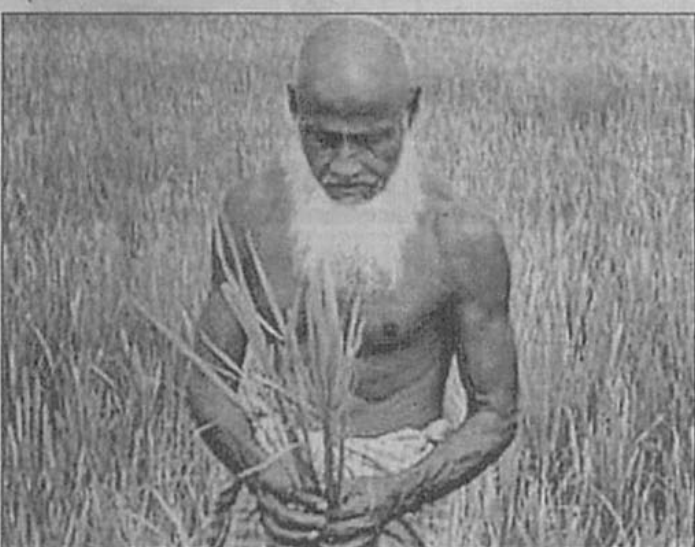


Pest devouring amon in 8 northern dists

RAFIQUE SARKER, Rangpur
Massive pest attack on transplanted amon fields has worried farmers as well as agriculture officials in eight northern districts.



Frustrated farmer Abul Kashem with a pest-damaged Amon plant in his field at Nachhnia village in Rangpur Sadar upazila.

farmers on pest management," he said. Experienced farmers in Rangpur and other districts said the pest attack will increase if there is no rain. They said they are using different brands of insecticide on fields but to no effect.

Abul Kashem, a farmer in Nachhnia village in Rangpur Sadar upazila said, "Pest is devouring Amon plants on my three acres of land. I sprayed Corolux and Mortar insecticides but the pests are not disappearing."

According to information available from DAE's Rangpur Regional Office, 10,44,900 hectares of land have been brought under Amon cultivation in eight northern districts with a target to produce 2,591,352 tonnes of paddy this season.

Of the lands, 1,48,502 hectares are in Rangpur, 2,54,402 in Dinajpur, 1,20,381 in Thakurgaon, 90,759 in Panchagoar, 1,12,649 in Kurigram, 1,16,413 in Nilphamari and 1,14,987 Gibandha district.

Paddy production was about 30 per cent less than the target in the last season in northern districts, DAE officials said.

Nothing can be said now about the prospect of the Amon yield, they said. If the pest attack can not be controlled, the yield will be less than that in the last season, they said.

Recruitment of 12 RU JCD men as election officer sparks protest

RU Correspondent

At least 12 present and former leaders of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at Rajshahi University have been recruited as Upazila Election Officer (UEO) through the Public Service Commission (PSC).

This has triggered protests by Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Samajtrantik Chhatra Front (SCF), Progressive Students Alliance (PSA) and left leaning student organisations on the campus.

BCL at a rally held RU Central Library yesterday alleged that the recruitment was not made on merit but to politicise the Election Commission to win the next parliamentary election.

It demanded immediate cancellation of the recruitment and threatened to launch a tougher agitation in case of non-compliance.

According to sources, the appointees include incumbent joint convener of RU JCD Rafiqul Islam and his wife Farhana Haque, also a JCD activist; former RU JCD vice-president Pavel Rahman; its joint general secretary Alamgir Hossain; publications secretary Tofail Hossain Manik; former general secretary of Shah Mukdum Hall JCD unit Zakir Hossain Saki; former JCD president at Habibur Rahman Hall Abdul Alim; Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Hall JCD general secretary Humayun Kabir; Shaheed Shamsuzzoha JCD president ASM Zakir Hossain; former RU JCD joint convener Ruhul Amin; former JCD leader Fahmida Haque and activist Foyaz Mollah.

The recruitment has also created commotion in JCD. Talking to this correspondent yesterday, some activists alleged that joint convener Rafiq 'deprived' many party men by 'not putting their names on the selection list'.

