

BMDA takes up mini-ditch digging programme

From Abdul Wadood

RAJSHAHI, Dec 13: Barendra Multipurpose Development Authority (BMDA) has undertaken a massive programme of digging mini-ditches in its area for irrigation in the dry season and pisciculture.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is giving financial assistance for the programme.

BMDA sources said, the project began in 1999 and a total of 150 mini-ditches had already been dug under the first phase of the project.

One hundred fifty more mini-ditches will be dug during the ongoing dry season.

Measurement of each mini-ditch is 16 feet by 16 feet in length and breadth and six feet in depth. Saplings of different varieties of fruit and wood trees are also being planted along the mini-ditches.

Farmers are also cultivating fish in the ditches. BMDA sources said, the mini-ditches are becoming popular among the farmers of the

Barendra region.

Aman paddy is the main crop in the Barendra region which is transplanted and reared in the rainy season when normally irrigation is not required. But, most of the years, the sources said, amount of rainfall decreases in the month of September and October. This drought-like situation causes serious decrease in production of paddy. To face this emergency situation, farmers use to irrigate their paddy fields from the near by ditches and ponds.

But the ditches and ponds are neither sufficient in number nor distributed all over the area in a planned manner.

So, most farmers cannot use the traditional method.

BMDA sources said that a drought-affected paddy field of one to two bighas of land could be irrigated from a mini-ditch.

RU students face transport problem

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, Dec 13: About 12,000 non-resident students of Rajshahi University, who are living in different areas of city corporation, have been facing transport problem for a long time due to shortage of buses, reports BSS.

A large number of students come to the university regularly by buses being congested and also clinging the doors. Most of the seats of the buses are broken for that reason and the students are to travel in standing. Accident may occur at any time.

One-third of the passengers are the students of schools and colleges. They travel in the university buses regularly as there is checking system.

University authority takes Taka 18 per

head as transport fee from all students at the starting of the academic year along with other fees. But most of the students cannot avail of the transport facilities.

Transport authorities said, at present, a total of 27 out of 29 buses plying on different routes. Of them 14 buses plying for teachers and officers of the university and the rest 13 buses are for students and employees.

When contacted Prof. Jahidul Hasan, Acting Administrator of the Transport Section told that this section of Rajshahi University was established in 1967. Most of the buses of RU were brought in the seventies. For that reason 10 buses are not in good shape. Even its parts could not be repaired. The transport authorities bought five buses during the nineties

which are still giving good service.

He also told that the existing problem of the transport section could be solved if the budget for this sector is increased by 20 per cent. The RU authority also tries to increase budget and solve the problem of the students of Rajshahi University.

On the other hand, the bus stand of Rajshahi University campus is in a pitiable condition. When contacted M. Abdul Rahman, Chief Engineer of RU told that it is the City Corporation's responsibility to develop the bus stand including RU roads in the campus. If the situation does not improve, the Rajshahi University authorities will start the work soon.



Unabated logging of valuable Sal timber and bamboo is going on at Kaptai from where those are being transported to different destinations throughout the country. —Star photo by A K M Mohsin

Truck with yarn seized in Rajbari

RAJBARI, Dec 13: Police seized a truck laden with Indian cotton yarn from Doulatdia ferry ghat area on Thursday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, police raided the area at dead of night and seized the truck carrying yarns worth about Tk 12 lakh.

Sensing police arrival the driver and the helper of the truck fled the scene. A case was filed. Police in another drive arrested a man along with a jar full of 3.4 kg phensidyl syrup from the jetty area on the same night.

Police said Nasir, 25, was arrested on way to Dhaka from Jessore.

5 held on charge of murder

SHERPUR, Dec 13: Police arrested five persons on charge of murder recently, reports BSS.

Police raided Nowhata area in the town and arrested five persons on charge of killing a woman.

The arrested were identified as Bazul Rahman, Fazal Mistri, Anisuzzaman, Iqbal and Kusril Begum.

The arrested persons allegedly killed Surja Begum, wife of Dulal Khan, on April 14, 1999.

Sirajganj was freed on December 14

From Akhtaruzzaman Bablu

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 13: Local people here observe December 14 as Sirajganj Liberation Day. On the day 29 years back the then subdivision headquarters was totally freed from the Pakistani occupation, much to the happiness and relief of people.

People from all walks of life in the district forged strong unity during the War of Liberation to achieve the independence of the country.

The Pakistani occupation forces launched crackdown on innocent people on April 25. However, the occupation soldiers faced resistance on the first day at Sirajganj town. Members of Sechchasebak Bahani, a voluntary organisation, tried to resist the advancing army. They halted a train carrying Pakistani soldiers in Gatina railway bridge area. However, the soldiers succeeded to enter the town.

