

## News snaps

### Removal of Panchhari OC demanded

KHAGRACHHARI, Mar 6: A procession comprising of businessmen and members of the locality was brought out here on Wednesday demanding the immediate removal of the Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Panchhari station, reports APB.

The processionists also sought the arrest of the terrorists operating in the border area of the district. They also submitted a memorandum to the TNO in this regard. Led by local Awami League leaders the procession went round the main thoroughfares of the town. A peace meeting was later held with Panchhari Awami League president Mohammad Yusuf in the chair. Among others, local BCL president Bijoy Kumar Dey, former Chhatra League leader Joyrath Dey, Panchhari station Awami League Secretary Abdur Rashid, BNP leader Belal Hossain, tribal leader Jagdish Chakma and Market Development Committee's Secretary Ujjal Baran Nandi spoke at the meeting.

### Alleged extortionist arrested

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 6: An alleged extortionist was caught red-handed along with a pistol from Banbaria near Jamuna Bridge on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Police said the unidentified youth along with his accomplices hijacked a motorbike from one Lutfur Rahman in the area at about 6 pm. Local people caught him when he fell down from the bike as he tried to speed away. They gave him a tremendous thrashing before handing him over to police. He was undergoing treatment in police custody.

### Sunflower farming on 600 hectares

BHERAMARA, Mar 6: About six hundred hectares have been brought under sunflower cultivation in 10 south western districts of the country in the current season, reports BSS.

The districts are Kushtia, Magura, Jhenidah, Chuadanga, Meherpur, Narail, Jessore, Bagherhat, Satkhira and Khulna. According to Agriculture Extension Department sources, seven hundred and fourteen demonstration plots have been set up for cultivation of Kirani variety of sunflower as the soil in these districts is suitable for cultivation of this variety of sunflower. Sunflower oil is widely used as edible oil as it is free from leucine and eric acid which are hazardous to health. About six lakh maunds of sunflower seeds are expected to be produced by this cultivation.

### 4 murderers get life term

MAGURA, Mar 6: Four persons have been sentenced to life term for killing a man at Thopara village in Salikha thana in the district in 1989, reports APB.

Additional Sessions Judge Golam Robbani sentenced Prafulla Kumar Biswas, Nikhil Biswas, Susanta and Prasanta Kumar for killing one Ratan while he was working in his field, court sources said. The killing was a sequel to previous enmity. The verdict was passed recently.

### Road "under construction" for 22 yrs

JHENIDAH, Mar 6: A 20-km road has been "under construction" for about 22 years, reports APB.

Earth work for the Jhenidah-Tikari road was completed in 1976 and construction of bridges began. But that far and no more. Some five kilometres were carpeted in about ten years. A decade ago, Roads and Highways officials had said the road would be completed "soon". When contacted, the officials told this correspondent recently that they would begin work as soon as funds are available.

### Manikganj Bar Assoc poll held

MANIKGANJ, Mar 6: Election of Manikganj Bar Association was held on Sunday, reports APB.

Mohammad Rahamat Ali and Lutfur Rahman were elected President and General Secretary respectively. The election, held at the Association office, was conducted by Advocate Khondokar Sharif Mia and Advocate Jahirul Alam Khan Lody. A total of 171 voters cast their votes in the election.

### Clash at religious function: 50 hurt

COX'S BAZAR, Mar 6: At least 50 people were injured in a clash between followers of Maizbhandari and other villagers at a mahfil (religious function) at Shahpur Dip in Teknaf on Monday night, reports APB.

Five of the injured have been admitted to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital in serious condition. They are Rashid Ahmed, 52, Asad Ali, 50, Abdul Aziz, 80, Sikander Mia, 30, and Mohammad Hossain, 56. Rashid Ahmed claimed that of the injured, about 15 were followers of Maizbhandari. The clash took place when the villagers opposed to Maizbhandari attacked them, he claimed. When contacted on Tuesday, SP of Cox's Bazar Ameer Uddin told that he was informed about the incident. He has asked Teknaf police to visit the spot, he added.

