

## ABNORMAL PRICE HIKE OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

## Contractors stop govt project work in Kishoreganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

Abnormal price hike of construction materials in last few weeks has stopped work under Kishoreganj Public Works Department (PWD) and Education and Engineering Department (EED).

Sources in the two offices said contractors have stopped all works, rendering hundreds of workers jobless.

Executive engineer Md. Abdur Razzak of Kishoreganj EED said contractors of 41 under-construction buildings of different government and non government schools and colleges in different upazilas left their construction works as prices of construction materials are more than doubled

the government fixed prices.

Executive engineer Habibur Rahman of Kishoreganj PWD said 10 work orders were given to contractors this year but none of them started construction work due to sudden abnormal price hike of road.

Sources at both EED and PWD offices said contractors stopped work as price of per kg rod rose from Tk 42 to Tk 67 in the market in last few weeks.

EED office sources said government price of per ton rod including value added tax (VAT), road binding charge, carrying and other expenses was fixed at Tk 39,000 but it now costs Tk 82,000 including VAT and other expenses. The price is more than double, he said.

PWD office sources said the office issued over 10 work orders but none of the contractors started work. These include construction of new buildings on the compound of Kishoreganj Sadar Hospital.

Executive Engineer Habibur Rahman of Kishoreganj PWD said construction works of academic building and staff quarters of long cherished Kishoreganj Nursing Institute at a cost of Tk over 5 crore could not be started. Construction of 250-bed Kishoreganj Sadar Adhunik Hospital building and staff quarters involving Tk 6 crore is yet to start after issuance of work order early this year.

Same is the case with construction of academic building of Textile

Vocational Institute involving Tk 2 crore. The work order was given on March 9, PWD office sources said.

Academic activities are greatly hampered in 41 institutions including government and non-government ones at different upazilas as contractors left those undone due to high price of road.

If construction of the 41 institutions can not be completed before the upcoming monsoon, academic activities would be greatly hampered, EED office sources said.

When contacted, some of the contractors said they have nothing to do as abnormal price hike of construction materials has pushed the cost up but the budget remains the same.

## Trial of war criminals demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Satkhira district shrimp fry traders association accorded a reception to Saleha Khatun, mother of a martyred freedom fighter, and 15 freedom fighters at the Sadar upazila auditorium Sunday evening.

Saleha Khatun, mother of martyred freedom fighter Shaheed Sirajul Islam, was the chief guest at the function presided over by Safuddin Sabu, president of the association.

The other freedom fighters accorded the reception were Ershad Hossain Khan Chowdhury, Mujibar Rahman, Abdul Khaleque, Abdul Rahim, Abdul Kashem Gazi, Sohrab Hossain, Abdul Mazid, Azizul Islam, Aziz Sardar, Abdul Mabud, Abdul Gaffar, Lutfur Rahman, Mizanur Rahman, Golam Mortaza and Abul Kashem.

Former lawmaker Habibur Rahman, Satkhira Poursava chairman Sheikh Ashraf Haque, public prosecutor Tapan Kumar Chakraborty, Satkhira Chamber president Sheikh Nurul Haque, among others attended the function.

Speaking on the occasion, the freedom fighters demanded trial of war criminals.

They said war criminals mainly belonging to Jamaat-e-Islami were involved in killing, rape, arson and looting.

## BDR, BSF trade fire on Satkhira border

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) traded gunfire on Hijaldi border in Kalaroa upazila in the district early morning yesterday.

The BSF of Gunarajpur camp in Swarnnagar police station under North 24 Parganas district opposite to Hijaldi border fired two shots at BDR Hijaldi camp at about 4-30 am, forcing BDR to retaliate with 5 shots.

There was no casualty, Maj Kamrul Hasan of 41 Rifles Battalion said.

## Journos' seminar at Dinajpur today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A seminar on Role of newspaper and public expectation will be held at Dinajpur Press Club today.

