

## Road link in CHT suspended for indefinite period

From CHT Correspondent

KHAGRACHHARI, Aug 21: No vehicles will ply on Khagrachhari-Panchhari route from August 19 to an indefinite period as decided by the three concerned bodies protesting the alleged extortion of tolls by stopping the vehicles, regularly assaulting the staff and ransacking the transports by a group of young tribal terrorists.

The signatories of the press-release alleged that they have been facing extreme insecurity in movement of their vehicles as terrorism in all the conventional and non-conventional ways stepped up by an identified group of young tribal terrorists.

As the concerned administration did not heed to solve the problem after informing a lot of times formally, the bodies related to the movement of vehicles were compelled to decide so, regretting the public inconvenience.

The press-release distributed to the concerned authorities including the working journalists was signed by Mahbul Alam, General Secretary of Khagrachhari Transport Workers Union, Abdul Latif Chowdhury, General Secretary, Khagrachhari Transport Owners Association and Md Younus, General Secretary of the Drivers Co-operative Society.

## Govt officials from SAARC nations attend study tour programme

COMILLA, Aug 21: The inaugural session of a study tour programme for eight additional and joint secretaries working for rural development in SAARC countries namely India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka was held at the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Comilla on August 19, 1995. The seven-day programme will end on August 25, 1995. M Khairul Kabir, Director (Rural Sociology) and Ranjan Kumar Guha, Asst. Director (Trg) of BARD are working as the Director and Asst. Director of the programme. The programme is being coordinated by Md Abdul Qudus, Additional Director General and In-Charge (Training) of BARD, says a press release.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, Director General, BARD. In his inaugural speech, Dr Ahmed mentioned that the senior officials had come to Bangladesh with lot of experiences in their own situation and they would be exposed to the Bangladeshi situation through this study tour programme. He hoped that with the active participation of the officials, the programme would be successful.

## Dadpur picnic spot lies in ruins

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 21: A picnic spot at village Dadpur in Rajganj thana on Dhaka-Dinajpur highway have long been neglected and the visitors are discouraged in absence of any sort of facility.

It is gathered that in 1960, a resting and picnic spot was established at Dadpur by the Roads Department on about 2.5 acres of land. It had concrete benches, concrete umbrellas, a mango garden, a pond and a tubewell by the side of North Bengal Highway. The department also appointed a caretaker-cum-gardener to look after the spot.

During the War of Liberation the Pak Army felled a number of trees of the garden. At present the tubewell has been stolen and the concrete benches and umbrellas are being damaged. The pond has dried up and the pucca stairs of the ghat have collapsed.

The ramshackle condition of the spot does not attract any rest seekers or picnic parties. The ongoing construction works of the Vishwa Road have increased the importance of the place. But the spot remains uncared for as yet.

While this correspondent visited the spot, local people alleged that the gardener-cum-caretaker never carries out his duties, rather he remains busy with the household works of a staff of the concerned department.

Interested people have urged the authority to renovate the picnic and resting corner by re-excavating the pond and installing at least two new tubewells. They also demanded the full time service of the spot staff for safeguarding its assets.



SIRAJGANJ: A COMMON SCENE: Overloading, carrying passengers on roof-tops of buses, is a regular feature in Sirajganj-Bogra route. — Star photo

## Modern printing technology yet not introduced in G'bandha

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Aug 21: Computer compose and off-set printing process are yet to be introduced in Gaibandha. The printing sector of the district is still lying in the same condition as it was during the British rule.

In Gaibandha district those who are involved in printing business have not, as yet, opted for installation of modern printing technology despite appeals from different corners.

Meanwhile, Bogra the neighbouring district has gone for computer technology in printing business since 1986. Since the introduction of computer compose in Bogra the customers from surrounding areas are rushing to Bogra to get their materials have composed through computers and printed in off-set press. Soon computer printing business became the monopoly in Bogra.

Due to smooth road communication, institutes, business houses, and government officials are now placing orders in Bogra just for a clean and decent print. Thus, the entire printing market of Gaibandha has been captured by the printers in Bogra.

In Gaibandha, a total of 25 old printing presses have been working with their traditional letter compose process through either traddle or flat machine that never produce any quality results.

Being dissatisfied the customers are forced to run to Bogra to get their materials printed. Traditional printing press owners of this district have been facing a dull business since the development of modern technology as they get poor response from the customers.

Over 100 workers are en-

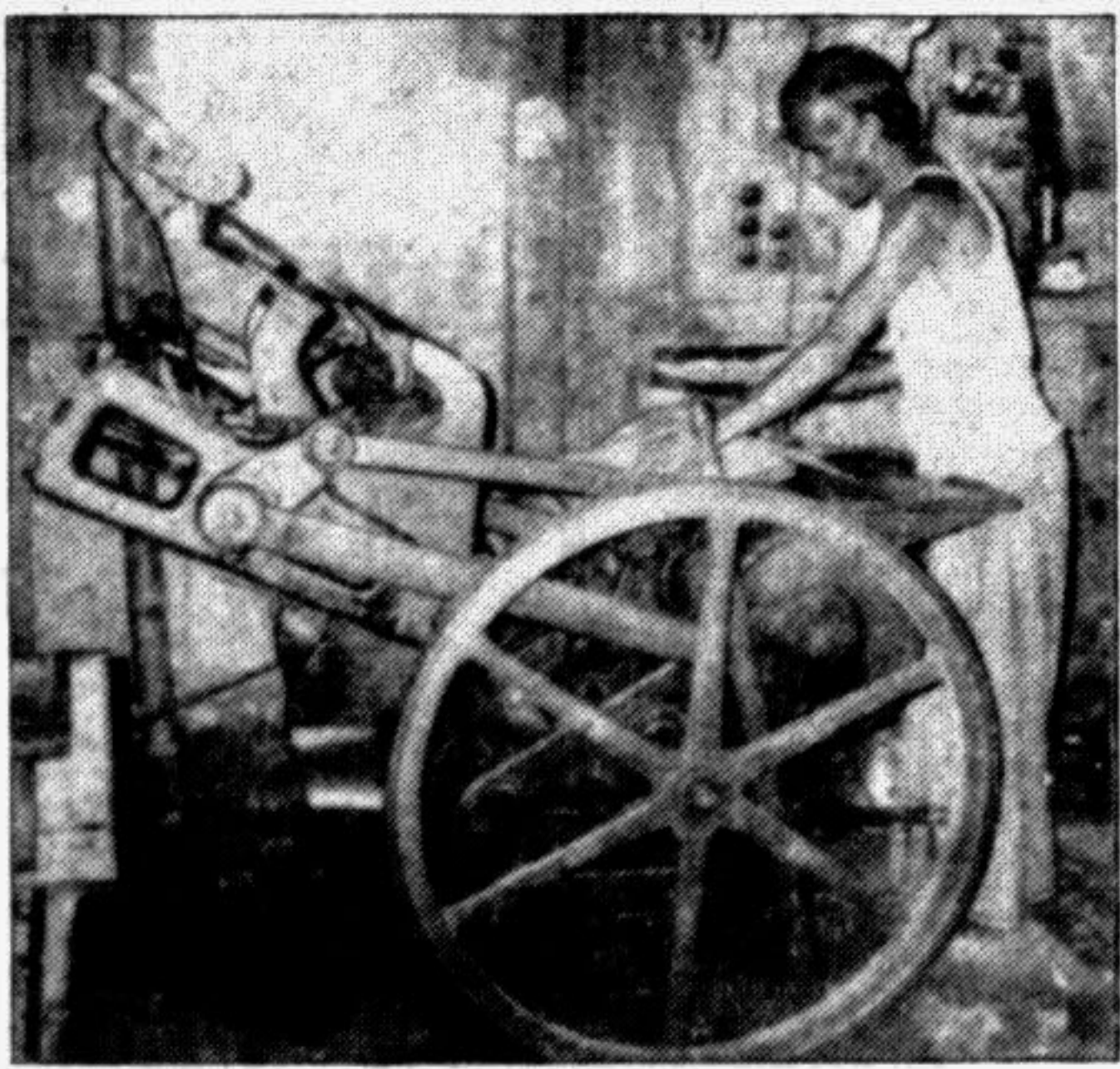
gaged in Gaibandha printing industries. The poor workers have no alternative source of income other than printing work. But due to poor output the owners of printing press can not afford to employ labourers and are unable to pay their wages.

When contacted, some of the owners of printing press told this correspondent that obviously they can not compete with computer technology. Moreover, they do not have enough capital to invest for a modern printing press. The owners do not get any cooperation from banks either. As a result, they are not in a position to run business or develop it as well. They also inform that computer technology already changed the taste of people. Accordingly the demand for letter press productions is decre-

asing day by day in Gaibandha.

Meanwhile two *bidi* factories in Gaibandha have set up off-set printing press for their own purpose but they did not introduce computer compose due to lack of skilled manpower and other equipment. They make printing plate from Bogra through computer compose and get the final print at their own press.

On contact the owners of a *bidi* factories pointed out that if they set up computer compose and plate processing equipment it will require more skilled manpower and quite a heavy financial resources. Besides, if they do not receive adequate printing orders, in that case, it will be hard to maintain such an establishment. So they gave up the idea of introducing computer technology.



GAIBANDHA: The age-old method of printing is still widespread in the district. — Star photo

## Over 4 lakh saplings planted in Satkhira

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Aug 21: An intensive afforestation programme under Thana Afforestation and Nursery Programme undertaken by the District Forest Department, Satkhira, has been implemented in seven thanas of the district during the 1994-95 financial year.

The thanas are Kalaroa, Tala, Debhata, Assassuni, Kalgong, Shyamnagar and sadar.

The forest officer sources said, about four lakh saplings were planted in 20 km connecting roads and five km embankment. It also planted 27,000 saplings in different institutions that include mosques, temples, churches, schools, colleges, *madrashas* and different government offices in the district during the period.

According to a source, about 32,000 saplings were planted in two km connecting roads in sadar thana, about 96,000 saplings in six-km connecting roads in Tala, about 80,000 saplings in five-km connecting roads in Kalaroa, about 1,12,000 saplings in seven-km connecting roads in Assassuni and about 90,000 saplings in five-km embankment in Debhata thana during the last year.

The sources further disclosed that 16,000 saplings were planted in different institutions in sadar thana, 3,000 saplings in Tala, 1,000 saplings in Assassuni, 2,000 saplings in Kalaroa, 3,000 saplings in Shyamnagar and 1,000 saplings each in Debata and Kalgong thana of the district during the period.

The District Forest Office, Satkhira has undertaken a programme to plant trees in 30-km connecting roads and eight-km embankment.

## Bank manager sued for alleged harassment of client

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Aug 21: The Senior Assistant Judge, Pabna Sadar, upon preliminary hearing of a suit filed by advocate Sanat Kumar Sarkar of Pabna against the manager of Uttara Bank, Pabna Branch, issued a show-cause notice.

The manager of the bank passed an ad-interim order to stop receiving money against the DPS Account No 351. The order was mandatory upon the plaintiff.

The manager of the bank was asked to show cause before the court as to why the impugned letter issued by him upon the holder of the Account No 351, Advocate Sanat Kumar Sarkar, on July 27, 1995, would not be declared to be motivated, ill-conceived and illegal.

The case, in brief, is that on March 10, 1991, the plaintiff opened a DPS account with the Uttara Bank, Pabna Branch on a 10-year term for Tk 500 a month and he was regularly depositing the money.

On one occasion, however, the plaintiff could deposit the money within the stipulated date, but afterwards, as per rules, he deposited the money along with necessary interest. Since then, he, however, never made any delay in paying monthly instalments. The bank was also receiving the deposits, as per rules without any objections.

But, the plaintiff complained, the defendant issued a letter on July 27, 1995 upon the plaintiff saying that the aforesaid DPS Account should be closed since he violated the provision of Rules 4 and 8 of the agreement.

The rules mentioned above state that the monthly deposit must be made by the 8th of every month. The rules, however, further proved that in case of any delay in depositing, the account holder will have to pay due interest along with the monthly deposit. The plaintiff submits that hence, the letter be declared illegal.

## Call to transfer management of Kaptai lake

From CHT Correspondent

RANGAMATI, Aug 21: Chairman Parizat Kushum Chakma urged the government to transfer the management of the Kaptai lake with Rangamati Hill District Local Government Council to save the fishermen from the financial oppression of the middle-men and for the flourishing fisheries sector and fish resources in one of the biggest man-made lake of Asia continent.

The chairman made this call while inaugurating Fish Fortnight '95 at Shilpa Kala Academy auditorium in the town on Wednesday morning. He also said that special project for the development of Kaptai fish resources with an amount of Taka 5.25 crore has already been approved.

In observance of Fish Fortnight '95 in Rangamati for the third consecutive years like all other places in the country, a tremendous response has developed among the people of this district and people have accepted it as a social movement realising its necessity at individuals and national upliftment. Parizat observed.

Expressing his concern over the miseries of the fishermen of Kaptai lake and assuring all possible assistance from his end, the chairman said that the middle-men and money-lenders of the lake are getting the half of the catch from the poor and marginal fishermen whereas the bonafide fishermen and the Kaptai lake management, development and marketing project of Bangladesh Fisheries

Development Corporation, a lease-holder of the lake are getting at the rate of 25 per cent of the total catch, depriving the half-fed and unfed fishermen.

The approved fisheries development project at a cost of Taka 5.25 crore will nurture the fish fries imported from the other parts of the country as the fluctuating Kaptai lake water is reportedly adverse for hatching fish-fries, chairman added.

Jointly organized by the district Fisheries Directorate, Fisheries Research Institute and Kaptai Lake Fisheries Development, Management and Marketing Project in the fish Fortnight '95 Muzammad Itasan, the Deputy Commissioner of district said, as special guest in the function, pisciculture in the district has been concentrated within the Kaptai lake due to absence of private waterbodies in the district. In comparison with the previous years illegal extraction of fish from the lake has been declined because of the increasing awareness among the people and effective vigilance of the lake project authority, he said. Hasan urged the people to increase the pisciculture and assured his co-operation in innovation of fish culture to ensure sufficient supply of protein.

Rafiqul Islam Chowdhury, the Project Manager of Kaptai Lake Management, Development and Marketing Project said, it is not possible to flourish the pisciculture in the lake if we can not associate the people with it.

## 5 commit suicide in 48 hrs

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Aug 21: Five persons including an old man committed suicide in 48 hours in Jhenidah district recently, it is learnt.

According to reports, Sarabdi Mandal, 70, of village Majumderpara in Saikupa, committed suicide by taking pesticides on August 18.

Manwara Khatun, 32, wife of Basir Mandal of village Chandipur in the same thana committed suicide by taking pesticides on the same day, police sources said.

Another report says, Babita Khatun, 16, an unmarried young girl of village Hatfajipur in the same thana committed suicide by taking pesticides on the day.

According to another report, China Khatun, 19, of village Depholbaria in Jhenidah sadar thana committed suicide by taking pesticides while Rahimunnissa, 70, of village Khajura in same thana of the district committed suicide by hanging herself on August 17. Family troubles were mainly liable for these suicide cases, police said.

Separate unnatural death (UD) cases were filed with respective thanas.

It may be noted here that, number of suicide cases rose to 107 in Saikupa thana of the district till August 18.

## Hide business causing health hazard in Satkhira

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Aug 21: Storage and processing of the raw hides of animals in residential areas of Satkhira pourashava have been causing extreme inconvenience to the people of the areas and the pedestrians.

