

News snaps

Agri-fair concludes

MAGURA, Mar 20: Thana level agriculture fair concluded in three thanas of the district, last week, reports UNB.

Organised by Agriculture Department the fair in Salikha and Mohammadpur thana was inaugurated by Adv Biren Sikder MP and the fair in Sreepur was inaugurated by MS Akbar MP. Agriculture, education, family planning, health, live-stock and fisheries appliances and products were exhibited in the fair to create awareness among the masses. Meanwhile, a three-day workshop on 'Prevention of Repression on Women and Implementation of Basic Rights' concluded recently at Nakol under Sreepur thana.

Fish products worth Tk 1 lakh looted

PATUAKHALI, Mar 20: A gang of pirates raided a fish depot in Charmontaz Bazar in Galachipa thana here last week, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, the pirates decamped with Tk 3.5 lakh in cash and fish products worth about Tk one lakh from the Lucky Fish Depot at mid night on March 3. Police said about 30 to 35 miscreants attacked the workers of the depot, stabbed them mercilessly and decamped with the booty. Among the injured Farooq Khan, 35, and Noor Hossain, 40, were rushed to the Patuakhali Sadar Hospital in a serious condition. A case was filed with the police.

2-day eye camp concludes

NOAKHALI, Mar 20: A two-day eye camp organised by Bandharhat Bidhotshahi Sangha and Chandpur Ondho Kallyan Samity was held on March 5-7 at the Bandharhat Bidhotshahi Sangha Bhaban under Noakhali sadar thana, reports BSS.

Razia Matin Chowdhury MP inaugurated the eye camp. More than 100 patients were treated. Some cataract patients were operated upon. They were given medicines free of cost.

Drama festival begins

MUNSHIGANJ, Mar 20: A week-long drama festival sponsored by the Munshiganj theatre begins here at the Ganasadan auditorium on March 13, reports BSS.

According to a press release of the Munshiganj theatre, four theatre group from Dhaka — Aranyak, Theatre, Subachan and Padati — and three theatre groups of the district will participate in the festival.

Tk 1 cr road reconstruction project

GAIBANDHA, Mar 20: The Roads and Highways Department has taken up a project for reconstruction of 18 roads in Gaibandha district in the current fiscal, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the government has sanctioned Taka 1.20 crore for implementation of the project under the Annual Development Programme (ADP). The work of the project is in full swing and expected to be completed by June.

Statue recovered

MADARIPUR, Mar 20: A precious stone made statue weighing about 60 kg has been recovered from a courtyard at Guatola village in Shibchar thana, reports UNB.

Police said the statue was unearthed from the courtyard of a house owned by Abul Hossain when a group of labourers were digging the earth on March 1. The blue colour statue is two and a half feet in length. Local jewelers estimated the value of the statue at about Taka one crore.

Aman output falls short of target

RANGAMATI, Mar 20: There is likely to be a severe food shortage in the district during the current dry season due to the short fall in Aman production, reports UNB.

According to the local people, 50 per cent of the arable land will be out of boro cultivation in the current season as these lands are under the water of the Kaptai lake. According to the agriculture department, though the production of Aman was satisfactory in the district but due to the water-logging in a vast tract of land, the production was less in comparison with the previous season and the shortfall was estimated at 4,443 metric tons.

Discussion on Shahtiyaratna

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 20: Speakers at a discussion held recently at Hatikumrul under Ullapara thana of the district paid tributes to Nazibur Rahman Shahiyaratna, a popular novelist of the early twentieth century, reports BSS.

Organised by Nazibur Rahman Shahiyaratna Smriti Parishad, the discussion meeting was presided over by Mustafa Kamal Bakul, Ullapara Thana Social Welfare Officer. Mohammad Ismail Hossain Siraj, a social worker and Managing Director of Islamia Trade and Commerce Limited was chief guest at the function. Hatikumrul Union Parishad chairman Abdul Aziz Sarker, Salanga Union Parishad chairman Shafi Kamal Shafi, Ghurka Union Parishad chairman Bibhut Bhushan Saha, Dhulib Union Parishad chairman Nazrul Islam Badshah and Nalpa Union Parishad chairman Ali Ashgar, among others, spoke on the life and works of late Nazibur Rahman.

