

Water hyacinth invasion renders Boro farmers jobless



The invasion of water hyacinth on 500 bighas of cropland, in Jatapur and Shahshree areas of Hail Haor under Srimangal upazila, has left thousands of farmers jobless for two years.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Several thousand farmers, whose livelihoods depend on Boro cultivation, have plunged into abject poverty over the last couple of years due to accumulation of water hyacinth on about 500 bighas of cropland in Srimangal upazila's Jatapur and Shahshree areas of Hail Haor.

For survival, many of the farmers and their family

members have been relying on meagre income from working as day labourers in Mirzapur town or catching fish in the area.

The free-floating aquatic plant started to accumulate on the low-lying cropland, suitable for cultivation of Boro rice, in between the Gofla river and the damaged section of the river's western embankment, said the farmers.

Heaps of water hyacinth is getting stuck in Shahshree

well as Jatapur villages while floating towards the breached parts of the embankment behind, said Bimal Das, a farmer from Shahshree village, while talking to this correspondent.

The aggregation of the invasive plant over the past two years has turned the land uncultivable for thousands of local farmers, he also said.

Abdul Gaffar, another farmer from the same area, said the damaged embankment on the river's

western bank is one of the reasons why the floating water hyacinth is increasingly being drawn towards their Boro land.

"We've been growing Boro in this part of Hail Haor for generations. This is our only source of income. But over the last couple of years, we couldn't grow any rice here," said farmer Sadek Mia, from Jatapur village.

Jatapur resident Khurshed Ahmed said despite contacting the union parishad and upazila parishad offices numerous times during this time, no steps were taken to remedy the situation. "But without being able to grow rice there, my family is going unfed most of the time."

Acknowledging the situation, Mirzapur Union Parishad Member Mohit Paul said the situation aggravated as the damaged western embankment of the Gofla river has been left unrepaired for around three years.

He also said the union parishad has no resources or capacity in conducting the repair work on the levee. But for the sake of the farmers, it

needs to be done urgently.

Srimangal Upazila Agriculture Officer Nilufar Yasmin Monalisa Sweetie said after paying a visit to the area, she came to learn that about three thousand farmers are living in misery as they could not grow Boro due to invasion of water hyacinth in the area in the last two years.

Since the farmers are not in the capacity to remove such a huge amount of water hyacinth accumulation from the cropland, she would raise the issue to higher authorities, she added.

Contacted, Upazila Nirbahi Officer Nazrul Islam said he would take necessary steps after making an enquiry over the situation.

Ranendra Shankar Chakraborty, executive engineer of Water Development Board in Moulvibazar, said once they receive a petition from locals, seeking a solution to the problem, they would prepare a project proposal, incorporating both dredging of the Gofla river and repairing its western embankment at the same time.

Ensure hassle-free justice

FROM PAGE 1

"Let not so many cases pile up. Please be cordial and take steps to finish these trials. We will extend our cooperation if needed, but we don't want such a huge number of cases pending trial."

She said the Awami League government always pledged to establish rule of law. "Whenever we came to power, we ensured that first. We give our special attention to establishing the right to justice for all."

Recalling her and her younger sister's miserable days of waiting for justice for the killings of their father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and other family members on August 15, 1975, Hasina said no one should suffer in the absence of justice like they did.

The PM renewed her call for writing judgments in Bangla alongside English so that the general people can understand the judgments.

She also spoke about rape incidents and her government's steps taken in this regard.

Nearly 1,000 rape cases, including over 200 for gang rapes, have been reported between January and September this year, according to Ain o Salish Kendra. The actual number is thought to be much higher

than this as most victims do not report assaults.

Countrywide recent protests sparked by a series of rape incidents prompted the government to incorporate the death penalty as the highest punishment in the related law.

The premier said the government promulgated Women and Children Repression Prevention Ordinance 2020 to ensure the toughest punishment for the offenders and control this crime. The cabinet has already passed the ordinance and it will be placed in parliament in the next session for its passage.

Talking about drug abuse, Hasina said it is a big problem in the society as this menace completely destroys a family. She said the government is continuing its drive against drug abuse.

The premier said the government wants everyone involved in drug abuse to be punished quickly so that the society and families can be freed from the menace.

Hasina said when three organs of the government -- legislature, judiciary and executive -- work complementarily with each other, the country can run properly.

She urged the judiciary to take steps to introduce virtual

courts in all jails across the country like it has been done in Keraniganj jail in Dhaka.

The premier briefly described various development activities of her government for the development of the judiciary.

Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, Law Minister Anisul Huq and Law Secretary Golam Sarwar also spoke at the programme.

