

Micro-credit changes lot of poor women in Magura

Two NGOs revive lost glory of cottage industry of Chhonpur and surrounding villages

HOSSAIN SERAI, *Magura*

Two poor women changed their lot when two NGOs came forward to their rescue by lending them loans.

The women are Nabiron and Khurshida. Once life was miserable to them. Timely intervention of two NGOs, Srijoni and Jagoroni Chakra made their life meaningful.

Fortune smiled on Nabiron, an abandoned housewife and mother of a son at Chhonpur village in Magura Sadar upazila when Srijoni trained her and offered her a loan of Tk 8,000 in 2002. Making good use of the loan, she set up a bamboo-based cottage industry on the land of her father. She started making bamboo-made traps to catch small fish called 'Chuni'. She used to make a fish trap at a cost of Tk 15 and sold it at Tk 35. Every Thursday she began to supply her product to wholesalers from her house at the rate of Tk 3,500 per hundred traps. The whole-sellers supplied her products to Faridpur, Rajbari and Chittagong districts.

'Now I earn Tk 3,000-4,000 each month and my son Shafiqul is attending school,' smiling Nabiron told this correspondent. With the profit she also built a tin-shed house this year.

Once Chhonpur and surrounding villages were famous for bamboo-based cottage industry, according to Aminul a villager. But due to shortage of capital and lack of patronisation, the cottage industries were ruined, he said.

At present the lost glory of the villages were revived due to initiatives of Srijoni. One hundred twenty women at Chhonpur village are engaged in manufacturing bamboo-made fish traps. Some other women like Nabiron named Morzina, Aleya, Asmani and Farzana also became solvent by making such fish trap.

Another woman, Khurshida of the same village also became wealthy when Jagoroni Chakra, another NGO intervened about two years back.

Two years back the poor housewife and mother of three children had to live in extreme poverty. Because her rickshaw-pulling husband could not feed his family of five members with his meagre income.

Jagoroni provided her with a micro-credit of Tk 10,000. Utilising the credit she also started manu-

facturing 'Ghuni'. Now her monthly earning rose to Tk 4,000 per month. She told this correspon-

dent, with her savings she got her eldest daughter married to a man of her choice this year.



Nabiron is seen engaged in making bamboo-made fish traps at her house at Chhonpur village in Magura Sadar upazila. She changed her lot rapidly by utilising micro-credit of Srijoni, a local NGO.

Seven die of diarrhoea in Comilla

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Comilla*

Seven persons died of diarrhoea at Chaddagram upazila here last week. At least 200 others were attacked by the disease which broke out in an epidemic in 20 villages, according to eye-witnesses.

The dead victims are Sumi, 14, daughter of Omor Ali of village Bashkera, Holofa Begum, 35, mother of five children and wife of Ladu Miah of the same village, Jakir Hossain, 7, son of Abdul Ghofur of village Dakra, Abul Hossain, 8, son of Nowab Ali of village Gidi Kara, and 3 other children of village Baherhang in the upazila.

The villages are Baskara, Atakara, Komardogra, villages in Kankopoth union, Karpoti in Batish union, Dakra, Darkota, Bhakarghara, Bangphala in Munchirhat union, Kadoir, Ballachi in Shovpur union and Gidikora Sharpoti in Cheora union in Chaudhogram upazila.

As diarrhoea is spreading fast in two villages of Bashkara and Dakra, severely ill mahafils are being held in large number in the local mosque.

Fifty diarrhoea affected patients were admitted to Chaudhogram Health Complex in last seven days.

AL leader arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Magura*

An Awami League (AL) leader was arrested for possessing counterfeit notes on Monday.

The arrested person is Shalikha Thana unit president of the party Israyeel Munishi.

Acting on a tip-off, a police team led by the Shalikha Thana Officer-in-Charge (OC) raided his house at Arpara village on Sunday night. After conducting a search of about half an hour, police recovered 17 fake notes of Tk 100. Later, he was sent to jail.

Sub-Inspector Abdul Hakim filed a case with Shalikha Thana under Special Power Act of 1974.

Israyeel Munishi said the case was a conspiratorial one, filed with a political motive by his opponents to harass him.



PHOTO: STAR

A physician attends a female patient at a clinic of the Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB) in Patuakhali. Poor patients, specially women and children flock the clinic on all weekly working days in large number in a hope of better treatment.

A healthcare clinic with a difference

FPAB clinic at Patuakhali renders service to poor patients at a nominal cost

MD SOHRAB HOSSAIN, *Patuakhali*

A clinic of Patuakhali branch of the Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB) has been rendering healthcare services successfully to poor people at a nominal cost.

Since its inception in 1981, the clinic rendered healthcare services to 80,000 patients till date. It was set up on a land donated by Patuakhali municipality on the College Road in the town.

Because of its unique service, it

was selected as the best NGO in Barisal division in 2000-01 fiscal.

Md Selim, District Project Officer of FPAB said to this correspondent the clinic has modern equipment where poor people specially women and children can get healthcare services. A physician trained in women and child diseases attends patients regularly.

'Anybody can get treatment from this clinic by paying only Tk 20 as registration fee,' according to Dr Tahmina Khanam Siddiqua, Medical Officer of the FPAB. Medical tests of

urine, stool and blood pressure are done without any cost, she added.

