

News snaps

Memo submitted to Sylhet DC

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Nov 23: Several hundred people laid siege at the office of the Deputy Commissioner (DC), on Sunday morning demanding immediate payment of proper compensation for the lands acquired for construction of a pipeline by the US company. Occidental in different villages of Golapganj thana recently.

The agitators held a brief rally in the premises of the DC's office and later handed over a memorandum to the DC. They alleged that Occidental was offering lesser price for the valuable lands they had already acquired for the pipeline construction. They also demanded for inclusion of the area in the gas supply network by Jalalabad Gas Transmission and Distribution Systems Limited. The agitators also threatened of stopping the works being done by the US company.

Housewife commits suicide

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Nov 23: A newly married housewife was raped recently at village Pikhati in Sator Union in Boalmari thana. According to local source, Omol Golak and Goutam forcibly entered into her house and raped her. Police arrested the alleged rapists — Omol Golak and Goutam.

Indian sugar, timber recovered

HABIGANJ, Nov 23: Police in two separate drives recovered 1400 kg of Indian sugar and Segun timber and nabbed five people including a woman here on Friday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided a bus at Shayestaganj Railway Junction and seized 13 sacks of sugar weighing 600 kgs and timber in the early hours. Three people identified as Billal Hossain, 25, Alauddin, 20, and Saiful Haq, 18, were arrested in this connection. In another drive Geduji Bibi, 40, and Abu Sahed, 35, were caught red handed with 16 sacks of sugar weighing 800 kgs while lifting from a land rover vehicle at the Chowdhury Bazar area of the town at 9 am of the same day.

Indian bidi recovered

SYLHET, Nov 23: Bangladesh Rifles in a drive recovered Indian bidi worth over Tk two lakh from Protappur frontier area of Goyanighat thana on Wednesday, reports UNB.

The BDR jawans challenged the smugglers while carrying the contraband on their heads at dead of night. But the smugglers tried to attack the BDR and in face of blank fire they fled the area leaving behind the huge quantity of contraband item. Later the seized goods were deposited with the district customs godown.

Jail Killing Day observed in Khulna

KHULNA, Nov 23: State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Talukder Abdul Khaleque said it has become clear and distinct that the gruesome killing of Bangabandhu and four national leaders were two subsequent chapters of a common conspiracy, reports BSS.

Addressing a public meeting as the chief guest here the state minister said after submission of the chargesheet against the alleged accused in the jail killing the masks of the conspirators who played with the nation's fate for 21 years, have been unveiled. Khulna City Awami League organised the meeting to mark the Jail Killing Day.

Country liquor recovered: One held

TANGAIL, Nov 23: Shakhupur thana police arrested one Khagendra from village Katchua and recovered country liquor and appliances for its production recently, reports BSS.

Acting on a tip-off police raided the house of Khagendra alias Khoka and discovered the wine manufacturing factory there. Police arrested him and recovered the illegal products of country liquor.

Forest resources on wane

SHARIATPUR, Nov 23: Forest resources in the district are on the wane due to indiscriminate felling of trees, reports UNB.

The practice by a section of the people with the help of some forest department officials and employees has been contributing much to the degradation of the environment. The local administration remains silent about the indiscriminate felling of trees along the roads of Atong-Burirhat, Burirhat-Bhedorganj, Shariatpur-Jajira-Maowa, Jajira-Laukhola, Ganganagar-Kazirhat, Isha Khan-Kachki, Haji Shariatulla and Kabi Nazrul Islam have already been cut off. The number of trees is very thin along these roads, but the authorities planted saplings of various species including Shegun and rain three about two decades back. The use of three as firewood in the brick-fields is widespread in the district despite the ban. There are about 25 brick-fields in the district and bricks are manufactured in November and December.

PM's announcement hailed

MADARIPUR, Nov 23: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's unilateral announcement that her party would no more call hartal in future was hailed by Madaripur district unit of Bangladesh Human Rights Commission, reports BSS.

