

### Valuables worth about Tk 7 lakh gutted, 2 injured in Barisal

**From Staff Correspondent**  
**BARISAL, Dec 11:** Nosi Begum, 40, and a minor child were injured when a devastating fire broke out at Sadas road in the town on last Friday afternoon.  
 According to sources, the fire originated from a kitchen and gutted about seven houses leaving 11 families homeless.  
 Valuables worth about Tk seven lakh were burnt to ashes.  
 The seriously injured Nosi Begum was admitted to a hospital the source informed.

### One awarded 3 yrs RI in Magura for cultivating ganja

**MAGURA, Dec 11:** A man was awarded three years rigorous imprisonment (RI) for illegally cultivating ganja, court sources here said today, reports UNB.  
 The court also fined the convicted Amal Mondal Alias Bablu Tk 2,000, in default, to suffer three months RI more.

According to prosecution, Inspector of Narcotics Control Department Shariatullah seized 22 ganja plants from Bablu's house at village Shajretpur in Sadar thana on June 7 last year.

Later, a case was filed and after investigation police submitted charge-sheet against him.

After examining the witnesses and records additional District Magistrate Mokimuddin Ahmed awarded the punishment on November 29 last.

In another case, First Class Magistrate Amirul Azim awarded six months rigorous imprisonment to Atoar Rahman for selling ganja at Ichhakhada bazar in Sadar thana. The convicted was also fined Tk 5,000, in default, to suffer one-month more imprisonment.

Narcotics Control Department seized 400 grams ganja from his shop on May 5 last year and filed a case against him with Sadar thana. The magistrate delivered the judgement on November 25 last.

### Electric cable stolen in Comilla

**COMILLA, Dec 11:** Electric wire in about one kilometre of Rural Electrification lines at Putia area in Daudkandi thana of the district was stolen last week, reports UNB.

According to officials the wire worth about Tk 1.5 lakh was stolen by an organised gang of thieves. As a result, a vast area of the locality remained without electricity hampering irrigation and other commercial activities.

Local people said, some organised gangs remained active in the area and are engaged in stealing the electric wires plunging the area into darkness after sundown.

They alleged that they urged the law enforcing agencies to look into the matter and nab the miscreants but no step has yet been taken in this regard.

## Irregularities reported in preparation of voters ID card in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

**SYLHET, Dec 11:** Large-scale irregularities have been reported in the preparation of Voter ID cards in all the four districts of Sylhet Division.

The task for ID cards preparation began since the mid of November amid gross irregularities in the region. Makeshift camps were opened for taking photos of the voters as per list given by the Election Department officials. But, these are being winded up in many areas without completing the tasks. Allegations from many areas says even 15 per cent photographs could not be taken yet; in some areas the camps are being withdrawn even before the people could have the information, due to the absence of adequate publicity. Printing of the voters list is also being delayed in many places. The overall situation is causing apathy on the part of voters in general.

The total number of voters in 35 thanas of four districts stands at 35 lakh 88 thousand and 859. Of the total, only five lakh ID cards have yet been prepared. Only 40

thousand cards had so far been handed over to the voters in the region, confirmed an official source. The official, however, admitted that the overall situation was not at all satisfactory due to various reasons especially due to insufficient time and the complex and lengthy system of preparation of the cards. He was not hopeful of providing all the voters with the ID cards within the scheduled time.

However, there was good performance in the district of Moulvibazar where preparation of about three and a half lakh voter ID cards had already been completed.

Twenty thousand laminated ID cards had already been handed over to the voters in two unions of Baralekha thana. Kanaighat thana of Sylhet district showed the best performance where photos of one lakh 10 thousand voters had already been taken. Lamination of these cards had now begun there, said the official.

The situation in Sunamganj district is far from satis-

factory. Only 12 thousand ID cards have so far been handed over to the voters in the district of Habiganj, the source added.

Sison, a private firm in Dhaka had been entrusted with the task of ID card printing, photo taking and lamination of the voter cards in 15 constituencies out of 19 in the Sylhet Division. A director of the firm alleged that, progress of works is 'much slow' due to innumerable faulty in the voters list prepared by the Election Department. Same is the opinion of another computer firm which got the contract for three other constituencies of Sylhet and Moulvibazar districts.

The firm which had been asked for preparation of the ID cards in 13 wards of Sylhet paurashava alleged that, they were yet to receive the complete voters list, especially that of the female voters. Besides, the voters list and data sheets supplied to these firms were full of errors. In many cases it was found that same registration number had been used

for more than one voter while the data sheets contained many blank rooms.

