at a price between Tk 12 and Tk 14 per kg.

Sources said, indiscriminate hoarding of rice and paddy by unscrupulous traders caused the artificial crisis resulting into untold sufferings to poor and common consumers.

The Open Market Sale (OMS) of rice and *atta*, introduced by the government on February 2 this year failed to create any favourable impact in market because of its allegedly poor allotment and misappropriation of its bulk quantity by dealers as alleged by the consumers.

There are 25 rice and *atta* selling centres under the OMS programme in the district for which 28.5 metric ton (MT) rice and equal quantity of *atta* are allotted daily.

But there are allegations that dealers concerned in collaboration with the government officials were lifting quotas of rice and *atta* from godowns on previous nights and keeping those in their stores.

Fifty per cent of the stored rice and *atta* is being sold in blackmarkets, it was alleged.



CHANDPUR: Some baby-cots were donated by the Chandpur Rotary Club to Chandpur hospital recently. — Star photo

Government of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Munshigonj PWD Division
Munshigonj

PWD Tender Notice
(Tender No. 32/1994-95)

1 Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No 2911 are hereby invited from the Special Class-1, Class-I enlisted Building Contractors of Public Works Department, Bangladesh for the undermentioned work and will be received by the undersigned as well as by the Executive Engineer, Mouljheel PWD Division, Dhaka/Azimpur PWD Division, Dhaka/Resource PWD Division, Dhaka/Eden Bldg PWD Division, Dhaka/Narayanganj PWD Division, Narayanganj/Narsingdi PWD Division, Narsingdi up to 12.00 Noon on 3.4.1995 and will be opened on the same day at 12.30 PM in presence of the intending tenderers who may like to remain present. Tender shall be in a sealed cover with the name of work superscribed on it. No tender will be sold to a Contractor's/Firm's who has no VAT registration.

2 Name of work Construction of District Jail at Munshigonj (Sub-Head. Const of Perimeter Wall inc 'D' Wall) during the year 1994-95.

3 Estimated cost Tk 70,87,679/-

4 Earnest money Tk 1,41,760/-

5 Time allowed for completion of work 7 (seven) months from the date of issue of Work Order

6 Contract documents consisting of Bangladesh Form No 2911, schedule of items, additional & special terms and conditions etc can be seen and purchased from the office of the undersigned and from the office of the Executive Engineers mentioned above during office hours on payment of usual charges (Non-refundable) up to 2.4.1995

Md Shahjahan Choudhury
Executive Engineer
Munshigonj PWD Division
Munshigonj

DFP-5848-12/3
G-405

54 fishermen held for catching fish fry

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Mar 18: Fifty-four fishermen were arrested from different areas of the river Meghna for catching prohibited hilsa fish fry (Jatka) recently.

A mobile court headed by Magistrate Shafiqur Rahman along with Chandpur district fishery officer caught red-handed the fishermen from Nilkamal, Haimchar under Chandpur sadar and Shaitnal, Mohanpur, Ekhluspur under Matlab thanas. Besides, twenty-five big nets, twenty boats, current nets and other equipment worth about Tk 20 lakh were seized during the raid. All nets were burnt in front of public.

The boats were later sold in a public auction. The fishermen each was fined Tk 100 for the crime. The arrested fishermen hailed from Chandpur, Munshiganj, Saratpur, Bhola, Barisal, Maniganj and Dhaka. It may be mentioned, hilsa fish fry are caught from the river Meghna and Padma during this time of the year.



GAIBANDHA: A wagon of a goods train rammed into a shop after it derailed during shunting at Mohinaganj recently. — Star photo