Mahabubur Rahman and AKM Nurunnabi, president and general secretary respectively of the district human rights commission, in a statement termed the prime minister's announcement as historic and a significant step towards the welfare and development of the country. They urged the opposition parties to renounce hartal for socio-economic development, stability and peace and prosperity of the country.

'Rabi' farming scheme in Rajbari

RAJBARI, Nov 23: Some 60.51 thousand hectares of land has been brought under a programme to cultivate different 'Rabi' crops in four thanas of the district, Agricultural Extension Department (AED) sources said, reports APB.

Of the land, 18,690 hectares are in sadar, 21,355 hectares in Pangsha, 12,707 hectares in Baliakandi and 7,759 hectares in Goulundo thanas. With the implementation of the project about 1.64 lakh metric tonnes of different kinds of crops - 'Boro' paddy, wheat, mustard, pulses, spices and various winter vegetables will be grown in the district this season. When contacted, the district Deputy Director of AED Abdur Rahman Khan said that training for growing of high yielding variety of crops has already been provided to the farmers for successful execution of the project.

Workshop for sanitary latrine producers

NETROKONA, Nov 23: A three-day workshop for the private producers of sanitary latrines have just been completed here, reports APB.

The workshop, held at the conference room of the office of the Executive Engineer of the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), was jointly organised by UNICEF and the DPHE. The workshop was participated by 25 private manufacturers of latrines from 10 thanas. Participants at the workshop brought to light matters relating to improvement of quality of sanitary latrines, creating awareness among the people about the necessity of using sanitary latrines at the village level and the like.

Agri loan for farmers

COMILLA, Nov 23: Bangladesh Krishi Bank has fixed the target of disbursing Tk 80.40 crore loan among the farmers of the district during the current 'Rabi' season, reports UNB.

Official sources said the target this year is Tk 48.40 crore higher than that of the previous year. The bank has already disbursed Tk 25 crore among the farmers through its various branches. The amount disbursed last year during the same period was only Tk 5.43 crore. The bank realised outstanding loan of Tk 8 crore last year against the target of Tk 38 crore, said the officials.

Winter farming on 39,500 hectares

PATUAKHALI, Nov 23: Some 39,500 hectares of land have been brought under winter crops cultivation in 11 southern districts this season, reports APB.

The districts include Patuakhali, Barguna, Barisal, Jhalakati, Pirojpur, Madaripur, Bhola, Shariatpur, Gopalganj, Faridpur and Rajbari. The districtwise breakup of the land: Patuakhali 3,300 hectares, Barisal-4,300 hectares, Pirojpur - 3,700 hectares, Jhenidah-2,300 hectares, Bhola-4,400 hectares, Barguna -3,200 hectares, Gopalganj-3,100 hectares, Madaripur-3,000 hectares and Shariatpur-4,300 hectares. Meanwhile, Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation allocated about 500 kg various seeds at lower prices for the farmers of the region.

Contractor robbed

KHAGRACHHARI, Nov 23: A contractor was robbed of Tk 10,000 in broad day light at nine mile area of Khagrachhari-Dighinala road on Thursday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, a group of tribals snatched away the money from Tazul Islam by brandishing arms. Later the victim filed a case with the police. Meanwhile, the miscreants intercepted a Khagrachhari-bound microbus when it reached at the spot to commit a dacoity and when resisted, the snatchers fled into the nearby hill leaving behind a country made gun. It may be mentioned that with this, a total of five snatching incidents occurred at the same place during the last three days.

Sylhet radio station in bad shape

SYLHET, Nov 23: The radio station of Bangladesh Betar here is beset with various problems hampering its transmission frequently, reports UNB.

The authorities have been ignoring the demand of the local people to enhance the capacity of the station to 100 kilowatt from the existing 20 kilowatt.

The broadcast of the station was hampered for 149 hours 34 minutes from May to September this year due to load-shedding of power as the generator remained out of order for long.

The generator went out of order on May last and is yet to be repaired causing frequent disruption in the transmission of radio programme.

It was first established in 1961 as a relay station at Tilagarh area of the town with only two kilowatts capacity, said the officials of Bangladesh Betar here.

Transmission of locally produced programmes started

in 1967 and the station was shifted to Mirer Maidan area in 1978 when the capacity of the transmitter was enhanced to 20 kilowatt. A separate broadcasting house was constructed here at the same time.

The station has a daily transmission of 13 hours starting from morning up to night covering the whole Sylhet division and the districts of Brahmanbaria and Kishoreganj. A vast area of Karimganj in India is also covered by the transmission of the station, said the officials.

The broadcasting house has four studios and five booths for recording and programme transmission, which are inadequate and the people have to wait for long time to record their programmes.

Tape recorders are old and other equipment including microphones, air-conditioners, electric systems are in bad shape. The producers can not maintain the professional

standard of recording due to the problems, said the sources in the station.

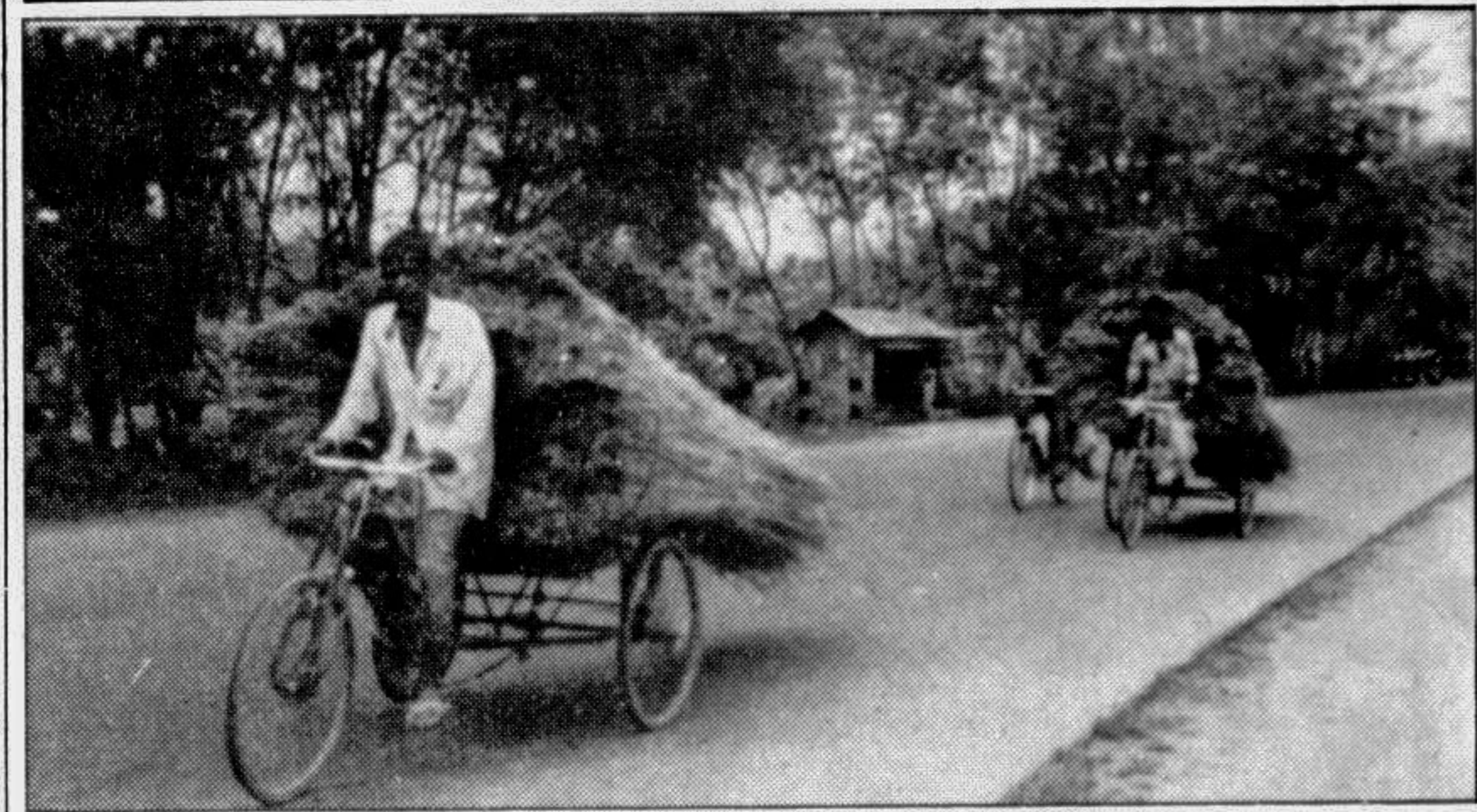
Listeners complained that the sound sometimes become frail and inaudible due to the bad shape of the broadcasting equipment.

The station broadcast a number of programmes produced locally as well as from the national hook-up. Besides, there are bulletins of national and local news.

It has employed 19 staff artists and enlisted about 750 others for different programmes including music, talk show, current affairs and magazine programmes.

The artists include 437 singers, 136 composers, 151 drama performers and 10 play write.

The station received an allocation of Tk 35 lakh during the current fiscal year, but the sources said the amount is inadequate for the honorarium of the artists.



JHENIDAH: Jute sticks are now in great demand among the flood affected villagers of the district. It is used as fuel and a house building material for the rural poor. Its price has increased manifold after the great deluge. Photo shows a rickshaw van puller carrying jute sticks towards a rural market for sale. — Star photo

Sherpur town dwellers deprived of basic amenities

From Ratan Chowdhury

SHERPUR, Nov 23: Sherpur Pourasava dwellers are deprived of basic amenities since long.

The residents have not yet been provided with essential urban facilities despite upgradation of Sherpur sub-division into a district 14 years back. The pourasava has been upgraded into a 'B' category pourasava from 'C' category pourasava five years back.

The narrow roads and lanes are causing much difficulties for both pedestrians and vehicles. Due to lack of proper care and maintenance numerous potholes have been developed on different places of the roads. Besides, the roads become muddy and slippery after a slight rainfall. Roadside ditches are always filled with filth and garbage which have been turned into an ideal mosquito breeding centre.

The government employees

have been suffering due to lack of accommodation. No new building has been built proportionately according to the increased population.

The daily markets are in very bad condition. Shops have been built in a haphazard way and lack of adequate number of sheds in the market compel the traders to carry on their business on the approach roads causing much inconvenience to both customers and sellers.

Frequent failure of electricity and fluctuation of voltage have become almost a regular phenomenon in Sherpur town. The entire pourasava area including its busy points plunge into darkness very often owing to sudden failure of electricity. On the other hand lack of adequate number of street lights cause much trouble. In absence of bulbs in the light posts some areas plunge into darkness just

after sundown.

Sixty percent inhabitants of the pourasava suffer much for want of drinking water. Besides, recreational facilities is completely absent in the town.

The roads and lanes are not cleaned regularly and due to absence of dustbins the roads remain always dirty. Moreover, due to absence of public toilets people use roadsides to respond to the call of nature thereby polluting the atmosphere.

There is no gymnasium and any organisation to impart training on physical exercise. Despite repeated public appeals, the pourasava has turned a deaf ear regarding the problems.

The inhabitants of Sherpur town have urged the authorities concerned to do the needful in order to redress their sufferings.

Extensive 'Rabi' crops cultivation programme in Bogra, Jhenidah

The District Agriculture Extension Department (AED) of Bogra and Jhenidah took up an extensive programme for cultivation of 'Rabi' crops.

Our Bogra Correspondent reports: AED sources said, 16 lakh 8 thousand 62 hectares of lands have been fixed for 'Boro' cultivation with a production target of 4 lakh 17 thousand 8 hundred 42 tones of paddy in 11 thanas.

