

Railway lines in W Zone in poor shape: Frequent mishaps reported

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Apr 24: The Railway tracks of Bangladesh Railway (BR) Western zone are in deplorable condition as most of the wooden sleepers have been damaged.

It is learnt that out of 985 miles Railway track, 685 miles are broad gauge, shortage of railway sleepers and pebbles on the lines has turned the route risky. Every day 124 trains including 24 inter-city, 24 mails and 76 local trains run in the Western zone which consists of Paksey and Lalmonirhat zones.

The condition of rail lines in Sirajganj-Ishwardi route has turned most risky. Major portion of wooden sleepers in this route have been damaged. Acute shortage of stone pebbles causes frequent accidents in this route.

During last 15 days, the Dhaka-bound mail train from

Chapainawabganj derailed at Rajapur near Muladuli station under Babna district disrupting railway communication for two days.

On April 5, two compartments of stone carrying goods trains were derailed near Jamtoli station under Kamarkhanda thana in Sirajganj district disrupting rail communication for the second time within a fortnight.

Due to deplorable condition of rail line in Sirajganj-Ishwardi route, journey by train has turned much risky. Following introduction of long route coach services, passengers of BR have comparatively decreased. Risky journey due to deplorable rail line continue to affect the number of passengers travelling by train in the Western zone. It is urgently needed to repair the lines to ensure safe journey by train.

CORPS COMOS CONFERENCE -1996



President Abdur Rahman Biswas addressing the EME Corps Commanders' Conference at Syedpur Cantonment on Tuesday. —PID photo

Embankment construction demanded in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Apr 24: Leaders of Chauldhani Haor Unnayan Sangstha at a press conference on Saturday demanded construction of protection embankments at Samirsar canal and Karkhali canal and sluice gates at different points to save the huge crops from flash floods and other calamities which take place almost every year.

They called upon the Water Development Board to take effective measures in this regard. Otherwise, they said, people of the said areas will be at great risk.

They also alleged that, though some small embankments were constructed in the different canals of the haor, these were not at all effective to face the calamities. Most part of these embankments were washed away by the flash floods that hit the area March 29 last.

They said IRR-boro paddy on about thirty thousand acres of land of Chauldhani haor in between the Daulatpur and Dashghar unions under Biswanath thana of Sylhet face inundation due to the early flood and onrush of waters from the upperstream almost every year. It is caused due to the absence of any mean to save the paddy crops worth about several crores of Taka annually.

Thousands of farmers of about 40 villages have been

passing hard days. But no steps have yet been taken. The situation had gone more serious in the recent years, they said.

They also said, if immediate measures are not taken, a strong movement will be launched by the people of the area soon. Mahbubur Rahman, secretary, Chauldhani Haor Unnayan Sangstha, read out a written statement in the press conference while President of the body Md Abdur Rahim and others were present.

Rangpur poursava takes up 102 dev schemes

RANGPUR, Apr 24: The local poursava has taken up some 102 schemes at a cost of Tk 76,68,825 under medium town infrastructure development project in the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

According to official sources, the schemes to be implemented are: construction of 40.49 km drains, 20.993 km roads, one bridge, 22 culverts, three box culverts, one slaughter-house and planting of some 2,000 saplings.

After the completion of the schemes, communication facilities for the people will be improved to a great extent, said an official handout.

Property worth Tk one lakh gutted

JHENIDAH, Apr 24: Property worth Taka about one lakh was gutted in a devastating fire at village Dogachhia in sadar thana of the district recently.

According to reports, the fire took place at the house of Iman Ali Master and four tin-housed houses, kitchen, power tiller and other valuables were gutted. The reason of fire incident could not be known so far.

College sports competition

FARIDPUR, Apr 24: The annual sports competition '96 of Gazi Sarada Sundari Mahila College was held here in the College ground on April 16, with much enthusiasm.

