

## News snaps

### Farmers' Field Day rally

NAOGAON, Aug 17: A 'Farmers' Field Day' rally sponsored by Patnitala Thana Agriculture Extension Department was held recently at Santoshpara village under Patnitala thana of the district, reports BSS.

An elderly farmer Abdul Hamid presided over the rally. Thana Agriculture Officer of Patnitala, Saburur Rahman, Thana Plant Protection Officer Mahabubur Mustafa and Patnitala Union Parishad Chairman Masud Karim, among others, spoke on the occasion. The rally discussed modern methods of cultivation to increase the output of crops.

### Manikganj Press Club election

MANIKGANJ, Aug 17: The biennial election of Manikganj Press Club was held recently in the club premises, reports BSS. Sunuj Khan and Golam Sarwar Sanu have been elected president and general secretary respectively of the press club. Among the other office bearers are Md Liaquat Ali and Shaifuddin Ahmed Nannu. Vice-presidents: and Rashedul Islam Khan-treasurer. M A Monnal Khan conducted the election.

### Kendua pourashava budget

NETRAKONA, Aug 17: The annual budget of the newly formed Kendua Pourashava under Netrakona district was announced recently, reports BSS.

The Take 98.20 lakh budget for the 1999-2000 fiscal year was announced by the administrator of the municipality Abdul Huq Bhuiya at a meeting held at his office. Among others Poura Commissioners Ashrafuddin Bhuiya, Sabuj Miah, Ansar Uddin and Rahela Khatun spoke on the occasion. The meeting was attended by local elite and government officers of Kendua thana.

### Plan to plant 30,000 fruit trees

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 17: Agriculture Extension Directorate (AED) has taken up a special programme to plant about 30,000 fruit trees in 13 thanas of the district, reports BSS.

According to AED official sources, there will be a special fruit plantation village in every thana. Seedlings of amra, jackfruit, guava, jaipla, etc will be planted in these villages. The villagers are going to implement the programme with their own cost, the official sources added.

### BRTA provides 200 mobile sets

TANGAIL, Aug 17: Bangladesh Rural Tele-communication Authority (BRTA), Tangail zone has provided a total of two hundred mobile telephone sets for its clients in Bashail, Delduar, Kalihati and Nagarpur thanas, reports BSS.

The mobile sets were given to promote telephone facilities in remote villages.

### 41 projects implemented

CHUADANGA, Aug 17: Forty-one projects under Special Food for Works Programme of the government were implemented in the four thanas of the district in the last fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the government sanctioned 50 tons of wheat for execution of the projects. Seven projects were implemented in Chuadanga sadar thana, 21 projects in Alamdanga thana, six projects in Damurhuda thana and seven projects in Jibannagar thana. The work of the projects included construction and reconstruction of kuncha roads in the rural areas.

### Four R & H schemes taken up

CHUADANGA, Aug 17: The Roads and Highways Department has taken up four schemes for implementation in Chuadanga district in the current fiscal year at an allocation of taka 4.50 crore, reports BSS.

According to an official source, works of the schemes are widening and repairing of four-kilometre Alamdanga-Poradah-Kushitla road, six-kilometre Chuadanga-Mecherpur road and four-kilometre Shantoshpur-Hashadaha road under Jibannagar thana, and five-kilometre Darshana-Mujibnagar road under Damurhuda thana. Work on the schemes will begin within a month.

### Tk 12 lakh water bills unpaid

NAOGAON, Aug 17: Despite the authorities efforts to recover its arrears, the outstanding water bills of Naogaon Pourashava now stands at Tk 12 lakh, reports UNB.

This was disclosed at a meeting between the Pourashava chairman and foreign consultants last week. Official sources said 2,650 subscribers have got water supply connections in the town, but their dues continued to heap up day by day due to non-payment of bills.

### Workshop on fish culture

MANIKGANJ, Aug 17: A week-long workshop on fish culture for the unemployed youths sponsored by the Manikganj sadar thana Fisheries Department concluded here recently, reports BSS.

Participants in the workshop, fish culture experts of the Fisheries Department imparted training to the youths on modern methods of fish culture especially in the derelict ponds.

### Election of motor workers' union

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 17: Annual election of Shahjadpur Motor Workers' Union was held at its office under Shahjadpur thana on August 9, reports BSS.

Dilip Kumar Bashak and Ayub Ali were elected president and general secretary respectively of the union. A press release said, 957 out of a total 1,240 voters cast their votes.

### Three robbers arrested

JAMALPUR, Aug 17: Police arrested three robbers when they were looting goods from truck on Jamalpur-Mymensingh road recently, reports UNB.

The dacoits stopped the truck loaded with valuables and were taking away the goods. Incidentally, police came there and succeeded in rounding up three of the 8 dacoits after a hot chase. They are Rubel, Badsha and Abu Hossain alias Abul of village Damodorpur in Gaibandha district. Another report from Gazipur says: A group of dacoits plundered 19 houses in two villages in sadar thana recently and looted valuables worth about Tk 2 lakh.

### Three convicted in robbery case

SATKHIRA, Aug 17: A court here Thursday convicted three people and sentenced them to life term imprisonment in a dacoity case, reports UNB.

The court also fined the convicts as Majful Islam, Ashrafur Islam and Karban Gazi of Barojabaki of Kalaroa thana as Tk 10,000 each, in default, to suffer one year more in jail. Court sources said the three men were punished for committing dacoity at Jhaudanga bazar on the night of December 17, 1991. After examining 18 witnesses, the additional district and sessions judge pronounced the judgement.

### New committee of Chandpur JCD

CHANDPUR, Aug 17: Jahangir Hossain Khan and Rafius Sahadat Wasim have been elected president and general secretary of Chandpur unit of Jayatabadi Chitra Dal, reports UNB.

The election through direct vote was held at the council meeting recently. JCD leaders Habibunnabi Sohel, Manjur-e-Fahri, ABM Mosharrif Hossain, Rafik Sikdar were present in the conference.

### SWID workshop

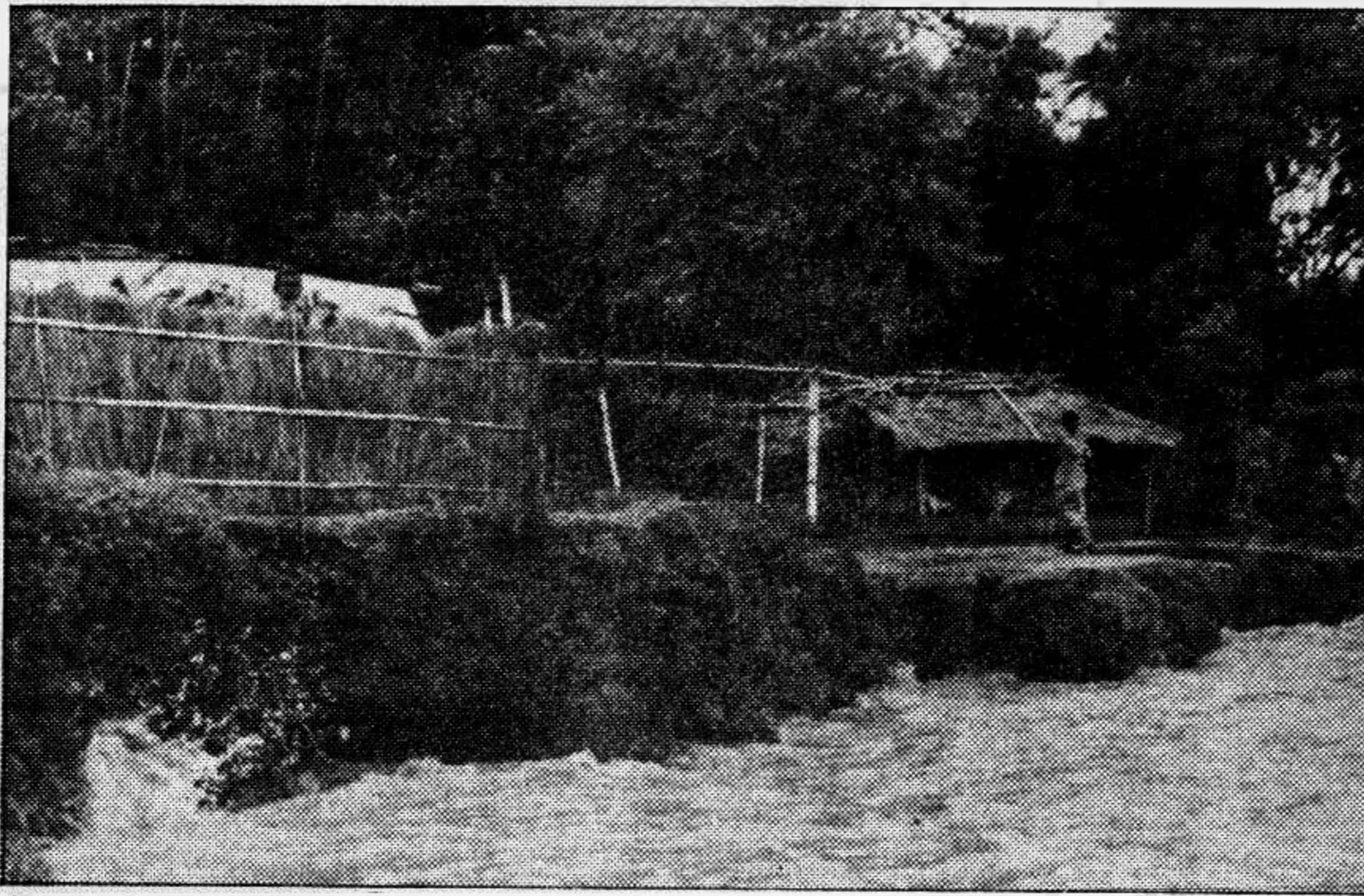
PIROJPUR, Aug 17: A workshop on the problems of intellectually disabled persons was held on August 7 in the Zilla Parishad auditorium here, reports BSS.

Organised by the Society for the Welfare of the Intellectually Disabled, Bangladesh (SWID, Bangladesh), the workshop was presided over by the former chairman of Pirojpur Pourashava Shamsul Huda Chowdhury. Additional District Magistrate S K Das, Police Super A K M Mahfuzul Huq, President of SWID, Bangladesh Dr M Lutfar Rahman, Secretary General of SWID, Bangladesh M A Baten and Advocate Abdus Salam Talukdar spoke on the occasion. The speakers called upon the people to treat the intellectually retarded persons with utmost sympathy.

### Discussion on Tagore

BARGUNA, Aug 17: A discussion on the Nobel laureate Rabindra Nath Tagore was held at Circuit House premises here on August 6 on the occasion of the 58th death anniversary of the poet, reports BSS.

Organised by Barguna Shilpakala Academy, the discussion was presided over by Deputy Commissioner of Barguna Fakrul Islam. Barguna Pourashava chairman Shahjahan Mia, Public Prosecutor Advocate Habibur Rahman, among others, participated in the discussion on the life and literature of Rabindra Nath. The discussion was followed by recitation from the works of the poet and musical score.



Panic of erosion has gripped the residents of Srirampur in Rajshahi city. — Star photo

## Erosion affects 3,000 in Sirajganj in one month

From A Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 17: At least 3,000 people of 600 families of Chowhalli thana here have been rendered homeless due to erosion of the River Jamuna in last one month.

About 95 per cent land of Betli and Khamargram villages including schools and many other institutions have already been devoured.

Local Water Development Board (WDB) sources said, erosion is being occurred unabated as the current of the Jamuna has been diversified westward.

Four lakh sand bags and 12 thousand crates are being dumped by Water Development Board, Local WDB Executive Engineer Mohammad Ali told this correspondent, the Jamuna is difficult to control. Tempo-

rary protection measures have been taken and permanent measure will be taken in the coming season which will require 10 crore taka.

UNB from Natore says: Some 1.2 million acres of land, including homesteads, in 16 northern districts went into the gorges of various rivers in less than two decades.

Official sources said over 40,000 acres of land in the region were eroded away in last two months.

The worst affected districts are Gaibandha, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Sirajganj, Pabna, Chapainawabganj, Natore and Rajshahi.

According to a survey, there were some 6.312 million acres

of arable land in the 16 districts in 1983 and it reduced to 5.537 million in 1992.

It said the greater Rajshahi district, comprising Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj, Noagaon and Natore, had 1.714 million acres of cropland in 1983 and it came down to 1.581 million in 1992.

There were 0.925 million acres of farmland in greater Pabna district in 1983 which came down to 0.649 million in 1992.

In greater Bogra, there were 0.729 million acres of arable land and now it stands at only 0.664 million acres.

There were 1.685 million acres of land in greater Rangpur in 1983, which came down to 1.493 million after nine years.

The total cultivable land in greater Dinajpur was 1.259 million acres in 1983 and now it stands at 1.180 million, the survey said.

## Jamuna washes away million dollar groyne

BOGRA, July 17: Turbulent current of the mighty river Jamuna washed away portion of a million dollar groyne here on Monday threatening the existence of the entire Sariakandi thana headquarters, reports UNB.

Water Development Board (WDB) sources said the erosion started at noon at Kallitola point and a 30 X 8 feet area of the groyne, built to protect the thana from erosion by the mighty Jamuna, went into the river by the evening.

This is the second time in one month the groyne came under threat by the river. The avalanche on the groyne happened following washing away of the geotex, CC blocks and sand from the underneath of the structure, officials said.

The Maintenance Unit of the Riverbank Protection Project started throwing sandbags and CC blocks in the area to prevent further erosion.

The situation, however, is yet to be brought under control till filing the report at 9.30 pm although the authorities expressed their optimism to stop it.

Korean Hyundai Construction and Engineering Company constructed the groyne at a cost Tk 70 crore last year.

But, repeated damage caused by violent current of the Jamuna twice in a month during the current monsoon raised the question of its longevity.

Meanwhile, the Jamuna was swelling fast with an increase of 18cm water during the last 24 hours. However, it was still flowing 54cm below the danger mark.



Rahnuma Binte Rashid (Urmi), a child artiste rendering Tagore songs on the occasion of the death anniversary of 'Biswa Kabi' in Natore. — Star photo

## 40,000 acres of Rly land grabbed by influentials

ISHWARDI (Pabna), Aug 17: About 40,000 acres of land and 3,000 bogies belonging to Bangladesh Railway's western zone have been occupied by a section of people, reports UNB.

Officials said the lands, located in greater Rangpur, Dinajpur and Bogra districts, have been occupied by local influential people and they constructed semi-pucca shops and houses on the lands without any permission.

They said the process of occupation continued by the people with the help of a section of dishonest officials taking advantage of the silent role of the authority.

A source said no step could be taken against illegal occupation due to departmental complication and pressure from the influential people.

Besides, more than 3,000 bogies were found abandoned at Ulipur, Chilmari and Sadar

railway stations of Kurigram district, Hatibandha, Patgram, Burimari and Sadar stations of Lalmonirhat, Fulchhari, Bhorothkhal, Bonarpara, Mohishganj, Balashighat of Gaibandha district, Parbotpur, Hakimpur, Hilly of Dinajpur district, Shantahar, Bhabanpur, Thakurgaon of Bogra and Panchagarh districts.

The UNB correspondent who visited some of the areas found that thousands of floating people were living inside and under the abandoned bogies and cooking food there risking their lives.

A railway officials said valuable parts of the bogies are stolen every day without any resistance from the railway authorities.

He said the government could save a lot of money if the bogies are put to use after repair. Or, these should be sold in auction, he added.

## Reception to SSC meritorious students in Pabna

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Aug 17: A reception was accorded to meritorious students, who secured positions in the combined merit list of the SSC examinations held this year under Rajshahi education board from different institutions of Pabna district.

Held at local Banamali Institute auditorium on August 4, the reception was organised by Pabna Rotaract Club and Ichhamati Rotaract Club under the auspices of Universal Pharmaceuticals Ltd of Pabna.

Presided over by Jahurul Islam Bishu, president of Rotary Club and former chairman of Pabna municipality, the reception was attended by Mahabubur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner of Pabna, as chief guest. He distributed gifts among the brilliant students.

The function was addressed, among others, by Khan Mahfuzul Islam, Sarwar Hossain, Mobarak Hossain Ratan, Ilias Itikhar Rasul, Mahtab Uddin Biswas, Khondker Mosaddeq Hossain, Abdul Wasi Salki, Golam Rasul and Abdul Hamid.

Over 30 Pabna boys and girls secured places in the combined merit list of different groups in SSC examinations held under Rajshahi board this year.

## Gopalganj DPEO clarification

The District Primary Education Office (DPEO), Gopalganj in a rejoinder clarified their position recently on distribution of books in primary schools.

Drawing the attention of a news item published in The Daily Star on July 6, they claimed the story as incorrect. They claimed that they had received a total of 4,82,979 copies of books of Class one to five free of cost from the Directorate of Education this education year.

They claimed further, all the books had been distributed among the students in five thanas in due time, according to the government policy. They received no complaints regarding shortage of books from any thana, rather there had been surplus of books, the clarification added.

## Notice Inviting Tender

### No. I E/M of 1999-2000

- Tenders in sealed cover are hereby invited in Form No. 2911 from special 1st class & class-III/(E/M) approved contractors of this department for the undermentioned work and will be received by the undersigned, Executive Engineer, PWD Division-I/II, Rajshahi/Natore/Naogaon up to 12:00 of 24/8/99 and will be opened on the same day at 12:15 PM.
- Name of work : Extension of DC's Collectorate Bldg. at Pabna, Sub-Head-Providing & installation of 5 HP centrifugal pump motor set in connection with external water supply arrangement.
- Estimated cost : Tk. 1,40,247.00
- Earnest money : Tk. 2,805.00 in the form of Sanchay Patra /BD, CD from any scheduled bank. Fixed deposit holder to submit a certificate from the concerned Executive Engineer received within three months.
- The tender form together with the schedule of items, specification, terms and conditions, plans etc, can be seen and obtained from the office of the undersigned and abovementioned offices during office hours on payment of usual charges up to the previous day of receiving tender.

Md Shah Alam  
Executive Engineer  
PWD Division, Pabna.

DFP-17379-10/8  
G-1508

## The biggest mass grave yet to be unearthed

LALMONIRHAT, Aug 17: Twenty-eight years have elapsed since the country's independence. But the mass grave, perhaps the biggest in northern region, could not yet be unearthed, reports UNB.

Locals said hundreds of human skulls and bones could be recovered had the abandoned well on the northern end of Bhotmari railway station in Kaliganj thana been dug.

Apart from the well dug during British regime, they said, there are at least 10 more points around the railway station from where human remains of 1971 Liberation War could be recovered.

Many elderly people of the locality recalled that Pakistan occupation army and their collaborators killed and dumped at least 10,000 innocent Bangladeshis in the areas after bringing them from greater Rangpur and Dinajpur districts.

The massacre continued since mid April to December 3, 1971.

Skulls and bones of some 500 people, scattered in the area, were found after the independence.

But the main mass grave is yet to be discovered as the local collaborator of the Pakistani army and mastermind of the mass killing, Latif, went unpunished. He went into hiding after Mukti Bahini defeated Pakistani forces and liberated the area in December, 1971.

After discovering a mass grave in Dhaka's Mirpur, local people of Bhotmari have again raised the demand for digging the biggest mass grave and recovering the remains of the martyrs.

## 'Politicians forget pledges frequently'

By Staff Correspondent

Eminent freedom fighter Major General (Retd) Muhammad Subed Ali Bhuiyan has said political leaders became busy in making their own fortune instead of doing welfare for the society and country.

He said politicians in our society always made a lot of commitments to the people, but they deliberately forgot those pledges after becoming MPs and ministers.

Addressing a series of public meetings and wayside rallies from July 5 to August 10 in 15 unions of Daudkandi thana, General Bhuiyan also said that the politicians in our country had no similarity in their works and words.

He said a section of leaders also occupied the political arena through false commitment and hoax and they never thought of welfare of the common.

Turning to his own thana, the retired general said though Daudkandi was an important area in the country, but it had been neglected for decades.

A large number of people -- men, women and children -- attended the rallies and meetings. They also exchanged views and talked to Bhuiyan free and frankly.

On people's query regarding his joining in active politics, Bhuiyan said that he would join in any party soon after taking opinion from the people of Daudkandi.

