

Satkhira flood victims need house building loan

From Abu Ahmed

SATKHIRA, Nov 20: Over 5 lakh people out of 6,50,527 flood affected people who lost their houses are passing hard days in open spaces or along the embankment's and roads, as they cannot reconstruct their collapsed houses due to acute scarcity of construction material and its price-hike.

Construction materials like bamboo, straw and jute-stick have become dear in the village markets.

All most all the houses of poor people were completely damaged by the devastating flood causing substantial losses to them.

At present reconstruction of houses has become the prime need of people in the villages of five upazilas, which were badly affected by the floods.

But due to acute crisis and price-hike of bamboo and other house building materials, poor people can not undertake the reconstruction work.

Some unscrupulous businessmen, with a view to gain windfall profit, have been bringing the house building items from far away and are selling those at exorbitant prices. Poor people who do not have the ability to purchase

house building materials at exorbitant prices. Poor people are now in need of financial help from government or non-government organisations to rebuild their ravaged houses.

Mentionable that total population of the district is over 18 lakh and five out of seven upazilas and 6,50,527 people have been affected by the devastating flood. Over one lakh kutchha houses have been damaged either partially or totally.

Those who have lost their houses completely are still living in open spaces or in any temporary shelter.

In spite of their best efforts they are unable to reconstruct their houses as they did not get house building grant from the government.

According to district relief and rehabilitation department sources, 67,360 houses have been damaged completely and 46,705 houses partially by the unprecedented flood which swept away the district. Over five lakh people are still living in open spaces.

About 1,85,376 homeless poor people in sadar, 1,74,891 in Kalaroa, 39,427 in Debhata, 62, 378 in Tala and 41,975 in Assanuli upazilas are waiting for loans or

grant to reconstruct their houses.

The affected people have urged the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to rehabilitate them.

Meanwhile, two flood victims were killed in two separate road accidents during the period of two days.

The victims were identified as Nazmul Hasan, 11, son of Abdur Rahim Mondal of village Pairadanga and Salma Khatun, 4, daughter of Hafizur Rahman of Baikari both of sadar upazila.

Police and eyewitnesses said, flood affected Nazmul Hasan with his father took shelter at Satkhira City College camp and while he was crossing the road in front of the camp a speeding bus ran over him and he died on the spot recently.

In the other incident, Salma Khatun along her father took shelter at Kashempur Primary School Camp in Sadar upazila. When they went to buy something at Jamtala. When they were venturing to camp a speeding truck knocked her down and she died on the spot.

Two separate cases were filed with Satkhira PS.

Cancellation of 20th BCS results demanded

Students to form human chain tomorrow

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Nov 20: Some students of Rajshahi University under the banner of Sachetan Chattera Samaj (Association of Conscious Students) will form a human chain and lay siege to local office of Public Service Commission (PSC) here on Wednesday demanding cancellation of the results of the 20th BCS examinations.

At a press conference held on the campus on Friday, the leaders of Sachetan Chattera Samaj alleged that massive corruption and malpractice marred the results published on October 29 this year. The PSC, custodian of the country's civil services, had called for the examinations two and a half years back.

They also urged the authorities to cancel quota system, reduce the marks of viva voce and introduce uniform syllabus for the

general cadre.

Golap Ahmed Chowdhury, Abu Zahid, Shamim Ahsan and Abdur Rahman addressed the press conference, among others.

It is alleged that the PSC has been influenced by the ruling Awami League to recommend appointment of candidates in various posts.

The PSC has appointed 416 candidates against 166 advertised posts in administration and police cadres. It had advertised for 100 posts in administration and 66 in police cadres.

Some of the candidates, who are ruling party-backed BCL activists, scored more than 180 out of 200 marks in viva voce, unprecedented in the history of PSC and not compatible with their written examination marks, sources said.

News snaps



A signing ceremony was held on Thursday between Jeroine High School under Brahminpara upazila in Comilla district and Japan Friendship Education Fund (JFEF) to build an auditorium in the school premises. The fund will be disbursed through a non-governmental organisation named Bangladesh Friendship Education Society (BFES). Tetsuro Minakawa, patron of JFEF and chairperson of Ibaraki Prefectural Liaison Council of Japan and Habibur Rahman, acting Headmaster of the school signed on behalf of the parties. Makoto Tameda, chief patron of JFEF and Prof Mahmudul Haque, president of BFES were present on the occasion.

