

National

Ashryan project brings hope for landless, homeless in Sirajganj

From Akhteruzzaman Bablu

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 13: Once they were landless and homeless people. They had no permanent place to live. But now they are not homeless, landless. Ashryan (housing) project for homeless and landless people by the government has provided them houses.

A total of 140 landless families have been rehabilitated under the project at Enayetpur, two-km east-west of Ullapara upazila headquarters in the district.

Besides, they are also provided with financial assistance to run income-generating activities. Tk 7 lakh 60 thousand has been disbursed so far among them as credit after imparting them training on poultry, sewing and nursery.

Tube wells have been installed for providing drinking water in the project area. However, eight tube wells out of 14 are now out of order, causing sufferings to inmates.

Most of the inmates in the Ashryan project had lost their houses in river erosion. But smiles once again returned to their faces when Ashryan project was set up in August 1998 on 15.12 acres of land on the bank of the River Karotoa.

Konika Rani Dash, an inmate who lives at house number 13 A, said he had been struggling for years to earn simple living. The Ashryan project has given her the opportunity eventually. She has received Taka five thousand as credit from the authority to start income generating activities.

The small credit programme for inmates of the project has been a successful initiative. The inmates are showing example how to earn decent living by utilising the credit. In fact, the credit programme has been able to engender enthusiasm among the poor people.

Yar Ali, who encountered Pakistani occupation forces in Pakshi of Pabna, Meherpur and Bagha of Rajshahi fronts during the War of Liberation, said the allocation of a tiny house and 10 decimal of land under the project has injected confidence in him to start afresh.



Kanika Rani, an inhabitant of Enayetpur Ashryan Project at Ullapara in Sirajganj district, has become self-reliant by sewing Kantha, traditional quilt of the rural people of Bangladesh. -Star photo

Father of four sons and two daughters, Yar Ali got the house in the project in August 1998 on priority basis.

He also received a loan of Taka 8000 from the Enayetpur Ashryan Bahumukhi Samabay Samity (Enayetpur Ashryan Co-operative Society) and Department of Forestry to start nursery business a year back. All is to repay the loan in 48 instalments with 8 per cent service charge.

Yar Ali said he has already paid 32 instalments against the credit and he is hopeful to pay the remaining instalments within the next three months.

Officials of Ashryan Bastobayan Sangstha of Prime Minister's Office, the implementing agency of Ashryan Projects across the country, said the agency is working hard to make the poor people self-reliant.

Tk 130.67cr BKB loans disbursed in six S dists last fiscal

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Nov 13: Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) disbursed Tk 130.67 crore as crop loans against different heads among 1,20,796 farmers through its 109 branches in six southern districts under Barisal division during the last fiscal (1999-2000).

The short-term crop loans had been given to the farmers for cultivation of 'Aus', 'Aman', 'Boro', potato, sugarcane, betel leaf and 'Rabi' crops in Barisal, Bhola, Pirojpur, Jhalakati, Patuakhali and Barguna districts.

Medium term loans also had been given for draft animal, cow fattening and poultry farming. Besides, the BKB branches had also disbursed a considerable amount of loan for poverty alleviation and income generating activities for the landless and marginal farmers during the period.

According to official sources, the branches recovered loan amounting to Tk 120.09 crore from 11,9,284 borrowers, showing an impressive recovery rate.

Besides, two workshops were in Barisal and Pirojpur with a view to selecting entrepreneurs for poultry farming and pisciculture.

Borrowers' gatherings were also arranged on 'Area Approach Method' (AAM) in different districts, upazila and union levels with a view to providing credit facilities to the doorsteps of people residing in remote areas.

Simultaneously, plans had also been taken to arrange workshops to popularise banana and betel leaf cultivation.

Meanwhile, till September this year BKB has disbursed Tk 28.99 crore against the target during the current financial year through its 109 branches in the division.

