

Flash flood in Rangpur: Road link seriously disrupted

From Our Correspondent
RANGPUR, Sept 29: The flash flood accompanied with the incessant rainfall paralysed the normal life of the people of the district recently.

The rainfall was recorded at 200 millimeter in the last three days.

A vast track of paddy-field, large number of houses and roads in the low-lying areas were inundated, according to reports received from various sources.

Meanwhile, the prices of the daily essential commodities shot up beyond the purchasing capacity of the common people due to disruption of communication causing an immense suffering to them.

Cyclone hits Natore: Properties worth Tk 5 crore damaged

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Sept. 29: At least 20 persons were injured, 300 houses damaged and trees about 2000, small and large, were uprooted in a devastating cyclone which lashed over the union parishad Boraigram in Boraigram thana of the district yesterday.

The district administration claimed the loss of properties would be about Taka 5 crore.

Woman killed in road mishap

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 29: A young woman was killed and 10 others sustained injuries in a road mishap yesterday at Chandakona in Raiganj thana of the district, police and hospital sources said.

The victim was identified as Monowara Khatun, 28.

The injured were admitted to Raiganj hospital.

According to police and eye-witnesses, a bus bearing number Dhaka-Metro Ka-0200242 on the way to Dhaka from Sayedpur skidded off the road due to heavy down-pour at noon yesterday. Which caused the death of the woman.

A case was lodged with the Raiganj police.

Minor child dies eating poisonous rice in Faridpur

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Sept 29: A minor child died of poisoning here recently.

It was reported that the child Amena, 4, daughter of Mobarik Kazi of village Mallikpur in Kotwali thana took insecticide mixed rice kept by her mother at the corner of a bed-room in order to kill rats.

The victim fell unconscious after eating the rice. She was immediately rushed to Faridpur General Hospital where she died just after admission.

One sentenced to 5 yrs RI for smuggling

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Sept 29: Ruhul Amin Khondoker, Assistant Session Judge Satkhira Convicted Rabul Islam of village Jhikra under Kalaroa thana and sentenced him to suffer rigorous imprisonment for five years on charge of possessing Indian phensedyl syrup bottles recently.

Rabul Islam while coming from India with 25 bottles of phensedyl syrup, was caught red handed by BDR personnel from Betia village under sadar thana on June 11, 1994.