They killed hundreds of innocent people, including women and children. Members of Behari community and Muslim League joined Pakistani forces. They also killed many prominent figures in the town. The army captured all the nine upazila headquarters by April 26,

1971. The Pakistani forces set up their camps at public buildings in the town.

Following the crackdown people fled the town. Most of them took shelter in villages and the neighbouring India. Thousands of young men left the country for India to have military training. Many stayed in the country and organised people to fight the Pakistani forces.

Latif Rahman Arun was assigned to impart training to local youths. On June 14, the training camp at Bhadrachal under Kamarkhanda upazila came under the enemy attack. But Pakistani soldiers equipped with modern weapons faced strong resistance. The both sides shared casualties. After that freedom fighters had to retreat.

During the period between June and July freedom fighters started gaining advances. Freedom fighters led by Amir Hossain Bhulu, Abdul Latif Mirza, Shorab Ali Sarker, Latif Rahman Makhani, Ishak Ali, Alamgir Hossain, Abdul Aziz Sarker, Bimal Kumar Das, Abdul Aziz Mirza, Aminul Islam Chowdhury, Motaahar Hossain Talukder, Anwar Hossain Ratu and Ismail Hossain

launched fierce guerilla attacks on the occupation soldiers and their local collaborators—members of Razakar, Al Badar and Al Shams forces.

Fierce battles took place in Tarash, Bhadrachal, Baritoli, Salla Bari, and Ullapara areas. In Tarash battle, took place on November 11, at least 100 Pakistani soldiers were killed and 11, including a captain, detained.

Freedom fighters Gazi Latif Rahman Arun, Abdul Latif Mirza, Latif Rahman Makhani, Alamgir Hossain, Abdul Aziz Sarker, Bimal Kumar Das and Abdul Aziz Mirza played important role in the battle.

Battle of Salla Bari was other important battle. Marauding freedom fighters faced resistance from the Pakistani occupation forces in Sadar upazila. Freedom fighter Sultan Aziz, Samad, Safor, Abul Khaleq embraced martyrdom. Aminul Islam Chowdhury was seriously wounded.

Allied Forces entered Sirajganj town on December 13 midnight and conquered. On December 14 the district was totally freed from the Pakistani occupation.

Photo feature on plantation, marketing of betel-leaves

By Kamran Reza Chowdhury



The pictures on top show (1&2) a typical way of plantation of betel-leaves inside an enclosure made of bamboo and straw at village Murgul under Mohonpur upazila in Rajshahi district, (3) a farmer at the same village plucking betel-leaves, while picture number 4 (bottom) shows the process of sorting betel-leaves while pictures (5 & 6) show the marketing of betel-leaves by truck from a wholesaler to a retailer at Saheb Bazaar in Rajshahi city. —Star photo



29th martyrdom anniversary of Serajuddin Hossain

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, Dec 13: The 29th martyrdom anniversary of journalist Serajuddin Hossain was observed here on December 10.

Various programmes, including discussion, were organised to mark the day. Dr Abdulla-Hel-Kafi, Hossain Seraj, Khan Rakibul Huq Dipu, Rubayat Firoz, Khan Mazharul Huq Lipu and Sagar Zaman, among others, addressed the discussion. Abu Bashar Akhand presided over.

At the flag end of the Liberation War on December 10 in 1971 Pakistani soldiers and their local collaborators picked up Serajuddin Hossain, who hailed from village Shorshuna under Shalikh upazila in the district, from his residence in Dhaka.

The journalist, who then worked with the Ittefaq, never returned.

Gopalganj DIARY

Man killed in clash

From Our Correspondent
GOPALGANJ, Dec 13: A man was killed and 35 others were injured in a clash between two rival groups over land dispute at Shinga village under Kasiani upazila recently.

The dead was identified as Shudhir Kumar Mondal, 55. Local people said supporters of Gopal Biswas and Shudhir Kumar Mondal (the dead man) clashed over setting up an irrigation pump in a disputed land. The injured were rushed to jail. A case was filed in this connection.

One dies in road accident

A businessman was killed in a road accident on Gopalganj-Takerhat Road at Binarchar under Mukusdipur upazila recently.

The dead was identified as Abdul Latif Khan, 30. Police said a truck hit the man from behind. He was crossing the road. The driver managed to flee the scene. Police, however, seized the vehicle. In separate accident, a college student of village Mazbari under Katalipara upazila was killed at Mazubir on Gopalganj-Kotalipara Road recently. He was identified as Abdur Razzak, 18. The accident occurred when the student was crossing the road.

Three jailed for possessing contraband

A court here recently sentenced three people to seven years' in prison for possessing contraband.