Thana-wise break-up of land brought under 'Boro' cultivation is as follows: 13 thousand 2 hundred hectares with a production target of 33 thousand mts in Adamdighi thana, 12 thousand 8 hundred hectares with a target of about 40 thousand 3 hundred 39 mts in Gabtali thana, 16 thousand 1 hundred 85 hectares with a target of 40 thousand 4 hundred 62 mts in Kahaloo thana, 22 thousand 83 hectares with a target of about 56 thousand 4 hundred 38 mts in Bogra sadar thana, 18

thousand 6 hundred 48 hectares with a target of 47 thousand 8 hundred 70 mts in Nandagram.

1 thousand 6 hundred 31 hectares with a target of about 39 thousand 1 hundred 96 mts in Sherpur thana, 19 thousand 1 hundred 47 hectares with a target of 47 thousand 8 hundred 68 mts in Shibganj thana, 9 thousand 84 hectares with a target of 22 thousand 6 hundred 60 mts in Sonatola thana.

Special emphasis has been attached to Sonatola, Sharikandi, Dhunat, Sherpur and Gabtali thanas in consideration of fertility of the area to recoup flood damages.

Our Jhenidah correspondent says: AED here has taken an extensive programme to cultivate 'Boro' to make up the deficiency caused by the recent deluge in the district, concerned office sources said.

One lakh 26 thousand metric tons of foodgrains are likely to be produced on 50,800 hectares of land in Jhenidah

sadar, Harinakundu, Kalignaj, Kotchandpur, Mohespur and Saikupa thanas.

Meanwhile, the demand of Br 28- and RB 29 seeds have increased in the district. The farmers informed that the demand of Indian seeds has increased here as it gave optimum result. In the previous years ITRR-50, Miniket, Ratna, Tusar and some other Indian varieties are popular among the farmers for good yield.

Some farmers alleged that the seeds supplied by Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) were being supplied at the rate of Taka 200 instead of its fixed rate Taka 140 per packet.

When contacted BADC officials said that about 20 lakh kilograms of seeds would be required to cultivate 'Boro' in the district for this season which BADC won't be able to supply at all.

Over Tk7cr needed for repair of flood damaged roads in Natore

NATORE, Nov 23: The damage wrought by the devastating flood in the rural communication sector in the district may worth over Tk 150 crore, reports UNB.

Officials of Local Government Engineering Department here estimated that a total of Tk 7 crore 15.48 lakh will be needed for the repair and renovation of the roads, culverts and bridges in six thanas.

A total of 704.23 km kutcha road, 15.8 km metalled road, 29 bridges and culverts were damaged by the flood.

Besides, 10 growth centres and 123 educational institutions of these thanas have also been repaired under this programme.



AGRI-VARSITY (Mymensingh): Vice-Chancellor Prof Muhammad Hussain distributing coconut plants among the farmers of flood affected areas. The distribution programme was arranged by Bangladesh Agricultural University Extension Centre. — Star photo

Man abducted in Kushtia

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Nov 23: A group of miscreants have abducted a man while guarding a paddy field at Goalgram village in Boalia union of Daulatpur thana here on Wednesday.

They forcibly took away Nasir Malitha, 40, and tied another guard Ismail with a tree.

Nasir Malitha who has a problem of hearing was engaged in watching the paddy field of Abdus Samad Biswas of the same village on the fateful night. The reason behind his abduction could not be known immediately.

Another message adds: Terrorist activities are on rise in Bheramara thana despite frequent drive by the law enforcing personnel.

Law breakers possess most sophisticated arms and ammunition and in many cases police failed to fight against them. As a result, incidents of toll collection, clashes and abduction are rampant in the thana.

The miscreants resort to indiscriminate firings and blasting crackers during their attack on Sunday last at Bhitpara Kalabagan in Dharampur union of the thana. Police had to retreat as a result of fierce counter-attack by the organised armed terrorists.