A P M. Haque Chowdhury, DC and Md. Abdus Sattar, SP, were the chief and special guests respectively at the function presided over by Professor Md. Afsaruddin Sheikh, Principal of the College.

Violence on rise in Patuakhali

PATUAKHALI, Apr 24: Terrorism and anti-social activities have alarmingly increased in the township recently, causing concern among the town dwellers, reports UNB.

Local people alleged that some influential quarters are patronising the terrorists to achieve their evil design. The hoodlums are engaged in extracting tolls openly. Nobody dares to protest their heinous activities for fear of life. The mastans often resort to violent clashes at the behest of the influential leading to bloodshed in the locality.

People of the town have become hostages at the hands of the terrorists as they created a reign of terror in several areas of the town, particularly at PTI area, Munshipara and Sher-e-Bangla road.

At least 50 housewives of the Hospital road area of the town submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner recently to take necessary action against the terrorists.

The terrorists injured a shopkeeper of PTI road and a youth Jashimuddin (22) of Sher-e-Bangla road. They picked up Jashimuddin from BNP office area, beat him mercilessly and left him by cutting his middle finger at Munshi park recently.

Town dwellers urged the authority to take immediate steps to nab the terrorists to restore law and order in the town.

Villagers gauge out eyes of dacoit

JHALAKATHI, Apr 24: Angry villagers damaged the eyes of an alleged dacoit while committing dacoity at a house at North Bachhari village in Rajapur thana, police said today, reports UNB.

Villagers said, a gang of armed dacoits stormed the house of Modasser Ali and attacked the inmates with sharp weapons on April 17. Rahimunnessa, 40, and her son-in-law, Abul Khanderak, 30, were injured seriously in the attack.

Later, hearing the hue and cry, neighbours rushed to the spot and caught Yusuf Ali of Indrapasha village of the thana, red handed. Later following a good beating two of his eyes were damaged by the angry villagers.

But, other dacoits managed to escape with valuables worth about Tk 15,000 from the house.

Injured Yusuf was first admitted to Rajapur Hospital and then shifted to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

A case was registered with the police.

Tk 1.7 cr road development works in progress

RANGPUR, Apr 24: Roads and Highways Department has started development works of two roads at a cost of Tk 1.70 crore in the district during the current fiscal year, official sources said, reports UNB.

The works included earth filling on four-kilometre embankment, 1.75 km flexible pavement and repair of four-km with seal-coat and construction of a 4.57-metre-long culvert on Rangpur-Pirgachha-Sundarganj-Gaibandha road and a three-km flexible pavement, five-km carpeting and seal-coat and a 9.15-metre-long culvert on Rangpur-Badarganj-Parbatipur road.

Till March, this year, works including flexible pavement of 1.75 km, repair works of two-km with seal-coat and construction of the culvert on Rangpur-Pirgachha-Sundarganj-Gaibandha road were completed while 2.25 km flexible pavement and four-km carpeting and seal-coat completed so far on Rangpur-Badarganj-Parbatipur road.

The sources added that the remaining work is progressing fast and is expected to be completed shortly, said an official handout.

Law & order deteriorates

Organised gangs terrorising villagers in Rangpur

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Apr 24: The law and order situation in the district has deteriorated causing a grave concern among the peace-loving citizens.

According to the allegations, three persons were killed and many others injured and 85 houses with all belongings completely gutted when a clash broke out between the villagers and a group of cow-lifters at Khalatghat, Paglahat and Chinatuli villages under Kaunia and Lalmonirhat thanas recently.

Eyewitnesses said the villagers being angered over repeated cow lifting incidents caught two lifters and slaughtered them. At this the fellows of the deceased organised a strong group and equipped with fire arms and deadly weapons raided the villagers to take revenge of the killings of their mates.

During the organised armed attacks by criminals one villager was shot dead and many others injured. The miscreants, moreover, set at least 85 houses on fire rendering 50 families homeless. They also looted away valuables from the houses.

