

MANIKGANJ: Hundreds of trucks carrying essentials were seen stranded at the Aricha ferry ghat Saturday as three ferries went out of order on the day. As a result, long queue of vehicles were also seen on the highway from the terminal. Traffic congestion on Monday eased to some extent. BIWTA officials made special arrangements to avoid traffic congestion during the coming Eid-ul-fitr vacation.

— Star photo by Sk Enamul Haq

Bloody clash over possession of *khas* land at Chatmohar

From Ranesh Maitra

PABNA, Jan 20: Tension has gripped again in and around 500 acres *khas* land of *Beel Kurulia* under Chatmohar thana, as the land lords and a section of influential persons of the area, have allegedly attacked the landless peasants who are in possession of the aforesaid land. They were cultivating the land and harvesting crops since long.

The attack was made within the knowledge of Chatmohar thana police on Friday and at least 30 persons of both sides were injured including seven women — all being landless peasants. Twenty of the injured persons were admitted to Chatmohar Thana Hospital and Pabna General Hospital.

The injured landless peasants are: Wahab, 35, Anwar, 36, Alim, 31, Matijan, 55, Halima Khatoon, 60, Hajaera Khatoon, 35, Amut Ara, 65, Bhanujan, 28, Jaigan Bibi, 32, Moharjan, 55, Hafizul, 14, Saidul 10, Abu Shama, 45 and Afaz, 60.

The land lords and influential people engaged musclemen to teach a lesson to the landless peasants.

Several persons, namely, Abul Hossain, 40, Sahravardy, 30, Maqbul, 30, Saban 25, Abul Hossain, 55, and Abdur Razak, 60, received injuries in the clash and were hospitalised.

The landlords claim, they have got "Kabuliyaits" in their favour and hence they have got legal rights over a portion of the land. The landless peasants alleged that those "Kabuliyaits" were all false, fabricated and of no legal validity and also that cases were pending for cancellation of those illegal "Kabuliyaits". They also claimed that unless the matter was resolved through disposal of cases pending against them, they were trying to illegally and forcibly pressurising the landless peasants. They also said that only landless peasants have got legal right to get permanent settlement of the above *khas* land of the government and the illegal claimants cannot get the same as they were not landless peasants.

Ataur Rahman Rana, a popular peasant leader and Executive Director of Landless Peasants Development Organisation (LDO) of Chatmohar told The Daily Star that they informed the OC, Chatmohar thana, long before the bloody occurrence of clash on Friday, but unfortunately police did not take any preventive measure. For this reason, the landlords and fake document holders got the courage to attack the landless peasants.

Cases and counter-cases have been lodged with the thana, the peasant leader told. Meanwhile, in spite of such armed attack, the landless peasants have not given up the possession of the concerned land. Rather, the peasants — both men and women were guarding the land. Women peasants have taken a bold stand in a very organised manner, in guarding the land.

The police, when contacted said that the incident was unfortunate and they were investigating as to which side was actually responsible for the occurrence of clash. They asserted that no more any such incident would take place as police was sufficiently active and alert.

Meanwhile, it needs to mention here that the problem of *khas* land of *Beel Kurulia* is a very long standing one. Dispute over the land — 500 acres in area — of the said

Beel, has been continuing since 36 years. During this period, so many clashes took place, two landless peasants, namely Wadud and Kashem were murdered and as many as 200 persons from both sides were injured. Besides, nearly 20 cases, civil, criminal and settlement cases and appeals were pending before different courts.

The landless peasants came into possession of this *khas* land — actual area being 468.19 acres — and since then they were cultivating the same and harvesting crops. Since the period, they submitted applications to the appropriate authorities in the Revenue Department for giving permanent settlement of the said land in their favour. On the spot inquiries and investigation were made on so many occasion by the Assistant Commissioners of land, Thana Nirbhab Officers, the Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue), Deputy Commissioners and ultimately, in 1995, by the Secretary Ministry of Land. The present Secretary of Land has also met with the leaders of the landless peasants some three months back and assured them that since the existing laws of the land were in favour of the landless peasants, so the matter would be resolved in their favour.

