

News snaps

Spring fair by BSCIC

KHULNA, Feb 13: Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) has organised an eight-day Spring Fair at Zila School premises in the city from next Friday, reports UNB. Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf will inaugurate the fair. BSCIC sources said there will be about 250 stalls in the fair for the sales and display of commodities produced by 1,000 craftsmen. During the fair, cultural functions depicting the folk life of our people will be organised. Eminent folk singers will perform Bhoanaya, Bhatiali, Jari-Sari and Lalou songs there. The fair will remain open for the visitors from 4 pm to 9 pm everyday except Friday. On Friday, it will continue from 10 am to 9 pm.

Training course on grass cultivation

SATKHIRA, Feb 13: A six-day long training course on cultivation of grass concluded on Wednesday in BRDB auditorium at Assasuni thana headquarters under Satkhira district, reports BSS. The concluding function was presided over by thana livestock officer Dr. Shymal Kumar Paul. Thana Nirbahi Officer Nazrul Islam was present as the chief guest. More than 25 farmers both female and male were imparted training on modern method of grass cultivation.

2 women killed in road mishap

NARSINGDI, Feb 13: Two female passengers were killed and 15 other people injured in a road mishap at Brahmanake in Raipura thana on Dhaka-Sylhet highway last week, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the mishap occurred when a Dhaka-bound bus from Kishoreganj collided with another bus on February 4 leaving Afa Begum, 30, and Ayesha Khatun, 35, died on the spot. Of the injured, five were sent to Sadar Hospital and others to Raipura Health Complex in a critical condition. The bodies were sent to Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was filed with the police.

Sense of relief starts returning to 3 hill dists

RANGAMATI, Feb 13: A sense of relief has started returning to the three southeastern hill districts comprising 13,181 square kilometre area of Bangladesh as the Shantibahini insurgents are bidding farewell to arms and political settlement prevailed over military solution of the Chittagong Hill Tracts crisis, reports BSS.

This generalised mood of relief was observed in Khagrachhari and Rangamati hill districts, which suffered most the intensity of the bloody bushwar, that has not only left thousands dead and injured but also divided the CHT population into tribals and non-tribals during the last two decades.

A visit by this correspondent to the two hill districts, where the Shantibahini guerrillas operated normally, found that the common tribals and non-tribals have now started regaining their confidence of peaceful co-existence which they had lost during the prolonged violence.

There was a strong campaign by the anti-peace treaty quarters that the Shantibahinim would not surrender their arms

and ammunition finally, but the process that has begun with the ceremonial laying down of weapons on February 10 in Khagrachhari dispelled the misconception, particularly among the Bengali settlers. The overall impression gathered after a visit to these hill districts was that the majority of the Bengali settlers have now started realising that the smooth implementation of the December 2, 1997 peace pact would contribute to peace and peaceful co-existence which they lacked for many years.

The deposit of arms and ammunition by the Shantibahinim has greatly defused the tension in Matiranga, Rangarh and Khagrachhari towns, the three places where the anti-peace accord campaigners had been active. "What is the use of hoisting black flag if we have no problems," said one shopkeeper of Matiranga, where two persons died in police firing while agitating against the peace treaty in mid-December. "I do not do politics, I am a poor simple man, and why should I not hoist white flag since I believe that tribals and non-tribals should live in harmony," said another Bengali-speaking trader of Matiranga.

In Kauhali and Rangamati district headquarters, where the anti-peace accord campaigners had been motivating the Bengali settlers against the treaty, it was found that the situation has greatly changed with the implementation of the peace accord. Rangamati was less volatile than Khagrachhari, but the recent decision of all-party leaders to shun the path of confrontation played a crucial role in keeping the hill district out of violence.

Local administration believe that thousands of tribals and non-tribals would gather at Baghaichhari under Rangamati district to witness the next formal deposit of arms and ammunition by the Shantibahinim on February 16. A total of 500 tribal guerrillas are expected to lay down their arms at Baghaichhari High School ground at a ceremony, where Home Minister Rafiqul Islam is likely to attend.

"Let us forget and forgive" was the remark of Meera Chakma, widow of Subinoy

Chakma, president of the National Peace and Coordination of the CHT, who was killed by unknown assailants in Rangamati last year. Meera lamented, "had the peace treaty been signed earlier, has past governments been sincere in negotiating with the demands of the tribal, my husband would not have been killed."

The decades-old turmoil in the hills left thousands dead and injured in which both tribals and non-tribals suffered equally. Many educated residents of the hills — both in Khagrachhari and Rangamati — have hinted that "vested quarters, backed by foreign country" are still working desperately to destabilise the region. "Their motive is clear," said one leading cultural activist of Khagrachhari, adding "they want to destabilise the region only to fish in the troubled waters."

The peace accord, which was largely acclaimed both at home and abroad, is being opposed by a faction of tribal students.

But the mainstream student organisation, the Pahari Chhatra Parishad, including their allied bodies — Hill Women's Federation and Pahari Gano Parishad — termed the anti-peace treaty as a "planted microscopic section by the vested quarters" and demanded of the government to suppress their activities in the greater interest of peace and stability of the region. These three organisations — backed by the powerful Janasanghati Samity — have managed to muster overwhelming support of the tribal population to the "prompt and smooth" implementation of the peace accord.

A leading figure of the tribals, Subinoy Dewan, who was late president Ziaur Rahman's tribal affairs adviser in 1980, said now there is an opportunity to have peace in the hills.

The 82-year-old tribal leader and Chakma Raja Debashish Roy were present in Khagrachhari to witness the arms deposit ceremony on February 10. Roy says those who are opposing the peace accord from among the tribals are "insignificant" in number and remarked "we desperately need peace, and it is equally needed for both tribals and non-tribals."

Massive Boro farming scheme

PATUAKHALI, Feb 13: A total of two lakh hectares of land in 11 districts of the country's southern region have been brought under boro cultivation in the current season, reports UNB.

According to the officials of Agriculture Extension Department, High Yielding Variety (HYV) crop was cultivated in 1.5 lakh hectares of land while the local variety in the rest 50,000 hectares.

The production target was fixed at 4.25 lakh metric tons of HYV paddy and 65,000 metric tons of local variety paddy.

District-wise break up of lands brought under boro cultivation is: 7,200 hectares in Patuakhali, 3,500 hectares in Barisal, 2,200 hectares in Pirojpur, 6,600 hectares in Jhalakathi, 26,000 hectares in Bhola, 18,500 hectares in Rajbari, 30,000 hectares in Faridpur, 25,000 hectares in Gopalganj, 22,500 hectares in Madaripur and 10,500 hectares in Shariatpur.

Jamalpur cut-off from 4 thanas Work on 2 bridges hangs in balance

JAMALPUR, Feb 13: Construction work of two bridges over Jhenai river hangs in the balance for reluctance of the concerned construction firms, reports UNB.

Proper road communication between the district headquarters and Melandaha, Islampur, Dewanganj and Madarganj thanas could not yet be established as the thanas are separated by the Jhenai river.

Considering the importance of proper road communication, the government had invited tender for construction of two bridges on Jamalpur-Madarganj and Jamalpur-Dewanganj-Islampur roads.

Roads and Highways Department had given work permit for construction of a Putable Steel Bridge (PSB), involving Tk 75.26 lakh, at Rashidpur ghat on Jamalpur-Madarganj road on March 12,

1995. But the construction firm is yet to complete the work although 37 months have already been elapsed. The company was supposed to complete the work by 18 months of signing the agreement.

Another tender for construction of Jhenai bridge, costing Tk about 5.5 crore, had been invited on April 8, 1996. But the works on the bridge could not be completed due to reluctance of the construction firm.

An official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Tk 40 lakh out of Tk 50 lakh allotted in the previous fiscal for construction of the bridge were refunded and spent for another project. Locals urged the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to complete the bridges and thus assuage their sufferings.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
PWD Division No. II, Chittagong

PWD Notice Inviting Tenders

No. 99 of 1997-98

Sealed tenders in BD Form No. 2911 are hereby invited from enlisted different categories of contractor of PWD as per financial capacity for the undermentioned works and will be received by the undersigned as well as by the Divisional Commissioner, Chittagong/Executive Engineer, PWD Division No. I, Chittagong/Rangamati PWD Division/Khagrachhari PWD Division up to 12:00 Noon of 25.2.98 and will be opened on the same day at 12:15 PM in presence of the tenders who may like to remain present. Each tender shall be in a sealed cover with the name of work superscribed on it.

