

Absconding convict held after 8 yrs

From Our Correspondent
GAIBANDHA, Oct 23: Palashbari thana police in the district recently rounded up an absconding convict awarded life-term for murder after eight years.

Romeo's acid attack, victim struggles for life

From Our Correspondent
GAIBANDHA, Oct 23: Joshna Rani Biswas, 15, of village Kunda Nakai under Gobindaganj thana sustained severe acid burn when her alleged romeo threw acid on her face on October 15.

ADB to continue support for poverty alleviation project

From Our Correspondent
JHENIDAH, Oct 21: A team of senior officials of Asian Development Bank (ADB) recently visited some Rural Poor Cooperative Projects in Jhenidah and Magura districts to see the progress of Poverty Alleviation Programme undertaken by BRDB.

Illegal extraction of hard rock threatens ecology

From Ratan Chowdhury

SHERPUR, Oct 21: Continuous extraction of hard rock resources through various unscientific methods has been destroying the forest hills in the district. The process is threatening the ecological balance of the region, environmentalists alleged.



SHERPUR: Hard rocks are lying unutilised. The picture was taken from Gazni hill under Jhenaigati thana of the district recently.

Boulders and sand stones are available in abundance at Gazni and Gazni hill under Jhenaigati and Nalitabari thanas of the district. The boulders are also available in some parts of Haluaghat under Mymensingh district.

Unscrupulous extractors exploit valuable natural resources, revealed from several surveys. The rocks in those areas over the years have been eroded to a great extent.

The boulders obtained from Gazni, Shandhakura, Tawakuchi, Rangia, Bakakura, Moonni and Kharnazura circle are economically viable.

The illegal extractors have been operating about 125 quarries in this belt, said a forest official adding that ten tons of boulders per day on an average from each quarry have already been collected through blasting with the advent of winter season.

The boulders are being extracted illegally by extractors using small popping mines. They are mainly supplied elsewhere in the country at the rate of between Taka 9000 and 10,000 per ton.

The retired forest officer said, white sand stones from Gazni of Jhenaigati thana of the district are considered to be of best quality in the country. Collection of rock through blasting is strictly prohibited in the hill areas for maintaining ecological balance.

The violators are not only destroying forest hills and ecology but also depriving the government of huge amount of royalty of the boulders with the connivance of a number of dishonest forest officials, alleged a senior forest official who asked not to be named.

Boulders are being collected from both the sides of hills of Shandhakura and Gazni. The rocks are piled up at various places for truck loading.

Forest officials, guards including law enforcers are rarely seen to move in the respective areas. Bribing the forest check post and toll station officials, who are engaged on each and every vital routes to combat illegal transit and pilferage of forest and natural resources, the boulder traders smuggle out eight to ten tons of boulder from hill region against a per-

mit of one to two thousand cubic feet issued from concerned authority, it is alleged. It is a very common practice of both traders and the forest officials, the sources further alleged.

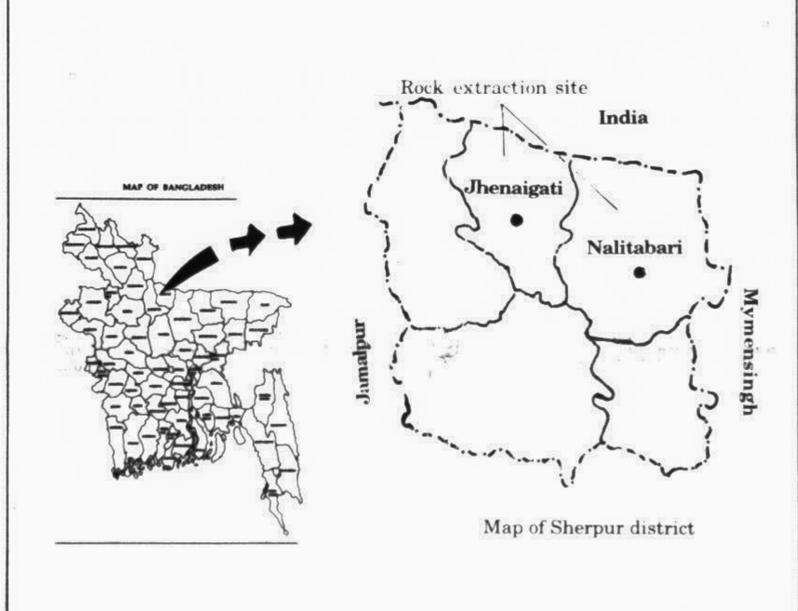
Instead of importing boulders from the neighbouring countries, India and Bhutan for construction of the Jamuna

