

Eid brings no cheers in northern dists

Shopping very dull due to *monga*: 30-40 per cent discount fails to lure customers, shopkeepers say

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

The ongoing *monga* has shadowed the ensuing Eid celebration in greater Rangpur, with few customers flocking to shopping centres in upazila and district headquarters.

The greatest festival of Muslims will not bring cheers for people in the area, mainly dependent on agriculture. Most farmers and day labourers are still passing days amid hardship as harvest of Aman paddy is still 10-15 days away.

"Eid festival depends mainly on income from agriculture. Farmers and day labourers in rural areas can not think of Eid shopping this year because the Aman harvest is yet to begin", said Rangpur Shop Owners Association President Kazi Mohammed Zunun while talking to this correspondent yesterday.

The situation was not the same in previous years.

"From the beginning of Ramadan all commercial centres in 23 upzilas and three district headquarters in the region (Rangpur,

Nilphamari and Lalmonirhat districts) used to remain crowded with customers. But the scene is different this year", said Rangpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Mostafa Azad Chowdhury.

"Ours is an agriculture-based area. People here usually face hardship due to lack of work in agriculture sector during Bangla months of Ashwin and Kartik. But this year they face hardship due to flood, storm and price hike of essentials.

Farmers and day labourers cannot buy food let alone new cloths, hesaid.

This correspondent also talked to some businessmen at different shopping centres in Rangpur town. All of them said sale is very dull ahead of the Eid-ul-Fitr.

In Kurigram, owner of Pabna Cloth Store Badal Rahman said that they could hardly sell cloths worth Tk 10,000 a day during Ramadan this year. This is one third of sales during Ramadan in previous years, hesaid.

Only families of government and non-government jobholders are going to markets for Eid shopping, said Reazul Hoque Rintu owner of a readymade garments shop at Goshala Bazar in Lalmonirhat.

A few farmers who could harvest their early transplanted Aman paddy are going to markets for Eid shopping. But they are hesitant as prices are higher.

Farmer Abdur Rahman of Joydevhat village in Rajarhat upzila in Kurigram said he went to the market with the money from sale of Aman rice but could not buy cloths for all family members due to higher price.

Many cloth and garment traders also agreed that prices are higher this year because they have to pay more at wholesale markets in Dhaka.

Abul Kalam, owner of Monika Bostralo Rangpur Super Market said they are ready to sell items at marginal profit but cannot do so due to lack of customers.

Many traders said they declared hefty discount but failed to attract customers.

Owners of some big saree stores said they declared 30 to 40 per cent discount after ten days into the Ramada. But sales are not picking up.

"Despite such big discount we are having a few customers," said Kamal Hossen, owner of AB Boot House.

A businessman at Motahar Commercial Complex mockingly said the number of beggars in markets is greater than those of customers this year.

A large number of poor people have come to Rangpur from Kurigram for begging ahead of the Eid.

They swarm in different markets to beg.

Fresh push-in bid foiled

UNB, Thakurgaon

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) on Monday foiled a fresh push-in bid by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) through Mondumala border in Baliadangi upazila.

BSF assembled nine Indian nationals at the frontier at 4 am and forced them to cross the Nagar river at gunpoint. But BDR and villagers put up a strong resistance to the push-in attempt. BSF then opened several rounds of fire across the border.

Locals said BSF herded several hundred Indian Muslims to Baliadangi border and divided them into small groups to push into Bangladesh.

BDR had proposed for a flag meeting to reduce the border tension, but there was no response from Indian border guards.

On October 30, seven Indian nationals were pushed into Bangladesh through Harinamari border. Police detained the Indians and BDR pushed them back on November 2 through Atoari border.

Retd Rly staff barricade train for pension

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Pension holders of Bangladesh Railway at Syedpur squatted on rail tracks for about two hours and obstructed train movement on Monday to realise unpaid pension money and bonus before the Eid-ul-Fitr.

Over 500 officials and employees came to the railway station for their dues. Filing to get it, they blocked the tracks.

Inter-city train Titumir Express was delayed by about two and half hours due to the obstruction.

They withdrew the siege at the interference of the higher railway authorities.