Peace-loving people have urged the authorities to gear up police drive against the criminals in the thana.

Cargo vessel sinks

Movement of river vessels threatened

JHALOKATHI, Nov 23: A sunken cargo vessel in Gabkhan channel here has been hampering the movement of river vessels through the route, reports UNB.

The vessel, MV Mohiuddin, sank on October 17 with 600 metric tons of DAP fertiliser after it collided with another vessel.

The huge cargo occupied a large area of the channel making it troublesome for other vessels to pass through it.

A timber-laden boat bound for Swarupkathi sank on the night of November 19 after it collided with the sunken cargo vessel.

All the river vessels including boats have to proceed with caution at the point. The channel, important for river communication between Mongla port and rest of the country, has become narrower with the accumulation of heavy silt there. It has also threatened movement of river vessels in Dhaka-Barisal-Khulna route.

The authorities of BIWTA were informed immediately after the incident, but no step has yet been taken to salvage the sunken vessel.

An official said BIWTA salvage vessel Hanja or Rustom is not capable to salvage the sunken cargo vessel as it is much heavier.

45 killed in Feni road accidents in one year

FENI, Nov 23: Some 45 people were killed and 172 injured in 28 road accidents in the district in last one year, reports UNB.

According to police, of the accidents, 17 were occurred on Feni bypass area of Dhaka-Chittagong highway and 11 in different parts of the district.

Most of the accidents took place due to the reckless driving by the unskilled drivers with poor traffic knowledge and deplorable condition of roads.

Four people were killed in four separate accidents in Sadar thana in September 1997, two died and were injured in November and a man was killed in December, the same year.

Another one was killed in January this year, 11 including two foreigners were killed and 25 others injured in February, three died in March, 6 died and 40 others were injured in April, one killed in May, 5 died and 5 were injured in June, one died in August, one killed and 68 were injured in September, four died and 10 others were injured in October and four were killed on November 1.

Noakhali-Laxmipur boundary dispute creating tension

NOAKHALI, Nov 23: The inter district boundary dispute between Noakhali and Laxmipur has been creating tension before the coming harvesting season, reports UNB.

The uneasy situation has been prevailing for over a decade over the ownership of Char Bega, Uttar Char Bega and South Char Bega.

Noakhali is claiming the ownership of the three shoals saying that these surfaced on the river-bed after erosion of its Sadar area and many erosion affected shelterless people have erected their hives and maintaining their livelihood on these khas lands.

On the other hand, rejecting the claim, Ramgati thana of Laxmipur district said the shoals belong to them and some erosion affected people of thana have been living there since long.

At present, the conflicting groups are very tense now that may lead to a bloody clash any moment, said the locals.



SYLHET: Accountant General of Bangladesh Asif Ali speaking at the regional conference of Accounts Officers which was held here on November 18. — Star photo

906 uplift projects undertaken in Mymensingh district

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Nov 23: A total of 906 development projects have been taken up in 12 thanas and seven municipalities of the district under 'Rural Infrastructure Maintenance Programme', official sources said.

Relief and Rehabilitation Ministry sanctioned 1'647 metric tons of wheat for implementation of the development projects during the current fiscal.

Under the programme, 86 metric tons of wheat have been sanctioned for 53 projects in Dubaura thana, 117 metric tons for 70 projects in Haluaghat, 105 metric tons for 71 projects in Gouripur, six metric tons for two projects in Gouripur Municipality, 127 metric tons for 91 projects in Muktagachha thana, six metric tons for three projects in Muktagacha Municipality, 141 metric tons for 81 projects in Phulbaria, 151 metric tons for 103 projects in Sadar thana, 131 metric tons for 41 projects in Nandail thana, five metric tons for five projects in Nandail Municipality, 136 metric tons for 76 projects in Trishal thana, three metric tons for two projects in Trishal Municipality, 109 metric tons for 51 projects in Bhaluka thana, seven metric tons for four projects in Bhaluka Municipality, 123

metric tons for 62 projects in Iswarganj thana, seven metric tons for five projects in Iswarganj Municipality, 176 metric tons for 115 projects in Phulpur thana, 152 metric tons for 63 projects in Gafargaon thana and 59 metric tons for 50 projects in Mymensingh Municipality.

