

# Fish processing plants in Sylhet suggested

SYLHET, Nov 18: When production of sweet water fishes is steadily dropping in the country, the idea of setting up of modern fish processing plants in the region can help save fishes worth over Tk 100 crore from perishing every year, reports UNB.

The four districts of the region Sunamganj, Habiganj, Moulvibazar and Sylhet are known as big bowls of fishes as the districts have got a large number of water bodies like haors, baors, beels and canals in addition to rivers.

According to Fisheries Department, some 70,000 metric tons of fishes worth over Tk 300 crore are produced in the region every year

and one-third of which worth over Tk 100 crore is perished just for lack of preservation facility.

Compared to other three districts, Sunamganj has a reputation of producing surplus fishes, but the poor fishermen cannot supply those to towns and cities due to poor road communication.

"Tons of fishes are perished in the district each year," said a fisherman adding, "we have to often sell fishes at minimum prices as we cannot preserve those."

An official at Fisheries Department said, "the fishermen who toil throughout day in beels and haors for catching fishes ultimately cannot reap the benefits."

The official, who declined to be identified, said the government should set up fish processing plants in the region as economic incentives for the poor fishermen who are struggling to maintain their livelihoods in the face of dwindling fish resources.

He said in absence of modern fish processing facilities the farmers have to depend on natural ways for processing fishes, which take excess time in drying fishes.

The worst problem they face during the rainy season when they hardly can dry fishes.

More alarming is that the fishermen sometimes mix various pesticides, including DDT

powder and Nogos, so that the fishes cannot rot away quickly.

"It's true that dry fishes are health-promoting, but the way the fishes are dried up by our fishermen is rather injurious to health," said a doctor.

However, the government set up a fish processing plant at Daborhat in Sadar upazila of Sunamganj, but the plant could not serve interest of the fishermen because of its wrong location.

Fishermen urged the authorities concerned to take necessary steps to set up more fish processing plants so that they could make best use of their surplus fishes and thus export those abroad.

## Enayetpur Ashrayan Centre

## Influentials threaten eviction of inmates

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 18: The inhabitants of Enayetpur Ashrayan Centre in Ullapara upazila are leading an inhuman life with innumerable problems, reports UNB.

The inmates alleged that they are living in insecurity and under great threat as some local influential people are threatening to evict them after ending of the Awami League rule.

Acute scarcity of drinking water is prevailing in the centre due to lack of sufficient tubewells in the centre although its population has risen to over one thousand.

There are no religious and educational institutions and medical facilities in the centre hampering prayers and education of the wards of the inmates.

In absence of boundary wall, outsiders readily enter into cen-

tre and create nuisances. The government under its self-employment programme set up the Ashrayan centre on five acres of khas land in 1998 and rehabilitated 140 homeless families.

Upazila Co-operative office disbursed Tk 7.6 lakh as loan among the inmates in 1999 for implementing various income-generating projects. But before deriving any benefit from the money, the office recovered Tk 6.23 lakh creating pressure on the borrowers, they alleged.

It is alleged that, a number of allottees were driven out of their rooms. One of the victims was Lakhmi Rani Karmaker who was driven out from her room three months back.

They sought immediate steps of the authorities concerned to mitigate their problems.

## News snaps

### Discussion

RAJBARI, Nov 18: Tax Department held a discussion on self-assessment of tax here on Thursday, reports UNB. Tax officials from local and Dhaka offices answered to various questions from businessmen. They praised the government for introducing self-assessment system.

### Three counterfeiters arrested

BAGERHAT, Nov 18: Police arrested three people along with huge counterfeit notes of Bangladeshi currency from Mulghar in Fakirhat upazila here on Thursday night, reports UNB.

On information, police set a trap near a shrimp depot in front of Mulghar Government School at 9 pm and arrested the three. Police recovered 50 forged notes of Tk 500 and 298 notes of Tk 100 denominations from their possession. They were going to the depot to buy shrimp. The arrested - Golam Mostafa Kazi, Mohor Ali and Gorai Mollik - are believed to be the members of an organised gang engaged in forged currency notes trading. They were sent to jail.

### Workshop on ORT

SHARIATPUR, Nov 18: A daylong workshop on ORT programme, arranged by UNICEF, was held at local Circuit House on Thursday, reports BSS.

Deputy Commissioner of Shariatpur inaugurated the workshop, which was also addressed by the Civil surgeon. Nineteen journalists of different national and local newspapers attended the workshop.

### Rabi farming on 63,400 hectares

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Nov 18: Some 63,400 hectares of land are expected to be brought under Rabi crop cultivation in the current season, reports UNB.

Sources at Department of Agriculture Extension said Boro paddies would be cultivated on 41,200 hectares of land with a production target of 1.23 lakh mts. They said wheat would be cultivated on 20,000 hectares of land with 46,000 mts of output target, maize and potato would be cultivated on 1,600 hectares of land with an estimated production target of 1,950 mts of maize and 16,000 mts of potato. Meanwhile, the department has started providing the farmers necessary seeds, fertiliser and other agricultural inputs to achieve its production target.

### Pest invades Aman paddy

MADARIPUR, Nov 18: Aman paddy on vast tracts of land in greater Faridpur district came under massive pest attack, dimming the hopes of farmers, reports UNB.

According to the farmers, lack of rain during the peak period prompted the pest, locally known as Tungru, to attack the paddy fields. The worst affected areas are Rambhadrapur, Panditar, Roudrapur, Bhojeshwar in Shariatpur district, Khoajpur, Tekerhat, Kalkini, Pachchar in Madaripur, Pangsha and Gopalpur in Rajbari district, Kamarkhali, Sadarpur, and Madhukhali in Faridpur districts. When contacted agriculture officials said there was no pest attack in the district.

### Youth to die for killing brother

HABIGANJ, Nov 18: A court here on Wednesday convicted a youth and condemned him to death for killing his brother, reports UNB.

District and Sessions Judge Abdul Rashid Mia pronounced the judgement within 20 days of submitting the chargesheet. The case history in brief: convict Gias Uddin, 20, son of Danis Ullah of Chostapur village in Sadar thana stabbed his brother Sabur Mia, 27, on July 20, this year at one stage of altercation with him. He died on way to hospital. Danis Ullah, father of the victim, later filed a murder case. After investigation, police chargesheeted against Gias. The judge after examining the records and witnesses found him guilty of murder and handed down the capital punishment to the killer.

### Bridge opens

KHAGRACHHARI, Nov 18: A 20-metre bridge constructed over Belchhari canal on Belchhari-Ajodya road was opened to traffic on Thursday, reports UNB.

District council chairman Jatindra Lal Chakma opened the bridge constructed by Local Government and Engineering Department at a cost of Tk 28.64 lakh. Later, the district council chairman inaugurated Karaliyachhari Community Clinic.

### Jail terms for 5 students

MANIKGANJ, Nov 18: A special court here on Thursday found five students of Devendranath Government College guilty of assaulting a teacher and ransacking his offices, and sentenced them to different jail terms, reports UNB.

Three of them were identified as Masudur Rahman alias Masud, Abu Bakar Siddique alias Bachchu, Mohammad Mustafizur Rahman alias Prince. They were sentenced to five years rigorous imprisonment and fined Tk 5,000 each, in default, to suffer six months more RI. Another accused of the case filed under the newly enacted PSA, Shahidul Islam alias Polish was sentenced to seven years in jail. Polish, tried in absentia, was also fined Tk 10,000 with a provision to suffer one year more RI in default. According to the prosecution, the accused ransacked the offices of the college principal and its students union, and assaulted a teacher in a pre-planned way on June 6.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Food  
Strengthening of Early Warning and Food  
Information System Project  
22, Tophkana Road  
Dhaka-1000

No: MOF/EW/Purchase/4(27) BMD Equipment/98/367 Date: 09/11/2000

## International Re-Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the bonafide foreign/suppliers/manufacturers/or their authorized dealers/distributors for supply of Meteorological equipment on C&F Dhaka by Air-Freight basis under Strengthening of Early Warning & Food Information System (EWFIS) Project of Ministry of Food.

1. Tender No : MOF/EW/Purchase/4(27) BMD Equipment/98/367
2. Place of selling and dropping tender schedule : Project Director's Office, 22, Tophkana Road, Dhaka-1000
3. Last date and time for selling tender schedule : 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2000 (upto 4.00 PM)
4. Price of schedule (non-refundable) : Tk. 750.00 (seven hundred fifty) only
5. Last date and time for dropping tender : 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2000. (up to 2:30 PM)
6. Date and time for opening tender : 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2000 (at 3.00 PM)
7. Earnest money : 2% of total quoted price in the form of Account Payee/Bank Draft/Pay Order/Bank Guarantee from a schedule bank of Bangladesh in favour of Project Director, EWFIS project.

Authority reserves the right to accept or reject partially or wholly any or all the tenders, without assigning any reason whatsoever.

DFP-27515-14/11  
G-2019

Project Director

## Rajshahi farmers find mixed crop farming profitable

From Abdul Wadood

RAJSHAHI, Nov 18: Cultivation of 'relay crop' along with seed-cotton is gaining popularity among the cotton-farmers in Rajshahi zone.

The zone comprises of 10 upazilas in Rajshahi, Natore, Chapainawabganj and Naogaon districts. The upazilas are Poba, Bagha, Charchat and Puthia of Rajshahi, Natore sadar, Lalpur, Bagatipara and Boraigram of Natore, Chapainawabganj sadar and Manda of Naogaon districts. Mazharul Hannan, chief Cotton Development Officer (CDO) of Rajshahi zone of Bangladesh Cotton Development Board (BCDB) said, cultivation of relay crop in the field of seed-cotton has been proved profitable in all respects. It (relay crop) is bringing an additional amount of money for the farmers without causing any adverse effect on the main crop (seed-cotton)," he said. The relay crop gives farmers money in the off-season when they face shortage of money, he said.

To observe the effects of relay crops and popularise relay crops among the farmers, BCDB, Rajshahi zone office established 14 "exhibition plots" during the current season. Each of the plot is of 33 decimals. The plots are distributed as follows: one each in Poba, Bagha, Puthia, Natore sadar, Lalpur, Chapainawabganj sadar and Manda, two each in Charchat and Boraigram and three plots in Bagatipara. The plot in Chapainawabganj sadar upazila was later discarded as the farmers did not follow the guidelines.

'Lal Shak', 'Data' (Amaranth) and 'Kalmi Shak' are being used as relay crops. Some farmers are also cultivating sugarcane as the

relay crop. CDO Rajshahi zone Hannan said, the farmers have earned Taka 1,000 to Taka 2,000 in about one and a half month by cultivating relay crops on 33 decimals of land during the current season. Some farmers have even earned up to Taka 4,000 by cultivating the relay crop two times, he said.

The relay crops remain in the field for 45 days to 60 days. Only 'Lal Shak' can be cultivated two times, Hannan said. Lal Shak has been proved more profitable. It brings Taka 1,500 to Taka 2,000 from a plot of 33 decimals in one and a half month. If cultivated for the second time just after the first harvest, it bring another sum of Taka 1,500-2,000.

On the other hand, Taka 1,000 to Taka 1,500 is being earned from Amaranth and Taka 600 to Taka 2,000 from Kalmi Shak.

The earning mainly depends on the market price of the products.

In Manda, Kalmi Shak's market price was very low. That is why only about Taka 600 to Taka 1,000 has been earned from 33 decimals of land. Whereas the earning was up to Taka 2,000 in Bagatipara where the market price was comparatively higher. Lal Shak is being seen to have almost the same kind of demand and market price all through the season everywhere. "So we are now advising the farmers to grow Lal Shak as the relay crop in the fields of seed-cotton," Hannan said.

While visiting some areas in Charchat, Bagha and Bagatipara last week, Naoshad Ali of Misripur near Dayarampur in Bagatipara upazila of Natore said that he had cultivated seed-

cotton on a total of three bighas of lands. Out of the total, one bigha was used for relay crop. He cultivated Lal Shak two times. "It has given me about Taka 3,500 in three months," he said.

Naoshad Ali invested about Taka 5,000 so far for cultivating seed-cotton on his three bighas of lands. He will have to spend about Taka 1,000 to harvest the seed-cotton in late December. "I am expecting about 20 maunds of seed cotton which will be sold at about Taka 17,000," he said. So Naoshad Ali will get profit amounting to about Taka 11,000 from seed-cotton in six months. The relay crop of one bigha has already given him Taka 3,500.

Enamul Huque of Sardah in Charchat upazila of Rajshahi has grown Kalmi Shak as the relay crop in his seed-cotton field of one bigha (33 decimals). He has already earned Taka 1,000 and is expecting to earn Taka 600 from the crop. "In this one bigha of land I have invested Taka 1,900." So greater part of the production cost of the seed-cotton is being earned from the relay crop.

BCDB, Rajshahi zone CDO Mazharul Hannan said that many more farmers had cultivated relay crops at their own interests in addition to the exhibition plots of BCDB. BCDB officials and field supervisors have given them guidelines and advice.

Some farmers are cultivating sugarcane as the relay crop along with seed-cotton. "This is also profitable but it hampers seed-cotton production to some extent," Hannan said. "At the same time we are losing the land for cultivation of seed-cotton as sugarcane remains in the field for at least two years," he added.



### Seeking help or else!

With a venomous snake around her neck, this young girl slipped into the office room of the Sirajganj Circle-A Superintendent of Police (SP) recently. Apparently deaf and dumb, she used sign language to ask for help. The presence of a snake in the office immediately triggered an alarm among the officials. It was not known if the police could eventually help her.

-Star photo by Akhteruzzaman

## Shoals in Padma hamper ferry movement

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 18: A number of shoals have emerged in the River Padma, hampering ferry movement in Pakshey-Bheramara route.

Disruption in ferry movement is causing serious sufferings to passengers. Besides, shoals have also emerged in the Garai, a branch of the Padma.

## Government of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer (RHD)  
Road Division, Faridpur

## Notice Inviting Tenders

Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 are hereby invited.

1. Tender No : FRD/18 of 2000-2001.
2. Name of work : Construction of 3.05 M.Span & 4.57 M. Height RCC Box Culvert at 7<sup>th</sup> km of Nagarkanda-Bhanga Road under Road Division, Faridpur during 2000-2001.
3. Estimated cost : Tk. 11,81,384/-
4. Earnest money : Tk. 23,628/-
5. Time allowed for completion of work : 90 (ninety) days from the date of work order.
6. Eligibility of contractor : "A to D" special category contractor.
7. Head of A/C : 266 (Development).
8. Name of office where tender documents will be available : Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka/Executive Engineer (RHD), Road Division, Faridpur/Madaripur/Gopalganj/Shariatpur/Rajbari/Barisal/Planning Division (P&D), Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka/Sub-Divisional Engineer (RHD), Road Sub-Division No. II, Faridpur.
9. Name of office where tender will be received : Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka/Addl. Chief Engineer (RHD), Barisal Zone, Barisal/Superintending Engineer (RHD), Road Circle, Faridpur/Superintending Engineer (RHD), Procurement & Monitoring Circle, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka/Executive Engineer (RHD), Road Division, Faridpur.
10. Last date of selling tender documents : 30/11/2000 upto 12-30 PM.
11. Last date & time of received of tender : 4/12/2000 at 11.00 AM at the office of the undersigned.
12. Last date and time for opening of tender : There is no allocation for this work. Date & time for lottery will be fixed after getting financial allocation.
13. Date & time for lottery (if necessary) : There is no allocation for this work. Date & time for lottery will be fixed after getting financial allocation.

Ashrafur Islam Khan  
Executive Engineer, (RHD)  
Road Division, Faridpur

DFP-27517-14/11  
G-2018



A farmer of Arani in Bagha upazila of Rajshahi district taking care of his field of seed-cotton where he also cultivated other crops. Farmers find the system of cultivating mixed crops profitable.

---Star photo

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
District-Sylhet

Memo No LGED/EE/SYLHET/15-266/2000-2001/

Dated: 07-11-2000

## Tender Notice No 26/2000-2001

Sealed tenders are hereby invited for execution of the following schemes under RDP-3: Project in LGED, Sylhet from the valid enlisted Contractors/Construction Firms of RDP-3: In Bangladesh Form No 2911 along with additional terms and conditions attached with this tender notice and tender schedule for the work. Tender schedule could be purchased from the offices of the PD, RDP3: LGED, Dhaka, Executive Engineer, LGED, District- Moulvibazar, Habiganj/Sunamganj and the office of the undersigned up to 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2000 during office hours. Tender will be received up to 1.30 PM on 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2000 in the specified tender boxes of the abovementioned offices and the boxes will be opened at 2.00 PM the same day in presence of the tenderers or their authorised representatives (if any). Details terms & conditions and schedule can be seen in the office of the undersigned, if necessary.

Group No	Name of the scheme	Estimated cost (Tk)	Price of tender document	Completion date
23/2000-2001	Const of 2 Nos 1x1.50x1.50m RCC Box Culvert on Doyamir-Dewanbazar Road at ch. 250m & 950m	3,36,000/-	300/-	60 days
24/2000-2001	Const of 2 Nos 1x1.50x1.50m RCC Box Culvert on Tajpur-Balagonj-Osmani Road at ch. 5000m & 13000m	3,36,000/-	300/-	60 days

DFP-27590-14/11  
G-2017

Executive Engineer  
LGED, Sylhet.