

# Taherpur Bazar on verge of extinction

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, May 27: Taherpur Bazar, a very famous old business centre of Rajshahi district, is on the verge of extinction due to serious river erosion.

No step has yet been taken to protect the market, local people have alleged.

Taherpur being the capital of Raja Kongso Narayan became famous from the beginning of the Mughal empire. Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of the Hindus, was at first observed by Raja Kongso Narayan at Taherpur and later on, it spread all over the undivided India.

Taherpur Bazar is situated on the bank of the river Baranai, a branch of the Atrai river. A road also runs through the Bazar from Bagmara, the thana headquarters, to Rajshahi and Natore via Puthia, another thana headquarters and business centre of the district.

It is a big market which functions twice a week. It is a market which is especially famous for trading of paddy, wheat, mustard, pulse and vegetables like potato, onion, garlic, sweet potato and other goods like fish, betel leaf, betel nut, potteries and paddy saplings.

There are many 'pattys' (line of shops of a specific item) in the market where goods of ev-

eryday use are available. Besides, the weekly hats, there is a big permanent daily market in Taherpur. A few hundred of permanent shops remain open everyday making brisk business of all kinds of daily commodities.

Thousands of people come to Taherpur Bazar, especially on the weekly hat days for selling and buying their goods. Businessmen from all over the country buy goods from the market and take them away to their own business places by hundreds of trucks and boats.

There are a large 'Qamil' (equivalent to Masters Degree) level madrasah, a degree college and a big high school in Taherpur Bazar area. Almost all scheduled banks have their branches here. Post office, health centre, private clinics and some other government and non-government offices are also situated there.

Taherpur Bazar is growing very fast and volume of business transactions is also increasing fast.

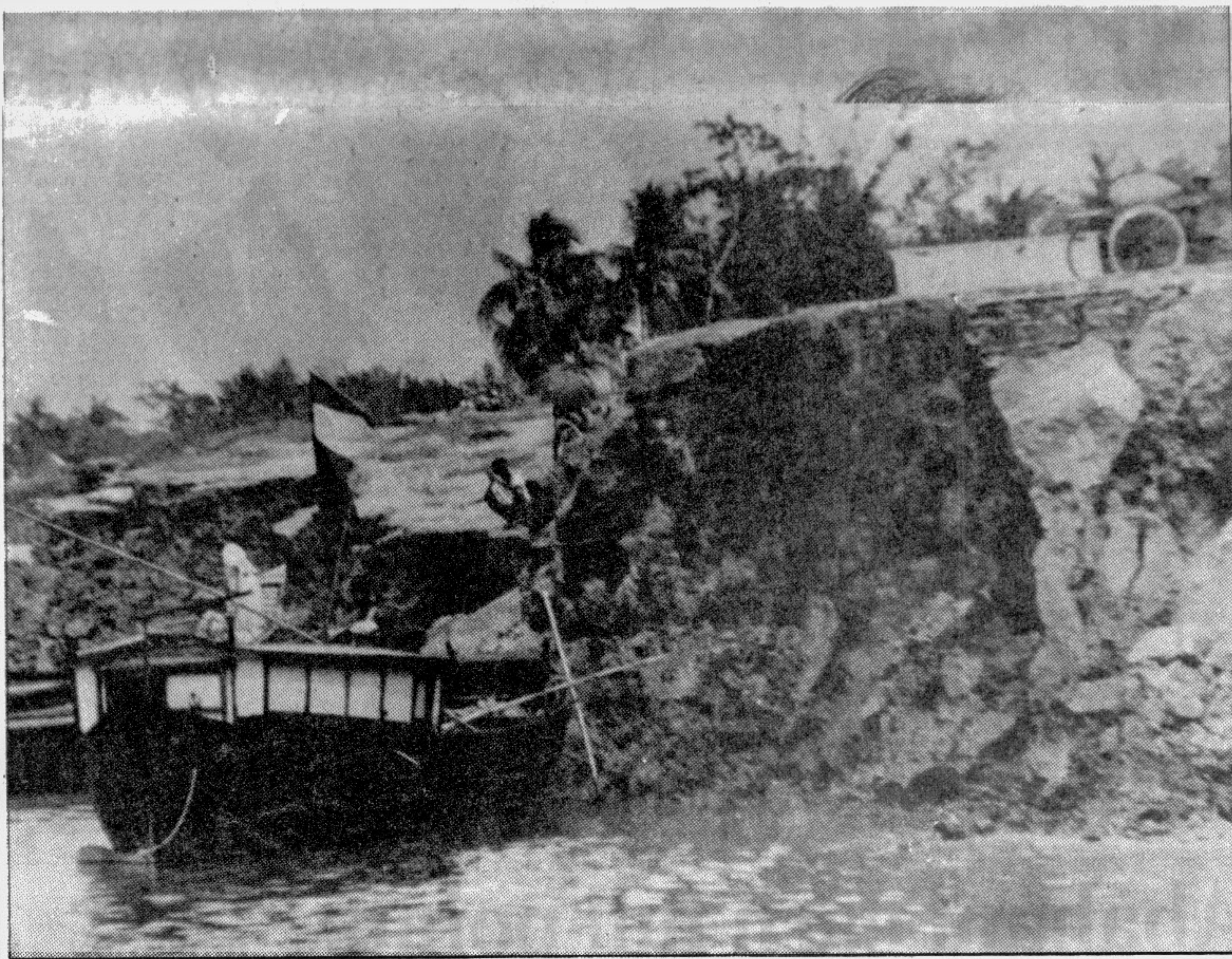
But during the last several years the Baranai river has been eroding lands of the bazar area along with its shops and residential houses. The erosion is too serious in about two kilometer long area from Halderpara of Taherpur Bazar to Vrapetala in the east.

Local people have revealed, they have written to the concerned authorities praying for protection of Taherpur Bazar area from the river erosion. The authorities have investigated into and examined the matter several times, but no positive steps have yet been taken, they said.

Meanwhile, condition of the Taherpur Bazar has become very miserable due to mushroom growth of shops, mismanagement and lack of basic amenities.

With increasing demands, pucca and kutcha shops are being built every where violating the rules making the roads and lanes more narrower. As a result serious traffic jams have become a regular feature here. It has created much inconveniences to people. The local thana land office has started a drive to remove unauthorised shops, but the drive has stopped in midway for unknown reasons.

The drains, built a few years back, have already broken at some points. The drains have no slabs over them. People throw garbage of all kinds into the drains which are not cleaned regularly and properly. As a result the drains have become stagnant and a place of public nuisance, a source of foul odour and a breeding ground of mosquitoes.



MADARIPUR: Erosion of the river Padma has taken a serious turn at Char Janajak in the district recently.

## Nor'wester hits Barisal: 50 hurt

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, May 27: At least fifty people were injured and more than two hundred kutcha and thatched houses at Amanatganj, Vatikhana and Palashpur cluster village areas in the town were damaged when a nor'wester hit the areas Monday afternoon.

At least ten tinshed houses of PDB quarters were blown away. Many trees were uprooted.

## Three die in separate incidents

SYLHET, May 27: Three people died in separate incidents in three thanas of the district, police said Monday, reports UNB.

Police recovered the body of a young boy from Bholaganj border area on Saturday. The victim was identified as Jafar, 15, son of Iskander Ali of Noagaon thana.

Witnesses said Jafar died while fleeing from a chase by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) in the border area. It is reported that the boy fell on big heap of stones and died there.

In another incident, Hafeza Begum, 22, wife of Abdul Kuddus of Charipara village in Kanaighat thana, allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself on Friday.

In yet another incident, Jaheda Begum, 30, wife of Abdul Malek of Nichintapur in Golapganj thana allegedly committed suicide by taking poison.

## 2 arrested for kidnapping, violating girl

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, May 27: Two persons were arrested on charge of kidnapping and violating a school girl at Palashbari thana on May 22.

Police sources said, the victim, Lucky Begum, 13, and some of her school friends went to the local Sathi cinema hall to enjoy a movie. After the end of the movie the victim became detached from the rest of his fellow friends due to rush of people. One Zikrul and some employees of the cinema hall came to her and assured her to escort to her home. Instead of taking them to her home they took her elsewhere and kept her at different places for two days. Finally the miscreants shifted her to the house of one Rabeya, a gatekeeper of the cinema hall. They violated her again in that house.

Finally the local people caught one person along with the victim on May 22. He was shifting the victim to elsewhere. The people handed them over to police. Police also arrested Rabeya, the gatekeeper of the cinema hall.

A case has been filed with Palashbari thana in this connection.

## Misuse of power SI files GD against AL leader

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, May 27: A general diary (GD) was filed recently against a local Awami League (AL) leader by a Sub-Inspector (SI) of police posted at Kotwali thana in the district.

He filed the GD against the AL leader when he pressed the SI of police to release two accused persons who were arrested earlier.

