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Munshiganj town canal filling up plan approved

From Our Correspondent

MUNSHIGANJ, Jan 17: The famous canal that passes through the heart of Munshiganj town is going to be filled up shortly. The Government has already approved the scheme and necessary funds will be made available and work on the project will start as soon as possible. This was stated recently by the SDO, Munshiganj.

It deserves mention here that this canal served a link water route between Dacca city and other districts such as Khulna, Barisal, Jessore, Faridpur etc. by the river Padma 900 years ago. When the work on the project will be completed the area of this town will be almost double and the accommodation problem will ease to a great extent allowing all classes of people particularly the businessmen, to expand their business.

This canal is used for only 4 months in a year and for 8 months it remains almost dried up and becomes useless for boat communication. So, the Government decision has widely been hailed by the town dwellers, including Bikrampur Sangram Parishad. The link with Padma and Meghna will remain as usual. With Dhaleshwari and Buriganga and for that matter Dacca city the water link can be maintained by another canal by the side of the town provided this canal is brought under canal digging scheme of the Government as launched in the country under mass participation programme as part of the revolution.

BUS, LAUNCH FARES

The BRTC bus fares were increased recently with effect from January 4. From Gulistan to Narayanganj — a distance of 10 miles — the fare has been raised from Taka 1.050 to Taka 2 causing great hardships to thousands of passengers whereas the BRTC bus fare from Fulbaria to Narshingdi — a distance of 34 miles — was increased from Taka 5 to Taka 5.75 only.

It was not known on what basis the BRTC had increased the fare arbitrarily. This correspondent while travelling in a BRTC bus on January 5 from Gulistan to Narayanganj noticed big tussle great chaos and confusion over the sudden increased fare which ended in a quarrel between passengers and the conductor. Serious type of incidents were averted due to the tactful handling of the situation by some sober passengers.

However, the passengers hope that the authority would come forward to decrease the rate of bus fare at least between Gulistan and Narayanganj, the famous port city of the country.

Great resentment was expressed over the increased rate of bus and launch fares from Dacca to Narayanganj and Munshiganj by advocate Shahidul Alam Syed, a prominent member of the Munshiganj Lawyers Association who demanded immediate restoration of the previous rate in a Press release issued here recently.

A former Lecturer of the Jagannath Varsity College Mr. Alam also demanded early completion of the Narayanganj-Munshiganj link road for making the communication easier.

DISTRICT DEMANDED

The lawyer pleaded for declaring the Munshiganj subdivision as 'Bikrampur district' with the existing subdivisional town as the district headquarter in the interest of the people of this subdivision.

The press release added that historical Bikrampur has her district identity and ideology by virtue of which it can claim to be a separate district.

This town is experiencing frequent power failures causing difficulties to the town dwellers, including businessmen, lawyers students etc. The businessmen mills and factory owners are the worst sufferers as they incur heavy losses because of interruptions in power supply.

An unofficial source revealed that during the last three months ending in December power supply was disrupted about 1000 times.

HIGHWAY

Immediate completion of Dacca-Khulna Highway which passes through Bikrampur was demanded at a meeting of Munshiganj town branch of Bikrampur Sangram Parishad held here recently. The meeting warned that any attempt

to divert the sanctioned amount for this highway elsewhere would be a gross injustice, and urged the authority to complete the unfinished work of the highway without further delay.

Government policy of decentralisation of the administration and creating new districts and subdivisions was appreciated at the meeting. The Government was urged to create a Bikrampur district. The meeting was presided over by Mr Abdul Haque, Prof Howlader Abdur Razzaque Joint Secretary, Bikrampur Zilla Sangram Parishad (central), also attended the meeting.

EYE CAMP

Under the auspices of Dilusha Lions Club, Dacca, a 10-day Eye Camp was inaugurated at Bhaberchar High School premises under Gazaria PS on December 26 and ended on January 4. A large number of eye patients attended and were operated upon. World famous Ophthalmic surgeons Dr Frank Billson and Dr Arthur Le in performed the operations.

About 500 patients were treated at the camp. Mr Mohd Fazlul Karim Molla, local Union Parishad Chairman, bore the expenditure concerning the Eye Camp.

INFORMATION CENTRE

The local Information Centre is at present housed in a small tin-shed house. Formerly it was a horses pathic dispensary owned by the Munshiganj Pourasava. The Information Centre should be shifted to a better place with sufficient accommodation to afford facilities to the readers.

It is alleged that only 2 vernacular newspapers are available at the centre. A spokesman of the centre told Times that they were compelled to reduce the number of daily newspapers from 4 to 2 for lack of funds.

It is learnt that the pourasava is pressing hard to vacate the house to restart the homeopathic dispensary for the people of this town and humanitarian grounds.

Local people urge the Department concerned to look into the matter for all-round improvement of this centre.

LESS CRIMES

Crime situation seems to have improved in the subdivision according to statistics available from an official source. The statistics revealed that during the year 1979 number of dacoities committed were only 16 whereas robberies and burglaries committed were 27 and 88 respectively. In the year 1978, 27 dacoities, 34 robberies and 112 burglaries were committed in different police stations of the subdivision. Twenty-five dacoits have so far been arrested, four of them confessed their guilt.

Laudable efforts were made by SDPO Mr A. Hashem under the supervision of the Superintendent of Police, Dacca, Mr A.F.M. Mahmood-Al Farid, to minimise crimes in this subdivision.

Probhati Shishu Clinic was started at Dholagon Bazar under Munshiganj subdivision with the help of philanthropists of the locality. The foundation stone of this clinic was laid by the SDO, Munshiganj, on January 6. It is hoped that the local children, particularly the poor ones, will be benefit-