The Chairman of Sylhet Paurashava Badar Uddin Kamran alleged that there had been innumerable allegations regarding the ID cards preparation. The firm engaged with the task did not even inform the Ward Commissioners in many cases causing a haphazard situation while taking the photos of voters, he alleged. The firm had withdrawn their makeshift camps even without taking photos of 50 per cent voters, in many areas. In some photo camps, it was also observed that, voters were present in good numbers, but the workers failed to cope with the rush. Many voters were found disappointed due to the irregularities in these camps.

Moreover, an official source said, the works of the photo camps were being hampered seriously in many areas as the primary and high schools were engaged in annual examinations.

### World Disabled Day observed in Feni

**FENI, Dec 11:** The World Disabled Day was observed in the district as elsewhere in the country in a befitting manner on December 3 last, reports UNB.

District's Mentally Disabled Welfare and Education Centre organised a colourful rally with elaborate programmes on the occasion.  
 The rally paraded the main roads of the town and concluded at the centre's office where a discussion meeting was also held. Among others, Kamal Hasan Chowdhury and Advocate Somir Kor spoke on the occasion.

### Clash leaves ten injured in Sirajganj

**SIRAJGANJ, Dec 11:** The people were injured in a clash between two rival factions of Jatiya Party on New Dhaka road in the town on last Sunday night, reports UNB.

The clash was the backlash of intra-party conflict, ensued after a brawl between the rival factions led by Haider and Matin at 7 pm.

### Iron mine in Rangpur lying untapped

From Our Correspondent

**RANGPUR, Dec 11:** A prospective iron mine with huge stocks of improved quality of iron is lying untapped for the last three decades at Pirgonj thana area under the district about 25 miles off from the district headquarter.

According to an information received from the elderly people, after Indo-Pak war in 1965 the Ministry of the Mineral Resources of the then Pakistan held an aerial survey and took help for satellite in detecting hidden underground reserve of mineral resources in the northern part of the then East Pakistan. During the survey a team of experts who were conducting the task successively detected an iron mine in the bordering point of Sanerhat and Mithipur unions under Pirgonj thana.

The team bored four pipes and held different tests at the site and detected iron mine only under 900 feet below the surface. The mine spread 10 kilometres in ra-

dius and the stocks of the iron preliminary estimated would be several millions metric tonnes.

### Dead body recovered in Savar

**SAVAR, Dec 11:** A body of an unidentified woman was recovered from near a bridge of Kornopara area of the town on Thursday last, reports UNB.

According to police, the woman, 20, was first traced by the villagers who informed the police. Police, however, recovered a purse with a 500 taka note, gold ornaments and a passport size photograph.

Police suspected that the woman might have been killed after rape. The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was registered in this connection.

## Adibasis in village Marma cry for legal protection

From Ranesh Maitra

**PABNA, Dec 11:** The poor 'adibasis' living for at least two centuries in village Marma under Ishurdi thana are faced with untold torture, oppression including those of murders, being dispossessed of their hearth, home and other landed properties, allegedly with a declared purpose of driving them away from the said village by a section of powerful and otherwise influential person of the locality. These influential persons, it was further alleged, have been lodging false cases — both civil and criminal — against them and have successfully built up an unholy relation with the local police and other administrations thus throwing the poor community into utter helplessness.

The said adibasis recently came to Pabna town, their men, women and children brought a big demonstration, proceeded towards the offices of the Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police, submitted memoranda demanding justice, withdrawal of false cases lodged with them and also arrange for fresh investigations into Shyamal murder case by the CID and lifting of warrants of arrest pending against some of them.

They also brought out similar demonstrations last year, paraded main thoroughfares of Pabna town and, in similar manner, submitted memorandums with the authorities concerned but to no effect. They now suspect that the said local influential circles have possibly built up a chain within the administration and hence, they were getting no protection of law.

The poor adibasis then came to Pabna Press Club recently to narrate their sorrow plight before the newsmen. With tears in their eyes they gave the harrowing tales with regard to their sufferings and those are mentioned below.

These adibasis (tribal aboriginals) settled about two centuries back in village Marma under Ishurdi thana of Pabna district by the Maharaja of Natore and gave

them all the lands attached to a temple and a 'dighi' covering a total area of about 12 acres of land. The land was recorded as Debottor property in the name of goddess 'Kali'. The adibasis cultivate these lands, arrange puja of the said goddess and also maintain themselves with the earnings from the land. Besides, the adibasis also work in the neighbouring villages as day-labourers. They are mostly illiterate and taking advantage of their poverty, ignorance and illiteracy, a few local influential have quite illegally dispossessed the adibasis from a portion of the said land. They have also created forged deeds and *Kabuhals* and instituted suits in the Civil Courts on the basis of said documents, claiming title and possession of some other plots of land. But the influential circles could not succeed in taking possession of the entire area of land and hence they hatched other conspiracies too.

In pursuance of this conspiracy, Leouis Biswas, a member of the adibasis community was murdered on August 28, 1994 in the morning while the adibasis most of whom are Christians, were offering their weekly prayers in the nearby church, were all on a sudden attacked although nearby 20 of those who were offering prayers, were women. The gang, armed with *lathis*, *falas*, *Dao* and axes, the unarmed adibasis who were completely unprepared for any such occurrence were all caught unawares. Men and women both were injured and the number of such injured persons were 21, six of whom were immediately shifted to hospital. One of these critically injured persons was Louis Biswas, aged 30, by profession a poor day-labourer, succumbed to his injuries after struggling for life for long 17 days in the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

The said attack, in broad daylight, was so dreadful that young women were also

brought out forcibly from their respective houses, assaulted on various parts of their body, some of them received bloody head-injuries even.

The appalling story behind such inhuman occurrence was a piece of land — 0.66 acres in area, awarded by an adibasis known as Martin Biswas (60) but Sultan Moulavi started claiming the ownership of the said piece of land to other surprise of the real owner since his birth.

Next day, the villagers lodged an *ejahar* with Ishurdi thana but police did not act timely and properly. Ultimately, after long several months however, police submitted a charge-sheet but excluded the names of a good number of accused from the names mentioned in the *ejahar*. While most of the charge accused, against whom police submitted charge-sheet, were released on bail from the court in this Louis murder case — believed to be a very sensational murder case.

Dominic Biswas, a Roman Catholic, a school teacher by profession, told in anguish that if the repressions were not brought to an end, he, along with the members of his family, would be compelled to have the village. The so-called influential were claiming the ownership 0.66 acres of his land too.

The story does not end here. When the so-called influential were charge-sheeted in connection with the Leouis Biswas murder case, they continued to pressurise the adibasis to withdraw the case but they refused. Angered with their refusal, the influential village — touts hatched another conspiracy for getting rid of the troubles arising out of the said murder case. In pursuance of this conspiracy, the group of conspirators, murdered yet another boy, a school-going one, named Shyamal a student of class V.

This is a gruesome story. Shyamal is the son of Stephen who has got links with the said matbars who murdered Leouis. Occasionally, accused persons while in abscension, took shelter in Stephens house. Stephen, due to extreme poverty, joined hands with the group and allegedly signed as witness to several false and forged deeds prepared by the said influential group.

Still, they conspired to kill his son Shyamal only to make the adibasis accused in Shyamal murder case. The story of the murder is as follows:

On June 23, 1995 at about 8:15 pm in the night, Alam, son of Jamaat Ali, came to the house of Shyamal, called him out and asked him to accompany him for witnessing TV show in the house of Mannan. Mannan is a petty businessman Alam and Shyamal both started for the house of Mannan. Pijush, a friend of Shyamal, also followed them when

he came to learn that they were going to witness a TV film show. Pijush was however, much behind them but when he reached the house of Mannan, he found neither Shyamal nor Alam therein for witnessing the film 'Alif Laila'.

Alam, it was gathered, took Shyamal to the house of one Tafizuddin who was an accused in Leouis murder case. After they entered there, Bernard found, several unknown persons entered into that house and, reportedly a sumptuous night meal with meat of duck was prepared and supplied to all as if there was feast in the house. Shyamal, however, did not return home that night. Stephen, a poor TB patient and father of Shyamal, did also not go for searching him as he could not foresee anything doubtful.

However, next morning Sultan Moulavi came to Stephen's house along with some persons accused in Leouis murder case and paid Stephan an amount of Tk 1200 and just before this, Tamiz came to Stephan and reported that the body of Shyamal, whose throat was cut, was found near the house of Mannan beside the 'dighi'. Sultan Moulavi, coming there just after Tamiz, made the above payment, and asked Stephen to go to Ishurdi thana and lodge an *ejahar* against the witnesses of Leouis murder case.

On the other hand, when Dominic Master came to know of this murder of Shyamal, he proceeded to Pabna town, met the Deputy Commissioner and informed him about the incident in writing and sought for his intervention. The Deputy Commissioner gave a note upon the application asking the police to take proper action with all promptness and asked Dominic to proceed to Ishurdi thana. One police officer from Pabna also rushed to village Murni and there from to Ishurdi thana and directed the police to arrest Mannan who was mysteriously found sitting in Ishurdi thana but surprisingly, the same night Mannan was freed from the custody.