Road accidents claim one, another injured

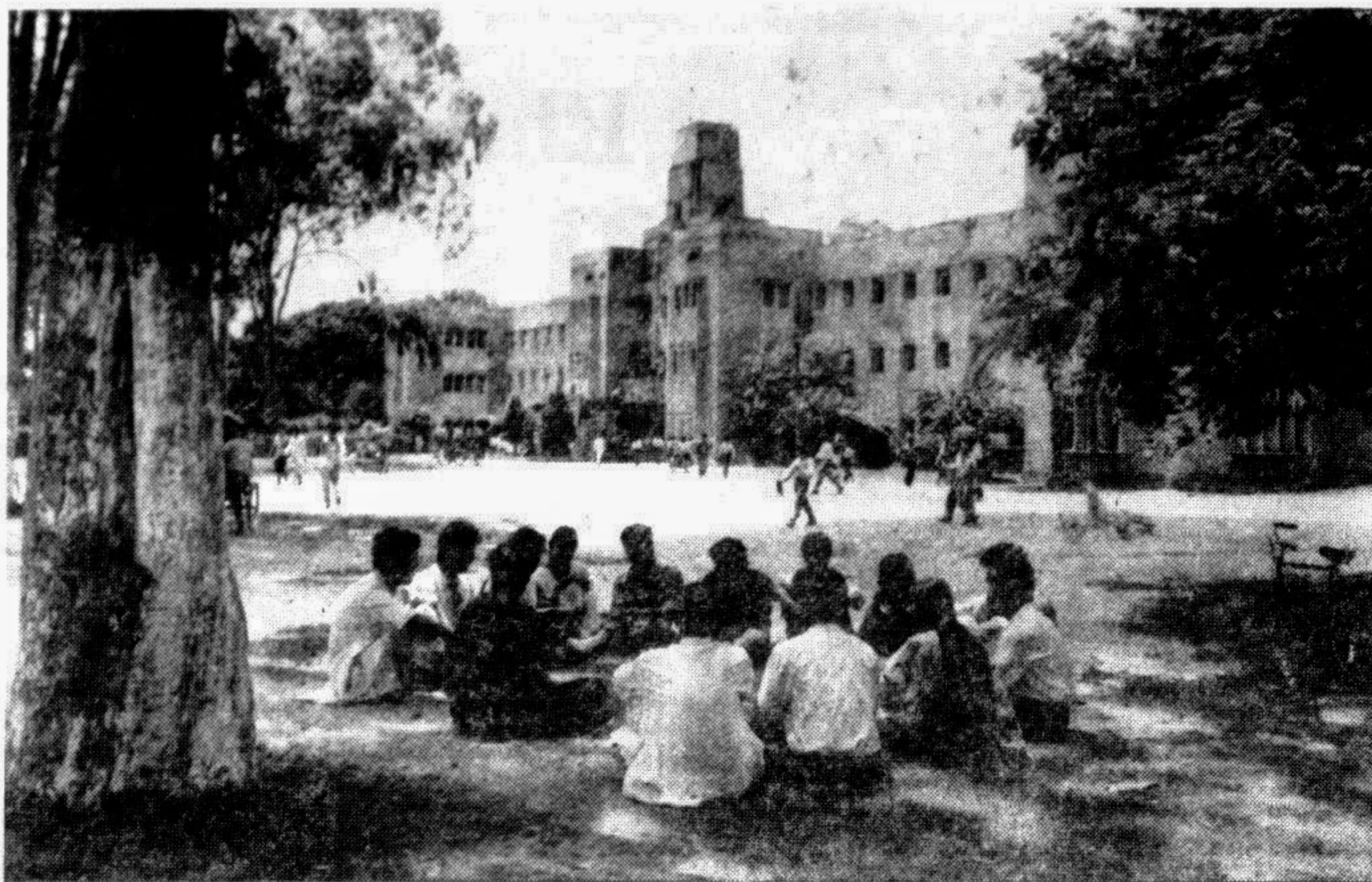
From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Sept 29: Two persons were killed and six other persons were severely injured in a road accident at Ranibhati Bazar in Chapai Nawabganj recently.

The deceased were identified as Sultan, 35 and Abu Baker, 30 of Mehedipar village under Shibganj thana.

According to police, a truck (Bogra-Ta-8183) loaded with wooden furniture was heading for Kansat to join a fair. Suddenly the driver lost control and the truck fell into a nearby ditch beside the road and turned turtle.

Khairul, the truck-driver, has no driving license, managed to flee, police sources said.



RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY: A partial view of the university campus. The picture shows a group of students gossiping in the campus where a peaceful atmosphere has been prevailing since its re-opening on September 20.

— Star photo

Khagrachhari Forest Division earns Tk 3.63 crore revenue in 1994-95

From CHT Correspondent

KHAGRACHHARI, Sept 29: Imposing restrictions on removing of trees from the Unclassed State Forest (USF) land and transiting the forest produces outside the district, the Khagrachhari Forest Division has earned an amount of Taka 3.63 crore as revenue in 1994-95, officials said.

The transit of timbers under the cover of royalty permit, extracted from the USF land, the Khagrachhari Forest Division (KFD) has earned the revenue charging royalty on average five times higher than the government modified scheduled rate against the timbers extracted from the USF land through compounding after assessment as per market rate performing the official procedures, official sources explained.

The royalty permit is issued by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of the district for extraction of timbers from the USF land of his jurisdiction to extractors considering the prevailing circumstances on payment of government scheduled royalty at the rate which varies from Taka 40 to Taka 100 per cubic feet (cft), effecting from June, 1994. Earlier, the rate of royalty of timbers was fixed at Taka 2.50 to Taka 7.50 per cft according to classification of timbers, officials said.

Timber extracted from the personal land of anybody and transited out under the cover of free permit, locally known as 'jot permit' for marketing or use, are free from payment of any kind of royalty. It is free from all re-

spect in the process from beginning to end, officials stated.

The free permit better known as, jot permit, is issued on the resolution of the District Forest Committee, headed by the DC, comprising of the representatives from the different agencies in the district, including the responsible representative from the Forest Department, sources said.

The transit of timbers in the authority of free permit was also discouraged as the unscrupulous traders were very much active in transiting out timbers, extracted either from the USF land or the government reserved forests instead of the jot permit issued for, officials alleged.

