

LGED special project

Wooden wheels of carts to be replaced by rubber wheels

RAJBARI, Mar 10: Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) has taken up a special programme to replace carts with wooden wheels by rubber wheels at a cost of Tk 1.20 lakh, reports UNB.

The programme has been undertaken considering the feeder roads to be serviceable for a long tenure under LGED's Rural Infrastructure Development Project-4, said an official source.

Wheel carts, which is widely used in rural areas for transportation of goods and services, have an impact on the road as its metal rings of the wooden wheels cut the edges of bituminous and earth and breaks roads.

Pointing out the destroying effect, IDP-LGED and other similar developing agencies conducted necessary study and approved the project before conducting a motivational campaign to create awareness among the cart owners, the sources added.

At the first phase of the programme, LGED replaced wheels by rubber wheels of 24 carts - 22 in Goalanda and two in Baliakandi thanas - at a cost of Tk 5,000 per cart. Of the amount, Tk 4,000 was allotted by LGED as subsidy and rest Tk 1,000 by cart owners.

Power disruption affects production in mills in Noakhali

MAIJDEE COURT (Noakhali), Mar 10: Economic activities in greater Noakhali district are being seriously affected due to frequent power-failure since the last few months, reports UNB.

Production in almost all mills and factories in Noakhali, Feni and Lakshadweep districts is being disrupted almost every day causing price hike of the essentials.

The district and thana towns remain in darkness for hours together almost every night due to load-shedding hampering normal life of the people.

Students preparing for various examinations and patients in different hospitals are the worst sufferers, local people alleged.

They urged the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to ensure smooth electricity supply in the region.

Arts academy to be set up to preserve Monipuri culture

MOULAVIBAZAR, Mar 10: A performing arts academy equipped with modern facilities would be set up at Madhabpur in Kamalgonj thana under Moulavibazar district aiming at preserving, nurturing and flourishing the traditional culture of Monipuri community living in the Sylhet Division, reports BSS.

About one crore taka would be spent for improvement of the existing Monipuri Lalitakala academy.

Cultural Secretary Moklesur Rahman laid the foundation stone of the proposed academy building here last Thursday.

An auditorium and training building on about four thousand square feet area and an administrative and museum building on 18 hundred square feet area would be constructed under the development project. Necessary equipment, furniture and training materials would be provided for the academy.

Speaking on the occasion, the cultural secretary said the proposed academy would play significant role in flourishing the traditional culture of Monipuri community as well as its implication on the main stream national culture.

Children of distress families being imparted pry education

FATUAKHALI, Mar 10: Some 626 underprivileged children mostly from the distressed fishermen families of the district are being imparted primary education by a voluntary organization, reports UNB.

Community Development Centre, a non-government voluntary organization, provided education facilities to these children, under its Primary Education Programme at eight centres in the current session.

The centres are Chapli, Galachipa, Lala, Nalubagi, Rangabali, Boalia, Kuakata and Dhankhali in the district.

The organisation sources said books, khatahs, pencils and other educational appliances have been distributed free of cost among the children admitted in their education centres.

After completion of three years course in the initial stage, the children of these centres attain eligibility to get admission into class four.

It is learnt that organisation has taken up some development programmes in coastal thanas of Galachipa thana of the district in the current financial year.



Bus passengers crossing a channel of river Jamuna in Bhuapur.

Launch ghat shifted due to fall in water level

Thousands of travellers forced to walk 4 km in Bhuapur

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 10: With drying up of the main channels of Jamuna, crossing the river in Sirajganj-Bhuapur route has turned risky and time-consuming. Bhuapur launch ghat is shifted about three kilometres to the east from Gabsara char. Due to this change Dhaka bound passengers are to cross about four kilometres distance area on foot to get to the buses. It is learnt that with fall in

the water level of Jamuna, Bhuapur launch ghat was shifted to Nalchia char, about three kilometres from the bus stand. The passengers from Sirajganj are to cross this long road on foot. Women and children are the worst sufferers.

Thousands of passengers on way to Dhaka, Mymensingh, Tangail and other adjacent districts are to walk miles through sand after crossing

the Jamuna by motor launches via Sirajganj ghat. A few rickshaws and vans are found to ply in this road.

The Roads and Highways (R&H) Department constructed a brick road from Bhuapur bus stand to Bhuapur launch ghat. But the bricks of the road disappeared within two months of construction and sand again covered the road. Since then, the Dhaka

bound passengers at Bhuapur ghat have been facing utmost sufferings. This situation will continue till next rainy season when Bhuapur ghat will be shifted at Gabsara, adjacent to the bus stand.

The suffering passengers of Bhuapur route have urged upon the authority to construct a pucca road which can be used permanently during the dry seasons.

No work for thousands of women labourers

PATUAKHALI, Mar 9: The female labourers are facing survival problems due to lack of job opportunities in six thanas of the district, reports UNB.

According to the local estimate, there are about 15,000 female labourers in Bauphal, Dashmina, Dumki, Kalapara, Mirzaganj, Galachipa and Sadar thanas of the district. Most of them are widows and divorcees. Unmarried girls have also joined the female labour force for their bare survival.

These women labourers are involved in husking paddy, working in the brickfields, shrimp processing works, earth digging and construction works.

Opportunities of their work are shrinking for various reasons including recurring floods, cyclones and other natural calamities for the last few years.

Small and marginal farmers have been affected due to these natural calamities. Besides due to financial constraints, these women whose poor parents can hardly provide them with food and shelter, cannot engage themselves in small and cottage industries to make them self-reliant.

The female labourers are paid less than the male counterparts for same work including construction, some construction female labourers alleged.

Local social welfare activists urged the authority to look into the matter and create job opportunities for distressed and poor women by extending soft credit facilities for small and cottage industries to make them self-reliant.

Boat capsizes: Two passengers die, 20 injured

CHANDPUR, Mar 9: Two passengers died and 20 others were injured in the river Meghna near Muladi thana of Barisal district on Friday, reports UNB.

The ill-fated trawler bound for Muladi, with 40 devotees who were on way to attend Charmonal Peer's Waj Mahfil from Chandpur ghat, capsized in the evening.

The passengers of the nearby boat rescued Mohammad Bondukshi Miah, 70, of Bishnadi village in Sadar thana and another unidentified young man aged about 21 in an unconscious state. Later the attending doctor declared them dead.

The trawler loaded with the devotees from Chandpur at 11:00 am capsized 40 km south of the district as the driver lost its control.

All the rest passengers were rescued by the nearby boat passengers after the incident and the injured were admitted to Muladi hospital.

River Ichhamati badly needs to be excavated near Pabna town

From Ranesh Maitra

PABNA, Mar 10: The river Ichhamati, one of the important rivers of Pabna district, has now turned into a narrow canal, having in most places, absolutely no water and both banks, including the river bed, has gone under illegal occupation of a number of local influential persons.

The river Ichhamati has passed through Pabna town and divided the same into two which are called - East Pabna and West Pabna. On the eastern part of it, the main township is situated while on the

west, government Edoward College, Radhanagar Majumdar Academy, Adarsha Girls High School, Thana Parishad Complex, Circuit House, BSCIC Industrial Estate, Mental Hospital and many other important offices and installations are located.

However, the river within Pabna town portion, has been completely silted-up, its bed, covering a vast area, water hyacinth has a luxuriant growth - as if a garden of water - giving birth to lakhs of mosquitoes

making the life of the town-people extremely unbearable. In fact, the river Ichhamati around Pabna town, has virtually turned into a very safe breeding centre of mosquitoes.

Boats, launches and other river vessels plied through it - from one end to another, carrying passengers, commercial goods and services and also facilitated irrigation of lands covering vast areas on both sides of the river, trade and commerce developed, various commercial centres, hats, bazaars, etc. grew and the life

of the people became buoyant. These are all matters of past having no trace of the said glory.

Ichhamati is a tributary of the river Padma. Starting from Bajitpur ghat in Pabna town, it passed through Pabna Sadar Thana, Algharia Thana, Santhia Thana, Faridpur thana and lastly through the river Hurasagar within Bera Thana.

During last three decades, a new history has been created. The river has dried up completely. Influential people in different areas have taken possession of vast lands of the river bed under their illegal occupation, constructed houses, cultivating various crops and constructed many embankments passing through the river and turned them into roads through which carts, rickshaws, rickshaw-vans, bicycles have been always plying. In certain portions, however, there are water, not much deep and such areas have been turned (wherever possible) into IRRI-BORO paddy fields. So, in the ultimate result is there is no sign of existence of the river.

Such is the situation upto Madhupur from Pabna town.