3 persons commit suicide

BHERAMARA, Mar 20: Three persons committed suicide in Kushtia on Friday last, reports BSS.

The victims are Jarina, 20, wife of Motaleb of Ailchaha under Kushtia sadar thana, Santa Khatoun, 21, wife of Giasuddin of Charbhabinipur and Jhatu Khatoun, 15, wife of Zahurul Haque of Kalinathpur under Mirpur thana. The bodies have been sent to Kushtia Sadar Hospital for postmortem. Unnatural death cases have been filed with Mirpur Police Station in this connection.

Sangbadik Samity executives

COMILLA, Mar 20: A 15-member executive committee of Bangladesh Sangbadik Samity, Comilla unit was formed in an election held at Comilla Press Club on Thursday, reports BSS.

Rezaul Karim Shamim and Ashoke Kumar Barua were re-elected as president and general secretary respectively for a 3-year term. Other office-bearers are: Vice President — Prof Dipak Kumar Bhadra, Assistant General Secretary — Shidullah, Organising Secretary — Masudur Rahman Sikdar, Publicity Secretary — Maksud Ahmed Chowdhury, Office Secretary — Mahbul Alam Babu and Treasurer — Sakawat Hossain Salim.

Kidnapping bid foiled

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 20: Villagers foiled a move for kidnapping a newly married girl from a village in Ullapara thana of the district on Friday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said a group of miscreants tried to kidnap Montaj Begum, 18, from her father's house at Ullapara. Hearing her hue and cry, villagers rescued her but kidnappers fled the scene by an ambulance. Later, police seized the ambulance along with its driver Duda Mia, 30. Duda Mia confessed to the police that one Abdul Matin and his friends hired the ambulance on pretext that a patient would be taken to hospital. A case was filed with Ullapara police in this connection.

5 killers get life term imprisonment

PIROJPUR, Mar 20: A court here has sentenced five people to life term imprisonment for killing a man, reports UNB.

The convicted are Babul, Ratan, Nabi Hossain, Moti Mollah and Mosharraf of Fulchira village in Mathbaria thana. According to the prosecution, the convicted people killed their co-villager Abdul Mannan Farazi on January 9, 1996 following previous enmity. After investigation, police submitted charge-sheet against them. After examining the records and witnesses District and Sessions Judge Kabirul Islam delivered the judgement on Wednesday.

Eye camp at Godagari

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Mar 20: A five-day eye camp was held at Godagari Mahila Degree College under Rajshahi district in the first week of March, reports BSS.

The eye camp was sponsored by Godagari Social Welfare Association in collaboration with Bangladesh Ondha Kallyan Samity and Seraganj Eye Hospital. About 300 persons suffering from various eye-diseases were treated in the camp. Around 50 cataract patients were operated upon.

Vegetables cultivation scheme in Netrakona

NETRAKONA, Mar 20: A total of 4,500 hectares were brought under vegetables cultivation this year in 10 thanas under Netrakona district, reports BSS.

An official source said 500 hectares were brought under vegetables cultivation in Purbadhala thana, 400 hectares in Durgapur, 400 hectares in Kalamakanda, 500 hectares in Kendua, 400 hectares in Mahanganj, 500 hectares in Barhatta, 500 hectares in Atpara, 500 hectares in Madan, 300 hectares in Khalajung and 500 hectares in Netrakona sadar thana. The production target of different vegetables was fixed at 67,500 metric tons.

Children's fair concludes

BANDARBAN, Mar 20: A three-day children's fair under the auspices of Alikadam thana office of Shishu Academy concluded here on March 5, reports BSS.

A total of 23 stalls were set up in the fair. On the concluding day Thana Mirbahi Officer of Alikadam Feroj Khan Noon distributed prizes among the winners.



