

Sharecroppers' agony

NATORE, Mar 1: Government policies are widely manipulated in commercial banks here in distributing farm loans, depriving the sharecroppers of their due rights, according to competent sources, reports UNB.

They said the farmers who cultivate 85 per cent of the total land by hard labour have to give half or more of their harvests to their landowners.

But the landowners never hesitate in depriving them of availing of the facility to take farm loan from banks.

A sharecropper at village Bilmari in Latur thana said most landowners take loan from banks in the name of purchasing cattle and other agricultural inputs and they ultimately invest the money in more profitable sectors than agriculture.

He alleged that the landowners take away 50 per cent of their hard-earned produce without having any contribution to cultivation and crop gathering.

Untoward incident Doctors, teachers trade blames in Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent
SIRAJGANJ, Mar 1: Doctors and teachers in the town on Tuesday held separate press conferences and traded accusations for an untoward incident.

Local people said the teacher, Ashraf Ali, took his ailing baby daughter to AH Sayad, a child specialist, in Sirajganj General Hospital. But the doctor allegedly paid less attention to the patient and advised Asraf Ali to see him in his private chamber. Later the teacher took his daughter to his private chamber and the doctor treated the patient in exchange for Tk 200.

Then Ashraf Ali wanted to know why the doctor did not pay much attention to the patient in the hospital. Later they locked in altercations. The doctor then filed a case against the teacher for 'assaulting' him. Police later arrested the teacher, sparking protest by teachers and students in the town. The teacher, however, was released.

Teachers on Saturday brought out procession and held rally condemning the incident. They also demanded exemplary punishment to the doctor.

The physicians in the press conference said the situation was created to tarnish the image of doctors. On the other hand, the teachers said physicians are responsible for the incident.

Thousands visit shrines of Kalu, Gazi, Champaboti every year

From Atiur Rahman

JESSORE, Feb 27: Badargacha, one kilometre to the east of Barabazar, on Jessore-Jhenidah road and 16 kilometres away from Jessore town, is a renowned place.

Location of holy shrines of three legendary saints, Kalu, Gazi and Champaboti is the reason of this importance.

Thousands of people from across the country come to pay respect to the memory of these sacred souls round the year. Foreigners also visit the place very often. This is going on from time immemorial.

According to local sources, the shrines were constructed on over 54 decimals of land, beside a century-old banyan tree, surrounded by wide ditches. The shrine of Gazi is flanked by that of Kalu on the west and that of Champaboti on the east. Many patients who have failed to get cured after long medical treatment, resort to this place, seeking the saints' grace for relief and recovery.

Such patients come either from near or far flung areas. The shrines remain crowded with patients during Thursdays and Fridays.

During visit to this place, this correspondent found that patients had been staying there for days.

Halima, Hasina and Faruk from Bagherpara thana in Jessore, were staying there for over a month to get treatment. Similar was the case in respect of Amina, Ranu, Hashem and Syed of Bagdanga in Sadar thana of Jessore. There were Shahidul, Habib, Sikander, Pagan, Shahid and Nuri from Tangail.

When asked whether there had been any improvement in their health condition after coming over here, all of them replied in the positive. There were some other people, who were living on alms from the visitors.

To look after the shrines a full-time caretaker is appointed by the managing committee of the shrines.

The present caretaker Abul Hossain, 58, was appointed eight months ago by the managing committee. His service is a 24-hour service. His fooding and lodging are free and provided by the committee. He has been appointed after departure of his predecessor Babu of Tangail, who left the place after seven years. Babu came here as a serious patient who recovered gradually from here. It is learnt, faith healing treatment is the only way to get the relief, told most of the patients.



A century-old banyan tree giving shade to the shrines of Kalu, Gazi and Champaboti.

Urs is held twice a year. One is held on last Thursday of Bangla month Bhadra and the other is last Thursday of Falgun.

On these occasions, not to speak of devotees, visitors and patients rush here with gifts both in cash and kind only to satisfy the saints. The cash money goes to the fund of the managing committee and the kinds including rice, goats, hens, fruits, vegetables, fish and lentil are cooked together to prepare *tobarak*. It is distributed among the distressed and the devotees.

The annual collections exceed Taka 30,000 to 40,000 each year. It covers the expenditure for maintenance and development of the shrines and for entertainment.

When contacted, the caretaker told that there is a managing committee comprising 13 members including president and secretary.

The present president is Moshir Rahman and secretary Ariful Islam. They keep constant supervision over the total activity of the shrines. They meet regularly and review various works of the shrines.

Ex-chairman of the shrine's managing committee told that the Deputy Commissioner of Jhenidah, Mirza Mohammad Al-Farooq took up the construction work on the shrines at a cost of Taka 1,42,493 in February, 1991. It was done to ensure sanctity and protection of the holy shrines against disturbance by anti-social elements.

It was learnt during the visit that one person named Mukter, son of a previous caretaker was sentenced for using the shrines as den of illegal arms.

However, nothing is exactly known about the date of death of these saints due to lack of documentary evidences.

Writer Hosseinuddin, in his famous book 'Jessore Legends' have given detail description of the life and activities of these

saints.

He has admitted that most information, mentioned in his work, were based on hearsay.

According to Jessore Legends, King Mukut Rai and Queen Zilaboti had seven sons and one daughter Champaboti. The king was extremely communal and could never tolerate Muslims.

He was locked in a battle with Kalu and Gazi and was miserably defeated. He along with his entire family members, excepting Champaboti, committed suicide to save prestige of the royal family. But when Gazi conquered the palace, Champaboti came out in the open and embraced Islam. She was married to Gazi in a simple ceremony.

It is learnt from the work that Louzani, previously known as Brahmin Nagar was the capital of King Mukut Rai.

Gazi was the son of king Shaha Sikander and Ozufa Sundari of Boiragi Nagar. Ozufa was the daughter of King Boli. Later, a fierce fighting took place between Shah Sikander and King Boli. Boli lost the battle.

He got his daughter married to Shah Sikander. She gave birth to a baby named Julhaj. He was lost at the age 12 while he went on hunting in dense forests. The queen became mad at the terrible shock. During this time, she saw a wooden box floating in a river. She was on a river journey. When she picked it up and opened its mouth she saw a newly born child screaming there. She took the baby. He became Kalu. Shortly after this incident the queen gave birth to a baby. He was Gazi.

There grew deep relation between Kalu and Gazi.

From boyhood Gazi was indifferent to worldly life. So was also Kalu. In one fine morning, when Shah Sikander pressed Gazi to take charge of his kingdom, Gazi flatly denied and fled away without letting it know to his parents. After long trekking, both Kalu and Gazi reached the Sundarbans and stayed there

for seven years.

They left the place in search of new world. They landed at Safainagar after crossing the sea. They left this place very hurriedly and halted their journey at Kantapur opposite Brahmin Nagar.

Here Gazi happened to meet Champaboti while she was taking bath in a river. At first sight, both fell in love. But the parents of Champaboti opposed the proposal of their marriage.

At this attitude of king Mukut Rai, Kalu and Gazi felt insulted. They came back again to the Sundarbans and recruited troops including tigers. Taking full preparations of war they proceeded towards Brahmin Nagar and declared war against king Mukut Rai.

Mukut Rai fought against Kalu and Gazi, but could not sustain. After a week, he lost the battle and committed suicide.

Gazi occupied the entire empire of king Mukut Rai. Writer of 'Jessore Legend' has also discussed the contradictions still prevailing in this region about the identity of Gazi and Kalu.

He has admitted that the name of Gazi was quite familiar with the people of this region irrespective of faith and religion.

Gazi was a most respected person. There are lot of rural songs in praise of Gazi.

The writer has referred to the remarks made by Geit who has remarked Gazi as the patron of woodcutters and saved them from tigers and crocodiles. There are lot of publications on Kalu, Gazi and Champaboti in different markets.

Poet Krishna Ram Das, Abdul Jabbar, Halu Mia, Abdul Gafur have composed various poems on these saints.

These are self contradictory, creating confusion among innocent readers to determine who is the real Gazi, who is sleeping at Badargacha together with Kalu and Champaboti.

Four rifles recovered from train at Daulatpur

From Staff Correspondent
KHULNA, Mar 1: Four 22 bore rifles were recovered from Khulna-bound commuter train when it reached Daulatpur station at 11 am from Benapole on Monday.

Railway police arrested two young men, identified as Manik Molla, 18, and Ayub Ali, 25. But Ayub Ali was released by a railway official few minutes after the arrest.

The other young man, Manik Molla later told police that they had purchased the firearms from India. He further said that a section of officials of Khulna Railway thana and Daulatpur railway police outpost have been involved in arms smuggling for a long time.

One of the buyers of these smuggled arms was Ershad Shikdar. Manik told OC Tasikur Rahman of GRP who is investigating the case recorded Monday under Section 54.

The CMM rejected prayer for remand of Manik Molla only because that the case was not recorded under Arms Act.

When asked, OC of GRP said case under Arms Act would be recorded only after getting report of the examination of the arms by army experts.

Manik who hails from Kathaltala village under Morrelganj thana of Bagerhat district told police that he was to deliver the arms to an Assistant Sub-inspector of railway police station which is within the jurisdiction of Skid Ghat.

Another senior constable told this correspondent that some officials of the GRP were faithful friends of Ershad Shikdar and also his beneficiaries. They harboured Ershad during all police operations, the constable said.

Corruption case filed against Ctg Customs House official

CHITTAGONG, Mar 1: The Bureau of Anti-corruption has filed a case against an official of the Chittagong Customs House accusing him of concealing information of property worth about Tk 30 lakh, reports UNB.

Inspector Lutfar Rahman filed the case with Kotwali thana against Superintendent of the Chittagong Customs House Mukarram Hossain.

According to the case, Mukarram bought a piece of land in the name of his wife Israt Jahan and his son Monsur Hossain Sharif at Amirbagh in Mehediabag area under Kotwali thana.

Mukarram showed that he spent Tk 26.27 lakh for construction of the building upon notice from the Prime Minister's Office on February 26, 1996.

News snaps

Work progressing

SYLHET, Mar 1: Construction of bypass road near Osmani Airport, involving Tk 27 crore, is going on in full swing, reports UNB.

Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury had inaugurated the construction work on February 19. Roads and Highways Department is implementing the project to reduce traffic volume on Sylhet-Salutkar-Kompaniganj road. The project works include land acquisition, earthwork and construction of roads and five RCC box culverts.

Man arrested under PSA

RAJSHAHI, Mar 1: Government Railway Police (GRP) on Tuesday arrested a man under newly enacted Public Safety Act (PSA) in the bomb attack incident on 599-Shuttle Train during opposition called halt on February 17, reports UNB.

GRP with the help of Rajpara police arrested Mohammad Miraj from Hargram Bazar of the town on Tuesday noon. City Major Mijanur Rahman Minu is the principal accused of the case but he was not arrested. However, police recorded statements of 21 witnesses till Tuesday. Charge sheet of the case will be submitted by March 17, GRP sources said.

3 killers get life term

BARISAL, Mar 1: A court here on Tuesday sentenced three people life imprisonment for murdering a man in 1993, reports UNB.

The convicts are: Mustafizur Rahman Madhu, Anwar Hossain Mridha, and Zakir Hossain Mridha of Bakerganj thana. The Additional District and Sessions Judge Abu Hanif also acquitted 13 others from the charge, court sources said. According to the prosecution story in brief, the convicted accused murdered Ashraf Ali Hawlader of the same thana at Sonamukhi Pool area on November 10, 1993 over a previous enmity.

Kushtia Bar Assoc poll

KUSHTIA, Mar 1: The election of the district bar association was held here on February 28, reports BSS.

Advocate Shiralul Islam and Advocate Harun-ur-Rashid were elected as president and general secretary respectively. The other members of the executive committee were Aminul Haq, Zakaria, Mahabubur Rahman, Mahabubul Haq, Akram Hossain Dulal, Tofazzel Hossain, Ali Hossain, Abdullah Baki, Azmal Haq and Ayesha Haq.

Training programme

SHARIATPUR, Mar 1: A day-long training organised by the Sadar thana unit of Agriculture Extension Department (AED) was held here at its conference room recently, reports BSS.

The training was conducted by Deputy Director of the district AED Mohammad Taleb Ali Sekh. A total of 70 participants including 30 female farmers took part in the training. They stressed the need for people's cooperation and participation in land management to increase the agri-production.

Gang leader of bandit held

CHAPAINABGANJ, Mar 1: Police arrested the leader of an inter-district bandit gang from Telkupi Bazar in Shibganj thana on February 23, reports UNB.

Police said Hobu, 35, of Kollabari village of the thana was accused of committing two robberies in 1997.

Phensidyl seized

MYMENSINGH, Mar 1: Narcotic Control Department, in a joint drive with a magistrate and Bangladesh Rifles, seized huge quantity of phensidyl and liquor in and near the town on Tuesday morning, reports UNB.

Two hundred ninety five bottles of phensidyl and a *ramdao* were recovered from a house at Dailpotti in absence of the house owners Alal and Jalal. In another raid at Rishipara at the outskirts of the town, the department recovered 480 litres different types of liquor. Twelve cases were filed, but none was arrested in this connection.

Bid to commit suicide

BAGERHAT, Mar 1: A young wife of a poor day labourer set fire to her clothes in a bid to commit suicide was lying in hospital with severe burn injuries, reports UNB.

Family and hospital sources said Kanan Bala, 25, stricken by acute poverty had a quarrel with husband Amal Sikdar over the distressed condition of the family. Angered by rebuke of the husband, Kanan set fire to her clothes Sunday midnight in her house at Harikhal in the town. The neighbours rushed in, rescued her by breaking open the door and sent her to sadar hospital. The doctors said her condition was critical.



Agrani Bank
Head Office

9/D, Dilkusha, Dhaka

Re-Sale Notice

M/s Hamidia Jute Mills Ltd., Hajiganj, Chandpur

For realization of arrearage of the company to Agrani Bank, Hajiganj Branch, Chandpur amounting to Tk. 17.65 crore. Sealed quotation/tenders are hereby invited from the bonafide intending buyers including foreign buyers for 'sale of assets' i.e. land, building, machinery and all other assets of the above named Jute Spinning Mill comprising of 14 frame and 1400 Spindles situated at Hajiganj, Chandpur, 'As-is-where-is basis.' The detail particulars/informations are as follows:

1) Name and location of the Mill

M/s. Hamidia Jute Mills Ltd.,
Hajiganj, Chandpur
Mouza: Teraghar, P O & Thana: Hajiganj, District: Chandpur

The total area of the Mill are 16.86 acre alongwith buildings, machinery of the plant, store spares and other facilities like gas, water, electricity and garages etc. and also includes hundreds of valuable trees situated within the Mill premises 'As is where is basis.'

Terms & conditions for submission of tender

The successful bidders after paying the full amount will be treated as a buyer of the mill. The Ministry of Industries will arrange hand over of the mill through SAF-KABLA deed in favour of the buyer through Sub-Registrar Office. Registration cost will be borne by the purchaser.

Bank authority will not assume any legal obligation whatsoever on behalf of the company and its previous directors in respect of any dues/claims of government, semi-government, autonomous bodies, banks, electricity, gas supply authority, or any other charge/claim that may arise afterwards.

Intending buyers/tenderer may inspect/visit the mill during bank's office hours. The Zonal Head of Agrani Bank, Chandpur and the Manager, Hajiganj Branch, Chandpur will extend necessary cooperation in this respect. For further information's bidders/tenderer may contact the undersigned during bank office hour over phone.

Intending tenderer/bidders may drop their tenders/offers in sealed cover (applying in plain paper) along with 5% earnest money of the quoted value through Account Payee Bank Draft/Pay Order in favour of Agrani Bank, Head Office, Dhaka. The tender will be dropped positively on or before 21-03-2000 by 2.00 PM in the tender box kept at the office of the undersigned (3rd Floor, Agrani Bank, Head Office, Dhaka). Bank authority reserves the right to extend the time limit for dropping tenders.

Tender box will be opened on 21-03-2000 at 2.15 PM in presence of tenderer/bidders/their representative (if any).

The successful bidder/tenderer shall have to deposit 25% of the quoted money with Agrani Bank, Principal Branch, Dhaka within 15 days from the date of issuing of offering letter and the rest amount will be deposited within 35 days from the date of above letter. The earnest money of the successful bidder will be forfeited if he fails to deposit the tendered money within the stipulated period.

The Agrani Bank authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders/offers without showing/assigning any reason whatsoever.

A F Moshirur Rahman
General Manager
Phone No. 9551507

GD-201



A patient being shifted to Dubaura Thana Health Complex from a remote village by a van for treatment due to bad shape of roads.

Irrigation hampered due to lack of electricity

From Aminul Islam

MYMENSINGH, Mar 1: People of Dubaura, a remote thana of the district, are being deprived of the benefits of development activities due to lack of electricity supply and bad communications network.

About 1,70,000 people of 183

24 shops gutted in Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 1: At least 24 shops were gutted in a fire at Boalia bazar under Ullapara thana of the district on Monday.

The origin of the fire could not be known till filing of this report at 6 pm.

Fire fighting units from the district headquarters rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze.

villages under seven unions are not getting electricity facility, depriving them of various modern facilities.

Irrigation paddy cultivation has been facing severe setback due to lack of electricity. Farmers have to depend on petroleum fuel to run machines for irrigation. The growers have to face severe oil crisis during peak season, hampering the cultivation.

Local people said for want of electricity mills and factories are not being set up here. They urged the authorities concerned to bring the villages under electrification programme.

Roads in the thana are now in pitiable condition, causing travelling hazardous. Most of the roads are unfit for vehicular movements.

Local people have also urged the authorities to develop the road communication in the thana.

Shibir-BCL clash at Bagerhat: 10 injured

BAGERHAT, Mar 1: At least 10 people were injured in a clash between two rival student groups at PC Government College here, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the trouble erupted at about 9:30 am when pro-Awami League Chhatra League backed by Bangladesh Chhatra Union attacked a procession of Islami Chhatra Shibir, leaving its seven workers, including college unit secretary Abdur Razzak wounded.

Three BCL and BCU activists also received injuries in a counter attack by Shibir men.

Both the groups used hockey sticks and other lethal weapons during the clash on Tuesday. Chhatra Shibir brought out the procession on the campus to welcome the freshers of honours courses of the college.

The injured were rushed to Sadar Hospital and other local clinics while Shibir leader Abdur Razzak to Khulna Hospital in a critical condition.



Invitation for Prequalification

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Dhaka City Corporation

Project Implementation Unit

Dhaka Urban Transport Project

Reconstruction of Intersections 10 Nos.

IDA. Credit No. 3163 BD

This invitation for prequalification follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in Development Business No 477 of dated 31/12/97.

The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a credit from the International Development Association toward cost of the Dhaka Urban Transport Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contract for Reconstruction of Intersections — 10 Nos. The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, hereinafter referred to "the Employer" intends to prequalify contractors and/or firms for the Reconstruction of Intersections Contract Package No. (W) C2. It is expected that invitations to bid will be made in July 2000.

Prequalification will be conducted through prequalification procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, January 1995 (revised January and August 1996, September 1997 and January 1999), and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries, as defined in the guidelines. In addition the following countries are not eligible for procurement under the Credit: the Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Brunei Darussalam, Cyprus, Kuwait, Qatar, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the prequalification documents at the office of the Project Director, PIU, DCC. In the address below from 09 to 17 hours during office hours. A complete set of prequalification documents of each package in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Taka 5000.00 (Five thousand) or US\$ 100.00 or equivalent. The method of payment will be in cash or in the form of pay order or demand draft from any schedule bank in Bangladesh in favour of Project Director, PIU, DCC, Dhaka Urban Transport Project. The documents may also be sent by Courier Service. But under no circumstances will the Employer be held responsible for late delivery or loss of the document so dispatched.

Applications for prequalification should be submitted in sealed envelopes, delivered to the address below at 12 hours on or before April 27, 2000 and be clearly marked "Application to Prequalify for Dhaka Urban Transport Project, Reconstruction of Intersections, Contract Package No. (W)C2".

Shafiu Islam

Project Director,
Project Implementation Unit
Dhaka Urban Transport Project
Dhaka City Corporation
Nagar Bhaban, 14th Level
Fulbaria, Dhaka

DCC/PRD/327/1999-2000
GD-199