

# Primary education faces setback in two dists

Multifarious problems in schools and 'corruption' of a section of employees in education offices blamed for the situation

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Quality education for all is still a far cry in Nilphamari and Moulvibazar due to various problems and alleged corruption being pursued by a section of staffers in primary education offices in the two districts.

Our Nilphamari Correspondent reports: Primary education faces setback here due to multifarious problems.

According to the District Primary Education Office (DPEO) sources, three out of 10 categories of primary institutions like government primary school, registered-primary school and community schools are under direct control of the government. Seven

categories like kindergarten, ebtedayee madrasa, NGO-run schools, non-registered schools, experimental schools and two other categories of schools are out of control of the government. The schools are being run commercially with inefficient teachers and over-loaded syllabus, according to sweet will of the authorities concerned.

However, the three categories of government-run schools are beset with manifold problems.

Sources in the DPEO told this correspondent there are 472 government primary schools, 439 registered primary schools and 27 community schools while the number of Ebtedayee madrasa is 266 and unregistered primary schools is seven in the district.

The number of kindergartens is over 100 while there are several hundreds of NGO-run schools here. Several thousands of students read in the seven categories of schools although the school management allegedly do not bother about standard of education, skill of teachers and proper syllabus.

According to the DPEO sources, 2,73,358 students got admitted in government primary schools this year. Last year the enrolment was 2,60,653. District Primary Education Officer Abdus Sattar Sarker claimed that the rate of attendance is 85 per cent. But in practice the rate of students' presence in schools was not found to be more than 60 per cent. As the government is giving stipends, so a number of rural children being favoured by members of the managing committees and headmasters of respective schools are shown enrolled in different government primary schools. Usually they remain absent and show their presence during official inspection and on the day of stipend distribution.

However, Abdus Sattar Sarker denied such allegations saying these past cases.

The DPEO sources told The Daily Star, at least five teachers are required in each primary school to run properly. But in many government primary schools there are three and even two teachers only. The source further said there are 2,360 posts of teachers in all 472 government primary schools in the entire district including headmasters. But the actual number of teachers excluding ADB project is 2,010.

Despite shortage of teachers, most headmasters do not teach in the class. As per rule, headmasters should take class. It is widely alleged that many influential teachers in remote areas only put their signatures in the school register and leave schools staying for a while there.

The DPEO admitted the fact of lack of adequate classrooms, insufficient furniture and educational implements including shortage of teachers. He disclosed that the schools are being run in two shifts to cope with the situation. Students of class one and two attend classes during first shift (10 am to 12 noon) while students of class three, four and five attend their classes in the second shift which lasts from 12:30 pm to 4 in the afternoon. There is an interval of half an hour. The DPEO admitted that to run a school smoothly one shift is ideal. According to him, there are only five schools in the entire district which have required facilities (teacher, educational implement, furniture and classrooms). These schools are run in single shift, he added.

In each school there is a committee of 11 members. As per rule the educated and enterprising persons are eligible to become members of such committees. But in formation of the committee local chairperson favours his own men without considering his qualification and other experience. Most headmasters remain silent for fear of wrath of union chairpersons. There is a rule to hold monthly meeting every last Thursday of the month. But such meetings are seldom held.

The government gives stipend to 40 per cent students in each primary school. Poor and meritorious students having 85 per cent presence in classes are eligible to get stipends. But in most cases, dependents and relatives of members of managing committees, headmasters and teachers enjoy the facilities illegally. The DPEO admitted occurrence of such incidents and said that after investigation two guilty headmasters were suspended. He also said that four such cases are under investigation while stipends in 12 schools have been suspended.

The DPEO claimed that the situation improved a lot after frequent inspections in various schools. He said Thana Education Officers (TEOs) and Assistant Thana Education Officers (ATEOs) were supposed to visit schools every month. Moreover, the DPEO also pays surprise visits to schools in different upazilas frequently.

But actually in Domar upazila there is no TEO and there are only 26 ATEOs while there are 35 posts.

While talking to a few TEOs and ATEOs, they said to this correspondent on average, an ATEO can visit 15 schools in a month but due to shortage of manpower each ATEO has to visit 30 schools every month. Moreover, fuel and maintenance cost of their vehicles are not provided by the government since December, 2003.

While visiting the primary schools in six upazilas, this correspondent found a pitiable condition including acute shortage of teachers, lack of adequate class rooms and educational implements, mismanagement due to unskilled handling of day to day affairs. Above all alleged corruption in district and thana education offices have degraded the standard of primary education in the district.

Widespread corruption is allegedly going on by a section of staffers of education offices during appointment, transfer, leave, training, increment of salaries and distribu-

tion of students' stipends.

However, the DPEO assured stern action if he receives specific complaint against any staff of education offices in the district.

Our Moulvibazar Correspondent reports: The primary education programme of the government is yet to be implemented in tea garden areas of the district.

At least 30,000 children in tea garden areas here are being deprived of education.

This was revealed from a survey conducted by the Bangladesh Tea Board a few months back.

There are 56,000 school going children in 160 tea gardens of the country. Of them only 26,000 children enrolled themselves in 210 primary schools located inside the tea garden belt. Rest 30,000 children are out of reach of the educational programme.

There are 210 primary schools including eight government primary schools in tea garden areas. The number of teachers in these schools is 366 while the number of students is 26,000.

According to labour law in tea industries, primary schools should be established in each tea garden and one teacher should be appointed for every 40 students. But in the practice, there is no primary school in 45 tea gardens where the number of school going children is more than 5,000.

In the existing schools, problems like acute shortage of teachers, bad condition of school building, lack of adequate furniture and educational implements including lack of proper administrative control prevail.

Sources in Moulvibazar District Primary Education Office told The Daily Star, they have no authority to supervise the schools of tea garden areas except government primary schools.

Bangladesh Tea Garden Labour Union leaders at Srimongal told this correspondent primary schools in tea belts are being run as per sweet will of tea garden management.



PHOTO: STAR

Traders applying chemicals to ripen banana inside a godown at Talki bazaar in Modhupur, Tangail.

## Harmful chemicals being used to ripen fruits in Tangail

JAHANGIR ALAM, back from Tangail

NETRAKONA: Public health is being threatened due to indiscriminate use of chemicals by farmers in Tangail for rapid growth and ripening of fruits.

Unscrupulous people are doing such unethical with a motive to earn a good profit. They usually apply chemicals to ripen pineapple, banana, papaya, lemon and others fruits here.

Farmers in Modhupur, Ghatail and Sakhipur upazilas allegedly apply ETHREL 48 SL plant hormone spray of Indonesia, imported by Bayer Crop Science Ltd Bangladesh, COM-TOM 40 SL of China imported by Anika Enterprise and some other chemicals to ripen fruits. They also use the chem-

ical to keep the fruits fresh. Farmers also use 'Crops care' plant hormone spray and 'Ripen' for rapid growth of fruits.

According to chemists, doctors and agriculturists, fruits become poisonous and consumption of such fruit is harmful to health, especially for children.

Dr Abdul Hamid a retired physician opined that, a healthy person may be affected by different complicated diseases like kidney, liver and sex related problems due to intake of such poisonous fruits.

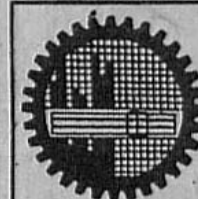
Manirul Islam, Assistant Professor of Chemistry Department in Durgapur College urged the government for immediate stoppage of manufacture

and import of the chemicals.

While talking with Fazlul Karim, Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture Extension, Tangail, he told The Daily Star they always discourage farmers for not applying the chemicals on fruits.

While visiting Modhupur, Ghatail and Sakhipur areas, this correspondent found that farmers had been applying the chemicals indiscriminately on fruits.

Mohoram Ali, a fruit farmer of Talki under Modhupur upazila told this correspondent they apply the chemicals on fruits to get much profit. Some block supervisors of the Agriculture Department also advised farmers not to use the chemicals.



## BANGLADESH UNIVERSITY OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY, DHAKA 8th Convocation, January 2005

### NOTIFICATION

The 8th Convocation of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Dhaka will be held on 31st January, 2005.

Those who obtained degree(s)/diploma(s) from different department/institutes of this University within the period from February, 2004 to December, 2004 and would like to attend the Convocation are requested to apply by 29th December, 2004 in the prescribed form available in the office of the Controller of Examinations. The format of the application can also be downloaded from the BUET WEB site: <http://www.buet.ac.bd>. The Convocation fee for each degree or diploma is Tk. 1000/= (Taka one thousand) only. A Pay Order/Bank Draft from any Chartered Bank for the Convocation fee in favour of "BUET CONVOCATION-2005" must be enclosed with each application.

Graduates may also apply in the Proforma application form as shown below in A4 size plain paper/offset paper (not newsprint).

A graduate may bring only one guest in the convocation. The name of the guest must be mentioned in the appropriate place of the application form.

Graduates who have already received original certificates may also apply for participation in the Convocation on payment of the Convocation fee in the Bank.

(Professor Dr. Abu Siddique)  
Controller of Examinations

Fax: 880-2-8613046

880-2-8613026

E-mail: [controller@exam.buet.ac.bd](mailto:controller@exam.buet.ac.bd)

Member-Secretary, Steering Committee  
8th Convocation, 2005

BUET, Dhaka

Tel: 9665629 (Off.), 9674573 (Res.)

### APPLICATION FORM FOR EIGHTH CONVOCATION BUET, 2005

- The application should be type-written or filled in block capital in the following form or in A4 size paper
- 2 (two) copies of attested passport size (2"×2½") photograph of the applicant should be affixed at the top right hand side corner of the form.

Affix  
Photograph  
Here

- NAME (in English): \_\_\_\_\_ (in Block Capital Letter) (Photocopy of the S. S. C. certificate to be enclosed)
- NAME (in Bengali): \_\_\_\_\_
- FATHER'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_
- PARTICULARS OF BANK DRAFT/PAY ORDER: \_\_\_\_\_
- NAME OF DEGREE/DIPLOMA: \_\_\_\_\_
- DEPARTMENT: \_\_\_\_\_
- DATE OF DEGREE AWARDED: \_\_\_\_\_ (as in provisional certificate)
- STUDENT NO.: \_\_\_\_\_
- MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_
- TELEPHONE NO.: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_
- NAME OF THE ACCOMPANIED GUEST (If any): \_\_\_\_\_
- RELATION WITH THE APPLICANT: \_\_\_\_\_

GD-769

Signature of the Applicant

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer  
Local Government Engineering Department  
Chandmari, Narayanganj-1400

Memo No-LGED/XEN/N Gani/RTIP/T-05/2003/3066

Date: 29-11-2004

### Rural Transport Improvement Project (RTIP)

### Invitation for Bids (IFB)

IFB No. 23/2004-2005

Date: 29-11-2004

- The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received for a credit from the International Development Association (hereinafter referred to as the IDA) towards the cost of the proposed Rural Transport Improvement Project (RTIP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the contract as mentioned in paragraph 2 below. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.
- The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, represented by the Executive Engineer, LGED, District: Narayanganj invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the maintenance of the following works:

Name of the work	Contract package No	Bid security in Taka	Time for completion (Days)	Price of bidding documents (Taka)
Improvement of: 1. Hajjodi UP-Probhakordi Road (Ch 0+000-6+000 km)	Nara/UR-3	3,10,000/-	550 days	3,000/-