When contacted, RU JCD convener Nuruzzaman Likon claimed that appointments were made 'absolutely on the basis of merit'.



Floodwater has washed away the Chilgacha kutchra road in Kazipur upazila in Sirajganj district.

PHOTO: STAR

Tidal surge washes away Tk 5 cr shrimps in Satkhira

WDB embankment develops breaches in Shyamnagar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Shrimps worth over Tk 5 crore were washed away as at least 70 enclosures were inundated in Shyamnagar upazila due to rain and breaches in Water Development Board (WDB) embankments at Khalsibunia, Kaikhali and Harinagar points following a tidal surge from the sea.

About 200 feet of the coastal embankment at Khalsibunia has been damaged, inundating vast areas in 50 villages.

The worst affected villages are Naikati, Durmuzkhali, Parampur, Kaikhali, Harinagar, Jyitindranagar, Tengrakhali, Chadnimukhi, Sora, Atulia, Pakhimara, Patakhali, Munshigonj, Bhetkhali, Golakhali, Jada. Waters entered the areas overflowing the embankment at several points.

Many villagers have taken shelter on highlands.

At least 40 shrimp enclosures have been inundated in Gabura union following collapse of the embankment at Khalsibunia and another 30 in Munshigonj union as the embankment between Nekjania Girls School and Sonamukhi bridge was washed away by tidal surge. There was knee deep water at Burigoinin BRAC office yesterday.

Cracks have developed at several points of the coastal embankment at Harinagar, Bhetkhali, Tengrakhali and Kaikhali. The embankment may give in, sources there said. Sources there said the Signhertali

government food godown is also threatened.

Over 800 people in these areas under the supervision of Munshigonj Union Parishad Chairman Asim Kumar Mridha, Gabura UP Chairman Saiful Azam Lenin and Nur mohammad Gazi of Munshigonj were working on self help basis to check the erosion at Khalsibunia, Harinagar and Kalbari by dumping sand bags.

Local people alleged that officials of Water Development Board did not visit the areas till Tuesday morning.

On contact, WDB Executive Engineer Zulfiqar Ali at Satkhira said, steps to repair the breaches can not be taken till water recedes.

Shyamnagar Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md. Wahiduzzaman visited the affected areas and assured the affected people of all possible help from the administration.

6 murdered in 6 days

UP member, traders among the victims in Jhenidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Two persons including a Union Parishad (UP) member were murdered in Jhenidah in the early hours of yesterday, raising the number of killings to six in the district in last six days from September 15.

Police quoting family sources said, Habibur Rahman Biswas, 65, a member of Nityanandapur Union Parishad in Shailakupa upazila was called out of his house by some armed miscreants at around 1 am. The miscreants strangled him near his house in Rupdah village.

Police suspected that Habibur might have been killed following previous enmity over a land dispute.

Police recovered the body yesterday morning and sent for autopsy.

In another incident at Barishkhali village in Harinakundu upazila, Chand Mia, 35, son of Khelafat Mia, was stabbed to death by unidentified miscreants in the early hours of yesterday.

Police said, Chand went out of his house at around 11-30 pm and did not return. His body was recovered from near a canal yesterday morning with marks of several stab injuries.

Earlier, miscreants killed four persons, believed to be traders, at Baluhar Battla in Koatchandpur upazila in the early hours of September 15 and snatched Tk 60,000 from them.

Three of them were identified as Ali Akbar alias Jahangir, Raju and Khokon. The four came to Koatchandpur from Comilla to buy a "Nasiman" (shallow engine-propelled tempo), according to the confessional statement of an arrested accused Abdul Kuddus, a rickshaw van puller.

Flash flood in Moulvibazar

Eight unions go under water as Monu, Dhalai damage embankments at 5 points

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Vast areas in eight unions in Kulara, Kamalganj and Rajnagar upazilas have been inundated by flash flood as Monu and Dhalai rivers breached their embankments at least at five points yesterday.

An elderly man-- Raja Singha, 65, of Islampur of Kamalganj upazila -- was washed away by flood water.

The rivers burst their embankments from morning to noon yesterday due to last two days' rain and flow of water from Tipura hills, from where the rivers flow into Bangladesh.