Six eminent personalities recently received Jasim Foundation Gold Medal Award '98 at a function of Jasim Palli Mela at Jasim Udyan at Gobindpur in Faridpur. They are Rokonzaman Khan Dada Bhai (Literature), Alhaj M Azizullah (Industrialisation and Economic Development), Firoja Begum (Music), Prof Miah Lutfar Rahman (Education), Fakir Alamgir (Folk-song) and Engr Shahidul Hassan (Rural Infrastructure Development). Photo shows Environment and Forest Minister Begum Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury and Deputy Commissioner, Faridpur and President, Jasim Foundation, A F M Abdul Haque Chowdhury with the recipients of the Award.

In Chandpur

30,000 hectares of land brought under potato cultivation

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Mar 20: The total acreage of potato cultivation has exceeded the target this year in the district.

According to district Agriculture Extension office sources, the target of potato cultivation in all seven thanas of the district was set at 20 thousand hectares, but total land put under potato cultivation was about 30 thousand hectares. Potato growers of the district did not face any crises of seeds, water, fertilisers and other inputs during sowing time. These favourable circumstances are

the main causes of high production of potatoes this year. Precautionary measures to combat possible outbreak of diseases of potato crops have been taken by the Agriculture Department.

Besides, Agriculture Department officials had set up about 30 demonstration plots to impart training to potato growers. Middlemen and affluent farmers who had preserved potatoes in cold storages in the district for handsome profit in lean period, were worst sufferers due to low prices of potatoes

during the last year.

About 2 lakh metric tons of potatoes were produced this year.

Agriculture Extension officials have expressed apprehension, repeated slumps in potato prices due to bumper production may turn potato farming not viable in the district potato is now being sold at Taka 3 to 4 per kg, which is below the production cost. Meanwhile, storing of potatoes in different cold storages have already been started in the district.

Labour cost up in Natore

Rural people losing interest in installing Tara pump

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Mar 20: Rural people in six thanas of the district are reportedly losing their interest in setting up Tara pump for pure drinking water and other household works as the labour cost has increased by 50 per cent.

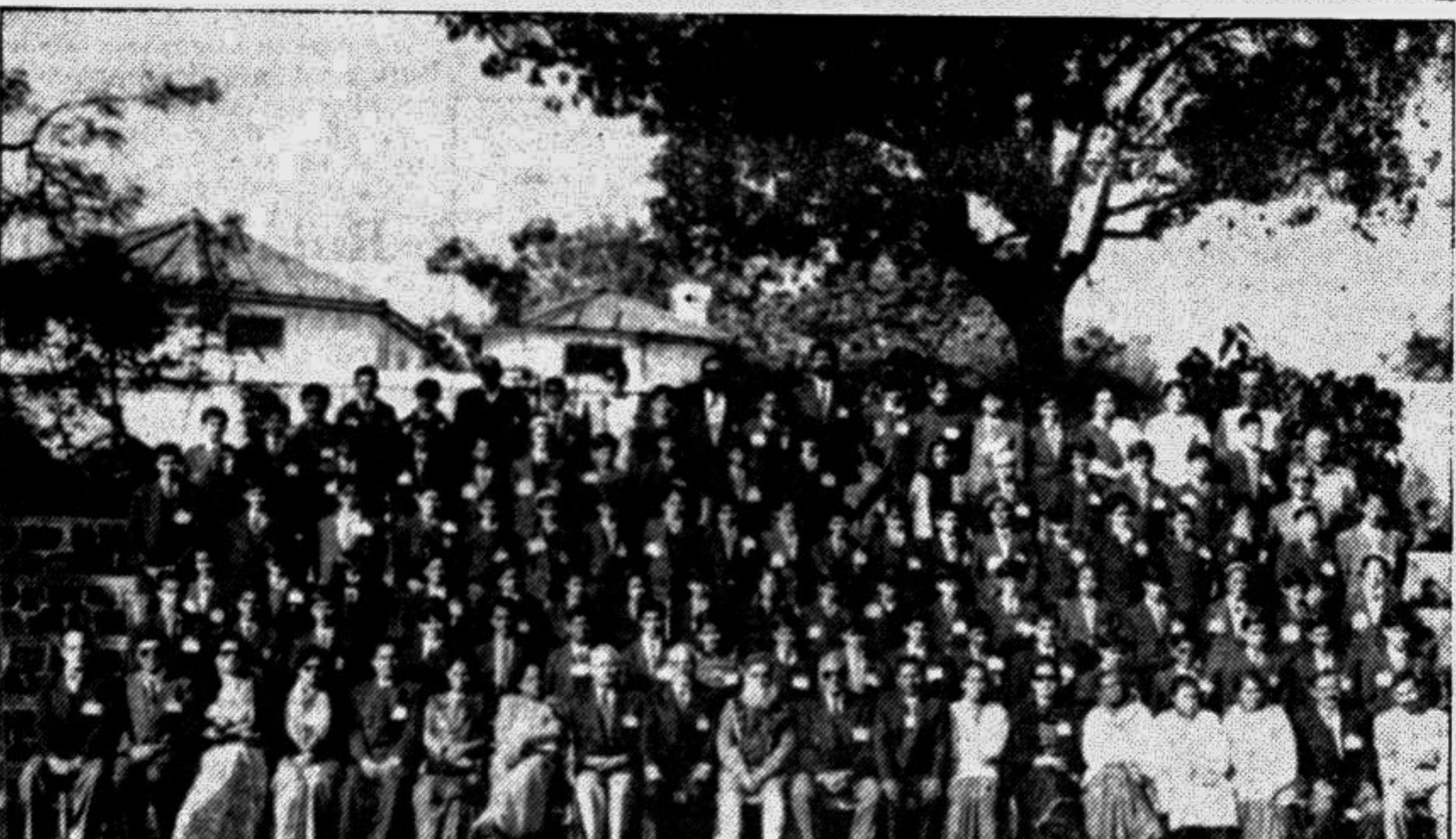
According to Public Health Engineering Department