Gr No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time allowed for completion of the work	Category of contractors
I.	Repair/renovation & Development of Bangladesh Institute of Technology (BIT) Chittagong/Khulna/Rajshahi & Dhaka (One at Chittagong) Sub-Head: Construction of Auditorium Building. During the year-1997-98.	Tk 67,51,961/-	Tk 1,35,040/-	225 (two hundred twenty five) days	Special Class I & Class I Bldg. contractors of PWD.
II.	Sub-Head-Sanitary & water Supply arrangements to Auditorium Bldg. During the year-1997-98.	Tk 2,34,217/-	Tk 4,684/-	225 (Two hundred twenty five) days	Class I & Class II, Sanitary & Plumbing contractor of PWD.

Contract documents consisting of BD Form No 2911, schedule of items, additional terms and conditions etc. can be seen and obtained from the office of the undersigned and offices of the Divisional Commissioner, Chittagong/Executive Engineer, PWD Division No. I, Chittagong/Rangamati PWD Division/Khagrachhari PWD Division and offices of the Sub-Divisional Engineer, PWD Sub-Division No III/IV/Hathazari, Chittagong under this Division on all working days during office hours up to 24.2.98 on payment of usual charges (All Non-refundable).

Abdus Sadeque
Executive Engineer
PWD Division No II
Chittagong

DFP-2963-11/2
G-238

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer, Sirajgonj

Memo No. XEN/LGED/SIRAJ/RRMIMP-2/98/1431 Dated: 04-02-98

Second Rural Roads and Markets Improvement and Maintenance Project (RRMIMP-2) (Rural Development Project: Infrastructure in Greater Rajshahi, Bogra, Pabna and Dhaka District).

Notice Inviting Tender

No-03/97-98

Contract No: SF-35/97-98

- The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has applied for a credit from the International Development Association, hereinafter referred to as the IDA towards the cost of the Second Rural Roads and Markets Improvement and Maintenance Project (RRMIMP-2) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for SF-35/97-98.
- The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, as represented by the Executive Engineer, LGED, Sirajgonj District invites sealed tenders from prequalified tenderers of RRMIMP-2 for furnishing for the necessary labour, materials, equipment and services for the construction and completion of the following works.
- Interested prequalified tenderers may obtain further information from, and inspect the tender documents at the office of the Executive Engineer, LGED, Sirajgonj, and Pabna District or at the office of the Project Director, RRMIMP-2, Local Government Engineering Department, LGED Bhaban, Agargaon, Shere Bangla Nagar, Dhaka, Commissioner, Rajshahi Division, Rajshahi and Deputy Commissioner, Sirajgonj.
- A complete set of tender documents may be purchased by any interested prequalified tenderer on the submission of a written application to one of the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Tk 3000/- (Taka three thousand). Additional sets of documents may be purchased each at the same price. The tender documents will be available during office hours up to 26-02-98.
- All tenders must be accompanied by a fixed amount as earnest money as determined by the Project Manager in the form of Bank Draft, Pay Order, Call Deposit, Demand Draft or Bank Guarantee from a scheduled Bank in Bangladesh in Taka in favour of the Executive Engineer, LGED, Sirajgonj District.
- All tenders must be delivered to the office of the Executive Engineer, LGED, Sirajgonj and Pabna District or to office of the Project Director, RRMIMP-2, Commissioner, Rajshahi Division, and Deputy Commissioner, Sirajgonj on or before 1.00 PM on 02-03-98.
- Tenders will be opened in the presence of those tenderers/representatives who choose to attend at 1.30 PM on 02-03-98 at the office of the Executive Engineer, Sirajgonj and Pabna District and at the office of the Project Director, RRMIMP-2, Commissioner, Rajshahi Division and Deputy Commissioner, Sirajgonj.
- No tender document will be sold on the date of submission of tender or on the previous working day.
- Tenderers may also submit tender by registered mail with acknowledgment due, which must reach the concerned office (s) before the deadline of receipt of tender. Late received tender will not be accepted.
- The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.
- A pre-tender conference will be held in the office of the undersigned on 01-03-98 at 11.00 AM. All tenderers are requested to attend the conference in time.
- The particulars of the contract are stated below.