### Freedom Fighter dead

PATUAKHALI, Mar 6: Valiant freedom fighter Advocate Hafizur Rahman alias Forkan Mia of Nababpara died of cardiac arrest at Patuakhali Sadar Hospital on Wednesday night. He was 83, reports UNB.

Rahman, paternal uncle of woman MP Nargis Ara Haq, left behind his wife, a son, one daughter and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death. He was buried at Patuakhali graveyard after his namaj-e-janaza at local Bara Masjid premises after Asr prayers.

### Urs mahfil concludes

NETRAKONA, Mar 6: The three-day long annual Urs mahfil of Hazrat Shah Sultan Kamaruddin Rumi (RA), the reputed Muslim saint of the sub-continent concluded on March 4 at the saint's holy major sharif at Madanpur, about five kilometres from here, reports BSS.

Waz mahfil, Qurankhwani, zikir asker and special prayers were held at the mazar sharif on this holy occasion. Besides, Mazar Sharif Maintenance Committee distributed shirni including cooked food and sweets among the devotees. Several lakhs of devotees from far-flung areas of the country and the neighbouring state of India attended the Urs mahfil. On the concluding day special prayers were held at the mazar sharif. A large number of devotees attended the prayers seeking divine blessings for peace, progress and prosperity of the nation and unity and solidarity of the Muslim Ummah.

### Alleged terrorists arrested

BHOLA, Mar 6: Some 10 terrorists were arrested along with arms in separate police raids from the different parts of Bhola sadar thana and Borhan Uddin thana on Tuesday, reports APB.

Police said, acting on a tip off, a contingent of police led by SI Gazi Abdul Hakim of Bhola Thana, raided hotel 'Aram' located at Notun Bazar of the town at night and arrested Babu alias Dhakaita Babu, 22, Shohel, Soharab Hossain, Enayet Hossain and Kamol. A pistol was recovered from the possession of one gang member. The arrested persons were sent to 'jail-hajat' after a case was filed against them. On the same night, in another operation, Village Patrol Police under Borhan Uddin thana, rounded up Masud, 30, Jasim, 32, Mahiuddin, 32, Bhutto, 25 and Farhad, 25 while they were allegedly taking preparation for committing dacoity at one Abu member's house at Togbi.

