

Good time for boat-makers

From Anwar Ali

NATORE, Aug 22: The carpenters here are busy making boats of various sizes and designs.

Boat making business is profitable, particularly during the current season when most parts of Shingra, Gurudashpur, Baraigram and sadar thanas go under water.

Boat is the major and easy means of communication in the inaccessible areas here. Here people purchase boats according to their financial capacities. Hundreds of boats are sold at various hats and bazars during monsoon.

There are some carpenters who are specialised in making boats. There are about 125 carpenters' shops in various upazilas here, Madhusudan Paul, a 50-year-old carpenter in Shingra told this correspondent.

On an average, five to six carpenters can make a boat within a week.

The cost of each boat ranges between Taka 3,000 to 12,000, according to its shape and size. Making charges range between Taka 1,200 to 3,500.

Tarini Mistry of Rashidpur

village is Gurudashpur upazila, is one of the boat-makers. His forefathers had been making boats to eke out a living. He is also determined to hold on to his ancestral profession of making and repairing boats despite a number of hurdles.

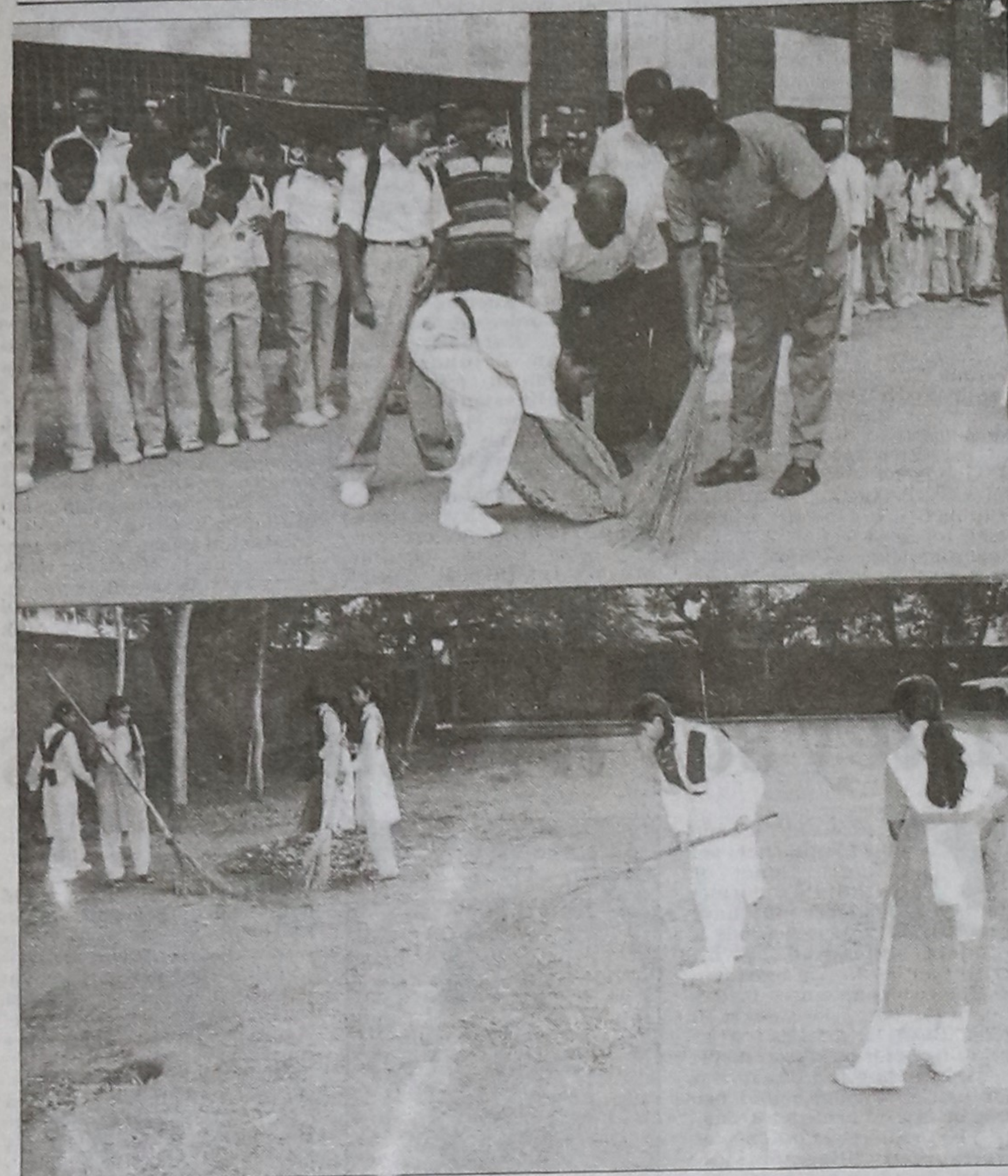
"We have been earning our bread by making and repairing boats. Monsoon is the peak season of our business. Rest of the year, we have hardly any work to do. So, we have to save something for that period," said Tarini.

"The profit from this business is gradually decreasing due

to non-availability of quality wood and price-spiral of other raw materials, he added.

Tarini dreams of a better future of his next generation and with this hope in mind, he is educating his son and daughter in colleges.

Mozhar, Abdur Razzak and Haran Mistry who are also involved in boat-making business for the last 25 years told this correspondent that the business was no more lucrative due to a number of factors. But they are stuck to the ancestral profession since they have no other alternative source of income.



Students of Collegiate School (above) and PN Girls' School (Below) in Rajshahi city conduct cleanliness drive in the premises of their schools to eradicate aedes mosquitoes which are spreading dengue fever. The dengue panic has gripped the city like other places in the country. — Star photo

Price hike of oil, gas

Sirajganj BNP demonstrates

From Our Correspondent
SIRAJGANJ, Aug 22: District unit of BNP on Sunday brought out a procession in the town protesting price hike of petroleum products and gas.

The opposition activists chanted slogans against the government as the procession paraded main thoroughfares of the town.

Meanwhile, bus and truck fares have increased following price-hike of petrol and diesel.

Sirajganj-Dhaka bus fair has been re-fixed at Tk 100 against Tk 80 before the price-hike.

Now a gas cylinder sells between Tk 350 and 400 against Tk 260, although the price-hike will be effective from September 1.

The government raised the prices of kerosene and diesel by about 20 per cent while those of petrol and octane by 9.5 per cent and 9 per cent respectively. The gas price was raised by 15 per cent with effect from September 1.

Voters rise in draft list in Faridpur

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Aug 22: A total of 10,73,582 people have been enlisted in the draft voter list in the district. Of them, 5,43,594 are males and 5,29,988 are females.

The draft list was published recently.

In the previous voter list, the number of voters was 8,91,766. So, the number increased by 1,81,816 voters.

Upazila-wise break-up of the list is: 2,40,761 voters in Sadar upazila, 42,025 in Char Bhadrans upazila, 1,25,123 in Sadarup upazila, 1,54,245 in Bhangra upazila, 2,5,453 in Nagarkanda upazila, 17,445 in Madhukhali upazila, 62,549 in Alfadanga upazila and 1,35,151 in Boalmari upazila.

Larma distributes foodgrains

RANGAMATI, Aug 22: Chairman of CHT Regional Council Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma (Shantu Larma) has said that the NGOs working in the region to develop the socio-economic condition of people should formulate pragmatic plans, reports BSS.

While distributing foodgrains among destitute tribal women here on Saturday through VGD cards, Larma stressed the need for building pro-people leadership in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) for the development of tribal people.

He alleged that those who are assigned for the advancement of this region are not properly responding to the desire of the people.

About 5,000 destitute tribal women of the three hill districts will be given 30 kilogram of foodgrain each month for one year under the VGD programme, to be jointly run by the government with support and assistance from the World Food Programme and the BRAC, and NGO.

Behula mugged!

From Akhtaruzzaman Bablu



This shot was taken from Ranirhat village of Tarash Upazila in Sirajganj district. Lakhs of tons of paddy are produced in Chalan Beel area near this village of Behula Sundari. Photo shows a canal which is known as Behula Canal. This canal is supposed to be re-excavated every year with a view to increasing paddy output. According to local people, every year government allocates 40 lakhs of taka, but the entire amount is being embezzled by dishonest persons regularly who are supposed to do the work. Legendary figure Behula Sundari used to travel by boat through this canal during her glorious period.

— Star photo

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 22: Behula Sundari is a legendary figure in this sub-continent.

During the period of the first half of 18th century, Behula was born at Binsara village under Tarash upazila situated in the Chalan Beel area. Her father's name was Bashu Bania. At present no member of the Behula family is alive here.

Though it is a place of historical importance, yet it remains neglected for long. Only one well of Behula's house exists now. A multi-racial high school has been established here. The legendary big boat by which she used to move from here and there is now under the earth. A number of visitors come here to have a glimpse of Behula's house.

Here is a legend that a fair was held under the initiative of Lakkhindor at village Bostul near Binsara. Behula went to the fair to buy some of her favourite things. Lakkhindor happened to meet her in the fair and was charmed to see her unparalleled beauty. There developed an intimacy between them gradually. Lakkhindor came back to his house at Bogra and engaged match-maker to marry her. Behula Sundari agreed to her. Lakkhindor's proposal and their marriage ceremony was solemnised in a befitting manner. After the marriage Lakkhindor took his newly married wife Behula to his Mohastangar residence where he created a bridal chamber. There a poisonous snake bit

Lakkhindor inside the bridal chamber. Later on Lakkhindor's body was set for an unknown destination through a raft.

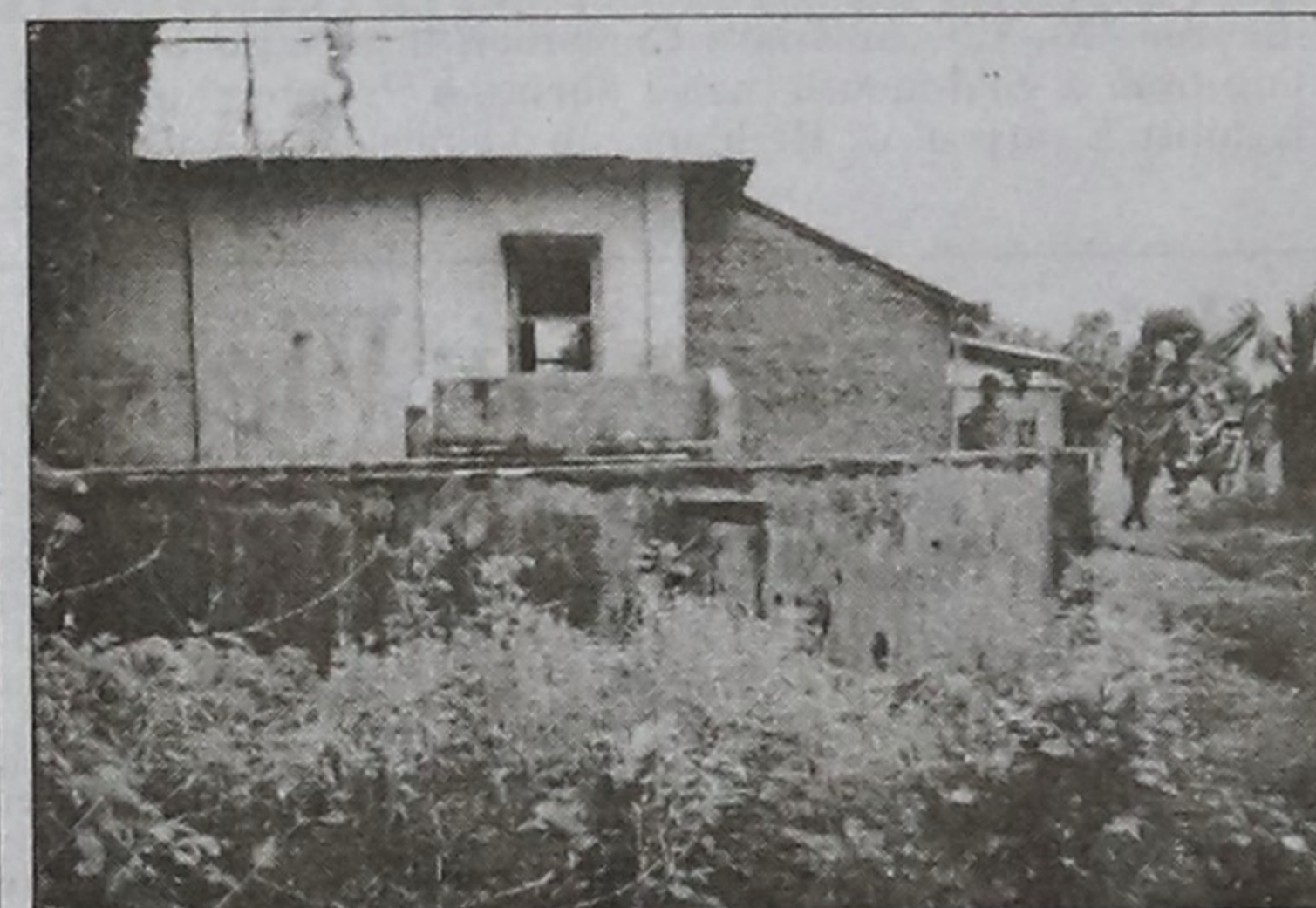
Afterwards Behula Sundari came back to her parent's house. In her father's village she used to move here and there by a big boat through a canal which flows beside Ranirhat village.

Hundreds of acres of land of Chalan Beel area are situated on both sides of this canal. Locals informed this correspondent that a big amount of fund is allocated regularly to reexcavate this canal every year, but unfortunately the persons concerned responsible to do the work misappropriate the fund without any work.

Official sources said a total of Taka 40 lakh was sanctioned recently by the government to reexcavate the canal, but no work was done and the entire allotted money was misappropriated.

It is worth mentioning that if the canal is reexcavated properly production of crops, especially of paddy will be increased. The place is situated in the Chalan Beel area which is a paddy producing area.

Meanwhile, no development work has been done so far to preserve the golden memory of Behula Sundari. The authorities concerned are urged to take note of it make arrangements to develop and turn the place into a forward place.



Binsara Multilateral High School is situated inside the premises of Behula Sundari's house, where exists only a well of her period. People from far flung area throng here to see this house regularly. But no initiative is taken by the authorities concerned to preserve this historic site. — Star photo

Efforts on to improve women's lot

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 22: Minister for Local Government Zillur Rahman recently said the present government as part of its commitment to the nation

had implemented scores of welfare oriented programmes over the last four years for the development of women in all spheres of national life, reports BSS.

"The present government strongly believes in women's empowerment and development since they hold a very significant stake in the national life," he said adding, the present government considering their importance in the country's development has done a lot for their socio-economic improvement.

The minister was inaugurating a Sewing and Embroidery Training Centre at Bhairab here recently. Jatiya Mahila Sangstha is conducting this training centre under its Urban Women Development Project. Sangstha's Chairperson Ivy Rahman chaired the function.

Zillur Rahman referred to the women's 50 per cent stake in the country's total population and said country's desired progress with poverty alleviation and economic emancipation would depend largely upon the women's development in Bangladesh.

"If we want our national integrity as well as prosperity, we must see that our women are in better position side by side their male counterparts," he told a gathering organised in this connection.

With this end in view, he said, the present government has kept special provisions for the women in all tiers of the local government so that they can be directly elected and take part in the mainstream of national development efforts to expedite the national progress.

News snaps

Press conference

SUNAMGANJ, Aug 22: Local Awami League leadership on Monday blamed rival terrorists for opening fire on Multibur Rahman Manik, MP, in presence of policemen, reports UNB.

District administration and police were also responsible for the heinous attempt on the life of the ruling party lawmaker, said the leaders of Chhatak Upazila and District Awami League at a press conference held here. General Secretary of Chhatak Upazila Awami League Farooque Ahmed read out the written statement at the press conference. They alleged that Magistrate Tariqul Islam and SI Ataur Rahman along with some cops were present during the shootout. Adv Nurul Islam Chowdhury, Ayub Bakht Jaglul, Amir Hossain Reza and Adv Nantu Roy were among others present.

Multibur Rahman Manik and a number of his supporters were injured when a gang of terrorists opened shots at Chhatak on August 16.

UP member gunned down

NOAKHALI, Aug 22: A UP member was gunned down by unknown assailants at his house in Sadar thana early Saturday, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Abdul Mannan Bachchu, 42, member of Joypur union parishad and local leader of Awami League. Police said the gunmen stormed his house at about 3:30 am and sprayed him with bullets. He died on the spot. He is believed to have been killed by extortionists.

Truck owners' threat

CHITTAGONG, Aug 22: Truck Owners Coordination Council in greater Chittagong district has threatened to enforce an indefinite strike if the government fails to reduce fuel price by Sept 1, reports UNB.

Secretary of the council Zahur Ahmed announced the programme at a news conference here Monday. He said some 25,000 trucks of 17 associations under the council would stay off the roads if they go on strike.

Separate incidents kill 3

SATKHIRA, Aug 22: Three people were killed in separate incidents here on Friday, reports UNB.

Police identified the victims as Jobeda, Anamul, 62, and Ujjal, 7. Police said Jobeda, daughter of Kala Chand of Dakkhin Sripur in Kaliganj upazila, was beaten to death allegedly by her stepmother after a quarrel. Anamul of Kushala village in Kashiganj Upazila died of snakebite in his house. He was asleep when the snake bit him. Ujjal, son of Emdadul of Talpala village in Sadar upazila, was killed in a traffic mishap on Satkhira-Khulna road. Separate cases were filed.

Couple arrested

NATORE, Aug 22: Police arrested a couple with 70 bottles of Indian Phenidyl from a house in the town on Sunday, reports UNB.

Being tipped off by locals, police raided the house of Uttam Kumar at Lalbari and nabbed him and his wife Rina Shing along with the drug. A case was filed.

99 roads constructed

PIROJPUR, Aug 22: Local Government Engineering Department constructed 99 roads and connecting roads during the last fiscal, costing Tk 1.82 crore, reports UNB.

Of the roads, eight were constructed in Kaokhali upazila while 22 in Nesarabad, nine in Nazirpur, seven in Bhandaria, 22 in Mathbaria and 11 in Sadar upazilas.

Property gutted

NOAKHALI, Aug 22: Property worth about Tk five lakh were damaged in a fire at a market in Daorhat area of the town on Saturday night, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the fire originated from a short circuit and raged through the market, burning down seven shops. Firefighters rushed to the spot and doused the flame.

Valuables looted

NOAKHALI, Aug 22: Armed pirates swooped on five fishing trawlers in the river Meghna and looted valuables worth about Tk 10 lakh early Sunday, reports UNB.

Fishermen said the robbers, came in another trawler, attacked them when they anchored their trawlers at Charbaya in sadar upazila at about 5 am. They beat up the fishermen and took away their fish, nets and other equipment. Twelve fishermen were injured in the attack.

Girl dies from snake bite

THAKURGAON, Aug 22: A little girl died by snake bite in village Lodhabari of Thakurgaon Sadar Upazila on Tuesday, reports BSS.

Shifat, 7, daughter of Aminur Rahman Nilu of village Lodhabari under Ranipur Union Parishad was beaten by a venomous snake on her bed. Her father took her to the Sadar hospital next morning where the attending doctor declare her dead.

EPZ construction in progress

BAGERHAT, Aug 22: Construction work on the country's third Export Processing Zone (EPZ) at Mongla is progressing fast, reports UNB.

The Export Processing Zone is being constructed on 460 acres of land at Jhanua and Buriganga mouzas on the bank of the River Mongla. In its first phase, construction work on 162 industrial plots on 140 acres of land is progressing at cost of Tk 61 crore, project director of MEPZ AZM Azizur Rahman told. The project components include construction of ideal factory building, medical centre, office building, fire service station, bridges, security barrack and dormitories for the employees. Works on 62 plots, security barrack and a number of roads and bridges have already been completed, he added. On completion, about 40 mills and factories would be set up at the zone with an investment of Tk 190 crore. Besides, some 22,000 people would get job opportunity.

Modern auditorium at Sherpur

SHERPUR, Aug 22: An 800-seat modern auditorium will be built in the district town at a cost of Tk 2 crore, reports UNB.

The construction of the auditorium, near Sherpur-Dhaka feeder road, will be started soon after receiving the government approval. The auditorium will have modern amenities, including stage balcony, a big dressing room, rehearsal room, echo-proof sound system and two VIP rest rooms. It will have a wooden performing stage with necessary electrification and provision of generator. Soil test of the auditorium has been completed and a tender will be floated on receipt of the government approval, according to official sources.

Crimes rise

TANGAIL, Aug 22: A total of one thousand and forty-eight criminal cases were recorded in 13 thanas here in the first half of the year, according to police sources, reports BSS.

Of the cases, 37 were murder case, 42 kidnapping, 14 smuggling, 129 women and children oppression and the rest were of different types of crimes, police and district administration added. Non-government sources said the number of criminal activities would be much more than that. Local people said deterioration of law and order is the reason of such situation.

Mother, daughter drown

RANGAMATI, Aug 22: A mother and her little daughter drowned on Saturday when a boat capsized in Kaptal Lake at Earingchhora in Langadu upazila, some 85 kilometer from here, reports BSS.

The victims were identified as Olura Begum, 25, and her daughter Ruma Akhtar, 5, police sources said. Langadu thana police sent the bodies to Rangamati Sadar Hospital for autopsy. The boat capsized due to over-load was bound for Maimukhabazar from Earingchhora in Langadu upazila of the district, police quoted the survivors as saying. A case of unnatural death was lodged with Langadu thana police in this connection.

Two little girls drown

BANDARBAN, Aug 22: Two little girls drowned into a ditch on Saturday last in Moangchhari village of Saikkam Union under Alkadam upazila, reports BSS.

Police sources said, Kohinor Akhter, 10, daughter of Abul Kalam and Hiranom, 6, daughter of Sahabuddin drowned while they were collecting water-lily from a ditch. They were rushed to the hospital where doctors declared them dead.



Sonali Bank
Head Office
Dhaka

Deadstock & Stationery Division International Tender Notice for Import of Security Cheque Paper

Sealed tenders are invited from the bonafide manufacturers of security cheque paper from local agents/representatives on behalf of the foreign principals/manufacturers from import of 4000 (four thousand) reams security cheque paper as per specification under the terms & conditions stated below:

01. SPECIFICATION OF SECURITY CHEQUE PAPER:

Sensitized security cheque paper cream wave in colour with invisible fluorescent pigment particles (security dots) all over the paper in 4 (four) colour which is visible under ultra violet lamp with the banks approved design of two-tone water mark in Bengali Script of Sonali Bank.

02. Size: 18"x23" (45.72 cm x 58.42cm) - 85 grams 500 sheets in a ream.

03. RATE:

Rate is to be quoted per ream C&F KAMLAPOUR, DHAKA VIA CHITTAGONG in US dollar/pound sterling as well as in corresponding Bangladeshi Taka equivalent inclusive of any taxes, if payable.

04. The quotations/tenders should clearly mention the names of the country of origin of security cheque paper and the period within which shipment will be made.

05. Cost of two-tone Dandy roll is to be quoted separately.

06. Sample of security cheque paper/water mark may be seen at the Dead Stock & Stationery Division, Sonali Bank, Head Office, (5th floor), Dhaka on all working days during the office hours.

07. Sample of security cheque paper is to be submitted with the tender as per terms & conditions No 1 and 2.

08. Earnest money @ 3% of the quoted value of security paper must have to be deposited through Payment Order/Call Deposit/Bank Draft purchased only from the branch of Sonali Bank/Internationally reputed any Foreign Bank issued in favour of the Deputy General Manager, Dead Stock & Stationery Division, Sonali Bank, Head Office, Dhaka. Cheque/ Bank Guarantee will not be accepted as earnest money.

09. PACKING:

International standard strong packet of 20 (twenty) reams bale packing.

The packing of the security cheque paper must be made tight & strong enough which will not break any way even in any odd situations in course of transportation up to our bank godown in Dhaka. Each packet will contain 20 (twenty) reams of paper & to be reinforced with 5 (five) layers of polythene coated craft wrapper all around with strong wooden top-bottom boards having metal straps from both directions around the packets.

10. Shipment of Security cheque paper is to be made through Bangladesh flag..... vessel.

11. The tenders are to be submitted on prescribed schedule available at Dead Stock & Stationery Division, Sonali Bank, Head Office (5th floor), Dhaka at a non-refundable price of Tk 1,000/- (one thousand) only up to 24.9.00 on all working days within office hours.

12. In case of local agents the quotations/tender should accompany the following documents:

- Photostat copy of current trade license duly attested.
- Photostat copy of Bangladesh Bank Indenting registration certificate duly attested.
- Photostat copy of Indenter's Registration Certificate from CCI&E Office duly attested.
- Income tax paid certificate for the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000.
- GIR number

13. The bank reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the quotations/ tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever. Sealed quotations/tenders should be addressed to "The Deputy General Manager, Dead Stock & Stationery Division, Sonali Bank, Head Office, Dhaka" and to be dropped in the tender box in the Dead Stock & Stationery Division, Sonali Bank, Head Office (5th floor), Dhaka. The envelope containing the tender is to be marked prominently in red ink as "QUOTATION/TENDER FOR IMPORT OF SECURITY CHEQUE PAPER."

Last date of receipt of tender is 25.9.00 up to 2-30 pm and the same will be opened at 3-00 pm on the same day by the tender committee of the bank in the presence of the tenderers, if any. If the tender can not be received/opened on the scheduled date and time due to unavoidable circumstances the same will be received/opened as per time stated above on the next working day.

SB/PRD/16/539/2000
GD-790

Abdus Sattar Khondakar
Deputy General Manager

ঢাকা ওয়াসা টেন্ডার বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পানি ব্যবহারে মিতব্যয়ী হউন

এতদ্বারা "এলুমিনিয়াম সালফেট"-এর প্রকৃত প্রকৃত কারক/আমদানিকারকদের নিকট হইতে ঢাকা ওয়াসার ফর্ম নং-২ এর অধীনে নিম্নবর্ণিত কাজের জন্য টেন্ডার আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে।

কাজের নাম টেন্ডার গ্রহণের তারিখ ও সময়

১। এলুমিনিয়াম সালফেট সরবরাহ (ফর্ম-৪) ২৮/৮/২০০০ইং বেলো ১২ টা পর্যন্ত

২। এলুমিনিয়াম সালফেট সরবরাহ (ফর্ম-৬) ঐ

দরপত্রসমূহ দরপত্র গ্রহণের দিনই বেলো ২-০০টার সময় দরপত্রাদা বা তাহাদের প্রতিনিধিদের সম্মুখে (যদি উপস্থিত থাকেন) যোগ্য হইবে।

আগামী ২৭/৮/২০০০ইং পর্যন্ত ঢাকা ওয়াসার প্রধান হিসাবরক্ষণ কর্মকর্তার অফিস, ওয়াসা ভবন, ৯৮, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ, ঢাকা ও ঢাকা ওয়াসার সকল মডস জোন অফিসে টেন্ডারের সিডিউল পাওয়া যাইবে। অন্যান্য বিস্তারিত বিবরণ নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর অফিসে পাওয়া যাইবে।

ঠিকানা : "ওয়াসা ভবন" ৯৮, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ, ঢাকা ওয়াসা-জরত-২৭০/২০০০ জিডি-৭৮৯

জাহিদুল আরিফ
নিবাহী প্রকৌশলী
সংগ্রহ বিভাগ
ঢাকা ওয়াসা