No bribe, no paddy procurement

S DIIIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Each farmer, whose name was drawn in lottery, will get a chance to sell one tonne of paddy to the government at Tk 26 per kg rate. But it has been alleged that the growers cannot sell their paddy without paying bribes to warehouse officers and

The government started buying paddy from farmers on December 15 last year and it will continue till mid-March. A total of 9,669 farmers who have been picked through lottery can sell their paddy to all the seven government food warehouses in the district. Each farmer can sell one tonne of paddy at Tk 26 per kg rate.

But the farmers are being harassed in various ways when they denied to pay Tk 500 to Tk 700 and Tk 1,000 to warehouse labourers and officers, alleged local growers, adding that especially farmers who come to sell their paddy in Puranbazar Kalibari and Dalpatti warehouses of Sadar upazila are the worst sufferers.

A target has been set to procure 9,669 tonnes of paddy from Lalmonirhat during the current Aman season. The paddy is being procured by seven government food warehouses in the district. About 3,83,800 tonnes of paddy have been harvested from 65,290 hectares of land in the district this year.

Lebul Islam, a farmer of Harati village in Sadar upazila, said "On the first day, the officer of Puranbazar Kalibari food warehouse returned my paddy showing the cause of moisture problem as I denied to pay bribe

money. But two days after the incident, I could sell the same paddy when I paid the bribe money.

Another agricultural card holder Ataur Rahman of Bhitorkuti village in the same upazila said they face various problem when they went to sell their paddy to the government food warehouse.

"If we protest over the corruption, we are harassed in various ways," said Ataur.

Solaiman Ali, a farmer of Gobdha village in Aditmari upazila, said "I was very disappointed when the food officer of the warehouse in the upazila returned my paddy showing the cause of moisture problem. It happened as I refused to pay the bribe money.'

"I don't want to face such hassle again. So, I sold my lottery coupon to a local broker at Tk 2,500," said Solaiman.

Contacted, Shahinur Rahman, food officer of Puranbazar Kalibari warehouse, declined to make any comment on the issue.

District Food Controller Kazi Saifuddin said the government pays wages to warehouse workers through labour handling contractors.

"We gave clear instruction to warehouse staffers that no farmer would be harassed in selling their paddy. Despite the instruction, if any farmer is harassed, strict action will be taken in this regard after investigation," he said.

Deputy Commissioner Abu Jafor said if proof of any government warehouse staffer's involvement in irregularities is found, legal action will be taken after



Farmers wait at a government warehouse in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila to sell their paddy. The photo was taken on Sunday.

Agitating collectorate assistants in front of Tangail deputy commissioner's office yesterday.

DEMAND FOR UPGRADATION

Collectorate assistants' strike enters third day

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The collectorate assistants in Tangail continued their work abstention for the third consecutive day yesterday as part of their central programme demanding change of their official designation along with upgradation of salary.

They brought out a procession in the Judge Court area in the morning and later staged a sit-in in front of the office of the deputy commissioner, like the previous two days.

Mozibor Rahman, president of Tangail district unit of Bangladesh Collectorate Assistants Association, and Motaleb Siddique, its general secretary, spoke there.

They said although the designation of collectorate assistants and their equivalent employees of secretariat were equal previously, the government in 2000 changed the designation of the latter and upgraded their salary with promotions.

On the other hand, the designation and salary grade of the collectorate office employees were not changed.

The employees of the collectorate offices have continued movement since 2001 for realising their rightful demands, but the authorities are yet to pay heed to it, the speakers said.

They warned of waging a tougher movement if their demands are not met.

Meanwhile, Md Shahidul Islam, deputy commissioner of Tangail, talked to the agitating collectorate employees and requested them to join their work.

Lalmonirhat shivering in cold

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Near-freezing conditions in the first week of Magh, the last month of winter season according Bangla calendar, has brought everyday activities to almost a standstill in Lalmonirhat.

Yesterday morning, mercury fell to 7.2 degrees Celsius in Lalmonirhat where it dipped to as low as 8.2 degrees the day before.

People in the area are advised to brace for colder days as temperature in the district is likely to fall further, according to a forecast of the met office in Rajarhat.

The ongoing cold wave has been causing boundless sufferings for all -- especially the young, the elderly, day labourers and farm

Saifur Rahman, a 70-year-old resident of Uttar Saptana village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, said, "The cold is unbearable" and this

has been the coldest year in his life.

With bone-chilling cold and a persistent blanket of fog over the area throughout the day, impoverished people have been trying to keep themselves warm by basking in straw fire.

Many of them, without any warm clothes, are still trying to make a living by working as day labourers at agricultural fields.

"I went to the field ignoring the cold to earn a living, but I couldn't carry on," said farm worker Nazir Ali, 65, from Bangram village of

Sadar upazila. Rickshaw puller Noor Mohammad, a slum dweller in Shaheed Shahjahan Colony area of Lalmonirhat town, said he did not even dare to get out with his rickshaw in such cold. "Besides, there's not too many passengers out on the road."

With no money coming in, he had to rely on no more demand now.

loans to feed his family, he added.

Unable to afford even any blanket, the homeless and the extreme poor, both in the town and in char areas of the district, are passing each day with the hope that the coming davs will get warmer.

Homeless Momina Begum, from Khorapul village in the same upazila, said, "I'm a landless person living on an abandoned railway line. I'm trying to survive in the cold by bundling up in some old rags. Neither the government nor the NGOs gave me anything [blankets or warm clothes].

Lalmonirhat Contacted, Commissioner Abu Zafor claimed that there is not much demand for free blankets in the district as the people there have become more "self-reliant". "At the beginning of the winter, we distributed around 4,000 blankets. There is



Braving bone-chilling cold and thick fog, an elderly farmer carries his produce to a kitchen market in Phulgachh village of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila. The photo was taken yesterday morning. PHOTO: STAR

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Local Government Engineering Department

উনুয়নের গণতন্ত্র শেখ হাসিনার মূলমন্ত্র Office of the Upazila Engineer Bhaluka, Mymensingh www.lged.gov.bd



Memo No. 46.02.6113.002.000.001.20-997

e-Tender Notice No. 04/2019-20 e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of works

SI. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of works with package No.	Type of Method	Tender last selling (date & time)	Tender closing (date & time)	Tender opening (date & time)
01.	412567	Major Maintenance of 1. Bhoradoba, 2. Aulatoli & 3. Loha Boi Boradi Govt. Primary School (e-Tender/PEDP-4/MMN/ BHA/2019- 2020/W17.00644).	ОТМ	16-Feb-2020 at 17.00	17-Feb-2020 at 14.00	17-Feb-2020 at 14.00
02.	412568	Major Maintenance of 1. Dhakuria, 2. Panihadi & 3. Jhalpaza Govt. Primary School (e-Tender/PEDP-4/MMN/ BHA/2019- 2020/W17.00645).	ОТМ	16-Feb-2020 at 17.00	17-Feb-2020 at 14.00	17-Feb-2020 at 14.00
03.	412569	Major Maintenance of 1. Komo Para & 2. Dumni Ghat Govt. Primary School (e-Tender/PEDP-4/MMN/ BHA/2019- 2020/W17.00646).	ОТМ	16-Feb-2020 at 17.00	17-Feb-2020 at 14.00	17-Feb-2020 at 14.00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Mohd. Rafiqul Islam Upazila Engineer LGED, Bhaluka, Mymensingh Phone: 01708-161435

SI closed for bribery

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A sub inspector (SI) of Faridpur Police Station was closed to Pabna Police Lines suspended yesterday for allegedly taking bribe from the families of two detained drug addicts on

The policeman is idenfified as SI Mintu Das.

SI Mintu was suspended as the allegation brought against him was proved in primary investigation, Pabna Additional Superintendent of Police Goutam Kuman Bishwas said.

On Sunday night, SI Mintu arrested two drug addicts -- Munnaf Hossain, and Russel Hossain of Per Faridpur village.

He later took Tk 20 thousand from the arrestees' families, assuring them to release the duo after producing them before a mobile court.

GD-161

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department Office of the Executive Engineer District: Faridpur

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উন্নয়নের গণতন্ত্র শেখ হাসিনার মূলমন্ত্র

Memo No. 46.02.2900.000.07.001.19.215

Date: 21-01-2020

e-Tender Notice No. 34/2019-20 (OSTETM)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of

No.	I ender ID No.	Package No.	Name of work
01.	412274	CRMIDP/FARD/W-295	Construction of two (2) Storied Rural Market Building with 04 Storied Foundation in Bosuna Lokkhondia Bazar under Madhukhali Upazila Dist-Faridpur.

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

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The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to 4:00pm on 23-02-2020. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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