The rivers may continue to swell till today if there is no more rain in the hills across the border, Water development Board (WDB) officials

here told this correspondent yesterday afternoon.

At least 5000 hectares of Amon land have reeled under floodwater that also inundated homesteads.

The WDB officials said the Monu river has breached its embankment at Jalalpur in Kulara and Mitupur under Rajnagar upazila.

Its embankment at Telibil, Chandpur, Alinagar, Asroygram, Mahtabpur, Ronchhap, Baligaon and Shadonpur points are threatened, they said.

There may be more breaches any time, they apprehended. Floodwater is overflowing about five kilometre area of the Monu embankment in Tilgaon union.

Local people were seen dumping gunny-bags to stop flow of water.

The Dhalai river breached its embankment at Karimpur, Adampur and Mokhabil points in Kamalganj.

WDB Executive Engineer Kazi Abu Bakar Siddiqi said employees along with local chairman and members of Union Parishads are working to mend the breaches.

The river Monu was flowing 2.83 metres above the danger mark at Monu railway bridge point yesterday morning.

He said the flood situation may deteriorate if the water levels of the Monu and the Dhalai do not come down.

The district administration said it is too early to assess the flood damage.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Primary and Mass Education
Directorate of Primary Education
Reaching Out-of-School Children (ROSC) Project
Mirpur-2, Dhaka-1216

Memo No. DPE/ROSC/Procurement/05/2004/468 Date: 15-09-2005

Request for Expressions of Interest for Selection of Individual Consultant (Time-based)

EOI Ref. No. S4 Date: 15-09-2005

The Ministry of Primary & Mass Education under a donor Grant Agreement with World Bank is implementing Reaching Out of School Children (ROSC) Project in 60 upazilas across the country. The project intends to apply part of the proceeds of these funds to payments under the contract for the provision of consultancy services for the project by an individual consultant (National).

The Services Include:
Financial Management Specialist (S-4): (a) Establish a sound financial management system for the project which will fulfil the requirements of the GoB and the World Bank, (b) prepare financial statements and withdrawal application for the World Bank, (c) train the relevant officials for independently managing the financial management of the project.

The qualification and experience required for the assignment is at least MBA or CA/CAM degree with Commerce background and 10 years professional experience in financial management.
The Project Director, Reaching Out-of-School Children Project now invites eligible applicants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Applicants are invited to provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (Complete CV with other details as required as per the application forms).

01 (one) consultant will be selected using the selection of individual consultant sub-method in accordance with the World Bank guidelines. It is expected that (S-4) will be commenced in November 2005 as Financial Consultant.

Interested applicants are required to submit their expressions of interest in accordance with the application forms and may obtain the request for application document from the office of the undersigned during the normal office hours.

Expression of interest shall be submitted by 12:30 PM on 04/10/2005, in sealed envelope to Project Director, and be clearly marked "Request for Expressions of Interest for Individual Consultant (Time-based)."

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all EOIs.
A K Nazmuzzaman
Project Director
Directorate of Primary Education
Reaching Out-of-School Children (ROSC) Project
Mirpur 2, Dhaka-1216
GD-1500

A unique way to protest Poursabha inaction

A CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

The CPB in Gopalganj has evolved a unique way to protest alleged inaction by the municipal authorities in maintaining roads in the town.

The townspeople were awed and bemused yesterday when CPB (Communist Party of Bangladesh) men planted paddy saplings on a road that remains muddy and unusable during most of the wet season.

As monsoon begins, roads in Chowrangji point, Swarnakar Patti, Kapur Patti, Batasa Patti, Sahapara, Kateka Bazaar, Natun Bazaar and the DC Road in the town become muddy and covered with thick sludge, unfit for use by pedestrians and even manually peddled three-wheelers. A slight rain creates water-logging on the roads as outlets are clogged.

Local people say the roads are a source of trouble, not a facility for them as these remain muddy during the wet season. Repeated appeals were made to the municipal authorities to do something to remove their sufferings but those fell on the deaf ears of the authorities.