When asked, the Police Super (SP), Jessore said that the matter was a under investigation.

According to reliable sources, a group of armed terrorists raided Kudalia Bazar and some houses adjacent to it and took away all the valuables on May 19.

Police led by Office-in-Charge (OC) Kotwali and SI Fazlu rushed to the spot after receiving information. They arrested Sadek and Rofikul from there before they fled.

On May 20, the Awami League leader requested him to release the two persons. When the SI expressed his inability to comply with his request, he was abused in filthy language by the AL leader.

Fazlu later recorded the GD against the AL leader.

## Body recovered

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, May 27: Sadullapur thana police have recovered the dissected body of one notorious gang leader, absconding accused of several cases from a place adjacent to Dhaparhat bazar under Sadullapur thana on May 23.

According to police source, the victim Mohammed Ali Sarder, 38, who was known as a notorious gang leader through out greater Rangpur district and an absconding accused of nearly 50 different cases. Police said he was taken to jail hazar for over 40 times and was wanted by almost all the police stations under the greater district.

On May 22 his dissected body was found near Dhaparhat bazar. It is presumed that he was killed by some of his rival fellows. Police suspected that such cruelty might be a revenge of his fellow gang-men originated from some disagreements.

Police could not recover the left leg of victim on the spot.

## Move to reopen Jessore-Benapole railway route

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, May 27: The work to re-open the Jessore-Benapole railway will begin in current month and fund worth Taka one crore, has already been placed for the purpose.

This was disclosed by the Director General (DG) Bangladesh Railway (BR) during his recent visit to Jessore.

It may be mentioned here that MA Mannaf, DG, BR, accompanied by a number of senior executives of the department of Western Zone visited Benapole-Nowpara industrial zone besides Jessore, to see things for himself the present condition of the site.

He told that initially Taka one crore was allocated for the 40 km long Jessore-Benapole

railway repair works including earth work on both sides of the railway, repair of culverts repair of level crossing gate and construction of line.

According to another source of Railway Department, all formalities were completed to invite tenders very shortly.

It may be mentioned here that DG, BR GM (West) Syed Mahmud, Chief Traffic Manager, Aftabuddin along with other officers of the BR came to visit Jessore and Benapole on May 15.

Re-opening of the Jessore-Benapole railway was a long-standing demand.

The Jessore-Benapole railway was suspended some time in 1974.

## Allegation of 'cheating business' in ansar office

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, May 27: Seven 'ansar' members of the district has been reportedly cheated by an official of Natore district Ansar and VDP office, an allegation sent to the Home Minister says.

According to a copy of the written allegation, Abul Kashem, Office Attendant cum clerk of Natore Ansar and VDP office received an amount of Taka 35,000 from seven ansars giving assurance of job under Ansar embodiment programme in the District. The official now denies having giving any assurance of job opportunity to them. Instead, the allegation says, that they are being threatened and harassed by the official.

The seven ansars members are: Md. Abdus Sattar, Md. Mohidul, Md. Badshah, Md. Afaz, Md. Iyub, Md. Dulal and Md. Annan.

## 'People want to know how BNP spent Tk 500cr Relief Fund'

COX'S BAZAR, May 27: Former President H M Ershad to let the people know about Tk 500 crore which, he said, was deposited in the Relief Fund when he left power in 1990, reports UNB.

Addressing some spontaneous gatherings during his visit to the cyclone affected coastal district, he said people want to know where and how the money was spent by the BNP government.

The Jatiya Party chairman alleged that the BNP government had stopped all development works in the country by abolishing the upazila system. He, however, lauded the Awami League government's plan to reintroduce the system.

At the same time, Ershad issued a note of warning against the ruling Awami League, saying that his party, which had given unconditional support to the Awami League, would not hesitate to withdraw its backing "if the government resorted to repression like the BNP government."

Urging the people to strengthen his hand, the deposed president said Jatiya Party would have to return to power to salvage the country from the present situation and change the lot of the people.

Ershad said he had not seen any relief activities during his three-day tour and called upon the government to send cash money and house building materials to the cyclone affected victims.

## Abducted Basanti yet to be traced

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, May 27: Even after passing of five months police have failed to recover kidnapped Basanti of Baladerpur under Monirampur thana in the district. On the other hand, her family is now being threatened to withdraw the case which her father filed against the alleged kidnappers.

According to reports, Basanti was kidnapped on January 19 alleged an terrorist of the same village when she was going to school.

When Narayan Das, father of the victim, went to local thana to lodge a complaint against the kidnappers, he was driven out of the thana by police and thus he could not file the case there.

At last he went to Jessore and filed the case against eight persons with Child Women Repression Court.

The judge after hearing the prosecution issued warrant of arrest against all the eight persons and directed the police to rescue the victim as early as possible. But the local thana police remained mysteriously silent to execute the order.

Surprisingly, when the main accused of the kidnapping case went to the local thana to file a case against Narayan after setting fire to his own cow shed, he was also refused in the thana.

He then went to Jessore and filed a case against Narayan in the court of a first class magistrate. He is still pressing Narayan to withdraw the case.

## JP MP injured in road accident

LALMONIRHAT, May 27: A Jatiya Party MP was critically injured when his microbus fell into a roadside ditch in Aditmari thana, reports UNB.

Hospital sources said Joydul Abedin Sircar, the MP from Lalmonirhat-1 constituency, suffered injuries as the microbus tumbled into the ditch at Namri on Patgram-Lalmonirhat road at about 12 noon. He was on way to Syedpur Airport.

Sircar was rushed to Sadar Hospital and later shifted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

Three others were also injured in the accident.

## Cold storage crisis

Fruits worth crores of taka perish annually

KHAGRACHHARI, May 27: Huge quantity of fruits worth crores of taka in the district are perished every year due to absence of cold storage facilities, reports UNB.

The growers in eight thanas of the district are compelled to sell their perishable products like jackfruit, banana, guava, pineapple, lemon and mango at low price as they are unable to store these. They also depend on the local traders who are making money purchasing the products at throw away prices.

Local leaders here alleged that the long drawn demand to set a cold storage is yet to be met due to negligence of authorities concerned and lack of awareness and initiatives of the farmers.

They also urged the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to set up a cold storage in the district for the protection and storage of the perishable products.

## Extortionists hampering road construction work

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, May 27: Works on construction of the long-expected Rajshahi City Bypass Road have remained suspended due to alleged obstruction made by a few toll collectors.

A case has been filed in this connection but no improvement has yet been noticed.

The road is being constructed from Belpukuria Rail crossing point of Rajshahi-Dhaka highway in the east to Kashidanga point of Rajshahi-Chapainawabganj highway in the west bypassing the city along its north boundary. It will connect the Asian highway running from Dhaka to Chapainawabganj passing through Pabna and Rajshahi. The road crosses Rajshahi-Naogaon highway near Rajshahi airport.

According to the concerned sources, primary works like earth-filling and construction of small and medium size bridges have almost been completed. But recently the contractors are facing hindrances from the toll collectors in the east side of the road.

It is alleged that the toll collectors demanded Tk 2 lakh as toll from the contracting firms in February last when they started works of earth filling in the east pole of the road.

The firm continued their works, facing occasional interruption in midst of threats from the toll collectors till May 8. The terrorists had given last warning to pay them at least Tk 50,000.

The alleged toll collectors, after failing to get their share of the 'demanded' money drove away the workers belonging to the constructing firm. They also broke down a number of

temporary shelters for housing the workers at Ranhat area.

Following the incident that took place on May 9 all road construction works there remained suspended.

The authority of the contracting firms alleged that they went to Mathar police station for help but police at first refused to file any case. Being 'pressed' by the contractor's association, police at last registered a case two days after but they have not shown any active role to arrest the terrorists whose names and addresses have been clearly mentioned in the case statement. It is alleged, Asir Uddin Mia, the owner of

the construction firm, alleged that the alleged terrorists were wondering freely and continued threatening him and his employees but police was not doing anything.

A police source acknowledged that they had been under pressure not to disturb the alleged terrorists. It has been learnt that the toll collectors are followers of an influential lady who has close link with the ruling party members. Local people also alleged that those extortionists are doing many other misdeeds by using the name of lady-leader in power and police is playing the role of inactive spectators.

## District authority rejects 600 MT of rice sent from Mongla Port

BHOLA, May 27: The district authorities here have rejected 600 MT of rice sent from Mongla godown for use under food for education programme, reports UNB.

The rice was rotten and the district controller of food admitted the fact when brought to his notice by the chairman of a school managing committee.

It was stated that due to shortage of wheat local authority decided to distribute rice to 40 primary schools in 7 thanas of the district.

The food department sent about 600 tons of rice from the government godown of Mongla loaded in two barges but the rice was unfit for human consumption.

## Newspaper agent beaten up

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, May 27: A newspaper agent cum hawk was beaten up by some miscreants here at South Bargachha area in the town on May 20.

A group of gangsters allegedly led by Shaheen beat up Amirul Islam Kalu, an agent distributing a number of national dailies and weeklies when he was distributing papers in the area. They snatched his bi-cycle, wrist watch, Tk 300 and 100 copies of newspapers. He was kept hostage in an abandoned house near NS government college hostel for a while, he said.

Later, police rescued him in an unconscious condition and arrested two members of the alleged miscreants. The arrested persons are identified as Selim and Sohag.

A case was filed with sadar thana.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Project Director, RHD

Jamuna Bridge Access Roads Project

Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka

Memo No. JBA-10/677

Dated: 17-5-97

## Notice Inviting Letter of Interest for Preparing a Short List of NGOs' for Implementation of Resettlement Action Plan in Connection with Execution of Road Improvement Works within Joydevpur-Tangail Highway under Jamuna Bridge Access Roads Project.

- The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, represented by Roads and Highways Department (RHD), has undertaken a project to improve national roads in the transport corridor from Jamuna Bridge's eastern approach to capital city Dhaka, 67.5km National Highway between Joydevpur-Tangail road stretch, under Jamuna Bridge Access Roads Project with the financing of OECF, Japan. The road improvement levels envisaged are mainly restoration and strengthening of the road pavements including widening of the carriageway, realignment and provision of bypasses.
- To ensure that the people who will be effected due to execution of this project shall be appropriately compensated, a field level base line survey has already been carried out and a Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) has been prepared by the govt.
- Now, Govt. intends to employ a qualified NGO to provide services to assist RHD for successful implementation of said RAP. As a part of that intention this Letter of Interest is now called for preparing a shortlist of qualified NGOs.
- The qualified NGOs' must be non-profit human welfare organisation and experienced in land related survey e.g. ownership, determination of individual share, tenurial pattern and computerising individual loss of property (land, structure, tree etc.) The organisation should have extensive involvement in poverty alleviation through income generation programme and empowerment of rural people. The NGO must be registered in Bangladesh.
- For participation in the shortlisting process, evidence have to be submitted by NGOs with Letter of Interest that the NGO have past experience of working in land based resettlement/rehabilitation programmes and capacity to reconcile information from different databases and develop software packages for management information system.
- The interested NGOs are requested to submit their Letter of Interest with the necessary information and evidences as are narrated in item 4 & 5 above to the Office of the Project Director, Jamuna Bridge Access Roads Project, Room # 117, Block-A, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka on or before 10th June, 1997.
- The implementation of RAP will likely to be commenced by July 1997. The NGOs who will be selected as shortlisted by the Govt. will be then invited by Govt. to submit their proposal for the assignment.
- It may be noted that submission of Letter of Interest by any NGO will not be construed as any commitment from the Govt. to select them as one of the shortlisted NGO for the purpose.
- For further information, any interested NGO may contact the undersigned during office hour.

Md Serajul Islam

Project Director (ACE, CC) RHD

Jamuna Bridge Access Roads Project

Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka

Phone: 9556268

DFP-12285-22/5  
G-1515

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Bangladesh Ordnance Factories

Gazipur Cantonment, Gazipur

Tender Notice

- Sealed tenders in prescribed form (BOF No 76) are invited from bonafide manufacturers/local agents/importers/suppliers for supply of materials in local currency to BOF as mentioned below:

Sl No	Tender No & Date	Name of item	Qty
a.	BOF/114/LP/B/Pur. dt: 08-5-97	Fire Brck	06 Types
2.	Tender shall be dropped in the tender box kept in Directorate General of Defence Purchase Office, Ministry of Defence, New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215 and the Purchase Office of Bangladesh Ordnance Factories on 29 June 1997 up to 11-00 AM and will be opened on the same day at 1300 PM in presence of participants or their representatives (if any) at Purchase Office, BOF, Gazipur Cantt.		
3.	Tender forms with detailed specifications and terms & conditions will be available from the representatives of BOF in Directorate General of Defence Purchase Office, Ministry of Defence, New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215 and the Purchase Office of Bangladesh Ordnance Factories on cash payment of Tk 200/- (non-refundable) per set on all working days between 8-30 AM and 12-30 PM up to 28 June 1997. Schedule will not be sold on the opening day.		
4.	Commandant, Bangladesh Ordnance Factories reserves the right to reject any or all of the tenders without showing any reason thereof.		

ISPR/Army/97/488

DFP-12257-22/5

G-1514

Manager Material

for Commandant