At local Mahigonj area, another group of terrorists in-

jured 11 persons firing gun shots and blasting bombs and looted away huge goods recently.

Recently a group of miscreants at dagger-point looted away 17 bicycles along with all belongings from a number of small traders near Mahigonj Sathama in the Rangpur-Haragach road. The traders said they lost goods worth Taka one lakh in the incident.

At Balatari village a group of armed miscreants suddenly raided the villagers residences and opened fire injuring 15 persons and set six houses on fire looting away 5 shallow machines, 13 cattle and other valuables.

Further nine incidents of looting and hijackings were committed around the town areas in one day recently.

According to the allegations, some groups of armed miscreants cracked down on the pedestrians and looted away cash money, valuable belongings and bicycles.

All these occurrences were committed at Rangpur-Mahigonj Road, C O Bazar, Bothla, Panderdighi, Medical College Hospital Road, Cotton Farm, Asratpur and Darsana

areas recently.

Specific cases were lodged with the Kotwali thana, but none so far were arrested in these incidents, alleged the victims.

In the market areas of villages, similar occurrences of the looting, snatchings, robberies and other crimes like dacoities, and thefts were being committed almost every day.

In the town areas the extortionists had become active and during the last one month a number of incidences of extortions and other crimes took place at Central Bus Terminal Road, Lalbagh, Nawabgonj Bazar, Dhap, Shapla Chatter and Jumnapara areas.

The leaders of the Rangpur traders' samity at different occasions held protest meetings and issued statements demanding arrest of the criminals.

Police sources said that during the current month about one hundred persons were arrested on charges of various offences in the district.

A number of fire arms and ammunition were also recovered by the police during the anti-terrorism drive across the district.

JCD-BCL clash in Jessore

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Apr 24: At least three people were injured, two of them seriously, in armed clash between JCD activists and BCL workers at Jhinkergacha Degree College in the district yesterday.

Injured Anwar Zahid (20) and Probir(21) were admitted to local hospital. Later, Zahid was referred to Jessore General Hospital in critical condition.

It is reported that the injured people were BCL workers. It may be mentioned here that tense situation was prevailing here since killing of Jhinkergacha thana president and Jessore district joint convener of JCD Waliur Rahman at Chutpur recently.

It is also reported that a half-day hartal has been called by rickshaw drivers at Jhinkergacha today in protest against attack on a rickshaw driver by terrorists.

Bus dacoity One stabbed to death, six others injured

JHENIDAH, Apr 24: A passenger was killed and six others were injured when a gang of dacoits attacked the Khulna-bound bus at Batotuli near Kushtia town on Tuesday night, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, the gang numbering seven who were in the bus in the guise of passengers looted valuables from the passengers. They took control of the bus coming from Barisal at BSCIC estate in Jhenidah district and forced the driver to drive towards Kushtia town.

The dacoits while fleeing at Batotuli point, the passengers tried to resist them and the miscreants then started stabbing them indiscriminately. Mohammad Alamgir, 32, of Keshobpur village in Baukhal thana of Patuakhali district who received multiple stab injuries succumbed on his way to Jhenidah Hospital. The other injured were also admitted to the hospital.

A case has been filed with the police.

College teachers meet in C'nawabganj

From Our Correspondent

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Apr 24: Bangladesh College Teachers Association, Nawabganj District unit, arranged a special meeting recently at Shah Niamatullah College with Principal Nizamuddin Shah, district president of the Association, in the chair.

A discussion was held on the present political situation in the meeting. Prof. Saidur Rahman, secretary of the district unit, Principal Enamul Hoque, Principal Miratul Islam, Principal Abu Farooq Ahmad, Prof. N S M Mahbubur Rahman, Prof. Abdus Salam, and Prof. Kamal Uddin took part in the discussion.

Prof. Saidur Rahman, on behalf of the non-government college teachers of the district, gave all out assurance to help caretaker government and the Election Commission in holding fair and neutral elections.

