

Faridpur DIARY

An example of self-employment

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Oct 28: Shamsul Alam, an educated youth, has set up a small poultry farm. He is now earning a decent income to support his family. Alam said strong determination is the key to his success. But the road to success was not even. He had to overcome many odds. At first, he set up the farm with 300 poultry birds in co-operation with one of his friends as a sleeping partner. As the poultry birds were maturing fast, a fire broke out in the farm, killing all the fowls. Chairman of Faridpur Municipality Hasibul Hasan Lablu helped him. The chairman helped the youth to get Tk 50,000 loan from local branch of Karma Sangsthan Bank (Employment Bank). He got the loan on April 23, 2000 and started afresh with renewed hope and zeal. While talking to this correspondent beaming Shamsul Alam said he would be able to repay the loan soon.

Children's Week
Children's Week was observed here with Bangladesh Shishu Academy, Faridpur, chalking out various programmes. Shishu Academy provided four handicapped children with opportunity to take part in the weeklong competition held here recently on the occasion of World Children's Rights Week. The handicapped Munni, Tania, Mohammad Aminul Islam and Biplab Kumar Malo— took part in painting, debate and extempore speech competitions.

Rat killing drive
Rat Killing Campaign 2000 under the auspices of local Agriculture Extension Department (AED) was observed here recently. A function was held on the occasion at Madhukhali upazila with FA Kamal Uddin, acting UNO, in the chair.

2.40 cr people exposed to arsenicosis diseases

PATUAKHALI, Oct 28: Arsenic, a dose of 76mg of which considered fatal to human beings, continues to contaminate the country's groundwater affecting thousands of people, reports UNB.

The presence of arsenic was found in the water of 29 per cent of the tubewells that exposed 2.40 crore people to arsenicosis diseases. According to a report released by UNICEF, Bangladesh's success story to ensure bacterially safe drinking water to rural people through tubewells has been eclipsed as the quantum of its safe water reduced to 80 per cent from 97 per cent due to arsenic contamination.

UNICEF released the report after analysing the results of numerous tests on water collected from country's 51,000 tubewells till October 1999.

Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) started testing tubewell waters to detect arsenic contamination in 1996 with assistance from UNICEF. The tests showed that arsenic has already contaminated groundwater from Chapainawabganj to Brahmanbaria and some parts of greater Sylhet, northern districts and coastal belt.

Another survey, conducted by British Geological Survey, also revealed similar frustrating results.

UNICEF has been providing assistance at both national and local levels to tackle the arsenic problem. Under its national level programme, tubewell water in 211 upazilas of 61 districts has been tested.

The test results showed that water of 29 per cent tubewells contains the poisonous element of metalloid beyond permissible limit. The permissible limit of arsenic in drinking water is 50 PPB (per cent per billion) or 0.05 PPM (per cent per mg) in water per litre.

UNICEF is also cooperating with World Bank in implementing Bangladesh Arsenic Mitigation Water Supply Project under which water of 460 tubewells is tested.

Besides, UNICEF in cooperation with three non-government organisations -- BRAC, Dhaka Community Hospital and Grameen Bank took up programmes in 1999 to mitigate arsenic problem in Bangladesh.

A total of 788 villages in four upazilas -- Jhikargachha in Jessore, Sonargaon in Narayanganj, Kachua in Chandpur and Bera in Pabna -- have been brought under the programme.

The main objective of the project is to formulate a strategy that can be applied in all arsenic affected areas of the country. Under the project, 199 rainwater reservoirs were constructed apart from installing various filters to supply arsenic-free water.

Officials said UNICEF would provide assistance to expand the project to 10,000 villages from 788.

A UNICEF official told that water of two lakh tubewells have been tested since August this year and the results will be published soon.

Meanwhile, panic has gripped Char Boyra village in Dumki upazila

as five people, including four children, have developed various symptoms of arsenic-linked diseases.

BSS from Kurigram reports: The Department of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE) Kurigram has taken steps to include Ulipur upazila under Bangladesh Arsenic Mitigation Water Supply Project (BAMWSP) after finding presence of arsenic beyond normal level in tubewell waters of the upazila, official sources said.

According to a source in local DPHE, a recent survey of the department found excessive quantity of arsenic contamination in 37 tubewells out of 40 in Daldolia UP, Ulipur Municipality and Durgapur UP of the upazila. A team of BAMWSP visited the affected areas on last October 12 and talked with arsenic affected Akhter Siddique, 40, of village Mapara, Salek, 4, of village Hossainpara and Emdadul Haque, 35, of the same village. Arsenic contamination at the tubewell of Akhter Siddique was found 1.7 milligram per litre of water, which is dangerous for human health under Daldolia UP.

Besides, DPHE found arsenic contamination beyond tolerance in 23 tubewells of village Mapara, one tubewell in villages Khanpara and Damurpur each, two tubewells of Hossainpara village, one tubewell each in villages Abdul Hadi and Baharband Para under Daldolia UP, six tubewells in Ulipur Pourashava and two tubewells in Durgapur UP.

Local DPHE has sent a letter to the higher authorities concerned to include Ulipur upazila under BAMWSP.

BSS from Kurigram reports: The Department of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE) Kurigram has taken steps to include Ulipur upazila under Bangladesh Arsenic Mitigation Water Supply Project (BAMWSP) after finding presence of arsenic beyond normal level in tubewell waters of the upazila, official sources said.

According to a source in local DPHE, a recent survey of the department found excessive quantity of arsenic contamination in 37 tubewells out of 40 in Daldolia UP, Ulipur Municipality and Durgapur UP of the upazila. A team of BAMWSP visited the affected areas on last October 12 and talked with arsenic affected Akhter Siddique, 40, of village Mapara, Salek, 4, of village Hossainpara and Emdadul Haque, 35, of the same village. Arsenic contamination at the tubewell of Akhter Siddique was found 1.7 milligram per litre of water, which is dangerous for human health under Daldolia UP.

Besides, DPHE found arsenic contamination beyond tolerance in 23 tubewells of village Mapara, one tubewell in villages Khanpara and Damurpur each, two tubewells of Hossainpara village, one tubewell each in villages Abdul Hadi and Baharband Para under Daldolia UP, six tubewells in Ulipur Pourashava and two tubewells in Durgapur UP.

Local DPHE has sent a letter to the higher authorities concerned to include Ulipur upazila under BAMWSP.

Pests invade Aman paddy

SYLHET, Oct 28: Widespread pest attack in four upazilas of the district has caused extensive damage to standing Aman crops, reports UNB.

Local farmers said 80 per cent of the total 40,000 hectares of land in Sadar, Golapganj, Baniabazar and Jokiganj upazilas have been attacked by "Famri" poka. The pest attack has threatened the overall production of Aman paddy in the district.

Meanwhile, Agriculture Extension Department (AED) has formed a squad to combat the pest menace. They said Sadar and Golapganj upazilas are worst affected.

But the local growers held responsible agriculture officials for not taking timely measures to check the pest attack despite they were informed time and again.

They said the situation turned worse as the block supervisors failed to monitor the activities of the field level workers of AED.

Scarcity and price hike of pesticides, irregularities in supplying spray machines by the AED and total indifference of the officials at the initial stage were the reasons behind the massive damage of the standing Aman crops by pests, alleged the local people.

Another report from Jhalakati adds: A scheme has been undertaken to bring 46,000 hectares of land under transplanted Aman cultivation in the district during the current season.

According to AED of the total land, 37,000 hectares have been brought under local variety and the rest 9,000 under high yielding variety.

Production target has been fixed at 1.17 metric tons.

Meanwhile, AED has set up several demonstration plots to acquaint the farmers with the modern methods of cultivation.

Krishi Bank has also disbursed loans to purchase necessary agri inputs to boost production.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation has also supplied necessary seeds, pesticides and other agri inputs among the farmers at fair prices to make the programme a success.

Bazaars being developed

PANCHAGARH, Oct 28: Development work of two bazaars in the district began recently at a cost of Taka 51,00,000, reports BSS.

Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED) is implementing the scheme under a programme. The bazaars are Model Hat in Sadar upazila and Jagannath Hat in Deviganj upazila. Under the projects, lanes, by-lane, drains, latrine dustbin, and sheds and stalls for different item like fish, meat and vegetables are being constructed.



A road accident near Chultia in Sadar upazila under Jhenidah district claimed the lives of Safiqul Islam, 33, Jhenidah correspondent of The Daily Sangram, his elder brother Rafiqul Islam and two others recently this year. Since then Safique's family is in misery. The family needs help for survival of the distressed members. —Star photo by Delwar Kabir

Murder case under PSA

NAOGAON, Oct 28: After the expiry of about three months of his murder the relatives of aborigine leader Alfred Soren filed a murder case under PSA on Monday, reports UNB.

Alfred Soren was killed in a terrorist attack at the aborigine Paili in Bhimpur in Mohadebpor upazila. Earlier Rebeka Soren, sister of the deceased, filed a murder case with the local police on August 18. Later with the directives from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Hill Tracts Affairs Minister Kalpa Ranjan Chakma visited the spot and asked the police to file a case under PSA. Srimonta Soren, uncle of the victim, filed the case under PSA.

News snaps

Shortage of judges

SHERPUR, Oct 28: Judicial activities in the district Judge Court are being hampered due to shortage of judges, reports UNB.

Sources said only single senior assistant judge has been performing the responsibilities, of three assistant judges in absence of others. Court sources said a senior assistant judge of the Nalitabari court has been transferred to Jamalpur Sadar court a month back while another senior assistant judge of Sherpur Sadar court joined his new post of sub-judge. No judge was sent to the second court in the district against the vacancy. As a result, senior assistant judge of Sribordi Assistant Judge Court has been entrusted with the responsibilities to conduct the trial of Sherpur Sadar and Nalitabari courts.

Two killed in road accident

BOGRA, Oct 28: Two people were killed and five others injured when a truck fell down from the roof of a speeding bus on Nishandara Madhyapara, outskirts of the town, on Bogra-Rangpur highway on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Police said seven passengers travelling on the roof of the Bogra-bound bus from Gaibandha fell down on the road as the driver pressed the brake hard. Two of them died on the spot. One of the dead was identified as Mokhlisur Rahman, 15, son of Abdur Razzaq of village Rajnagar of Palashbari upazila in Gaibandha district. Three injured people were admitted to Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital.



Overloading is one of the main reasons of highway accidents. But there is none to check this unhealthy trend. This type of scene is common on Brahmanbaria-Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria-Kasba and Brahmanbaria-Madhab highroads.

—Star photo by Sk Md Shahidul Islam

Homeless people increasing

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Oct 28: Homeless people are increasing alarmingly in the district town, reports BSS.

Poverty stricken and landless people, after failing to earn bread in their villages, are heading towards upazila and district headquarters. The exact figure of the homeless people could not be ascertained. Local sources said every day poor and homeless people are gathering here in the town.

Smuggled potato seeds seized

JOYPURHAT, Oct 28: BDR personnel in a drive seized 95 bags of smuggled Indian potato seeds worth Tk 1.5 lakh from Atapara area of Bagajura union in Pachibibi upazila here recently, reports UNB.

In another incident, a gang of muggers snatched Tk 3000 in cash and the rickshaw of a richshawpuller Morshedul Islam at gun point at Rangta village in sadar upazila Sunday. Meanwhile, police arrested 26 people from different places of Kalai upazila of the district as part of countrywide combing operation launched against the criminals till Tuesday.

Man strangled

NARSINGDI, Oct 28: An employee of a jute purchasing shop was strangled in the town early Friday, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Abdur Rahim, 40, of Darinabipur village in Sadar upazila. Police said a gang of assailants stormed into the shop at dead of night and strangled Rahim after looting Tk 11,200. The owner of the shop, Mohammad Selim, filed a case with the police.

Road mishap kills two

RAJBARI, Oct 28: Two people were killed in a traffic mishap near Komarpur High School on Rajbari-Faridpur highway Thursday, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as truck driver Abdus Sattar and helper Khokon of Sreepur area in the town. Police said the accident occurred at noon when a Faridpur-bound truck hit another stationary truck near the road, leaving the two people injured seriously. Later, they succumbed to their injuries at Faridpur Medical College Hospital.

Three terrorists held

BOGRA, Oct 28: Police arrested three terrorists when they went to a college on the outskirts of the town to collect tolls on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said the terrorists, allegedly the cadres of Chhatra League, went to Bed College at Jhoggari at 12 noon and demanded tolls from its Director Nurul Islam. On refusal, they shot at him but Islam escaped unhurt narrowly. Later, the teachers, students and employees of the college rushed to the spot, caught them and handed them over to police after giving a good thrashing. Police said the arrested Poushram, Moni, Shamim were wanted in a number cases, including murder, dacoity and snatching cases. Police recovered a pistol with two bullets from Poushram. A case was filed.

Accused arrested

PATUAKHALI, Oct 28: Police arrested the main accused of the misappropriation case of over Tk 95 lakh of the Sonali Bank Mahipur branch after 11 months of his absconding, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip off, police arrested Habibur Rahman, former cashier of the bank, from his father-in-law's house at village Nishanbaria in Kolapara upazila. Habib went into hiding when the incident was divulged on November 2, 1999. Informed sources said the embezzlement of the bank money began two years back in the name of giving loans to the farmers. Later, on the basis of the probe committee report, the present Manager of the branch filed a case on Feb 20 this year against five people, including principal accused cashier Habib and the then manager Sirajul Islam of the branch, for embezzlement of Tk 95.46.763. The case is being tried at the first Sub-Judge Court of the district.

Man sentenced for killing

NAOGAON, Oct 28: Additional District and Session Judge of Naogaon, M Sajedul Karim convicted over person on charge of killing his wife and sentenced him to suffer 17 years rigorous imprisonment, reports BSS.

The prosecution story in brief is that Alamgir tortured and killed his wife (Marzina) at night on April 24, 1993 at his village home Shaliquapur under Rainagar upazila. Her body was recovered from nearby pond the next day. Father of Marzina filed a case. Police submitted charge sheet. The court examined witnesses and was satisfied and pronounced the judgement.

New timber factory inaugurated

KHAGRACHHARI, Oct 28: A new timber and plywood industry was inaugurated at Shaheed Captain Kader Road of Khagrachhari on Wednesday, reports BSS.

A function was arranged in this connection which was attended by Chairman of CHT Regional Council Jotinindra Bodhipria Santu Lama inaugurated the factory as chief guest. Chairman of District Council Jotinindra Lal Tripura was also present as special guest. The factory named Maitry Ply-wood and Timber Managing Director Haji Mohammad Rafiq Uddin presided over the function. He narrated a brief history of his company's activities. He was thankful to the people of the hill districts for their cooperation in running his business smoothly.

Sugar price up in Faridpur

From Abdul Matin Fakir

FARIDPUR, Oct 28: Sugar consumers, especially the fixed income groups have been facing embarrassment in purchasing one of the daily necessary items sugar from retail shop the price of which fluctuates from Taka 32 to Taka 42 over the last one month.

On September 25 sugar was selling at Taka 32 a kg. But to the

surprise of the consumers, it was found to be sold at Taka 42 a kg next day. Two days later it was sold at Taka 36 a kg. This price of sugar remained static for a week or a little more. The consumers were utterly taken aback to find the sugar selling at Taka 42 a kg again without assigning any reason whatsoever two days later the sugar price came down to Tk 38 a kg which persisted a week. But on October 18 sugar price soared to Taka 40 a kg and on October 20 it was found to be sold at Taka 42 a kg. The most interesting thing is that sugar price varies from shop to shop in the same market.

The grocers could not furnish

the consumers with satisfactory reasons for this instability in the price of sugar. The sugar consumers most of whom are literate persons almost every day exchange hot words with shopkeepers over the sugar price which may at any time turn into violence. From the state of affairs, it appears that there is no control of government agency over the price of consumer goods in the markets. The consumers demanded that the price list of every item of consumer goods should be hung at every retail as well as whole sale shop so that the consumers might not be deceived by the dishonest traders.



Children are the best assets of a nation. But it is an irony of fate that most of the children except those of affluent society are neglected in our society. Sirajganj being a district town no significant steps have been taken here till date by the district town fathers for adequate recreation facilities of children. The lone children's park here has been turned into a grazing ground of domestic animals due to lack of proper maintenance. Now-a-days no child turns over there. But who cares?

—Star photo by Akhteruzzaman Bablu

Notice Inviting Tenders No 7 (Tkg)/2000-2001 Eng

Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No 2911 are hereby invited from enlisted contractors of PWD as noted below as per financial limit for the undermentioned works and will be received by the undersigned as well as by the Executive Engineer, PWD Division Rangpur/Lalmonirhat/Kurigram/Gaibandha/Nilphamari/Dinajpur/Panchagarh in their respect offices up to 12-00 Noon on 9-11-2000 Eng and will be opened on the same day at 12-15 PM in presence of the tenderers who may like to remain present.

