

## TB patients increasing in Madaripur, Shariatpur

MADARIPUR, Jan 3: The tuberculosis TB patients are increasing day by day in Madaripur and Shariatpur districts, reports UNB.

According to a survey conducted by a social welfare organisation, there are about 1.30 lakh TB patients in these two districts — about 60,000 in four thanas of Madaripur and 70,000 in four thanas of Shariatpur.

Of them, about 13,000 patients are spreading the disease.

There is no TB hospital in the districts for 25 lakh people. The only TB clinic at Madaripur cannot cope with the patients. Moreover, it has been facing various problems. The X-ray machine is out of order for two years hampering the treatment badly. There are only one Consultant and one Medical Officer in the clinic.

Besides, the clinic has also been facing other problems like shortage of employees, want of staff quarters and shortage of pure water supply.

The survey report said thousands of people have been working in three jute mills and bidi factories of the two districts and working in these mills for a long time causes TB disease.

One Veterinary doctor said taking of meat and milk of TB affected cattlehead also cause TB disease to the human being.

## 11-member district committee of BMA formed in Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 3: The 11-member district committee was formed on December 25 last in the biannual conference of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) at the hall of local Medical Assistant Training School (MATS).

With Dr Sujabuzzaman in the chair, among others Prof M A Majed, Dr Sharfuddin Ahmed, Dr Jahurul Haq Raza and Dr Rezaul Karim spoke on the occasion.

Dr Rezaul Karim was elected the president and Dr Akramuzzaman was elected the general secretary of Sirajganj district unit of BMA for 1995-97 period.

## 3 dacoits held, arms, ammunitions recovered in Satkhira

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Jan 3: Satkhira thana police arrested three dacoits from Rajnagar bazar area under sadar thana while they were escaping with booties after committing dacoity at the house of Elahi Baks Moral of village Debnagar of the same thana on December 28 last.

The arrested dacoits are Rajab Ali, 40, and Ziad Ali, 38, of village Nehalpur under Keshabpur thana of Jessor district and Golam Kibria of village Debnagar under sadar thana in Satkhira district.

One Shurter gun, one pipe gun and one gun including four rounds of cartridges were also recovered from their possession.

According to Satkhira sadar thana police sources, on the day of occurrence, a group of dacoits numbering 8 to 10 armed with fire weapons entered the house of Elahi Baks Moral and at gun point looted valuables worth about Tk 50,000. While trying to flee, petrol police led by OC, Satkhira thana, CA Halim Chased them near Rajnagar bazar and managed to arrest three of the dacoits.

After interrogating them, police recovered the arms and ammunitions.

## Target of Rabi crops, vegetables will not be achieved

NARSINGDI, Jan 3: The target of Rabi crops and vegetables will not be achieved this year due to acute crisis and exorbitant prices of fertilizers, pesticides and other inputs at the peak season, reports UNB.

According to the Agriculture Extension Department, 10,000 hectares of land were brought under wheat cultivation, 3,000 hectares under potato, 5,000 hectares under mustard and 5,000 hectares under vegetable cultivation.

Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation supplied small quantity of wheat, potato, mustard and vegetable seeds which were said to be of low quality. As a result, most of the farmers had to purchase seeds at exorbitant prices from the open market.

Potato seeds per kg is being sold at Tk 25 as against Tk 15, wheat seeds at Tk 15 as against Tk 13 and mustard seeds at Tk 25 per kg as against Tk 22.

As a consequence, a good number of farmers could not cultivate their land during the season.

# Heavy siltation in river Sitalakhya Cargo handling at Narayanganj port may face closure

From Ehsanul Haque



NARAYANGANJ: BIWTA terminal building in Narayanganj port.

— Star photo

NARAYANGANJ, Jan 3: The cargo handled at the Narayanganj port may be forced to close down as the water level in the river Sitalakhya has recently drastically fallen threatening navigation of cargo vessels. In the meantime, BIWTA terminal here lacks requisite facilities for the passengers and the traders.

Built at a cost of Taka 45 lakh the two storeyed terminal building was inaugurated on March 29, 1966. It was designed to ensure amenities with the old river port. There are also 8 CRC jetties, 10 pontoon jetties, 8 godowns covering 62000 cft in the Narayanganj port, officials of the BIWTA said.

Thousands of passengers travelling through this port everyday have been experiencing untold sufferings. It was observed that the terminal and areas around it have turned into common place of gamblers, drug addicts and floating prostitutes. Unsocial activities are carried on without any resistance from the authority, it is alleged. Passengers are often harassed by the drunk gamblers and prostitutes. River traffic police are often seen to take toll from the floating prostitutes and gamblers, it is also alleged.

The waiting rooms and the spaces at the terminal building and its corridors are generally occupied by the vendors. A number of tea-stalls and small shops have also been set up on the platforms which create space problems. The pickpockets have now found this place most suitable for their activities.

Littered with filth and garbage in the absence of proper cleaning the terminal building and its corridors are posing a serious health hazards to the people. The floating people uprooted by natural calamities have occupied the terminal area. They take both, cook food and sleep at night here. This surrounding of the terminal remain dirty. Bad smell emits round the clock polluting the atmosphere of the terminal.

The authorities cares little to maintain urinals and toilets has not drinking water facility for the passengers. Lighting arrangement is also inadequate. Most of the lights of the terminal areas are out of order. As a result, some areas of the terminal plunge

into darkness giving advantage to the anti-social activities.

There are also allegations of corruption in respect of selling entrance tickets to the passengers.

The terminal authority has vast source of revenue which includes terminal ticket charges, landing and shipping charges, berthing charges, lease and licence fees and miscellaneous. Revenue earnings of the Narayanganj port increased by Taka 1,28,249.96 in the 1994-95 fiscal year as against 1993-94 fiscal year, the authority informed.

According to BIWTA, the authority of Narayanganj port terminal earned revenue of



NARAYANGANJ: Many cargo ships like the ones in the picture recently taken at the port may not be able to enter the port area as water level continues to fall in river Sitalakhya.

— Star photo

Taka 5,13,91,996 during the period 1994-95 while in the 1993-94 fiscal year the revenue earnings from this port terminal stood at Taka 3,85,67,000.

In 1992-93 fiscal year, the revenue earning performance of Narayanganj port terminal was Taka 3,34,46,000. In 1991-92 the revenue earning from this port terminal stood at Taka 3,45,68,000 and Taka 2,38,82,000 was earned from this port in the 1990-91 fiscal year.

The importance of the terminal can be judged from the volume of the traffic handled during the period of 1994-95. As many as 18,42,240 passengers embarked and disembarked at the port and about 20,440 vessels touched and 21,170 left the port during the period (94-95).

The cargo, both export and import, handled at the port during 1994-95 was 11,25,000 tons. The main items of cargo were food-grains fertilizer, jute, jute goods, machinery parts, coal, wood, chemicals, tubes, salt etc.

The volume of cargo has also decreased at the Narayanganj port during the past few years. This is primarily because of the river Sitalakhya is experiencing gradual siltation. For large size vessels it is very difficult to enter the port area.

According to reports, for the reason of heavy siltation from Munshiganj to Ghorashal including the industrial town of Narayanganj on the bank of the Sitalakhya river, launches and cargo boats are finding increasing difficulties to enter into this area. The river transportation will soon come to a standstill, officials of the BIWTA viewed.

From the Moghul period sailors and traders made business using the Narayanganj port, and the commodities like muslin cloth, silk and other handicrafts were exported. In those days the Gholondo Mail and Narayanganj-Lakhpur Mail were in operation from Narayanganj to Calcutta via 13 routes including Demra, Kanchan, Jamalpur, Ghorashal, Kaliganj, Athlapur, Lakhpur etc. Vegetable from Kapasia and betel-leaf (paan) of Rupganj were regularly exported to Calcutta by these ships. Beside, for navigability of Sitalakhya the Adamjee Jute Mills, Kaliganj Cotton Mills and Ghorashal Fertilizer Factory along with 500 other large and small mills were set up on the sides of the river.

The BIWTA authority said that Sitalakhya river which started from Old Brahmaputra extended up to 65 miles from Tok-Barmi to Munshiganj confluence (Meghna-Dhaleswari-Sitalakhya confluence). Out of this 29 miles of river route from Ghorashal to Tok-Barmi dry up in the dry season and 36 miles long river from Munshiganj confluence to Ghorashal, are not good for navigation purposes. Out of this 36 miles, the depth of water in the 23 miles from Sitalakhya Bridge to Ghorashal remains about 4 feet wide during the dry season which is only suitable for country boats and motor launches. Even the people and cattle can easily cross the river. The river side mills face tremendous difficulties during those days. Only 13 miles portion of river, from Munshiganj confluence to Sitalakhya Bridge are kept navigable (draft about 14 feet) by frequent dredging in the dry season.

The BIWTA is conscious to keep this 13 miles long area navigable in order to continue the supply products of the Adamjee Jute Mills Silo, Meghna and Padma Petroleum depot.

The Inland Water Transport Authority said the percentage of siltation in this river is more than that of other rivers for its pacific nature and due to the conjunction of three rivers at Munshiganj.

It needs annual dredging at the Meghna-Dhaleswari-Sitalakhya confluence to keep the river navigable. If the areas are not dredged very soon, the Narayanganj port will be closed, sources said.

The sources also, informed that the vessels having capacity to carry more than 500 metric tons of cargo can not ply in this river during the dry seasons as these require at least 17 feet of draft (depth). So the industries here have to hire more, than one vessels to carry goods. A BIWTA expert on river training informed that due to emergence of 1.5 kilometer long shoals in the river Sitalakhya it takes about 45 minutes more to travel by launch between Narayanganj and Munshiganj, a route for about ten thousand passengers daily.

Unless the authority takes necessary steps to keep the river free from silt, the cargo handled at the Narayanganj port may be closed very shortly and the supply of products of the river side industries will be hampered, the source added.

# Unexpected obstacles ruin hopes for a bumper potato production

by AKM Mohsin back from Munshiganj

Jan 3: Production of potato from Munshiganj district this season is likely to decline by more than 25 per cent as a severe shortfall of hay and water for irrigation prevails from the very beginning of the cultivation season.

The winter vegetable produced abundantly every year in the district faces this predicament as farmers in many places could not yet prepare land for cultivation of the produce. It rained three times during early of November to first week of December, the peak time for sowing potato seeds, breaking hearts of many growers. Despite all the barriers the farmers did not give up. They are still hopeful of making profit. Off season cultivation of potato can still make up for the shortfall in target.

The recent flood in the district severely damaged huge standing crops also ruining hope of getting hay largely used for potato cultivation process.

On the other hand, shortage of water for irrigation mainly due to drying up of Taltala-Garaganj canal (Suez) and other natural reasons hampered preparation of land. Water hyacinth required for processing cultivation of the produce were coincidentally available in much fewer quantity. All these together contributed to barriers for potato cultivation in the district specially in Louhaganj and Tongibari. These two regions of the district produce more than 80 per cent of the total output. Had these obstacles not come in the way the region could have produced another bumper output.

Meanwhile, those who were lucky enough to successfully cultivate potato did not escape paying high prices for the inputs.

To cultivate potato on one acre of land a farmer has to use seven bags of urea, same



MUNSHINGANJ: Potato seeds being sown in Louhaganj thana of Munshiganj district.

— Star photo



MUNSHINGANJ: Potato seeds are being covered with soil. This picture was taken on Friday last.

— Star photo

quantity of TSP and three and a half bags of potash fertilizer which on an average would cost Tk 5,500. Pesticides worth Tk 2,500 is also applied for safety of the crop. On top of all these labour service charge is added which is about Tk 2,400 for every 30 labourers working during the season. In every acre of land about 600 kilogram of potato seeds are required which cost on an average Tk 8,400.

The local farmers while exchanging views with this correspondent said, they had to invest 25 to 40 per cent more than previous season to purchase inputs. "We will not give up producing potato but what we like to know is who is responsible for such an abnormal price hike," asked a group of angry farmers in Louhaganj.

Louhaganj, the main business centre of the district, never had any government appointed fertilizer dealer. Only a few traders sell fertilizer. Surprisingly, the district Agriculture Extension Department virtually plays no role in providing logistic support, most of the farmers alleged. An old farmer from Tongibari said, "potato worth millions of taka are grown here but I have never witnessed any AED field instructor giving us any lessons. That's their job to advise us on how to grow things better, isn't it, he asked."

An acre of land can give as much as 325 maunds of potato. Each maund of the produce costs Tk 100. Sultan Mollah of village Kalma of Louhaganj made a net profit of Tk 20,000 cultivating potato on 1.5 acre of leased land last year. He hopes to bring more land under potato cultivation this season. "It's like gambling. More you play more you become addicted," said Mollah adding, "Unfortunately, unexpected barriers have disappointed us this year."



## Directorate General Defence Purchase

Ministry of Defence

New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215

## Tender Notice

1. Sealed tenders in foreign currency are invited from bonafide Manufacturers/Suppliers/Dealers/Indentors (Enlistment with this Directorate General is not necessary) for supply of the following items for "ARMY":

- Elec Hand Drill Machine complete with std accessories & 2.5% spare parts on FOB value. Qty—04
- Tractor for mi Dairy firm complete with std accessories & 10-15 yrs maint spare parts. Qty—04
- Plant Tptr complete with std accessories & 2.5% spare parts on FOB value. Qty—02

2. Tender schedule with details specifications will be available on payment as per I/T selling rate (not refundable) from 03 January '96 to 13 February '96 on any working day between 0800 hrs to 1300 hrs. The tender will be opened on 14 February '96 at 1000 hrs in presence of all tenderers (if any).

ISPR/Misc/95/2295  
DFP-32483-26/12  
G-23

Lt Col  
for Director General



## Mongla Port Authority

Mongla, Bagerhat

## "Receiver of Wreck" Notice

The barge "NSC/8-E" sunk on 17/5/95 Eng. in the Pussur Channel near Ismail Char within the Port limit has now become a danger for navigation of ships and there is probability of siltation in the channel. Since the owners/agents of the wreck have failed to displace or clear it, being appointed as "Receiver of Wreck" as per section 448 of BMSO, 1983, the undersigned is hereby taking possession of the said wreck.

It is for information of all concerned that according to rules laid down in Bangladesh Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1983, the undersigned shall be executing all concerned responsibilities as "Receiver of Wreck" and from now on no one will have the right to interfere into the matter of the wreck or to do anything concerning the same. It is also hereby notified clearly that according to section 459 of BMSO, 1983, the undersigned shall take necessary steps, and the owners/agents shall remain responsible for all consequences of the wreck including being liable to incur all expenditure in connection with the recovery of the said wreck.

Receiver of Wreck  
&

Chairman  
Mongla Port Authority  
Mongla, Bagerhat.

MPA/Boad Jana/348  
D-22

## Bangladesh Tariff Commission

1st 12-Storey Govt Office Building (11th floor)  
Segun Bagicha, Dhaka-1000

## Tender Invitation

Credit No. IDA TA-No. 6 2393-Bangladesh Dated: 1-1-96

- Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received various currency credit from International Development Association (IDA) for meeting expenses of Sixth IDA Technical Assistance Project and has decided that a portion of this credit will be used through Member (Finance) & Project Director, IDTC-2 Project, Bangladesh Tariff Commission to finance procurement of a number of PC (Pentium based) computer system and related software (SCO Unix, Oracle RDBMS, Electronic File Management System, Self Training Applications etc.), hardware (Printer, Scanners, Optical Drive, CD-R, UPSs, Stabilizers etc.) and other machines (Dehumidifiers, Refrigerator etc).
- Member (Finance) & Project Director, IDTC-2 Project, Bangladesh Tariff Commission invites sealed tenders from competent tenderers for supply of a number of PC (Pentium based) Computer System & related software (SCO Unix, Oracle RDBMS, Electronic File Management System, Self Training Applications etc.), hardware (Printer, Scanners, Optical Drive, CD-R, UPSs, Stabilizers etc.) and other machines (Dehumidifiers, Refrigerator etc).
- Intending competent tenderers may obtain further information from the office of the System Analyst of Bangladesh Tariff Commission, Room No. 1007/B, 1st 12-Storey Govt Office Building (9th floor), Segun Bagicha, Dhaka-1000. Phone: 409798 and see the tender documents at the said address.
- Any intending competent tenderer may purchase two sets of complete tender document on written application to the Project Director, IDTC-2 Project, Bangladesh Tariff Commission and cash payment of Tk 400/= (four hundred) only (non-refundable) from the Accounts Section of Bangladesh Tariff Commission, 1st 12-Storey Govt. Office Building (11th floor), Segun Bagicha, Dhaka-1000 during office hours from 04-01-96 to 18-01-96.
- Minimum 2% of total quoted amount as security (refundable) in favour of Bangladesh Tariff Commission must be submitted with all tenders which should be deposited in the tender box kept at the office of the Bangladesh Tariff Commission, 1st 12-Storey Govt Office Building (11th floor), Segun Bagicha, Dhaka-1000 at or before 11-30 hours of 20-01-96.
- Tenders will be opened at the above office of the System Analyst of the Commission on 20-01-96 at 11-30 hours in presence (if any) of the tenderers' representatives.
- Bangladesh Tariff Commission reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason whatsoever.

DFP-02/1/1  
G-24

Secretary  
Bangladesh Tariff Commission