

An ocean going vessel, submerged in the middle of the river Pasur in Sundarbans about two years ago. Instead of shifting wrecked vessel to the nearby bank it is still lying there half submerged. As a result the vessel has virtually blocked smooth flow of the river. Sands are being deposited around the sunken vessel. The riverbed is also rising at this point. If this trend continues one stage might come when the smooth plying of ocean-going vessels from the Bay to Mongla Port would be hindered along this channel. So time is ripe to turn away the vessel from the river on an emergency basis.

— Star Photo by AKM Mohsin

Membership of cooperative society chairman cancelled

From Our Correspondent
JHENIDAH, May 6: Primary membership as well as the chairmanship of Saikupa thana Bittahin Samabaya Samity under Rural Poor Cooperative Project (RPPC) of Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) was cancelled by the joint registrar, cooperative department, Khulna Division recently, according to Jhenidah district cooperative office sources.

The sources said, Abdul Latif of village Kirtinagar in Saikupa thana identified himself as a 'bittahin' (landless) and was allegedly elected as the chairman of thana committee. Further, the said chairman defalcated a good amount of money which was collected from the primary societies.



MAGURA: A diabetic hospital was opened here in the district headquarters early last month. To mark the occasion, an inaugural function was organised by the district administration in which Dr M S Akbar, local Member of the Parliament addressed the function as chief guest while Md Nuruz-zaman Khan, Deputy Commissioner of the district, Advocate Dipak Roy Chowdhury spoke among others. The photo shows Dr M S Akbar speaking at the function. — Star photo

Contraband drug found in hotel room

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, May 6: Barisal Kotwali police seized 150 bottles of contraband Indian phenesyl syrup from a residential hotel in the town recently.

Police also arrested one of the two, Nimai Pramanik of Kushtia while the other managed to flee. A case was filed with Kotwali police in this connection.

Trafficking of women To an unknown destination

From Tareq Chowdhury back from Chapainawabganj

RAJSHAHI, May 6: Some 200 girls of Chapainawabganj district are being trafficked through the western border areas every year to destinations in India and Pakistan. It was stated at a discussion meeting on "trafficking of women" held at Binodpur Degree College under Shibganj thana of the district last Tuesday.

A team of experts, comprising of Executive Director of New York-based human rights organisation, EQUALITY NOW, Surita Sandosham, Prof Ishrat Shamim of Dhaka University, Deputy Director of USIS, Robert Kerr, and local chairman and member of union parishad, family members of victim took part on the day long discussion.

According to statistics and information available with the organisations, girls of marriageable age are lured to take Indian husbands. Once they cross the border the girls are sold in brothels of Delhi, Bombay, Agra or in Lahore and Karachi of Pakistan. Most of the girls are below the age of 21, according to a survey conducted by ACD (Association for Community Development), a NGO working on woman trafficking. In such kind of 'novel' marriage, parents of brides, are often offered dowry from groom side and even assurance of good jobs to the bride after marriage is given.

In such cases grooms disappear from the locality shortly after the marriage and leave no address to communicate later on. But in a few cases correspondence are made that is, in Hindi.

Salma Khatun, an escapee from India and resident of Tappo Binodpur village, said, after marriage she was tortured severely by her Indian husband. They tried to sell her to the local trafficker in Firozabad district. She did not know what did her, so called, husband do for living. She had to live with him including 3 children he had earlier.

Anwara, 50, of village Tappo said, her daughter, Tahmina was sold 15 years back when she was 13 years old. A few months back she was informed by people of the village that her daughter is living in Dandi under the district of Rampur in India. She now seeks government help to rescue her daughter.

Uttam Kumar Das, Research Officer of ACD said, "trafficking of woman is an act of grave punishment." "Unfortunately," he said, "it was avoided by the law enforcing agencies. Traffickers are being punished according to the age-old colonial law of Passport Act of 1930. A trafficker can only be awarded an imprisonment term for maximum of one month in default only one hundred taka is fined," Uttam added.

