

# Sarbahara build stronghold in Natore, neighbouring districts

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Sept 18: Activities of armed Sarbahara men — the outlawed group were noticed recently at the remote areas of the vast Chalan beel.

Life and security of the rural people has also become uncertain in this regard.

Chalan beel that consists of partly Natore, Rajshahi, Sirajganj, Pabna and Naogaon districts, is generally known to be very peaceful throughout the year except occasional attack by the dacoits.

The dacoits were very active in this region. People of the region still possess licensed guns in their homes being afraid of attacks by dacoits.

According to observers, armed members of Sarbahara group are found in these areas for the last two years. They are circulating their 'ideals' through wall-writings at different places of Sathpukuria, Ayash, Blash, Tarash and Chalmohar areas. They are also

supplying posters and leaf-lets for a long in the areas.

The armed members of Sarbahara outlawed group came to Khubijpur village of Gurudashpur thana under Natore district on September 4 midnight.

Witnesses said, about 50 armed Sarbahara men entered into the village by three shallow engine-driven boats and announce their existence by blasting a powerful bomb at Khubijpur. They also paraded a procession chanting slogans like 'Langol, Noul, Dhaner Shish, Sob Sopr Aki Bish'. (Plough, boat, sheaf of paddy, all the snakes carries same poison). 'Sarbahara sob ek hao' — police-army astra Nao'. (All Sarbahara unite, take the arms of police and army). 'Tathtabodhayak Sarkar Dorkar Nai — grihoyuddha dorkar' (Care-taker government is unnecessary, civil war is necessary) etc. They left the

village before dawn after wall-writing and scattering posters throughout the village.

According to the villagers, the Sarbahara men belongs to Siraj Sikdar group.

Another observer in the beel area said, this armed group had come to Gurudashpur thana many times before.

On 18th June '95, villagers of Badhopara village under Shingra thana held two persons claiming themselves as Sarbahara, members and kept them locked at Blash Union Parishad office. At evening some armed men attacked the office and snatched the two persons away. During chase and counter chase between the villagers and the armed group, Zillur Rahman 22, son of one Mohammad Ali of the village had been killed by bullet-shot.

According to various sources, Sarbahara men of Chalan beel region are now developing their strongholds at

the middle areas of Gurudashpur-Shingra thana of Natore, Chalmohar thana of Pabna and Tarash thana of Sirajganj districts. As a result, when any of the district police launch a raid to prevent Sarbahara men, the outlawed group managed to move to other districts and find shelter.

Sometimes, police from the mainland fails to reach any spot of incidents in the remote 'charlands' in absence of mechanised boats. The remote areas of Chalmohar and Tarash thana are also deprived of prompt presence of Law enforcing agencies.

However, Natore police told this correspondent that steps are being taken to intensify patrol in the areas.

People of the areas are now passing their days amid fear and panic as the outlawed group started to show signs of their presence.

# 'Only public consciousness can remove drug addiction'

From Our Correspondent

TANGAIL Sept 18: The whole of Tangail district has been flooded with phensidyl, a cough syrup, ganja, country made liquor and other contraband drugs. There are about hundred well known spots including the district town where contraband drugs are being sold without any obstruction from any quarter.

A group of people are running their business allegedly in collusion with some corrupt persons of the law enforcing authorities in exchange of fixed 'percentage'. The guardians have been pain stricken at the alarming rate of increasing in drug abuses.

Sources said, huge quantity of drug, phensidyl, ganja, beer are being smuggled into Tangail through some recognised channels. Mainly three routes, Aricha-Nagarpur, Bera-Pabna-Charabari ghat, and Sirajganj-Bhuiapur ghat are being used as the transit for smuggling. Sirajganj-Bhuiapur route has been left alone in recent time whereas it was a golden heaven as the transit for smugglers only a few days ago. Before the '90, small quantity of phensidyl had been smuggled but recently it may be mentioned here that entire Tangail including local towns has been flooded with phensidyl along with other contraband drugs and the demand is increasing every day.

A reliable source said, several illegal ganja plantation projects in the hill area of Modhpur, Sakhipur, and Mirjapur are being implemented unhindered. Places like Nalua, Kaitala in Sakhipur thana, Gairabail, Kaharta in

Mirjapur thana, Jalehatra, Kakraid and Dhanbari in Modhpur thana, Bolla in Kalihati thana where ganja, cholal liquor and joa (one kind of wine) are being produced commercially and transported to the different parts of the district.

Six shops for country made liquor and two for foreign wine in six thana sadar of Tangail, Mirjapur, Sakhipur, Gopalpur, Kalihati and Nagarpur are permitted by the competent authority. But at least one hundred shops are selling ganja, country made wine and other contraband drugs illegally. It is learnt, as an example there is no licensed shop in Bhyapur thana but at least ten shops are selling liquor.

It is alleged that phensidyl and other contraband drugs marketed in the town is almost open like a common item. At least 30 spots in various parts of the town including Niraharmour, Newmarket, College para, Kumudini college gate, old bus stand, Terminal, Thana para, Per Dighulia, Resistry para and many confectioneries, hotels and other shops are well known spots for their retail and whole sale. Except a number of young use rectified spirit for intoxication. A number of homeopathic medicine centres are selling rectified spirit.

The roof of loan office super market, Soyani Bazar, Bhashani hall balcony, model primary school field are being used as safe places for the gathering and taking drugs.

The brothel of the town is well known as a secured golden

heaven for the addicts. The contraband drug traders are usually informed before any raid and they get opportunity to be careful. So the raids are of no use.

Meanwhile, the number of drug addicts is on the rise in the district resulting in further increase in anti-social activities.

Overall condition of the Narcotics and liquor department of Tangail is very much hopeless. Total manpower of this department is only 19. Where as very important eight posts including prosecutor, inspector sub inspector are lying vacant.

The Office Chief Assistant Director Md Boduuzzaman reportedly stays in Dhaka city with family.

He comes to office once or twice in a month. The same condition lies with the lone inspector office who also stays with family in Dhaka city. Only five sepy and a clerk manage all official work. It is learnt from a reliable source. It is complained that they have illicit connection with this illegal business.

Office source said that they recovered 3016 litres Jaao (a kind of liquor), 147 litres 'chibai' liquor, 8 kg and 300 grams ganja, 25 lbs rectified spirit, 16 crates beer, 8 bottles for eight wine, 66 litres Pochol (one kind of local liquor), 171 ganja plants and 400 ganja made cigarettes during the last 20 months. Office source added 78 cases were filed against 87 persons in different thanas. But they could not recover a single bottle of phensidyl.

While talking to The Daily

Star Assistant Director of Narcotics Control Department, Md Boduuzzaman said, "the whole Tangail (especially northern region) has been flooded with liquor and other drugs. But what can we do? We have a poor manpower where eight important posts are vacant. On the other hand, drug smugglers have a strong network, they use microbus, private car and other vehicles but we have no vehicle. Our main problem is that when we send an accused to the court with seized drugs they get bail and then again engaged themselves in the previous business."

They get released due to the absence of proper witnesses. As a result it is difficult to control such a horrible situation. We are like, the army without arms. So only public consciousness can remove drug addiction and build up a drug free society."

Hassan Mahmud Khandakar, SP of Tangail, also admitted the extent of the use of drugs and added the same condition exists all over Bangladesh. He also blamed Narcotics Department for this situation in Tangail and informed that Tangail police will start movement against contraband drug traders very soon.

While talking to The Daily Star, Abdus Sattar Khan, Deputy Commissioner of Tangail blamed Narcotics Department for allowing rise in drug addiction in the district. He also said that he had already told the concerned departments to set up mobile courts if necessary. But nothing has yet been done.

# Erosion intensifies as flood water recedes

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Sept 18: Flood situation in Pabna district has now derwent further improvement as flood-water in the Padma, Jamuna, Baral, Atrai, Hura-sagar and in all other rivers and tributaries have been receding.