Tubewell sinking, resinking works in progress

JHALAKATHI, Apr 24: Installation and reinstallation works of some 572 tubewells in the district's four thanas are progressing fast to ensure supply of drinking water, reports UNB.

Public Health Engineering Department is implementing the scheme at a cost of Tk 1,27,67,000 with the assistance of UNICEF and government of Saudi Arabia, official sources said.

Some 292 deep and 155 shallow tubewells would be installed and 125 shallow tubewells reinstalled. Thana-wise break-up of the tubewells are 235 in Sadar, 110 in Nofchitli, 197 in Rajapur and 30 in Kathalia thanas.

Meanwhile, 50 per cent work of the scheme has already been completed while the remaining work is expected to be completed by June next.

After the completion, about 50,000 people will get pure water facilities.

Attack on college principal condemned

TANGAIL, Apr 24: Different student organisations, teachers' councils and teacher organisations condemned the heinous attack on Professor A K M Abdullah, Principal of Government M M Ali College by miscreants recently, reports BSS.

The principal was attacked while he was going to the college. He was initially treated locally. Now he is undergoing treatment at Pangu Hospital in Dhaka.

Meanwhile, teachers' association of the college handed over a report on the incident to Director General, Secondary and Higher Education.

8 killed in Jhenidah road accidents

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Apr 24: Eight persons including three minor boys were killed in five separate road accidents in ten days in Jhenidah district.

According to reports, Mujibar Rahman, 45, was killed when a bus knocked him down near Dakbangla bazar on April 16 last.

Report says, he was rushed to the Jhenidah sadar hospital in critical condition and succumbed to his injuries.

Another report says, Jony, 11, a student of village Basantapur in Saikupa thana was crushed to death under the wheels of a speeding bus of Sohan Paribahan near Sekhpura bazar on April 18 last.

The boy was killed when the bus bearing no. Jessore-Ba 901 crushed him. Jony was crossing the road at about 9 am, police said.

According to another re-

port, three unknown persons were killed on the spot and 20 others injured near Koyargachhi in Jhenidah thana on April 10 last.

Eyewitnesses said, the tragic accident took place when the Khulna-bound night coach Dhaka Cha-7452 was hit by a truck from opposite direction.

On April 9, Nima, 5, and Manirul, 3, were crushed to death under the wheels of a loaded tractor at Shahbajpur in Mohepur thana.

Local people said, the tractor crushed them when they were playing by the roadside.

Alek, 18, of village Barokhali in Sadar thana succumbed to his injuries when a vehicle of fire station knocked him near Azad Rest House in the evening of April 9 last. He was rushed to the Jhenidah sadar hospital.

Food for works programme on in Chuadanga

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Apr 24: Massive food for works programmes and test relief programmes are now being implemented in all the four thanas of the district — Chuadanga Sadar, Alamdanga, Damurhuda and Jibanagar.

These programmes have been taken up for the current financial year.

Under the food for works programme, a total of 98 schemes are being implemented for which 1757 metric tons of wheat has been allocated. Of the schemes, 36 are being implemented in Chuadanga Sadar thana, 28 in Alamdanga thana, 21 in Damurhuda thana and 13 in Jibanagar thana.

Under the test relief programme, 1620 metric tons of

wheat has been allocated for 432 schemes, now being implemented in the four thanas of district.

Of the total schemes, 232 are being implemented in Chuadanga Sadar thana, 83 schemes in Alamdanga thana, 93 schemes in Damurhuda thana and 24 schemes in Jibanagar thana.

So far, 40 per cent works of the total food for works programmes have been completed and the remaining work is going on in full swing, while 60 per cent of the test relief programmes have been finished.

It is expected that all the food for works programmes and test relief programmes will be completed by June.

A total of 145 test relief schemes have been implemented in all the four thanas.