Yesterday morning, Gopalganj CPB (Communist Party of Bangladesh) Principal Abu Hossain and his party men with bundles of paddy saplings in hand gathered along the muddy Natun Bazaar road.

The local people could not believe their eyes when the activists stepped into the ankle deep mud on the road and transplanted paddy saplings. But no body protested.

Tk 9 cr govt cold storage up for sale at Tk 45 lakh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A cold storage in Lolaroa, owned by the Shilpa bank, is being sold out at a throwaway price, violating bidding rules, sources claimed.

Kalaroa Ice and Cold Storage having assets worth about Tk 9 crore is being disposed of at Tk 42 lakh, they said.

Set up in 1980s with a Shilpa Bank loan of Tk three crore, it has now a bank loan of Tk 9 crore, the sources said.

As its owner--Jatiya Party leader Sheikh Maniruzzaman--became a loan defaulter, the bank filed a money suit with Artha Rin Adalat, Satkhira for realising the outstanding loan. The court in its verdict in 2003 empowered the Shilpa Bank to sell the cold storage through a tender to realise the

loan.

The bank floated a tender for the second time on August 16 in a national daily as the first bidding failed to draw a reasonable number of bidders. Three firms participated in the second bidding.

According to sources, Alhaj Jalal Uddin offered at Tk 42 lakh, M/s Kazi Foods Tk 36 lakh and Bangladesh Fine Leather Processing Ltd offered Tk 24,04,000.

As per rules, if the first and second tender bid fails to draw the required number of bidders, a third bidding should be invited. But it was not done.

Some vested quarters in the bank are now preparing to sell the cold storage to Alhaj Jalal Uddin. According to sources, a report has been submitted to the tender board to accept the bid.

"If the authorities accept the bid, government will incur a heavy losses", said a source.

When contacted over cell phone, Abdul Hannan Deputy general manager of the Shilpa Bank, said he submitted a report to higher authorities in the first week of this month. The tender board will take a decision, he added.

Asked on what consideration he approved sale of a Tk 9 crore property at only Tk 42 lakh, he said this is the highest price offered so far.

He could not give any satisfactory reply to a question why bids were not invited for the third time as per rule.

Sources claimed that Alhaj Jalal Uddin who offered Tk 42 lakh enjoys blessings from the local lawmaker.

Tangail Textile Institute in shambles

A CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Academic and administrative activities of Tangail Textile Institute are being hampered due to various problems including lack of a full-time principal.

According to a source in the district administration, the Deputy Commissioner, in a letter sent to Textile Ministry secretary on June 27 this year, requested him for immediate appointment of a full-time principal. The institute gives 'Di-

ploma-in-Textile Engineering' degree on conclusion of a four-year course.

The letter said an investigation recently revealed that the principal remained absent from his duty for over 20 days because of an additional responsibility of project officer in the Project Implementation Cell of the Textile Ministry.

A case is also pending with the District Anti-corruption Bureau for alleged misappropriation of money,

said a source.

At present, there are 16 teachers against 22 posts of the institute having 416 regular students.

"We are not getting proper lessons as practical classes are not held here regularly. We came here from different districts for studies but we are being deprived of hostel facility," said a student.

The condition of library, laboratory and workshops is also pitiable where facilities are too meagre to meet students' needs.

Saiful Islam, a guardian of a third year student said, 'Principal is the main guardian of the institute. How can he remain absent for 20 days a month.'

Refuting the allegations, Principal Mofazzal Hossain said his absence does not affect activities of the institute. The ministry, rather, gave me additional duty for greater interest, he said.

On the allegation of misappropriation, he said it was 'absolutely false' as it was not 'based on facts.'

উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (সরবরাহ) এর কার্যালয়
চাকা মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ, ঢাকা
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি
চাকা মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ বেসন টোল, রাজারবাগ, ঢাকায় চাটাই অনুযায়ী নভেম্বর ৩ ডিসেম্বর/০৫ইং মাসের জন্য সুপার 'বিফাইও' সুরাবিন তেল ও বনস্পতি যি সঙ্গ্রহের জন্য সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রকৃত মিল মালিক/বাবসানী/টিকাদার/সরবরাহকারীদের নিকট হইতে সীলমোহিত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে।