

# Five districts in grip of severe cold wave

RANGPUR, Jan 2: Five districts of greater Rangpur district have been under the grip of severe cold wave for the past few days, reports BSS.

Mercury dropped below 13.8 degree Celsius in Rangpur while it was below 10 degree Celsius in Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Gaibandha and Nilphamari districts.

Dense fog covered the entire Rangpur zone. Starting from afternoon, the situation becomes serious, with the sky remaining overcast by clouds and sunlight not visible. River crafts and motor vehicles ply by switching on their head lights in daytime, but during nights those hardly could ply due to dense fog.

Everywhere people of all classes are found shivering in the biting cold wave. Normal life has almost come to a standstill. Poor and low income group people are the worst sufferers since they hardly could go out of their houses in search of jobs. All five district administrations have distributed warm clothes and blankets, but those are two meagre.

The cold wave hit people of the districts are now badly in need of adequate warm clothes and blankets.

**Our Faridpur Correspondent reports:** Winter usually sets in here from late November and lasts up to first week of March.

This year the intensity of winter has started from the middle of December and intensity of the winter reaches its climax at the close of December and continues upto the middle of February.

Eighty per cent people here are poor who lead a sub-human life. Marginal farmers landless, labourers, fishermen, hawkers, and rickshawpullers are found working bare-footed on the street with worn-

out cotton shirts and lungis for a long time after even sundown.

Being shivered with unbearable biting cold they have been rushing to the second-hand warm clothes shops on footpaths in the town to buy woolen sweaters of lowest quality. But the lowest quality of sweaters which were sold at Tk 20 to 25 each last year are now being sold this season at Tk 40 to 50 each. Because of price-hike of second hand warm clothes, the poor people cannot afford to buy those.

Middle class and fixed income groups are also found crowding around each of the warm clothes shops on the footpaths and purchasing the best quality of second hand warm clothes for the families after visiting a lot of shops and bargaining a lot.

The best quality of second hand sweaters and cardigans are being sold between Tk 80 to 120 each in place of Tk 50 to 60 each last year. Besides, women are found busy at noon purchasing second hand woolen clothes for their babies and for themselves.

Traders of the second hand woolen clothes on footpaths are making wind-fall profits. This year no philanthropic organisation or affluent men have come out to distribute warm clothes at night among the most distressed people who have been lying about here and there under big trees, rail-station, court compounds, super-markets and like other places in the town and its outskirts.

The shivering cold of this winter has multiplied their sufferings.

Humanitarian organisations and affluent people are urged to distribute warm clothes among these wretched people as they did in previous years to mitigate their suffering from cold.



Fishermen while away their time beside their idle trawlers on the sea beach at Himchhari under Cox's Bazar district.

# Faridpur farmers start reaping bumper Aman

**From Our Correspondent**

FARIDPUR, Jan 2: Bumper Aman paddy has grown this year in the district and farmers have been harvesting.

In some areas, Aman paddy harvesting season has almost come to an end. The farmers along with their family members are now busy threshing the paddy. Even the faces of marginal farmers are beaming as they have harvested bumper paddy.

Households in rural areas turn festive with housewives making traditional cakes made of rice, locally known as pitha.

In the last two years farmers in the district also had good harvest of the crop.

According to local Agriculture Extension Department (AED) sources, Aman paddy was cultivated on 48,031 hectares of land in eight upazilas of the district this year against the target of 31,275 hectares of land fixed by the AED.

The target to bring 5,000 hectares of land under high yielding variety of Aman paddy was fixed but 8,039 hectares of land were brought under the farming,

surpassing the target by 3,039 hectares.

However, the target of transplanted Aman paddy cultivation was not achieved due to natural calamities during the plantation period.

Transplanted Aman was cultivated on 1,143 hectares of land against the target of 1,500 hectares, falling short of 357 hectares of land.

The production of HYV per acre this year is four metric tons, exceeding the target by .61 metric tons.

# Landless on rise due to river erosion

River erosion has taken a serious turn in Kushtia and Shariatpur districts where the number of landless people is increasing day by day, report agencies.

At least 10,000 people were rendered homeless in six upazilas of Kushtia district this year due to unabated river erosion.

Many homesteads, offices, educational institutions, business establishments, culverts, roads and vast tracts of cultivable lands also were eroded, as the Padma and Goral changed their courses due to accumulation of heavy silts from the upstream.

A total of 16 villages of Ramkrishnapur union were devoured rendering 6,000 families homeless by the devastating erosion of the rivers over the past few years, local UP chairman

said.

The rivers also devoured Thotarpara Border Outpost (BOP) of Bangladesh Rifles. Later, the BOP was shifted to a nearby government primary school which is again facing erosion threat.

Meanwhile, the erosion has also taken an alarming turn in Daulatpur and Kumarkhali upazilas.