But the people in the affected areas were still acutely suffering from a severe water logging in the seven affected thanas, namely, Pabna sadar, Bera, Sujanaagar, Ishurdi, Chalmohar, Bhangoora and Faridpur.

The problem of severe erosion both in the Padma and the Jamuna — have been continuing with all its fury engulfing vast areas of land with standing crops over them, houses and big and small roads.

Already, 530 houses within Pabna sadar thana, 1567 houses within Bera thana, 290 houses in Sujanaagar thana, 125 houses in Ishurdi thana and 30 houses in Bhangoora thana have been eroded by the Jamuna, Padma and Baral rivers, the flood control embankment near Bera is still under a severe threat of its existence, it is learnt from different sources.

The District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer in Pabna, while talking with this correspondent over telephone on Monday disclosed that so far 968 houses in Bera thana, 233 houses in Pabna sadar thana, 124 houses in Sujanaagar thana, 75 houses in Ishurdi thana and 19 houses in Bhangoora thana have been eroded. These figures were prepared after 3-day official assessments.

The officer however, added that erosion in the above three rivers were still continuing.

Other losses suffered during the three consecutive floods this year, the DRRO stated that 62,138 persons and 2,186 families of Bera thana; 25,000 per-

sons and 40 families of Sujanaagar thana; 30,000 persons and 102 families of Faridpur thana; 700 persons and 88 families of Chalmohar thana; 1,000 persons and 104 families of Bhangoora thana; 1200 persons and 130 families of Pabna sadar thana; 600 persons and 80 families of Ishurdi thana and 20,000 persons and 230 families of Santhia thana have been badly affected by the flood inundations.

The total number of persons and families thus affected, according to the official assessments made in July stood at 1,20,118 persons and 3706 families.

Subsequently, however, the number of total affected persons rose to near 2,00,000 and 5,000 families.

Besides, in the agricultural sector, the losses suffered have been estimated as 985 hectares completely and 560 hectares partially in Bera thana; 390 tons to the standing crops is

hectares completely and 995 hectares partially in Sujanaagar thana; 300 hectares completely and 950 hectares partially in Faridpur thana; 435 hectares completely and 1195 hectares partially in Faridpur thana; 365 hectares completely and 2185 hectares partially in Chalmohar thana; 2699 hectares completely and 1231 hectares partially in Bhangoora thana and 1499 hectares completely and 650 hectares partially were damaged in Pabna sadar thana till July.

According to the official assessment, 6673 hectares of land with standing crops were completely and 5,866 hectares were partially damaged till the said month. But due to the third attack of flood during August-September standing crops over a further area of 4,000 acres completely and 5,000 acres were partially damaged and destroyed.

The effect of such destric-

being felt immediately in the form of unprecedentedly short supply of all sorts of vegetables and their abnormally high prices in all the markets throughout Pabna district.

When contacted, the Deputy Commissioner of Pabna, Mohammed Ishaque Ali told The Daily Star on Monday noon over telephone that so far 120 metric tons rice, 12 metric tons of wheat, Tk 1,00,000 as cash gratification money, Tk 5,00,000 towards house-building grant, 100 bundles of CI sheets, 100 pieces of share and 100 pieces of lungi have been received and out of the above, 90 metric tons of wheat, 12 metric tons of wheat, Tk 89,000 in cash as gratuitions relief, Tk 95,000 towards house-building grant, 100 bundles of CI sheets, 100 pieces of share and 100 pieces of lungi have already been distributed. Requisition for more relief materials have been sent, told the Deputy Commissioner.



PABNA: Severe erosion in the river Padma has already grabbed 90 per cent of a village in Pabna sadar thana. — Star photo

## Govt of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer

Local Govt Engineering Department

Noakhali

Tender Notice No : LGED/XEN/NOA/CDSP/02/96-97

## Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are hereby invited in Bangladesh Form No 2911 from LGED enlisted contractors for implementation of below mentioned 18 (Eighteen) groups of work under Char Development and Settlement Project (CDSP).

