

3 extortionists held with fire arms

CHITTAGONG, Mar 18: The DB of police on Saturday caught three extortionists red-handed with fire arms from a shop at the city's Reazuddin Bazar, reports UNB.

The arrested were identified as Mohammad Ilias, Mansur Ahmed and Apu Kumar Nath of city's Nandan Kanon area. Police recovered one cut rifle and one double barrel gun from them.

Acting on a tip-off, police caught the three miscreants of a six-seven member gang, who came to the shop, Pragati Cloth Store, at 7:30 on Saturday evening for illegal-toll collection. The rest of muggers managed to escape.

Moulvibazar town may again experience inundation

From Our Correspondent

due to growing human habitation.

The Daily Star had published a story on this matter on February 11 last year, but after lapse of more than a year, no steps were taken by the authorities concerned. The problem getting critical day by day.

According to sources, the district revenue department has leased out the Monu river surface to sell sand and alluvium. The lease-holders are cutting the flood protection embankment at Muchibari to the eastern side and Shionbander to the western side of Moulvibazar district town.

A quarter of opportunists have also been encroaching the embankment for house building. Menace of rats are visible

ting the earth from the bottom part of the flood protection embankment. Cracks have also been developed at different points of the flood protection embankment as loaded trucks of the lease holders are running 24 hours.

When contacted, a leaseholder said, they are permitted by the Water Development Board (WDB) to cut the embankment. But a Section Officer of WDB declined.

Besides this, many huts have been built and in some places slums have grown up on the flood protection embankments. These huts are also being rented to the homeless people and these people are living there with their families.

Rats are posing a threat to the embankment.

In Shantibag area of the town, some people have been constructing boundary walls for their residence by encroaching the town flood protection embankment of the Monu river. No steps were taken by the WDB and *Pousarava* authority regarding the matter.

It may be mentioned here, after the implementation of 'Kawadighi' haor based Monu River Irrigation Project (MRIP) in 1983, two thanas of the district including Moulvibazar district town had fallen in to the trap of floods.

However, after the devastating floods in 1984 at Moulvibazar which claimed 50 lives, the WDB implemented different schemes of crores of taka to construct high embankments on both sides of the Monu river. A huge amount of money are being spent for the purpose.

It is alleged that some lower level officials of the WDB are doing harm in connivance with the lease holders.

If the authority fails to check damaging the embankment with in March-April, Moulvibazar may again be inundated, it is widely apprehended.

Earlier information reveal that in 1964 a large deposit of 'limestone' of Eocene era, which dates back to 50 million years, capable of producing Portland Cement, was discovered at a depth of 520 metres in Joypurhat and its surrounding

areas. This news transmitted a gush of high hopes around the country that it was going to be self-sufficient in cement-manufacturing.

Accordingly, a chemical analysis was made by the then Geological Survey team of Pakistan (GSP) and was found the limestone manufacture-worthiness.

This resulted in 1966 to appoint Fried Krupp Rostoff, a German company, for making the feasibility study in planning the mining establishment.

The German assessment was that it was technically and economically feasible for setting up a mine in the area, which comprised of Panitola, Parharpur, Joypurhat and Jamalganj areas.

Again, the Paul Doffrin Service of Britain reassessed what the Germans had done and gave their opinion in positive depending on which the then government approved the project in 1969.

After the independence, as people at the half-dead project site say, the government decided to establish the limestone mine by shaft-sinking through freezing method. Consequently, after a long bureaucratic delay in 1976, the Geological Survey of Bangladesh (GSB) drilled two more bore-holes while the then *Taila Sandhani* carried out detailed seismic survey at the

National

To dig or not to dig

by Ekram Kabir back from Joypurhat



Remaining beauty: The part of the campus, now inhabited by the employees of DC office.

Mar 18: Construction and drilling materials worth at least Taka 100 crore at half-built and shut-down Joypurhat Limestone & Cement Complex are perishing under the sun, rain and moisture on the 141.74-acre tract located at five kilometres north of Joypurhat town.

Pillage of 62 lakh bricks, 340.26 tons of coal, 204.50 tons of rods and other mining machinery are a manifest headache for anybody for the country's self-sufficiency, if not overall, in producing cement.

According to accessible official detail up to 1993, it shows that this potential project has been lying anaesthetised for more than 15 years even after spending crores of taka following some 'unplanned policy-programmes' of the estimated gross 980-crore taka project-cost sanctioned in 1982.

Sources at the project site say, it did not succeed due to the perplexities of the 'political chameleons' over the years, both at local and national levels.

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cool, the mine area would be required to be freezed in and around the shaft-site.

Accordingly, the number of bore-holes, required to be drilled for the purpose, would increase as estimated earlier, which meant much higher cost of the project. This situation led the experts to believe that the project would not be economically viable; and the UK company left the country after grappling for some time at the project-place.

But the people concerned in Joypurhat did not buy the ex-



Empty room: The first-built administrative building which is very often used by the army from Bogra Cantonment for their routine exercise.

erts' opinion about the project's cost-effectiveness. They still believe the operation of the project could be materialised.

Meanwhile, majority of the employees have been transferred to other mining sites of the country by the parent organisation, — Petro Bangla. The rest, about 50 and of whom more than half are security personnel, have nothing to do other than attending office everyday. Hoping that the project will resume, they are counting days while some of them have already started doing other business, for the monthly pay do not meet their living standards.

Requesting anonymity, because it may cost him a transfer, an administrative officer hailing from Panchbibi, said: 'Fine, this project was stale-mated by showing the reason of economically unworkable; but the situation now is not the same, because the funding framework has changed these days. We strongly believe that problems related to temperature are very much solvable and the country can take another step forward to industrialization in spite of having a grazing-field.'



