

15 awarded life term for murder

COMILLA, Dec 9: Fifteen people were awarded life term imprisonment with a fine of Tk 2,000 each, in default, to suffer another year, for killing three people, including two brothers, reports UNB.

Court sources said, the convicted are Ismail, Anwar Hossain, Delwar Hossain, Ruhul Amin, Shaful Islam, Moqbul Hossain, Dolon Miah, Munaf Miah, Kabir Hossain, Abdur Rab, Raja Miah, Nurul Islam, Rashid Miah, Harun Miah and Sirajul Islam.

Of them, Shaful Islam and Munaf Miah were tried in absentia.

According to the prosecution, Abdul Bari Master and his brother Nur Mohammad and another villager Oli Ullah were killed by Ismail and his gang near Gopalpur Free Primary School vote centre on January 22 in 1992.

Ismail's gang attacked Abdul Bari and stabbed him to death while he was returning home from the centre after casting vote in a Union Parishad election. His brother Nur Hossain was also killed by the gang when he rushed to the spot getting the news of his brother's death. Oli Ullah, a villager who tried to rescue Nur Hossain came under attack by the gang and later died in a hospital.

The first Additional Sessions Judge after examining the witnesses and records awarded the punishment last week and acquitted six people.

According to police, Yusuf was arrested after getting information from Munir who was earlier arrested in September while trying to exchange a fake note of 500. Teen-aged Munir said he was engaged by Yusuf to exchange 500 taka fake notes in the market against per piece commission of Tk five.

Meanwhile, Yusuf confessed to the police that he was involved in smuggling 500 taka fake notes from India for a long time.

Policeman crushed to death in B'baria

From Our Correspondent BRAHAMMANBARIA, December 9: Joyal Abedin, 33, a policeman was crushed under the wheels of a speeding oil tanker lorry in front of police line on Thursday last.

Eyewitnesses and police sources said Joyal of Dalpara village of Murad Nagar thana under Comilla district died on the spot when cross the road to attend his duty Sahbazpur.

His body was sent to his village home after autopsy in Brahammanbaria Modern Hospital.

A case was registered with Sadar thana in this regard. Driver and helper of the killer oil tanker were arrested from near Ansar office of the town.

19 ideal villages set up in Comilla during last 6 yrs

COMILLA, Dec 9: Nineteen ideal villages have been set up in 11 thanas of the district during the last six years till 1993-94 fiscal, reports UNB.

Some 634 homeless and landless families have been rehabilitated in these villages and 75.76 acres of land were distributed among them.

The Land Ministry had sanctioned 640 metric tons of wheat, house building grant of Tk 24.39 lakh and 1,445 bundles of CI sheet among the families.

It also gave Tk 13.34 lakh for setting up of community centre at these villages.

Thirty arrested in Comilla

COMILLA, Dec 9: Police in an overnight drive arrested 30 people, including an absconding convict, from different parts of the district town recently, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip off, five squads of Kotwali police arrested the people on various charges, including violence and decoy.

Of the accused, Ahad Ali son of Mohammad Ali of Tarapaya village in Sadar thana, went into hiding after he was sentenced to two years rigorous imprisonment.

The accused were sent to jail after producing them before the court yesterday.

Banks experiencing difficulties in recovering loans

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Dec 9: Industrially backward eight districts of Khulna Division have failed to attain appreciable progress in new industrial set-up during last ten years.

As such, unemployment problem is becoming acute following lack of job opportunity, sources said.

According to sources, with a purpose to provide bank loan and other facilities to new entrepreneurs for establishing industrial projects in the area, a branch of Shilpa Bank was opened at Jhenidah in 1977.

It was reported that the bank has advanced credits against fifty industrial units amounting to Taka 70, crore in the area. But surprisingly only a few of them have survived while most of them have gone out of existence. In the meantime, interest against loans continued to increase.

It was also reported that the total loans of the industrial entrepreneurs which were overdue for payment exceeded Taka one hundred crore.