Meanwhile, the number of landless people in Shariatpur is increasing. The total landless people here are 5,71,802.

According to official sources, of the total population 60 per cent are landless. About six per cent people have no land even to build a hut.

The people are becoming landless with the increase of population. The upazila-wise landless

people are as follows: 51 per cent in Naria, 57 per cent in Jajira, 60 per cent in Gosairhat, 45 per cent in Damuda upazila and 57 per cent in Bhedarganj upazila.

The number of landless people is increasing due to the erosion of the mighty river Padma.

Besides, poor farmers have to live with recurrent natural calamities, like drought, cyclone, heavy rainfall, pest attack and flood during the last 25 years.

Even the farmers do not get fair price of paddy, wheat, especially of jute, the cash crops here all these made an adverse impact on the economic condition of poor farmers.

The poverty-stricken farmers are compelled to sell out their land to a section of people. All these made the people landless.

# Nine 'Bawalis' killed by tigers in four days

BAGERHAT, Jan 2: Man-eater Royal Bengal Tigers killed at least nine 'Bawalis' (golpata collector) in the deep forest of the Sundarbans during December 18-22, reports UNB.

They fell prey to the tigers during collection of golpata at compartments number 38 and 40 of Ardua Sibsha Sector in deep forest.

The victims were identified as Shahidul Islam, 33, Ruhul Amin Mistri, 38, and Abdul Kuddus, 25, of Paikgacha upazila; Jallil, 37, and Salam, 42, of Koira upazila in Khulna district; Mohammad Samad Dhalli, 26, of Kaliganj upazila; Mohammad Nurul Islam, 30, and another

unidentified man of Asahuni upazila in Satkhira district and Mohammad Farid of Nesarabad upazila in Projpur district.

Fellow bawalis recovered their decomposed bodies from the forest.

Meanwhile, at least 10 'Bawalis' suffered critical injuries by tiger attacks and were undergoing treatment in different hospitals.

Of the injured Hashem Ali, 25, son of Monsur Ali Sarder of Jaigirmahal village in Koira upazila, survived after fighting an hour-long battle with the man-eater.

He was undergoing treatment in Shyamnagar Upazila Thana Health Complex.

Earlier, seven people were killed by the Royal Bengal Tigers in the Sundarbans from May 24 to 30 while Vincent Mridha, 45, of Mongla upazila was killed in August.

# News snaps

## Unity of Sirajganj BNP sought

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 2: The four-party alliances and mid-level leaders of BNP along with about 100 of its activists have been demanding unity of the two factions of local BNP.

The two factions are being led by Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku, BNP central committee member and Nur-e-Alam Helal, former chairman of Sirajganj Municipality and former district BNP organising secretary. Local political circle alleged that in connivance with the two factions of the party, some dishonest politicians have formed a third force. As a result the ruling Awami League has become benefited, they also alleged. Meanwhile, the conflict between Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku and Alamgir Al-Amin Kazal ensued over a long time family feud is well-known to all. Now a-days Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku is being supported by Humayn Islam Khan, Advocate Mokaddesh Ali, Mojibur Rahman Lebu, Nurul Islam Nuru and other leaders, while Alamgir Al-Amin Kazal is being supported by Mokbul Hossain Chowdhury, Ershadur Rahman Niru, Shaidur Rahman Bacchu, Abdul Mannan Sarder and Abdul Mannan (Dol).

## Watermelon farming gains popularity

THAKURGAON, Jan 2: Untimely watermelon cultivation, first ever here showed tremendous success and attracted local farmers to cultivate this fruit, reports UNB.

The fruit that contains usual flavours and smell alike the seasonal watermelon, are being sold at high prices in the market. Assistant Director of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) Abdus Salam told that three farmers, Khalilur Rahman, Alimul Huq and Fajir Uddin cultivated watermelon during late monsoon. Watermelon is normally cultivated in the dry (Kharif) season. Being inspired by block supervisor Ashwini Kumar Adhikari, they brought seven hectares of land under watermelon cultivation and got unexpected output. They harvested around 55 mts of watermelon per hectare of land and are selling those in the local markets with high price, and also sending to Dhaka and other parts of the country.

## Seven alleged kidnappers held

COMILLA, Jan 2: Police arrested seven alleged kidnappers along with a microbus from Pachora village of Burichang upazila here on Dec 20, reports UNB.

The arrested were identified as Kabir Hossain-1, Kabir Hossain-2, Jakir Hossain, Shafiqul Islam, Anwar Hossain, Abdul Hannan and microbus driver Shamsul Alam. Police said the miscreants after entering into the house of Shamsul Haque of the village Kidnapped his 14-year-old daughter. A team of patrol police arrested the miscreants when they were fleeing after kidnapping the school-girl. They also rescued the girl from the microbus. All the arrested were sent to jail.



Sajida Foundation, a welfare organisation, recently concluded a four-month training course on tailoring and embroidery for 74 poor women at Jinzira under Keraniganj in Dhaka district. Photo shows the chairperson of the foundation, Sajida Humayun Kabir, distributing certificates among the successful trainees.

# Navigation faces setback as water level falls

CHANDPUR, Jan 2: Navigation to and from Chandpur has been affected badly due to rapid fall in water level in all rivers in the district, reports BSS.

Many shoals have appeared in many places in the Padma, Meghna and Dakatia rivers due to heavy siltation during the last flood.

Plying of riverine transports along different river routes has become very risky as well as time consuming.

According to Chandpur Water Development Board sources, now water level in the Padma, Meghna and Dakatia is below the normal requirement during the dry season. The average water level now stands at 90 feet against 180 feet during the rainy season.

It is alleged that about 10 to 15-foot layer of silt has been deposited in the river beds.

It is expected that ground and surface water level will go down further affecting seriously the ecological balance and causing acute crisis of water.

Now water transports including steamers, launches, country boats plying between Chandpur-Dhaka, Chandpur-Barisal, Chandpur-Narayanganj, Chandpur-Khulna have to cover an additional distance from 4 to 5 kilometers to reach destinations by diverting the original routes.

Passengers of steamers and launches plying in the routes have been suffering. Sometimes passengers on board are stranded for hours in the middle of the rivers as the vessels hit shoals in the mid-stream.

### EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

1. Applications are invited from the Bangladeshi citizen for direct recruitment to the following post in the lower formation of Bangladesh Army:

Name of the Post	Number of the Post	Qualification and Experience	Age Limit	Pay Scale
Research Officer	01(One)	At least Second Class both in Bachelors and Master's degrees from a recognized university	Not exceeding 30 years	4300-185x7-5595-EB-195 x11-7740/-

2. Eligible candidates will forward their own hand written application stating Name, Father's Name, Permanent and Mailing Address, Date of Birth, Religion, Nationality, Educational Qualifications and Experiences enclosing duly attested supporting documents and 03 (Three) copies passport size photographs and a self addressed envelope affixed with 02 (two) taka postal stamp so as to reach by 20 January 2001 to the address appended below.

3. Age limit for Freedom Fighter/Shahed Freedom Fighter/Female Freedom Fighter 18 to 32 years.

4. Freedom Fighter/Shahed Freedom Fighter/Female Freedom Fighter's son/daughter must enclose Freedom Fighter's certificate of his/her parents duly countersigned by the competent authority with the application.

5. Serving candidates will forward their application through proper channel.

6. No TA/DA will be admissible to attend the selection test/viva voce.

**Controller of Civilian Personnel**  
Adjutant Generals Branch  
Personnel Administration Directorate  
Army Headquarters  
Dhaka Cantonment  
Dhaka-1206

ISPR/Army/2000/1040  
DFP-31147-21/12  
G-30

### Bakhrabad Gas Systems Limited

(A company of Petrobangla)

প্যাসের অপচয় রোধ করুন এবং নির্ধারিত সময়ে বিল পরিশোধ করুন

### Tender Notice

1.	Name of the work	Estimated cost (in Taka)	Cost of tender documents (non-refundable)	Completion time
	Construction of service line/sub feeder line and installation of riser at Comilla Sadar, Choudhagram, Laksham, Barura, Debidwar, Muradnagar, Chandina, Homna, and Daudkandi thana areas. Phase-XXI	Tk 9,99,933.67	Tk. 1000.00 per set	210 working days

2. Qualification of contractor:

- Must be enlisted with BGSL categories 1,3/1.4 for the year 1999-2000.
- The contractor who have not completed materials reconciliation of the previous completed works are not eligible to participate in this tender.
- Contractors of ongoing projects who have not completed 75% of ongoing work within the proportionate schedule of time will not be allowed to participate in this tender and contractors who are currently engaged in construction of pipe line work are advised to submit a clearance certificate from the concerned Deputy General Manager in this regard.

3. Where tender documents will be available:

- Liaison Office, BGSL, House No-3, Road No-2/A, Banani, Dhaka.
- Finance & Accounts Department, BGSL, Head Office Complex, Chapapur, Comilla.
- Accounts Section, BGSL, 137/A, CDA Avenue, Sholoshahar, Chittagong.

4. Selling date of tender: 31-12-2000 to 14-01-2001.

5. Place, date & time: Places as mentioned in the tender documents on 15-1-2001 up to 11-00 AM.

6. Date and time of tender opening: 15-01-2001 at 11-10 AM

BG-185/Dec '00  
DFP-31260-21/12

G-29

### Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Project Coordinating Director  
Fourth Fisheries Project  
Matshya Bhaban, Dhaka

Memo # DoF/FFP/Proc/4176 Date: 17.12.2000

### Notice Inviting Tenders for Engagement of C&F Agent for Clearing and Forwarding of Vehicles from Chittagong Port

IFB No. NCB/DoF/4176 Date: 17.12.2000

- The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a credit from the International Development Association in various currencies towards the cost of Fourth Fisheries Project. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this credit will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for clearing and forwarding of vehicles from Chittagong Port.
- The Project Coordinating Director now invites sealed tenders under National Competitive Bidding (NCB) from eligible bidders for clearing and forwarding of vehicles from Chittagong Port. List of vehicles are enclosed in Annexure-A.
- Payments made under this contract will only be in Bangladesh Taka. Interested eligible tenderers (including foreign firms) who are willing to receive payments in Bangladesh Taka may obtain further information from the office of the Project Coordinating Director, Fourth Fisheries Project, Matshaya Bhaban, 13 Shahid Capt. Munsur Ali Sharani, Ramna, Dhaka. Phone-9569934, 9555349, Fax- 9567216.
- A complete set of tender documents may be purchased by interested tenderer on submission of a written application to the undersigned upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Tk. 450/- (four hundred fifty) in the form of Bank Draft or Pay Order from any schedule bank in Bangladesh in favour of Project Coordinating Director, 4<sup>th</sup> Fisheries Project upto 21/01/2001 during office hours.
- Tender must be delivered to the office of the undersigned on or before 12.00 hrs on 22nd January/2001 and must be accompanied by a security of 2.5% of quoted amount as provided for in the instruction to tenderers.

**Md Nasir Uddin Ahmed**  
Project Coordinating Director  
Fourth Fisheries Project  
Matshaya Bhaban, Dhaka

DFP-31042-20/12  
G-31

### Bangladesh Power Development Board

বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড

### Invitation of Local Tender

- Local sealed tenders are invited by BPDB Project Director 18-Towns Power Distribution Project from renowned manufacturers for the procurement of materials for Sylhet Town under 18-Towns Power Distribution Project, as detailed below:

Tender Enquiry No & Date	Description of equipment/materials	Quantity	Cost of tender document	Tender receiving and opening date
PUR-18T/SYL/38/2000 Dt 12-12-2000	XLPE Insulated ACSR DOG	30 Km	Tk 500.00	9-1-2000

- A complete set of tender documents may be purchased by interested bidders from on submission of written application to the undersigned and upon payment of Non-refundable fee of taka as mentioned in column-5 above against the tender in the shape of Bank Draft/Pay Order in favour of Project Director, 18-Town Power Distribution Project (Phase-II), PDB, Dhaka.
- A bid bond equivalent to 2.5% of the offered price shall be submitted with tender.
- Tender will be received in the office of the undersigned up to 11:30 AM and will be opened at 11:45 AM in the prescribed date as mentioned in column-6 above in presence of the intending bidders or their representatives, if any. Tender shall neither be sent by post nor it will be sold on the opening day. Offer sent by Post/Telex/DHL/Fax will neither be received nor it will be accepted.
- Due to unavoidable circumstances (if any) selling & receiving date shall be shifted to immediate next working day.

Biddul/Jan-1196(5)/2000-2001  
DFP-31747-31/12  
G-32

**Project Director**  
18-Town Power Distribution Project (Phase-II)  
BPDB, Dhaka.

### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Department of Films & Publications  
112, Circuit House Road, Dhaka-1000

No. 7-13/97-98(F)/Part-5/

### International Re-Tender

No-5 (2nd Time)

Department of Films and Publications (DFP) invites sealed International Re-Tender for the supply and commissioning of equipment from manufacturer or on authorization from the manufacturer through their appointed local agent in Bangladesh for supply of the following equipment specified in the tender schedule.

Description of equipment:

Sl. No.	Items	Quantity
A.	EDITING MACHINE	
01.	16/35mm Combined Film Editing Machine (Six plates)	2

Re-tender document (tender schedule) with detailed specifications and scope is obtainable from the office of DFP, 112, Circuit House Road, Dhaka-1000 on payment of Tk. 750/- per set during office hour from 31-12-2000 to 28-01-2001.

Tender will be received in two-envelope system (one for technical cum commercial offer and one for financial offer). This will be received in two separate tender boxes kept in the office of DFP up to 12.15 hour on 29-01-2001. Technical-cum-commercial offer of the tender will be opened at 12.30 hours on 29-01-2001 in presence of the bidders (or their local representatives), if any financial offer of the bidder, whose technical offer found responsive, will be opened later after notifying the bidders. This will be opened in presence of qualified bidders, if any.

DFP reserves all rights to accept or reject any or all the tender without assigning any reason whatsoever.

DFP-31724-31/12  
G-33

**B. M. Salauddin**  
Director (Film)  
&  
Member Secretary  
Tender Committee