Sl No	Contract No	Name of the Work	Earnest Money (Tk)	Time for Completion (days)	Eligible Contractor
01.	SF 35/97-98	Construction of 70.00m Span Girder Bridge on Dhangara-Bhagbati Road at ch 2+223KM.	1,30,000/-	360 days	Pre-qualification level (Structure) Special & A

Executive Engineer
Local Govt Engineering Department
Sirajgonj

DFP-2783-10/2
G-240



PABNA: A sequence of a dance drama titled "Hasan Hossainer Ma Kande Baromas" based on the Liberation War of Bangladesh which was staged recently by the artistes of Siksha-0-Sanskriti Charcha Kendra at the local Banamali Institute. — Star photo

In Rajshahi 2 killed, 3 hurt in 3 separate incidents

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Feb 13: Two persons were killed and three others injured in three separate incidents in Rajshahi on Thursday.

An unidentified housewife was killed on the spot on Thursday evening when a running truck dashed a rickshaw at Kasalpara near Sultanganj under Godagari thana in the district. The rickshawpulled was seriously injured and admitted into the thana health complex.

A dead body of unidentified young man was recovered by Godagari Police from the ditch beside Rajshahi-Chapainawabganj highway near Qasimpur ferry ghat under Godagari thana on Thursday morning.

The deadbody was sent to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital for autopsy. The man died after falling from the roof of a running bus late night on Thursday, police suspects.

In another accident on Thursday morning in front of office of Divisional Commissioner, two persons were injured when a truck dashed away a rickshaw and a motorcycle. They are Abul Asad, 45, an employee of Divisional Commissioner Office and Bablu, 40, of Darusa village. They were admitted into Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Three separate cases were filed in connection with those incidents.

Plan to raise number of beds in dist hospitals to 250

JOYPUHAT, Feb 13: Health and Family Welfare Minister Salah Uddin Yusuf has asked the doctors to discharge their duties with honesty and sincerity, reports UNB.

He was addressing the inaugural function of the newly-built 100-bed district Sadar Hospital here on Saturday.

The function, chaired by Civil Surgeon Mohammad Fazlur Rahman, was addressed, among others, by Kamrunnahar Putul, MP, Awami League leader Abdul Jalil and Deputy Commissioner Abu Nasir Ahmed.

Yusuf said the government has a plan to increase the number of beds in all the Thana Health Complexes to 50 and the district hospitals to 250 in phases. It will help reach the health services to the doorsteps of the people, he said.

He said the government had already increased the food allowance from Tk 22 to Tk 30 for each patient in the government hospitals.

He termed the new hospital in the district as a milestone in

the expansion and development of the country's health sector.

He hoped that the hospital would play an important role in reducing the sufferings of the patients in the district and its adjoining areas.

The two-storied hospital building was constructed at a cost of Tk 7.8 crore with financial assistance from Asian Development Bank.

Shops, houses gutted in Khagrachhari

KHAGRACHHARI, Feb 13: Many shops and houses were gutted in a fire at Lawgong Bazar of Panchhari thana here last night, reports BSS.

According to Fire Service and local administration, the fire originated from an oven of a shop at the Bazar at 11.50 pm and engulfed many shops and adjacent houses.

Two fire fighting units from Khagrachhari rushed to the spot and brought the blaze under control at 3 pm.

Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are hereby invited for the following works under Natore WD Division during the year 1997-98.

The tender will be received during office hours on 22.2.98, 23.2.98 and up to 12:00 Noon on 24.2.98 and will be opened at 12:30 PM on 24.2.98 in presence of the contractor who wish to be present. The enlisted 'A', 'B', 'C' & 'D' class contractors under BWDB for the year 1997-98 are eligible to submit tenders. But they shall have to submit to attach registration copy along the tender.

Tender documents will be available from the following offices:

- The Commissioner, Rajshahi Division, Rajshahi.
- The Manager, Agrani Bank, WAPDA (Irr) branch, Sopura, Rajshahi.
- The Manager, Pubali Bank Ltd, Sericulture branch, Seriol, Rajshahi.
- The Manager, Agrani Bank, Naogaon.
- The Manager, Sonali Bank, WAPDA Building branch, Motiheel C/A, Dhaka.
- The Manager, Pubali Bank Ltd, Natore.

Tender documents will be received at following offices:

- The Commissioner, Rajshahi Division, Rajshahi.
- The Superintending Engineer, O&D Circle-2, BWDB, Dhaka.
- The Executive Engineer, Rajshahi WD Division, BWDB, Rajshahi.
- The Executive Engineer, O&D Division, BWDB, Naogaon.
- The Executive Engineer, O&D Division-2, BWDB, Dhaka.
- The Executive Engineer, WD Division, BWDB, Natore.

List of work

Tender No	Description of work & location	Group No	Estimated amount	1/2% Earnest money	1% token money for fixed deposit	Working days	Class of Contractor
6/1997-98	1. Construction of 2-vent (Size 1.52mx 2.44m) Regulator at Lenguria in PS & Dist Natore in C/W Baral Basin Development Project during the year 1997-98.	'A'	61,32,180/-	1,53,305/-	61,322/-	120 days	'A' Class
	2. Protective work with brick matressing at U/S & D/S of Alghoria Regulator in PS Bagatipara, Dist Natore in C/W Baral Basin Development Project during the year 1997-98.	'B'	15,47,556/-	38,689/-	15,476/-	90 days	'A&B' Class
	3. Construction of Protective shed by CI Sheet on electric motors & equipment at Alghoria Regulator in PS Bagatipara, Dist Natore in C/W Baral Basin Development Project during the year 1997-98.	'C'	1,07,484/-	2,687/-	1,075/-	45 days	'D' Class
	4. Closing of breach at Bankura in between km 1.50 to 1.620 in C/W Chalan Beel Project Polder-'C' (Under 163 IND) during the year 1997-98.	'D'	4,17,249/-	10,431/-	4,173/-	60 days	'C&D' Class
	5. Closing of breach at Chourbari in between km 22.150 to 22.258 in C/W Chalan Beel Project Polder-'C' (Under 163 IND) during the year 1997-98.	'E'	4,99,148/-	12,479/-	4,992/-	60 days	'C&D' Class
	6. Closing of breach at Malipukur in between km 31.670 to 31.787 in C/W Chalan Beel Project Polder-'C' (Under 163 IND) during the year 1997-98.	'F'	3,52,080/-	8,802/-	3,521/-	60 days	'C&D' Class
	7. Closing of breach at Baithakhali in between km 38.76 to 38.794 in C/W Chalan Beel Project Polder-'C' (Under 163 IND) during the year 1997-98.	'G'	80,970/-	2,024/-	810/-	45 days	'D' Class
	8. Closing of breach at Joshopara in between km 137.030 to 137.074 in C/W Chalan Beel Project Polder-'C' (Under 163 IND) during the year 1997-98.	'H'	1,33,525/-	3,338/-	1,335/-	45 days	'D' Class
	9. Repair & Maintenance of Natore WD Rest house & boundary wall in C/W Bandaikharra Project during the year 1997-98.	'T'	1,53,361/-	3,834/-	1,534/-	60 days	'D' Class
	10. Construction of boundary wall at Bhoibaniganj Khalashi shed in PS Bagmara Dist Rajshahi in C/W Chalan Beel Project Polder-'C' (Under 163 IND) during the year 1997-98.	'J'	1,06,699/-	2,667/-	1,067/-	45 days	'D' Class
	11. Construction of extended part of embk with protective part by brick matressing with CC block at Shahbari breach point in between km 8.030 to 8.630 along the right bank of river Atrai in PS Manda, Dist: Naogaon in C/W Chalan Beel Project Polder-'C' (Under 163 IND) during the year 1997-98.	'K'	24,52,097/-	61,302/-	24,521/-	90 days	'A&B' Class

PANI-283/97-98
GD-107

Md Mizanur Rahman
Executive Engineer
Natore Water Dev Division
BWDB, Natore