In a bid to recover the outstanding loans, the bank authorities has already filed a number of cases against de-

faulters. Some of the cases have been settled and 38 cases are still pending with the court for decision.

According to another source, the bank has received order for recovery of loan with incidental cost by attachment of property or by selling it on auction. This has been difficult for the bank to get back the loan money.

In view of the situation bank has changed the policy of going to court. They are now trying to recover loan through negotiation with the defaulters.

Sources also said that a group of dishonest entrepreneurs took advantage of the credit facility from the bank by producing false documents during initial stage of Shilpa Bank's operation in the area in 1977-78.

This group of entrepreneurs allegedly transferred lion's share of loan capital elsewhere in connivance with exporting agencies while importing machinery goods for the project.

It was alleged that they adopted foul practices in preparing appraisal report before loan sanction. They manufactured false docu-

ments showing the project more viable and profitable. The feasibility of the project including the marketing facility of the production was not properly considered. Thus, products of these industries got no market and the result was that these industrial units were closed down to avoid financial losses.

It was also reported that number of such industries were closed before going into production.

There are some industrial units in this area, who never went into production even for a single day. The automatic rice mill in Chuadanga is such a case. It never went into production. It's total outstanding dues to Shilpa Bank now stands at Taka two crore. The industry has died. The bank has gone to court for order to recover the loan.

In mid-eighties, a trend developed among new entrepreneurs in the area to set-up textile mills. A total of 54 textile mills were set up in the region with loan from the bank. It was alleged that credit facility from bank was given to these mills without any verification of feasibility

and appraisal reports. So, when the products, clothes, failed to get market locally, they became dependent on cloth merchants at Islampur in Dhaka.

The production from these mills was only polyester. Gradually it lost domestic demand. Then it began to be smuggled to India, where demand was much higher. After a few years it declined and the mills stopped production of polyester.

It was further reported that number of a new entrepreneurs have failed to go into production for lack of working capital.

According to latest information, Shilpa Bank has taken up a programme to rehabilitate the sick industries by advancing working capital. Not only Shilpa Bank, Sonali Bank and Krishi Bank are also experiencing similar difficulties in recovering the loans advanced against new industrial units.

According to a source, there are proposals for four industrial units with Shilpa Bank, Jhenidah for loan sanction. Three of them are shrimp projects and one hotel project.



AGRI-VARSITY (Mymensingh): Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Shah Muhammad Farouk delivering his speech as chief guest at the inaugural function of a two day annual workshop on BAU Research Progress 1994-95 held at the Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Auditorium, recently. — BAU photo

Target of cotton cultivation could not be achieved

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Dec 9: Target of cotton cultivation could not be achieved in south-western zone of the country due to adverse weather condition.

According to information cotton was cultivated on 30,776 hectares of land in 64 units of four cotton development zones covering the districts of Jessore, Jhenaidah, Narail, Magura, Kushtia, Chuadanga, Meherpur, Stakhira and Rajbari.

Reports reveals that area of land cultivated in these four zones were 79 per cent of the total national programme.

Reports also informs that cultivation of cotton in these areas after harvesting aus and jute crops is an usual practice for farmers.

But there was exception to it during the current season.

According to field staff of Cotton Development Board, it was cultivated long after expiry of the season following late harvesting of aus and jute crops as many farmers failed to prepare land and sow cotton seeds well in time due to rain.

Another source said that growth of cotton was good of those farmers who grew it late this season.

During the last few years, the cotton output in Kushtia zone is nearing target despite adverse climatic conditions. It was learnt that in this zone, farmers are growing aus and jute crops along side cotton as 'relay crop' with better result.

Development of roads, drains undertaken in Jhalokathi

JHALOKATHI, Dec 9: Some 30 schemes at a cost of Tk 1,24,41,000 have been undertaken for the development of roads and drains in the district town during the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

Jhalokathi Pourashava will implement the schemes under its annual development programme.

According to official sources, the works included construction and reconstruction of roads and their extension and providing roadside drainage facilities.

The works on 13 schemes have already been started while implementation of other schemes will start shortly. The works are expected to be completed within March next.

Residents of Gopalganj face water crisis

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, Dec 9: More than 40 thousand tax-payers of Gopalganj pourashava are deprived of drinking water as the pourashava authority is reluctant and to maintain the only water supplying plant therein.

It was learnt that there is a demand of 4.5 lakh gallons of pure water a day in the area of Gopalganj pourashava. But the supply is two lakh gallons only. No sign of necessary initiative and effort was observed to meet the crying demand on behalf of the pourashava authority.

The only water purification plant of the pourashava was set up in 1984 with the aid of the Dutch government to supply pure water to 50 thousand people on basis of the policy, "No profit and no loss." The plant was handed over to the pourashava authority in 1988. There were nine pumps functioning in the plant at the initial stage. But only three pumps have been functioning presently as

the pourashava authority was found reluctant to repair and maintain the other six pumps. As such the supply of pure water has been reduced to one-third of the earlier supply. All the roadside taps have been blocked permanently depriving the poor people to collect drinking water. About two-third of the pourashava area has not been brought under the water supplying system. And there are not enough numbers of tube-wells in those areas.

Now a days the water supply from the purification plant durates from 30 to 45 minutes a day. As a result the people, especially children, have been suffering from various water borne diseases for the use of impure water.

Immediate steps are required to be taken by the higher authority concerned, to combat the acute pure water crisis in Gopalganj pourashava areas.

Oil mills in Natore in grip of fund constraints

NATORE, Dec 9: More than five thousand oilmen in six thanas of Natore district lack funds to run their bullock driven oil mills.

Many oil producers have been forced to close down their mills and are now unemployed.

About 1,500 bullock driven oil mills once operated in the district generated employment for about 15,000 families. However, decline of these oil mills has led to the expansion of more efficient and cheaper mechanised oil mills in various parts of the district including Lalpur, Bagatipara, Gurudaspur, Baraigram and Natore sadar thanas. The demand of bullock-driven edible oil has increased because of the imported soyabean and palm-oil which have flooded local markets. About Taka 6,500 is required to operate, a bullock-driven oil mill. However, without loans oilmen can't invest this amount of money. Some of the oilmen collect running capital from local money lenders at exorbitant interest rates, leading higher costs of production. Many oilmen have failed to cope with the financial burden of the mills and have been forced to close down.



KHULNA: A ferry crossing Rupsha river at Rupsha ghat. — Star photo

Bright hopes for a dream bridge

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, Dec 9: The demand of Rupsha bridge is a long-felt demand of the people of Khulna for about half a century. The people have been struggling for the construction of Rupsha bridge since 1967. They were given assurances only from the then Pakistan government, Bangladesh and Ershad's government. But no practical steps were taken in this regard.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for the first time declared at a huge public meeting in Khulna early last year that her government would construct the Rupsha bridge on top priority basis. She had announced that the foundation stone would be laid down before the end of the year. True to her words, Begum Khaleda Zia herself laid down the foundation stone on December 28, 1994 raising hopes for the first time in 27 years that the dream bridge would be a reality.

"BNP government is the government of deeds and not rhetoric whatever we commit, we fulfil." She told the huge cheering crowd.

The time limit set for the completion of the said bridge was three years. But after a few months of laying down the foundation stone of the public announcement, the dream remains a distant dream and there is a growing scepticism that it might not come true for years. This scepticism stems from the fact that nothing actual has begun so far and the concerned officials are quite unsure as to when it could be begun and end. The project of Rupsha bridge will cost Tk 439.65 crore with foreign exchange component of 96.47 million dollar, according to a preliminary estimate. The cost could go up depending on the feasibility study which surprisingly has not yet been taken up.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is reportedly doing some study as a part of the Mongla Port Development Project has shown in-

terest to carry out the job separately for the Rupsha bridge. As per comment of ADB authority this project would cost a huge amount of money, bulk of which is in foreign exchange. Bangladesh has been looking for an interested donor ever since the Liberation War. But to date no foreign financier has shown any real interest. The hunt for external fund however intensified after the present government of Begum Khaleda Zia came to power in 1991 partly because the enormous economic benefit the bridge would yield as it would connect the Mongla Port with Khulna and the entire south with north Bengal.