BAUCSU polls postponed

MYMENSINGH, Nov 20: Election of Bangladesh Agricultural University Central Students Union (BAUCSU), scheduled for November 22, has been postponed, reports UNB.

BAU Election Commissioner has been postponed the election in order to ensure the participation of all student organisations of the university, according to a press release. It said necessary steps are being taken to hold the election in the last week of January next.

Two BDR men dismissed

BENAPOLE, Jessore, Nov 20: Two BDR 'Jawans' have been dismissed while two others downgraded for their alleged involvement in corruption, reports UNB.

According to competent sources, Lance Nayek Jamal and Sepoy Hanif of Benapole camp seized gold bars worth about Tk five lakh from smugglers and grabbed those. They were found guilty after a long investigation and dismissed on November 5. Earlier, two havildars Habib and Abdur Mannan were demoted on charge of irregularities. A total of 50 BDR members were dismissed and 20 others demoted in last two years, according to the sources.

Former UP chairman held

FENI, Nov 20: Police arrested recently Shamsul Haque, ex-chairman of Kazir Bag union parishad on charge of his alleged involvement in the killing of a Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activist, reports BSS.

According to police, he was an active BNP worker and wanted by police for a long time. He was also charge with misappropriation of wheat under Food for Works Programme.

Bridge construction progressing

RANGPUR, Nov 20: Construction work on a 100-metre RCC bridge over river Jamuneshwari at Sheikherhat Ghat in Badarganj upazila is progressing well, reports UNB.

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) is implementing the project under its Rural Infrastructure Development Programme. Meanwhile, 25 per cent works on the bridge has been finished while the rest is likely to be completed by February. Construction of another 110-metre RCC bridge over river Chikly on Djalpara Korajan Road in the same upazila is going on in full swing. LGED is constructing bridge at a cost of about Tk 75.10 lakh under the same programme. Some 85 per cent works has been completed while the rest is expected to be finished by December next.

Bumper production of Aman in Sirajganj district

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 20: Farmers of Sirajganj district have started harvesting Aman crops.

They achieved bumper production of Aman this season because of favourable weather. But the price of Aman in the markets is low.

Each maund of paddy is being sold between Tk 160 and Tk 170 in different markets, which is below the production cost.

Production surpassed all the previous records in Sirajganj and 15 other districts like Rangpur, Dinajpur, Bogra, Naogaon, Natore, Rajshahi, Pabna, Joypurhat, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat and Gibandha.

Cost of labour increased as the harvesting started in all the 16 districts. A farmer is to engage a labourer at the rates of Tk 90 and Tk 100. But the wages of labour rise while the price of Aman paddy falls.

Food officials said there is a huge stockpiling of paddy in the godowns. So, the government is yet to decide on procurement of the new Aman paddy in the afore-said districts.

Local foodgrains traders are purchasing the paddy at throw-away prices and stockpiling in godowns to earn maximum profit.

Meanwhile BSS from Sherpur

says: Cultivation of transplanted Aman has exceeded the target fixed by the Agriculture Extension Directorate (AED) this year.

Agriculture Directorate sources said, in the present season the target of cultivation of transplanted Aman was fixed at 81,000 hectares of land. But 86,500 hectares of land including 47,500 hectares of UFSI and 39,000 hectares of local variety were brought under cultivation.

As a result the production target is expected to be higher.

The Directorate set up 210 demonstration plots and 154 crop museums in five upazilas.

Water crisis in Madaripur

MADARIPUR, Nov 20: Acute scarcity of drinking water is prevailing in Madaripur district as a large number of tubewells have been lying inoperative since long, reports agency.

Department of Public Health Engineering sources said out of total 10,886 tubewells, 455 remained inoperative and 1,849 tubewells were sealed off due to arsenic contamination.

Of them, 150 tubewells were lying inoperative in Kalkini, 142 in Shibbar, 88 in Sadar and 75 in Rajoir upazilas.

Official sources also said 52 deep tubewells out of 3,302 remained out of order.

Meanwhile, PHED tested water of 3,092 tubewells and found arsenic beyond permissible limit in 1,849 tubewells.

Cows worth Tk 2 lakh looted from boats

From Our Correspondent

MANIKGANJ, Nov 20: Panic gripped the passengers and businessmen of the Padma and Jamuna River routes with the increasing piracies of the organised gang, reports UNB.

Victims and witnesses said the pirates looted all the belongings of businessmen after throwing two of them into the river and wounding 30 others on Tuesday. The ruffians swooped on the cow laden engine boat at Kazihat and looted the cows worth over Tk 2 lakh.

The victims lodged a written complaint to the police super of Pabna but police could not arrest any of the hoodlums or recovered the lost goods.

Concerned sources aid the pirates collect tolls from the oil tanker, goods laden cargo, engine-boats from home and abroad on the route regularly.

If anybody fails to mitigate their demand the miscreants snatch away his belongings at gunpoint.

Another report from Barisal says: Pirates looted cash and

valuables worth over Tk three lakh injuring five employees of two cargoes and an oil tanker in Elisha and Kalabadar rivers here recently.

Masters of the two cargoes and the oil tanker said the pirates numbering about 7-8 identifying themselves as the law enforcers got into the vessels and looted cash and valuables at arms point.

The pirates first committed dacoity in MV Munmun Setu anchored in the River Elisha at Rukundi in Mehendiganj upazila and the in MV Manik Mia-2 moored adjacent to Munmun, and finally in oil tanker MT Shanya anchored in the River Kalabadar, some five kms off the first two spots.

As the masters and helpers tried to build resistance, the pirates beat and injured Nazrul Islam, 38, master of Munmun Setu, Mujibar Rahman, 41, and Aynal Hawlader, 58, of Manik Mia-2 and Ruhul Amin, 45, and another one of MT Shanya.

Two get life term in Magura

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, Nov 20: A court here on Monday sentenced two persons to life term imprisonment for possessing illegal firearms.

The convicts were identified as Sabur and Maraful.

According to the prosecution story, acting on a tip-off, police arrested the two on April 28, 1999 at a village in Sreepur upazila with firearms after exchange of gunshots. During the encounter, an outlaw identified as Shaheen was killed.

Tk 1 lakh onion-seeds looted, recovered in Faridpur

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Nov 20: Two sacks load of onion-seeds worth over Take one lakh were snatched away from an onion-seed trader Abdur Razaque by some terrorists allegedly in connivance with the traffic police from Faridpur bus stand recently.

According to eye-witnesses and other sources, the trader, Abdur Razaque purchased the seed, from Momin Khar Hat areas under Char Madhabdia union in Sadar upazila and came to the bus-stand at 7.30 am to avail of a Kurigram-bound bus.

In the mean time, some miscreants snatched away two sacks of onion-seeds from his possession under the very nose of the on-duty traffic police.

However, Kotwali police, on being informed, rushed to the spot and recovered both the sacks intact from a deserted house at Wirelesspara adjacent to the bus-stand.

When contacted Kotwali police admitted the incident, but denied the involvement of any police personnel in the affair.

Bright prospect of pineapple farming

SYLHET, Nov 20: There is a bright prospect of pineapple cultivation in Sylhet division, because of suitable climate and soil, reports UNB.

Pineapple is cultivated on 35,000 acres of land in Baniabazar and Golapganj upazilas of Sylhet district, Bahubal and Chunarughat of Habiganj and Komolganj, Rajnagar, Kulaura, Baralekha and Srimongal upazilas of Moulvibazar.

Of the total land, pineapple is cultivated on 21,000 acres of land only in Moulvibazar district.

The soil of Sylhet mixed with acid and iron, humidity and rainfall all are suitable for good harvest of quality pineapple.

Mainly two kinds of pineapple Honey Queen and Giant Queen are produced here.

But, a huge quantum of pineapple is rotten every year for want of proper preservation, transport and marketing facilities.

The growers of remote hilly areas most of the time cannot bring their products to the market on time due to lack of transport facilities.

The growers have to sell pineapple through the middlemen and pay them a handsome percentage on the sale proceeds, it is alleged.

There is also a bright prospect of setting up of pineapple-based industries in the division, which can earn a huge amount of foreign currency.

Photo Feature on Lathi Khela

By Hossain Seraj



Mock fight with sticks: Like every year the traditional lathi khela competitions have already started in various parts of Magura district. Such competitions (1) and (2) are in progress at village Alukdia under Sadar upazila and (3), (4) at village Shajiara under the same upazila.

Move to establish 2nd BSCIC area in Bogra

BOGRA, Nov 20: Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC), Bogra unit, has decided to establish a second BSCIC area to accommodate prospective entrepreneurs on 15.42 acres of land, earlier acquired for a steel mills, reports BSS.

estate was established on 10.40 acres of land at Golara on Dhaka-Aricha highway in 1987.