Md Mahbubul Alam, Chairman of Binodpur Union said poverty was the main cause of this kind of woman trafficking which prompt the guardians of young girls to give consent to marry off their daughters to an Indian citizen. Their daughter ultimately become prey to trafficking and end up in a brothel. He also said that no strict measures are being taken by the government except appreciation of monthly meeting of thana union committee headed by Thana Nirbahi Officers.

Shawkat Ali, Lecturer of Binodpur Degree College and President of "Resistance Committee on Trafficking of Women and Children said, his organisation is engaged in awareness building campaign against giving away girls to Indian citizen for marriage.

Md Yahia, Project Co-ordinator of ACD stated that the traffickers give the proposal of marriage through relatives and solemnise the, so called, marriages within the shortest possible time without holding any major ceremonies to avoid widespread publicity of weddings.

Landless peasants demand khas land of Beel Kurulia

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, May 6: Thousands of landless peasants brought out a demonstration at Chatmohar on Sunday demanding immediate cancellation of the government order suspending distribution of government Khas land of Beel Kurulia. They also demanded immediate distribution of Khas land among the landless peasants.

The demonstration was brought out by the Land Development Organisation (LDO) Chatmohar. Peasant leaders, Ataur Rahman Rana, Executive Director, LDO and Madar Bux Mandal led the demonstration which paraded main thoroughfares of Chatmohar. They chanted slogans in support of their six-point demands.

The demonstrators met the Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) Chatmohar and submitted a memorandum to him. They also requested him to forward their demands to the Prime Minister with proper recommendations.

Later, the demonstrators held a big rally within the premises of thana parishad which was presided over by the leader of landless peasants, Madar Bux Mandal.

The speakers said that the entire Khas land of Beel Kurulia with a total area of 468.19 acres were under their adverse possession. They were cultivating and harvesting crops defying the obstacles frequently created by a section of local influential who were in possession either of forged documents, decrees or illegal kabuliats.

The speakers said that the total area of land was divided into two 'sheets' (No 1&2). The entire land under 'sheet' no. 1, with an area of 299.80 acres, have been cultivated by them during the current season. But (Land) and the Officer in Charge, Chatmohar Thana intervened. They requested all the groups not to cultivate or sow any crop over 168.39 acres of khas land under 'sheet' No 2 till official settlement of the dispute.

The speakers also stated, the landless peasants who had been cultivating the land for years together, agreed to the proposal of the officials, but the false "kabuliat holders", defying the said order cultivated a portion of the land. The speakers warned that if the authorities did not take proper actions against the violators of the gov-

ernment order, they would be responsible for consequences.

The speakers adopted a six-point proposals for immediate implementation.