All the records have been called for the appropriate authorities in Dhaka and it was being expected that the problems and sufferings of the landless peasants would soon come to an end. The landless peasants said that according to all indication, either before the Holy Eid-ul-Fitr or soon after the festival, hearing on the dispute would start in Dhaka and, receiving such an indication, the so-called *Kabuliyaits* holders became impatient and also very much suspicious about the results of the said hearing. Hence, it is alleged, they were taking every possible measures to take the land into their possession for establishing the genuineness of their claim of having possession.

Besides, a section of local influential, in collusion with a section of dishonest officials, got their names recorded during the Revisional Settlement Operation. An area of 267.37 acres of government *khas* land were thus wrongly recorded in the name of several persons who claimed the land either on the basis of false papers, deeds, documents and decrees fraudulently obtained or prepared by the interested circles. But when the matter was brought to notice of the higher authorities in Dhaka, the authorities intervened and by an order, has stopped the final printing and publication of the so-called R.S. (Revisional Settlement) *khatians*.

The chairman of the Land Appeal Board has called for all the records and also has started hearing of each case separately.

The landless peasants leader Ataur Rahman Rana which talking to The Daily Star said that the police should refrain the other side from their efforts to pressure the landless peasants and the District Administration should actively take steps for punishing the 'lathials' and 'fake Kabuliyaits' as they were creating law and order situation and harassing the poor peasants by filing a number of false cases against the poor and helpless people.

The peasant leaders further said that they have already sent representations to the Prime Minister and Minister in-charge of Land praying for a quick solution of the problem strictly adhering to the provisions of law.

517 certificate cases filed against farmers

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Jan 20: A total of 517 certificate cases have been filed against loan defaulters in Tala thana of Satkhira district last year.

The defaulters took agricultural loans from the local branches of Bangladesh Krishibank, Sonali Bank and Janata Bank under the thana during the period of 1988-1990. Out of the disbursed loan, a total of Taka 43, 92, 977 have been remained unrealised.

According to bank sources,

One convicted for misappropriating wheat

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Jan 20: Md Shahidullah, Special and Additional Session Judge, Kishoreganj in a judgement delivered on January 13 convicted an UP member and sentenced him to suffer rigorous imprisonment for four years and to pay a fine of Taka 10,000 or in default to suffer RI for another four months on charge of misappropriation of wheat meant for a project under food for works programme.

According to the prosecution, during the financial year 1989-90, in total 46 point 225 metric tons of wheat were sanctioned for the reconstruction of the road running from Natun bazar to Magura beel in Kishoreganj sadar thana and a project committee was formed with Matir Rahman, a member of Karshakari union parishad as its chairman.

The project chairman lifted 23 metric tons of wheat in two installments and misappropriated 9 point 41 metric tons.

The price of the misappropriated wheat was fixed at Taka 55,465.

The matter was later brought to the notice of the district Anti-Corruption Bureau. The Bureau lodged a case and after proper investigation submitted charge-sheet against the project chairman.

Absconding convict held

Savar, Jan 20: A convicted absconding man was arrested by police on Friday from a market here, reports UNB.

Police said Anwar Miah convicted for five years in a toll extortions case was arrested from Nabinagar cantonment market. He was tried in absentia some months back.

500 met unnatural death in Sylhet in '96

SYLHET, Jan 20: About 500 persons met unnatural deaths in four districts of Sylhet division last year.

Official source said that, the total number include 148 who were killed in road accidents, while 64 committed suicide, 111 were murdered, while 175 others died due to different other unnatural reasons.

Of the total deaths, 6 were murdered, two committed suicide and 19 were killed in road accidents and 13 others met their end of life due to some other reasons during the month of January. The total number of deaths stood at 40, during the month.

During the month of February, the number total unnatural deaths in the division stood at 39. It include, 19 murders, 8 suicides, while road accidents related deaths were 10 and 6 others died due to some other reasons.

Nine persons were murdered during the month of March, while 6 committed suicide, 8 others were killed in road accidents and 21 died of some other reasons. The total deaths stood at 44 in the month.

Twenty-three persons were the victims of unnatural deaths in the division during the month of June. The numbers include, nine murders, 4 suicides and road accident related deaths were 23 while 21 deaths due to other reasons.

In the month of July, 9 persons were killed and 7 committed suicide while road accidents related deaths were 7 and other reasons caused the loss of 23 lives. The total number stood at 44, during the month.