Despite a lot of natural odds and prevailing insurgency problem, KFD has completed raising of plantation on an area of 1,110 acres of denuded land in the hillock of Chittagong Hill Tracts region this year with about 14 lakh seedlings of different types of valuable species including stumps of teak, said M A Baten, the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of KFD.

KFD, a Division, out of the six in the Rangamati Forest Circle, has also distributed four lakh seedlings of valuable trees like, mehaguni, teak, champaful, jarul, chapalish, gamar, telsur and korai and of fruit bearing plants, such as, jack-fruit, guava, lemon, papaya, coconut etc raised in seven nurseries centres at a nominal price among the in-

terested planters, individuals, and different institutions during the recently completed tree plantation season, Baten said.

Plantation activities in KFD have attracted the attention of the general mass of the district. In a bid to take as much area as possible under the tree cover, an all out efforts under tree plantation schemes have been undertaken to achieve the objectives of planting more and more trees in the USF land as well as land owned by the government agencies like the cantonment, Local Government Council and municipality, DFO said, adding that those agencies have planted seedlings by themselves distributed by the Forest Department.

While detailing on plantation and impact of forestry activities on the socio-economic condition of local tribal people, Baten told The Daily Star that this year afforestation on an area of 555 acres in Jugalchhari and Dul-dula mouza of Panchhari range and 560 acres at Bailyachhari in Matiranga range were completed by June last which was started early April this year.

About 400 tribal plantation-workers, employed, have been working around the year under supervision of the forest officials, which has ensured their economical solvency, DFO said, adding that they have now been carrying out weed removing task in the plantation zone.

Under the Jhumia Rehabilitation Scheme in 1994-

95, a total of 50 tribal families of nomadic nature have been rehabilitated, 15 at Alutilla in Khagrachhari sadar, 15 at Jugalchhari in Panchhari range as well as 20 families at Bailyachhari in Matiranga range of KFD spending an amount of Taka 7.5 lakh at the initial stage.

Each family was provided with five acres of USF land, constructing a dwelling house on it, raising a horticulture plantation as well as vegetable garden on it. In addition to that, the adult members are employed in forestry activities, allowing them to apply 'Taungya' method - inter-cropping agriculture with forestry species for one or two years, the DFO said.

Established in 1985, KFD has so far raised plantation on an area of 6,700 acres of land with stumps of teak and seedlings of valuable species of trees numbering about 82 lakh. It has brought the denuded hills under plantation cover of 1,610 acres overcoming a lot of natural hazards and man-made problems in the insurgency-battered zone of Chittagong Hill Tracts region in 93-94, officials said.

The Timber Traders Welfare Association of Khagrachhari hill district has raised a plantation of different valuable species on an area of 200 acres at Alutilla, five kilometers from Khagrachhari district town, besides Khagrachhari-Chittagong highways under the supervision of KFD this year after raising six acres successful plantation last year, the sources said.

14 held for carrying phensedyl in 51 days

From Our Correspondent

JEHNIDAH, Sept 29: One thousand and twelve bottles of banned phensedyl syrup was recovered and 14 persons were arrested by Jhenidah police in last 51 days, it was learnt.

According to reports, acting on a secret information, Jhenidah police stopped a Dhaka-bound night coach near Hatgopalpur in sadar thana at about 10.30 pm on August 1 and recovered 581 bottles of banned phensedyl syrup from the coach No Dhaka Metro-Ba-02-0057. Police arrested the driver Ayub Ali, helper Noor Islam, Abu Taleb and Akij Fakir in this connection, police said.

On August 14 Jhenidah police raided the house of Mahir Khora of Arappur in the town at about 10.40 pm and recovered 48 bottles of the banned syrup. Police arrested Rabeya Khatun and Mahir Khora for their alleged involvement of keeping phensedyl syrup.

On the same night at about 11.40 pm police raided the house of Israil Hossain at Arappur and recovered 19 bottles of the banned item and arrested him, police said.

Police sources also informed that on September 4 they stopped a Dhaka-bound night coach of Soheli Paribahan from HSS Road in the town and recovered 103 bottles of phensedyl syrup from the bus No. Dhaka Metro Ba-02-0635 at about 9.30 pm. Police arrested Aleya Khatun, Rahima Khatun, Sahera Khatun and Roksana in this connection. The arrested disclosed to police that they were the only bearers of the bottles, police informed.

