

Arsenic contamination Mass publicity begin in rural areas

The government has launched a massive publicity campaign in rural areas to make the people aware of the danger of arsenic-contaminated tubewell water and ways to overcome the problem, reports UNB.

Under the Arsenic Mitigation Project, field-level workers in six highly arsenic-prone thanas of the country were carrying out their activities directly and through different media, said a handout.

Under the on-going survey programme, people of 600 villages of Gopalganj Sadar, Bheramara, Ishwardi, Uzirpur, Hajiganj and Golapganj thanas have been told what they should do to avoid arsenic poisoning.

During the field-level campaign, the arsenic-contaminated tubewells have been detected and villagers have been asked to use alternative source of water.

Besides, the people were made aware about symptoms and remedies of arsenic-related diseases through various posters, festoon, leaflets and chalkards.

Azad attends Macau handover ceremony

MACAU, Dec 20: Prime Minister Abdus Samad Azad attended the handing over ceremony of Macau to China as the leader of Bangladesh delegation yesterday. Some 2300 guests and representatives from 56 countries attended the ceremony, reports BSS.

He met with Chinese President Jiang Zemin, President of Portugal Jorge Sampaio, Chinese Premier Zhu Ronghui, vice premier Qian Qichen and Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan. They exchanged views on bilateral issues.

Macau was handed back to Chinese rule on Sunday after nearly 450 years of Portuguese administration.

The foreign minister is expected to return home on December 23.

21 injured in Sirajganj clashes

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 20: Twenty-one people were injured in three separate clashes in the district today.

Abdul Momin of Bachra village under Shahjadpur thana sustained burn injuries when his rivals threw acid on him during a clash between two groups of villagers.

He was admitted to the Sirajganj Community Hospital.

In Beluchi thana, seven people were injured when two group of people clashed over recovery of loans.

In Kamarkanda thana, 13 people were injured in a clash between two groups of rival villagers.

Three separate cases have been lodged.

Another 5-star hotel in city soon

A new five-star hotel will be built in the city's Gulshan area at a cost of Tk 2000 million, reports BSS.

Borak Travels Private Limited and internationally reputed Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide yesterday signed a contract for building the joint venture luxury hotel styled as The Westin Dhaka.

The Westin Dhaka, which is expected to open before the NAM summit in 2001, will have 250 guest rooms, spacious executive floor and lounge, presidential suite, grand banquet hall, meeting rooms, restaurants, swimming pools, health clubs and business centres. It will generate employment opportunities for about 500 people.

The hotel will be the Starwood's second venture in Bangladesh.

Managing Director of Borak Travels Mohammad Noor Ali and Vice President (Acquisition and Development) of Starwood, Asia-Pacific, G W Lien signed the contract on behalf of their respective sides at Dhaka Sheraton, the first venture of Starwood.

Nasim leaves for India

Home, Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim left for India last night at the invitation of Indian Home Minister L K Advani, reports BSS.

Mohammad Nasim, who is leading a four-member Bangladesh delegation during the visit, will pay courtesy call on Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and hold discussion with his counterpart on bilateral issues of mutual interest.

Mohammad Nasim is expected to return home on December 27 after offering Ziarat at Azimur Sharif.

Transport strike called off in Kushtia

KUSHTIA, Dec 20: Indefinite transport strike that began on Saturday in all routes of the district was called off this morning following an amicable settlement, reports BSS.

The strike was enforced by the Minibus Owners' Association in support of their 6-point demand including arrest of the people responsible for setting two minibuses ablaze on December 7.

The agitating people set fire to the buses after two road accidents left a student killed and another youth injured.

Death anniversary

The 10th death anniversary of industrialist and former Member of Parliament Sekandar Hossain Miah will be observed today, says a press release.

To mark the occasion, Jahana Ibrahim Foundation of West Madarbari will hold Quran Khawani and Dua Mahfil on behalf of his family.

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A three bed room luxury apartment measuring 2050 sft. On 2nd floor With all modern Amenities at Road No- 79, Apt # C202, Gulshan # 2. adjacent to Russian Embassy. Please Contact : 8114033, 8122277 Mobile : 011-851496

Office of the Superintending Engineer

Feni O&M Circle
BWDB, Feni

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Date-15.12.1999

IDA Credit No. 2791-BD

1. The People's Republic of Bangladesh has applied for a supplemental credit from the International Development Association towards the cost for River Bank Protection Project and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the contract for 121/M3 of Muhuri Irrigation Project (ID No-121). Bidding is open to "A" & "B" class contractors/firms of BWDB enlisted for 1999-2000 and from eligible source countries as defined in the guidelines under IDB loans and IDA credits.

2. The Superintending Engineer, Feni O&M Circle, BWDB, Feni invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the construction works as per attached list of works during the year 1999-2000.

3. Bidding documents (and additional copies) may be purchased from:

i) The Divisional Commissioner's Office, Chittagong
ii) The Manager, Sonali Bank, Mohi Branch, Feni.

iii) The Manager, Sonali Branch, Sonapur Branch, Noakhali.

iv) The Manager, Agrani Bank, Dalal Bazar Branch, Lakshimpur.

v) The Manager, Sonali Bank, WAPDA Building Branch, Motijheel, C/A, Dhaka.

On payment of non-refundable fee of taka (as per attached list of works) up to 23.01.2000. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the office of the undersigned.

4. The provisions in the Instructions to Bidders and in the conditions of contract are the provisions of the Standard Bidding Documents (SBD): Procurement of Works, National Competitive Bidding (NCB), (Trial Edition-January/1998), Revised February/1999 issued by the World Bank, Dhaka office.

5. Bids shall be valid for a period of 91 days after bid opening and must be accompanied by bid security of 2.5% of the total quoted amount in favour of A/RAC Chief, Regional Accounting Center, BWDB, Feni.

6. The bids shall be received up to 12:00 hours of 24.01.2000 at the office of the Superintending Engineer, Feni O&M Circle, BWDB, Feni.

7. Bidders may deliver bids by any means including courier service, registered mail with acknowledgement due etc. which must reach the above office before the deadline for submission of bids. Bids received after the deadline will not be accepted.

8. Bid shall be opened only by the undersigned in his office on 24.01.2000 at 13:00 hours in presence of bidders/representatives who wish to attend.

9. A pre-bid conference will be held on 13.01.2000 in the office of the undersigned at 11:00 hours. All bidders are requested to attend at the conference in time.

PANI-306/1999-2000
GD-1217

Abul Qasem
Superintending Engineer
Feni O&M Circle, BWDB, Feni.

7 killed, 46 hurt in separate road accidents in 2 days

At least seven people were killed and 46 others injured in separate road accidents across the country yesterday and on Sunday.

Our Correspondent reports from Jhenidah: Four people were killed and 25 others injured, six of them seriously, in two separate road accidents yesterday, according to police sources.

Montaj Ali, 62, of village Seikhatti of Jessore's Kotwali thana died on the spot while Asaduzzaman, 29, a BDR personnel working in Kushtia and Khaled, 28, of Hasmari in Natore died at Jhenidah sadar hospital in the afternoon after a Kushtia-bound truck near Seikhpara Bazar in Saitupura thana yesterday evening.

Separate cases were filed with respective thanas in these connections.

Both vehicle drivers managed to flee.

Our Correspondent from Sirajganj adds: Twenty-one people were injured in three separate incidents in three thanas of the district today.

Acid was thrown on Abdul Momin of Bachra village under Shahjadpur thana during a clash between two groups of villagers following previous enmity. He was admitted to Sirajganj Community Hospital.

Seven people were injured in another incident in Beluchi thana centering recovery of money. In another clash between two groups of people in Kamarkanda thana left 13 people injured.

Three separate cases were lodged with the three thanas.

UNB adds: Assistant manager of a tea garden was killed on the spot in a road accident at Chandpur tea garden area on Dhaka-Sylhet highway yesterday.