The figure stood at 36 during the month of August, when 12 persons were killed and 3 committed suicide. Road accidents took 8 lives while some

other reasons caused the death of 13 lives.

As many as 46 persons were the victims of unnatural deaths in the division, during the month of September last year. Those include 8 murders and 3 committed suicide, road accidents related deaths were 23 while 22 others met unnatural deaths.

The highest number of unnatural deaths were reported in the division during the month of October when as many as 64 people met their tragic end of life. The death include 12 murders, while 8 committed suicide, and road accidents related deaths were 23 while 21 deaths due to other reasons.

The number of unnatural deaths stood at 50 during the month of November. Twelve persons were murdered and 9 committed suicide, while the road accidents related deaths were 14. Besides, 15 others died due to some other reasons.

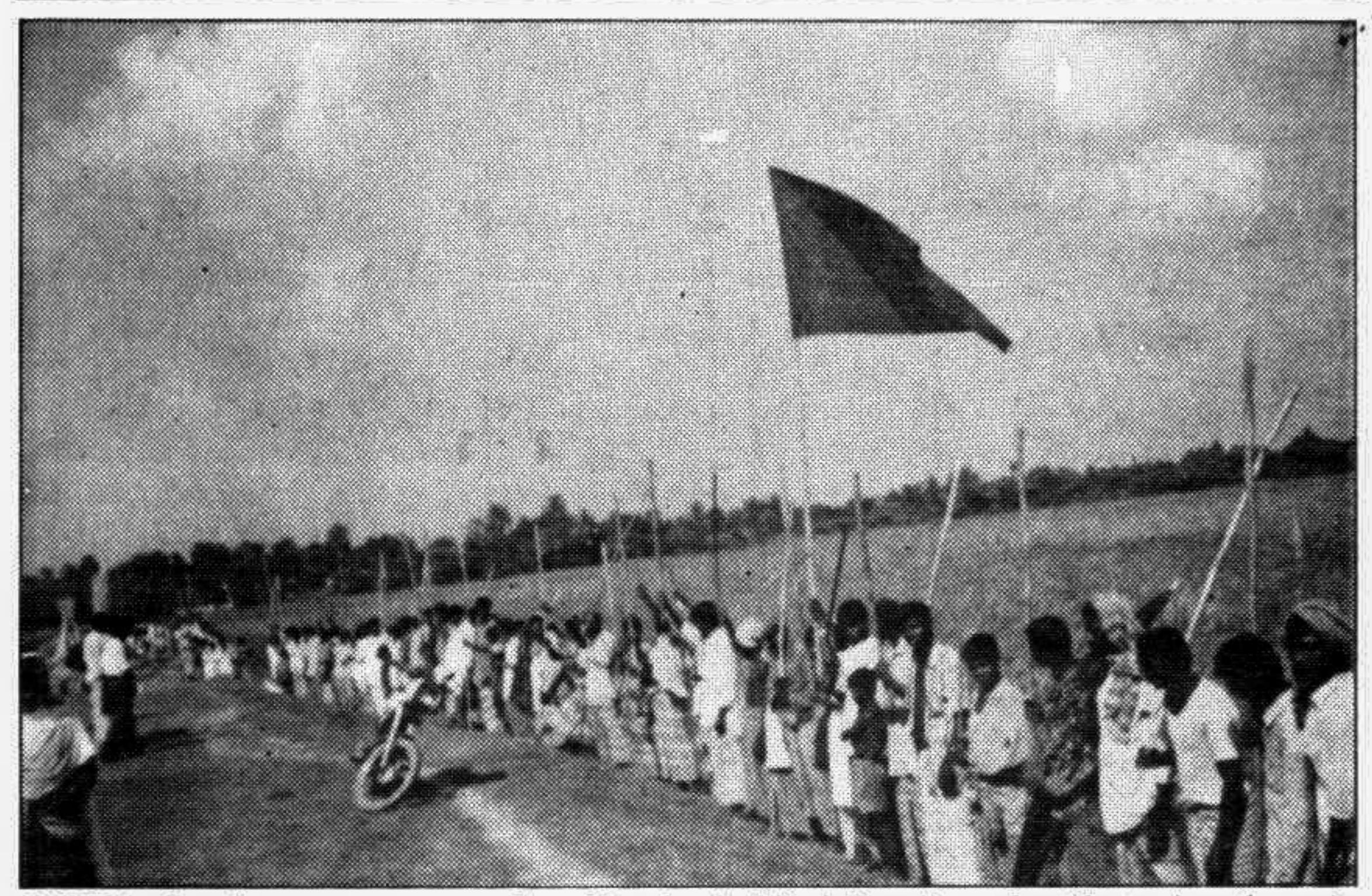
In the month of December, the number of unnatural deaths stood at 39. Those include 13 murders, 8 suicides and road accident related deaths were 18, while rest 5 deaths were caused by some other reasons.