Covid death

FROM PAGE 2

Besides, a total of 1,910 Covid-19 patients recovered from their illnesses in those 24 hours, raising the total number of recoveries to 331,697. The overall recovery rate is more than 80 percent.

Of those who died yesterday, 17 were males and four were females. All of them died in hospitals, according to the press release.

One of them aged between 21 and 30, four between 41 and 50, two between 51 and 60 and the rest 14 were above 60 years old.

One each of them was from Mymensingh, Rangpur, Barishal and Khulna divisions while five were from Chattogram and the rest 12 were from Dhaka division, read the press release.

Encroachers building structures on 3 govt ponds

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Three government ponds on about three acres of land at Mohipur Bazar in Kalapara upazila are allegedly being grabbed by a section of local influential people.

Apart from this, locals are throwing waste in the ponds, polluting waters there, said some residents of the area.

As a result, the ponds now turn into breeding grounds of mosquitoes, they said.

Although Mohipur union land office prepared a list of 52 grabbers in August last year and sent it to the office of assistant commissioner (land) in the upazila, the encroachment has been going on openly as the authorities concerned failed to take any action against the encroachers.

According to the union land office, the three government ponds named Kalibari Pukur-I, Kalibari Pukur-2 and Kacharibari Pukur lie at Mohipur Bazar, a fish landing station near Kuakata sea beach. There are 10,000 business establishments and dwelling houses in the area.

Of the 52 grabbers, 31 have encroached Kalibari Pukur-I, 17 have occupied Kalibari Pukur-2 and four have grabbed Kacharibari Pukur, said Md Azizur Rahman, sub-assistant



Many illegal structures have been built after filling up a major portion of one of the three government ponds at Mohipur Bazar in Patuakhali's Kalapara upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

land officer of the union land office.

The grabbers are building various structures after filling up the ponds, said locals, adding that many establishments have already been built occupying large portions of the ponds.

But the authorities concerned have not taken any steps to stop the illegal construction, they alleged.

During a recent visit, this correspondent found a signboard, which is inscribed with the name of

alleged occupier Md Nurul Haq, hung at a tin-shed house on a pond. The construction workers in the house were working to build a permanent structure there.

Nurul Haq said two years ago, he bought a piece of land from another local person named Md Selim at a cost of Tk 4 lakh. He made an oral contract with Selim while purchasing the land from the latter.

"I am now trying to get a DCR (duplicate carbon receipt) from the local land office," he said.

Despite repeated attempts, this correspondent could not reach another alleged grabber Md Sahid, also the partner of Nurul Haq, for his comment on the issue as he did not receive the phone calls.

Sub-assistant land officer Azizur Rahman said they also sent the list of encroachers to Kalapara upazila nirbahi officer for seeking lawful steps. But no instruction came from there.

Contacted, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Md Munibur Rahman said they got the list. They will conduct a drive there soon to demolish all illegal structures.

The eviction drive has been delayed due to coronavirus situation, said the UNO.

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক
(সেন্ট্রাল ব্যাংক অব বাংলাদেশ)
প্রধান কার্যালয়
মতিঝিল, ঢাকা-১০০০
বাংলাদেশ

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-১৪২/২০২০

তারিখঃ ১৯ কার্তিক, ১৪২৭
০৪ নভেম্বর, ২০২০

উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আহবান

ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটির সদস্যভুক্ত ৫টি ব্যাংকে 'অফিসার (কাশ)' এর ডিসেম্বর/২০১৮ সাল ভিত্তিক ১৫১১টি শূন্য পদে সরাসরি নিয়োগের উদ্দেশ্যে প্রার্থীদের MCQ Test ও লিখিত পরীক্ষা গ্রহণকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান নির্বাচনের ই-টেন্ডার বিজ্ঞপ্তি।