Police and witnesses said Azharul Islam Bhuiyan, 32, of Chandichara tea garden died when a Sylhet-bound microbus hit his motor cycle from behind at 10 am. The microbus sped away.

The victim was on his way to Chunrurhat to pay the gas bill of the tea garden.

His body was sent to Sadar hospital for autopsy and a case was lodged with the local police.

BSS adds: Two people were killed in separate road accidents at Madhupur and Bagarbazar on Sunday.

Eyewitnesses said Manik, a 16-year old boy, was seriously injured when a truck hit him as he was crossing Mymensingh-Haluaghat highway near Madhupur on Tarakanda thana.

clinics.

Condition of six among the injured is critical, police said.

Amirul Islam, 15, a day-labourer of Abdalpur village in Kushtia thana was crushed to death under the wheels of a Kushtia-bound truck near Seikhpara Bazar in Saitupura thana yesterday evening.

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Eyewitnesses said Manik, a 16-year old boy, was seriously injured when a truck hit him as he was crossing Mymensingh-Haluaghat highway near Madhupur on Tarakanda thana.



Unplanned digging of the road in front of Science Laboratory road for utility services causing tremendous hardship

— Star photo



Barrister Ishtiaq Ahmed speaking at a roundtable on "Bangladesh in the new millennium" organised by the daily Prothom Alo and Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) at the BIDS conference room yesterday. Also seen in the picture are: Rehman Sobhan (extreme L), Prof Mozaffar Ahmed (2nd from R) and Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury (extreme R).

Danish team calls on BOI chief

An investment delegation of Copenhagen-based oil and gas company Maersk Oil OG Gas As' comprising Lars Nydahl Jorgenson and Poul-Henrik Larsen called on Mokammel Haque, Executive Chairman, Board of Investment (BOI) at his office yesterday, reports BSS.

The delegation expressed interest for investment in Bangladesh particularly in the oil and gas sector.

The visiting delegation was of the opinion that there is ample opportunity for the development of oil and gas sector in Bangladesh.

They laid emphasis on alternative use of surplus reserve of gas after meeting the domestic gas demand. They discussed about some problems encountered by them for the implementation of their project.

The BOI chief assured them of government's firm commitment to encouraging and facilitating foreign private investment in Bangladesh specially in energy sector projects.

Law Minister for resisting violence against women

Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru yesterday said "violence against women is violence against humanity," reports BSS.

It is the constitutional obligation of the state to resist violence against women, he observed.

Khasru was addressing as chief guest a discussion on violence against women and the court in the city.

Organised by Naripokkho, the day-long meeting was attended by public prosecutors, forensic experts, doctors, lawyers and representatives of different women organisations.

Terming violence against women as a national and social problem, the law minister stressed the need for empowerment of women to curb such violence.

The law minister said the government was determined to amend and update relevant laws for proper, speedy and fair trial of cases. He said that accountability of all involved in the trial process including police, investigating officers, FPs, lawyers and witnesses is a must.

The law minister also stressed the need for a concerted efforts of the members of the civil society to check crimes against women.

AL Working Committee meet Dec 22

A meeting of the Working Committee of Bangladesh Awami League will be held at Gono Bhaban on December 22 at 3:30 pm, a party press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

The meeting will be chaired by Awami League president and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Party general secretary and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman requested all the members of the working committee to attend the meeting on time.

Car trader robbed of Tk 9 lakh in city

By Staff Correspondent

Police failed to arrest anyone till yesterday in connection with the incident in which a car trader was robbed of Tk nine lakh in the city on Sunday.

A gang of armed men riding on four motorcycles intercepted the car of Mahabubul Alam Manik at about 2 pm when he was returning to his trading house after withdrawing the money from a bank at Banani.

The incident took place near the trading house at Road Number 27, Dhanmondi residential area.

The gang asked Manik to open the door of his car. Being refused, they broke the window glass and fired three blank shots.

The attackers then snatched a packet containing the money and immediately sped away.

The trader filed a case with Dhanmondi police station on Sunday. When contacted, Dhanmondi police last night said they are yet to arrest anybody in this connection.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh