

Attendance of primary school students falls in remote villages

From Our Correspondent

MADRIPUR, July 25: The number of primary school going children is decreasing in remote areas of the district as they are compelled to take up jobs to give financial support to their families.

According to a survey, a large number of children between age 8 and 12 groups are engaged in different odd jobs to earn their livelihood instead of going to schools.

As a result of this, primary schools of these areas are facing acute shortage of students and the problems are intensifying everyday.

The survey report also said

People won't accept budget for current fiscal: Samad

MOULVIBAZAR, July 25: Awami League presidium member and Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad has said the people will not accept the budget for the current fiscal year, passed in parliament in the absence of the opposition, reports UNB.

"It's a BNP budget, not people's budget," he told a public meeting organised by district Awami League at the local Shaheed Minar recently.

Opposition Chief whip Mohammad Nasim MP, Abdul Awal Miah MP, Sultan Md Mansur and Syed Mansur Ali also spoke at the meeting presided over by Azizur Rahman MP.

"The budget with neither been accepted nationally nor internationally," said Azad.

The deputy opposition leader alleged that the present government had failed to run the government while the law and order situation had become alarming and corruption had infiltrated in every sphere. But, he said, discussion on corruption by a minister was

not allowed in parliament.

The AL leader also accused the government of failing to run the parliament effectively. "Even the ruling party MPs are not attending parliament regularly."

He said pointed out that the students were now going abroad for study due to uncertainty in completing education at home. Eighty thousand students are now studying in India alone, he said.

He blamed the government for creating the Taslima Nasreen issue to divert people's attention from the opposition movement.

Opposition chief whip Mohammad Nasim said, impartial election was not possible under the present government and asserted that opposition parties will not return to the parliament if the government did not introduce a bill for caretaker government.

He said, the opposition will not participate in any polls unless the government accepts the demand for caretaker government. The credit will be pro-

vided in the form of inputs when ever it will be necessary under strict supervision.

The National Bank Limited (NBL) branch has undertaken an extensive credit disbursement programme involving Taka 25 lakh for increasing crop production in the Barind project area in Rajshahi and Naogaon districts.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to this effect was signed for the second time recently between National Bank Limited, and the Barendra Multipurpose Development Authority (BMDA) in the Barendra Bhaban in Rajshahi.

The Managing Director of the National Bank Limited K A Majid and the BMDA Executive Director M Asaduzzaman signed the MOU on behalf of their respective organisations.

A function was organised on this occasion which was presided over by the Chairman of BMDA and Rajshahi Divisional Commissioner M Aminul Islam and addressed by the Executive Director of Bangladesh Bank M A Raquib, General Manager of Bangladesh Bank, Rajshahi branch Didarul Islam, Executive Engineer of BMDA Md Abdul Momen, Assistant Vice President of National Bank Limited Rajshahi branch S M Shamsul Islam and Rural Credit Officer of NBL, Rajshahi branch Ariful Haq.

The three years term Memorandum of Understanding was not possible under the present government and asserted that opposition parties will not return to the parliament if the government did not introduce a bill for caretaker government.

He said, the opposition will not participate in any polls unless the government accepts the demand for caretaker government.

Rice, paddy and wheat are being bought at the rates of Tk 370, Tk 230 and Tk 230 per maund respectively.

Sources said that the procurement programme started late this time and that was why the procurement target would not be achieved. Despite that the procurement this year is more than that of last year, official sources said.

From Our Correspondent

Procurement targets of paddy, rice may fail in 16 N dists

RAJSHABI, July 25: Procurement targets of paddy, rice and wheat may not be achieved this year in 16 northern districts of the country, it is apprehended.

According to sources, 1.47 lakh metric tons of rice against the target of 2 lakh metric tons, 5 thousand metric tons of paddy against the target of 32 thousand metric tons and 17 thousand metric tons of wheat against the target of 1.5 lakh metric tons have been procured till now. The procurement programme began April this year.

Rice, paddy and wheat are being bought at the rates of Tk 370, Tk 230 and Tk 230 per maund respectively.

Sources said that the procurement programme started late this time and that was why the procurement target would not be achieved. Despite that the procurement this year is more than that of last year, official sources said.

For the successful implementation of the scheme Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation has distributed seeds, pesticides and other necessary inputs among the farmers at fair prices.

Meanwhile, the department has fixed the production target at 4,07,140 metric tons of aman paddy.

Besides, AED has set up 1331 demonstration plots in all seven districts to acquaint the farmers with the modern methods of aman cultivation.

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