SHERPUR. Deputy Commissioner Abdul Mobarak distributing prizes among the winners of the inter thana cultural competition held at the district headquarters recently. —Star photo

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer (R&H) Road Division, Khulna. Phone: 20678 (R&H) Tender Invitation Notice

Tenders in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 under sealed cover are invited from Roads & Highways Directorate enlisted contractors/firms as per financial capacity of their respective licence for the undermentioned work on the roads under Road Division, Khulna during 1995-96 financial year.

1. Tender Notice No. 28 year 1995-96, Khulna Road Division, Khulna.
2. Name of work Reconstruction of the portion cut up for laying proposed cable line by T&T Board at 1st (part), 2nd (part) & 3rd kilometre of Greater Khulna road under Khulna Road Division during 1995-96 financial year.
3. Head of expenditure Deposited fund (by T&T Board).
4. Estimated cost Tk 20,02,784/-
5. Earnest money Tk 40,056/-
6. Date of completion of work 40 (forty) days (from the date of issuing work order).
7. Date & No. of approving the estimate 5-5-96 up to 12-30 minutes.
8. Last date & time of receiving tender At the office of the undersigned on 7-5-96 at 11-00 am.
9. Place, date & time of opening tender A) Additional Chief Engineer, (R&H), Khulna Zone, Khulna.
10. Name of the officers to receive the tender B) Superintending Engineer, (R&H), Monitoring & Evaluation Circle, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka. C) Superintending Engineer, (R&H), Road Circle, Jessore. D) Superintending Engineer, (R&H), Road Circle, Khulna. E) Executive Engineer, (R&H), Road Division, Satkhira/ Bagerhat and F) Executive Engineer, (R&H), Road Division, Khulna.
11. Name of offices where detailed information and terms & conditions of tender will be available except on Friday & Govt holiday. No tender will be sold on the date of opening. At the office of the Executive Engineer, (R&H), Road Division, Khulna/Satkhira/Jessore/Bagerhat/ Planning & Design Division, Sarak Bhaban, Boyra, Khulna/Planning (Road & Bridge) Division, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka/all Sub-Divisional offices under this Road Division.
12. Place, date & time of lottery (where applicable) To be held in the office chamber of the undersigned on 12-5-96 at 11-00 am.

Quantity of work & estimate of rate may increase or decrease according to approval, which shall be amended at the time of submitting formal tender.

Kazi Golam Mostafa
Executive Engineer, (R&H)
Road Division, Khulna.

DFP-8506-20/4
G-526

Milk output declines in Kushtia

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Apr 24: Milk production has been decreasing in Kushtia district as milk cows have rapidly decreased in the district due to epidemic which took a heavy toll in recent times.

District livestock department source said that many milk cows died due to shortage of medicines and lack of consciousness among the farmers to inform them in time about the diseases.

Besides cows are being stolen very frequently and farmers are spending their sleepless nights in cow sheds to save them from the hands of thieves.

Apart from that fresh grass needed for milk cows is not grown as before because of the pattern of crops grown with the introduction of mechanised system of cultivation. A

major portion of grass land has been brought under IRR-boro cultivation. Earlier khesari, mashaal and orhar were abundantly grown in these lands. These crops were profusely used as fodder for the cows.

All section of people consumed locally produced milk to provide them with necessary nutrition.

Farmers have demanded that they should be provided with cattle feed at subsidised price and free treatment of their cattleheads from the livestock department. In case of any diseases of the cattleheads doctors charge high fees which they can not meet and as a result treatment of their cattleheads is not being done and they sustain heavy financial loss when their cattleheads die without treatment.



JHENIDAH. (From left) Dr Pulin Chandra Bhowmik, Assistant Director, Animal Product, Jessore, Mokhesur Rahman, District Livestock Officer, Jhenidah, and Nalinnee Ranjan Basak, TNO, Saikupa, Speaking at a ten-day long training course on "Animal Health management and Extension Project" held at Saikupa thana livestock office training centre on April 13. —Star photo