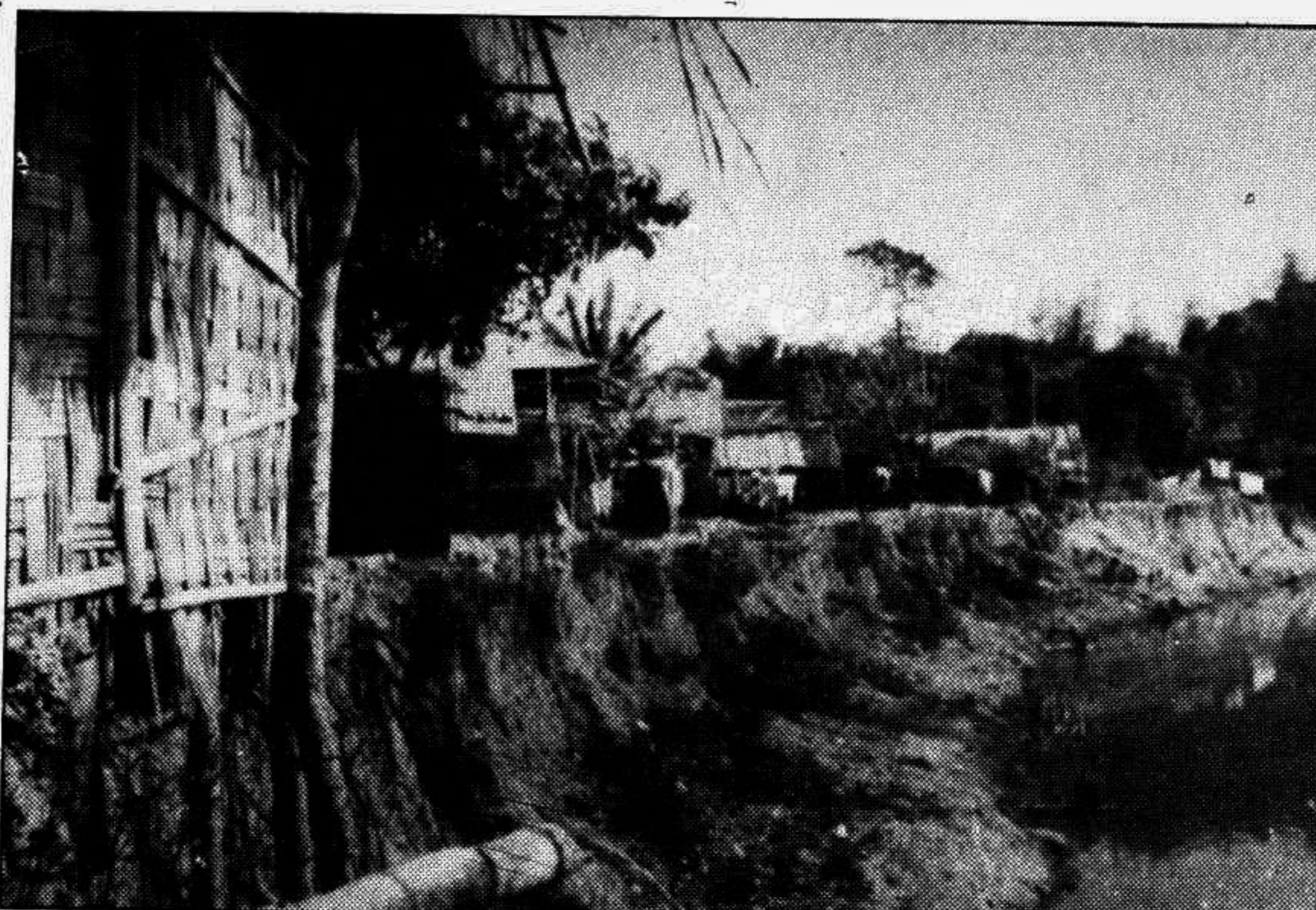
### Housewife beaten to death

NAOGAON, Mar 6: A housewife was beaten to death allegedly by her husband at Bhathanta village in Manda thana, police said, reports UNB.

According to a delayed official information, Wahidul mercifully beat his wife Fatema, 28, on February 24 following a quarrel over a trifling matter and left her unconscious. The victim breathed her last after a few hours. Wahidul remained absconding since the murder.



JHENIDAH: A child artist rendering songs on the occasion of Ekushey February at a function held at Saikupa Shilpakala Academy. — Star photo



KHAGRACHHARI: Scores of people have become landless due to erosion by the river Changi recently. — Star photo

## Rate of suicide up in Faridpur dist

FARIDPUR, Mar 6: The tendency of committing suicide among the people here has increased.

In total 20 persons committed suicide in eight thanas here during the last year. Besides, 23 persons' attempts to commit suicide were foiled during the year. Family feud, husband's oppression, failure in love affairs and excessive pain in the stomach were stated to be the causes of the suicides.

Gobinda Chandra Saha, 28 of village Munsurabad in Bhanga thana committed suicide by hanging on January 8, 1998. On the 28th of the same month, school teacher Pali Afro, 30, wife of Zainal Master of village 17 Rashi in Sadarpur thana committed suicide by setting herself on the fire. On March 12, Binod, 30, of village Madhabpur in Boalmari thana committed suicide by drinking poison.