It spreads a bad scent when the raw skins are salted in open space adjacent to houses and roads. Bad smell emits all over in the area causing health hazard to the people of the town. The situation turns worst every year after Eid-ul-Azha when unscrupulous skin traders start collection of raw skins from different areas and preserve those here and there in the town.

The skin dealers have even constructed sheds in the residential areas for keeping the raw skins which they collect daily from different places.

Dwellers urged upon the authorities concerned to ensure appropriate steps to stop the activities of the unscrupulous skin dealers for the sake of public health and sanitation.

## RHDLCG repeats appeal to enhance budget

From CHT Correspondent

RANGAMATI, Aug 21: The Rangamati Hill District Local Government Council (RHDLCG) has repeated its appeal to the government to enhance annual budget in light of proposed budget submitted earlier amounting to Taka 6.42 crore considering the present concept of the insurgency battered district for 1995-96 in the regular monthly meeting held recently chaired by Parizat Kushum Chakma, chairman of RHDLCG.

The government has allocated Taka 1.85 crore as annual budget of RHDLCG for 1995-96. Excluding the establishment expenditure of RHDLCG, an amount of Taka 42 lakh was kept in the development sector of RHDLCG budget for 1995-96 but the RHDLCG approving unanimously had proposed the government to sanction the development budget at Taka 2.60 crore. Arunendu Tripura, the Public Relation officer of RHDLCG told The Daily Star.

Alongside, carrying out of general development activities, the RHDLCG has been performing the rehabilitation of activities of insurgents, repatriated tribal refugees, internally displaced people of the district from the fund of the development budget, Arunendu added.

## Miscreants break open into coop office

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Aug 21: Some unknown miscreants broke the door of the Saikupa Thana Central Co-operative Association (STCCA) in the night of August 16, entered into the office and broke all the six almirahs. They didn't, however, loot anything, according to STCCA sources.

A general diary (GD) was lodged with Saikupa thana in this connection but police couldn't find the motive of the incident.

## Various uplift projects in progress in M'bazar

From Our Correspondent

MOULVI BAZAR, Aug 21: Different departments and agencies of the government are implementing 18 projects and schemes at a cost of Taka 38.58 crore.

These projects taken up during 1994-95 financial year are being implemented in Moulvibazar sadar, Rajnagar, Kulawra, Baralekha, Srimongal and Kamalgong thanas of the district.

According to sources, some of the projects have been financed by Asian Development Bank (ADB), European Economic Council (EEC), Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). The projects included construction and reconstruction of primary schools, *madrasa* and college and hospital buildings and construction, reconstruction or repairing of roads, culverts, bridges and embankments.

According to a source in Facilities Department of the ministry of Education, they have taken up a large scale development programme of 19 educational institutions of the district with an expenditure of Taka 3.60 crore.

A source of Facilities Department, Moulvibazar Zonal Office said, ten government primary schools has been taken up for construction of new buildings. All of the schools under this schemes are located at sadar thana. Total expenditure for the scheme was estimated at

Taka 49.30 lakh. Work of the schemes is expected to be completed by September next.

Under 'Secondary Education Development Project' the Facilities Department has taken up six *madrashas* of the district for development with an expenditure of Taka 46.90 lakh. About 90 per cent work of the Project has already been completed and rest is expected to be completed by October next.

Facilities Department have also taken up another scheme to construct a hostel building and an auditorium for Moulvibazar Government College. Taka one crore for hostel building and Taka 62 lakh 18 thousand for the auditorium has been sanctioned from the fund of the government. The scheme is expected to be completed by June 1996, the source said.

Besides this, under the development programme of 80 degree colleges across the country, a three-storied science building of Moulvibazar Government College with an expenditure of Taka 51.75 lakh have already been completed by Facilities Department recently.