Besides, the government has sanctioned 4,794 metric tons of wheat for implementation of different projects under Food for Works Programme in the district during the current fiscal.

Under the programme 312 metric tons have been sanctioned for Haluaghat thana, 368 metric tons for Iswarganj, 404 metric tons for Nandail, 591 metric tons for Phulpur, 296 metric tons for Gouripur, 312 metric tons for Phulbaria, 444 metric tons for Bhaluka, 489 metric tons for Gafargaon, 486 metric tons for Muktagachha, 422 metric tons for Trishal, and 202 metric tons for Dubaura thana, sources said.

The projects will cover construction and repairing of rural roads and embankments, re-cavation of canal and earth works in educational and religious institutions in 46 unions and seven municipalities.

Office of the Director General River Research Institute, Faridpur Auction Notice No. 1/98-99

Sealed tenders subject to the undermentioned terms & conditions are invited from interested buyers/firms/contractors for auction sale of the abandoned machinery & materials as it is where it is basis kept in & around stores of River Research Institute, Faridpur.

Terms & conditions

- Sealed tenders will be received at the office of Senior Scientific Officer, T&S, RRI, Faridpur & Executive Engineer, O&M Division, WDB, Faridpur within 12-00 Noon of 10-12-98 and the tenders will be opened on the same day at 12-15 hours in presence (if any) of the attending tenderers/representatives.
- Security deposit at the rate 25% of the schedule quoted price should be deposited with the tender in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order in favour of Director General, RRI, Faridpur.
- Auction tender can be purchased at Tk 300/= (three hundred) only in cash (non-refundable) from Agrani Bank, RRI booth, Faridpur & Sonali Bank, Goalghat branch, Faridpur during banking hours up to 9-12-98.
- The RRI authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

Pintoo Karungoe
Senior Scientific Officer
T&S Directorate
RRI, Faridpur.

DFP-24003-15/11
G-2626

RHD, Notice Inviting Tender

Dated: 16.11.98

- Tender Notice No : T-09/98-99 P&S Divn, Dhaka.
- Name of work : Supply of spare parts for China Road Roller for Pabna Road Division under RHD, Procurement & Storage Division, Tejgaon, Dhaka. Charge to T&R, during the year 1998-99.
- Estimated cost : As per schedule.
- Earnest money : Tk 2% of the estimated cost.
- Time allowed for completion of work : 20 (twenty) days from the date of issue of work order.
- Category of contractor : A B & C class contractor under RHD, 'D' class enlisted contractor Equipment Control & Procurement Circle, Dhaka & 'E' class enlisted contractor of this Division according to financial capacity.
- Tender documents : Executive Engineer, RHD, Procurement & Storage Division, Tejgaon, Dhaka/Executive Engineer, RHD, Equipment Control Division, Tejgaon, Dhaka/Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Procurement & Storage Sub-Division, Tejgaon, Dhaka on all working days.
- Tender documents will be received : 1. Superintending Engineer, RHD, Equipment Control & Procurement Circle, Dhaka.
2. Executive Engineer, RHD, Procurement & Storage Division, Tejgaon, Dhaka.
- Tender documents will be sold up to : 7.12.98 (23.8.1405 Bangla).
- Closing time & date of tender : 8.12.98 at 12.00 Noon.
- Last date & time of opening tender : 8.12.98 at 12.01 PM.
- Lottery date & time of opening tender : Will be intimated in proper time by latter.

DFP-24425-18/11
G-2621

Md. Zahir
Executive Engineer, RHD
Procurement & Storage Division
Tejgaon, Dhaka