



Many valuable trees like this one in picture (left) are being cut indiscriminately at Rasulpur Forest Range under Muktagachha upazila in Mymensingh by the miscreants without any resistance from the forest guards or the members of law enforcing agencies. As a result many areas of the forest (right) have already been turned into grazing lands. Immediate steps should be taken by the authorities concerned to protect further denudation of the forest. --Star photo

Shal forest disappearing

Logging, land grabbing go unabated

From Aminul Islam

MYMENSINGH, Dec 5: Famous shal forest stretching on some 38,701 acres of land in Mymensingh district has lost its glory. At present, forest resources are found only in 20 per cent area covering about 800 acres of land, thanks to indiscriminate logging and grabbing of forestland by influential people. Now, in many areas, it is difficult to locate forestland, once mainly filled with shal trees, after which the forest is named. Some areas have already turned into grazing fields, although the areas are shown as forestland in official papers.

According to Forest Department sources, trees worth about Taka 250 crore have been pilfered from the forest, covering Bhaluka, Muktagachha, Trishal, Haluaghat, Phulbaria and Dubaura upazilas, over the last 25 years.

Unscrupulous timber traders in connivance with a section of forest officials and corrupt policemen are behind the crime.

It is learnt that some 500 godfathers are active in Aungagara, Habirbari and Uthura ranges in Bhaluka upazila, Santoshpur range in Phulbaria upazila and Rasulpur range in Muktagachha upazila. Sources said a section of policemen issue 'pass' in exchange for bribe when timber is transported.



Timber thieves allegedly pay Taka 50 for each rickshaw van, Taka 200 for each pushcart and Taka 1,000 to Taka 1,200 for each truck. The timber goes to different furniture shops in the district and other places including the capital city. Some 150 sawmills in the region are doing brisk business. Most of the illegal logs are cut to size in the sawmills.

Taramon Bibi sick, needs proper treatment

KURIGRAM, Dec 5: Taramon Bibi Bir Pratik, was accorded a warm reception recently at Rajjipur Upazila Parishad Auditorium, reports BSS.

"Though I am sick now and have no money to undergo treatment, but I am happy that our nation is liberated. All the freedom fighters should remain united always for the cause of the nation," she said.

The reception was sponsored by Idris and Company Ltd. and organised by local people from all walks of the society.

The reception was chaired by UNO of Rajjipur Upazila Ruhul Amin.

Additional divisional Commissioner of Rajshahi A K M Monirul Islam was present as the chief

guest while Deputy Commissioner of Kurigram AFM Solaiman Chowdhury was the special guest.

Among others, Commander of Rajjipur Upazila unit of Muktiyoddha Sangshad Abdul Hye, Prof. Abdus Sabur Farooqui and Akbar Hossain Htro addressed the function. The Upazila Administration of Rajjipur presented a golden key to Taramon Bibi, Bir Pratik, on this occasion. Another 22 freedom fighters were also presented with clothes in the ceremony.

In an exclusive interview, Taramon Bibi told that she fought for the country being inspired by the call of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Outlaws looted 100 arms in 5 years in S-dists

BAGERHAT, Dec 5: Activists of different outlawed parties and terrorist groups looted at least 100 arms and huge ammunition from various police outposts and government offices in the southern region during the last five years, reports UNB.

But, the law enforcing agencies seemed to be reluctant to recover the arms, although the terrorists killed a cop during committing the crime.

The extremist group in their latest swoop looted huge arms and ammunition from Duttapara police outpost in Madaripur district on July 1 last.

After the incident, security measures had been tightened in the police camps and outposts.

The bandits looted 19 arms and 280 ammunition from Duttapara police outpost. Eight arms were looted from Jakua police camp in Rajbari district on February 7, this year.

Besides, 12 arms were looted from the security guards of Alil

Jute Mills in Jessore on September 19, 1999, 10 arms from a cable factory in Khulna on August 1, 1998, 21 arms were taken away from Khulna collectorate godown on September 4, five arms from the Ansars of a passenger launch in Bagerhat on May 5 in the same year.

The terrorists snatched away eight arms from on-duty police in a train in Jhenidah on August 24, while five from Sea Food factory in Khulna on December 29 and one from Bagerhat Sonali Bank on December 30 in 1997.

Moreover, the terrorists looted seven arms from Baruli police outpost in Khulna on August 22, 1996 and four arms from police at Uthali rail station on January 28, 1995.

Police, however, recovered all the seven arms looted from Baruli police outpost, one in Bagerhat launch dacoity and 11 arms in Duttapara arms loot incident.



The underconstruction Jhenidah Central Bus Terminal at village Gobindapur on Jhenidah-Magura highway. Its sixty per cent works have already been done. --Star photo

Construction of Jhenidah bus terminal progressing

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Dec 5: Construction of Jhenidah Central Bus Terminal at a cost of Taka 91 lakh has been progressing fast. At least 60 per cent work has been completed.

Jhenidah municipality has been constructing the terminal at Gobindapur, near Jhenidah-Magura highway.

The terminal is being constructed on 915 square meter area under Mid Town Structural Development Project-2 with Asian Development Bank (ADB) providing financial assistance.

Earth filling work for the project has been completed at a cost of Taka 28.39 lakh.

When contacted, Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) officials said that the construction work started on June 11 this year and it was scheduled to be completed by October 2 this year. But now it is likely to be completed by February next year.

When completed long cherished demand of local people will be fulfilled. The terminal will also contribute to easing traffic jam in the district, officials said.

News snaps

FF laid to rest with state honour

LAKHIMPUR, Dec 5: Abul Kalam, 55, a valiant Freedom Fighter, son of late Bazlur Rahman of East Char Shahi village was laid to eternal rest with state honour on November 28 last at his family graveyard. He died of tuberculosis disease on the previous day, reports BSS.

The national flag with wreaths was laid over his grave. His burial ceremony was attended, among others, by ASF (Circle) M Lutful Kabir, OC Sadar Thana Skeikh Abdul Mannan, UNO Sadar Mashhur Rahman and the Member Secretary of Freedom Fighter District Unit Command Ali Ahmad Chowdhury.

Soap factory worker arrested

KISHOREGANJ, Dec 4: Police arrested a worker of Mufi Hannan's soap factory from in front of the local jail on Monday, reports UNB.

Mufi Hannan set up the factory at Kotalpara in Gopalganj and was wanted in connection with a powerful bomb planted recently at Kotalpara near the public meeting venue of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The arrested worker was identified as Mohammad Dulal Mia, son of Mohammad Abdul Gani of Chandpur village in Tarail upazila here. On secret information, police nabbed him under Section 54 when he came out from the jail on bail in a criminal case. Dulal said he was working at the factory for six months and fled away hearing the link of the Mufi with the abortive attempt on the life of the Prime Minister.

3 killed in Jhenidah road mishaps

JHENIDAH, Dec 5: Three people were killed and five others injured in two separate road mishaps at Barobazar in Kaliganj upazila on Dhaka-Khulna on Friday-Saturday, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said two people identified as Mosarraf Hossain, 32, helper of a truck and Shekhar, 35, a vegetable trader were killed and five others injured when a vegetable laden truck plunged into a roadside ditch on Saturday. Mosarraf died on the spot while Shekhar succumbed at the local Kaliganj health complex. The injured were also sent to the same hospital. In another incident on Friday an old man identified as Korban Ali, 70, of village Manikdhi in Jessore Sadar was killed when a truck hit him from behind. He met the accident while talking with a person by the side of the road. Separate cases were filed with the police.

Tk 65 lakh post-flood rehab

MADARIPUR, Dec 5: The work on 13 middle town development project is underway in Madaripur Municipality at a cost of Taka 65 lakh, reports BSS.

The project is being implemented under Post-Flood Rehabilitation Programme. Official sources said, about 80 per cent work has been completed and the rest is expected to be completed very soon. After completion of the project road communication in the municipality would be developed.

2 killed in Sherpur road mishap

SHERPUR, Dec 5: Two persons died and six persons were seriously injured in a road accident at Nabnagar Mazar under Sherpur Sadar upazila recently, reports BSS.

Police said, the accident occurred when a Nakhla bound tempo collided head-on with a maxi coming from opposite direction. As a result two persons died on the spot. They are identified as Lal Miah, 55, and Sahaz, 35. Six persons received critical injury. They were admitted to Sherpur Sadar Hospital. A case was lodged with Sherpur Sadar Police.

Four arrested: Pipe gun seized

KISHOREGANJ, Dec 5: Hussainpur Thana Police arrested a man with pipe gun from a house of village Motkhola on Thursday night, reports BSS.

The man was identified as Abdul Ali, 20, a day labourer, son of Ahmed Ali of the village. On secret information, police raided his house at night and caught Abdul Ali with a pipe gun. Earlier, Bhairab Highway Police arrested three dacoits from Akbarnagar area of Kikraprasad Union on Bhairab-Kishoreganj highway at night. Arrested dacoits are identified as Akhtar, 30, Kamal, 26, and Liton, 35. Acting on a tip-off, police raided the area and arrested them. They were preparing to commit dacoity in buses and trucks.

Day of the Disabled observed

NARSINGDI, Dec 5: The International Day of Disabled Persons was observed here on Sunday. The day was organised by the Department of Social Service to create awareness through holding rallies and discussion meeting, reports BSS.

The rally, led by Sush Ranjan Dev, Deputy Commissioner of Narsingdi, carrying banners and festoons, paraded the main roads of the town. After the rally a discussion was held at Narsingdi Town Hall with Shaifuddin Ahmed, Deputy Director, Social Service Department, Narsingdi, in the chair, Ashraf Hossain, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Gen) attended the discussion as the chief guest. The discussion was addressed, among others, by Amir Hossain, Social Service Officer, Monohardi Upazila, Masuda Farouk Ratna, Executive Director, Gram Bikash Sahayak Sangstha, Abu Taher, BSS Correspondent, Narsingdi and Mustaq Ahmed.

Boro farming on 16,200 hectares

PIROJPUR, Dec 5: A scheme has been taken up to bring 16,200 hectares of land here under Boro crops cultivation with a production target of 47,620 mts in the current season, reports UNB.

Agriculture Extension Department sources said of the land, 15,500 hectares will be brought under Ufsi variety and the rest under the local variety. Of the total, 1,550 hectares will be cultivated in Sadar, 60 hectares in Kautkhal, 1,650 hectares in Nesarabad, 9,315 hectares in Nazipur, 100 hectares in Bhandaria, 3,525 hectares in Mathbaria upazilas. Meanwhile, Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation has been supplying quality seeds and other necessary inputs among the farmers at fair prices to make the programme a success.

World AIDS Day observed

COMILLA, Dec 5: The World Aids Day was observed here on December 1 through elaborate programmes. The programmes included rally, discussion meeting and exchange of views on the day with the journalists, reports BSS.

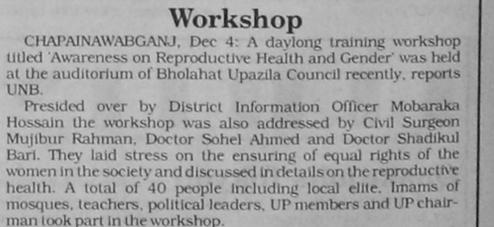
District Health and Information Department organized the programme. On this day, District Information Department Organised an exchange of views with local journalists at its office. Dr Abdul Mamin, Assistant Director of Family Planning presided over the meeting. District Information Officer Jasmuddin, Dr Iqbal Anwar, Prof A K M Mafizur Rahman spoke on this occasion.

Workshop

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Dec 4: A daylong training workshop titled 'Awareness on Reproductive Health and Gender' was held at the auditorium of Bholahat Upazila Council recently, reports UNB.

Presided over by District Information Officer Mobaraka Hossain the workshop was also addressed by Civil Surgeon Mujibur Rahman, Doctor Sohel Ahmed and Doctor Shadikul Bari. They laid stress on the ensuring of equal rights of the women in the society and discussed in details on the reproductive health. A total of 40 people including local elite, Imams of mosques, teachers, political leaders, UP members and UP chairman took part in the workshop.

People of Shahpara under Sadar upazila in Gaibandha district have set a unique example of repairing a road on self-help basis recently. Photo shows the villagers are engaged in the voluntary work.



People of Shahpara under Sadar upazila in Gaibandha district have set a unique example of repairing a road on self-help basis recently. Photo shows the villagers are engaged in the voluntary work. --Star photo

Tk 317.60 cr uplift works undertaken in two Sylhet upazilas

SYLHET, Dec 5: Government has taken up 21 development projects at a cost of over Tk 317.60 crore in sadar and Companiganj upazilas, reports UNB.

Officials sources said works on some of the projects have been started and the rest will begin from January next. The projects are likely to be completed by 2003.

The works include construction of Shahjalal Bridge-2 and Shahjalal bridge-3 over the River Surma and modern railway station and construction of Surma Bridge to replace the Keine Bridge near circuit house in the town.

According to officials work on Shahjalal Bridge-3 at a cost of Tk 50 crore and railway station costing Tk 18 crore are progressing fast.

The Tk 50-crore Shahjalal Bridge-2 is in final stage and the work will begin soon.

Lone drug rehab centre in Khulna is ailing

KHULNA, Dec 5: The number of drug addicts in the division multiplied in recent years, but the number of clinics for their treatment did not, reports UNB.

The bad news is that there is only one clinic, Madakshakti Niramaya Kendra, for the treatment of drug addicts from Barisal and Khulna divisions.

Unfortunately, this five-bed clinic, set up in October 1995 to tame wild swings in the number of drug addicts, is beset with numerous problems like lack of doctors.

Although the pressure for admission to the clinic at city's Shamsur Rahman Road continues to mount, the number of beds in it could not be

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
Lalmonirhat

Invitation for Bids
IFB No 10/2000-2001

Memo No. LGED/XEN/Lal/T-11/2000/2694; Date: 27/11/2000

IFB No 10/2000-2001 Date: 27/11/2000

IDA Credit No: 3177-BD Credit Name: Municipal Services Project

1. The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) in various currencies towards the cost of Municipal Services Project (MSP) & intends to apply of the credit proceeds to cover eligible payments under the contracts for Flood Damage Rehabilitation Components of Project.

2. The Executive Engineer Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) District Lalmonirhat invites sealed bids for construction/reconstruction and completion of works listed below. This invitation for bids is open to all bidders enlisted with LGED in addition, foreign bidders are eligible to bid without this enlistment but if awarded contract, would be required to enlist with LGED, furthermore, when enlistment is done at district level, Bangladesh contractors enlisted with LGED in other district are also eligible to bid. Procurement is open to all bidder from eligible source countries as defined in the IDA's Procurement Guideline. However, countries not eligible under the project also include: the Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Brunei, Darussalam, Cyprus, Kuwait, Qatar, Singapore, United Arab Emirates.

3. Bidding documents (and additional copies) may be purchased at the office of the (i) Executive Engineer, Local Govt. Eng. Department, District-Lalmonirhat on non-refundable fee of Tk 1,000.00 (Taka one thousand) only for each set during normal office hours on all working days up to 22/01/2001. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same addresses during office hours up to 22/01/2001.

4. The provision instruction to bidders and in the conditions of contract are the provision of the standard bidding document procurement of works (SBD) national competitive bidding (Trial Edition-January 2000), issued by the World Bank Office, Dhaka.

5. Bids shall be valid for a period of 63 days after bid opening and must be accompanied by a bid security as mentioned under para No 2 above. Bids must be delivered to the office of the (i) Executive Engineer, LGED, District-Lalmonirhat on or before 23/01/2001 by 2.00 PM.

6. Bidders may deliver their bids by either in person or by courier service or by mail, which must reach the above office before the deadline for submission of bids, bids received after the deadline will not be accepted.

7. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representatives who choose to attend at 2:15 PM on 23/01/2001 at the office of the Executive Engineer, LGED, District-Lalmonirhat.

8. A pre-bid conference will be held on 20/12/2000 in the office of the undersigned at 10 am. All bidders are requested to attend the conference in time.

Md Shahidur Rahman Pramanik
Executive Engineer
Local Government Engineering Department
Lalmonirhat

DFP-29119-30/11
G-2127

Tributes to Kurigram martyrs

KURIGRAM, Dec 5: The Genocide Day at Hatia under Ulipur Upazila was observed in a befitting manner recently, reports BSS.

In 1971, 697 people of village Hatia under Ulipur Upazila were shot dead by Pakistani occupation forces in connivance with local collaborators.

Ulipur Unit Command of Muktiyoddha Sangsad chalked out elaborate programme to pay due homage to the martyrs of Hatia. At 8 am in the morning, floral wreaths were placed at Ulipur Shaheed Minar, Swadhinatar Smriti Sudho and on the 'Ganokabar' (a mass grave) of the martyrs at Hatia.

A discussion meeting was organised which was chaired by Commander of Ulipur Unit of Muktiyoddha Sangsad Glam Mostafa. Sub-Sector Commander of sector No 11 and Additional DIG of Police of Rajshahi Range Shafiullah was present as the chief guest who fought in the area in 1971.

Liberation War Memorial work going on

MYMENSINGH, Dec 5: The construction work of Liberation War Memorial of Mymensingh is going on in full-swing. District Administration and Mymensingh Zilla Parishad jointly supervising the progress of the work, reports BSS.

The memorial is being constructed on the western bank of the River Brahmaputra, adjacent to the 'China-Bangladesh Motree Setu' (Mymensingh-Shambhuganj) Bridge, at an estimated cost of Taka 55.32 lakh.

According to an official source, Government of Bangladesh, District Administration, Mymensingh Zilla Parishad, Muktiyoddha Sangshad, different socio-cultural and professional organisations and people of all walks of the district have been providing necessary fund for construction of the memorial.

Earth filling work for the project has been completed at a cost of Taka 28.39 lakh.

When contacted, Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) officials said that the construction work started on June 11 this year and it was scheduled to be completed by October 2 this year. But now it is likely to be completed by February next year.

When completed long cherished demand of local people will be fulfilled. The terminal will also contribute to easing traffic jam in the district, officials said.

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