The Railway pays pension money to its retired men from income in Syedpur station. Sources said payment of pension and bonus would require Tk 37 lakh but they have only Tk 19 lakh.

FALL IN WATER LEVEL

Ferry service from Paturia hampered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Ferry service in Paturia-Daulatdia and Paturia-Nagarbari routes on the Padma are being hampered due to problem in loading and unloading at Paturia ferry terminals following fall in water level.

This is also causing traffic jam on the approach road to the terminals.

Two terminal out of four at Paturia and one out of two at Daulatdia are stopped for long due to emergence of shoals.

When contacted, BIWTC (Bangladesh Water Transport Corporation) official yesterday said BIWTA (Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority) was setting up low water ghats at Paturia terminal, a temporary arrangement made when the water level of the river falls. The problem will be solved soon, they said.

Deputy General Manager of BIWTC Aricha ghat told this correspondent that traffic through the Paturia terminal increased ahead of the Eid-ul-Fitr. More ferry boats should be pressed into service in the routes, he said.

Two school students abducted for ransom

Bid to abduct university student foiled

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Criminals abducted two school students in Meherpur and Jhenidah on Sunday while villagers foiled another attempt to abduct a university student in Kushtia on Sunday night.

In Meherpur, an armed gang abducted Sahanur Alam Mithu, 12, son of Abdul Halim of Sarpara village in Gangni upazila while he was shopping at the upazila headquarter.

Police quoting the victim's mother said the gang demanded Tk one lakh ransom for his release. She said they had earlier demanded toll from her husband but was refused.

A case was filed with Gangni police station. Police told this correspondent over phone that they were trying to trace out the boy.

In Jhenidah, alleged outlaws kidnapped school student Sumon Kumar Biswas of Putimari village in Saikupa upazila.

Sources said an armed gang stormed into the house of Lakshmi Kumar at about 10 pm and

demanding Tk 20,000 toll. But Lakshmi refused to pay. The gang picked up Lakshmi's son Sumon, a student of class ten. Later the gang demanded Tk five lakh ransom.

The family did not seek police help as the gang threatened to kill Sumon if they informed police, the sources said.

When contacted over phone, Saikupa police said they heard the incident, but nobody filed any case.

Meanwhile, police failed to rescue schoolgirl Samapti, 10 and Likhon of Kripalpur village in Saikupa upazila, kidnapped on October 3 and October 1 respectively.

In Kushtia, villagers foiled an abduction bid at Adabaria village in Daulatpur upazila.

Sources said a gang stormed into the house of Abdul Latif and called his son Ahasanullah Bachchu, Masters student at Rajshahi University, who came home several days ago.

As Bachchu out, the gang dragged him onto a motorcycle and attempted to flee.

As the family cried for help, villagers came in and chased the gang, who left the youth and sped away. A GD was recorded with police.

ALLEGED THREATS Patuakhali BNP leader sues party MP

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A local senior BNP leader on Monday sued his party lawmaker for allegedly threatening him and his sons of dire consequences if he does not desist himself from doing work in his area or taking any decision regarding any matter there.

The complainant is Rashid Chunnua Mia, Senior Vice President of Patuakhali district unit of ruling BNP. He filed a general diary (GD) with Patuakhali Sadar Thana against ruling party lawmaker Shahidul Alam Talukder, elected from Patuakhali-2 constituency.

Chunnua Mia told this at a press conference held at Patuakhali Press Club. He told that the member of parliament (MP) gave him threats by telephone at night on November 6.

Chunnua and his family members are feeling insecure.

SALE OF VESTED PROPERTY

Case filed against Jute Secretary, Nilphamari DC

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A case has been filed against the Secretary and Senior Assistant Secretary of jute ministry and Nilphamari Deputy Commissioner for alleged irregularities in sale of Tatia Jute Press in Syedpur, a vested property.

The buyer -- Shamsul Haque Bhuiyan, owner of M/s SR Trading of Paik Para, Dhaka -- has also been sued in the case filed with the court of Nilphamari Joint District Judge on Thursday by former municipal commission of Syedpur Abu Hossen Bachchu, businessman Amzad Ali and social worker SM Zia.

The property was sold at Tk 1, 31, 59, 107 on April 19, 2001 during Awami League rule.

In the case, it was stated that owner of Tatia Jute Press was Rameswar Lal Tatia of Syedpur town. He build 16 godowns, one office one jute baling press on three acre 40 decimal land along She-e-Bangla Road and started jute business in 1940.

During 1965 Indo-Pak war he fled to India with family. The property was then declared 'enemy property' and subsequently termed 'vested property'.

The government then handed over its maintenance to the Jute Board.

During the Awami League government, the jute ministry sold the property illegally and at a throwaway price. The plaintiffs stated that the gov-

ernment can not sell any vested property.

Sale of the property sparked agitation by different sections of people in Syedpur, who demanded its cancellation. They said actual price of the property was about Tk 10 crore.

PCJSS to observe MN Larma's death anniversary today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

The Parbattya Chattagram Jana Sanghaty Samity (PCJSS) will observe the 21st death anniversary of its founder Manobendra Narayan Larma in Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban hill districts today through elaborate programmes.

The programmes included demonstration wearing black badge, rallies and processions in the district headquarters, placing wreaths on the portrait of MN Larma, discussion meetings and candle lighting in the evening, according to Sattya Bir Dewan, PCJSS's central Finance Affairs Secretary.

The present PCJSS chief, Jiotirindriya Bodhipriya Larma alias Sattya Larma, will address a rally at Bandarban town on the occasion.

A govt baby home where inmates face starvation

Villagers feed 39 children at Chhotto Moni Nibash in Agailjhara by rotation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The children live in a government baby home. But they get food when supplied by villagers around.

This is the scene at the Chhotto Moni Nibash (baby home) at Goila in Agailjhara upazila in Barisal, which shelters 39 helpless and orphan children.

Seventeen officials and employees of the baby home are also not getting salary for 16 months.

Its sorry plight is because of inaction by officials concerned. It has not yet been included in the government's revenue budget though the project under the development budget was completed last year. Development funds have been stopped after completion of project.

Food supply to the baby home by contractors is stopped since November 1 as they did not get arrears of Tk two lakh, said Bahauddin Mia, one of the contractors.

As the children faced starvation, some local people came forward and arranged food supply by rotation on humanitarian ground, local people and its employees told this correspondent during a recent visit.

The Social Welfare Directorate set up the baby home on 1.92 acres of land at a cost of Tk 3 crore to rehabilitate abandoned and helpless children. It has a capacity to accommodate 100 children.

The complex includes six buildings for children's dormitories, office, training centre and staff quarters for employees. It was built by the

Public Works Department (PWD). Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan Mujahid inaugurated it on March 8, 2003, but it was not started functioning till June 5, 2003.

Its Deputy Superintendent Abul Kalam Azad said, 39 abandoned children aged up to seven are provided education at baby home. A part-time doctor visits it when necessary. The children would be handed over to their parents or relatives after proper identification, he added.

When contacted, Shawkat Mohammad Kamal, Deputy Director of Social Welfare Directorate in Barisal, said he has requested the contractors to continue food supply to baby home. But he could not say anything whether it will be included in the government's revenue budget to end their sufferings.



The 39 children at Chhotto Moni Nibash.

PHOTO: STAR

SNAPS

Two BNP leaders expelled

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Two BNP leaders were expelled from the party on charge of corruption. The expelled leaders are district BNP Secretary Sirker Kuti and Patuakhali pourasabha chairman, another BNP leader Mostafiz Ahmed. This decision was taken at an emergency meeting at the party office on Sunday with Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, also, district BNP president in the chair, party sources said. A case was filed against the pourasabha chairman for alleged misappropriation of about Tk 34 lakh from the municipality fund.

2 killed in Manikganj road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Two motor cyclists were killed in a road accident on the Dhaka-Paturia highway on Monday. The dead persons were identified as Kamruzzaman, 27, field representative of Mamun Agency of American Life Insurance Company (ALICO) and Ohiduzzaman, a businessman. Police said the accident occurred at 7.30 in the morning when a Dhaka bound coach ran over the speeding motorcycle coming from the opposite direction of Krishnapura-Bathuli in Dhamrai police station killing the two motorcyclists on the spot.



বাংলাদেশ পল্লী উন্নয়ন বোর্ড

৫ কাওরান বাজার, বা/এ, ঢাকা

টেন্ডার বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিআরডিবি'র রাজস্ব খাত ও ইউসিসিএ লিঃ এর নিজস্ব তহবিল হতে নিম্নে বর্ণিত উপজেলা পল্লী ভবন নির্মাণ কাজের জন্য লিপিস্বত্ব ২০০৩ প্রবিধি ১২ ও ১৭ অনুসারে সীলমোহরকৃত টেন্ডার আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

১।	দরপত্রাদানের যোগ্যতা	১।	১ম শ্রেণীর তালিকাভুক্ত ত্রিকাদার ২০০৩-২০০৪ সনের ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ভাট ও আয়কর পরিশোধ সার্টিফিকেটের সত্যায়িত কপি (সিডিউলের সাথে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে)।
২।	দরপত্র, সিডিউল বিক্রয় ও দাখিলের স্থান	১।	মুখ্য পরিচালক (নির্মাণ), বিআরডিবি, পল্লী ভবন, ৫ নং কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকা। ২। উপপরিচালক এর কার্যালয়, ৫/৩, মনিপুরীপাড়া, পের-ই-বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা। ৩। সংশ্লিষ্ট জেলার বিআরডিবি উপপরিচালকের কার্যালয়।
৩।	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১।	১৩/১২/২০০৪ ইং অবসর সময় কালীন পর্যন্ত।
৪।	দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১।	১৫/১২/২০০৪ দুপুর ১২.০০ পর্যন্ত।
৫।	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	১।	পরবর্তী সময়ে সংশ্লিষ্ট ত্রিকাদারগণকে জানানো হবে।

ক্রমিক নং	কাজের নাম	টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্টের মূল্য	আনুমানিক পরিমাণ	পারফরমেন্স সিকিউরিটি মূল্য	কার্যকাল
১।	বগুড়া জেলার গাবতলী উপজেলা পল্লী ভবনের ২য় তলা (আংশিক) নির্মাণ।	৪৫০/-	১৪.১৯৩/-	উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের ১০% কার্যাদেশ প্রাপ্তির সময় ডিডি/পে-অর্ডার আকারে অত্র অফিসে জমা দিতে হবে।	১২০ দিন
২।	সাতক্ষীরা জেলার শ্যামনগর উপজেলা পল্লী ভবনের ২য় তলা (আংশিক) নির্মাণ।	৪৫০/-	১৪.৬৮৬/-	-এ-	-এ-
৩।	রাজবাড়ী জেলার সদর উপজেলা পল্লী ভবনের ২য় তলা (আংশিক) নির্মাণ।	৪৫০/-	১৭.৫৪৪/-	-এ-	-এ-
৪।	নারায়নগঞ্জ জেলার রূপগঞ্জ উপজেলা পল্লী ভবনের ২য় তলা (আংশিক) নির্মাণ।	৪৫০/-	১৬.৯৭৩/-	-এ-	-এ-
৫।	চাঁদপুর জেলার শাহরাস্তি ইউসিসিএর নিজস্ব জায়গায় প্রাচীর দেওয়াল নির্মাণ।	৪৫০/-	১০.৫৪২/-	-এ-	৯০ দিন

দরপত্র জমা ও দাখিলের সময় ডিডি/পে-অর্ডার মহাপরিচালক বাপউবো, ঢাকার অনুকূলে প্রদান করতে হবে। বিস্তারিত টেন্ডার নোটিশ ও অন্যান্য তথ্যাদি অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তরে জানা ও দেখা যাবে।

কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন টেন্ডার গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

কর্তৃপক্ষ-১৫৮/৮/১/৩৪/৯৯৫৫

জিডি-৬৯৫

এ এস এম আরিফুর রহমান
মুখ্য পরিচালক (নির্মাণ)
বাপউবো ঢাকা।

Rupantarita Prakritik Gas Company Ltd

(A Company of Petrobangla)
BSEC Bhaban (8th & 9th Floor)
102, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue
Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215
Bangladesh

Fax No: 880-02-8113168

Tel. No: (02) 9128341, 9128353, 8114677

International Tender

Date: 06-11-2004

RPGL/CNG/Cylinder/ICB-06/2004

I. Rupantarita Prakritik Gas Company Limited (A Company of Petrobangla) invites sealed offers in the form of Bid under International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures for supply of 200 Nos. 90 litre water capacity NGV Cylinders manufactured after 2003.

II. The details specification of the NGV Cylinders, scope of supply, terms and conditions of supply and other information required by bidders, etc. are given in the tender document.

III. The tender document will be available from 10/11/2004 to 26/12/2004 during office hour on all working days on payment of Taka 4000.00 or US\$. 70.00 (non-refundable) at the following addresses:

- Accounts Department
Rupantarita Prakritik Gas Co. Ltd.
BSEC Bhaban (8th & 9th Floor)
102, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue
Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215.
- Sylhet Gas Fields Limited
Dhaka Liaison Office
4/10, Iqbal Road, Block-A
Mohammadpur, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Bakhrabad Gas Systems Ltd.
Dhaka Liaison Office
House No. 199
New DOHS (Ground Floor)
Eastern Road, Lane-1
Mohakhali, Dhaka.
- Accounts Department
Titas Gas T&D Company Ltd.
Titas Bhaban
105, Kawran Bazar
Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Accounts Department
Gas Transmission Company Ltd.
House-1, Road-12, Section-3
Uttara Model Town, Dhaka-1230
Bangladesh.
- Accounts Department
Bangladesh Petroleum & Exploration Company Ltd.
Shahjalal Tower (5th Floor)
80, Shidheshwari, Malibagh
Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Accounts Department
Petrobangla
Petrocenter
3, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka
Bangladesh.

IV. Single envelope tender procedure will be followed.

V. Bids will be received at Rupantarita Prakritik Gas Co. Ltd's Head Office in Dhaka up to 11.00 hrs (BST) on 26/12/2004 and will be opened on the same day at 11.15 hrs (BST) in presence of the bidders/representatives (if any).

VI. No extension in the closing date and time will be allowed by Rupantarita Prakritik Gas Co. Ltd. on any account and bid(s) received after the deadline for submission of bids will be returned unopened.

VII. In case of any unavoidable circumstances such as strike, civil commotion, Government declared holiday etc. Bids will be received and opened on the following working day at the same place and time.

VIII. No tender document will be sold on the day of bid opening.

IX. Financing:
The purchase will be financed under own Cash Foreign Exchange.

X. Eligibility of Bidders:
Reputed manufacturers (acceptable standard) and suppliers all over the world are eligible to submit offers for supplying 500 sets CNG Conversion Kit (for Carburetor Engines) & 500 Nos. NGV Cylinder.

XI. Bid Validity:
The offers submitted must remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of the tender.

XII. Bid Bond:
All bids must be accompanied by a bid security/bond for an amount of US dollar 5,000.00 (five thousand) or Bangladesh Taka 3,00,000.00 (three lac). The bid bond shall have to be enclosed with the offer and shall remain valid for 120 days from the date of opening of the tender. Without the proper bid bond, the bid will be treated as a non-responsive. The bid security shall be in any one of the following forms:-

- A Bank Guarantee issued in favour of Rupantarita Prakritik Gas Co. Ltd. (RPGL) by a scheduled bank of Bangladesh. In case of any bid bond issued by a Foreign Bank, it must be endorsed by a scheduled bank of Bangladesh as per format given in the Tender Document Annexure "C" or
- A Demand Draft/Pay Order issued in favour of Rupantarita Prakritik Gas Co. Ltd. by any scheduled bank of Bangladesh.

XIII. 03 (three) copies of the bid (one "original" and two "copy" of technical and financial) are to be submitted.

XIV. Rupantarita Prakritik Gas Co Ltd. reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders or annul the bidding process without assigning any reason.

GD-694

Authority