

Decomposed body of housewife found near beel

BRAHAMBARIA, May 9: Police recovered a body of a young housewife from Gazirkandi beel of Nabnagar thana recently, reports UNB. The victim was identified as Parveen, mother of a child and wife of Abdul Karim of Amtall village of the thana.

According to the neighbours, Abdul Karim, a vendor was residing at the house of his co-villager, Rafiqul Islam. Rafiqul Islam at one stage developed an affair with Parveen and they fled the house on April 29. On May 1 police recovered her decomposed body covered in a bag from the Gazirkandi beel.

A case has been filed and police arrested three people in this connection but Rafiqul Islam remained absconding.

Villagers kill quack in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, May 9: A village quack was killed by some assailants at Raidawalpur village of Kamarkhand thana on Monday, reports UNB.

Police said, Abdul Miah, 49, a village quack of Jotibari of the thana was attacked and killed by the miscreants while he was returning home at around 9 pm from Raidawalpur hat after selling medicine.

The reason behind the murder could not be known immediately. The body was sent to the sadar hospital for autopsy. A case was filed

People of CHT witnessed very little development in last 5 yrs

From A K M Zahoorul Huq

RANGAMATI, May 9: The economy of the Chittagong Hill Tracts has been crippled due to poor production of crops for the last five consecutive years, lack of industrialization, unwritten restriction on trade and commerce for the prevailing insurgency and above all, absence of employment opportunities.

The paucity of seeds, fertilisers, irrigation facilities, and persisting drought heavily contribute to the fall of crop production. The marginal farmers who constitute about 65 per cent of population here could not prepare their land properly for agriculture inputs including bank loan fell short.

Over 80 per cent of villagers who depend on cultivation live below the poverty line and are compelled to sell out their produces in advance to the local money lenders just to maintain their livelihood.

Taking advantage of the situation the local money lenders are doing a brisk business by giving loans on high rate of interest, allegedly taking the signatures or thumb impression on black papers. The poverty-stricken farmers of twenty inaccessible thanas of the Chittagong Hill Tracts region have been selling out their IRR1-Boro paddy in ad-

vance at the rate of between Tk 100 and 120 per maund. It was reported.

"We are getting consolation accusing our lots by doing this as we fail to manage any bank loan," Uday Sankar Chakma of Langadu in Rangamati hill district said. Still the drought hit and poverty-stricken people of the CHT region are optimistic that the concerned authority would be kind enough to liberalise the bank procedure in getting crop loan.

A large number of landless people who lost their jobs as agricultural and forestry labourers are passing their days half-fed or sometimes even unfed. They are forced to disposed off their animals,

utensils and what they had for mere survival. The people of this region who were inter-nally refuged due to the prevailing insurgency are passing their days in sub-human condition, hard hit by extreme hardships making shanty towns at the thana and district headquarters. "Peace and security already snatched our happiness," Thoai Ching Marma, living in a shanty in Bandarban said.

The villagers are selling their poultry-birds and other property at a throw-away prices. The buyers less than

the numbers of sellers are reluctant to buy.

A large number of fishermen are left unemployed following sharp decline in fish production. The Kaptai lake, the biggest fish producing lake in Asia, most of the chorras, khals and rivers have been silted up threatening pisciculture in the region.

To sort out the unemployment problems, a huge quantity of rice and wheat has been sanctioned against development projects under Food for Works Programme. But gross irregularities and misappropriation are widely alleged especially those projects implemented through the local government councils of the three hill districts of Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban.

The influx of poverty-driven people of the inaccessible areas of the CHT region in the thana and district headquarters has increased abnormally during the last few years.

Most of them resorted to begging and anti-social activities finding no other decent way of living. With the onrush of these people different types of infectious diseases have also broken out in the towns of CHT, particularly in the slum areas where they have been passing their days in misery.