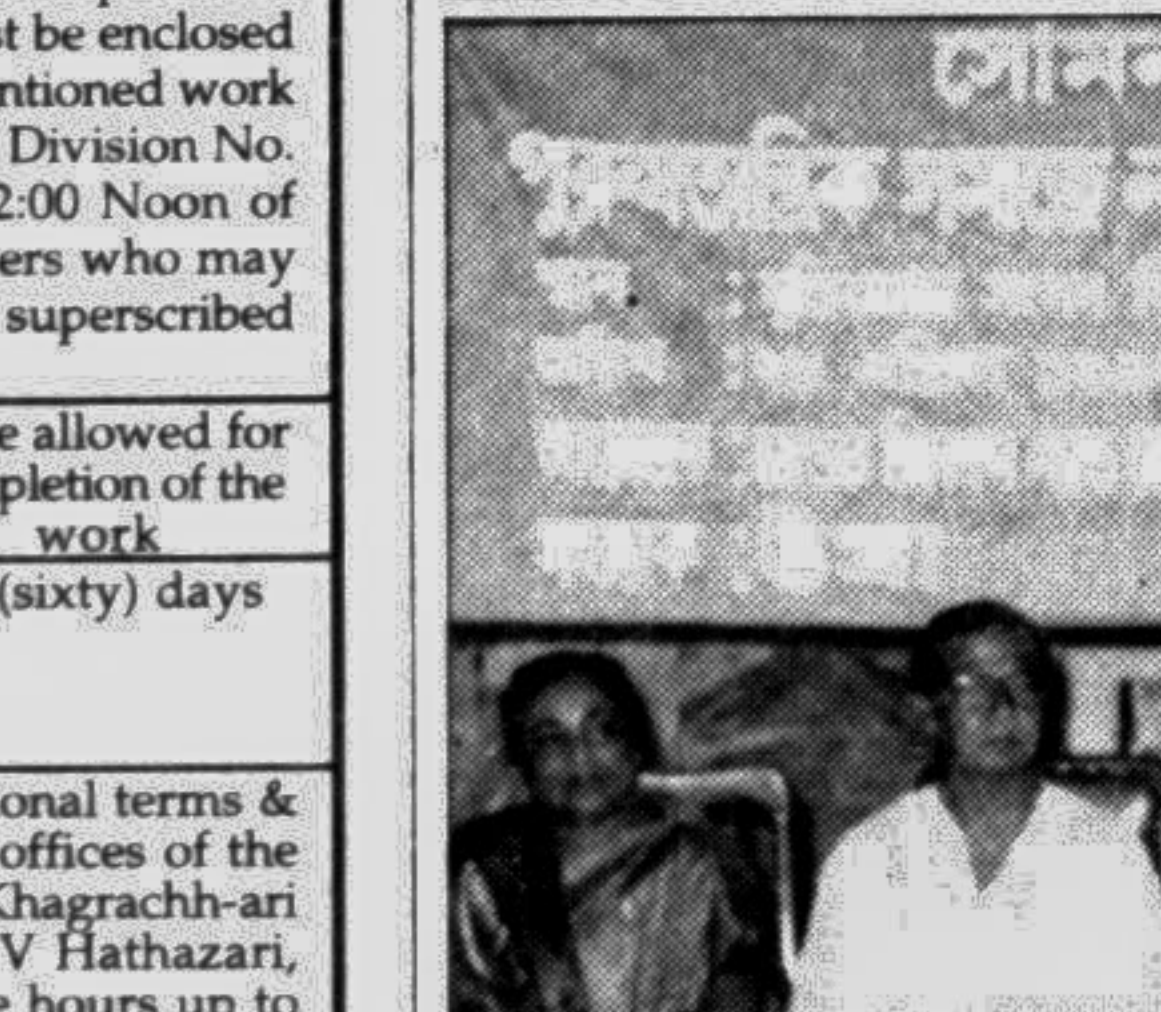
The demands, unanimously approved at the rally, include immediate announcement of a land, policy and its implementation, immediate granting of permanent lease of the 468.19 acres of Khas land of Beel Kurulia among the genuine landless peasants by cancelling false Kabuliats, granting of annual lease of the said land among the landless peasants pending arrangements for permanent lease, legal actions be taken by the government against all those who were trying to illegally grab the Khas land by creating forged deeds, papers, documents and Kabuliats and immediate withdrawal of all cases pending against the landless peasants. They also urged to take steps for rehabilitation of the affected landless peasants.

Goods worth Tk 15 lakh seized from Naf river

COX'S BAZAR, May 6: Bangladesh Rifles of 39 battalion in a drive seized smuggled goods worth about 15 lakh from the Naf river on Saturday, reports UNB.

The goods, including sugar, lungi, slipper and umbrella, were seized while being smuggled into the country from Burma.

The smugglers, however, fled the scene after sensing the arrival of the BDR jawans.