According to prosecution, the three were arrested on August 22, 1997 for carrying 531 bottles of Indian phensidyl syrup in a private car. Police intercepted the car in which they were travelling near Bherarhat on Gopalganj-Takerhat Road and recovered the contraband. The convicts were identified as Harun-or-Rashid, Abu Taleb Gazi and driver Moniruzzaman. After examining the records and witnesses the judge pronounced the verdict.

Firearm recovered, one arrested

A man along with a firearm was arrested at Sngarakul village under Sadar upazila recently.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided a house in the village and recovered a revolver from the house. Police arrested Ranjan Mondal, 28, in this connection. A case was lodged in this connection.

Fire kills man in Kushtia

KUSHTIA, Dec 13: A man was killed and another injured in a devastating fire that broke out at a poultry farm at Shyampur in Doulatpur upazila last week, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as M Arozulla, 32, caretaker of the farm. Another guard Moti sustained severe burn injuries.

Witnesses said thousands of poultry birds worth about Tk 4 lakh also were roasted alive in the fire originating from short circuit.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Health Directorate
Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212

Memo No: HD/ME/Admission/MBBS/2000/345

Date: 10-12-2000

Subject: Notice for admission into MBBS course in government medical colleges during 2000-2001 academic session.

Applications are invited in prescribed form under following terms and conditions for admission into 1st year MBBS course in 13 government medical colleges of Bangladesh during 2000-2001 academic session.

1) Candidates willing to get themselves admitted must have the following eligibility:

a) Should be a permanent citizen of Bangladesh.
b) Should pass the SSC/Dakhil or equivalent examination from any Secondary and Higher Secondary Board/Madrassah of Bangladesh or from any recognised board or university outside the country and HSC/Alim or equivalent examination without any third division with physics, chemistry and biology. Should obtain at least 1300 marks in both examinations and should have pass marks in biology (theoretical and practical separately) in HSC or its equivalent examination.

c) The candidates who passed the SSC examination before 1997 and HSC or equivalent examination before 1999, will not be eligible to apply.

2) a) 1450 male/female students will be admitted into 13 government medical colleges on the basis of merit and district quota. 70% (i.e. 1015 seats) of the 1450 seats stated will be selected on the basis of national merit, rest of the 30% (i.e. 435 seats) on the basis of population of 64 districts on the basis of district merit will be selected.

b) 40 (forty) additional seats will be reserved for the children of freedom fighters. These candidates should have the same minimum eligibility. Should obtain at least 1300 marks in total in SSC and HSC examinations. They will have to submit certificate in support of participating in great War of Liberation of their father/mother signed by the chairman/convenor of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Central Command Council and countersigned by the Chief Advisor with the application. Chances will be given for admission into these reserved seats in different medical colleges purely on merit basis.

c) A total of 16 additional seats with 12 seats for the candidates of Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban hill districts (3 tribal and 1 non-tribal in each district), 2 for the tribal candidates from greater Sylhet district and 2 seats for tribal candidates for other districts will be reserved. They should have minimum educational qualifications like the other general students, but they can apply if they obtain at least 1200 marks in total in SSC and HSC examinations and will have to appear at the same admission test. They will have to submit applications regarding character, tribe and district from the deputy commissioner of their respective districts and tribe chief (in case of tribal candidates) and in case of non-tribal candidates they will have to give certificate from the deputy commissioner of their respective districts regarding district and character. Chances will be offered for admission into different government medical colleges in these reserved seats totally on the basis of merit.

3. The final selection for admission will be done on the basis of the results of the following examinations-

a) The written test on the current syllabus of HSC course will be held on (MCQ) system and physics, chemistry, biology, general knowledge and English will be included:

(Physics-30, Chemistry-30, Biology-30, English and =	100 marks
General Knowledge-10)	
b) 40% of the total marks detain in SSC or its =	40
equivalent examination	
60% the marks obtained in HSC or its equivalent =	60
examination	100 marks
Total =	200 marks

No viva-voce test will be taken and time fixed for

written test: One hour.

4) Selection will be made on the basis of the marks obtained in physics, chemistry and biology in HSC examinations if the total marks obtained is equal. If that is also equal, the merit will be selected on the basis of marks obtained in biology.

5) In case of claiming the district quota, the district as mentioned in the application is the permanent district of the candidate will have to be certified by the mayor of local city corporation/pourasabha chairman or approved official/local thana nirbahi officer/chairman of union parishad/first class magistrate/official.

6) The decision in which medical college the candidate will get the chance for admission will be fixed on the basis of merit prepared for final result of the admission test and option of college as given by the candidate will be fixed. It will have to be mentioned on the specific column of the application as to in which college the candidate wants to get himself admitted on order option. If the candidate does not want to get himself admitted in any college then (x) will have to be given in the space or keep the space blank.