The seminar, organised by Dinajpur Press Club, will be attended by journalists from greater Rangpur and Dinajpur.

Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, editor of Bangladesh Observer will be the chief guest.

BFUJ (Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists) president Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul its secretary Jali Bhuiyan and DUJ (Dhaka Union of Journalists) president Md. Altaf Mahmud will attend the seminar as special guests.

## 10-yr RI in arms case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

A court in Sirajganj yesterday sentenced a man to ten years rigorous imprisonment in an arms case.

The convict is Samir Uddin, 52, a former member of Khokshabari Union Parishad in Sirajganj Sadar upazila.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) recovered a pistol from Samir's house on July 7 last year.

District and Sessions Judge Biplab Goswami delivered the verdict.

## Mystery shrouds death of SUST student

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Mystery shrouds the death of Milton, a student of Shah Jalal University of Science and Technology (Sust) as law enforcers are yet to be ascertain whether he was killed by miscreants or it was just a road accident.

The victim's uncle, Siddiqur Rahman, filed a murder case with Kotwali police station Saturday night while head of the department of BBA at Sust Dr. Nazrul Islam filed another complaint on behalf of the varsity.

Meanwhile, Sust Proctor Dr. Golam Ali Haider was threatened by an anonymous caller on Sunday. Without giving his identity the caller phoned him at 7-30 am from 01726865101 and asked him not proceed further regarding the death of the Sust student. "Otherwise, you will face the same consequence", the man threatened, according to Dr. Haider. He filed a GD with Kotwali police station.

On the other hand, students

formed a human chain on the campus and handed over a memorandum to the vice-chancellor on Sunday demanding probe into the incident.

Sust units of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, Bangladesh Chhatra League, Jatiya Chhatra Dal demanded punishment of the killers.

Investigation officer of the case Sub Inspector Khurshed Alam of Sylhet Kotwali police said, though it was recorded as a road accident, things might be different. He declined to make any more comment till the autopsy report is available.

Aminul Islam Milton, a student of final year BBA, was critically injured on Wednesday night as he was knocked down from an autorickshaw while returning to his mess from the campus. He was admitted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital. He died while being taken to Dhaka.

## Kishoreganj municipal chairman suspended

Charge-sheeted in cheating case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

Kishoreganj municipal chairman Abu Taher Mia, a BNP leader, has been suspended after being charge-sheeted in a 'cheating case'.

A letter in this regard from local government ministry reached the municipal office on Sunday, official sources said yesterday.

The letter said that as a charge sheet in a cheating and bank forgery case has been accepted by a judiciary magistrate against the municipality chairman, it is not proper for him to hold the responsibility any more.

It may cause harm to the interest of the municipality if municipal



Abu Taher Mia  
office is run by the chairman, the letters said.

The charge sheet submitted by

Kishoreganj Sadar police was accepted by Judiciary Magistrate Abu Taher Mohammad Sayeed on March 4, sources said.

The charge sheet submitted by IO of the case SI Badrul Islam of Kishoreganj Sadar police station stated that Abu Taher Mia cheated contractor Shamru Mia of Tk one lakh by forging two bank cheques.

Chairman Abu Taher, freed on bail in another bribery case, took over charge of the municipality on February 26 this year.

Taher was caught by joint forces on October 9 for bribery and sent to jail on October 10 by Magistrate Abu Taher Mohammad Sayeed.

Taher faces four bribery and check forgery cases.

## Lifebuoy Hospital brings new life on Jamuna shoals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Lifebuoy Friendship Hospital, rendering free medical services to the poor and under-privileged people in remote shoal areas on Jamuna basin since 2002, has become synonymous with sincere and efficient service for the suffering humanity.

The floating hospital, now stationed at Khatiyamari shoal in Fulchhari upazila in Gaibandha district, treats a good number of patients from shoal areas along Jamuna basin in Gaibandha and Kungur districts and other far-flung areas.

In addition to providing free medical treatment for six lakh

people since 2002, doctors operated upon 2,505 patients for different critical problems including those for eye, teeth, cleft lip, and bones and paediatric and general surgery.

Yves Marre, a French sailor, who in 1994 came to Bangladesh with a 380-tonne oil tanker, converted it into a floating hospital in 1998 with the aim to reach medical treatment to the inaccessible areas and help underserved, under privileged and neglected people of the society.

With sponsorship of Unilever Bangladesh Ltd, the hospital was named Lifebuoy Friendship Hospital in 2002, started providing medical service for destitute people

in shoal areas on Jamuna basin.

Dr. Jone of French, who led a four-member specialised surgical teams conducting a camp since March 21 said everyday they operated upon 40 patients with different problems.

The floating hospital will stay at Khatiyamari shoal in Fulchhari upazila in Gaibandha district for two and a half months. They have shifted to 22 different shoals since 2002.

Rafiquzzaman Pallab, project coordinator field office of the floating hospital, said with increasing number of patients, they are now facing problem to meet their requirement.



Doctors of Lifebuoy Friendship Hospital, now stationed at Khatiyamari shoal in Fulchhari upazila in Gaibandha, crowded by treatment-seeking people.



PHOTO STAR

Quamruzzaman's (inset) strawberry field at Harishpur in Nature /left, and Dr. Manjur Hossain with plucked fruits in Rajshahi city.

## Commercial cultivation of strawberry promises hefty gains for farmers

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

Farmers will soon get a new highly value added fruit for commercial cultivation, thanks to years of tireless efforts by two persons.

Rajshahi University Botany teacher Dr. Manjur Hossain evolved a variety of strawberry suitable for cultivation in Bangladesh's climate. Horticulturist Quamruzzaman of Natore commercially cultivated the variety on 1.5 bighas of land this year.

The red juicy and nutritious fruit produced by them was supplied to posh markets in Dhaka recently.

With farmer-level price of around Tk 300 per kg, the commercially viable fruit has great export potential and will benefit farmers enormously, the pioneers said while talking to this correspondent at their fields recently.

It can be harvested within two and a half months of plantation and a farmer can earn around Tk 6

lakh from one bigha of land by spending only Tk 20,000, they said.

Besides being taken as a fruit, it is used in preparing ice-cream, jam, jelly, pickle, chocolate, biscuit, cake or milk shake.

Dr. Manjur did his PhD in Japan. While returning home, he brought saplings of eight varieties of strawberry in 1996.

Quamruzzaman collected six varieties from Japan and America but none of the varieties sustained in Bangladesh climate.

Manjur evolved some new varieties through tissue culture at the Plant Breeding and Gene Engineering Laboratory at his Botany department. Manjur started field experiments at Bhadra in Rajshahi city and Quamruzzaman at his Modern Horticulture Center at Harishpur in Natore.

In 2003, three varieties yielded encouraging results and were found suitable in local climate. Out of the three, RU-3 and Modern-3 varieties were found very impressive in size, taste and flavour.

"We found the best results this year in hilly areas at Matiranga Army Zone where 26 Cavalry Division produced quality strawberries from 200 saplings", said Dr. Manjur.

Strawberry cultivation is as easy as growing potatoes or brinjals. Saplings can be sown in rows in November and December. The plant starts flowering within one month of plantation and fruits can be collected till March.

Saplings can be collected from nurseries of Dr. Manjur and Quamruzzaman in Natore. Each plant bears around 250 to 300 grams of fruits and some 6000 plants can be grown on one bigha of land, they said.

Now, traders import strawberry from Thailand and Australia at Tk 900 to Tk 1200 per kg. Strawberry flavour is also imported.

A farmer can get 2000 kg fruit from one bigha of land by spending Tk 20,000.