Poor patients also get medicine free of cost from here.

Since 1981, about 23,787 married couples adopted various birth control methods, according to the physician.

The organisation is being run by a 15-member executive committee. About 15 officials and workers conduct the activities of the organisation while 102 workers work on voluntary basis under the project.

Woes of passengers at Mymensingh Railway Station

Booking clerks doing brisk business by selling tickets at higher rate

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Mymensingh*

Passenger at the station. Passengers suffer much due to malpractice being pursued by booking clerks at Mymensingh Railway station for a long time.

They are allegedly doing a brisk business by selling return tickets with seat facilities, according to allegation of passengers.

When anyone wants a ticket with a seat, they regret it initially. If he/she offers extra charge, they come forward with a big smile, said Abul Hossain, a Dhaka-bound

passenger at the station. The clerks usually demand extra charge, according to crisis. During heavy rush of passengers, the clerks are found to charge an extra amount for tickets, said another passenger Siddiqu Rahman.

While visiting this correspondent found all the computers of the station out of order in the railway station.

However, a source at the station said pilferage of tickets from computers increased during Eid season. The irregularities are going on unabated because many employees are working here for 10 to 28 years', according to an official of the station.

Benefiting programmes have been chalked out to observe the festival.

Two separate places were chosen for the purpose, one at Madhabpur Jura Mandap and another at Adampur Jura Mandap, both located in Kamalganj upazila. The programmes included Monipuri Kathak Nrittya, Kirtan and Ras Lila.

A Monipuri handloom fair will also be held.

Thousands of people irrespective of religious identity join the festival every year.

Kamalganj thana police have taken special measures to hold the festival at peacefully.

Land dispute: 20 hurt in B'baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *B'baria*

At least 20 people were injured in a clash over land between two groups of villagers at Astagram village in Sadar upazila on Tuesday. According to eye witness and hospital sources, two groups one led by Fazal Maiah and the other group led by Latif Miah had a prolonged rivalry over possession of a land.

While Fazal's group went to the disputed place, their rivals stopped them. Later on, both the groups equipped with lethal weapons locked in a clash for one hour.

Invitation for Tenders

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

1 Ministry/division	Ministry of Communication	V
2 Agency	Roads & Highways Department	V
3 Procuring entity name	Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Gopalganj.	
4 Procuring entity code	Not used at present.	
5 Procuring entity district	Gopalganj.	V
6 Invitation for	Works	V V V
7 Invitation Ref No.	02 (2004-05)EE/GRD.	
8 Date	08-11-04	V

KEY INFORMATION

9 Procurement method	OTM (National).	V Open V
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FUNDING INFORMATION

10 Budget and source of funds	4936	V GOB.
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PARTICULAR INFORMATION

12 Project/programme code (if applicable)	Not applicable.	
13 Project/programme name (if applicable)	Not applicable.	
14 Tender Package No	I, II, III, IV, V, VI.	
15 Tender package name	As per package list.	
16 Date	Not applicable.	
17 Tender last selling date	12-12-04	
18 Tender closing date and time	13-12-04	V 11:30 AM V
19 Tender opening date and time	13-12-04	V 12:30 PM V
20 Name & address of the office(s)	Address.	
- Selling tender document (principal)	Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Gopalganj.	
- Selling tender document (others)	Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Faridpur/Madaripur/Shariatpur/Rajbari/Barisal/Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Road Sub-Division, Bhatiapara/Kotalipara.	
- Receiving tender document	Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Gopalganj, Deputy Commissioner, Gopalganj.	
- Opening tender document	Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Gopalganj. Tenderer representatives are allowed to attend the opening of tender.	
21 Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	Date	Time
	Not necessary	V V

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

22 Eligibility of tenderer	All tenderers regardless of whether enlisted or not enlisted:	
	A. Minimum required cash flow amount is for:	
	(i) Package No-I: Tk. 90,000.00	
	(ii) Package No-II: Tk. 1,20,000.00	
	(iii) Package No-III: Tk. 1,40,000.00	
	(iv) Package No-IV: Tk. 1,40,000.00	
	(v) Package No-V: Tk. 2,00,000.00	
	(vi) Package No-VI: Tk. 1,40,000.00	
	B. General Qualification:	
	All tenderers shall include the following information and documents with their tenders.	
	(a) Certificate issued by the competent authority stating:	
	-VAT registration.	
	(b) Attested copy of the trade licence and nationality certificate shall be submitted with the tender documents.	
	(c) The legal capacity shall be confirmed by a power of attorney and submitted with the tender documents. This document shall state that there are no existing orders of any judicial court that prevent either a person or firm or employees of a firm from entering into and/or signing a contract with the procuring entity.	
	(d) Attested copy of affidavit of the tenderer with his or her	

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

32 Name of official inviting tender	AZM Monowaruzzaman Khan.	
33 Designation of official inviting tender	Executive Engineer, RHD.	
34 Address of official inviting tender	Road Division, Gopalganj.	
35 Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel. No 0668-55377	Fax No. 0668-55377
e-mail: rhdgopal@btb.net		
36 The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.		

AZM Monowaruzzaman Khan<br