The Mongla Port has got the international status and importance as the Nepalese government is keen to use this port for their National import through the Mongla Port. With that perspective Khulna-Mongla highway has been constructed. The Khulna-Mongla highway is one of the finest roads in Bangladesh constructed by a Korean company during the reign of Ershad government for smooth transportation of goods and cargoes to and from the Mongla Port. Now the Rupsha bridge is badly needed to ensure the smooth communication system and transportation of imported goods and forwarding of exportable items to the port. Only then Nepal would come forward to use this Port.

In the middle of August this year the Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali assured the people of Khulna that the necessary fund would be provided from the internal resources for construction of Rupsha bridge as interested donor countries could not be found. He further told that the construction of Rupsha bridge would be started without further delay. But that time no fund was arranged by the government for Rupsha bridge. His cumulative assurance without specific allocation of fund for Rupsha bridge confused the Khulna people with a great ap-

prehension that the construction of Rupsha bridge might not be constructed at all. As Khulna city MP, it was a very vital job for him to construct the said bridge as he pledged before fifth parliament election.

It is learnt that Bangladesh is still looking for a suitable donor country for financing for this project. In the last four years nine months time Bangladesh government approached Russia, Italy, Kuwait, China and Japan but so far the moves were unsuccessful. It is reported that Japanese government is still interested for the construction of Rupsha bridge but they are interested to construct the said bridge without any provision of rail communication which is not acceptable.

The last approach was made to North Korean government. A team from North Korea recently visited Khulna to assess preliminary aspect and feasibility of the Rupsha bridge. Later North Korea dropped the idea. Now it is obviously indicated that the fate of long-felt Rupsha bridge is fully depended on internal resources unless a donor is still found.

The Khulna people staged a public hunger strike at local Shahid Hadith Park before last budget session demanding required allocation of fund for Rupsha bridge. But they observed that no fund allocation was earmarked in budget for this project. Then the Khulna Development Committee led by Abu Mohammad Ferdous staged various demonstrations to realise the demand of the said bridge.

At the last Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC) approved Tk 2.50 billion on September 20 '95 for construction of Rupsha bridge out of its own fund. The Speaker, Shaikh Razzak Ali during his recent tour to Khulna after approval of fund by ECNEC held a discussion with various concerned departments and the local ad-

ministration for taking necessary steps in connection with the start of preliminary construction work on the bridge including acquiring land on both the sides of the bridge across the river Rupsha. He also urged the people to extend full co-operation in the construction of the Rupsha bridge.

Local Roads and Highways Department source said that the primary earth work on both the sides of the river connecting the bridge point near Labonchora would start soon after completing all formalities on priority basis. The source also said that about 32 hectares of land was earmarked for the approach road connecting the bridge on each side of the Rupsha river was being acquired. It was also learnt that sum of Tk 200 million has already been released to meet up the preliminary expenses of earth work for the proposed bridge.

After approval of Tk 2.50 billion by ECNEC a large procession was brought out on September 24 this year in Khulna city under the auspices of Khulna District and City Committee of BNP to express jubilation on the approval of fund by ECNEC for Rupsha bridge and expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for taking up a positive step toward the construction of Rupsha bridge for which the Prime Minister had pledged in a mammoth public meeting in Khulna earlier.

But it is observed that the activities of Rupsha bridge construction have been slowed down. Slow pace of works again creates a sceptical comprehension amongst the people about the construction of Rupsha bridge. Because there are number of examples in Bangladesh that the quarter and half done projects have been left abandoned by the previous governments in many occasion. They apprehend that the Rupsha bridge project may also be left abandoned in near future.