The portion from Madhupur in Santhia upto other end at Bera, however, has been excavated under the gigantic Pabna Irrigation and Flood Control Project, popularly known as Pabna Project. Permanent storage of water for irrigation and small river communication system have been made possible by the Water Development Board. The Project, which was taken up under foreign assistance, has been successfully able to permanently control floods and created many other opportunities for the people living in the Project areas. The first phase of the scheme has been implemented but the second phase of the same project has not yet been taken up. The Project Director, when contacted, would also not give any idea as to when the second phase would be taken up for implementation.

Whatever may be the fate of the second phase of Pabna Project, the portion of river Ichhamati covering from Pabna town to Madhupur, needs to be excavated on priority basis in the interest of trade, commerce, river communication and irrigation. The land of Ichhamati illegally grabbed by the so-called influential, should also be recovered.

It is learnt that through creation of forged deeds, by obtaining fraudulent documents and by adopting a number of other illegal methods, thousands of acres of government land under river Ichhamati river people living by the river side have become illegal owners. They have, in many places, constructed pucca residential buildings too. The process of such illegal activities have been going on unabated. Hence, urgent legal governmental interventions become imperative in the interest of the government and the people as well.



Pabna: Scene of the river Ichamati within Pabna town.

— Star photo

In Jhenidah district

TB, Leprosy under control

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Mar 10: Tuberculosis and Leprosy control programme is running smoothly in Jhenidah district as awareness programme.

According to sources, to bring Tuberculosis (TB) and Leprosy under control, government had taken a development plan of TB and Leprosy control services. The programme was started in Jhenidah sadar, Saikupa, Kaliganj and Kotchandpur thanas in June and in Harinakundu and Mohespur thanas in July last year. According to Dr. Manjur Rahman, Medical Officer (MO), of Jhenidah, the number of Leprosy patients is eight in the district. The number of Tuberculosis (TB) patients in Jhenidah sadar is 232; Saikupa 151; Harinakundu 112; Kaliganj 101; Kotchandpur 62 and in Mohespur 66. Out of total 724 TB patients 227 cases (patients) were detected as positive. The per cent of positive case is

31.35, till December last year, the MO said.

It was learnt from the sources that concerned Civil Surgeon (CS), six Thana Health and Family Planning Officers (THFPO), Medical Officer, TB Leprosy designated, MO, CS officer, District Health Supervisor (DHS), Health Education Officer (HEO), 15 Health Inspectors (HI), 46 Assistant Health Inspectors (AHI), six Sanitary Inspectors (SI), six Health Assistants (HA), a few Medical Technologists and other related staff were given training to make the programme a success.

The Medical Officer further said that sufficient drugs like capsule Rifampicin, tablet Isoniazid, tablet Ethambutol, tablet Pyrazinamide and injection Streptomycin are being supplied for the TB patients and capsule Rifampicin, capsule Lamprone and tablet Dap-

some are being supplied for the Leprosy patients free of cost. All the drugs were costly, the MO informed.

Sources said, seven TB patients in Jhenidah sadar, four in Saikupa, two in Harinakundu and two patients in Kaliganj thana died so far.

To grow awareness electronics medias are playing key roles. Health and Family Planning workers are engaged in motivating the common people, keeping contact with respective pourashavas or union parishad chairmen, commissioners, local elites, teachers of all educational institutions and Imams of Mosques.

The sources said, a good number of schools were brought under the programme so that the students of those schools can help make the programme a success. It was learnt from the sources that government had taken intensive care of the patients tested positive.

Many inspired by Molla's success

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, Mar 10: Molla Moslem Ali at village Tupipara in Sirpur thana of Magura district is now self-employed, cultivating 'kazi peyara' (guava) in a plot adjoining to his dwelling house.

While going to Magura town from Sirpur thana sadar by bus or baby taxi, a 'kazi peyara bagan' (guava orchard) will be noticed at immediate left side of the pucca road. This has changed the socio-economic standing of Molla Moslem Ali's family. If one looks at this guava orchard any time of the year, one can see big guavas hanging from every tree.

When this correspondent visited Ali's guava garden at Tupipara Molla was not at home. However, his wife, Selina Molla showed their 'guava garden'.

Selina Molla informed this correspondent that they decided to plant 'kazi peyara' in adjoining plot of their dwelling house to become self-employed three years ago. They had a plain land of 20 decimals adjoining to their dwelling house. According to the decision, they planted 117 'kazi peyara' (high yielding varieties of guava plant)

saplings in the said land in 1993. They were determined to become self-employed by working harder in their guava garden, she added.