Ultimately, it was found the next day that three minor babies from the adibasis families were arrested by the police in connection with Shyamal murder case. Meanwhile, charge-sheet has also been submitted by Ishurdi police against those minor boys. They were: Abul Hashem, son of Yasin, a day-labourer Manerel, son of Locus, also a day-labourer and Manzurul, son of late Azmat Ali — all of village Murni and aged between seven to 10 years.

This sort of case in connection with the murder of Shyamal was allegedly prepared in collusion with Ishurdi police, with the object of putting pressure upon the adibasis to withdraw Leouis murder case and also to compel them to give up the lands owned and

possessed by the adibasis throughout the centuries. Village politics, as it is widely known to be, is so torturous for the millions of rural people — away from the din and bustle of the town or city areas — how much it is out of reach not only of the laws, justice and of the mass media till today — in this age end of the twentieth century!

The story was yet to come to an end, a theft cash has also been falsely been instituted against the adibasis on 1.12.94 with the Ishurdi thana under sections 143/447/3 79 BPC and after this, the influential Sultan Moulavi and his henchmen have allegedly threatened the adibasis with dire consequences if the Leouis murder case pending before the court of sessions was not withdrawn. They have further threatened the poor adibasis to quit the village and this is, as the adibasis say, the real threat before all of them.

What happened earlier. The Daily Star correspondent further investigated and found that on being victims of such tortures, as many as eleven adibasis Christian families became compelled to leave Murni permanently.

Now, 38 adibasis families are living in the said village — their total number being 185 to 200. This is small population indeed and this has rendered them helpless. Had their number been 1000 at least, none could possibly dare victimising them so much, they think.

Narrating further, the tribal adibasis disclosed another horrifying story. In short, the story runs as follows:

One member of their community and permanent resident of village Marma, named Bipin Biswas was also compelled to flee away from the said village few years back and he was now staying in a village under Rajshahi district. Bipin is still alive but showing him dead, a false deed with a false signature was prepared by those influential people who have already forcibly taken possession of his entire properties in Marma claiming ownership of those properties. A suit also was filed by them in the civil court praying for declaration title of the properties of 'dead' Bipin Biswas who is still living in a Rajshahi village with his wife and children. No more he dares returning to Marma fearing, in that case, he would really be made dead.

Oppressions and repressions are thus continuing unabated upon the helpless adibasis in Marma. They now demand:

Fresh investigation of Shyamal murder case by the CID.  
 Investigations as to how a number of murders of Leouis were excluded from the charge-sheet.

Conducting the cases through a set of lawyers on their behalf as they have no means to engage good lawyers.  
 Thorough investigations into the affairs of their landed properties and to take all legal steps for restoring all their properties.

Creation of an atmosphere congenial for the adibasis to live in Marma in peace, and justice in every sphere.

To create atmosphere so that all who left the village, would come back safely.  
 The adibasis have called upon the government, the local administration, the NGOs, the Human Rights Organisations to come forward to rescue to salvage them from the evil clutches of the village touts who were out to drive them out from village Marma.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

"Development of Selected 310 Private Colleges" Planning & Development Section Directorate of Secondary & Higher Education Shiksha Bhaban (5th floor), Dhaka Re-Tender Notice

No. 698/350PC Dated: 6-12-95

Tenders in prescribed proforma under sealed cover are invited from bonafide sole agents/suppliers/traders for purchase of 3 (Three) Jeeps under the project "Development of selected 310 private colleges". Tender can be purchased on application in own pad with Taka 750 (seven hundred fifty) only from the undersigned or Senior Assistant Secretary, Development, Room No. 1825, Building No. 6, Ministry of Education on 23-12-95 & 24-12-95 during office hours.

2% of the quoted value should be deposited as earnest money with the tender. The earnest money should be in Bank Draft from scheduled bank in favour of "Project Director, Development of selected 310 private colleges".  
 Tenders will be received in the box kept at the office of the Project Director, Shiksha Bhaban (5th floor), & Senior Assistant Secretary, Development Section, Room No. 1825, Building No. 6, Ministry of Education up to 12-00 Noon of 31-12-95 and the tenders will be opened on the same day at 12-30 minutes in presence (if any) of the tenderers.