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PABNA : Landless peasants guarding *khas* land of *Beel Kurulia* under Chatmohar thana in the district following clash with landlords recently.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer

Facilities Department

Comilla Zone, Comilla

Tender Notice

Notice No-07/SEI/D&R/F,D/C,Z/96-97

Dated: 30-12-96

Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No-2911 are hereby invited from the Facilities Department enlisted A-1/A-2 class contractors for development work of the undermentioned Educational Institutions under Secondary Educational Institutions Development & Rehabilitation (Government & Private) Project during 1996-97 financial year.

a) Description of works:

Group No	Name of District	Name of Thana	Name of Educational Institution	Category of Project
01	Comilla	Burichang	Bakshimul High School	GOB-10
02	-do-	Burichang	Rampur High School	GOB-9
03	-do-	Barura	Sudratayeb Ali High School	GOB-10
04	-do-	Barura	Maheshpur High School	GOB-9
05	-do-	Laksam	Bagmara High School	GOB-10
06	-do-	Laksam	Gobindapur High School	GOB-10
07	-do-	Nangalkot	Laximpadua Rahmatia High School	GOB-10
08	-do-	Choudogram	Jaymangal High School	GOB-10
09	-do-	Choudogram	Kader High School	GOB-10
10	-do-	Choudogram	Nalghar High School	GOB-10
11	-do-	Sadar	Comilla Jhaluapara Afzal Khan High School	GOB-10
12	B-Baria	Kasba	Liakat Ali High School	GOB-9

b) Estimated cost of each group

c) Time limit for completion of each work

d) Price of tender document

e) Earnest money

f) Last date & time of purchasing tender document

g) Last date & time of receiving tender document

h) Date & time of opening tender document

i) Offices where tender document will be sold and received

Terms & Conditions:-

1) Contractors/Contractor firms should buy tender document on obtaining prior permission from proper authority by producing the original copy of their up to date Enlistment Registration Book, VAT Registration Certificate and update Income Tax Certificate and attested photocopies of the said registration book & papers should be attached with the tender.

2) Tenders will be treated as cancelled if the rate quoted is more than 5% (five per cent) below the estimated cost.

3) Such contractors as have earlier been allotted work from this office but could not complete the work as yet without any special cause, can not participate in this work.

4) Project Improvement Committee (PIC) formed by Government will discharge the responsibility of supervising the work to help officers of this Department.

5) Contractor can not be paid final bill amount before hand over of each work after completion to the head of the institution.

6) Tender will be treated as cancelled if the tenderers add additional terms & conditions.

7) If under any circumstance the site of work is changed (prior to layout of building), then the contractors can not claim any additional financial benefit for that.

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

Md Fazlur Rahman

Executive Engineer

Facilities Department

Comilla Zone, Comilla

DPP-135-4/1

G-234

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh						
Office of the Executive Engineer						
Local Government Engineering Directorate						
Kushtia						
Memo No EE/LGED/Kush/97/37						
Tender Notice						
No 09/96-97						
Tenders in Bangladesh Form No 2911 under sealed cover are invited from LGED enlisted and All Projects Prequalified and Zila Parishad enlisted up to date renewed contractors as mentioned against work for implementation of the undermentioned development projects under "Priority basis construction/Re-construction of Road, Bridge/Culvert (including flood damaged infrastructure) in Rural Area" Project under the Local Government Engineering Directorate, Kushtia.						
Sl No	Name & location of project	Estimated cost	Price of tender	Earliest money	Time limit for work	