But, no large-scale industrial unit has been built yet for want of bank loan and irregularities in plot distribution by the authority, it is alleged.

BSCIC, Bogra, acquired 14.50 acres at Fulbari Mauza in June, 1964 and 18.67 acres in 1980, totalling 33.17 acres. The Corporation developed the land at a cost of Taka 1,70,15,000 and allotted to 82 industrial units, but failed to accommodate 29 more prospective promoters with plots. Finding no plots in the BSCIC area, the prospective entrepreneurs started setting up small-scale industries in the residential areas, causing inconveniences and creating ecological and health hazards to the dwellers.

Production is on in only seven units out of allocated 28 plots. The rest have been identifying as 'sick industries' or 'under construction' for over a decade.

A section of dishonest entrepreneurs, took bank loans in the name of establishing industries here, but spent their money in other sector.

It is also alleged that some bank officials helped them to get loans through underhand dealings without selecting the real entrepreneurs.

Small-scale Industries Association sources said, more than 1,000 such establishments have been set up in the residential areas. These industrial units have been meeting 60 per cent of the local demands of spare parts, especially of the agricultural machinery and saving foreign exchange.

The entrepreneurs stepped to make Bogra an industrial town on private initiative. Bogra Chamber of Commerce and Industries, in order to stop establishment of industries in the residential areas and to help generate employment, proposed for extending BSCIC area on the land earlier acquired by Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation. The land was acquired at Chhalpukuria, an outskirts of Bogra town, but the programme to set up still mills there was dropped.

Ministry of Industries entrusted the Deputy Commissioner of Bogra to fix the value of the land, so as to hand over it to BSCIC, Bogra.

UNB from Manikganj says: No potential industrial unit has yet been set up in the BSCIC Industrial Estate here after 14 years of its establishment.

A source close to the BSCIC authority told that the bottleneck was created mainly for irregularities in plot distribution.

In view of contributing the country's economy, the BSCIC

Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation
"Krishi Bhaban"
49-51, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000
(Purchase Division)

Addendum

Closing and opening date of BADC's Local Tender No IRR(P)42/2000-2001 dated 16.10.2000 for procurement of materials for the scheme of Extension of Irrigation Project by Surface Water through Double Lifting is refixed on 30.11.2000 instead of 20.11.2000.

Submission of sample of Diesel Engine before dropping of tender as per Clause No. 18 (Ka) of specification is hereby dropped. The successful tenderer shall have to submit the sample of Diesel Engine before issuance of purchase order which will be tested in BUET.

All other terms and conditions of tender & specifications will remain unchanged.

ADC-1441
DFP-27679-15/11
G-2028

Md Faridul Alam
Manager (Purchase)
BADC, Dhaka

Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation
Office of the Project Director
Double Lifting Irrigation Project
'Sech Bhaban'
22, Manik Mia Avenue, Dhaka-1207

Tender Notice
Nr: 00-01/09

Tenders in sealed covers are hereby invited from the enlisted 1st and 2nd class contractors of BADC for the following works in Sech Bhaban, Sher-e-Banglanagar, BADC, Dhaka.

Description of works	Estimated amount	Value of tender document (Non-refundable)	Last date of sale of tender document	Date and time of receive of tender	Time for completion of work
Renovation/Installation and Construction of Project offices of BADC at Floor-3, Sech Bhaban.	Tk. 14,00,000/-	Tk. 1,400/-	28/11/00	29/11/00 upto 12 noon	60 days

2. Tender documents will be available on payment of value in cash as mentioned above from the office of (i) The Project Director (DLIP), BADC, Sech Bhaban, Dhaka, and (ii) The Chief Engineer (Irr), BADC, Krishi Bhaban (Floor-4), 49-51 Dilkusha C/A., Dhaka on all working days during the office hours except on the day of receive of tender.

3. Tenders along with earnest money @ 2.5% of the total quoted amount in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft from any schedule bank in favour 'BADC, Dhaka', will be received as per date and time noted above in those offices as mentioned against Sl. No. 2.

4. Tenders will be opened on the day of receive in those offices mentioned against Sl. No. 2 just 15 minutes after receive of tender in presence of the tenderers if remain present.

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

ADC-1440
DFP-27678-15/11
G-2027

Choudhury Abul Kashem
Project Director
Double Lifting Irrigation Project
BADC, Dhaka.