Meanwhile, the Facilities Department has taken up a separate scheme to construct Administrative buildings of Rajnagar Degree College and Moulvibazar Women's College. Taka 25 lakh has been sanctioned for each college to

implement the project. According to scheme, 'Two-storied' building containing six rooms will be built in each college. Work of the scheme is expected to be completed by December next.

Another report said, Public Works Department (PWD) has been implementing a scheme to develop Srimongal fifty-bed hospital with an expenditure of Taka 52 lakh, financed by the European Economic Council (EEC). Repair works of the existing old buildings, connection of water and Electricity Supply was included in the scheme.

Besides this, reconstruction and repairing work of Srimongal, Kulawra and Rajnagar Thana Health Complexes have been taken up by PWD. More than Taka 1.09 crore was sanctioned for the programme. The programme financed by EEC has recently been completed.

The Ministry of Health have taken up a project to construct new buildings in ten 'Rural Health sub-centres' with an estimated cost of more than Taka two crore. EEC has been financing the project. The sub-centres are expected to be completed by December next.

Under another scheme, repairing and extension work of Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital building involving Taka 1.39 crore have already been completed recently.

Meanwhile, Water Development Board (WDB), Moulvibazar Division-1, has completed a portion of Moulvibazar Town Flood Protection Project. The project was financed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) involving Taka 2.63 crore. The project included construction of two km long embankment by Monu river, protection of 0.75 km long river bank by dumping boulders and construction of 0.39 km pucca flood wall.

Besides this, 5.22 km long embankment on the left bank of the river Monu from Tarapasa to Premnagar under Rajnagar thana of the district have been completed by WDB with an expenditure Taka 91 lakh sanctioned from government's own resources.

The Roads and Highway Department (R&H) has taken up a project to construct three bridges on Rajnagar-Fenchugonj road. Taka three crore has been sanctioned for the project, which is expected to be completed by December 1995.

The R & H has also completed six schemes of different road development with an expenditure of Taka 11.85 crore under 'Annual Development Programme'.

According to another reports, the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), Moulvibazar office has completed four schemes of road development under Rural Development Project-3.

They have constructed 3.30 km long Dighirpar-Kagabola road five km long Brahmabazar-Fenchugonj road, 2.25 km long Srimongal-Sindur Khar road and 10.25 km long Dighirpar-Shamsgeronj road. Estimated expenditure of the scheme was Taka 4.50 crore.

Another 90 schemes involving construction of bridges and culverts worth Taka 4.73 lakh also have been completed by the LGED. Total length of culverts and bridges under the scheme of North-East Irrigation Project are 637.71 metre, the LGED source said.

The source added that another 12 schemes under the same project involving Taka 43.59 lakh are expected to be completed by September 1996.

In another project, the LGED has completed the development work of 50.201 km roads at the expense of 855.474 metric tons of wheat.

The LGED officials also added that under Rural Development Project-3, they have been constructing a 80 metre long bridge on Gujra river. Taka 83 lakh has been allocated for the bridge.

It is alleged that works in some cases, especially in cases of building construction, are too interior. It is alleged that standard of the work is yet to be maintained. Most of the small schemes or projects have been implemented by sub-contractors

who are appointed by contractors. Contractors are busy with more than one projects at a time, it is learnt.

An expert in building construction sector told The Daily Star that a trend have developed among the registered contractors recently that they participate in the tender bid with five per cent less than the quoted rate mentioned in the project schedule. He also added that, contractors have joined hands in this regard. So the authorities concerned are compelled to select the contractor through lottery.

When contacted with an engineer, working at the Zonal Office of Facilities Department, Moulvibazar, agreed that, most of the tender submitted were given at five per cent less than the quoted price. But, the engineer denied the idea that standard of construction works are affected for this trend.

A contractor, who was appointed for building construction under Facilities Department told The Daily Star that the market price of house building materials was lower when they participated in the tender. But after receiving of work order, prices of iron-rod, and cement have increased. When asked — is this situation hampering the quality of work, which was alleged by the people, the contractor avoided answering the question.