Sources also informed that they stopped a Patuakhali-bound night coach No. Dhaka-Cha-2981 near HSS Road at about 9.30 am and recovered 90 bottles of banned syrup. Police arrested Amirunnessa for carrying the same.

September 21 police stopped a Dhaka-bound day coach of Druti Paribahan No. Dhaka Metro-Ba-02-0356 at about 10.40 am and recovered 101 bottles of the syrup and arrested Mahfuzul Islam Shapan, a student of Mahtab Uddin Degree College for carrying the syrup. Police later arrested Shapan's associate, Prakash Saha, in this connection, police sources said.

Earlier on August 31 Jhenidah thana police seized 50 bottles of phensedyl syrup from a Patuakhali-

Sixty committed suicide in one yr in Gopalganj

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Sept 29: A man was sentenced to suffer life term for murdering his wife in a judgement read out by District and Sessions Judge A T M Fazley Kabir on September 20. The judgement also fined the accused an amount of Taka 1000 and in default to suffer six more months of rigorous imprisonment.

The accused, Rostum Ali of Kuptola village under Gaibandha sadar thana suffocated his wife, Shaimun Begum, to death on the night of May 1993, following a long standing family disagreement. A case was filed the next day with Gaibandha sadar thana.

After examining the witnesses and evidence, Rostum was found guilty as charged.

Restoration of honours course demanded

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Sept 27: Honours course implementation committee of Gaibandha Government College brought out a protest procession on September 20 demanding restoration of honours course in Gaibandha college.

The procession paraded college campus and later a rally was held where the leaders called upon the concerned authority to take immediate step for the implementation of the course.

Later the student leaders met with the college principal and Deputy Commissioner of Gaibandha individually.

They also assured to make all possible communication with education ministry and related authority on the issue of implementing the demand. It may be mentioned here that few years back a single honours course on Bengali was opened at Gaibandha College but it was closed down due to shortage of adequate teachers and others essentials item.

Husband jailed for smothering wife to death

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, Sept 29: A total of 60 people allegedly committed suicide in 21 union parishads of Gopalganj sadar thana during the last one year, according to the Gopalganj thana police.

Of the total, 40 people committed suicide by drinking pesticides, 11 by hanging themselves, one by getting himself electrocuted and eight persons by other means and methods.

Forty-five of the sixty persons were females and the rest fifteen were males. Family feud and failure in love were said to be the main causes of the suicide. The sixty, self assassins included teen-aged girls, young men and house-wives.

The latest victims of 60 self-assassins were Shikha Rani Biswas, 18, of village Raghunathpur two kilometers from the Gopalganj district headquarters. She allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself to a small tree branch as she had been barred in keeping relation with a co-village youngster.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Superintending Engineer, RHD
Bridge Design Circle, West
Sarak Bhaban, Ramna
Dhaka

Notice Inviting International Tender

Name of work : Construction of Rupsha Bridge at Labanchora, Khulna.

Tender Notice : 01/BDCW of 1995-96.

Sealed tenders are hereby invited for the work of Design and Construction of Rupsha Bridge at Labanchora, Khulna, Bangladesh.

1. Eligibility of contractors for participating in the tender are:

"A" Special Category Contractor (s) of Roads and Highways Department having combined experience with local or foreign associates of constructing multispan permanent type bridge of minimum single clear span of 80 meter over river gap/on offshore costing minimum Tk. 1000.00 million or US \$ 25.00 million in the last ten years in a single contract.

OR

Any foreign contractor (s) / firm (s) having work experience of Construction of multispan permanent type bridge of minimum single clear span of 80 meter over river gap/on offshore costing minimum Tk. 1000.00 million or US \$25.00 million in the last ten years in a single contract is also eligible to participate in the tender with or without any associates.

2. The tenderer shall have to furnish copy of the documents issued by the competent authority so as to establish his/her eligibility to participate in the tender as mentioned in para-1, at the time of applying for purchasing tender document and also with the tender.

3. Tenderer shall submit their offers in two envelopes; 1st envelop containing Contractors' POST QUALIFICATION INFORMATION and TECHNICAL PROPOSAL and the 2nd envelop containing FINANCIAL PROPOSAL, duly marked and sealed properly as instructed in the tender document.

