

8,000 acres fallow for 2 decades

Farmers in Satkhira hold rally, hand over memos to remove waterlogging

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Several thousand farmers from four unions in the Sadar upazila brought out big procession in the town and held a rally in front of the office of Satkhira Water Development Board (WDB) Executive Engineer yesterday demanding urgent steps to remove water-logging from 20 beels (water bodies) covering 25 villages in the area.

Over 8000 acres of land remain virtually fallow throughout the year in Bolli, Labsha, Jhawdanga and Agardari unions due to the problem. These lands are flooded during the rainy season and the waters remain stagnant till the Bangla months of Chaitra and Baishakh, affecting over one lakh people, local people said while talking to this correspondent.

In most of the years, IRRI-Boro saplings transplanted in late winter are damaged by flood.

This situation continues for about two decades as the outlets for floodwater have been clogged, they said.

The farmers carried banners and posters in the procession that was started from Shahid Abdur Razzak Park. The processionists paraded the main streets of the town.

The rally was addressed by, among others, Advocate Nurul Alam, Shah Jahan Ali, Abdul Karim, Rafiqul Islam, Kazi Saidur Rahman and Subhas Sarkar.

The speakers said, 8000 acres of land in 20 beels including Rajnagar, Khelardangi, Khejurdangi, Bhatpara, Baladanga, Akhrakhola,

Chupria, Mukundapur and Jhowdanga remain fallow due to lack of any government step.

The Betna river has lost navigability due to deposit of silt and sluice gates at Rajnagar and Khejurdangi are inoperative for long.

They urged the government to take necessary steps to solve the

problems.

Later they submitted a memorandum to the WDB Executive Engineer to press their seven-point demand.

The demands include renovation of Khelardangi sluice gate and construction of another at Boyarsing, construction of a 10-kilometer ring

dam from Akhrakhola to Kalaroa on Betna river and re-excavation of the silted river.

Later the processionists went to the Deputy Commissioner's Office and handed over a memorandum to him to solve their problems. They also held a press conference at Satkhira Reporters Club.



Local elite joined several thousand farmers in a procession in Satkhira town yesterday, demanding government steps for a solution to the permanent water-logging problem. In 8,000 acres of land in Satkhira Sadar.

PHOTO: STAR

Extortionists damage Japan financed fish plant

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Extortionists attacked a Japanese-financed fish processing plant at Parulia in Debhata upazila Sunday evening and damaged property worth Tk 8 lakh for refusal to pay Tk 50,000 toll.

Security guard Abdus Sobhan was seriously injured in the attack. Police said armed miscreants allegedly led by Shimul and Zahid attacked Sekai Fish Processing Plant, a joint venture private sector project involving Japanese investors as the owners refused to pay the toll.

The criminals beat the staff. The damaged property include two vehicles.

The manager of the company has filed a case with Debhata Police Station accusing Shimul, Zahid and some others.

SMG recovered in Bandarban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

A joint force of army and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) on Monday recovered a sub-machine gun (SMG) with 30 rounds of bullets from Barathali area of Ruma upazila.

While patrolling the border along Mizoram in India, members of the joint force recovered the abandoned SMG.

It is still unknown whether the SMG was used to kill Lance Corporal Abu Bakar Siddique of army on November 21 night.

His SMG was looted and he was killed while on duty at a religious festival at Jamchhari in Roangchhari upazila.

After the incident, army and BDR are launching combing operation in Bandarban Sadar upazila, Roangchhari, Ruma and Thanchi area.

14-day Victory Fair begins at Manikganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A 14-day long 'Muktijuddher Bijoy Mela', a victory fair began here on Monday.

Chief Whip of Jatiya Sangsad Khondaker Delwar Hossain opened the fair as chief guest at the outer stadium here.

A discussion meeting on Liberation War was held. Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Inu) central leader Afzal Hossain Khan was in the chair.

It was addressed by among others, former minister and Awami League (AL) leader Moslem Uddin Khan, former deputy minister and Jatiya Party (JP) leader Golam Sarwar, former MP and BNP leader Abdul Wahab Khan, JSD-Inu central leader Iqbal Hossain Khan, AL leaders Golam Mohuddin, Abdus Salam, Abul Kashem and Abdul Mojib Photo, convenor of Muktijoddha Sangsad Golam Mohier Khan, CPB leader Azharul Islam, JP leader Shamsul Haque, BNP leaders Zamilur Rashid Khan, Azhar Hossain Khan, PP (public prosecutor), Ataur Rahman, Fazul Haque Khan, member secretary of the celebration committee and BNP leader Masudul Kamrul Haque, Deputy Commissioner of Manikganj Roksana Ferdousi and Police Superintendent (SP) Awrangzeb Mahubux.

Land for landless demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Several hundred landless people held a rally and brought out a procession at Bagha upazila headquarters on Monday demanding distribution of khas (government) lands.

They also handed over a memorandum to the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) for a fresh survey to restore khas lands now under illegal possession of influential and their allotment among the landless.

The demonstrations were organised jointly by two local NGOs—Swa Unnayan and Samata Women Welfare Organisation.

The rally was addressed by, among others, NGO activists Mustafur Rahman Khan Alam, Nazrul Islam Later and leaders of the landless people.

Tk 1.5 lakh cell-phones looted from Ctg Flora

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Cash and mobile sets worth Tk 1.5 lakh were looted from a sales centre of a computer firm here on Monday.

Eight dacoits entered the sales centre of Flora Ltd at Lalkhan Bazaar under Khulshi Police Station at around 2.30 pm and locked the security guard in a toilet. They ransacked the sales centre and looted money and mobile sets from staff and clients of the sales centre holding them hostage at gunpoint, according to witnesses. Six dacoits were arrested.

Seminar on child rights held in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A discussion meeting on 'Role of NGOs in Protecting Child Right' was held at Bonarpara USS Hall on Monday. It was organised jointly by Gono Unnayan Library (GDL) and Unnayan Shahajogi Sanstha, a local NGO.

Speakers there said children's rights are being violated mainly due to lack of awareness among people. NGOs can play a vital role in this regard, they said.

It is at times found that even educated people are not aware of children's rights.

The violation is severe among the illiterate in rural areas because of

illiteracy. Only spread of education can improve the situation, they said.

Every year, about 30 lakh children remain out of schooling, they said quoting a UN report. Thirty percent of babies are born underweight, they said.

About two lakh children face death in a year from malnutrition and diseases, they said.

Presided over by MA Wadud, Co-ordinator of Unnayan Shahajogi Sanstha, the discussants included Mostafa Abu Bakker Siddique Alam, Shahadat Hossain Mondal, journalist Moniruzzaman, Farid Khan and Shafique Rahman. Retired professor Abdul Halim Mia was the resource person.



A partial view of the seminar on Role of NGOs in Protecting Child Right, held in Gaibandha on Monday.

PHOTO: STAR

Procession for rescue of kidnapped college girl

Kushtia JCD leader expelled from party for alleged involvement

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Several thousand people including women and students brought out a procession in Jhenidah town on Monday demanding immediate rescue of the abducted college girl Laila Nurat Aman Tanni and arrest of the kidnappers.

She was kidnapped on Friday allegedly by a gang led by Jhenidah JCD (Jatiyatabari Chhatra Dal) Organising Secretary Abul Bashar alias Basi when she was going to a coaching centre in the town.

Meanwhile, JCD Jhenidah district unit has expelled five of its leaders and activists including Abul Basahr for his alleged involvement in the kidnapping. Bashar is also general secretary of Jhenidah Government KC College Student Union.

Bashar and Tanni are students of the same college.

The expulsion decision was taken at a party meeting Monday night at the JCD office with its president Ashraful Islam Pintu in the chair.

Sources said the action followed pressure from top BNP leaders in the district.

But police could not make any headway till yesterday to rescue her. When contacted, police said they are trying to rescue her and arrest the culprits.

Talking to this correspondent, Tanni's father Prof Nazul Islam



PHOTO: STAR

A partial view of the procession brought out in Jhenidah town on Monday for rescue of kidnapped college girl Tanni.

Haq said he is afraid apprehending the fate of his daughter. "They might kill my daughter", he lamented.

At a press conference on Friday, he claimed that the kidnappers threatened to kill his daughter. He has filed a case.

According to police and family sources, some party associates of Abul Basahr were involved in the incident. They are Rana, Liton, Milton and Rasel.

Tanni is a first year Honours student. Bashar used to tease her at college, her family claimed.

The incident has created resentment among people including political leaders and activists. Different student organisations including Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Chhatra Union, Chhatra Front, Chhatra Moitri have demanded her immediate rescue and expulsion of Bashar from the college.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer
Local Govt. Engineering Department
District : Joypurhat

Memo No. XEN/LGED/Joypur/RTIP/04/41

Date : 06.12.2004

Rural Transport Improvement Project (RTIP)

আইটিএস

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

IFB No. 04/2004-2005

- 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. 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, Joypurhat invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the construction and completion of the following works :

Name of the work	Contract Package No.	Bid security (Tk.)	Time for completion (Days)	Price of bidding document (Tk.)
Improvement of Balighata UP Office-Jibonpur-Baghjana UP Office Union Road (Chainage : 2+500 to 11+750 km)	Joy/UR-23	3,88,000.00	550	4,000.00
Improvement of Akkelpur-Rukindipur UP Office via Jamalganj Charamtha Union Road (Chainage : 0+000 to 9+140km)	Joy/UR-24	3,25,000.00	550	4,000.00

- The bidders may inspect the bidding documents, obtain further information and clarification at the office of the Executive Engineer, LGED, Joypurhat, Tel : 0571-62542 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 09/01/2005 at 12.00noon 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, Joypurhat or the Superintendent of Police, Joypurhat or the Upazila Engineer, Upazila : Sadar, Joypurhat 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, Joypurhat. Additional sets of bidding documents may be purchased at the same price. The bidding documents will be available during office hours from 18/12/2004 to 18/01/2005.
- 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/Unconditional Bank Guarantee drawn in favour of the Executive Engineer, LGED, Joypurhat.
- All bids must be delivered to the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Joypurhat or the Superintendent of Police, Joypurhat or the Upazila Engineer, Upazila : Sadar, Joypurhat or the undersigned on or before 1.00 PM of 19/01/2005.
- Bids will be opened at 2.00 PM on 19/01/2005 at the office of the undersigned in presence of the bidders or their authorized 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 1.00 PM of 19/01/2005.
- 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.

Narayan Chandra Biswas

Executive Engineer
LGED, Joypurhat
Tele : 057162542

DFP-29714-9/12/04
G-1248

SNAPS

Child killed in road mishap

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A child was killed and five others were injured when their rickshaw van was hit by a truck at Chithulia on the Shaghata-Gaibandha road on Monday. One and a half years old Nirab died on the spot. The injured persons were taken to Fulchari Health Complex. The killer truck sped away, police said. A case has been filed with Fulchari police station.

Death threat to forest official

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A Forest official faces death threat from an extremist for his refusal to pay Tk 30,000 as illegal toll. The victim is Mahmudul Hasan, an Assistant Conservator of Forests. The extremist threatened him several times from December 1 to 12 over telephone. He met the Assistant Commissioner (AC) of southern zone of Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP), Anisuzzaman to inform him about the matter. But he did not file any case with police 'fearing reprisal' from the extremist.

Auto-rickshaw off Khulna city roads

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Auto-rickshaw drivers are on an indefinite strike from Monday. Khulna Zila Auto-rickshaw Union called the strike in protest against arrest of drivers on Saturday and Sunday. They also demanded unconditional release of the arrested drivers. They alleged that the drivers were arrested for their refusal to pay tips to traffic police. But according to police, the drivers had violated traffic rules in Khulna-Daulatpur-Phulaita route by carrying more than three passengers.



RUPALI BANK LTD.

Engineering Division (7th floor)
Head office, 34, Dilkusha C/A
Dhaka-1000

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tenders are hereby invited from reputed firms preferably having experience on Schindler lift for supply and installation of spare parts including smooth running of Lift-A, Brand-Schindler, capacity-8 persons at Head Office Building, Dhaka.

01. Interested tenderers may purchase tender schedule from the offices mentioned below during office hours latest by 09/01/2005 on written application and by payment of Tk. 500/- (five hundred) only in the form of pay order/Bank draft (non refundable) from any scheduled bank in favour of "Rupali Bank Ltd., Head office, Dhaka." No tender schedule will be sold on the date of opening of tender.

a) Deputy General Manager, Rupali Bank Ltd. Engineering Division, (7th floor) Head Office, 34, Dilkusha C/A Dhaka-1000.	b) Deputy General Manager, Rupali Bank Ltd. Ibrahim Mansion Branch, 11, Purana Paltan Dhaka.	c) Deputy General Manager, Rupali Bank Ltd. Zonal Office, Dhaka Central Zone Ramna Bhaban Dhaka.
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02. An amount of Tk. 10,000/- (Taka ten thousand only) must be submitted as earnest money along with the tender in the form of pay order/Bank Draft from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh in favour of "Rupali Bank Ltd. Head office, Dhaka."

03. Tenders are to be dropped in the tender box kept at the above mentioned offices latest by 1.00 p.m. on 10/01/2005 or before and will be opened at 2.30 p.m. on the same date and same places (in presence of the tenderers or their representative if any) or on the following date in case of any unavoidable circumstances. No tender will be entertained after closing time.

04. The Bank Authority reserves the right to accept or to reject any or all of the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Md. Nurul Amin
Deputy General Manager.

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