ক্রম	শিরোনাম	বিবরণ
১	কাজের নাম	ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটির তত্ত্বাবধানে ৫টি ব্যাংকে ডিসেম্বর/২০১৮ সাল ভিত্তিক 'অফিসার (কাশ)' এর ১৫১১টি শূন্যপদে নিয়োগের উদ্দেশ্যে অনলাইনে আবেদনকর্তাদের মধ্যে প্রবেশপত্র ডাউনলোডকৃত ১,১৬,৪২৭ জন প্রার্থীর একই দিনে ১ (এক) সেশনে অভিন্ন প্রশ্নপত্র সম্বলিত একাধিক সেটে ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশনের মধ্যে অবস্থিত পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রে ০১ ঘণ্টাব্যাপী ১০০ নম্বরের MCQ Test এবং কম/বেশী ১৬,০০০ জন প্রার্থীর ভিন্ন তারিখে অভিন্ন প্রশ্নপত্রে ১ সেশনে (পঞ্চাশ হাজার) জন প্রার্থীর নিয়োগ পরীক্ষা/ভর্তি পরীক্ষা গ্রহণ ও ফলাফল তৈরীর আভিভূক্ত রয়েছে।
২	যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা	সরকার কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত উচ্চ শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান/প্রশিক্ষণ ইনস্টিটিউট/কনসালটিং ফর্ম যাদের বিগত ৫ (পাঁচ) বছরের মধ্যে (টেভার দাখিলের তারিখ হতে) এক বা একাধিক কার্যকর/চুক্তির আওতায় একক আয়োজন সরকারি/আধা-সরকারি/স্বায়তশাসিত সংস্থা/ব্যাংক বা আর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠানে কমপক্ষে ৫০,০০০ (পঞ্চাশ হাজার) জন প্রার্থীর নিয়োগ পরীক্ষা/ভর্তি পরীক্ষা গ্রহণ ও ফলাফল তৈরীর অভিজ্ঞতা রয়েছে।
৩	নির্দেশিকা ও সিডিউল	বিস্তারিত নির্দেশনা ও শর্তাবলী সম্বলিত দরপত্র সিডিউল বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের ওয়েবসাইটে www.bb.org.bd এর e-Tender-এ পাওয়া যাবে।
৪	অংশগ্রহণ কার্যক্রম	ক) উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতিতে e-Tendering-এ অংশগ্রহণের আহ্বায়ী প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহকে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের ওয়েবসাইটে (www.bb.org.bd) রেজিস্ট্রেশন সম্পন্নকরতে য-য আইডি ও পার্সওয়ার্ড ব্যবহার করে আর্থিক প্রস্তাবের নির্ধারিত Form পূরণপূর্বক যোগ্যতা, অভিজ্ঞতা ও সংশ্লিষ্ট যাবতীয় কাগজপত্রাদির সত্যায়িত কপি আপলোড করতে হবে। খ) দরপত্র সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রামাণ্য যাবতীয় কাগজপত্রাদি ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি সচিবালয় এর মহাব্যবস্থাপক মহোদয়ের অফিস কক্ষে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বগে দাখিল করতে হবে।
৫	দাখিলের শেষ সময়	১৭/১১/২০২০ তারিখ সকাল ১০.১৫টা পর্যন্ত।
৬	খোলার সময়	১৭/১১/২০২০ তারিখ সকাল ১০.৩০টায় দরদাতাপন অথবা তাদের প্রতিনিধিবৃন্দের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্রসমূহ ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি সচিবালয় এর মহাব্যবস্থাপক মহোদয়ের অফিস কক্ষে অনলাইনে খোলা হবে।
৭	অন্যান্য শর্ত	ক) পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রে পরীক্ষার্থীর ধারণ ক্ষমতা ও অন্যান্য বিষয়ে বিএসসিএস-এর সাথে আলোচনাক্রমে কেন্দ্র চূড়ান্ত করতে হবে। খ) অসম্পূর্ণ ও ত্রুটিপূর্ণ দরপত্র বিবেচনা করা হবে না। গ) কর্তৃপক্ষ সর্বনিম্ন দরপত্র গ্রহণে বাধ্য নয় এবং কোন প্রকার কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল অথবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।

ব্যাংকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হয়ারানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

আরেক হোসেন খান
মহাব্যবস্থাপক, বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক
ও
সদস্য-সচিব, বিএসসি

ডিসিপিং: ৪৮/২০২০-৩১৪০
তারিখঃ ০৪/১১/২০২০
জিডি-১৭৬৫

HC accepts

FROM PAGE 2

behalf of her client along with more than 400-page documents of the case seeking Minni's acquittal of the charges brought against her.

On that day, ZI Khan Panna, principal counsel for Minni, told this correspondent that the trial court convicted and sentenced Minni based on her confessional statement made under section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and CCTV footage.

"We will prove that Ayesha Siddika Minni is completely innocent during hearing of the appeal before the High Court," he said.

The five other condemned convicts are: Rakibul Hasan alias Rifat Farazi, Abdul Kaiyum alias Rabbi Akon, Mohaiminul Islam Sifat, Rezwanul Khan alias Tiktok Ridoy and Md Hasan. They were also fined Tk 50,000 each.

The Barguna court acquitted four accused -- Rafiqul Islam Rabbi, Mohammad Sagor, Kamrul Islam Saimum and Md Musa -- as they were found innocent in the murder case.

The documents of the sensational Rifat Sharif murder case reached the HC on October 4 as a death reference to examine the trial court verdict.

If a lower court sentences any person to death in a case, its judgment is examined by the HC through hearing arguments for confirmation of the death sentence.