BARISAL: A speaker delivering her speech at a seminar on 'Women's Mental Health in Male Dominating Society' arranged by Gender Relations and Development Forum (GDF) South and collaborated by Usha in the divisional town recently. — Star photo

Separate incidents kill 4 including 2 minors in Sylhet

SYLHET, May 6: Four people including two minors died in separate incidents in sadar and Chhatrak thanas, police said on Tuesday, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, an unidentified old man was killed when he was run over by a speeding truck on Friday at Choumohori in Hetinganj at 8 am. Police recovered the body and seized the truck.

The body of Fakir Miah, 35, son of Jyino Ullah, was recovered from Gotatkar area in sadar thana. He was strangled to death by the miscreants on the same day. The body was sent to the Osmani Medical College Hospital.

On the same day, Shakir Begum, 6, daughter of Abdul Alim of Chhakolpara village in Chhatrak thana drowned in a pond.

Housewife burnt to death in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, May 6: A pregnant housewife was burnt to death, allegedly by her husband and mother-in-law, at Sheikh Mujib Road in the town Monday reports UNB.

Police said Doly Rani Saha, 23, who was married to Prosha Kumar Saha two years back, had a quarrel with her husband and mother-in-law following an altercation over dowry.

They said the victim's husband and his mother set fire to Doly, who was nine months pregnant, after dousing her with petrol around 10 in the morning.

Doly was rushed at about 10:30 am to the Sirajganj General Hospital, where she succumbed to her burn injuries at 2:30 pm.

Police quoting Doly's family members said that after her marriage, she was often pressed by her husband and in-laws to bring Tk 50,000 as dowry, a demand her poor father could not meet.

The accused husband, Prosha, and his mother were absconding after the incident.

A case was filed with Sadar thana.

Seminar on mental health of women

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, May 6: A seminar on 'Women's Mental Health in Male Dominating Society' was held here at Barisal Mukhtodha Sangsad auditorium on Monday.

The seminar was organised by Gender Relations & Development Forum (GDF) South and chaired by Rani Bhattacharjee, a Mahila Parishad leader. The keynote was read by Munmun Salma Chowdhury while other speakers spoke on various aspects of it.

The speakers said, To ensure women's equality in the society and in all socio-political sectors women's "sound mental health should be ensured". In the open discussion the speakers also said, "We want a free society where both males and females would be able to exercise their same rights in society, educational sector as well as in employment. They stressed the need for providing the same opportunity to the females in every sector."

Advocate Enayet Peer Khan, Advocate Manabendra Batbyal, Advocate Suryia Begum and Puspita Rani Chakraborty spoke in the seminar.

Unique example

KAPTAL, May 6: The students of local PDB secondary school has set up an unique example of philanthropic activities by distributing relief materials among the fire victims here recently, reports BSS.

A team of girl students of the school distributed Taka five thousand and a bale of old clothes among the fire victims at old cinema hall colony near Kaptal thana under Rangamati district.

The team jointly led by Hanyum Mariya Khan Tinny and Fahmida Huq Bithi collected the cash and kind approaching door to door of the residences of the officers and employees of the Karnaphuli Hydro Station.

Fourteen houses were gutted in a fire on April 25. The fire reportedly originated from the oven of a resident.

Pilot Plant and Process Development Centre BCSIR

BCSIR Tender Notice

Ref. No. PPD/PUR/97/260 Date: 24-04-97

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the bonafide dealers, stockists and suppliers for the supply of (a) Workshop Equipment (b) Research Materials and (c) Computer accessories.

Tender schedule containing detail terms and conditions will be available from the Accounts Section of all units of BCSIR, Dhaka campus on depositing Tk 400/= (four hundred) only in cash (non-refundable) per set during office hours up to 14-05-97.

Dr Md Idris Miah
 Director
 PP&PDC
 BCSIR, Dhaka.

DFP-10384-30/4
 G-1301

Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh

Headquarters, Kurmitola, Dhaka

Ref. No-CAAB/1T-33/Aero

Running/Inoperative Motor Vehicles Auction Notice

Sealed tenders are invited for auction sale, as it is where it is basis, the undermentioned inoperative motor vehicles of the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh.