Sl No	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Class of contractor or entitled to submit tenders
1	2	3	4	5
1	Tender for construction of RCC boundary wall for fair service & civil defence station at Baliadangi upazila in the dist of Thakurgaon under PWD Division, Thakurgaon, during the year 2000-2001 Eng.	Tk 9,72,412/=.	Tk 19,450/=.	Enlisted special class-I (one), class-I (one) bldg contractor/firm of PWD, 2 nd class bldg contractor/firm of PWD Zone Rajshahi and class-III (three) bldg contractor/firm of PWD Circle, Rangpur.

Contract document consisting of Bangladesh Form No 2911, schedule of item, additional terms and conditions etc. can be seen and obtained from the office of the undersigned and office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division Lalmonirhat/Kurigram/Nilphamari/Rangpur/Gaibandha/Dinajpur/Panchagarh and Sub-Divisional Engineer, PWD Sub-Division-I/II/E.M. Thakurgaon on payment of usual charge. The tender form may be purchased by the contractor himself or his representative duly attested by the contractor along with the original registration book on any working day during office hours up to 8-11-2000 Eng. on tender form will be sold after office hours up to 5-00 PM on 8-11-2000 Eng.

Photocopy of original registration book and VAT registration certificates and TAX payer identification number (TIN) certificate (attested) by class one gazetted officer of this department must be submitted along with the tender, otherwise the tender will be summarily rejected.

If more than one contractor stood lowest quoting same rate then the lottery will be held on 22-11-2000 Eng at 12.00 Noon in the office of the undersigned for selection of the contractor in presence of tenderer, if any.

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

DFP-25741-24/10
G-1886

Engr Abdur Rafique
Executive Engineer
PWD Division, Thakurgaon.

Corrigendum to Tender Inquiry No 475 dated 3-10-2000 for Import of Soda Ash (Light) Due for Opening on 15-11-2000

বিস্তারিত পণ্য শিটায়নে জাতীয় অঙ্গণের প্রতীক

This is for information of all concern that the following amendments are being made in the above tender inquiry.

- Quantity to be imported: 1000 M/Ton of Soda Ash (Light) in place of 500 M/Ton Soda Ash (Light).
- Shipment to be made in two equal lots at 90 days intervals.
- Value for tender schedule Tk 500/- per set in place of Tk 300/- per set.

All other terms and conditions, specification and opening date will remain unchanged.

BCIC 959-22/10/2000
DFP-25757-24/10
G-1888

Gholam Mortuza
General Manager (C)
for Managing Director.

Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation

Krishi Bhaban
49-51, Dilkusha Commercial Area
Dhaka-1000
(Purchase Division)

Local Tender Notice

- Tender No. & date : Irri. (P) * 42/2000-2001 dt. 16.10.2000
- Description of : a. 35-40 HP, 5-Cusec Diesel-Engine..... 160 Nos
b. 30 HP Horizontal Electric Motor..... 80 "
3. Sale value of : Tk.4,000/- (Taka four thousand) tender documents only.
4. Validity of tender : 60 (sixty) days from the date of opening of tender.
5. Closing date & : 20.11.2000 at 12-00 hours.
6. Opening date & : 20.11.2000 at 12-05 hours.
7. Place of : Office of the General Manager (Purchase), BADC, Krishi Bhaban, (3rd Floor), 49-51, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.
8. Delivery date : Supply of stores should be completed within 90 (ninety) days from the date of issuance of final purchase order.
9. Name of project : Extension of Irrigation Project by surface water through double lifting.
10. Delivery place of : Regional Store, BADC, Pallabi, Mirpur, Dhaka.
11. Source of fund : GOB.

N.B.:

- Tender documents can be purchased on cash payment from the Cash Section of Accounts Division (3rd Floor), BADC, Krishi Bhaban, 49-51, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka on all working days during office hours
- Tender documents will not be sold on the date of opening of tender.
- No tender documents or part thereof will be accepted after opening of tender.

ADC-1406
DFP-25801-24/10
G-1887

Md. Faridul Alam
Manager (Purchase)
BADC, Dhaka.