

Where children are aware of human rights

NGO campaign in Kushtia villages yields good results

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

Twelve year-old school student Jannatul and his classmate Raju, both from poor landless families, know that they have the right to food and education.

This correspondent was baffled when Jannatul said, "There is a Constitution which guarantees these rights, but all do not enjoy those. The reality is far away from

what is in the Constitution. Why?"

There are many like Jannatul and Raju in remote Selidah village in Kushtia district who know about fundamental rights and human rights. This could not be thought of few years ago in the village, about 25 kms from the district town.

The laudable job was done by Rabindra Sangsad, Selidah (RSS), a local NGO with assistance from Manabik Shahajya Sangstha (MSS),

a Dhaka-based NGO.

RSS is conducting a human rights education programme in villages in Kushtia district.

Like Zannatul and Raju, several thousand school going children aged between 12 and 15 in Selidah and nearby villages are now aware of fundamental rights and human rights.

Even poor and illiterate village women also know what are the fundamental rights and human

rights the state should ensure.

They also know about women's rights and that seeking dowry is a punishable offence.

About 5000 grassroots people have been given orientation training on human rights, particularly rights of women and child by RSS since it launched its programme in May this year, its Executive Director Sathi Nazrul Islam told this correspondent during a recent visit to the village.

"Creating awareness is the main thing. Once they know about their rights they will realise those someday", he said.

Awareness will also greatly help in reducing crimes in society, he noted.

RSS will cover 12000 targeted people in 100 villages in Kumarkhali upazila in the district through 2625 trained 'community members', Sathi said.

The NGO is using 'Rights-Based Approach' (RBA) instead of traditional 'Need-Based Approach' (NBA) because NBA can not address the real problems and fulfil aspiration of grassroots people.

RSS holds small separate gatherings of children, youths and women at villages, where they are told about fundamental rights and human rights.

"We are getting a spontaneous response from people of all ages because they can know many things at such meetings", Sathi said.

"These meetings benefit all because local educated people also attend those and discuss things frankly. The meetings also discuss various socio-economic problems and ways to overcome those".



Women and children at a discussion meeting on fundamental rights and human rights organised by Rabindra Sangsad, Selidah (RSS) at a village in Kushtia recently.

NBCP leader Kalipada Das arrested in India

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Notorious criminal of Dumuria in Khulna district, Kalipada Das, 36, a leader of outlawed New Biplobi Communist Party (NBCP) has been arrested in West Bengal in India, police sources here said.

He was arrested by Bongoan police on Tuesday, they said.

According to a reliable source, Kalipada Das abducted Shoumyabrata Roy, 10, a student of Bongoan High School and son of Tejanjon Roy, on Monday and demanded Tk one crore ransom. The boy was rescued by police.

Arrested Kalipada confessed in a court in Bongoan on Friday that he needed money for his party and help the family of Mono Ranjon Soshai alias Mrinal, founder of NBCP, who was killed in Phulia village in Nadia district of West Bengal last month.

Kalipada Das also confessed that he came to India to avenge the murder of his leader Mrinal. He was residing in a house at Ghat Baorh area in Bongoan.

Meanwhile, investigation is going by Indian police to detect if Kalipada Das had any link with Naxalites and how many cadres of NBCP have crossed the border and taken shelter in India, as reported in Dainik Ajkal published from Kolkata.

Fake passports, notes recovered in Sylhet

Youth held with Hundi money

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police arrested three persons with seven fake international passports and 46 forged 100 taka notes from the city's Chaliabandar area on Sunday.

Acting on a tip off, police raided the rented house of Shyamol Kumar Das at about 3-30 pm and recovered the fake notes and Passports.

Two others were arrested. They are Ajit and Monindra Chandra Dey. Police said they were engaged in forged currency business for long. A case had been filed with the Kotwali thana.

In another incident, members of rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested one Liakat Hossain with Tk 2,62,000 Hundi money from the city's Ambarkhana area.

On suspicion, Rab members intercepted Liakat while he was on his way to Chhatka in Sunamganj district and recovered the money stacked in different parts of his body.

Liakat confesses to them that he was carrying the Hundi to recipients, police said.

Rab handed him over to Kotwali police.



PHOTO: STAR

A partial view of the crowd in front of Nilphamari municipality office on Sunday during distribution of VGF rice.

Monga affects 9 lakh in Nilphamari

1,60,500 VGF cards distributed: OMS, test relief bring down rice price

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

The monga situation in the district is deteriorating day by day.

There is no work in rural areas in the district where about nine lakh out of a population of 17 lakh are ultra poor.

Most people in the rural areas are passing days amid hardship since mid-August when sowing of Aman paddy was complete.

The monga (lack of work during pre-harvest period) has forced rural people to move to towns and other districts. Finding no alternative, many have started begging in towns.

People in villages are compelled to take inedible and unwholesome food and are being attacked with diarrhoeal diseases.

At least 18 people have died of diarrhoea in the district since beginning of the monga, according to official records.

Some people this correspondent talked to in different areas of the

district said the situation will deteriorate as Aman harvest is still about a month away.

Making best use of the monga situation, moneylenders do a brisk business. They lend money on high interest. Poor day labourers sell their labour in advance and borrow money from well to do farmers on condition that they would work in their fields at wages far less than normal. Daily wage of a farm labourer is Tk 60-80 during harvest.

The situation in Teesta shoal areas of Char Kharibari, East Kharibari, Jharsinghshor Kismater Char, Fakrater Char, Ekotar Char in Dimla and Jaldhaka upazilas is critical as no help from government to any NGO reach the far away inaccessible areas.

To combat the monga, the government started the Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) programme from September, under which each union in six upazilas of the district got 2000 VGF cards.

A total of 1, 28, 600 VGF cards were

distributed earlier, which has been raised to 1,60,500. Each card holder gets 10 kgs of rice per month. Already, the card holders got rice on two occasions.

Additional 500 cards were given in each union and in four municipalities on the eve of the Ramadan.

The third phase of rice distribution under VGF cards began on Sunday and will be completed in 3-4 days, official sources said. Army is supervising the distribution.

On Sunday, while visiting Nilphamari municipality office, this correspondent saw at least 8000 people there while officials said 3,000 VGF cards had been given in the area.

The government has also allotted 526 MT of rice under test relief programme and started open market sale (OMS) of rice a fortnight ago. The steps lowered the prices of coarse rice by Tk two per kilogram, traders said.

But it is all the same for the poor people who have no work and money to buy rice.

SNAPS

10 crew hurt in pirates' attack in outer anchorage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Armed pirates attacked and injured at least ten crew, three of them critically, and looted ropes and other valuables from an inland lighterage coaster at the outer anchorage of Chittagong port Sunday evening. Sources said, some 14 pirates attacked the lighterage vessel - Summit-3 - while it was unloading cement clinker from a vessel at the outer anchorage. They also snatched cell phones and other belongings from the crew and fled away before Navy and Coast Guard personnel reached the spot on hearing the news. Three of the critically injured crew were admitted into Chittagong Medical College Hospital while the rest were released after first-aid, sources said.

'Outlaw' killed in 'crossfire' in Chuadanga

Another murdered by rivals in Meherpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Two outlaws were killed in Chuadanga and Meherpur on Sunday.

One of them, a top leader of an outlawed party, was killed in a 'crossfire' with police at Khadimpur village in the Sadar upazila in Chuadanga and the other was murdered by rivals in Meherpur.

In the Chuadanga incident, police arrested four outlaws and recovered firearms incident.

Chuadanga police said they had gone to Khadimpur village at noon to arrest Rifat alias Kajal, 36, a leader of Banglar Communist Party (BCP), led by notorious killer Nuruzzaman Laitu and recover arms as per confession of another arrested outlaw.

Kajal is a close associate of Laitu and faces 17 cases including nine murder cases filed with different police station in Chuadanga and Meherpur.

As police reached a field in the village, BCP cadres an associates of Kajal opened fire on them.

Police returned fire, triggering a shootout, which continued for about an hour. Kajal was killed in the crossfire, police said.

Later police arrested four alleged outlaws and recovered one Shutter Gun, one revolver and six bullets. The arrested persons are Mantu, 25, Jhantu, 36, Fitu, 25 and Selim 32.

Police sent the body of Kajal to Chuadanga Sadar hospital for autopsy.

A case was filed.

Five alleged outlaws were killed in 'crossfire' in the district in last two months, according to police record.

In another incident, rivals slaughtered alleged outlaw Yarul Islam, 35, son of Khabir Uddin, at Raipur village in Gangni upazila in Meherpur on Sunday night.

Family sources said a gang, allegedly belonging to outlawed Bippobi Communist Party (BCP) stormed into the house of Yarul, an accused in several murder cases and picked him up at gunpoint.

They took him to a field and slaughtered him.

Police sent the body to Meherpur Sadar hospital for autopsy.

A case was filed with Gangni police station.

Manikganj JSD dedicates celebrations to late leader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Leaders and activists of Manikganj district unit of Jatiya Samajtantrik Da (JSD-Imu) have dedicated the party's 33rd founding anniversary celebrations to the memory of late JSD leader Nosirul Haque Khan Patil, who died of cardiac arrest on October 20 this year at the age of 45.

Patil was General Secretary of Manikganj Sadar upazila unit of JSD. He was the chairman of Garpara Union Parishad and organising secretary of the district unit of National Union Parishad from (NUPF).

The district unit of JSD arranged a remembrance meeting followed by an Ifar party on Manikganj Girls High School premises in the town on Sunday.

Acting president of Manikganj JSD Abdus Salam chaired the meeting, addressed by among others, JSD central joint secretary Shirin Akter, Iqbal Hossain Khan, Prof Mojibar Rahman, Jebash Chakrabarty, Aslam Khan Babu, Monju Goswami, Moslem Uddin Khan, Nazrul Islam Bodsha, Manikganj Awami League (AL) secretary Gazi Kamrul Huda Salim, AL leaders Jaladuddin Ahmed, Advocate Dipak Ghosh, Sudev Saha, Manikganj CPB secretary Principal Azharul Islam and BNP leader Golam Mohiar Khan Shipar.

2 killed by robbers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Two person were shot dead and four others injured, one of them critically, when armed bandits opened fire during robbery in a house at Bhurukhali village in Nababganj upazila in the early hours of Sunday.

The dead are Renu Bala Balo, 75, wife of late Dr Upendra Chandra Balo and Abdus Salam, 25, son of Abbas Ali of the same village. Salam worked in that house.

Police and witnesses said a gang of 10 to 12 robbers stormed into the house at about 1:00 an and demanded a golden doll at gun point.

As the inmates cried for help, neighbours rushed to the spot and encircled the robbers.

Sensing trouble, the robbers opened fire, killing Renu Bala Balo on the spot and injuring five others and fled away.

Critically injured Abdus Salam and Supen Kumar were admitted to Manikganj Sadar Hospital and later shifted to Dhaka Medical college Hospital (DMCH). Abdus Salam died there yesterday.

Uzzal Balo, son of Renu Bala, filed a case with Nababganj police station.

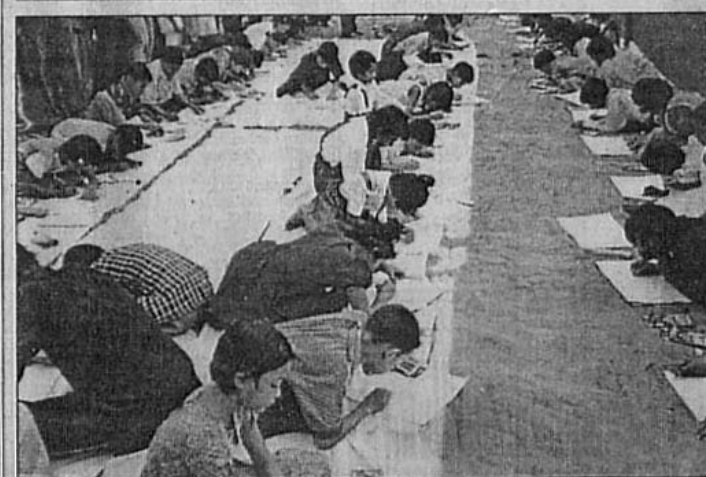


PHOTO: STAR

A M Murtaish Memorial Trust organised a children's painting competition at Dhonbari in Tangail recently.



Directorate General Defence Purchase

Ministry of Defence
New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215

Tender/Re-Tender Notice

1. Sealed tenders in local currency are invited from bonafide manufacturers/dealers/suppliers (for enlisted firm only) for supply of the following items for Bangladesh "Army".

Ser No.	Nomenclature	Date of selling		Date of opening	Currency	Tender No
		From	To			
a.	Spare parts for Nicad Bty Charger BC-5 Model-500 Quantity-10 line	18-11-2004	15-12-2004	18-12-2004	Local	214/2028/P-2
b.	Spare parts for Nicad Bty Charger BC-4 Model-II Quantity-03 line	-do-	09-12-2004	11-12-2004	-do-	214/2023/P-2

2. Tender schedule with detailed specifications/conditions will be available on payment as per I/T selling rate (non-refundable) during office hours between 0800 hours to 1300 hours. The tender can be dropped latest by 1000 hours and opened at 1005 hours on the specified date of opening in presence of all tenderers (if present).

ISPR/Misc/04/956
DFP-25746-26/10/04
G-1036

Major
For Director General

R&H, Tender Invitation Notice

1. Tender Notice No : 06/EE WD, Dhaka/2004-2005.
2. Name of work : As per group list in the following proforma.

Sl No	Name of work	Amount of eamst money	Time for completion on of work	Head of expenditure
A)	Supply of spare parts for repair of various types patrol Pajero Jeep (Model-4G-64) under repair through R&H, Workshop Division, Dhaka	Tk 7000/-	30 (thirty) days	2-repair
B)	Supply of spare parts for repair of various types of Nissan patrol Pajero Jeep (Model-WW GY-60) under repair through R&H Workshop Division, Dhaka	Tk 7000/-	-do-	-do-

3. Eligibility of contractor : According to qualification & rules -- R&H, Directorate enlisted all class contractors as per financial & regional eligibility.
4. Offices of getting tender schedule : Can be purchased at Tk 510/- per set including Bangladesh Form No 2908 (non-refundable) from Workshop Division, Dhaka/Executive Engineer-R&H, Equipment Control Division, Dhaka/Workshop Sub-Division, Dhaka during office hours up to the day before the date of receiving tender.

5. Officers & offices to receive tender : Superintending Engineer, R&H, Workshop Circle, Tejgaon, Dhaka/Executive Engineer, R&H, Workshop Division, Tejgaon, Dhaka/Executive Engineer, R&H Equipment Control Division, Tejgaon, Dhaka.
6. Last date of selling tender : 17.11.2004.
7. Last date & time of receiving sealed tenders : 18.11.2004 up to 12.00 Noon.
8. Date & time of opening sealed tenders : 18.11.2004 at 12-30 min.

Md. Abul Kalam Khan
Executive Engineer R&H (Mechanical) CR
Workshop Division,
Tejgaon, Dhaka

DFP-25654-24/10
G-1039

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department

Office of the Executive Engineer

District: Munshiganj

Memo No.LGED/XEN/Munshi/RDP-26/69/2565

Dated: 27-10-2004

Rural Transport Improvement Project (RTIP)

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

IFB No 16/FY 2004-2005

- The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a credit from the International Development Association (hereinafter referred to as the IDA) towards the cost of the Rural Transport Improvement Project (RTIP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the contract(s) as mentioned in para-2.
- The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh represented by the Executive Engineer, LGED, District-Munshiganj invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the construction and completion of the following work.

Name of the work	Contract package No	Bid security in Taka	Time for completion (days)	Price of bidding document (Tk)
Improvement of: Serajdikhan-Shaperchar Bazar Road under Serajdikhan Upazila (Ch: 0+000 to 7+235=7.235km)	Mun/UR-25	14,00,000.00	550	8,000.00

- The bidders may inspect the bidding documents, obtain further information and clarification at the office of the Executive Engineer, LGED, District: Munshiganj, Tel: 0691-63038 or the office of the Project Director, RDP-26, LGED Bhaban (Level-5), Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Tel: 9122435, 9122432. The bidder must be eligible in post qualification as specified in bidding documents.
- A pre-bid conference will be held on 28-11-2004 at 12.00 noon in the office the undersigned and all bidders are requested to attend the conference in time.
- A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any eligible bidder from the office of the Project Director [Address: LGED Bhaban (Level-5), Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207] or the Deputy Commissioner, District: Munshiganj or the Superintendent of Police, District: Munshiganj or the Upazila Engineer, Upazila: Munshiganj Sadar or the undersigned on submission of a written application upon the payment of a non-refundable fee as mentioned in para-2 for each set in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh drawn in favour of the Executive Engineer, LGED, District: Munshiganj. Additional sets of bidding documents may be purchased at the same price. The bidding document will be available during office hours from 09/11/2004 to 07/12/2004.
- All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of amount as mentioned in table, para-2 in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order/Demand Draft/Bank Guarantee drawn in favour of the Executive Engineer, LGED, District: Munshiganj.
- All bids must be delivered to the office of the Deputy Commissioner, District: Munshiganj or the Superintendent of Police, District: Munshiganj or the Upazila Engineer, Upazila: Munshiganj Sadar, District: Munshiganj or the undersigned on or before 1.00pm of 08/12/2004.
- Bids will be opened at 2.00pm on 08/12/2004 at the office of the undersigned in presence of the bidders or their authorised representatives who choose to attend.
- Bidders may deliver/submit bids personally or by registered mail or by courier services, etc and bids must reach to the office(s) mentioned at para-7 on or before 1.00pm of 08/12/2004.
- A general information regarding the bidding will be available at the LGED Web Site (http://www.lged.org).
- The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reason.

DFP-26074-30/10/04
G-1044

Executive Engineer
LGED, Munshiganj