

Niko bid to shift pontoon from Tengratila-Doarabazar road resisted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

An attempt of Niko, a Canadian exploration company, to shift a pontoon from Shantipur on Tengratila-Doarabazar road to elsewhere is being prevented by the inhabitants of several villages in four unions of Dparabazar upazila in Sunamganj district.

The pontoon at Shantipur is situated in between Tengratila gas field and Doarabazar town.

Over one lakh inhabitants of Banglabazar, Lakshmipur, Surma and Bhogla unions have no other alternate road to go to the upazila headquarters. So, they have taken a vow to prevent any move to shift the pontoon elsewhere. Moreover, it is the lone road link towards the border camps and villages.

The Niko authorities have sent a letter to the local administration seeking permission to remove the pontoon recently.

While starting the preparatory work for drilling the Tengratila Gas field, Niko set the pontoon in 2004. Earlier, the company took the 300 feet long pontoon from the Roads

and Highways Department on rent.

The Canadian company had already shifted equipment as well as manpower from Tengratila Gas field till the end of 2006. In recent months, they reduced their establishment at the abandoned gas field at Tengratila in a pretext of recurring blowouts. The blowouts occurred at the gas field on January 7 and June 24 in 2005.

Tengratila Dabi Aday Sangram Parishad leaders have alleged that the authorities floated tenders for construction of three bridges including one at Shantipur on Tengratila-Doarabazar road in 2003. It is the lone road for communication of over one lakh people of the backward region attached to the Indian hilly region.

But Niko, in a hurried attempt, set up the pontoon up for their own interest and assured the locals of arranging a bridge within a short time. Locals protested to it and requested the government for construction of a bridge. But, the Niko officials, in several negotiation meetings, assured the people to construct a bridge within a short

period. As a temporary arrangement, they set up the pontoon which is being used by the locals.

Freedom fighter Azim Uddin master, Convener of the Tengratila Dabi Aday Sangram Parishad said the Canadian company had cheated them in many ways. If they try to remove the pontoon before construction of a bridge at Shantipur, people will resist it at any cost as thousands of people use it daily.

Removal of the pontoon will halt the road communication also, he said. Over one lakh inhabitants of the villages in Banglabazar, Lakshmipur, Surma and Bhogla unions have no other alternative for going to the upazila headquarters. Besides, it is the lone road link towards border camps and villages, he added.

An official at Niko Gas Field Camp Office at Tengratila said the decision had been taken in the company's Dhaka office. We have already informed them about reaction of local people. But, they are yet to take any decision in this regard, he said.



Hansen Clarke

Preparations on to welcome US Senate member at Sylhet village

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Preparations are afoot to accord a hearty welcome to US Senate member Hansen Clarke at his ancestral village at Sridhara in Beanibazar upazila here tomorrow.

A hearty reception will be accorded to Clarke while various socio-cultural organisations have taken up a joint programme to honour him at his village home.

Clarke's father Mozaffar Ali Hashim migrated to the USA during an era in 1930s. He married to an American lady Telma, who was a police officer.

Clarke was elected a senator of Detroit city in Michigan State in 2005. He is now on a 4-day visit to Bangladesh.

Tk 1.5 lakh rawhide looted in Nilphamari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Rawhide worth Tk 1.5 lakh has been looted here while being taken to a major hide market at Taraganj in Rangpur for sale by two rickshawvans, locals said.

Hide traders Razen and Mamta hailing from Koya Golahat village in Saidpur upazila were taking 55 pieces of rawhide to the renowned Taraganj hide market for sale at dawn on Thursday, they said. As soon as they reached Dholagachhi intersection on the Nilphamari-Syedpur by-pass road, a gang of armed robbers, numbering about 12, attacked them, said Razen. The robbers were equipped with lethal weapons, he said. The attackers manhandled them fastening them along with two rickshaw-van pullers named Labu and Moju with electric poles. Then they looted the hides and fled away. The two collected the hides from different villages during Eid-ul-Azha.

This year, prices of rawhide are much higher as lesser number of cattle was sacrificed in the entire district.

Tk 2 CR EXTORTION

Charges pressed against ex-BNP lawmaker Habib in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Charges were pressed against former BNP lawmaker Habibul Islam Habib yesterday in connection with a Tk 2 crore extortion case filed against him with Sadar police station.

The Investigation Officer (IO) of the case, Sadar police station officer-in-charge (OC) Abdul Kader Beg submitted the charge sheet pressing charges against him to a magistrate's court here.

Satkhira district BNP president Habibul Islam Habib who was elected an MP from Satkhira-1 (Tala-Kalaroa) constituency in 2001 elections, is now on the run to evade arrest as he is in the list of corrupt suspect. Joint forces raided his house at Kalaroa to arrest him several times, but in vain, sources said.

Court sources said Abu Naser Md Abu Sayeed of Itagachha area in the town filed the extortion case accusing Habib for demanding and realising extortion on August 1.

20 hurt in attack by musclemen of landlords at Chandpur shoal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

About 20 landless farmers were injured, seven of them seriously, in an attack by musclemen of landlords at a newly emerged shoal in Haimchar upazila Thursday afternoon.

Witnesses and the officer-in-charge (OC) of Haimchar police station Tajul Islam confirmed the report saying the musclemen of landlords launched a sudden attack on the landless while they were working in green pepper field at the new shoal, 10 kilometre west of Haimchar Upazila Sadar. The musclemen were armed with bamboo sticks during the attack. Six seriously injured were admitted to Haimchar Health Complex and one Noor Hossain Rana, 38, was admitted to Chandpur Sadar Hospital Thursday night.

The attackers also torched a thatched dwelling house and looted away their cows, it was alleged. Seriously injured Noor Hossain was referred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital at dead of night Thursday, said hospital sources.

Tajul Islam said the attackers were musclemen of landlord Ratan Haji.



A group of rural boys collecting date juice in this ongoing winter season at Sitakundo in Chittagong.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

VGF RICE SCAM

UP chairman, education officer sued in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Sreeula Union Parishad (UP) chairman Abu Hena Shakil and Assasuni upazila assistant education officer Mushfiqur Rahman have been sued on charge of misappropriating VGF rice, court sources said.

A case was filed against them with the chief judicial magistrate's court here yesterday.

UP member Nazma Amin, elected from the reserved women's seat of Sreeula UP in Assasuni upazila filed the case.

After hearing, Judge Nasim Reza of the judicial magistrate's court asked Assasuni police station officer-in-charge (OC) to investigate the matter and take necessary action, court sources said.

Plaintiff Nazma Amin alleged that the government issued 2,500 VGF cards for the Sdr victims in Sreeula UP. UP chairman Abu Hena Shakil drew 37,500 kilogram of rice from the government godown to distribute among the VGF card holders on December 14. Each card holder was allotted with 15 kilogram of rice.

Assasuni upazila assistant education officer Mushfiqur Rahman was given the responsibility as tag officer to monitor proper distribution of rice, she said.

But the two accused, in collaboration with each other, distributed 29,354 kilogram of rice among 2,258 VGF card holders. They distributed 13 kilogram of rice to each of them in stead of 15 kilogram.

They allegedly misappropriated 3,480 kilogram of rice by selling in black markets, she alleged.

On information, Assasuni Upazila Nirbahi officer Ananda Mohon Biswas raided the UP office and found 4,666 kilogram of rice lying there on December 16, she alleged.

As per statement by the chairman, local authorities distributed 3,630 kilogram of rice among 242 VGF card holders on December 17 and the rest 1,036 kilogram of rice were seized by local administration, she said.

On contact, Sreeula UP chairman Abu Hena Shakil refuted the allegations saying the rice was kept in the UP office as they were unable to distribute rice among the VGD card holders as many did not turn up on December 15. Abu Hena is a local leader of Assasuni upazila Awami League (AL), party sources said.

Despite repeated attempts over cell phone yesterday, Assasuni upazila assistant education officer Mushfiqur Rahman could not be reached for comments in this regard.



Students of Dr Khastogir Government Girls' High School in Chittagong in a jovial mood as they celebrate attainment of 100 years of the institution yesterday.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Govt of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Technical Service, Administrative Building, Bangladesh Betar
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207

Invitation for International Tender

Invitation for Tender No: Babek/kanka/bmre/Audio Workstation/2007-516

Date: 26/12/07

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from foreign manufacturers or their authorized suppliers/distributors through their local agents in Bangladesh for the goods and related services as described in the following:

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Information.
2	Agency	Bangladesh Betar.
3	Procuring entity name	Project Director.
4	Procuring entity district	Dhaka
5	Invitation for	Lot-1: Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Professional Digital Audio Workstation with Digital Mixer, CD/RW, HDD and equalizer, table, revolving chair & other accessories at 14 different stations of Bangladesh Betar. Lot-2: Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Professional Digital Multieffect Audio Processor for 14 different stations of Bangladesh Betar.
6	Invitation Ref No. & date	Babek/kanka/bmre/Audio Workstation/2007-516, date: 26/12/07.
7	Procurement method	Open tendering method (National Competitive Tendering).
8	Budget and source of funds	GOB
9	Project/programme code	5020
10	Project/programme name	Balancing, modernization, replacement & expansion of equipment at different stations of Bangladesh Betar.
11	Tender last selling date	05-02-2008 during office hour.
12	Tender closing date and time	14-02-2008
13	Tender opening date and time	14-02-2008
14	Name & address of the office(s) Receiving tender document	Address: Room No. 315, Technical Service/Main Gate, Bangladesh Betar, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.
15	Opening tender document	Room No. 318, Technical Service/Administrative Building, Bangladesh Betar, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.
16	Brief description of goods or works	15 (fifteen) Nos Professional Digital Audio Workstation with Digital Mixer, CD/RW, HDD & equalizer, table, revolving chair and 30 (thirty) Nos Professional Digital Multieffect Audio Processor.
17	Tender document price	Tk 2,000/- for Lot 1 & Tk 1,000/- for Lot 2 to be deposited in the form of Treasury Challan to the code *1/3351/0001/2366 in favour of Director General, Bangladesh Betar.
18	Tender security amount (Tk)	Only in the form of a Pay-Order/Bank Draft only issued by a scheduled bank of Bangladesh in favour of Director General, Bangladesh Betar
	Lot-1 Tk 2,00,000 or US\$ 2,900	Completion time in months 3 (thr3 (three) months)
	Lot-2 Tk 40,000 or US\$ 600	
19	Name of official inviting tender	Md Sultan Ali.
20	Designation of official inviting tender	Project Director, Balancing, modernization, replacement & expansion of equipment at different stations of Bangladesh Betar.
21	Address of official inviting tender	Technical Service, Room No. 315, Administrative Building, Bangladesh Betar, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.
22	Contact details of official inviting tender	Telephone No-02-8113691 (Office) fax-880-9112475. E-mail: sultanbetar@yahoo.com.
23	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders.	

Md Sultan Ali
Project Director
Ph: 8113691

GD-4722

Joyful learning for dull students

GoB-NGO partnership improves quality of primary education in Jhenidah

STAR NATIONAL DESK

A GoB (Government of Bangladesh) and NGO (Non-government Organisation) partnership has improved quality of primary education in Mandarbaria union under Maheshpur upazila in Jhenidah district.

Directorate of Primary Education (DPE) of Bangladesh Government is working with Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) in the one-year project titled, 'Institutional Support for Improved Quality Education in Primary Schools known as IQE-PEDP-II project for a period from June this year to May next year.

The project is being implemented at three government and two registered non-government primary schools. The schools are Bhatpara Government Primary School, Zoka Government Primary School, Bathangashi Government Primary School, Bathangashi Ideal Registered Primary School and Shankarhuda Registered Primary School with 200 learners of classes-1 and 2.

The overall objective of the project is to establish a child-friendly learning environment in primary schools with proactive role of teachers as well as the community for child development and quality primary education. The project is being implemented by a resource trainer and 10 community tutors who take extra classes during a period from 7.00 am to 9.00 am. Slow learners are getting extra support from this project to make their concept clear on different subjects and



PHOTO: STAR

Slow primary learners attend extra classes before school hours at Shankarhuda Registered Primary School in Mandarbaria union under Maheshpur upazila, Jhenidah. Dhaka Ahsania Mission and Plan Bangladesh are jointly implementing the IQE-PEDP-II Project aiming at improving learning skills of dull students.

contents to achieve the basic learning.

The innovative project is receiving support from local government, Primary Education Department. Plan Bangladesh is supplying necessary education materials and BIKASH education project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission is giving technical support to the IQE-PEDP-II Project. Learners are also showing their keen interest in the new system of education. Guardians of participating learners are contributing partially in implementation of the project.

On contact, Dhaka Ahsania Mission president Kazi Rafiqul

Alam said the new concept of improving primary education through a child-friendly learning atmosphere was conceived and spearheaded by his organization in collaboration with Plan Bangladesh who supply the educational materials.

Learners are taught in groups having 20 children in each group, he said adding the new technique has worked like miracle. Slow learners who were once far behind their classmates have captured the front benches by scoring high marks between 37-51 out of total 50 marks, the Dhaka Ahsania Mission president disclosed.

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