7) Processing of admission forms security and finalisation of results will be done by computer. Examining answer-scripts will be done by OMR machine marks tested in (OMR) machine can not be challenged in any court. But if there is any objection regarding the results of the test then application will have to be made within 15 (fifteen) days from the day publishing results to the Director, Medical Education and Health Manpower Development, Health Directorate, Mohakhali, Dhaka by depositing a Bank Draft for Taka = 500/- (five hundred) (non-refundable) in his favour for scrutiny of the respective result. The applicant will be informed about the result after scrutinising the answer script by the scrutiny committee.

8) Candidates passing HSC or its equivalent examination from different boards can deposit application form in the college by procuring the prescribed application from any medical college according to their choice, but in case of Dhaka Medical College, only the student who have passed the examinations from Dhaka Board can procure application form and deposit. Students passing from Dhaka Board may procure application form and deposit application form as per their option apart from Dhaka Medical College.

9) a) Application forms can be procured on payment of Taka 20 (twenty) (non-refundable) from the specific medical college. The application form will have to be deposited in the college after filling them up properly with Taka 260/- (two hundred sixty) (non-refundable) as centre fee in the college from which the application form has been procured.

(b) The following documents will have to be enclosed with the application form.

- 1) Attested photocopies of marksheets of SSC and HSC or equivalent examinations.
- 2) Attested photocopy of the certificate from official as mentioned in 5(b) section regarding permanent district.
- 3) Three copies of attested recent passport size photograph.
- 4) Attested photocopy of the certificate as mentioned in section 2(c) for the seats on the basis of quota for tribal and non-tribal candidates.
- 5) Attested photocopy of certificate as approved by government of the participating in Liberation War as mentioned in section 2(b) by the candidate's father/mother for the seats reserved for the children of freedom fighter.
- 6) Incomplete application and application with wrong information will be cancelled and in case of the candidates appearing at/passed in the admission test, any wrong information is detected later on, then his test/result will be regarded to be cancelled. No applications, under any circumstances will be acceptable after the expiry of the specific date.
- 7) Any application regarding the change of name of respective district in the specific column of the application and order of option of colleges for admission, under no circumstances will be acceptable.

10)

(a) The list of total 1490 with 1450 select on national merit and district quota and 40 seats as reserved for the children of freedom fighters will be informed at the time of publishing final result of the 1490 candidates getting the chance. 154 will be admitted on the basis of total merit and option of college in the Dhaka Medical College. 153 each in Sir Salimullah, Chittagong, Mymensingh, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Barisal and Rangpur Medical College and 53 each in Khulna, Faridpur, Bogra, Dinajpur, and Comilla Medical College will be distributed for admission. At the same time waiting list on merit basis will also be published. The seats which will remain vacant after the expiry of the last date of admission, will be filled in from the waiting list. Chances will be given to the candidates prior to filling up the seats from the waiting list for changing college on the basis of the merit of male/female students and order of options (automigration), but this chance will not be for more than twice.

b) Students finally selected in the seats reserved for tribal and non-tribal students will be nominated for admission into different colleges on basis of merit and option apart from Dhaka and Sir Salimullah Medical College.

11) Final admission of the selected candidates will be on the basis of the fitness of health by medical test by the medical board as fixed by the principal of medical college concerned. The following original copies of certificates and documents must be deposited at the time of admission. Otherwise, the selection of the candidate will be rejected outright.

- a) Original certificate of passing SSC or its equivalent examination.
- b) Original provisional certificate or testimonial of passing HSC or its equivalent examination.
- c) Original certificate regarding district.
- d) Original marksheets of SSC and HSC or their equivalent examinations.
- e) Original copy of certificate from deputy commissioner or tribe chief for the tribal and non-tribal candidates of hill districts and tribal quota seats of other districts as mentioned in section 2(b).
- f) Original certificate regarding participation in Liberation War by the mother/father of the applicant in the reserved seats for children of freedom fighter as approved by the government mentioned in section 2(c).
- 12) Migration of student from one college to another will totally be closed during the academic session for the admitted male/female students.
- 13) Application forms for admission can be procured from all the offices of the principals of government medical colleges from 17/12/2000. The last date for depositing application form in the medical colleges concerned is 10th January 2001. The written test for the admission will be held on Friday, the 26th January 2001 at 9:00 am at the venue as fixed by the principal of the colleges concerned. Black ball point pen will have to be brought at the time of admission test.
- 14) The application form will be rejected outright if there is no signature of the applicant on the application form.
- 15) All information regarding admission can be known from the offices of the concerned medical colleges.

Professor Shah Monir Hossain

Director

Medical Education and Health

Manpower Development

Health Directorate, Mohakhali, Dhaka