(PHED), at least 240 Tara pumps were set up in six thanas of the district during last 1996-97 fiscal. But not a single Tara pump could be installed in the district up to March 12 of the current financial year.

Different sources said, during last financial year, the opportunists were to provide Tk

1,000 to PHED in labour cost sector to set up a Tara pump. But this year, the amount rose to Tk 1,500.

Official sources said, about 143 Tara pumps are targeted to set up in the district this year. But it is apprehended, the target would not be achieved due to increase in labour cost.



"Students and teachers of Chittagong Grammar School at the Junior Round Square Conference held recently at Dehra Dun, India.

IRRI-Boro production target won't be achieved in Gopalganj dist

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, Mar 20: The target of IRRI-Boro production and other crops throughout the district may not be achieved to various reasons.

The problems include frequent power failure, abnormal and high prices of different inputs, shortage of bullocks for tilling the land, high prices of fuel, faulty system of irrigation equipment and shortage of high yielding varieties of seeds.

Frequent power disruption in the district has been hampering production in the agricultural sector. About three thousand shallow and deep tube wells are mechanised by electricity under Gopalganj Palli Bidyut Samity.

Power failure has become a regular feature in the district. Power remains suspended round the clock, it is widely alleged by the consumers. Power is being supplied by the Gopalganj PBS from after noon to midnight and the students are worst sufferers.

It is further alleged by the farmers, Gopalganj Palli Bidyut authority is quite indifferent about their interest.

According to an official source, a massive programme was taken in all five thanas of the district during the current season to bring a total of about

50 thousand hectares of land under IRRI-Boro cultivation. Abnormal increase in the prices of different inputs had caused headache for poor farmers. The supply of different high yielding variety seeds was also scanty in government godowns. But it was found seeds are being sold in open market at abnormally high rate during the sowing season. Poor stock of small number of farmers was also exhausted in last year in almost all five police stations.

The government had also withdrawn the rental system of supplying the irrigation and other agricultural equipment to the farmers. Only a few number of rich landlords could afford to purchase these. Poor and marginal farmers now have to buy water for irrigating their land during the season.

High prices of fuel also hit the farmers seriously, it is alleged. Repeated and abnormal rise in the prices of different kinds of chemical fertilisers has also put the poor and marginal farmers in great miseries.

Disbursement of the special agricultural loans is also not satisfactory at all.

Most of the staff and officials of the bank branches in remote areas are found less interest in disbursing loans to small farmers, it is alleged. However, a section of influential people and village toutis avail of the loans, it is observed. Even most of the poor farmers have to seek loans through these selected groups for obtaining loans from the bank, it is widely alleged.

The bank officials often disappoint the interested farmers in providing them the loans on the plea of not submitting sufficient documents and papers which has become a regular feature.

The theme of this year's Women's Day was 'Right to free movement for women.'

River erosion victims in distress

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Mar 20: About one thousand and one hundred families who became homeless by the erosion of the river Padma have been passing days in great hardship.

When contacted, the chairman of Char Bhadrans Union Parishad Abu Kalam told this correspondent, about six thousand people, most of boys and girls of the families have been leading a sub-human life for two years without any relief materials from any quarters. They have been living on the embankments and roads raising temporary sheds causing health hazards in the area. Most of the families were marginal farmers and as such are not accustomed to sell their labour in the locality. Some young male members have left for Dhaka city and are earning their livelihood by doing odd-jobs and some women members having no other sources to fall back upon secretly working as maid servants in the houses of rich families in the locality. Their existence have been threatened, the chairman claimed.

JCD wins

Kushtia Polytechnic Instt Central Students Union poll

KUSHTIA, Mar 20: Jatiyat-atabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) of Kushtia Polytechnic Institute bagged almost all the seats in the recently held central students' union and one hall elections, reports UNB.

In the central students union election of the institute JCD got 17 out of 20 posts including VP Abu Shahed Ranju, Pro-VP Moshahul Huq Babu, GS Sazzad Iqbal and GS Kamal Reza Khan. Bangladesh Chhatra League got the rest three posts.

In Mosharraf Hossain Hall Students' Union Election JCD got 13 posts out of 15 including Pro-VP and GS.

In Lalon Hall Students Union Election JCD secured seven posts out of 15 including VP, Pro-VP and GS while independent candidates got the rest eight posts.

Plan to construct gas line beside Bangabandhu Bridge

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 20: The government has taken up a programme to construct gas line beside the Bangabandhu Multipurpose Jamuna Bridge with a view to transmit gas in the northern region including Sirajganj by the year 2000, reports UNB.

The preliminary work of the gas line project has begun since August last and necessary materials are being brought under the supervision of Petrobangla. But the programme may suffer a setback as a vested quarter of the area is trying to obstruct the programme.

Concern source said, learning the news of construction of gas pipe line a vested quarter of the project area started building houses and establishments in the name of various social organisations for realising huge compensation from the government.

About 600 houses and establishments have already been built by this time and the process is on, although nobody resides in these houses.

Nursing instts on verge of closure

KURIGRAM, Mar 20: Non-payment of salary to 240 employees of 18 nursing institutes of the country has taken the institutes to the verge of closure, reports UNB.

The government had set up the nursing institutes in 18 districts in 1982 with the financial assistance of ADB and appointed 240 employees in 1992 on contract.

Their services are extended in ECNEC meeting every year, but the matter was not placed in its previous meeting, blocking the payment of their salary for last eight months.

Officials concerned, however, admitted the incident and said it has been brought to the notice of the higher authorities. "A file has already been put forward to the Planning Commission to resolve the problem," said an official.

Shoal at Modhumati disrupts communication

MADARIPUR, Mar 20: The Madhumati river channel connecting Tekerhat and Khulna, has dried up, disrupting communication between the two regions, reports UNB.

Movement of heavy river vessels has been suspended in the river following emergence of a 40-kr shoal at the upstream of Madhumati.

Even though some small launches are running on the river, they cannot make halt at Goalia, Baradia, Manikda, Tala, Joyajar, Shuklot and other ghats due to inadequate water level and emerging shoals.

With the disruption in river communication, supply of goods to Khulna, Dhaka and other parts of the country through this route remained suspended, slowing down business activities in the region.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Directorate of Non-Formal Education
Primary & Mass Education Department
House No-380 (Old), Road No-27 (Old)
Dhanmondi, Dhaka

NOTICE

Applications are invited from local consultants/firms for implementation of the undermentioned programmes of Technical Assistance Wing of the Directorate of Non-Formal Education on contract basis (Sub-contract).