Save the Children  
USA

Save the Children, by mobilizing citizens throughout the world, envisions a world in which every child is ensured the right to survival, protection, development and participation as set forth in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

## ENLISTMENT NOTICE

Applications are invited from the suppliers/manufactures/sole agents /distributors/wholesalers /contractors/procurement service providers for enlistment with Save the Children-USA, Dhaka Office in various categories. The enlistment will be effective from 1st June 2008 to 31st May 2009 which may be extended upon sole decision of Save the Children Management.

- General office supplies
- Computer, Laptop, Printer, Scanner, UPS and accessories supplies
- Photocopier and accessories
- Printing houses (both Letter & Offset Presses)
- Vehicle repairing workshops
- Office equipment maintenance and repairing houses
- Electrical equipment and building maintenance
- Advertising Agency
- Air Travel Agent (IATA approved and having CRT computer facilities)
- Vehicle rental service (passenger and goods)
- General supplier

One firm can apply for different categories but need to apply separately in an A4 size report cover in a sealed envelope with the following documents:

- Full address with phone & name of proprietor or contact person
- Valid trade license copy
- Updated TIN certificate copy
- VAT registration copy (if applicable)
- Banking information
- Client list with addresses and phone numbers

Applications along with supporting documents/papers must be dropped into the Application Box address to Manager, Supply Chain, Save the Children-USA, House # 1/A (2), Road # 91, Gulshan - 2, Dhaka - 1212, Bangladesh by April 10, 2008

The authority reserves the right to accept/reject any or all applications partially or wholly without assigning any reason whatsoever

Invitation for Tenders RURAL POWER COMPANY LIMITED					
Sealed tender is hereby invited from the bonafide manufacturer/ supplier for the under mentioned item(s) with the following conditions:					
01	Agency	Rural Power Company Limited			
02	Invitation for	Procurement of GT Air Intake Filter for Mymensingh Power Station			
03	Procurement Method	International Competitive Bidding (ICB)			
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>					
04	Budget and Source of Funds	RPCL's own fund			
		Date	Time		
05	Tender Starting Selling Date and Time	01/04/08	10:00 AM		
06	Tender Last Selling Date and Time	28/04/08	04:30 PM		
07	Tender Closing Date and Time	29/04/08	12 Noon		
08	Tender Opening Date and Time	29/04/08	12:30 PM		
09	Name & Address of the office(s)	Address			
	- Selling, Receiving & Opening Tender Document	Rural Power Company Limited (Ground floor), House No.-25, Road No.-18, Sector No.-03, Uttara Model Town, Dhaka- 1230, Bangladesh.			
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>					
10	Eligibility of Tenderer	All Countries except restricted by the GOB. Bonafide supplier having valid Trade License, TIN & VAT registration from concerned authority of Bangladesh/ Manufacturer(s).			
11	Validity of Tender and Tender Security	150 (One hundred fifty) days and 180 (One hundred eighty) days respectively from the date of opening of tender.			
12	Brief Description of Goods/ Services				
Lot No.	Tender Enquiry No.	For the supply of	Price of Tender Document (non-refundable) (BDT)	Tender Security Amount (USD)	Time of completion of Supply/Work
1	Pur-006/2008	Procurement of Three (3) set GT Air Intake Filter for Mymensingh Power Station	2500	2.5% of the quoted price	3 months from the date of opening of L/C
2	Pur-007/2008	Procurement of Two (2) set GT Air Intake Filter for Mymensingh Power Station	2000	2.5% of the quoted price	3 months from the date of opening of L/C
13	Regarding Tender Document	The Tender Document may be purchased by the interested tenderers on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee as specified for each lot. The method of payment will be by Pay order / Bank draft in favor of Rural Power Company Limited, Dhaka, Bangladesh.			
14	Special Instruction	The RPCL reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.			
15	Address	Rural Power Company Limited, House No.-25, Road No.-18, Sector No.-03, Uttara Model Town, Dhaka- 1230, Bangladesh. Phone: +88-02-8912274, Fax: +88-02-8922526, E-mail: rpcltech@dhaka.net			
Director (Technical) Rural Power Company Limited					