Sl. No.	Name of the Vehicles	Registration No.	Model	Location
1.	Toyota Landcruiser Jeep	Dhaka-KA-2970	1967	Headquarters, MT Pool
2.	Toyota Landcruiser Jeep	Dhaka-Ga-3445	1972	"
3.	Toyota Landcruiser Jeep	Dhaka-Ga-3442	1972	"
4.	Land Rover Jeep	Dhaka-Ga-3461	1973	"
5.	Isuzu Pick-up	Dhaka-Na-4862	1983	"
6.	Mazda Pick-up	Dhaka-Da-2700	1979	"
7.	Mazda Pick-up	Dhaka-Na-2009	1978	"
8.	Isuzu Micro-bus	Dhaka-Cha-4336	1984	"
9.	Toyota Hiace Micro-bus	Dhaka Metro-Cha-8342	1987	"
10.	Isuzu Human Haulor	Dhaka-Cha-2382	1980	"
11.	Mazda Pick-up	Dhaka-Da-2010	1978	"
12.	Land Rover Jeep	Dhaka-Ga-3453	1972	"
13.	Isuzu Micro-bus	Dhaka-Ja-538	1979	"
14.	Tractor No. 1	-	-	"
15.	Tractor No. 2	-	-	"

Terms & Conditions

- Tenders for abovementioned (running/inoperative) motor vehicles of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh should be dropped in the tender box kept in (Room No. 305) the Aerodrome Branch of the Civil Aviation Authority by 12 Noon of May 28, 1997 (Wednesday), and the tenders will be opened on the same day at 12-15 PM in presence (if any) of the tenderers or their representatives.
- Interested tenderers are to submit tender in letterhead pads of his/their respective companies. Tenderers can submit tenders for one or more than one vehicle, but separate tender has to be submitted for each vehicle.
- Description of the vehicle like Registration No., type of the vehicle and proposed price in figures & words must be clearly stated in the tender.
- Ten per cent (10%) of the total price mentioned in the tender as earnest money from any scheduled bank in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order has to be deposited with the tenders in favour of the Chairman, CAAB. Tenders will be considered as rejected if the Bank Draft/Pay Order of the prescribed earnest money is not found with the tender at the time of opening.
- Earnest money of the tenderers will not be refunded until final decision is taken by the authority regarding the tenders. Earnest money of successful tenderers will be adjusted with the quoted amount of vehicle.
- Successful tenderers will be informed by notice. The vehicles must be received by paying the rest 90% (ninety per cent) money to the Accounts Department of this headquarters within 15 (fifteen) days of issuing the notice. The earnest money will be confiscated if the 90% money is not paid within the abovementioned time limit.
- The authority will not be responsible for the security of the vehicles if they are not collected within 7 (seven) days of full payment.
- Interested tenderers can inspect the vehicles by contacting the Headquarters, Aerodrome/MT branch.
- The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender in full or part or reject all tenders without assigning any reason.

Wing Commander Khurshid Alam
 Director (Aero/ATS)
 Civil Aviation Authority.

DFP-10243-28/4
 G-1308

BIWTC Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation

(An Inland Shipping Organisation)

5, Dilkusha Commercial Area, 3rd Floor, Dhaka-1000

Carrying of Excess Load on Trucks is one of the Major Reasons for Road Accidents—Please Do Not Carry Excess Cargo.

Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are invited by Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation from the bonafide manufacturers/suppliers/dealers/agents for supply of materials described below:-

Sl. No.	Tender No. & Price	Description	Date of Opening
1.	BIWTC/LP-II/0010 Tk. 200/-	Various of quality of Polyester & Cotton Cloths.	19-5-97.
2.	BIWTC/LP-1/0053 Tk. 150/-	Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (Approved by SOLAS) UK	-do-
3.	BIWTC/LP-II/0018(Dy-1) Tk. 100/-	Diesel Generating Set.	24-5-97.
4.	BIWTC/LP-II/0018(Dy-3) Tk. 100/-	Spare Parts for Cummins Diesel Engine	-do-
5.	BIWTC/LP-II/0030 Tk. 10/-	Various sizes of Ball Bearings.	-do-
6.	BIWTC/LP-II/0021 Tk. 20/-	Hoyet Metal	-do-
7.	BIWTC/LP-II/0022 Tk. 10/-	Hardware Materials.	-do-
8.	BIWTC/LP-II/0014 Tk. 50/-	Various sizes of Safts, Square Bar & Chain Pooly etc.	-do-
9.	BIWTC/LP-II/0030 Tk. 50/-	Spare Parts for Yanmer & Deutz Engines.	-do-
10.	BIWTC/LP-II/0030 Tk. 50/-	Welding Cable, Brass Rod Alda Bronze etc.	-do-
11.	BIWTC/LP-1/0023 Tk. 100/-	Various sizes of Garjan Wood.	25-5-97.
12.	BIWTC/LP-1/0013 Tk. 100/-	Various sizes of MS Angles	-do-
13.	BIWTC/LP-1/0019 Tk. 25/-	Old Truck Tyre, Life Bouya Cork, Fire Bucket & G. I. Bucket.	-do-
14.	BIWTC/LP-1/0018 Tk. 150/-	Polypropylene Rope & Flexible Steel Wire Rope.	-do-
15.	BIWTC/LP-1/0025 Tk. 25/-	Soda Ash, Brooms Country, Phynyle Pure & Hard Board.	25-5-97.

Tender documents with detailed specifications and terms & conditions can be purchased from the Cash Section of BIWTC, Accounts Department at 5, Dilkusha Commercial Area (2nd Floor), Dhaka-1000, on cash payment (Non-refundable) of tender number during the office hours. Earnest Money @ 1% of the bid value must be furnished along with the tender in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any scheduled bank in favour of BIWTC, Dhaka. Tender will be received up to 11.00 AM and opened on the same day at 11.30 AM. No tender documents will be sold by post and on the day of opening. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Shahae-Noor Bhuiyan
 Dy. Chief Purchase Manager.

BIWTC/PR/64/96-97
 DFP-10435-30/4
 G-1302

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer
 PWD Division No. II, Chittagong

PWD Notice Inviting Tenders

No. 171 of 1996-97

Sealed tenders in BD Form No. 2911 are hereby invited from enlisted class-1 (one) sanitary and plumbing contractor of PWD & class-II enlisted sanitary & plumbing contractor of PWD Chittagong Zone, Agrabad, Chittagong (previous similar nature of work done experience certificate duly certified by an officer not below the rank of Executive Engineer must be enclosed with the tender failing which the tender will be summarily rejected) for the undermentioned work and will be received by the undersigned as well as by the Executive Engineer, PWD Division No. 1, Chittagong/Rangamati PWD Division/Khagrachhari PWD Division up to 12:00 Noon of 15.5.97 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.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time allowed for completion of the work
1.	Construction of Thana-cum-Barrak Building at Rangunia in the Dist. of Chittagong. (Sub-head: Installation of 75 mm dia Deep Tube-Well)	Tk. 3,46,888/-	Tk. 6,938/-	60 (sixty) days

Contract documents consisting of BD Form No. 2911, schedule of items, additional terms & conditions etc. can be seen and obtained from the office of the undersigned and offices of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division No. 1, Chittagong/Rangamati PWD Division/Khagrachhari PWD Division & office of the Sub-Divnl. Engineer, PWD Sub-Division No. III/IV Hathazari, Chittagong under PWD Division-II, Chittagong on all working days during office hours up to 14.5.97 on payment of usual charges (all non-refundable).

Abdus Sadeque
 Executive Engineer
 PWD Division-II
 Chittagong.

DFP-10519-3/5
 G-1300