It may be mentioned that a number of sitting and former union parishad chairmen and members had already expressed their solidarity with him. His position at Daudkandi is now very strong as a big faction of local BNP also joined hands with him, according to a press release.

## Gazipur PWD Division, Gazipur Tender Notice

- Tender No : 6/1999-2000.
- Name of work : Construction of boundary wall and barbed wire fencing in DC's Banglow south side in opening places and 5 cores officers qrt, Civil Surgeon Office, back side in the Dist. headquarter (Chabagan) at Gazipur during the year 1999-2000.
- Estimated cost : Tk. 4,55,935/-
- Earnest money : Tk. 9,120/-
- Time allowed for completion of work : 45 (Forty-five) days from the date of issue of work order.
- Price of tender : Tk. 425/- (Tk. four hundred twenty-five) only.
- Place of selling & receiving tender schedule : Office of the undersigned as well as by the office of the Executive Engineer's office under Savar PWD Circle, Dhaka.
- Last date of selling tenders : During office hours up to 25/8/99.
- Date of receiving and opening of tenders : Upto 12:00 Noon of 26/8/99 and will be opened on the same day at 12:15 PM.
- Eligibility of contractors/firms to compete in the tenders : Category applicable as per financial limit of authorised enlisted contractor/firms of Public Works Department.
- To compete in the tender, pre-conditions, terms and conditions with special terms and conditions along with relevant information are laid in the tender schedule which may be seen accordingly.
- The undersigned reserves the right to reject or accept any or all of the tenders without assigning any reason.

Md Rafiqul Islam  
Executive Engineer  
Gazipur PWD Division  
Gazipur.

DFP-17420-10/8  
G-1510

## Government of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD,  
Rangamati Road Division

## Short Notice of RHD Inviting Tenders

- Tender Notice No : 3/EE/RRD/1999-2000.
- Name of work : As per Group List.
- Estimated cost : As per Group List.
- Earnest money : As per Group List.
- Time allowed : As per Group List.
- Eligibility of contractor : A to E General category of RHD Department.
- Name of offices of availability of tender documents : The Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Rgti/Khagrachhari-III/(P&D) Division, Sarak Bhaban, Agrabad, Ctg & Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Rd Sub-Division-III/Chandraghona/1st Line Mechl Sub-Division, Rangamati under this Division, up to 23.08.99.
- Name of offices to receive tender : The Superintending Engineer, RHD, Road Circle, Rangamati & Executive Engineer (RHD), Road Divn. Rangamati.
- Last date of receipt of tenders : On 24.08.99 up to 12-30 PM.
- Date & time of opening bids : On 26.08.99 at 12-05 PM by the undersigned or his authorised representative in his office chamber in presence of the intending tenderers if they like to remain present.
- Date & time of lottery (if necessary) : On 30.08.99 at 11-30 AM.
- Chargeable to : As per Group List.

Sealed tenders in BD Form No 2911 are hereby invited from A to E class enlisted contractors of RHD under general category for the abovementioned works.

Group list of works Against Tender Notice No 3/EE/RRD/1999-2000.

Tender Notice No	Group No	Name and location of the work	Chargeable to	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time allowed for completion of work.
3/1999/2000	1 (One)	Protective work by bullah palasiding at 62nd KM (Ch 61+05M to 61+60M) of Cig-Rangamati Road under Rangamati Road Divn during the year 1999-2000	168-R B F	Tk 2,44,997/-	Tk 4,950/-	25 (Twenty-five) days from the date of issue of work order.
3/1999/2000	2 (Two)	Protective work by bullah palasiding at 59th KM (Ch 58+450 M to 55+490M) of Chittagong-Rangamati Road under Rangamati Road Division during the year 1999-2000.	168-R B F	Tk 1,96,977/-	Tk 3,950/-	20 (Twenty) days from the date of issue of work order.
3/1999-2000	3 (Three)	Protective work by bullah palasiding at 61st KM (L/s) of Chittagong-Rgti Road under Rangamati Road Division during the year 1999-2000	168-R B F	Tk 1,36,513/-	Tk 2,750/-	15 (Fifteen) days from the date of issue of work order.

DFP-17384-10/8  
G-1509

Tofazzal Hossain Bhuiyan  
Executive Engineer (RHD)  
Rangamati Road Division