- Name of Programmes:**
 - Curriculum Revision and Materials Development (Project duration 9 months).
 - Teaching Methods to Maximize Student Learning in NFE (Project duration 3 months).
 - Post Literacy Practice and Post Literacy Curriculum and Materials Development (Project duration 4 months).
 - Annual Evaluation of Learners Achievement on a sample basis (Project duration 3 months).
- Other terms & conditions:**
 - Application should be submitted to the Director of Technical Assistance Wing within 15 (fifteen) days of publication of the Notice. No application sent by post or Courier Service will be received.
 - Two separate offers (one technical & one financial) should be submitted for each programme.
 - Applicant consultant/firm should be experienced in implementation of the said programmes.
 - Terms of Reference (TOR) as consultant can be collected from the office of Director of the Technical Assistance Wing.
 - The authority reserves the full right to reject the offers in part or full.

DFP-5683-15/3
G-540

Professor Nilufar Rahman
Director (Technical Assistance Wing).

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Directorate of Archeology
22/1, Block-B, Babar Road
Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207

Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from interested bonafide traders/local agents, contractors' firms for binding various kinds of books of the Archeological Library, purchasing goods, accessories of the Photography Section, painting/servicing of electrical goods mentioned in the schedule of the Directorate of Archeology. Tender schedule consisting detailed description of the tender can be purchased on payment of Tk 300/- (three hundred) only (non-refundable) from the office of the undersigned on all workdays up to 29-3-98 on production of original copy of trade licence subject to apply in their own letter head pad. Tenders will be received in the tender box kept at the Directorate up to 12-00 Noon of 30-3-98 and will be opened on the same day at 12-30 PM in presence (if any) of the tenderers. Attested true copy of current year renewed trade licence of the firm, Income Tax clearance certificate, VAT clearance certificate, experience certificate and bank solvency certificate should be submitted with the tender.

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject tender in part or whole without assigning any reason. Other information regarding the tender can be known from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

DFP-5549-12/3
G-535

Habibur Rahman
Director (Current)
Phone: 327608

Rural Development Academy

Bogra
Memo No. CEPA/48/97/245 Dated: 9.3.98

Notice Inviting Proposals for Consultancy Services

- A UNDP-funded project titled "Community Empowerment for Poverty Alleviation at the Grassroots Level" being implemented by the Rural Development Academy, Bogra needs the consultancy service in respect of a baseline survey in two thanas of Sirajganj.
- Proposals are invited in prescribed form under two envelope system (Technical and Financial) from the established and reputed organisations for conducting a baseline survey.
- The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) and other relevant information may be obtained from the office of the Project Director, CEPA, Rural Development Academy, Bogra during office hours up to 31-3-98 on payment of Tk 500.00 (Five hundred only) in cash for each set of document.
- The technical and financial proposals should be submitted in separate sealed envelopes which should be clearly marked "Technical Proposals" and "Financial Proposals" and the same to be dropped together in the following office on or before 26.4.98 up to 12:30 PM. The "Technical Proposal" will be opened at 1:00 PM on the same day in presence of the bidders or their representatives (if there be any) in the office of the Director General, Rural Development Academy, Bogra.
- The Academy authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the bids without assigning any reason whatsoever.

DFP-5707-15/3
G-533

A J Minhaj Uddin Ahmad
Project Director, CEPA
Rural Development Academy
Bogra

Rural Development Academy

Bogra
Memo No. CEPA/48/97/244 Dated: 9-3-98

Notice Inviting Proposals for Consultancy Services

- A UNDP-funded project titled "Community Empowerment for Poverty Alleviation at the Grassroot Level" being implemented by the Rural Development Academy, Bogra needs the consultancy service in respect of conducting a training on Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) for the personnel of the project.
- Proposals are invited in prescribed form under two envelope system (Technical and Financial) from the established and reputed organisations for conducting a baseline survey.
- The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) and other relevant information may be obtained from the office of the Project Director, CEPA, Rural Development Academy, Bogra during office hours up to 31-3-98 on payment of Tk. 500.00 (Five hundred) only in cash for each set of document.
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- The Academy authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the bids without assigning any reason whatsoever.

DFP-5708-15/3
G-538

AJ Minhaj Uddin Ahmad
Project Director, CEPA
Rural Development Academy
Bogra