Interested LGED contractor can obtain necessary tender documents during normal office hours on all working days up to 1-10-96 from the office of the either (1) Project Director, CDSP, LGED Bhaban (6th floor), Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207. (2) From the office of the Executive Engineer, LGED, Dist-Feni & Lakshminpur (3) From the office of the respective Thana Engineer & from the office of the undersigned showing the documentary evidence of the licence. Tender will be sold from 25-09-96 to 01-10-96 from the above offices on working days. Tender will be received by the above mentioned offices up to 1.00 PM on 2-10-96. No tender will be accepted beyond above mentioned time and tenders will be opened at 1.30 PM on the same day in presence of the tenderers, if any.

Interested tenderers may get the necessary information regarding the tender and work schedule from the above mentioned offices during office hours on all working days.

All relevant papers as or, special terms & conditions attached with this notice and 2.5% (two point five per cent) earnest money on the estimated amount in favour of the Executive Engineer, LGED, Noakhali. Submitted tender will be rejected directly if—

1. Quoted rate is more/less than 5%.
2. Overall rate is not quoted in figure & in words.
3. Tender contain overwriting without initial.
4. Rate is quoted more than 5% above without itemwise analysis.

If the lowest tenderers be more than one then decision will be taken by lottery on 7-10-96 at 11-30 AM in presence of the respective contractors.

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any cause. Tenders not complying with the stipulated condition will be treated as informal.

Name of Polder	Group No	Name of the work	Estimated cost Tk	Category of contractors	Price of schedule Tk	Time allowed Day
Char Mojid	1/96-97	Const & supply of 500 sets single pit sanitary latrine at different places of Char Mojid Polder.	5,00,000/-	All	200/-	150/-
-Do-	2/96-97	-Do-	5,00,000/-	All	200/-	150/-
Vatirek Polder	3/96-97	Const & supply of 500 sets single pit sanitary latrine at different places of Char Vatirek Polder.	5,00,000/-	All	200/-	150/-
-Do-	4/96-97	-Do-	5,00,000/-	All	200/-	150/-
-Do-	5/96-97	-Do-	5,00,000/-	All	200/-	150/-
Char Bagardona Polder	6/96-97	Const & supply of 500 sets single pit sanitary latrine at different places of Char Bagardona Polder.	5,00,000/-	All	200/-	150/-
-Do-	7/96-97	-Do-	5,00,000/-	All	200/-	150/-
Char Mojid Polder	8/96-97	Const of 25 nos of deep tubewell at different places of Char Mojid Polder.	12,12,500/-	All	350/-	180/-
-Do-	9/96-97	-Do-	12,12,500/-	All	350/-	180/-
-Do-	10/96-97	-Do- (24 nos)	11,66,000/-	All	300/-	170/-
Char Vatirek Polder	11/96-97	Const of 20 nos of deep tubewell at different places of Char Vatirek Polder.	9,70,000/-	All	300/-	160/-
-Do-	12/96-97	-Do-	9,70,000/-	All	300/-	160/-
-Do-	13/96-97	-Do- (26 nos)	12,61,000/-	All	350/-	190/-
Char Bagardona Polder	14/96-97	Const of 20 nos of deep tubewell at different places of Char Bagardona Polder.	9,70,000/-	All	300/-	160/-
-Do-	15/96-97	-Do-	9,70,000/-	All	300/-	160/-
-Do-	16/96-97	-Do-	9,70,000/-	All	300/-	160/-
Char Vatirek Polder	17/96-97	Const of 25 nos of shallow tubewell at different places of Char Vatirek Polder.	1,00,000/-	All	100/-	130/-
Char Bagardona Polder	18/96-97	Const of 25 nos of shallow tubewell at different places of Char Bagardona Polder.	1,00,000/-	All	100/-	130/-

Md Abidur Rahman Khan

Executive Engineer

LGED, Noakhali.

