

Mini garment factory, big help to poor women

Set up in remote char, it employs them when male members do not have jobs

KM REZAUL HOQUE,
Gaibandha

Dozens of underprivileged women at Galna char (land-mass emerged from riverbed) of the Jamuna River in Phulchhari upazila under the district have gained self-reliance through working at a mini garment factory, thanks to the initiative of local voluntary organisation SKS Foundation.

Around 900 people belonging to 200 families in the remote char island live very poor life, depending on fishing, collecting firewood, and seasonal work as farm labourer.

Often male members of the families go to other places in search of work like that of farm labourer and rickshaw puller.

In 2010, SKS Foundation arranged training on garments production for 20 poor women and provided loan of Tk 2 lakh 88 thousand to form a cooperative and set up a mini garment factory at Golana.

The factory started producing different clothes for



PHOTO: STAR

Ultra-poor women of remote Galna char in Phulchhari upazila of Gaibandha work at the mini garment factory set up by a local voluntary body.

women and children and with the marketing facilities provided by SKS Foundation, the items have already gained popularity in char areas of Jamapur district and Phulchhari, Saghata and Sadar upazilas of Gaibandha district.

Traders usually carry the products to different markets in char areas mainly by

boats and demand of the items is on the rise for their quality and relatively low prices.

"Earlier we found it difficult to manage two square meals daily, but now we are living well by working at the factory," said Kulsum Begum, a worker.

Now 75 women are working at the mini garment

factory, each earning Tk 150 to 200 a day, said Rasheda Begum, president of 'Golna mini garment cooperative'.

She, however, said price hike of inputs like cloths and thread affect their production.

Besides, they face transport problem during the dry season as boats cannot ply easily.

Transport strike on 30 routes withdrawn

UNB, Khulna

An indefinite strike enforced by bus owners and workers on 30 routes of the south-western region was withdrawn on Sunday night.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Bus Owners' Association, the district administration and police.

Mizanur Rahman Mizan, president of district Bus-Minibus-Coach-Microbus Owners' Association, the decision to call off the strike was taken following an assurance by the administration and police of taking steps to meet their demand.

On Friday, local Transport Owners' and Workers' Oikya Parishad called an indefinite strike on 18 routes of Rupsha-Bagerhat route, demanding a ban on plying of unauthorised battery-run vehicles like Nasimon, Karimon, easy-bike and Mahendra on the roads and highways.

Besides, Satkhira district transport owners and workers' association called another indefinite strike on 12 routes of Khulna-Satkhira route, demanding ban on plying of illegal battery-run vehicles on Saturday.

Wheat being cultivated as third crop of land

UNB, Jhalakathi

The Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) in the district has initiated cultivation of wheat on an experimental basis to turn the two-crop land here into three-crop one.

Under the phase II of the Crop Diversification Project -- launched by the department, wheat has been cultivated on about 150 acres of land in the district this year.

The DAE has also distributed wheat seeds among the farmers under the scheme.

At the request of local MP Amir Hossain Amu, additional one tonne of wheat

seeds were also distributed under the project.

Shatabdi, Sourav and Gourav varieties of wheat seeds were distributed in 32 unions under four upazilas of the district.

For the support, production of wheat has been good and farmers and the agriculture department are also expecting a good harvest.

The distributed seeds could produce 3 to 4.5 tonnes of wheat per hectare.

In the southern district of Jhalakathi, many lands remain unused in between the cultivation of aman and aus paddies.

Utilising the project, the

DAE is trying to increase crop production to three terms by cultivating wheat during 90-day time.

Cultivation of wheat is more profitable than rice and one maund of wheat gives one maund of flour.

Shamsul Huq o Jogeshwar village in Jhalakathi Sadar upazila said he cultivated wheat on one acre of land and expected a good harvest.

"We had no experience of wheat farming. We cultivated the crop at the advice of the agriculture department," said Faruk Hossain of Shachilapur agriculture block.



PHOTO: STAR

Students form a human chain on Rangpur-Bogra highway at Fasitala in Gobindaganj upazila under Gaibandha district on Sunday demanding arrest and punishment of the criminals who abducted for ransom and killed Rocky Hasan, 7, a play group student of Barid Multimedia Kindergarten.

Invitation for Tenders

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Agriculture.
2	Agency	Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council.
3	Procuring entity name	Director, Project Implementation Unit (PIU), Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Room No. 307, Admin Building (2nd Floor), NATP: Phase-1, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215.
4	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
6	Invitation for	Supply & Installation of SPGR Equipment, BSRI (Contract Package: GD/PIU-BARC/80).
7	Invitation Ref. No.	IFT No. GD/PIU-BARC/80/42.
8	Date	28.04.2013

KEY INFORMATION		
9	Procurement method	National Competitive Tender (NCT) Open Tendering Method (OTM).

FUNDING INFORMATION		
10	Budget and source of funds	IDA Credit-4386-BD.
11	Development partners (if applicable)	IDA, IFAD.

PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
12	Project/programme code (if applicable)	5-4305-7400
13	Project/programme name (if applicable)	National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP), Phase-1.
14	Tender package No.	GD/PIU-BARC/80.
15	Tender package name	Supply & Installation of SPGR Equipment, BSRI (Contract Package: GD/PIU-BARC/80).
16	Tender publication date	Not applicable.
17	Tender last selling date	Up to 19.05.2013 (during the office hours).
18	Tender submission date and time	Date: 20.05.2013 Time: 12:00 noon
19	Tender opening date and time	Date: 20.05.2013 Time: 12:15pm
20	Name & address of the office for - Selling of tender document - Receiving of tender - Opening of tender - Pre-tender meeting	Director, Project Implementation Unit (PIU), Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), NATP: Phase-1, Room No. 307, Admin Building (2nd Floor), BARC Complex, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215.

21	Date/time of pre-tender meeting	09.05.2013 11:00am
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INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

22	Eligibility of tenderer	i. The tenderer shall have a minimum of five (5) years of overall experience in the supply of goods and related services. ii. The satisfactory completion of supply of similar goods of minimum BDT 18.00 (eighteen) million under maximum 3 (three) contracts in the last 5 (five) years i.e. years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper. iii. The minimum amount of liquid asset or working capital or credit facility is Tk. 20.00 (twenty) million.
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23	Brief description of goods	Supply of SPGR Equipment, BSRI. 1. Leaf Area Meter 2. Distilled Water Plant 3. Low Temperature Freeze 4. Chlorophyll Meter 5. Gas Chromatograph 6. Bio Log System for Microbial Identification 7. Portable Multiparameter Meter 8. UV Spectrophotometer/ UV-Vis Spectrophotometer 9. Kjeldahl Apparatus
24	Brief description of related services	Installation of SPGR Equipment.
25	Price of tender document (Tk)	Taka 1000/- (one thousand) only.

24	Brief description of related services		Installation of SPGR Equipment.		
25	Price of tender document (Tk)		Taka 1000/- (one thousand) only.		
26	Package No.		Location	Tender security amount	Completion time in weeks
27	GD/PIU- BARC/80	Supply & Installation of SPGR Equipment, BSRI	PIU, BARC, Farmgate, Dhaka	BDT 4,00,000/- (four lakh)	Delivery date within 12 weeks from date of contract signing

28	Name of official inviting tender	Dr. Md. Abul Kashem.
29	Designation of official inviting tender	Director.
30	Address of official inviting tender	PIU, BARC, Room No. 307, Admin Building (2nd Floor), NATP: Phase-1, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215.
31	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 9130702, Fax: 8150548, E-mail: reem98k@yahoo.com
32	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.	

Dr. Md. Abul Kashem
Director

Four Hefajat men buried in villages

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Four bodies of Hefajat-e Islam activists, killed in clashes with the law enforcers in the capital on Sunday, were taken to Patuakhali, Gazipur and Narsingdi districts yesterday.

Two were identified as Ibrahim Khalil, 26, master's student of Mathematics department at Barisal Government BM College and son of Abdur Rashid Khan of Charpara Kalapara upazila in Patuakhali and poultry vendor Yunus Molla, son of Shahjahan Molla of Battala in Rupatali area of Barisal city.

Khalil and Yunus Molla were laid to rest at their family graveyards yesterday, reports our Barisal correspondent.

Following *namaj-e janaja*, agitating supporters of Ibrahim brought out a procession and damaged a passenger bus and tempo on Barisal-Banaripara-Babuganj road.

Meanwhile, the followers of Yunus Molla torched a bus on Poisarhut-Barisal road at about 2:00am, protesting his death.

In another incident, criminals set a bus of Ilish Paribahan on fire at Bhurghata bus stand in Gournadi upazila on Barisal-Dhaka highway at about 3:15am, said police.

Away in Gazipur, the body of Shamsul Alam, 45, of Daulatpur in Kushtia, was brought to his rented house in Harinhati area under Kaliakoir upazila yesterday morning, reports a correspondent.

Shamsul, who joined Hefajat-e Islam three months ago, was killed during a clash with police at Motijheel in Dhaka at midnight, said Mufti Emdadul Haq, president of the party, Kaliakoir unit.

In Narsingdi, an activist of Hefajat was buried at Kawriapara graveyard in the town yesterday morning, reports our correspondent.

The deceased was identified as Mahmudul Hasan Zubair, 20, son of Abdul Based of Satipara Bokultala area of the town and a class nine student of a local madrasa.

He was killed in a clash between the law enforcers and Hefajat men at Purana Paltan in the capital on Sunday evening, said locals.



Mongla Port Authority

Mongla, Bagerhat-9351, Bangladesh

Telephone: 0466275215, Fax: 04662-75224, E-mail: chairman@mpa.gov.bd

Website: www.mpa.gov.bd

Memo No. MPA/DTM/0131(4)/2013-889

Dated: 02/05/2013

Invitation for Prequalification For Development of Two Jetties at Mongla Port On Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Basis

The Mongla Port Authority (MPA) under Ministry of Shipping intends to select, under the authority of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GOB), potential applicant(s) for Financing, Development, Operation and Maintenance of "Two Jetties at Mongla Port". The Project will be implemented on a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) basis in accordance with the "Policy and Strategy for Public-Private Partnership (PPP) 2010" published on August 2, 2010 by the Prime Minister's Office, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Total cost of the project has been estimated to be approximately US\$ 50 million.

Bangladesh has two seaports – Chittagong and Mongla. Total cargo handled by these ports was 43.5 million MT during 2011-12 out of which Chittagong Port handled around 94% and Mongla Port handled the remaining 6%. The country has experienced average GDP growth of over 6% over the last 5 years. This has been reflected by the continuous growth of import and export of the country which has averaged at 15% per annum.

Mongla Port is located about 131 km inland from the Bay of Bengal on the Pussur river at its confluence with Mongla River. The port was designed to cater for 11 concrete jetties. Mongla Port Authority constructed five jetties (J5, J6, J7, J8 and J9) in the year 1976 to 1978. At the same time pile driving works for jetties J3 and J4 were completed and these jetties as well as Jetties J1, J2, J10 and J11 were earmarked for future expansion.

It is of national strategic importance to ensure the vibrant operation of multiple ports to meet the nation's increasing import and export requirements. Therefore, GOB has taken active steps to revitalize Mongla Port to handle the increased volume of cargo. These efforts have already resulted in the volume of traffic in Mongla Port to double over the last four years (2009-2012). As per of this initiative, GOB through the Mongla Port Authority has decided to develop and operate the two partially completed jetties (J3 and J4) through PPP.

The MPA intends to select a private partner to develop the project on a PPP basis, whereby the private partner undertakes to construct, finance, operate and maintain the various elements of the project for a fixed period of time on the basis of a Concession Agreement entered into with MPA, at the end of which all assets will be transferred to MPA at no cost along with all site improvements, infrastructure, fixtures, fittings and equipment.

The private partner will be selected through an International Competitive Bidding. Applicants who can apply are proprietorship firms, partnerships and companies registered in joint stock companies. Interested applicants may collaborate with other eligible entities (whether local or overseas) to enhance their qualification by forming a joint venture (JV) or consortium. The JV or consortium must be registered either in Bangladesh or in an eligible foreign country.

Applicants interested in the project are requested to submit an "Application for Prequalification". The PQ document will be available at the office mentioned below, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Bangladesh Taka 8000 (eight thousand) or US\$ 100 (one hundred) through a Demand Draft or Pay-Order issued by a bank. The Demand Draft or Pay-Order must be in the name of the "Chairman, Mongla Port Authority, Mongla, Bagerhat, Bangladesh". The PQ document may be purchased in the name of an individual investor, a joint venture/consortium or any of its members.

This project may be eligible for financing under Investment Promotion and Financing Facility (IPFF) project of Bangladesh Bank which is funded by the World Bank.

A Pre-Application meeting for this project with interested applicants has been scheduled to be held on 25 May 2013. Details are set out in the PQ document. Pre-registration required for attending the IPM. Interested investors are required to get the registration form either at www.pppo.gov.bd or www.mpa.gov.bd.

The closing date for the receipt of completed Application for Prequalification will be: 3:00pm (Bangladesh Standard Time) on 16 June 2013.

The Application for Prequalification must be sent in a sealed envelope at the office mentioned below by pre-paid mail, courier, or authorized person(s) and be clearly marked as "Application for Prequalification for the Development of Two Jetties at Mongla Port through PPP". Under no circumstances, the MPA will be held responsible for late delivery or loss of the Application for Prequalification sent by mail or courier. Interested applicants may obtain further information from the MPA website at www.mpa.gov.bd.

Applicant(s) shall bear the cost incurred in preparation and submission of application for Prequalification to MPA. MPA shall not in any way be responsible for the costs incurred by the applicant(s).

Name: Commodore H.R. Bhuiyan, ndc, psc, BN
Designation: Chairman
Address: Mongla Port Authority, Mongla, Bagerhat, Bangladesh
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