Resting and rusting: Part of the heavy machinery, still unused. Star photos by Ekram Kabir.

Because of a one taka note

From Our Correspondent

MEHERPUR, Mar 18: Hailstorm swept over Meherpur and its adjoining areas on Friday night leaving four persons injured and causing extensive damages to wheat, tobacco and mango sprouts.

Eye witnesses said that gusty wind started blowing at a moderate speed accompanied by rain and later heavy hailstorm which lashed remote villages of the district.

Immediate damages of the properties could not be known. Most of the villages affected by hailstorm are in bordering areas. Four persons were reported to be injured there.

35 bus travellers receive stab injuries during robbery

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Mar 18: At least 35 passengers were injured and valuables worth Taka three lakh looted in two separate night coach dacoits, witnesses said.

According to passengers, the armed dacoits numbering about 12 were travelling in the guise of passengers who boarded a night coach from Kaliganj bus stand in Jhenidah. When the coach reached Chhalabhabra in Kaliganj thana at about 10:15 pm Thursday, the dacoits took control of the bus.

They started looting the passengers. When some of the passengers tried to resist the dacoits, stabbed them indiscriminately. At this about 25 passengers received severe injuries. The armed dacoits got down from the night coach at Tetulia in Jhenidah thana safely decamping valuables of the passengers worth about Taka two lakh.

According to another source, a gang of armed dacoits on Wednesday looted valuables worth about Taka one lakh from a Chaudhury bound night coach from Dhaka.

Police quoted the passengers as saying, the armedmen who were travelling in the guise of passengers attacked the passengers when the vehicle crossed Magura town. The armedmen got down from the coach near Alamkhali on Magura-Jhenidah highway at about 3 am. During looting about 10 passengers were reportedly stabbed. The injured were given treatment at Jhenidah sadar hospital.

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One killed in road mishap in Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Mar 18: One college student was killed and another injured seriously in a road accident at Belsolia in Sunday afternoon.

The deceased was identified as Md Abu Syed Mithu, 18, a second year student of the New Government Degree College.

Police said the accident occurred when a Chapainawabganj bound bus from Dhaka hit motorcycle coming from the opposite direction. The victims were riding the motorcycle.

PWD Auction Notice

No 74 of 1996-97 bricks

Sealed tenders in prescribed proforma are hereby invited from all class of contractors of PWD and all other Govt., Semi Govt. Deptt. and any interested persons for Auction sale of bricks from PWD Stackyard at Maijdee PWD Sadar Section-I (at Maijdee and Gabua), Dist. Noakhali and the tenders will be received by the undersigned as well as by the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Comilla/B'baria/Chandpur/Feni/Lakshmpur up to Noon of 31-3-97 and will be opened on the same date at 12:15 PM.

Name of materials

Quantity

2nd Class Bricks 281,389 Nos.

3rd Class Bricks 162,950 Nos.

Rejected Bricks 58,000 Nos.

Each tender must accompany 25% (twenty-five per cent) of auction amount as security deposit. The location of materials and other detailed information can be seen and purchased from the office of the undersigned as well as the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Comilla/B'baria/Chandpur/Feni/Lakshmpur and S.D.E PWD, Noakhali during the office hours on all working days at the rate of Tk. 400/- (Taka four hundred) in cash for each set of quotation (non-refundable) up to 30-3-97.

Executive Engineer

Noakhali PWD Division

Noakhali

Government of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer

Savar PWD Division, SB Nagar
Dhaka

Notice Inviting Tenders

No 86 of 1996-97

1. Sealed tenders in BD Form No 2911 are hereby invited from class-I & class-II sanitary & plumbing contractors/firms of PWD for the undermentioned work and will be received by the undersigned as well as by the Executive Engineers, Manikganj/Gazipur/Mirpur PWD Division under Savar PWD Circle, Dhaka & Eden Bldg PWD Division, Dhaka in the respective offices up to 12:00 Noon of 30-3-97 and will be opened on the same day at 12:15 PM in presence of the tenderers who may like to remain present. Each tender shall be in a sealed cover with the name of work superscribed on it. No tender form will be sold to the contractors/firms who has not 'VAT' registration.

2. Name of work : ঢাকা জেলার সাড়ার ধান ক্ষেত্রে এ.স.পি'র অফিস-কাম-রেসিলেক্স, ইলেক্ট্রিস-কোর্টার (১) ইউনিট, ৩ জন সারোগার কোর্টার এবং ৩ জন কন্টেক্স কোর্টার নির্মাণ (উপর্যুক্ত এ.স.পি'র অফিস-কাম-রেসিলেক্স এবং অভ্যন্তরীণ প্রয়োগনালী ও পানি সরবরাহ কাজ)।

3. Estimated amount : Tk 2,28,661/-

4. Earnest money : Tk 4,575/-

5. Time allowed for completion of work is 45 (forty-five) days.

6. Tender Form No 2911 together with schedule of items, special terms and conditions, specifications etc can be seen & purchased from the office of the undersigned as well as the Office of the Executive Engineers, Manikganj/Gazipur/Mirpur Bldg PWD Division, Dhaka/Sub-Division-I/II of this Division up to 29-3-97 during office hours on payment of usual charges (non-refundable) and no tender will be sold on the date fixed for opening the tender.

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

Executive Engineer
Savar PWD Division
SB Nagar, Dhaka

DFP-6118-15/3

G-767

Kazi Najibul Haque
Executive Engineer (CC)
Road Division, Gopalganj.