JAMALPUR: GRP thana police recovered 200 bottles of Phensidyl from Ekota Express train recently. The man wearing vest was arrested with the drug bottles. — Star photo

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়,
ফ্যাসিলিটিজ ডিপার্টমেন্ট, ময়মনসিংহ জোন
ময়মনসিংহ
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি
এছাড়া সরকারী প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয় পুনর্নির্মাণ ও সংস্কার শীর্ষক প্রকল্পের আওতায় পুনর্নির্মাণ ও বৃদ্ধি ধরনের ঘোষিত কাজের জন্য ফ্যাসিলিটিজ ডিপার্টমেন্ট এর এ-১ এবং এ-২ শ্রেণীর তালিকাভুক্ত ১৯৯৫-৯৬ইং অর্থ বৎসর পর্যন্ত স্বাধীনভাবে টিকাদারগণের নিকট হইতে বাংলাদেশ সরকার নং ২৯১১তে সীমাবদ্ধকৃত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা হইতেছে। বিদ্যালয়ের নাম, ওশা ও খাবার নাম দিতে বর্ণিত হইল।

ক্রমিক নং	খাদ্যের নাম	ক্রমিক নং	শিফা প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম	কাজ সমাপ্তির মেয়াদ
পুনর্নির্মাণ কাজ (স্ট্রাকচার ও টিউব-ওয়েলসহ)				
১	প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয়	০১	পয়েন্টমার্ক সরকারী প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয়	৪ (চার) মাস
২	প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয়	০২	পয়েন্টমার্ক (২) সরকারী প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয়	৪ (চার) মাস
৩	প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয়	০৩	চলকিছিয়া যোগীয়া জামলী	৪ (চার) মাস
৪	প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয়	০৪	পয়েন্টমার্ক সরকারী প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয়	৪ (চার) মাস
৫	প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয়	০৫	পয়েন্টমার্ক সরকারী প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয়	৪ (চার) মাস

শর্তসমূহ:
(১) টেন্ডার দাখিলের সঠিক টিকাদারকে ১৯৯৫-৯৬ ইং অর্থ বৎসরের লাইসেন্স নম্বর দিয়া জমা দেওয়ার চাহিদার মুকবিলে সত্যায়িত কপি দাখিল করিতে হইবে। অন্যথায় টেন্ডার বাতিল বলিয়া বিবেচিত হইবে।
(২) সরকারী নিয়ম অনুযায়ী আবেদন ও ভাটী কর্তন করা হইবে।
(৩) যদি কোন দরদাতা প্রাক্কল্পিত মূল্যের ৫% (শতকরা পাঁচ ভাগ) এর অধিক কম মূল্যে উক্ত দরপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে।
(৪) যদি কোন দরদাতা প্রকৃতিক দরপত্র একই দর উত্তর্যে কয়েক সেকেন্ডের লটারীর মাধ্যমে টিকাদার নির্বাচন করা হইবে এবং এ ক্ষেত্রে লটারী ৩৪/১২/৯৫ইং তারিখে অর অফিসে অনুষ্ঠিত হইবে।
(৫) কোন বিদ্যালয়ের কাজ ইতিমধ্যে হইয়া থাকিলে সেক্ষেত্রে কাজ হইবে না।
(৬) ইতি পূর্বে বিধিত ভাবে ছাদ খাণ্ডা অথবা অন্যরূপে বাতিল করা হইলে ঘোষিত কাজ করিতে বাধ্য থাকিবেন।
কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণে নির্ধারিত তারিখের পূর্বেই যে কোন টেন্ডার রদ করা বাতিল কিংবা সফল টেন্ডার বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

মোঃ আলী আজম কাদরী
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী,
ফ্যাসিলিটিজ ডিপার্টমেন্ট, ময়মনসিংহ জোন,
ময়মনসিংহ

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