

LOSS OF CROPS DUE TO RAT INVASION

50pc people in Rangamati out of food security

RHDC, UNDP to conduct survey of affected people

SHANTIMOY CHAKMA, Rangamati

"Only God knows what we will eat after a week. The Tk 1000 given by the government will provide for only seven days' food," said Samor Singh Chakma, an indigenous farmer while receiving the relief money at the Bagamukh, a frontier village in Barkal upazila in Rangamati district.

"We have nothing to survive as most of the crops including paddy have been eaten up by rats this year," he said.

The government relief is too scanty as there will not be any food crop in the hills in coming months, said Gayana Ranjan Chakma and Bhottya Chakma.

They are a few of the scores of victims of the rat invasion in Barkal and other areas in Rangamati and two other hill districts.

The loss of crops to rat invasion followed a massive flowering and fruiting of bamboo clusters this year.

The CHT affairs ministry has allocated Tk 7 lakh to face the food crisis in Rangamati. Of the amount, Tk 5 lakh were distributed by Rangamati Hill District Council (RHDC) to 453 families in Hupbang, Thegamukh and Kuchichara in Borahorina union. The rest Tk 2 lakh has been allocated for affected people in Sazek union in Baghaichhari.

Each affected family got Tk 1,000. RHDC chairman Jagat Jyoti Chakma, its member Bihan Ranjan Chakma, along with local Union Parishad (UP) chairman and members and law enforcers distributed the relief in last few days.

Many affected families are still out of relief programmes in different areas.

Sources said only about fifty percent of the hill people could be covered under the current programme taken up by the government in Rangamati. The rest will remain out of food security, they said.

The government's special relief programme in Rangamati covers Sazek in Baghaichhari, Hupbang in Barkal and Borthalipara in Balaichhari upazila. Other parts of hilly areas in Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachhari are still out of the food safety net.

As a preliminary step, UNDP is distributing 20 kilograms of rice, edible oil, one kg of salt and a rat killing tool to each family in some areas.

The Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) are training farmers in rat killing, said its official Kaji Kanti Talukder.

Talking to this correspondent, Borahorina UP chairman Binoy Krinchina Chakma said, "I can give only some quantity of rice under VGF (vulnerable group feeding) and VGD programmes. But it is very limited."

"After finishing paddy, swarms of rats are now eating banana, ginger, turmeric and other fruits and crops," said Pulin Karbari of Thegamukh.

Many families in different areas of Barkal upazila left homes in search of livelihood, he said.

About 35,000 families in inaccessible Sazek union under Baghaichhari upazila of Rangamati district are in utmost food crisis. A

famine like situation is prevailing there, the village headman said.

At least 200 families in Sazek union left their homes for Mizoram and Tripura of India in search of livelihood, local public representatives told The Daily Star correspondent.

About 35,000 families of five ethnic communities—Chakma, Tripura, Pankhua, Lusai and Rianglive in 607 square kilometers area in Sazek union. Cultivation and collecting bamboo from forests are their main sources of survival.

Earlier, the ministry of CHT affairs allocated Tk 15 lakh for the three hill districts, which has already been distributed among affected farmers.

RHDC executive officer Tarun Kanti Ghosh said a decision has been taken to allocate 700 metric tonnes (MT) of food grains for food for work programme in Rangamati. Of this, 300 MT will be distributed in Sazek, 200 in Balaichhari, 150 in Barkal and 50 in Jurachhari upazila. Other development schemes are also on cards, he said.

Jagat Jyoti Chakma said RHDC along with UNDP will conduct a survey soon to assess the exact number of affected families. World Food Program (WFP) is also contemplating resuming RMP (road maintenance project) projects as a long term assistance program for the affected people.

"We also submitted two projects to CHT affairs ministry. One is raising mixed fruit gardens and the other is goat rearing project," he added.

Gaibandha traders' noble gesture

Rice at Tk 25 a kg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Traders in Gaibandha today start selling rice at Tk 25 per kg for the poor and jobless people in remote village areas.

The rice sale on subsidised rate will continue throughout this month, sources said.

As per decision of a meeting between district administration and leaders of business community at the conference room of deputy commissioner's office on Tuesday, the traders will sell one tonne of rice for 300 ultra poor people every day in remote areas through mobile shops.

Presided over by Gaibandha Deputy Commissioner Abu Mohammed Yusuf, the meeting was attended by Shahjahan Anwarul Kadir, president of Gaibandha Chamber of Commerce, Moksudur Rahman Shahan, president of shop owners association, Ataur Rahman Shibli, rice trader, Abdul Latif Hakkani, Abdul Rahsid, Zillur Rahman, Rafiqul Islam.

In the wake of soaring price of rice, the deputy commissioner called the meeting of business community and urged them to help the poor and jobless, who find it too hard to afford rice at high prices.

Team visits sites for Barisal university

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A five-member team led by planning ministry Joint Secretary AZM Shafiqul Alam visited different spots for selecting sites to construct a general public university and an engineering college in Barisal according to the decision of the meeting of the advisory council.

Md Mezbahuddin, planning chief, AKM Shahjahan Patwari, chief engineer of education ministry, Harun Chowdhury, divisional commissioner, Manjur-e-Ilahi, deputy commissioner of Barisal, are other members of the site selection committee.

After visiting different proposed sites for the public university and engineering college on Sunday and Monday, the committee members exchanged views with the elites of the city and different professional groups at Barisal circuit house conference room on Monday afternoon.

Most of the participants expressed their views in favour of constructing the proposed public university at Defulia and engineering college at Boshorut of Kashipur on the outskirts of the city.

They cited easy communication facilities, socio-economic advantages, and availability of lands there.

Members of the site selection committee said the gist of the proposed views and their report will be sent to the higher authorities.



Students of Rajshahi University bring out a silent procession on the campus yesterday protesting torture on a student.

TORTURE ON FELLOW

RU students demand action against law enforcers

RU CORRESPONDENT

Several hundred students of Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday staged demonstration on the campus demanding exemplary punishment of the law enforcers who allegedly beat up a RU student on Tuesday night.

The seriously injured student, Towfik Aziz Rajib, studying in first year of marketing department, is undergoing treatment at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

At around 10:00pm on Tuesday night, plainclothes law enforcers stopped Rajib near Binodpur area when he was going to the university on a motorbike. They asked about his motorbike helmet and papers, sources said.

As Rajib asked about their identity, they started beating up him with sticks, said Rajib's family members. When Rajib shouted 'snatcher' the law enforcers lifted Rajib onto a microbus and beat him up mercilessly, sources said.

The law enforcers later handed him over to his family members.

Hearing the news, hundreds of students, mostly from marketing department, gathered on the department premises yesterday morning.

They brought out a protest procession on the campus and held a rally. They tried to enter the administrative building but police intercepted.

Later, a ten-member team on behalf of the agitating students met RU Vice Chancellor Prof Altaf Hossain at his office and demanded punishment of the persons responsible.

The vice chancellor, in the presence of university proctor

Enamul Haque, student Adviser Faridul Islam Pintu and high officials of police, assured the students that he will inform proper authorities of the matter.

The agitating students told newsmen that they will submit a memorandum to the home adviser today demanding punishment of the torturers.

Godown official held for fertiliser scam in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

An in-charge of buffer stock fertiliser godown was suspended yesterday and arrested for alleged misappropriation of fertiliser.

The action was taken Abul Hossain, after a team of joint forces during checking found anomalies.

A case was also filed against him with Gaibandha police station. But police could not say what quantity of fertiliser was misappropriated.

Officer-in-charge of Gaibandha police station Afjil Islam said they are investigating the allegation.

Maj. Mizan of joint forces in Gaibandha told journalists that the present stock position of fertiliser in the district is sufficient to meet the requirement during Boro season.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Project Director
Clean Air and Sustainable Environment (CASE) – Preparation Project
Department of Environment (DoE)
E-16, Paribesh Bhaban, Agargaon
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
www.doe-bd.org/agmp

Request for Expressions of Interest (EOI)

for
Selection of Development Project Proforma (DPP)
Consultant – Local Individual
(Contract Package No. S05)

Memo No. Paribesh/CASE-PP/DPP Consultant/2008/71

Date: 27/03/2008

- The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a Japanese Policy and Human Resource Development (PHRD) grant (No. TF090407-BD) administered by the World Bank for the Preparation of Clean Air and Sustainable Environment (CASE) Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for this grant towards payment to a local consultant for preparation of Development Project Proforma/Proposal (DPP) in accordance with prescribed guidelines of the Bangladesh government.
- The utilisation of the grant will be administered by a Project Preparation Team (PPT) anchored at the Department of Environment (DOE) under the Ministry of Environment and Forests.
- The summary draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the position require the consultant to carry out the following:
 - To review the various preparatory activities/studies that are being undertaken under the ongoing CASE-Preparation Project and other activities that have relevance to CASE project.
 - To discuss in detail each and every subcomponent of the proposed project under CASE with the respective implementing agencies and associated consultants/experts.
 - To meet and liaise with all relevant government/non-government agencies which have a stake in implementing the activities proposed under CASE.
 - To assess the cost of implementing each component and subcomponent and to determine its timeline for implementation.
 - To prepare the DPP document in close coordination with the PPT and help finalize the DPP document after the round(s) of review comments received.
 - To liaise with the MOEF, Planning Commission, IMED, Finance Ministry and related agencies of the government to have their inputs, if any, from time to time and suitably incorporate in the DPP.
 - To submit progress/status reports on a monthly basis on the progress of this assignment.
- This activity will involve a 3 (three) man month contract with a local individual. The approximate commencement date of the contract will be 1st May 2008. The contract may be terminated, extended or re-negotiated before or beyond the stated time period, based on the joint assessment of PPT and the World Bank.
- The consultant should have the following qualifications:
 - A post-graduate degree holder with interest and commitment in development issues in Bangladesh context.
 - About 10 years of experience in working with or for the Government of Bangladesh on the preparation/review of development projects implemented through funding support from bilateral or multilateral agencies.
 - Demonstrated interpersonal and diplomatic skills to be able to liaise with various government implementing agencies and experts/consultants.
 - Excellent computer literacy in MS Word, Excel, MS Works, Power Point, etc.
 - Excellent written and verbal fluency in English.
 - Excellent verbal fluency in Bangla will be required.
- The Project Director of the CASE-Preparation Project now invites eligible individuals to express their interest in providing the above services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating their professional capability and experience to perform the outlined services.
- The consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank guidelines, "Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers (May 2004)."
- Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours on weekdays from 9:00am to 4:00pm.
- Expressions of Interest for the above contract must be delivered to the address below on or before April 15, 2008 during office hours.

Project Director

Clean Air and Sustainable Environment – Project Preparation
Department of Environment, Paribesh Bhaban
E-16, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka 1207
Email: nasiruddin@doe-bd.org

GD-1524

Manikganj rally vows to resist drug menace

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Speakers at an anti-drug rally in Manikganj yesterday vowed to do their best to root out criminal activities and build a society free from drugs, corruption and violence.

Manikganj Municipality organised the rally at Captain Abdul Halim Chowdhury Auditorium.

In his address as chief guest, Manikganj Superintendent of Police Sheikh Muhammad Maruf Hasan urged people to give information to the law enforcers about drug traders and form social movement against the evil forces.

He expressed hope that Manikganj will be a drug-free district within a month.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Salah Uddin Chowdhury was special guest at the rally presided over by Municipality Chairman Sudeb Saha.

Assistant Superintendent of Police Imam Mohammad Sadiq and Narcotics Control Department Inspector Ali Hossain Khan, among others, spoke on the occasion.

15 evicted indigenous families in Patnitala finally get land deeds

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Finally, Naogaon district administration yesterday distributed deeds of permanent settlement of about 1.33 acres of khas land among 15 landless indigenous families in North Kaziara in Dibor union under Patnitala upazila.

Some local land grabbers evicted them from the lands in November last year.

The deeds were written at a simple ceremony, held at Patnitala on Monday.

Sudhir Tirk, president of Patnitala unit of Jatiya Adibashi Parishad, Gulu Murmu, president of the upazila unit of Adibashi Samaj Unnayan Shanghatan, Rakhi Mroing, publication secretary of Bangladesh Adibashi Odhakar Andolon and organising secretary Kerina Hasda were present on the occasion.

The 15 people who got the land deeds are: Nikhil Ekka, Khuyi Kujur, Kison Kerketa, Shusil Toppo, Buddhathat Kujur, Banu Ekka, Khuyi

Ekka, Hembo Ekka, Subol Lakra, Rupchan Ria, Chanua Nania, Palanu, Anil Toppo, Rabi Ekka and Sujil Ekka.

They were residing in the area since the British era, sources said.

The local administration in 1990 leased the lands to a local influential man—Idris Ali—and his brother Saifuddin for 99 years. The indigenous families were defeated in several legal battles.

In November last year, some 200 goons engaged by the lessees evicted the indigenous families.

As The Daily Star published reports on the incidents and different social bodies raised their voice. The district administration promised permanent settlement of the lands to the evicted indigenous families.

Later, the upazila land distribution committee cancelled the lease.

"We always try to work for people. But our activities are hampered by political influence," said Upazila Nirbahi Officer M. Abdul Mannan.

Indigenous children learn in mother tongue

Save the Children officials visit aided project in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Children of indigenous communities are learning in their mother tongue at 60 pre-primary schools set up in remote hills in Khagrachhari with assistance of Save the Children, a UK-based donor organisation.

The schools with 1546 children on roll are run by Zabarang Kalayan Samity, a local NGO, with 73 teachers including 56 females.

It has also set up four community learning circles (CLCs) at Panchhari, 3 in Khagrachhari Sadar

upazila and 3 in Dighinala upazila Chumki Chakma, Sadar Upazila Project Officer (PO) said.

The Chief Executive of Zabarang Kallayan Samity Mithura Lal Tripura said, Chakma language is being used at Chakma villages, Kokborok language in Tripura villages and Marma language in Marmavillages.

In the process, children are also learning their own culture and tradition in a very enjoyable atmosphere. They come to school regularly, he said.

Terry Durnian, Head of Programme of Save the Children,

during a visit to remote Semanapara village yesterday, said the pre-school centers are doing a wonderful job by teaching children in their mother tongue. Robert Hardy, chief financial officer and Ken Caldwell, Director (International Operation) of Save the Children were in the team.

They said they are trying to set up more such schools in the hills.

Khagrachhari Hill District Council (KHDC) chairman Monindra Lal Tripura lauded the effort. More such schools will be set up under the project, he said.



Save the Children officials look on as indigenous children learn in their mother language at a pre-primary school at Semanapara in Khagrachhari Sadar.

PHOTO: STAR

কাতার-এ নিয়োগ

কাতারস্থ মেসার্স ALSulaiteen Agriculture & Industrial Complex প্রতিষ্ঠানের অধীন দক্ষ কর্মী জরুরী ভিত্তিতে নিয়োগের জন্য অন্য ০৩/০৪/২০০৮ইং তারিখ হতে আগামী ১০/০৪/২০০৮ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত বায়োডাটা জমা নেওয়া হবে। আগ্রহী প্রার্থীদের বায়োডাটা ও কপি রসিদ ছবি ও অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র সহ নিম্ন ঠিকানায় বিকল্পিত তথ্যের জন্য অতি সত্বর যোগাযোগ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

Sl#	Category	Nos. Required	Monthly Salary (Qatar Riyals)	Experience
01	Architect Engineer	01 Nos.	QR. 4250.00	Must have minimum
02	Landscaping Engineer	04 Nos.	QR. 4250.00	5 years working
03	Mechanical Engineer	02 Nos.	QR. 3500.00	experience in
04	Mechanical Foreman	04 Nos.	QR. 2000.00	relevant position.

শর্তাবলী: (১) কাজের মেয়াদ-দুই বসর (নবায়নযোগ্য) (২) থাকার ও খাবার কোম্পানী বহন করবে (৩) কাজ দৈনিক ৮ ঘণ্টা, সপ্তাহে ৬ দিন (৪) কর্মস্থল স্টেট অব কাতার (৫) ছুটি, ওভার টাইম এবং অন্যান্য সুযোগ সুবিধা কাতার এর শ্রম আইন অনুযায়ী (৬) দুই বসর পর বিমান ভাড়া দেশে আসা বাওগার জন্য কোম্পানী প্রদান করবে। (৭) ওয়ার্কম্যান বীমা কোম্পানী প্রদান করবে। (৮) এই বিজ্ঞপ্তি চাকুরীর নিয়মতালিকা বহন করে না। (৯) কর্মীদের চুক্তি নির্বাচন, চাকুরী ও লাইফ ইন্সিউর ইত্যাদির পর সরকার কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত সার্ভিস চার্জ গ্রহণ করা হবে। (১০) এই বিজ্ঞপ্তি জনশ্রুতি, কর্মসংস্থান ও প্রশিক্ষণ ব্যাংক এর স্মারক নং পিই-০১/১২৫/২০০৬/১৫৭৭, তারিখ: ৩০/০৩/২০০৮ইং এর অনুমতিক্রমে প্রকাশ করা হল।

Irving আরভিং এন্টারপ্রাইজ R.L-215
বাড়ী নং ৬৫/ই, রোড নং ১৭/এ, বনানী, ঢাকা-১২১৩, ফোন: ৮৮১০৫১১, ৯৮৭৩১৬৯

Directorate General Defence Purchase
Ministry of Defence
New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215
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Tender Notice

1. Sealed tenders in local currency are invited from bonafide manufacturers/suppliers (enlisted firms in DGDP) for supply of the following items for Bangladesh Armed Forces:

Ser No	Nomenclature	Date of selling		Date of opening	Currency	Tender No
		From	To			
1.	Dal Masur (Whole without husk) 400 Metric Tons	08-4-2008	06-5-2008	07-5-2008	Local	956/P-8
2.	Tea (Black) 100 Metric Tons	08-4-2008	06-5-2008	07-5-2008	Local	977/P-8

2. Tender schedule with detailed specifications/conditions will be available on payment as per IT selling rate (non-refundable) during office time between 0800 hours to 1300 hours. The tender can be dropped latest by 1000 hours and opened at 1005 hours on the specified date of opening in presence of all tenderer (if present).
ISPR/Misc/08/2246
GD-1435

Maj
For Director General