

DANIDA project brings changes in Patuakhali, benefits ultrapoor

1600 women employed, infrastructure being built: Project should continue, beneficiaries say

MD SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

A DANIDA project, besides building rural infrastructures in Patuakhali, has helped 1600 ultrapoor women become self-reliant.

The women, organised under groups, are engaged in various development works including road maintenance, re-excavation of canals and tree plantation.

The ten-year programme launched in 1994 comes to a successful completion in the ensuing dry season, but different quarters say its duration should be extended for overall development of rural infrastructure and rehabilitation of the ultrapoor.

The Rural Development Project-16 (RDP-16), assisted by DANIDA, is being implemented jointly by the Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED). The project involved Tk 67 crore, of which, Tk 57 crore has been utilised so far, DANIDA official Abul Kalam told this correspondent.

Every woman working in the project earns Tk 80-100 per day. They have to save 25 per cent of it with their bank accounts as per a mandatory provision. They will get the savings at a time for income generating activities, in which they are being trained, Kalam said. They are being trained in fish and vegeta-

bles cultivation, poultry farming and rearing cow and goat. They are also being made aware of sanitation, adult education and to rise against dowry and other social vices.

The success of the project in building infrastructures is tremendous. So far, 447 km roads including 150 km rural roads, five concrete bridges, 52 box culverts, 180 pipe culverts, 10 steel frame bridges, 47 village markets, two-km river protection embankments have been built, 78 km canals re-excavated and trees have been planted along 132 km roads, according to project officials.

Nine day care centres have been opened for children of the working women. Each centre accommodates at least 30 children.

Talking to this correspondent, Halima Begum, 35, wife of Ahmed Ali of Aliapur village in the Sadar upazila said, "I was virtually starving with my three children and a disabled husband.

"I am now earning for the family and also saving for future. I will raise a poultry farm with the savings. This project has changed our life".

Another woman, Monwara, 30, said, "My two sons are going to school since I joined the project two years back".

"My husband is a day labourer.

We are better off now with my income".

LGED Executive Engineer Md

Khalilur Rahman said the project has so far covered only 25 per cent area of the district. Road links

between villages with upazila head-quarters have been established in the project area.



Women renovating the Pautikhali-Shohakathi road in the Sadar upazila. The photo was taken recently.

129 CU TEACHERS SAY JCD agitation for VC's removal instigated by vested quarters

CU CORRESPONDENT

One hundred and twenty-nine teachers of Chittagong University (CU) has said the ongoing agitation by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) for removal of the Vice Chancellor is "an act instigated by vested quarters".

In a joint statement issued here on Monday night, the teachers reportedly aligned to Jamaat-e-Islami said that the quarter is trying to destroy the academic atmosphere on the campus.

The teachers also called upon the JCD leaders and activists to stop

their agitation for an "illogical demand".

The signatories to the statement include Prof Dr. Abul Kalam Azad, Prof Abdun Nur, Dr. AKM Abdul Quader, Dr. Kazi Ahmed Nabi, Prof Nuruddin Mahmud and Dr. Shawkatul Meher.

Meanwhile, the JCD at a rally held on the CU library premises on Monday vowed to continue their agitation till the VC, Prof AJM Nuruddin Chowdhury, is not removed.

JCD president Md Selim and general secretary Milton Chowdhury addressed the rally.

They started the agitation on Thursday to press their one-point demand of removal of the VC for his alleged corruption in appointing teachers and patronising Jamaat-Shibir activists.

JCD on Sunday observed a token hunger strike to press their demand. Milton said they would launch a signature collection campaign within a week in support their demand.

When contacted, the VC refuted the allegations and said all appointments at CU in last two years were made in a fair and transparent manner.

RECRUITMENT IN BSBMCH Token strike by pro-ruling party staff continue

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A tense situation is prevailing at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (BSBMCH) as 3rd and 4th class employees aligned with the ruling party continued agitation for recruitment of party supporters in vacant posts.

They staged a one-hour token strike followed by sit-in in front of the hospital director's office yesterday and the day before and brought out processions on the campus demanding removal of the Director, Dr Aziz Rahim, also president of Barisal unit of BMA (Bangladesh Medical Association).

They will stage two hours' token strike today and tomorrow, five hours' strike on October 5 and then go on continuous strike, sources said.

Their agitation followed the September 16 snatching of recruitment lists prepared by the hospital authorities. Those were snatched reportedly by some opposition activists on allegations that those contained only names recommended by local ruling party leaders.

Satkhira AL protests arrests

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Awami League (AL) brought out a procession and held a rally in the town on Monday protesting arrest of the party leaders and activists in Satkhira and other districts.

The rally was held in front of the Police Superintendent's office. They also volunteered to be arrested, but none was nabbed.

More than 2,000 party leaders and activist took part in the procession brought out from in front of the district AL office.

The rally was addressed by, among others, district AL convener Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, former MPs Munsur Ahmed and Dr. Mokhlesur Rahman, Dr. AFM Ruhul Haque, Nazrul Islam, Abu Ahmed, S M Shawkat Hossain, Sk Nurul Islam, Jaglul Haider, Sheikh. Waheduzzaman, Moznun Chowdhury and Golam Mostafa.

They called upon the people to build a movement to topple the government. People's movement can not a stopped by arrests, they said.

CASE UNDER EXPLOSIVES ACT 7 Barisal leaders of AL fronts sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Seven leaders of Awami Jubo League (AJL), Sechhashebak League (SL) and Chhatra League (BCL) -- all fronts of opposition Awami League (AL) -- were sent to Barisal Central Jail after their bail prayers were rejected by the District Judge Court on Monday.

The are Mejbahuddin Jewel, joint convener of Barisal city Jubo League and former president of district BCL; Kamal Hossain, joint convener of Kotwali thana SL; Jobo League leaders Shahin Sikder, Md Dollar and Farhad Hossain and BCL leaders Titu and Mamun. They are among nine persons sued by BNP leader Mustafizul Huq Golap under the Explosives Act on August 24 in

connection with bomb explosions in different areas of the city.

They had appeared before the High Court on September 1 for bail. The High Court granted them four weeks' interim bail and ordered them to appear before the District Judge Court for permanent bail.

The seven appeared before the District Judge Court on Monday and prayed for bail.

But District and Sessions Judge Saiful Islam rejected their bail prayers as they were accused under the non-bailable Explosives Act and sent them to jail.

The next date of hearing is October 10.

Two others -- BCL leaders Shipon and Tipu -- are still absconding.

IU reopens Oct 2

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

The Islamic University authorities have decided to reopen the institution on October 2, hoping that the floodwater with recede from the campus by that time.

The decision was taken at a meeting of Deans, departmental heads and high officials held on the campus yesterday. Vice-chancellor Prof Rafiqul Islam told this correspondent.

Classes will resume on October 2 and examinations will be held on October 5.

To avoid session jam, academic activities will continue till October 21 during the Ramadan, he said.

The authorities had closed the university on September 15 and asked students to leave as their dormitories were inundated along with other vital installations and facilities.

During a visit to the campus yesterday, two-thirds area was seen

inundated. These include one academic building, engineering building, commerce faculty building, library, two dormitories for teachers and officials, two staff quarters, the central mosque two female students' hostels -- Begum Fazilatunnesha Mujib Hall and Khelada Zia Hall.

The VC hoped that the situation will improve in next four days and allow resumption of academic activities any how.

The water-logging has caused property damage worth nearly Tk two crore, other sources on the campus said said.

Dr Moslem Uddin, Register of the University, however said the actual damage is yet to be assessed.

The rain-fed water is virtually stagnant as the flood plain outside the campus are also flooded.

The drainage system of the University is linked with Padamdi water body, which is also flooded and connected with the Kumar river.



A part of the inundated IU campus, snapped on Monday.

Kidnap bid: 2 Chhatra Dal, 2 BCL men held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Two Chhatra Dal activists and two Chhatra League activists were caught by people while trying to kidnap a girl from Shannal para village in Sherpur upazila on Sunday.

The Chhatra Dal activists are Mosharof and Masud and the Chhatra League activists are Rasal and Rakibul.

A bullet-loaded foreign made pistol was also recovered from their possession, according to Sherpur

Thana police.

They went to the village with the bullet-loaded pistol to kidnap a college girl, Shammi Akter at midnight.

But her guardians raised a hue and cry and caught Chhatra Dal activist Masud with the bullet-loaded pistol on the spot. People from the neighbourhood rushed and caught three others from there. Later, they were handed over to police.

Sherpur Thana police filed a case against them under Arms Act.

SNAPS

72-hour transport strike in Khulna threatened

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna Sarak Paribahan Malik-Sramik Oikya Parishad has threatened a 72-hour transport strike from 6 am on October 2 if their three-point demand is not fulfilled by October 1. This was decided at a meeting held at 11 am on Sunday with Senior Vice President of city BNP and President of Oikya Parishad Abdul Gaffar Biswas in the chair. The demands are abolition of the car requisition system by police, stoppage of carrying local passengers in long route Khulna-Dhaka buses and stoppage of movement of bus from any place other than central bus terminal at Sonadanga.

Khulna divisional confce of Jubo Dal held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna divisional conference of Jubo Dal was held at Shahid Maharaaj Square here on Monday. Presided over by Assistant Organising Secretary Md Fakhrul Alam, it was attended by Jubo Dal President and Advisor of Commerce Ministry Barkatullah Bulu as chief guest. General Secretary Moazzem Hossain Alal MP, was present as the main speaker. The chief guest asked the Jubo Dal activists to face those who are fishing in troubled water taking full advantage of extreme patience shown by the ruling party. 'None will be given the chance to seize state power from back doors by creating anarchy in the country', he warned. The grand conference was addressed, among others, by city BNP President M Nurul Islam MP and city BNP Secretary Nazrul Islam Manju.

Vote for JP for peace, uplift

Ershad tells Netrakona by-polls rally

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Jatiya Party (JP) chairman and former president HM Ershad said the government has failed to ensure security of people's life and property and the country's development. He called upon the people to rally round his party to ensure peace and development.

"There was peace and development during Jatiya Party rule", he said addressing a rally held to campaign for JP candidate Fakir Ashraf in the Netrakona-2 by-election, scheduled for October 9. The rally was held on the premises of CKP Pilot High School at

Barhatta upazila headquarter Monday evening.

Ershad said crimes have increased because the ruling party men are sheltering criminals. They also utilising law enforces against the people to cling to power.

Democracy and people's life are not safe under the government.

Jatiya Party does politics for people's welfare, not for power, he said and called upon the people to vote for Fakir Ashraf.

The former president said, in the next general election, people will vote his party to power because the two governments since 1991 failed to do

anything good for them.

They speak of democracy but repress people when their corruption is protested, Ershad said.

Presided over by Achab Uddin, conveyor of Barhatta Upazila JP (Ershad), the rally was addressed by, among others, JP central vice-president Anisur Rahman, general secretary Ruhul Amin Howladar, Presidium member and ex-MP Sardar Amzad Hossen, Netralona district JP president Liakot Ali and general secretary Mostafizur Rahman Rajvi and others local leaders.



Jatiya Party chief H. M. Ershad addressing rally at CKB High School ground in Netrakona.



PHOTO: STAR

5x3

5x2