pourashava, Khondakar Majibur Rahman showing a laboratory test report which was examined in 1954 said examination report found from the samples of Gazni and Shandhakura and some parts of Mymensingh (Haluaghat) conducted by milestone company, consulting, inspecting and test-

collect stones coming along with stream water from the hills on the plain land of the area across border.

A substantial part of boulders are plundered by a section of rich and influential people. Local people alleged that the boulder dealers purchase stones

Map below shows bordering Sherpur district. Unauthorised extraction of hard rock take place in the hill areas of Garo and Gazni.



Multipurpose Bridge Project, the government could extract boulders from this belt, said Advocate Abdus Samad, district unit President of Awami League and President, Sherpur Bar Association Advocate Samad suggested, proper and maximum utilisation of the country's resources.

ing company (Italy) said rocks found in the area were suitable for use in any heavy construction work. The main sources of income of thousands of people living in this vicinity of the Gazni hills adjoining Garo hills come from being involved in jobs related to extraction of boulders. They

at the rate of between Tk 120 and Tk 130 per 25 (twenty-five) cubic feet from the collectors. But as soon it reaches the town the rate rises to Tk 32 and Tk 35 per cubic feet. It is assumed by local experts that at least 10 to 12 lakh cubic feet of boulders are illegally extracted every year from this area.

Jalalabad Gas Transmission & Distribution System Ltd (A Company of Petrobangla) Planning Section, Sylhet Tender Notice Dated: 5/10/96. Ref No. 147805/ Tenders are invited for the following work in greater Sylhet area under Jalalabad Gas.

Notice of RHD Inviting Tender. 1. Tender Notice No: 43 BRD of 1996-97. 2. Name of work: Construction of RCC Box culvert at different km of Gariarpar-Banaripara-Sharshina-Swarupkathi Road under Barisal Road Division during 1996-97.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Division, Natore Notice Inviting Tenders No 9 of 1996-97. Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No 2911 are hereby invited from special class I, 1st class, 2nd class, 3rd class approved building contractors of PWD for the undermentioned works and will be received by the undersigned as well as by the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, No I/II Rajshahi/Pabna/Naoagaon up to 12-00 Noon on 12-11-96 in their tender box kept for the purpose in the room of the undersigned as well as by the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, No I/II Rajshahi/Pabna/Naoagaon and will be opened by them in their respective offices on the same day at 12-30 PM in presence of the tenderers who may like to remain present.

Misappropriation of antique 2 govt. officials, former TNO charged From Abdul Wadood. RAJSHAH, Oct 21: Three incumbents along with two government high officials allegedly misappropriated a historical antique worth over Taka one crore from a government office at Puthia of the district on March 31, 1996, officials said.

Govt of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil) (RHD) Road Division, Gopalganj (RHD) Notice Inviting Tender. Sealed tenders are hereby invited in Bangladesh Form No 2911 for the following works: 1. Tender Notice No: 21(1996-97)/EE/GRD. 2. Name of work: Providing brick pavement work (HBB) at different KM of Gopalganj-Kotalipara-Paisharhat Road under Gopalganj Road Division during 1996-97 (In 2 (two) groups).