The authority is not bound to accept the lowest tender. The authority reserves the right to accept any tender and reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

DFP-30695-7/12 G-1883 Md Eunus Ali Dewan Director (Planning & Development)

## Roads & Highways Directorate Notice Inviting Tender

- Tender Notice No: 41 B-R-D of 1995-96 (2nd call).
- Name of work: Construction of Flexible Pavement at 5th (Part) & 6th (Part) km of Rajapur-Kathalia-Agua-Bamna Road under Barisal Road Division during 1995-96 (Head of expenditure: 266 Development).
- Estimated cost: Tk 9,18,432/-
- Earnest money: Tk 18,369/-
- Time limit for completion of work: 45 (forty-five) days.
- Eligibility of contractor to submit tender: Roads & Highways Directorate's General "A" to "C" class & Barisal Road Circle's General "D" class enlisted contractors.
- The offices the tender schedule to be had at: Office of the Executive Engineer, R&H, Road Division, Barisal/Patuakhali/Bhola/Pirojpur/Planning Division (PD), Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka/Planning & Design Division, Barisal/Sub-Divisional Engineer, R&H, Road Sub-Division, Barisal Jhalakathi/1st Line Workshop Sub-Division, Barisal on all working days except holidays during office hours. No tender form will be sold on the date of opening tender.
- Last date & time of selling tender schedule: (5-9-1402BS) 19-12-95 up to 5-00 PM.
- Offices of the officers to receive the sealed tenders: Additional Chief Engineer, R&H, Barisal Zone, Barisal/Superintending Engineer, R&H, Road Circle, Barisal/Superintending Engineer, R&H, Monitoring & Evaluation Circle, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka/Executive Engineer, R & H, Road Division, Barisal/Patuakhali/Bhola/Pirojpur.
- Last date & time of receiving the sealed tender: (6-9-1402BS) 20-12-95 up to 12-30 PM.
- Date & time of registering the sealed tender: (6-9-1402BS) 20-12-95 at 12-45 PM.
- Place, date & time of opening the tender: Office of the Executive Engineer, R&H, Road Division, Barisal (10-9-1402BS) 24-12-95 at 11-00 AM.
- Date & time of lottery: (13-09-1402BS) 27-12-95 at 1-00 PM

Munshi Mostafizur Rahman Executive Engineer, R&H Barisal Road Division

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, Local Govt Engineering Directorate Khagrachhari Hill District

Memo No: LGED/EE/Khagra/95/1179 Dated: 04-12-95

### Tender Notice No. 03/95-96

Tenders in Bangladesh Form No 2911 under sealed cover are invited from Local Govt Engineering Directorate enlisted financially capable valid contractors/contractor firms for the undermentioned works as per schedule in view of implementing the project "Construction & Re-construction of Road Bridge & Culvert (including flood-damaged infrastructure) in rural area on priority basis the project "Construction of physical infrastructure for socio-economic development of Guchhagram inhabitants" in Khagrachhari Hill District during 1995-96 financial year under Local Govt Engineering Directorate. Tenders will be received in the Tender Box kept at the office of the Executive Engineer, LGED, Rangamati/ Bandarban & the Thana Engineer concerned of this district and the undersigned up to 12-30 pm of 21-12-95 and opened on the same day at 1-00 pm in presence (if any) of the tenderers. Tender schedule can be purchased from the said office up to 20-12-95 during office hours at prescribed price (non-refundable) subject to production of valid licence. 2% Earnest Money should be submitted with the tender through Bank Draft/Pay Order from any scheduled bank in favour of Executive Engineer, LGED, Khagrachhari.

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason. Other terms & conditions can be seen at the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Serial No	Name & Location of Project	Earnest Money	Price of Tender	Time Limit for Work	Class of Contractor
A)	The project "Construction & Reconstruction of Road Bridge & Culvert (including flood-damaged infrastructure) in rural area on priority basis"				
1.	HBB of road from Matiranga Hospital to T&T Tilla via Bazar under Matiranga thana.	1/2% of quoted value	Tk 300/-	45 (forty-five) days	All classes
B)	The project "Construction of physical infrastructure for socio-economic development of Guchhagram inhabitants"				
1.	Development of Tabachhan Natun Bazar under Matiranga thana (2nd call)	-do-	Tk 300/-	60 (sixty) days	All classes
2.	HBB of road from R&H Road to Gourangapara Guchhagram under Matiranga thana (2nd call)	-do-	Tk 120 (one hundred twenty) days	2,500/-	'Special' & 'A'
C) 1.	Construction of Assistant Engineers residential quarters	-do-	Tk 500/-	-do-	'Special' A & 'B'

DFP-30584-7/12 G-1884



JHENIDAH: Students and guardians of Montejar Rahman Mia Girls High School, Sailkupa, brought out a procession and submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner, Jhenidah, for immediate removal of the headmaster of the school.