According to official sources, in Barisal Tk 5.49 crore has been disbursed against the target of Tk 28 crore, in Bhola Tk 8 crore against Tk 36 crore, in Pirojpur Tk 4.77 crore against Tk 17 crore, in Jhalakati Tk 1.80 crore against Tk 12 crore, in Patuakhali Tk 4.44 crore against Tk 28 crore and in Barguna Tk 4.49 crore against Tk 24 crore.

Md Nurul Huda Chowdhury, GM of BKB Barisal division, here said the bank, a specialised financial institution, is working hard for the development of agriculture and agriculture-based economy of the country.

News snaps

Indian national arrested

JOYPURHAT, Nov 13: Police arrested an Indian national along with three revolvers and 12 rounds of bullet from the rail line of West Ramchandrapur village in Panchbibi upazila Wednesday, reports UNB.

On information, police arrested Ataur Rahman alias Biman, 32, of Bikor village in Gangarampur thana of south Dinajpur district of India, red-handed and recovered the arms and ammunition from his possession. He came to the spot to sell the arms to a man contacted earlier. But seeing police presence the man did not turn up to buy the arms a case was filed.

Sweden provides Taka 405,000 to CRD

PANCHAGARH, Nov 13: The government of Sweden will provide 75,000 Swedish Kronor equivalent to Taka 405,000 to Centre for Rights and Development (CRD), a local NGO here to implement a short term project on Human Rights Awareness Training Programme, reports BSS.

Counsellor of Swedish Embassy Anders Granlund and Chief Executive of CRD Muhammad Abdul Matin signed an agreement on behalf of the respective organisations here on Sunday. The objective of the projects are to increase awareness on legal rights and obligation, to spread legal literacy, education and knowledge among the poor people, to arrange training for professional groups and village women and to address the relevant authorities for immediate redress of human rights abuses.

Bajitpur now illiteracy-free

KISHOREGANJ, Nov 13: Bajitpur upazila has been declared illiteracy-free after making 56,664 people of 11 unions including municipally area literate, reports UNB.

Local Government Minister Zillur Rahman unveiled the plaque of the Illiteracy-Free Bajitpur on Saturday. A total of 26,508 men and 30,156 women between 11-45 years of age took part in the examinations under the Total Literacy Movement 'Alore Pothey' after studying at 911 literacy centres in last six months.

Training on kitchen gardening

MADARIPUR, Nov 13: More women in rural areas of the district now engage themselves in kitchen gardening and Robi crops cultivation, reports BSS.

Rural women grow crops like radish, cauliflower, cabbage, pumpkin, cucumber, bean, lady's finger, tomato, papaya and banana. But they need training for cultivation. With this end in view, local Agriculture Extension Department (AED) has started a training programme for the interested rural women of 20 villages here. Under this programme 2,000 women of these villages will be given training in phases. Besides, various non-government organisations are also providing training relating to agricultural activities to the women in the district.

Man electrocuted

GOPALGANJ, Nov 13: A day labourer was electrocuted and another injured critically at Dumuria union in Tungipara upazila Tuesday, reports UNB.

The deceased was identified as Liton Miah, 30, of Nizra village. Witnesses said Liton Miah died on the spot and Abad Mollah, 45, of Taltoia village in Kashini upazila was injured when he came in contact with a live electric wire while working at an under construction building. Abad Mollah was admitted to Sadar Hospital.

50 shops ransacked

SHERPUR, Nov 13: People of two neighboring villages locked in a clash over a trifling matter, ransacked 50 shops and looted valuables worth Tk 10 lakh at a village market in Nallitbari upazila last week, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said angered by a village arbitration over a quarrel between two youths of Gagajani and Gollarpur villages, which left a tea stall partially damaged, one Akbar Ali of Gagajani village was assaulted by a group of youths of Gollarpur at Balughata Bazaar. With the spread of the news agitated people of Gagajani village equipped with lethal weapons swooped on the shops of the opponent villagers which led to the serious clash. Additional police forces were deployed in the bazaar to avert any further clashes.

Two day-labourers commit suicide

NILPHAMARI, Nov 13: Two day-labourers allegedly committed suicide by taking poison in Jaldhaka and Domar upazilas of the district recently, reports UNB.

The deceased were identified as Anil Kumar of Gabrol village in Jaldhaka upazila and Jagadish Chandra of Harinchara village in Domar upazila. Police said Anil took his own life having failed to endure his economic hardship while Jagadish killed himself after a quarrel with his son-in-law over dowry for his daughter.

Housewife strangled

KURIGRAM, Nov 13: A housewife was strangled allegedly by her husband in Chilmari upazila last week, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Dolly, 22, wife of Shah Alam Bitu. Villagers alleged that Bitu killed his wife as he had an illicit affair with her cousin. A case was filed.

Students get interest-free loan

FARIDPUR, Nov 13: Eighty students of Rajoir College of Madaripur district were given Taka 3000 each as interest free loan for pursuing studies by 'Sampri', a non-government organisation, reports BSS.

M Firuz Rahman, Zonal Settlement Officer of Faridpur zone attended the function as the chief guest at Rajoir College on Wednesday. The chief guest distributed the interest free loan among the students to pursue Higher Secondary and Degree classes. The guardians of the students, teachers of the college and union parishad chairmen of the locality attended the function. The function was presided over by M Giasuddin Ahmed, Principal of the college.

Mother, daughter slaughtered

COX'S BAZAR, Nov 13: A woman and her daughter were slaughtered in their rented house at Nila Pura Bazar near Teknaf border on Thursday, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as Shumita Rudra, 28, wife of Paritosh Rudra and her daughter Nishi Rudra, 4. Paritosh, an employee of a local NGO said he found the bodies on returning home from his working place. The reason behind the gruesome murders could not be known immediately. Police sent the bodies to hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was filed with the Teknaf thana.

Seven robbers arrested

HABIGANJ, Nov 13: Police have arrested seven inter-district dacoits in separate drives from different places of the district, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, police arrested four dacoits from new Khoal Bridge of Pura Bazar under Shayestaganj upazila on November 6 while three others on the previous day. The arrested were identified as Zaher, 40, of Brahmanbaria district, Farooque, 26, Nuruzzaman, 30, and Iftekar, 25, of Madhabpur upazila, Bachhu Miah, 25, Shafiq Miah, 30, and Hannan, 35, of Bahubal upazila of the district. Police also recovered a pistol and a pipe gun from a house of Misrichan Bibi of Chargaon village in their drive.

Septuagenarian killed

MANIKGANJ, Nov 13: A septuagenarian was crushed under the wheels of a microbus in front of the office of Baghzan Pali Bidyut Samity on Dhaka-Aricha highway early Friday, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Asalat Molla, 70, of Singuri village in Gheer upazila. Police said the accident took place at dead of night when the microbus bound for Dhaka hit the old man while he was crossing the road. A case was filed with the police in this regard.

Father, son with arms held

SYLHET, Nov 13: A man and his son were arrested along with four firearms at Comilla Bus Stand in Dakshin Surma area in the town recently.

Abul Hossain, 45, and his son Alamgir, 22, who hail from village Banglabazar Pekpara under Doarabazar upazila in Sunamganj district, were arrested along with four revolvers from a Comilla-bound night coach. They told police that they were supposed to hand over the arms, which they received from a group of people of Kashia tribe, to some body at Choudhagram in Comilla in exchange for Tk 2000. Police did not disclose details.

Smuggling of jute rises alarmingly

LALMONIRHAT, Nov 13: Jute is being smuggled out to India in massive scale through the border areas of 11 northern districts, due to its low price in the local market, reports UNB.

In India each maund of jute is reportedly being sold between Rs 400 and Rs 450 as against Tk 250-320 in the local market.

In last few days, smuggling of jute and some other products have increased alarmingly through different frontier routes including Fulbari of Kurigram district.

Everyday hundreds of maunds of rice, sugar and salt apart from hemp, phensidyl and other drugs is coming into the country through Atowari of Panchagarh, Godagari of Rajshahi, Porsha and Damuirhat of Naogaon, Barakhata of Lalmonirhat and Hilly, Fulbari and Birampur of Dinajpur district.

While visiting frontier districts of Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj, Naogaon, Joypurhat, Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Panchagarh, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram and Gaibandha for the last few days, it was known that an organised gang are engaged in carrying contraband items into the country through rail, road and water ways of these districts almost openly.

Locals alleged that border guards, law enforcers and even local administration are quite aware about the massive jute smuggling but they maintain silence due to reasons best known to them.

The Joypurhat-Bogra, Hilly-Fulbari-Gobindaganj, Chapainawabganj-Rajshahi, Kurigram-Bogra, Haragach-Rangpur roads and rail routes of Lalmonirhat-Santahar, Parbatipur-Khulna, Burimari-Lalmonirhat, Parbatipur-Rajshahi and Chilahati-Parbatipur became the safe havens of smugglers.

8 journalists murdered in S-W dists so far

KUSHTIA, Nov 13: Eight journalists have so far been killed by terrorists in the southwestern districts in recent years, reports UNB.

SM Alauddin, editor of the Padradut published from Sakhira, was killed by some terrorists at his office-cum-residence.

Besides, the editor of The Daily Runner, Faruq Hossain, was stabbed to death by hoodlums in Nawapara of Jessore district.

Rezaul Islam, general secretary of Kalganj Press Club in Jhenidah district, was gunned down while Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury, a reporter of Dainik Sphulinga of Jessore, was beaten to death.

The reporter of Dainik Loksamaj, Rafiqul Islam, was

8 journalists murdered in S-W dists so far

killed after being caught in crossfire between two armed cadres at BL University College in Khulna.

Mir Illas Hossain, editor of Dainik Bir Darpan of Jhenidah and founder of Sramajibi Mukti Andolan, was killed by terrorists in a brushfire.

Editor of Dainik Runner RM Saiful Alam Mukul was killed at Bezpura in Jessore when terrorists hurled bombs on him on August 30, 1998.

Noted journalist Shamsur Rahman of Dainik Janakantha was shot dead by terrorists at his office on July 16 this year.

Apart from this, Bazlur Rahman, a reporter of Dainik Deen Badaler Pala at Chudanga, was kidnapped by the members of Laltu Bahini.

Drug trafficking up in Rangpur

RANGPUR, Nov 13: Drug trafficking is on the rise in the district, contributing to the wild swing in the number of drug addicts, reports UNB.

Plainclothes police Tuesday in a raid on the house of Labu Mia at Char Alal in Gangachara upazila recovered 150 bottles of phensidyl.

In another drive at East Shalban and Babukhan in Kotwali thana last week, they recovered 30 and 28 bottles of phensidyl respectively and arrested Mizanur Rahman in this connection.

Police Wednesday seized one kg of hemp from the house of Ashek Ali, 40 at village Bhagirat Mashari in Kaunia upazila.

Yet in another drive, they arrested Monowara Begum, 30, with 110 grams of heroin from Khamar area of Kotwali police station Sunday. Police also arrested another woman Mariam

Begum, 27, with one kg of hemp from West Goneshpur in the town Saturday.

According to officials of Narcotics Control Department, they filed 1,554 cases against 1,776 drug traffickers from January 1999 to March 2000.

They also recovered 1.6 kgs of heroin, 3,427 bottles of phensidyl syrup, 417.5 kgs of hemp, 12,957 hemp lanterns, 338 bottles of foreign liquor, 62.6 liters of local liquor, 2,873.50 liters of rectified spirit, 73 ampoules of Pathedine and other drugs during the period.

In response to a query, they acknowledged that phensidyl is being sold at Mahiganj, Tajhat, College road, Jummapara, station road, Shalban, Muslimpara of the town with impunity.

They said they could not intensify their drive against the drug traffickers for lack of manpower and logistic supports.

2 get life term for murder

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Nov 13: A court here recently sentenced two people to suffer life imprisonment in a murder case.

The convicts are Tofazzal Hossain and Mahburur Rahman of Sheikhpur village in Gurdaspur upazila.

According to prosecution, the two stabbed Hurmot Ali to death and injured critically his son Sulaiman on October 12, 1997, following an altercation over land dispute.

A case was filed with Gurdaspur thana in this connection.

Best principal in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Nov 13: Tobarak Hossain, Principal of Jhenidah Degree College has been selected as the best principal in Jhenidah district.

After completion of education, Tobarak Hossain joined as the founder principal of Lalan Shah College. In 1981 Hossain became the founder principal of Jhenidah Degree College. Hossain is the project director of Jhenidah Diabetic Association and Commissioner of Jhenidah district.

He is also involved in many socio-cultural organisations.

48 posts vacant in Natore Rev Dept

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Nov 13: As much as 48 posts are lying vacant at Natore Revenue Department causing manifold sufferings to people.

Of the vacant posts, two are of assistant commissioner (land), six of surveyor, 11 of tahsildar, two of process surveyor, four of chairman and 12 posts of MLSS. The posts have been lying vacant for a long time.

Bangladesh Rifles Headquarters
Directorate of Administration
Cue & Ord Section
Peelkhana, Dhaka

Re-Auction Notice

Number: 401/13-A/IX/Cue Dated: 22 Kartik 1407/06 November 2000

1. This is for information of all contractors enlisted/non-enlisted with this section and bonafide bidders establishment/firm/contractors that miscellaneous useable ordnance materials kept at the central store of this section will be sold in an open auction on the 26th November 2000 at 1000 hours in the morning. Interested firms/contractors/bidders can take part in the auction. The materials to be auctioned can be inspected till 23rd November 2000 from 0830 hours to 1300 hours everyday on any working day (excepting government holiday) in the central store section. The undersigned may be contacted to know detailed information, if necessary.

2. Each of the participants in the auction will have to enlist their respective names in the bidder list by depositing Taka 10,000.00 (Ten thousand) as the security money to the chairman of the auction committee before the commencement of the auction. This deposited money is refundable only for the unsuccessful bidders.

3. 25% of the bid money will have to be paid to the chairman of the committee by the highest bidder the same day on completion of the auction and the rest of 75% money will have to be paid within maximum 7 (seven) days and all goods will have to be taken. Otherwise the deposited 25% money will be regarded as forfeited.

4. The authority reserves the absolute power to reject or accept any bid of the bidders (including that of the highest bidder) without assigning any reason.

DFP - 27071-7/11 DAQMG
G-1996 on behalf of the Director General

Dhaka WASA Tender Notice
(পানি ব্যবহারে মিতব্যয়ী হোন)

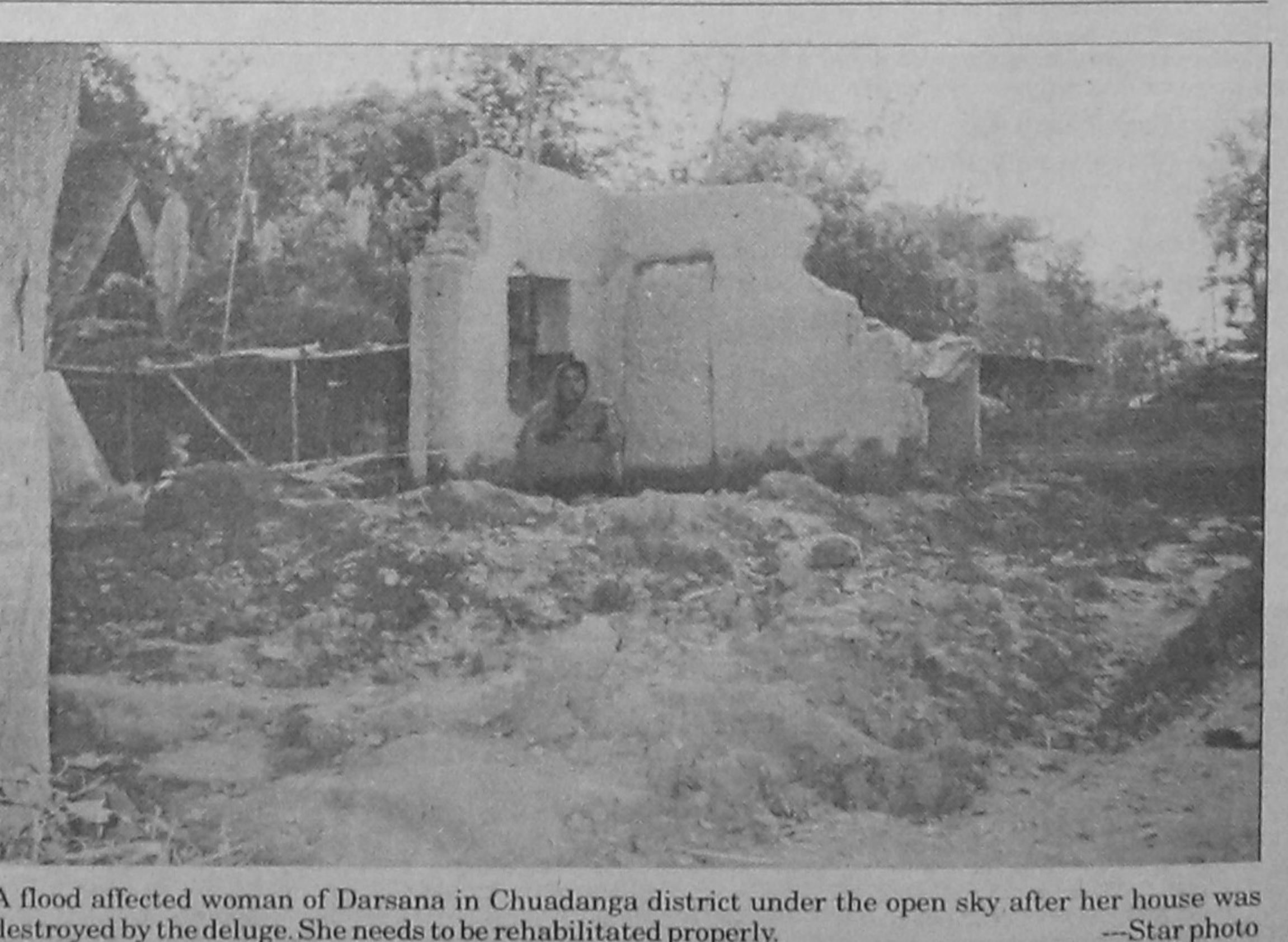
Tenders are invited from class I civil contractors enlisted with Dhaka WASA for the work mentioned below:

Name of the work	Amount of estimated money	Date and time of receiving tender
1) Installation work of 300, 150 and 100 mm diameter water line on Panthapath Road under the Interim Project-4.	Taka 51,29,888/-	4/12/2000 till 12 Noon
2) Construction of delivery and washout line of deep tubewell installed at Baghbairi Baitul Mamur Shahi Club Jame Mosque under Interim Project-4.	Taka 21,23,051/=	28/11/2000 till 12 Noon

Tenders will be opened on the day of receiving at 2-30 PM before the tenderers or their representatives (if anyone remains present).
Schedule of tender will be available in the office of the Chief Accounts Officer of Dhaka WASA, WASA Bhaban, 98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka and all MODS Zone offices of Dhaka WASA. Other details will be available in the office of the undersigned.

Address: WASA Bhaban
98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka
WASA-PI-360/2000
DFP-27050-7/11
G-1994

AKM Zafarullah
Project Director
Interim Project-4
Dhaka WASA



A flood affected woman of Darsana in Chudanga district under the open sky after her house was destroyed by the deluge. She needs to be rehabilitated properly. -Star photo