

Putting the poor in the soup

Feud over listing beneficiaries set to deprive 15,000 of jobs in lean period

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Government's employment generating programme meant for ultra poor people is yet to start in *monga*-prone Jaldhaka and Kishoreganj upazilas of the district although the period of the 40-day programme expires on April 20.

Feud among selection committee members belonging to different political parties in the unions and factional feud of ruling Awami League men over compiling lists of beneficiaries has created the deadlock, depriving 15 thousand extreme poor of getting employment opportunity in the lean period.

The project funds may have to be returned if the April 20 deadline expires without implementation of the programme, said the upazila nirbahi officers (UNO) of Jaldhaka and Kishoreganj.

After successful completion of a 60-day employment generating programme in November-December last year, the government initiated second phase of the programme to create employment opportunity for about 50 thousand ultra-poor people in six upazilas of the district

for more 40 days, said District Relief Officer (DRO) Amzad Hossain.

The period of the second phase is from March 10 to April 20.

There are 9.5 thousand prospective beneficiaries in Jaldhaka upazila and 5.5 thousand in Kishoreganj upazila. Under this programme a beneficiary is supposed to get Tk 120/ a day for working in various rural development fields.

A nine-member committee comprising local body representatives, elite, social workers, women and members of professional groups is supposed to make lists of beneficiaries for finalising by the upazila selection committee headed by UNO, the DRO said.

In all the unions of Jaldhaka upazila, activists of four political parties were included in selection committees as the lawmaker from Jaldhaka is from Jatiya Party, upazila chairman is from Jamaat-e-Islami, upazila vice chairman is from Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal while different factions of ruling Awami League men try to dominate the committees.

Almost in all unions, the number of committee members exceeded nine. The committee members usually

insist inclusion of the names of their men in lists of beneficiaries while there are allegations that several committee members took Tk 10001500 as bribe from poor people on condition to include their names in the list, source said.

The programme could not start in the upazila as the 12 union selection committees could not submit lists of beneficiaries as of yesterday, said Jaldhaka UNO Shahidul Islam Bhuiyan.

There is often dispute among committee members from different political parties over including names of their men in the list of beneficiaries and dissatisfied members refrain from putting their signature in the final list, creating deadlock in launching the programme, he said.

In Kishoreganj upazila, the programme could not start in nine of the ten unions as the committees concerned failed to prepare lists of beneficiaries.

Internal feud among different groups of local Awami League is almost open over inclusion of their men in the lists of prospective beneficiaries.

Chairmen and councillors of the respective union parishads also show

interest in the matter.

"On April 4, I served a 'final notice' asking for submission of lists of beneficiaries immediately as the programme expires on April 20," said Kishoreganj UNO Dr Ziauddin.

It is difficult to reach consensus as members of four political parties are included in the union selection committees, said Khutamura union parishad Chairman Abu Sayeed Shamim, also general secretary of Jaldhaka unit union parishad chairmen's forum.

He said pro-Jamaat selection committees, chosen by the upazila chairman, who is a Jamaat leader, are refraining from putting signature on the list of beneficiaries as the lists are not up to their satisfaction.

Jaldhaka upazila Chairman Sayed Ali, on the other hand, said problems are not with Jamaat men but with those from Awami League and Jatiya Party.

Several thousand ultra poor people recently staged demonstration in front of Kishoreganj UNO office protesting corruption of a section of selection committee members and demanding early implementation of the programme.



PHOTO: STAR
HUMAN SAVAGERY ON ANIMAL: This spotted deer, chased by a Royal Bengal Tiger in the Sundarbans, entered Chitalbunia village in Sharonkhola upazila of Bagerhat district on Sunday morning. Forest guards later recovered body of the beautiful creature, already slaughtered by some greedy villagers.

MURDER OVER TENDER

2 Jubo League men placed on remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court of Panchagarh yesterday allowed police to take two Jubo League men on three days' remand in connection with BCL activist Faruk murder case.

The two are Mohammad Liton, 24, and Mizanur Rahman alias Koshai Monju, 28.

Earlier, investigation officer of the case on Saturday submitted prayer for their five days remand.

A Bangladesh Chhatra League activist was killed and

10 others were injured in a clash between BCL and Jubo League activists over tender dropping at Panchagarh UNO office on Thursday.

Victim Faruk Hossain, 17, son of Akbar Ali of Mithapukur village in Panchagarh municipality area was organising secretary of Ward No-1BCL unit.

Faruk died in the clash while 11 others were injured.

Early Saturday police arrested Liton, 24, Koshai Monju, 28, Mohsin, 32, and Mostafizur Rahman, 28, from different places of Panchagarh town.

Hill districts wear a festive look on first day of Biju

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

The three-day 'Biju Utsab', the biggest social festival of indigenous people of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), began yesterday with a variety of programmes.

The first day is called 'Ful biju', the second day is 'Mul

biju', the main function, and the third day is 'Gojya Pojya Din'.

Though the festival is widely called 'Biju', the ethnic people have distinct names for the occasion. The Chakmas call it 'Biju', the Marmas 'Sagnrain', the Tangchanyas 'Bishu' and the Tripuras call it 'Boisuk'.

The ethnic communities of three hill districts--Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachhari--celebrate the grand festival to leave behind sorrows of the outgoing year and welcome the new year with hope for a brighter future.

The indigenous people yesterday floated flowers on the water of Kaptai Lake at

Garjantali, seeking divine blessings for peace and prosperity. Besides, the ethnic people, who live in different hill areas, floated flowers on rivers or fountain water.

Today (Tuesday) is 'mul biju' (main function), the indigenous people prepare 'pachan' a kind of mixed vegetable curry, this day to feed the guests. They also make pithas (cakes) and sweetmeats and take locally made liquor to mark the day.

The third day is "Gojya Pojya Din" or the first day of Bangla new year. The indigenous people host each other at their respective houses on the day.

Marmas celebrate 'water festival' on the first day of Bangla new year. State Minister for CHT Affairs Dipankar Talukder is expected to inaugurate a 'water festival' at Betunia in Rangamati on the day.

Meanwhile, United Democratic Front (UPDF), anti-peace accord organisation, are boycotting 'Biju Utsab' in Rangamati and 'Boishabi Utsab' in Khagrachhari districts in protest against recent violence in the two districts.

The UPDF leaders have urged the indigenous people to boycott all programmes of 'Biju' and 'Boishabi' festivals and stay united to protect their rights.



PHOTO: STAR
Indigenous girls float flowers on the water of Kaptai Lake in Rangamati hill district on the first day of traditional Biju festival yesterday.

BABY BOY MURDER IN BOGRA

Father, stepmother jailed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A court here yesterday awarded a man and his second wife to different terms of jail sentences for killing his one and a half years old son.

Judge Nitai Chandra Saha of Bogra Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court-3 delivered the verdict.

The judge jailed Shahidul Islam, 30, for life and fined Tk 10,000 for the killing. As the allegation of helping to hide the body of the child was proved, Shahidul's second wife Shahinur Bibi was awarded three years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) and also

fined Tk 2,000.

According to the prosecution, Shahidul divorced his first wife when their son Sabbir was one and a half years old and married Shahinur Bibi.

Sabbir used to live with his mother but also visited his father Shahidul's house. On September 15, 2007 night Sabbir had a quarrel with the children of Shahidul's second wife. Shahidul got enraged and strangled Sabbir.

After the killing, Shahidul and Shahinur, in a bid to show it an incident of drowning, threw the body into a nearby pond. But the fact finally came to light and police arrested the couple.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB)

C.A Bhaban, 100, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue
Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215

Notice of Pre-Examination Evening Coaching Classes for Students of Professional Stage (Knowledge Level & Application Level) and Professional Examination (PE) - III at Dhaka and Chittagong Centres

- Examination Session** : November – December 2010
Enrolment of Students : PS-Knowledge Level: 20.04.2010 – 10.05.2010
 : PS-Application Level & PE-III: 19.04.2010–12.05.2010
Duration of Classes : PS-Knowledge Level: 01.06.2010 – 26.08.2010
 : PS-Application Level & PE-III: 01.09.2010–15.11.2010
Requirements for Enrolment:
 a) **Fee** : Tk.12,000/- for PS- Knowledge Level Classes (Second or Subsequent time attendance);
 : Tk. 12,000/- for PS-Application Level Classes (First or Subsequent time attendance);
 : Tk.10,000/-for PE-III Classes (First, Second or Subsequent time attendance);

The enrolment fees of classes should be paid by crossed PO/DD drawn in favour of ICAB on any scheduled Bank and be deposited into ICAB Accounts Section against original Money Receipt to submit at Campus. Provided that students attending in PS-Knowledge Level for the first time will submit their earlier paid Original Money Receipt only.

- b) **Photograph** : 02 copies (stamp size) &
 c) **Photocopy of Identity Card.**

Enrolment of students (who did not attend the coaching classes before) at Dhaka Centre will be on **First Come Basis**. Coaching Classes for all levels at Chittagong Centre will be arranged subject to enrolment of required number of students.

For further information, please contact:

Course Administrator-ICAB, Dhaka Tel: 02-9660882
 Hony. Secretary-CRC, ICAB, Chittagong Tel: 031-724674

N I Chowdhury FCA
 Secretary-ICAB

Hapless examiness protest 'misdeeds' of principals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

One hundred and six examinees of Gour Bangla Syeda Maria Mousuna Krishi College in Shibganj upazila of Chapainawabganj put up blockade at Pukuria on Chapainawabganj-Sonamasjid road yesterday demanding chance for appearing at the examinations that they could not attend due to alleged corruption of the principal.

As the students took to the street from 10:30am to 12:00pm, hundreds of vehicles remained stranded on the busy highway, much to the sufferings of passengers.

Later Shibganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer Abu Taher Mohammad Masud Rana and Shibganj police station Officer-in-Charge Anwar Hossain persuaded them to withdraw the blockade.

Earlier on Thursday, the 106 students under Bangladesh Technical Education Board submitted a memorandum to the education minister through the deputy commissioner of Chapainawabganj demanding punishment of the principal for 'misappropriation of a total of Tk 3,70,000 from them'.

They said that they were the first, third, fifth and seventh semester examinees under Bangladesh Technical Education Board this year. The examinations started on March 22 but they could not attend it as they did not get admit cards.

They alleged that college Principal Ranaul Alom

Shamim took Tk 3,500 from each of them for filling up forms but just a day ahead of the examination they knew that their forms were not sent to the board.

Our Rangpur Correspondent adds: Students of Collectorate School and College, Rangpur and their guardians yesterday formed a human chain in front of the office of deputy commissioner demanding action against the principal and an accounting teacher of the institution for not giving admit card to Jerin Tasrin and Salman Khan before the ongoing HSC examinations.

In a memorandum submit-

ted to the DC, they asked him to take action within 48 hours against Principal Isahak Ali and accounting teacher Ali-ul Karim as they are 'responsible' for the two students' not being able to appear at the ongoing HSC examinations.

The students also said they would go for indefinite programmes if action is not taken.

They alleged that Ali-ul Karim and several other teachers of the college formed a 'vicious circle' who intentionally disqualify the students in the test and other internal examinations if the students do not receive private tuition from them.

SNIPPETS

Pirates abduct three

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sakhira

Pirates on Sunday night abducted three fishermen from Porakata canal of the river Malancha in the Sundarbans and demanded Tk 45,000 ransom. The pirates held the three hostage in the deep forest and asked the family of each for Tk 15,000, police said. Nineteen fishermen with three boats went to the Sundarbans on Thursday taking permission from the Kaikhali Forest Office in the Sundarbans. While they were asleep the pirates swooped on their boats and abducted the three out of 19 for ransom. The victims are Mongal Kumar Mondal, Bimal Kumar and Subhas Chandra of village Munshiganj in Shyamnagar upazila.

Charge framing deferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Sylhet Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal Judge Md Mahbubul-Islam yesterday deferred charge framing date in the case for bomb attack five years ago on veteran Awami League (AL) leader Suranjit Sengupta MP's public meeting. The court set the new date on April 29. Police said, some of the accused including Mufti Hannan from Dhaka could not be brought to Sylhet as their presence was needed in some other cases in the capital. However, they would be produced on the next date. An activist of the AL, Abdul Wahid, 45, was killed while 30 others received injuries as the bombs were hurled on dais at the far end of the public meeting held at Derai upazila headquaters in Sunamganj on June 21, 2004. However, Suranjit escaped unhurt as he along with other leaders got down from the dais minutes before the attack.

30 hurt in B'baria clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

At least 30 people were injured in a clash between two rival groups at Shilaur village under Sadar upazila yesterday. During the clash, they also damaged at least 40 houses there. The clash that lasted for two hours took place between Ladu group and Sadu alias Sadat group of the locality. The injured people were admitted to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital. Seriously injured are Abul Kalam Azad, 35, Munna, 18, Manir, 20, Ripon, 28, Murshid, 32, Muhammad Hossain, 18, Uzzal, 20, Tahmina, 30, Anwar Mia, 25, Anwar Hossain, 28. On information, a team of riot police rushed to the spot and fired 15 times from guns and lobbed seven rounds of tear gas shells. Police also arrested seven from the spot.

Abducted boy rescued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Meherpur police on Saturday rescued abducted Kushtia school student Nayeem Hossain from Mothmura village under Gangni upazila. Police also arrested five people on charge of their involvement in the incident. According to police, a group of criminals abducted Nayeem, son of Bozlu Biswas of Bus Stand area under Mirpur upazila in Kushtia on April 8. Nayeem is a student of class nine at Rifles Public School in Mirpur in the district. The gang picked up the boy into microbus when he was going to a local bazaar at about 4:30pm and later phoned his father Bozlu, a businessman of the upazila for Tk 25 lakh ransom. However, Bozlu filed a case with Mirpur police station and police arrested two friends of Nayeem. On the basis of their confessional statement, a police team raided a house at Mothmura village in Gangni upazila in Meherpur at about 6:30pm and rescued Nayeem. Police also arrested three other captors from the spot.

Request for Proposal (RFP)

Pilot Initiatives for Addressing Issues of Homeless Urban Population

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Bangladesh seeks proposals from interested and well qualified organizations/vendors for providing services to conduct "Pilot Initiatives for Addressing Issues of Homeless Urban Population"

Submission of Proposal: The envelope should state **Pilot Initiatives for Addressing Issues of Homeless Urban Population** and should be marked as '**Confidential**' and addressed to the **UNDP Procurement Unit, IDB Bhaban (12th Floor), Begum Rokeya Sharani, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207**. The deadline for submission of Proposal is **April 27th, 2010** before 11.00 AM. **Proposals should be submitted in the Bid Box of the Procurement Unit in IDB Bhaban (12th Floor), Begum Rokeya Sharani, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.**

All interested organizations may request the Bidding Documents from **procurement.bc@undp.org** by formal request to UNDP that will register firm on the list of participants, so that any correspondence, questions regarding the bidding documents and their respective answers can be sent to all bidders.

Submission Procedure: The offer should comprise of **2 separate sealed envelopes of technical and financial proposals.**