4. The work will be executed on turnkey basis on a total financial package.

5. The tenderer must furnish a L.S. Earnest Money of Tk. 40.00 million (Forty million) in the form of Bank Guarantee from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh or from any foreign bank through correspondent scheduled bank in Bangladesh failing which the offer will be summarily rejected.

6. The intending tenderer shall apply to the Additional Chief Engineer, RHD, Bridge, Sarak Bhaban for purchasing the tender documents and on receipt of the permission, the tenderer shall deposit an amount of Tk. 10000.00 (Tk. ten thousand) only (not refundable) in cash to the E.E., RHD, Bridge Design Division-1, West, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka for each set of tender document during office hours on all working days.

7. The tender documents will be sold/made available from 25th October, 1995 to 15th November, 1995.

8. The tenders will be received by the undersigned up to 12.00 Noon on 31st January, 1996. If such last date is declared as a public holiday by the Government of Bangladesh, the next official working day shall be deemed to be the last date for submission of tender.

9. Time allowed for completion of the Project in all respect will be 42 months from the date of issue of work order.

10. The tender shall remain valid for 200 days from the date of receipt.

11. The authority reserves the right to reject any and all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever and without any financial obligation to any tenderer.

Sk. Rabiul Islam
Superintending Engineer, RHD
Bridge Design Circle, West
Room No. 123, Block KA,
Sarak Bhaban, Ramna
Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.

DFP-23301-26/9
G-1420

40 injured as Kushtia BNP factions clash

KUSHTIA, Sept 29: At least 40 people were injured in an intra-party clash between two groups of BNP supporters in the town police said, reports UNB.

However, nobody was wounded seriously.

The rival groups clashed near Jame Masjid in the town this evening chased one another with country-made weapons and blasted at least 20 crackers.

Soon after the clash, police rushed there and brought the situation under control. At least 40 people, most of them BNP supporters, were wounded at this spot.

The clash erupted over a half-day hartal call for tomorrow in the town, given the faction led by former district unit President Shah-e-udul Islam.

Ghanis on verge of extinction

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Sept 29: For want of working capital, patronisation and non-availability of necessary inputs, the bullock driven mini oil mills, locally known as 'ghani' of Satkhira district are on the verge of extinction rendering unemployment of many families engaged in this traditional profession for generations.

Being unable to cope with the problems many oilmen of all the seven thanas namely Kalaroa, Tala, Assassuni, Debhata, Kaligonj, Shyamnagar and Sadar of the district have already given up their profession while others are following.

It was gathered that oil production using ghanis has been the main occupation of some 7000 families throughout the district for many years. But now-a-days they are hardly able to carry on their profession due to

scarcity of inputs as well as fund.

While talking to this correspondent Abdul Karim, 55, an oldman involved in this profession of village Kamar Baisa under sadar thana said, he was thinking of giving up this age old profession because of poor return. He further said, the price of oil seeds, bullock and other materials for making ghani had increased several times during the last few years. As a result production cost of edible oil produced in the ghanis are not commensurate with the market price of oil.

When contacted another oilman, Niamat Ali, 42, of Keragachhi under Kalaroa thana said, he had been engaged in this profession from the age of 14. Being unable to earn bread for his family of six members he has already given up the profession. Now

he sells rice in the local markets.

Abdul Khaleq, a middle aged oilman of village Nagar Ghata under Tala thana also gave up his profession and now has chosen to pull rickshaw. Same is the case with several hundred other oilmen of the district who have become either day labourers, rickshaw or van pullers.

It deserves mention that bullocks are necessary for running the ghanis.

However most of the ghani owners can not afford to buy bullocks as they are expensive. The oilmen are also facing fund shortage. Procedure of bank loan disbursement is too complicated, they said. The oilmen are left with no other alternative but to borrow money from money lenders or mahajans at much higher rates of interest.



SHERPUR: The Sherpur-Kamarchar highway (L) constructed by the Local Government Engineering Department at a cost of Taka 5 crore was badly damaged by the recent flood. The Jamalpur-Kamalpur road (R) constructed by Roads of Highways Department was also damaged by the recent flood. The concerned departments have not yet started work to repair the damaged parts of the roads.

— Star photos by Ratan Chowdhury