She informed that her husband purchased the guava saplings from a private nursery for Taka 1200. He arranged fencing with bamboo around the plot. Cowdung, TSP, potash, khaal (oil cake) and rotten hyacinth were used methodically.

She proudly told this correspondent that she and her children always help her husband to look after the garden. It was proved that everyone can be self-employed by working harder. Visiting around the village Tupipara the correspondent has learnt that many marginal farmers were also inspired from Molla Moslem Ali's guava cultivation. Molla's neighbour Md A Wahab has started guava cultivation adjoining to his dwelling house.

Molla's neighbour A Rahim told, if one can work hard and be sincere in his work, success will always be a reward. Molla is the concrete example of sincerity in work, he added.

— Star photo by Sk Enamul Haq

Notice of Tender

Military Engineer Services

Notice No. 600/15/04/1995-96/E-6 Dated: 12 February 1996

- Applications are hereby invited by AHQ, E-in-C's Branch, Works Dte, Dhaka Cantonment for issue of tender documents for the following work by 23 March 1996.
 - Construction of 1xMT garage (including MT office) at Cantt area, Dhaka Cantt.
 - Contractors borne on the approved list of MES of category 'B' and 'C' may apply for tender documents. Enlistment Index No, Class, VAT Registration No, Name of Proprietor, Permanent/Temporary address and Telephone No (if any) for MES enlisted contractors/firms must be shown clearly in their applications. Incomplete application will not be accepted.

ISPR(Army)96/424
DFP-5162-6/3
G-350

D Works
Wks Dte, E-in-C's Branch
Dhaka, Cantt

BCIC International Tender Notice

বিসিআইসি'র পণ্য শিলায়নে জাতীয় অগ্রগতির প্রতীক

Sealed tenders in two envelope system on C&F (C), Chittagong basis are invited by the Managing Director, Jamuna Fertilizer Company Ltd., Tarakandi, Sarishabari, Jamalpur vide Tender No. JFCL/FP/MTS/INST/2.260/104 Dt. 14-02-96 for supply of different kinds of Pressure Gauge & Probe etc. Tender will be received up to 11-00 AM on 10-4-96 and be opened immediately afterwards. Tender documents with detailed description can be collected subject to cash payment of Tk. 100/- (Tk. one hundred) only (Non-refundable) per set from (i) BCIC, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka (ii) BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong (iii) Jamuna Fertilizer Company Ltd., Jamalpur. No tender documents will be sold on the date of opening.

BCIC-193-2/3/96
DFP-4840-4/3

G-351

Bangladesh Railway

Sub: Extension of time for submission of proposal for leasing of the latent capacity and facility of the optical fibre Digital Telecommunication network of Bangladesh Railway by private operators

Ref: CSTE/Telecom/Bangladesh Railway/CRB/Chittagong's-Tender Notice No. CSTE/T-G Commercialization/96 dated 18.01.1996.

The date of submission of the proposal (reference para-4 of the notice) is hereby extended up to 04-04-1996, other conditions remaining unchanged.

Chief, Signal & Telecom Engineer/Telecom
Bangladesh Railway, CRB, Chittagong
Bangladesh.

Phone: 880-31-504210, Fax: 880-2-867796
Telex: 66200 CRB BJ

D-262

Directorate General Defence Purchase

Ministry of Defence

New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215

Tender Notice

- Sealed tenders in Local/Foreign currency are invited from bonafide manufacturers/suppliers/indentors/dealers (enlistment with this Directorate General is not necessary) for supply of following items for Bangladesh Army:

Serial No	Nomenclature	Qty	Selling Date	Date of Opening	Cost of I/T and Currency
a	Reeling Machifre Cable Hand RL-27D complete	115 Nos	18-3-96 to 15-4-96	17-4-96	Tk. 10.00 Local Currency
b	Spares for Amplifier AM-1077 of Radio Set VHF PRC-1077	4 line items	18-3-96 to 4-5-96	6-5-96	Tk. 15.00 Local/Foreign Currency

2 Detailed specification, nomenclatures and quantity of items have been mentioned in the tender schedule. The tender schedule will be available on cash payment against the mentioned amount (not refundable) at abovementioned dates on any working day between 0800 hrs to 1300 hrs. The tender will be opened on aforesaid date at 1000 hrs in presence of all tenderers.

ISPR/Misc/96/436
DFP-5174-6/3
G-352

Major
For Director General