The case documents and judgment reach as death reference to the HC from the lower court in seven days after the latter delivers the verdict.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives
Local Government Division
Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project-II
Project Management Unit (PMU)
5, Phoenix Road, Nagar Bhaban, 5th floor, Fulbaria, Dhaka-1000
www.uphcsdp.gov.bd

Memo No. UPHCSDP-II/PMU/COR/IC/2018/02/819 Date: 04.11.2020

Request for Expression of Interest for National Consultants Procurement Specialist (SD-11), (2) Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Manager (SD-14.3) and (3) Gender Specialist (SD-15)

The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GOB) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank ("ADB"), Loan no. 3705-BAN and Grant 0607 towards the cost of the Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project-II (UPHCSDP-II) under the Local Government Division (LGD) of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives. LGD is the Executing Agency (EA) for the Project, and it intends to apply a portion of proceeds to engage Individual Consultants to provide consulting services.

- The **Procurement Specialist** will be recruited on individual basis and the main objective of the consulting service (the Service) is to provide technical support in the implementation of the Project in the area of procurement. The consulting service will require about **24 national person-months inputs** (intermittent). **Experience, skills and educational qualification:** The Specialist should have a Master's degree in any discipline. S/he must have at least 10 years experience in the field of procurement, preferably in the health sector. S/he must have demonstrated knowledge of Government procurement policy and procedures, and experience in managing bid cycles, organizing procurement packages, preparation of bidding documents and evaluation of bid proposals. Experience with ADB and/or World Bank procurement guidelines and procedures are required.
- The **Senior M&E Manager** will be recruited on individual basis and the main objective of the consulting service (the Service) is to assist PANGOs for providing quality PHC services under this project, covering 45 Partnership Areas. The M&E Manager will be responsible for all M&E-related project actions (project start-up, implementation and quality assurance), providing technical M&E leadership to M&E staffs, Doctors, Nurses, Paramedics and Others relevant staffs with specific attention to data quality and use. The M&E Manager will conduct frequent visits to Partnership Areas activities to assess the quality of the health care services. The consulting services will require about **24 national person-months inputs** (intermittent). **Experience, skills and educational qualification:** MBBS or Master's degree in Public Health or equivalent. Minimum 10 years of experience public/private health sector, particularly in reproductive, maternal and child health care. Minimum 5 years of experience in monitoring and evaluation (M&E), and quality management of health project/programs. Experience in developing M&E systems and capacity for NGO, and specifically with ADB or World Bank funded projects preferred.
- The **Gender Specialist** will be recruited on individual basis and the main objective of the consulting service (the Service) is to provide technical support in project management in the area of gender. The consulting service will require about **12 national person-months inputs** (intermittent). **Experience, skills and educational qualification:** The Specialist should have a Master's level in social sciences and at least 6-10 years work experience in gender mainstreaming in the development process, training and sensitization programs, social analyses, gender segregated program networking and advocacy, development and institutionalization of programs dealing with violence against women. Research experience in the areas of gender, development, social inclusion and empowerment will be preferred. Experience with health programs is strongly preferred.
- The detailed Terms of References (TOR) can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours or downloaded from the UPHCSDP-II website (www.uphcsdp.gov.bd). The recruitment notice is also available at the CPTU website (www.cptu.gov.bd) and ADB website (<http://cms.adb.org>).
- The UPHCSDP-II, on behalf of LGD, now invites EOIs from national professionals/specialists to indicate their interest in providing the required services. The EOI must include detailed curriculum vitae in ADB's format. Total budgetary provision for consulting service packages SD-11 is **USD 120,000** (including taxes) and **USD 60,000** (including taxes) each for consulting service packages SD-14.3 and SD-15. This amount includes remuneration and other expenses for all activities and inputs in the TOR, such as per diem, miscellaneous travel expenses, report preparation, production, and transmission, land transportation, communications, miscellaneous expenses, etc.). The EOI along with the detailed CV must be submitted electronically through the ADB Consultant Management Services (CMS) at <http://cms.adb.org> by **11:59 PM Manila time on or before 18 November 2020**. Electronic submission in ADB CMS is mandatory and hard copies without electronic submission cannot be considered. The consulting services are expected to start from **1 January 2021**. The location of consulting assignment will be Dhaka, Bangladesh with domestic travels to selected locations as required.
- The consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the "Guidelines on the Use of Consultants by Asian Development Bank and Its Borrowers". The EOIs will be evaluated based on the complete information provided in the detailed CV of the expert.
- The EOI from the consultant will be rejected if s/he has been debarred by GoB or the ADB. The EA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOI without assigning any reason thereof.

(Md. Abdul Hakim Majumder Ndc)
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GD-1761