- The bidders may inspect the bidding documents, obtain further information and clarification at the Office of the Executive Engineer, LGED, District: Narayanganj, Tel: 9715231 or the Office of the Project Director, Rural Transport Improvement Project (RTIP), 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 23-12-2004 at 12:00 noon in the office of the undersigned and all bidders are requested to attend the conference on 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: Narayanganj or the Superintendent of Police, District: Narayanganj or the Upazila Engineer, Upazila: Sadar, District: Narayanganj or the undersigned on submission of a written application upon 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: Narayanganj. Additional sets of bidding documents may be purchased at the same price. The bidding documents will be available during office hours from 13-12-2004 to 15-01-2005.
- 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: Narayanganj.
- All bids must be delivered to the office of the Deputy Commissioner, District: Narayanganj, or the Superintendent of Police, District: Narayanganj, or the Upazila Engineer, Upazila: Sadar, District: Narayanganj, or the undersigned on or before 1:00 PM of 16-01-2005.
- Bids will be opened at 2:00 PM on 16-01-2005 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 offices mention at Para-7 on or before 1:00 PM of 16-01-2005.
- 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.

DFF-28820-01/12/04  
G-1200

Executive Engineer  
LGED, Narayanganj  
Tel: 9715231 (Off)

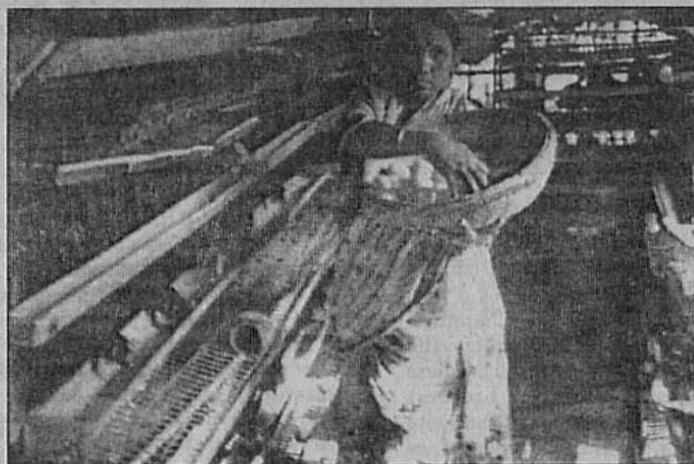


PHOTO: STAR

Begum, owner of a poultry farm at Tariapara in Sharishabari upazila, Jamalpur collecting eggs for sale. Formerly a poor housewife, Begum changed her lot within two years of taking loan from an NGO.

## Poultry farming brings fortune

An enterprising woman earns Tk 25,000 a month by selling eggs in Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Poultry farming has changed the lot of a poor woman in Sharishabari upazila, Jamalpur.

Begum, 40, wife of Abdul Quddus of Tariqpara under Sharishabari Pourasabha became self-reliant within two years of her sincere efforts.

Before this situation her jute mill worker husband Abdul Quddus could not run their family of seven members with his meagre monthly income ranging from Tk 800 to 1,000. According to Begum, they had nothing but only a tin-shed house. Most of the time they had to remain ill-fed or half-fed. Sending children to school was out of their imagination in this situation.

The change started sometime in 2001 when Begum started rearing local variety of hens, she bought at a cost of Tk 300. 'After a few days, the hens started laying eggs,' said Begum. By selling eggs she began to help her family. Afterwards, she engaged herself in producing chickens.

In 2002, Begum along with a few poor women contacted the personnel of ASA, a major NGO for

loan. After inspection, ASA officials granted her a loan of Tk 5,000. With the loan, Begum turned her small tin-shed house into a poultry farm. She paid the NGO loan with interest regularly keeping her capital intact. When she found the business profitable she proposed the NGO officials for granting further loan. She got loan amounting to Tk 50,000. She expanded her farm house by utilising the loan.

At present, poultry birds in her farm lay 500 eggs daily. At present she earns about Tk 25,000 per month by selling only eggs.

Now she has a cash of Tk one lakh after refunding loan. Her husband is also helping her in her endeavour. She also appointed Rasheda, a poor woman at her farm.

Excluding all expenses, Begum receives Tk 25,000 as net profit every month. She also repaired her old dwelling house. Her one son and a daughter are married while her three other children are studying in a local school so that they can lead a decent life in future.

Her husband said he is proud of her poultry farm owner wife while ASA officials said they wish their client every success in life.