DHP-20810-16/9

G-1093



JHENIDAH: (From left) Khalilur Rahman, Deputy Director BRDB Jhenidah, Rezaur Rahman Director ACCESS Limited and Aizuddin Ahmed TNO Kotchandpur addressing the participants on the occasion of inauguration of a training course on tailoring and embroidery and cane and bamboo at Kotchandpur BRDB office on September 16 last. The poverty alleviation programme of Rural Poor Cooperative Project (RPCP) of BRDB was conducted by the Advance Centre for Courses in Engineering and social Sciences (ACCESS) Limited. — Star photo

## After payment of Tk 7 lakh ransom

## Mother, daughter released from captivity in Rangamati

From CHT Correspondent

RANGAMATI, Sept 18: The wife of a councillor of Rangamati Hill District Local Government Council (RHDL) and her teen-age daughter was released yesterday from the captivity of the tribal insurgents after 157 days of their abduction reportedly on payment of Taka seven lakh as ransom.

Rampa Pati Chakma, 45 and Trafee Chakma, 17, wife and daughter of Kina Mohan Chakma, a councillor of RHDLGC respectively were kidnapped from Zakhyachhar in Langadu thana of the district on April 14.

last by the tribal insurgents while they were on

their way home in Zurachhari thana of the district. The tribal insurgents allegedly wounded Kina Mohan while abducting his wife and daughter, Kina Mohan said.

After appearing of his daughter in Secondary School Certificate examination in Langadu High School centre, Kina Mohan was taking them at his village home in Zurachhari thana of the district.

Immediately with the abduction of wife and daughter Kina Mohan had filed a case with the Zurachhari thana of the district accusing five accomplices of the insurgents. 'Keeping Rampa Pati and Troyee as hostages in Ponchhari in Mizoran state of India, the tribal insurgents asked me to pay a ransom of Taka ten lakh and withdraw the case filed in this connection for the release of my daughter and wife', Kina Mohan told The Daily Star last night at the local circuit house.

'As there is apparently no alternative to arrange release of my daughter and wife, I made a payment of ransom to a tune of Taka seven lakh on August 20 last through two local elites and informed the Zurachhari thana in writing to withdraw the case', Kina Mohan said.

## Unusual rise in female labourers in Kushtia

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Sept 18: The unusual spurt of women labour force in the district in recent days has been causing concern among the social welfare activists. Female labourers seek work but the opportunities for their job have been shrinking.

According to social welfare and labour leaders here thousands of female day labourers are seen husking paddy, working in the brickfields, shrimp processing factories, tobacco redrying and taking part in earth digging.

Unmarried girls and divorcees constitute the majority of the women labourers, they said adding opportunities for their work have been shrinking for various reasons. Recurring floodings, erosion of vast tract of land, cyclone and other natural calamities for the last few years have been damaging crops in the district affecting small and marginal farmers adversely. As a result many families have been rendered homeless and helpless they said. Finding no other alternatives the distressed women are forced to go out to earn a living. The leaders called upon the government to create job opportunities for poor women by extending soft credit facilities for small cottage industries in order to make them self-reliant. There are about 20,000 female labourers in six thanas of the district,

A large number of young women are found working who are either dowry victims or divorced. The poor parents cannot provide them with food and shelter and that is why they are out to earn a livelihood. It is alleged that the women labourers engaged in various works, including construction are paid less than their male counterparts though they perform the same duty. The concerned authorities have been urged to look into the matter and take appropriate steps to mitigate the sufferings of the women labourers.

Meanwhile, number of child labourers are increasing sharply throughout the district. They are soon engaged as rickshaw pullers, hotel boys, house servants, hawkers and in other jobs. Presently there are about 12,000 child labourers in the district. There are 500 boys under 12 years who are seen pulling rickshaws without licences. About three to four thousand child labourers are presently serving more than 300 hotels and restaurants. It is learnt that most of them get only two meals a day. They work from morning till late at night without any rest. In some areas of the towns about two thousand boys and girls are serving as house servant. Of the total 60 per cent are female.