Lathyrism attacks over 4000 in northern dists

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, May 9: Lathyrism, an incurable fatal disease is gradually spreading in the rural areas all over the northern region for the past few years, according to an information from a competent source.

There are at least 4000 to 5000 persons of all ages mostly belonging to poor and low income group have been suffering from the disease. Every day the number is increasing, a health office source said. Massive consumption of the disease prone 'Khesari dal' is the main reason for outbreak of the disease, the sources claimed.

In the rural hat bazars and even in the town areas the 'Khesari dal' dust locally known as 'basson' is widely being used in preparing various kind of foodstuff like *Zlapl*, *Bundia*, *Chanachur*, *Papor*, *Piyl* and many other food which are very popular among the common people for their cheaper price and delicious taste.

The rickshaw-pullers, day labourers, floating people and the low income group of people are the main consumers of these items of food and are easy victim for the disease, it was alleged.

The 'Khesari dal' itself is popular among the rural folk who are habituated in taking it in their meals daily, due to ignorance of its harmful effects, it was gathered.

Crops are virtually being baked in ovens

From Our Correspondent

SHERPUR, May 9: A prolonged dry spell and continuing heat wave have worsened the drought situation threatening standing crops throughout the district and its adjoining areas.

Temperature in the district is hovering over 32°C for more than a month. Residents in the five thanas of the district pointed out that there had been no rainfall in the area for nearly six months.

The scorching heat that baked the ground has wilted standings crops in the areas as ponds, streams, rivers and beels have dried up and sub-soil water level have dropped making irrigation difficult.

The situation is being aggravated due to the loadshedding and price hike of diesel. According to reports received from the various parts of the district, the water level in all water bodies has fallen sharply in the recent months severely affecting irrigation as well as navigation.

District agriculture department officials said that the broadcast area, *rgpa aman*, wheat, boro, jute and other dry season crops has been severely

affected and much damaged will be done if there is no rainfall within the next few days. Another official admitted that the drought was affecting the standing crops in the district. He, however, told The Daily Star that data on the actual quantity of crop loss in the district is yet to be estimated.

People are digging 8 to 10 feet deep ditches to sink their shallow and deep tubewell. Normally, the water was available within 25 to 30 feet but now water level has fallen down between 35 and 40 feet.

Besides, loadshedding has become a regular feature. Sometimes the power failure, and loadshedding occurs 10 to 15 times a day. As a result, irrigation is greatly hampered. The owners of the pump machines are charging higher rate for irrigation on the plea that the prices of diesel had increased. The requirement of water has also increased due to the drought.

The hand tubewells are not working for which the rural woman are to bring water from distant places where water is available.

More people showing interest in dairy farming

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, May 9: Dairy farming is becoming quite popular in Sirajganj district. At least 70 small and big dairy farms have been set up in the district in last two years.

It was learnt following the declaration by the government to extend subsidies in the poultry and dairy farming, the interested persons in Sirajganj district started to set up dairy farms. In addition to the dairy farms under the Eastern Milk Producers' Co-operative Society (Milk-Vita) in Shahzadpur thana, about 100 more dairy farms have been established during last two and half years. The livestock strength of these farms range between five and 30 cattle.

While visiting a dairy farm at Chandidashganti, about nine kilometers to the West of Sirajganj town, it was observed that the breeding system is being supervised by the local animal husbandry department. The employees of the farm informed this correspondent that milk produced in the farm could not be processed in absence of adequate machinery; so raw milk has to be sold in the local markets. The abundant supply from these dairy farms has put the price tag of milk to go further down in the district.

Knowledgeable sources have termed the increasing number of dairy farms as encouraging to meet the shortage of milk.



SHERPUR: A common face of our countryside, farmers cutting paddy (left) and carrying the harvest to their home (right). — Star photos

'Forests can balance ecology ensuring safe, healthy atmosphere'

From CHT Correspondent

RANGAMATI, May 9: The Conservator of Forest, Rangamati Circle, Mohammad Gholam Habib Sunday reiterated his professional intention for successful plantation of trees in Chittagong Hill Tracts and Chittagong and called up the Divisional Forest Officers (DFO) to go ahead with profound and possessing efforts on afforestation.

Besides, elimination of poverty, the profound and possessing efforts on afforestation can balance the ecology ensuring safe, healthy and convenient atmosphere in the country," he told the meeting participated by thirteen DFO's from Rangamati and Chittagong Forest Circle at his Rangamati Circle Office conference room. There is no alternative to

planting trees in the present socio-economical and ecological concept of the country, Habib said.

In addition to planting of trees, the Conservator of Forest, holding the charges of both, Rangamati and Chittagong Forest Circle advised the DFO's to be more careful in nursing the planted seedlings. Habib urged the DFO's to look after the recently raised plantation in the same spirit and enthusiasm, they have shown and done in the last tree plantation seasons.

Besides, discussion on the steps to be taken for the coming plantation programme in the persisting severe drought, the meeting after discussion decided to undertake few important steps for the development of the forestry.

With a request made to the DFO's to discharge duties with dedication, the Conservator of Forest warned them that no irregularities would be tolerated. He further underscored on the importance of conservation of government reserved forests.

Its too small to cope with growing demand

SIRAJGANJ, May 9: Consumers, specially people of fixed and low income group, have been undergoing tremendous hardship due to sharp rise in prices of rice, ata and other essentials for the last two months, local people said, reports UNB.

According to market survey, per kg coarse rice is being sold at Tk 15 as against Tk 12 two months back. Fine quality rice is sold between Tk 16.50 and Tk 17.50 and per kg ata at Tk 12.50.

Despite frantic efforts by Food Department, the situation has remained unchanged. The officials have opened fair price grains sales centres only in the town to tackle the situation. Coarse rice and wheat are being sold at Tk 10.50 and Tk 7.00 a kg respectively at the sales centres.

"In every centre one metric ton of rice and one metric ton of wheat are supplied everyday," a dealer said mentioning that the quantity was too small to cope with the growing demand.

Everyday hundreds of men, women and children are seen standing in queue in front of the sales centres from early morning to purchase rice and wheat. But a poor buyer who was waiting in a queue for hours alleged that the distributors do not maintain time table fixed by the government.

Meanwhile, the villagers demanded that the government set up sales centres at the thana and union headquarters like the district town without further delay to combat the growing food crisis.

Rival groups clash: 1 killed

BRAHAMBARIA, May 9: A man was killed and 20 others were injured in a clash between two rival groups at Char Chartalla village in Ashuganj thana on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, the clash erupted following an altercation between one Jalal and Masud of the village at a husking mill over breaking the queue for crushing their paddy.

At one stage, the supporters of the feuding people attacked each other killing Jaj Mia, 50, on the spot and injuring 25 others.

Later, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Of the injured, two were admitted to the Brahmanbaria sadar hospital, two were shifted to Dhaka in a critical condition and the rest were released after first aid.

Cultural competition of Sarada Secondary concludes

FARIDPUR, May 9: The three-day long annual literary and cultural competition of Government Sarada Secondary Mahila College concluded recently at the college auditorium, reports BSS.

The items included recitations, debate, extempore speeches solo-acting, songs and dances. About one hundred students took part in twenty different disciplines. Prof Khandoker Nurul Islam, Principal of Government Yasini College attended the concluding function as chief guest and distributed prizes among the winners.

Tarail — Panchuria Project still remains abandoned

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, May 9: Twenty five thousand acres of land under the Tarail-Panchuria Project could not be brought under irrigation programme as the proposed project has not been implemented in the last twenty years.

A project, Tarail-Panchuria was taken up in 1974 for flood control drainage and irrigation on an area covering twenty-five thousand acres of land in eight Union-Gopalganj sadar, Kotwalpara and Tungipara thanas of the district.

The implementation cost of the project was estimated at Taka 20.65 crore. The 147 kilometres long project starting from Golabaria of Gopalganj sadar thana via Barani, Dumuria and Tarail of Tungipara thana to Tarashi of Kotwalpara thana was divided into six polders.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer (RHD)
Road Division, Perojpur

Notice of Inviting Quotation (2nd Call)

- Quotation Notice No. 5 PRD of 1994-95.
- Name of work Lease for Toll collection of different Ferry Ghat on different roads in different group's under Road Division, Perojpur 1995-96.
- Estimated cost As per quoted amount.
- Earnest money 10% of quoted amount.
- Time allowed From 1-7-95 to 30-6-95.
- Eligibility of contractors Enlisted contractor of RHD & other govt./semi govt./autonomous body/experience leaserer and bonafide solvent citizen of Bangladesh.
- Name of offices where tender documents will be available Office of the Executive Engineer (RHD) Road Division, Perojpur/ Barisal/ Patuakhali/Bhola/Planning and Design Division, Barisal/Planning Division, (P&D) Dhaka/Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Road Sub-Division Perojpur/ Kawkhali/ during office hours on all working days. No tender form will be sold on the opening date of tender.
- Name of offices where tender bids will be received Additional Chief Engineer (RHD), Barisal Zone, Barisal/Superintending Engineer (RHD), Monitoring and Evaluation Circle (P&D), Dhaka/Superintending Engineer (RHD), Barisal Road Circle, Barisal/Executive Engineer (RHD), Road Division, Perojpur/Barisal/ Patuakhali/Bhola. Up to 12-30 PM on 2-14/02/16-5-95.
- Last date & time of receipt of tender At 12-45 PM on 7-2-14/02/1-5-95.
- Date and time of opening bids

Group List:
Group No. I. Kocha Ferry Ghat of Barisal-Jhalakati-Bhandaria-Perojpur Road.
Group No. II. Perojpur Ferry Ghat of Perojpur by pass road.

Md Jalilur Rahman Pramanik
Executive Engineer
Road Division, Perojpur

DDP-11410-4/5
G-728

LGED Tender Notice
Tender No. 14/94-95

Itemwise tender with analysis is hereby invited in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 under sealed cover from Local Government Engineering Directorate enlisted contractor/contractor firm (as per financial capacity) for the undermentioned 2 (two) project implementation in Feni district during 1994-95 financial year under Rural Infrastructure Development (development of important roads & markets) Project 2nd part under the Local Government Engineering Directorate. This notice short details can be obtained by contacting the office of the Superintending Engineer (Maintenance), LGED, 4/5, Lalmatia, Block-B, Dhaka-1207; Executive Engineer, LGED, Noakhali/Laxmipur; Thana Engineer, LGED, Parashuram/Daganbhuiyan; and the undersigned on all working days during office hours.

Sl. No.	Name & situation of project	Price of tender schedule	Time limit for completion of work	Category of contractor
1.	Development of Road with HBB from North Guthuma Chowdhury Bazar to Parashuram	2,500/-	90 days	A & A special class
2.	Development of Tulatuli/Raghunathpur Road with HBB	2,000/-	60 days	All class except 'C'

- Earnest money: At the rate 2.50% on quoted value should be submitted in the form of pay-order/BD/DD etc. in favour of Executive Engineer, LGED, Feni with the tender.
- Time limit for purchase of tender document: 17-5-95 up to office hours, to be purchased in cash at prescribed price (non-refundable).
- Time of submitting & opening tender: 20-5-95 up to 1-00 PM & same day at 3-00 PM, respectively.
- Place of purchasing tender document: Office of the Superintending Engineer (Maintenance), LGED, 4/5, Lalmatia, Block-B, Dhaka-1207; Executive Engineer, LGED, Noakhali/Laxmipur; Thana Engineer, Parashuram/Daganbhuiyan & City Bank Ltd, Feni branch, Feni.
- Place of purchasing tender: Office of the Superintending Engineer (Maintenance), LGED, 4/5, Lalmatia, Block-B, Dhaka-1207; Executive Engineer, LGED, Noakhali/Laxmipur; Thana Engineer, LGED, Parashuram/Daganbhuiyan; and the undersigned.
- "Work Schedule" must be submitted with the tender, failing which tender will be treated as cancelled outright.
- The authority reserves the right to accept any tender or reject all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

DDP-11327-4/5
G-734

Md Mahfuzur Rahman
Executive Engineer
LGED, Feni.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Local Government Engineering Directorate
District-Sylhet

Memo No. LGED/EE/Sylhet/RIDP/16-12/94-95/3040
Dated: 23-04-95

Tender Notice
No. 37/RIDP/94-95

Tenders are invited from LGED-enlisted (having financial capacity) & regular contractors/contractor firms having prequalification of all projects under LGED for implementation of the undermentioned projects under Rural Infrastructure Development (development of important roads & markets) project during 1994-95 financial year in Sylhet district under Local Government Engineering Directorate. Tender schedule can be purchased from the Office of the Superintending Engineer (Maintenance), LGED, 4/5 Lalmatia, Block-B, Dhaka-1207, office of the undersigned, Office of the Executive Engineer, LGED, district-Habiganj, Moulvibazar, Sunamganj & all Thana Engineer's offices in this district on cash payment (non-refundable) up to office hours of 18-05-95. Tenders will be received in the prescribed box kept at the Office of the Superintending Engineer (Maintenance), LGED, 4/5 Lalmatia, Block-B, Dhaka-1207, Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, office of the undersigned, Office of the Executive Engineer, LGED, district-Habiganj, Moulvibazar, Sunamganj & Offices of the Thana Engineers in this district up to 1-30 PM of 20-05-95 and opened on the same day at 2-00 PM before the tenders (if any) present. Earnest money at the rate 2.50% (two & half per cent) should be submitted in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any scheduled commercial bank (branch within Sylhet municipal area) in favour of the undersigned with the tender. Itemwise rate in clear figures & words should be quoted in the tender and itemwise rate analysis should be submitted. Contractor/contractor firm participating in the tender must submit list, contract value, time of completion & present progress of all the schemes implemented/under implementation by him/it during the preceding 3 (three) years. Tender received from contractor/contractor firm having past experience of same type bridge construction & similar work will be considered on preferential basis. Work schedule for completion of itemwise each phase of work should be submitted with the tender. Income Tax clearance certificate & VAT registration certificate of 1993-94 financial year should be submitted with the tender. Non-compliance of any or more of the above terms & conditions will render the submitted tender as cancelled. VAT & Income Tax will be deducted from the bill as per Govt. rules. For LGED's office of the work, the contractor shall have to get necessary numbers of laboratory tests done at his own expense from qualified/this office nominated laboratory and without satisfactory work supported by test results, no bill will be paid. Detailed information may be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

Scheme No.	Name of scheme	Price of schedule (Taka)	Time for implementation (day)
RIDP-07/94-95	Construction of one 105.10 M long RCC (cast-in-situ pile foundation) bridge on Betu canal at chainage 6258.00 meter of Gopalganj-Amura-Bianibazar Road under Gopalganj thana of Sylhet district.	3000 (Three thousand)	345 (Three hundred fortyfive)
RIDP-08/94-95	Construction of one 39.05 M long RCC (cast-in-situ pile foundation) bridge on Kallujan canal at chainage 9490.00 meter of Gopalganj-Amura-Bianibazar Road under Gopalganj thana of Sylhet district.	2500 (Two thousand five hundred)	300 (Three hundred)

DDP-11177-3/5
G-729

Md Loqman Hakim
Executive Engineer
LGED, Sylhet