One Abdul Hossain, 20, of village Bhabakdia in Nagarkanda thana hanged himself to death. Enamul Kabir Baki, 25, a degree student of Government Aynuddin College in Madhukhal thana committed suicide by taking poison on March 29.

From Abdul Matin Fakir

suicide by taking poison on March 29. On April 15, Benu Begum, 16, daughter of one Shah-jahan of Tepakhola in the town committed suicide by consuming poison. On April 17, Sakina Begum, 30, wife of Abdus Samad Khan of village Raghunandanpur in the outskirts of the town committed suicide by taking poison. On the same day, Asirunnessa, 35, wife of Halim Matubbar of village Gadurdia in Nagarkanda thana committed suicide by consuming poison. On April 20, Firoja Begum, 25, wife of Akhtas Mia of village Beradi in Shatair union of Boalmari thana committed suicide by taking poison. Nargis Akhter, 24, wife of Ershad Mia at Goolchamat area in the town committed suicide by hanging on April 24.

On June 10, one Bulbul 10, son of Bagan Mia of village Shikipara in Alfadanga thana committed suicide by taking poison. Mukti Rani, 15, daughter of Bisnapada Roy of village Ghosepur in Boalmari thana committed suicide by taking poison on August 12. On August 13, Munju Sheikh, 12, of village

Rangamular Kandi in Dadpur union of Boalmari thana committed suicide by consuming poison. On August 18, Malati Rani Biswas, 17, wife of Gautam Kumar of village Malopara in Alfadanga thana committed suicide by taking poison. On August 26, Laikuzzaman, 17, son of Razzaque Sheikh of village Dahargram in Boalmari thana hanged himself to death. On October 17, Milani, 35, wife of Halim Chokder of village Gadadhar Dangi in Alabad union of the sadar thana committed suicide by swallowing poison. On October 20, Rita Datta, 19, wife of Nirmal Kumar of Boalmari Bazar in Boalmari thana committed suicide by taking poison. On December 23, Zarina Begum, 30, wife of Shiraj Sheikh of village Chilar Kandi in sadar thana committed suicide by consuming poison. On December 29, Champa, 18, foster daughter of Zahangir Hossain at Alipur in the town committed suicide by hanging.

Separate cases were lodged with the respective thanas.



SYLHET: Most of the footpaths, even part of the main roads in busy areas of the town are occupied by vendors, causing serious traffic jams. This photo was taken from Bandar Bazar area which is the central part of the town. — Star photo by Iqbal Siddiquee

## No honours course in Sunamganj College after 4 decades of founding

SUNAMGANJ, Mar 6: The lone college of Sunamganj district appears to be stuck in the quagmire of various problems, reports APB.

Honours course has not been started even after four decades of founding of the college.

The college was set up in the year 1944. It was formally inaugurated by the then chief minister of Assam Syed Muhammad Saadullah.

Local philanthropist Dewan Anwar Raja Choudhury donated the present building of the college in the year 1962.

Neither the women's common room, nor the library has enough space for accommodation of the students. The college

has also no auditorium. The students are facing an acute residential problem. Neither is there any staff quarter.

The lone playground of the college remains under water for six months of the year. The laboratories of the college do not have adequate scientific equipment.

Classes are being run with only 27 teachers against a sanctioned strength of 52. The remaining 25 posts have been lying vacant since long.

Students complained that the college lacked congenial atmosphere for the pursuit of education and that most of the teachers are more interested in working as private tutors than discharging their responsibilities.

Two rival political student groups often organise processions in the campus. Recently they even resorted to a gun-fight.

Mentionably, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during her visit to Sunamganj on October 20, 1997 gave an assurance that Honours Course would be introduced in the college. A letter to this effect was also sent from the PM office to the Ministry of Education in this regard. But till now there is no result.

The college administration prepared a project profile for development with an outlay of Tk 3.31 crore and sent it to higher authorities. But no sanction has yet been made.

### 4 killers awarded RI on various terms in Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Mar 6: Four persons were found guilty and sentenced to Rigorous Imprisonment (RI) on different terms on charge of killing.

Md Rashidul Hasan Patowari, Additional District and Sessions Judge, Third Court Kishoreganj delivered the judgement on February 14 against the accused for killing one. Dildar of village Kumarpur in Pakundia thana.

Accused Montazuddin, Nayan and Chandu were sentenced to suffer RI for three months more while Helena, wife of the deceased was sentenced to suffer RI for five years and to pay a fine of Taka 1,000, in default, to suffer RI for two months more.

The court also found three persons not guilty and they were acquitted of the charge.

According to the prosecution story, on the night of May 28, 1996, Dildar was called to his father-in-law's house of the same village on the plea of some important talks where he was beaten and strangled to death. The accused later fled away leaving the deadbody in the compound of Pakundia Thana Health Complex.

A case was registered with Pakundia police who after investigation submitted charge-sheet against seven persons.

### Price of fertilisers up in Netrakona dist

NETRAKONA, Mar 6: Price hike of chemical fertilisers in the local markets here is hampering the cultivation during the current Irri-Boro season, reports UNB.

Local farmers complained that a section of dishonest traders have created artificial crisis in a bid to earn windfall profit.

The flood affected poor farmers of 10 thanas are buying a 50 kg bag of urea at Tk 350 as against its normal rate of Tk 240 to 250.

A large number of farmers of Sadar, Alapara, Madan, Kendua, Kalmakanda, Barhatta, Durgapur, Mohanganj, Purbadaha and Khaliapuri thanas complained that there are no TSP fertilisers in the market for the last fortnight. As a result, they cannot use it while preparing their fields.

They alleged that most of the fertiliser traders were selling banned Indian SSP fertilisers in the name of TSP to the ignorant farmers at an exorbitant price.

According to a reliable source, most of the dealers are selling the fertilisers of their quotas at mill gate and some other dealers in cooperation with the dishonest officials are hoarding fertilisers to create artificial crisis in the rural markets.

### Barisal-Dhaka route Criminal incidents up on board vessels

BARISAL, Mar 6: The security of the passengers on Dhaka-Barisal river route is being threatened by the increase of criminal incidents on board the vessels, reports UNB.

Regular passengers said a group of organised criminals are responsible for the situation. They lure the passengers to take different food items like tea, betel leaf and cigarette on board the launches and steamers for making them unconscious. Later the gang took away valuable belongings of the victims, they added.

A large number of criminals are active on the route, said the sources adding that there are allegations that some employees of launches and steamers might have connection with the gang. Police sources said that about 200 launch passengers fell victim of the organised gang during the last three months.

Two such incidents were reported on the route on January 16 and 17. Passengers of MV Deepraj and MV Sagar were robbed off by making them unconscious, said the sources.

The owners of these launches failed to provide adequate security of the passengers and the incidents are going on alarmingly, they added. The authorities in connection with such incidents so far arrested none.

A member of Ansar on duty in one of the launches said they could not ensure safety and security of the passengers because their number was too inadequate. There are 1,500 to 2,000 passengers in a launch while the number of Ansar is only six.

## Diarrhoea claims 17 lives in Jessore

From Atiur Rahman

JESSORE, Mar 6: Diarrhoea has broken out in eight thanas here in an epidemic form.

A total of 17 persons have died during the months of January and February.

Jessore District Health Office sources confirmed the death figure.

Official sources also confirmed 4,353 victims who were attacked with diarrhoea during two months.

A total of 96 medical teams were working across the district, the source told further.

According to thanawise report, eight persons died and 336 attacked with this disease in Jessore Sadar in January.

In February two persons died and 209 were attacked in this thana.

Three persons died of diarrhoea and 105 were attacked in Sharsha thana in January. A total of 75 persons were attacked in February. There was no casualty in this month.

During January and February last 564 persons were attacked in the disease in Jhinkergacha thana.

In Chowgacha thana two persons died and 120 were attacked during January and February.

In Monirampur thana 741 persons were attacked in the aforementioned two months.

Number of casualty in Keshabpur thana was one and 286 others were attacked during this period.

One person died of diarrhoea in Bagherpara and 621 were attacked in this period.

None was killed in the disease in Obhoanagar thana. Only 555 persons were attacked with the disease.

Out of the total eight thanas in the district, the highest number of persons killed in the disease was in Sadar thana. It was 10.

The highest number of persons were attacked in Monirampur thana. It was 741.

### Agri-loan distribution programme

JESSORE, Mar 6: The Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Jessore zonal office, has undertaken an extensive programme for distribution of some Tk 15.07 crore in eight thanas here during 18 of its branches during the current financial year, reports APB.

Loans will be distributed for augmenting food production among the rural people.

The branches include Jessore town, Rupdia, Monirampur, Gopalpur, Kuadah bazar, Sarsa, Naryanpur, Noapara, Jhikargachha, Keshbpur, Mashihati, Hassanpur, Bagharpara, Navaran, Kayemkhola, Lakhshapur, Chongachha and Jagadishpur.

According to bank sources, so far an amount of Tk 10.52 crore has already been distributed among 8,520 loanes. The loan disbursement programme will continue till the end of June next. The major portion of the loan was distributed for the production of Aus, Aman, Boro, potato, wheat, banana, mustard and various types of pulses and cotton.



Bangladesh Council of Scientific & Industrial Research

### Tender Notice

Tenders are invited from bonafide books suppliers for purchasing scientific books for the library of the Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. Form containing terms and conditions of tender will be available from the Cashier of the Council on payment of Taka 750/- (seven hundred and fifty) (non-refundable). And tender will have to be dropped into the tender box kept at the library building on 19.4.99 at 11 AM. Earnest money at the rate of 2.5% per cent (two and a half per cent) of the total amount of taka quoted by the tenderer in the form of Pay Order/ Bank Draft in favour of the Secretary of the Parishad will have to be deposited with the tender. Tenders will be opened on the same day at 11:30 AM before the tenderers or their representatives, if any one remains present. Tender schedule can be purchased till 15.3.99 during office hours.

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender.

DFP-4169-2/3  
G-394

Secretary  
BCSIR  
Dhaka

### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Roads & Highways Department  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
Chittagong Workshop Division  
Dewanhat, Chittagong

### Tender Notice

- (1) Tender Notice : 30/EE/CWD/98-99/Dated-18-2-99 and No 06-11-1405 Bangla.
- (2) Name of work : Group No - Supply of campshaft for grey-marine engine for Tailorid ferry ghat under Chittagong Workshop Division (R&H). Year-1998-99. Head of expenditure: 168 Roads, Bridges and Kheyaghat 2 repair.  
Group No - "Kha" Supply of gear box bearing and solinoyed valve for ferry no-UT-02-02/82 for Badarkhali-Janatabazar ferry ghat under Chittagong Workshop Division (R&H). Year 1998-99. Head of expenditure: 168 Roads, Bridges and Kheyaghat 2 repair.  
Group No - "Ga" Supply of dial indicator and solinoyed valve for ferry no-UT-02-02/82 for Badarkhali-Janatabazar ferry ghat under Chittagong Workshop Division (R&H). Year 1998-99. Head of expenditure: 168 Roads, Bridges and Kheyaghat 2 repair.
- (3) Estimated cost : As per schedule.
- (4) Earnest money : 2% of the estimated cost (as per group list).
- (5) Time limit : 15 (fifteen) days from the date of issue of work order.
- (6) Eligibility of : (a) From 'A' to 'C' category of contractors of Roads and Highways Department, 'D' category of contractor of Chittagong Workshop Circle (R&H) and 'E' category of contractor of this division.  
(b) Bonafide agent of manufacturer.  
(c) Executive Engineer (R&H), Chittagong Workshop Division, Dewanhat, Chittagong.  
(d) Executive Engineer (R&H), Rangamati Workshop Division, Vedbhedi, Rangamati Hill District.  
(e) Sub-Divisional Engineer (R&H), Workshop Sub-Division, Dewanhat, Chittagong.
- (7) Offices where : (a) Superintending Engineer (R&H), Chittagong Workshop Circle, Sarak Bhaban, Agrabad, Chittagong.  
(b) Executive Engineer (R&H), Rangamati Workshop Division, Vedbhedi, Rangamati Hill District.  
(c) Executive Engineer (R&H), Chittagong Workshop Division, Dewanhat, Chittagong.
- (8) Offices where : (a) Superintending Engineer (R&H), Chittagong Workshop Circle, Sarak Bhaban, Agrabad, Chittagong.  
(b) Executive Engineer (R&H), Rangamati Workshop Division, Vedbhedi, Rangamati Hill District.  
(c) Executive Engineer (R&H), Chittagong Workshop Division, Dewanhat, Chittagong.
- (9) Last date of : 22-3-99/08-12-1405 Bangla.
- (10) Date and time : 23-3-99/09-12-1405 Bangla at 12-00 Noon.
- (11) Date and time : 24-3-99/10-12-1405 Bangla at 3-00 pm (before the interested contractors).

DFP-4204-2/3  
G-393

Mohammad Azizur Rahman  
Executive Engineer (R&H)  
Chittagong Workshop Division  
Dewanhat, Chittagong

## Jamuna needs dredging Aricha-Nagarbari ferry service may be suspended in lean season

PABNA, Mar 6: Ferry services in Aricha-Nagarbari (Kazirhat) route may be suspended in the lean season if the Jamuna is not dredged adequately, concerned authorities apprehended, reports UNB.

In the dry season, specially in March and April, water level in the river decreases alarmingly and disrupt smooth movement of ferries, they added.

A huge number of shoals have been emerged in the riverbed of Jamuna causing problems for the plying of ferries.

Jamuna, a mighty river, has lost its turbulence and now turned into an almost dead river due to the effect of Farakka Barrage. Innumerable

shoals made the situation worse.

For this, each and every ferry needs extra 20 to 25 minutes to cross the river. Besides, depth of the water level now stands at just 6-7 feet which is insufficient for easier movement of a ferry.

"A loaded ferry requires at least 10-12 feet deep water level for its movement," said a ferry driver working in the route.

The government is loosing about Tk 10 lakh a month as additional expenses against oil (fuel for the ferries), said a ferry driver working in the route.

He said a ferry has to spend extra 20-25 minutes that needs about 50 litres extra oil per trip costing about Tk 600.

Some 50 trips are made a day

in the route resulting the additional expense of Tk 30,000.

Besides, a ferry has to carry just 16-18 vehicles out of its capacity of 28 due to fall in the water level.

As a result, a huge number of vehicles are to wait in line for crossing the river every day. It makes congestion of vehicles in both sides of the river.

However, a dredger is working day and night to remove the silts. But, it is inadequate to clear the sands and shoals and make easier the route for ferry movement, said the ferry workers.

Mentionable that BIWTA authority was compelled to shift Nagarbari ferry ghat to Kazirhat, about six km away from Nagarbari ghat due to the

accumulation of silts.

But, it is not the solution, they said, as the distance of the two ends has been increased in one hand and shoals and silts or sands could not be averted on the other hand.

Although north Bengal bound vehicles now are plying through the Jamuna Bridge after its construction which has decreased the pressure on the ferry service. But still a huge number of vehicles particularly trucks are carrying goods through the river route.

Considering the importance of the ferry service the authority should take immediate and effective steps to continue the dredging in full swing for the betterment of transportation, experts said.