



Kids shiver in chilling cold despite wrapping up warm with 'whatever they have' at Roypara village in Lalmonirhat Sadar yesterday.

Northern dists reeling under chilling cold

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

The poor and distressed people in the district, especially those in Teesta and Dharla river basin char areas, are bearing the brunt of the chilling cold coupled with dense fog that continued sweeping over the region during the last two weeks.

"I can't join my work in the field in the last few days due to heavy cold and dense fog as we have no warm cloth. Poor people like me have been facing crisis to maintain our families," said Seher Ali, 48, a day labourer at Teesta river basin Char Sholmar village in Kaliganj upazila.

Due to the situation, many day labourers are borrowing money from local usurers for high interest, said day another day labourer Sahidul Islam, 55, of the same village.

Khadiza Bewa, 72, at Dharal river basin Wapda village of Mogholhat union in Lalmonirhat Sadar, said, she is in urgent need of a blanket or warm cloths to get rid of the immense suffering during the current weather.

Day labourers Sarowar Hossain, 50, Manik Miah, 48, Julfikar Ali, 60, Meher Ali, 50, and others at Char Kulaghat village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila alleged that ultra poor people are deprived as the union parishad (UP) chairman and members often distribute government allocated warm cloths and blankets to their relatives, near ones and men belonging to the same party.

Idris Ali, chairman of Kulaghat UP in Lalmonirhat Sadar, said only 70 blankets were allocated for his union in last two weeks while there are at least five thousand ultra poor people.

Contacted, Lalmonirhat District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer Mohsinul Haque said, "My office sent a demand letter seeking more 15 thousand blankets to the ministry concerned last week but there is no response yet. Earlier my office got 3,400 pieces of blankets and these were distributed to the cold hit people at 45 unions of five upazilas in the district in last two weeks."

Rangpur met office recorded lowest temperature of 11.2 and 11.3 degrees Celsius yesterday and the day before.

Meanwhile, the sellers of warm clothes, especially second hand ones, are doing brisk business in Lalmonirhat town and other areas of the district as the demand has shot up amid the biting cold.

Shortage of supply due to political agitation like countrywide hartals and blockades adds to the situation.

The people, particularly those from low and fixed income groups, are crowding the makeshift shops to buy second hand warm clothes like sweaters, jackets, cardigans, woollen caps and mufflers.

A second hand warm cloth is selling for Tk 300 to 800 against the last year's Tk 80 to 250 in the makeshift shops this year, said Kabir Uddin, an employee of Lalmonirhat agriculture office.

Kashem Ali, a makeshift warm cloth seller at BDR gate in the town, said, "We are selling warm cloths for higher prices as we purchase these at high rates and the transport cost has increased alarmingly. We can't bring warm cloths from the capital regularly due to blockade and hartal."



Criminals set fire to a stack of paddy of a Hindu family on the premises of their house in Dakkhin Shivpur village in Dinajpur Sadar upazila on Friday night. Farmer Shambunath said he harvested the paddies from 18 bighas of land a few days ago and piled up in front of his house for threshing. He claimed that paddy worth around Tk three lakh were burnt to ashes.

MILL YET TO START CRUSHING Sugarcanes drying up in Gaibandha fields

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Rangpur Sugar Mills, Gaibandha is yet to start cane crushing due to the ongoing hartals and blockades enforced by the opposition 18-party alliance.

Due to the situation, sugar production might decline this season, mill authorities said, expressing fear.

Meanwhile, sugarcanes started to dry up in many of the fields resulting in loss of usual weight.

If the crushing is delayed further the cane growers will sustain heavy loss, said Akkas Ali of Mohimaganj area.

"I grew cane on one bigha land. Leaves have already dried up and soon the stalks will also become dry, said Akkas Ali of Mohimaganj.

Grower Shamsul Mia of Kocharshaher village

said he planted cane on five bigha of land. Canes are still lying in the field and losing weight every day as none came to buy them, he said.

We used to get around 200 maunds of canes per bigha of land. But this year, production will decline for not harvesting in due time. It will be difficult on our part to realise even the production cost if the mills did not start crushing immediately, said Afser Ali, another cane grower of Bagda village in Gobindaganj upazila.

Normally the mill starts cane crushing in early December. But this time, despite all arrangements, the mill could not do so for prolonged road and rail blockade, said Abu Sufian Suja, President of Rangpur Sugar Mill Workers' Union, Gaibandha.

Due to the unrest, cane growers sustained huge loss while over 700 seasonal workers remained jobless as the mill failed to start crushing in time, he further added.

According to mill sources, this year 7000 acres of land were brought under cane cultivation and the mill expected a production of 4,500 tonnes sugar by crushing around 70,000 tonnes of cane.

The crushing season of the mill generally continues for around 60 days.

Blaming hartal and blockades, managing director of the mill Abdul Khaleque said that production remained stalled as they could not procure canes from different centers.

If such situation continues further, the mill will suffer huge loss, he said.



Sugarcanes are drying up in the fields in Mohimaganj of Gaibandha as Rangpur Sugar Mills in the area is yet to start cane crushing this season due to hartals and blockades.

Locals protest 'objectionable' remarks at waz mehfil

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Locals swooped on the main speaker of a waz mehfil (religious function) as he made derogatory remarks about the prime minister and Gonojagoron Mancha in his speech at the waz mehfil.

Local union parishad (UP) member Moslem Uddin said the untoward situation occurred after the Maulana had made some derogatory remarks about Sheikh Hasina.

Maidul Islam, one of the organisers of the programme, said AL men attacked the mehfil while

Nasir Uddin of Thakurgaon made 'objectionable comment' about the prime minister and Gonojagoron Mancha in his speech at the waz mehfil.

Refuting the allegation, Mogholhat union Awami League General Secretary Golam Farooque said local people became agitated and attacked the waz mehfil due to objectionable speeches made by the Maulana.

Being informed, a police team rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control, said SI Mahubul Islam of Lalmonirhat Sadar Police station.

Maulana Nasir was expersing his views about the country's present political situation.

An alleged outlaw was found murdered at maize filed at Pantapara village in Sadar upazila yesterday evening. The deceased is Sirajul Islam, 35, son of Adil Uddin of village and a member of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP). He was accused in several cases including murder and abduction, said officer in-charge Kazi Jalal Uddin Ahmed of Sadar police station.

UPDF invited us for talks on polls

Say 'abducted' AL men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Eight local leaders and activists of Awami League, who were 'abducted' on Friday, reappeared yesterday.

They are Ramrachai Chowdhury, chairman of Laxmichharhi upazila parishad and president of upazila AL unit, vice chairmen of the UP Sagorika Chakma and Milan Kanti Chakma, activists Swapan Chakma, Chaitowaong Marma, Ratan Chakma, Lalin Chakma and Daya Chakma.

In the morning, Ramrachai told journalists that the leaders of United Peoples Democratic Front (UPDF) invited them on Friday afternoon for a discussion on the upcoming national election.

He further said that

UPDF urged them to extend their support to independent candidate Proshit Khisha who will contest in the parliamentary election from constituency-297.

Proshit Khisha is very trustworthy and loyal to local UPDF, said Ramrachai.

Admitting of holding talks with the AL men, Pradipar Khisha, a leader of UPDF Khagrachhari unit, said that the abduction of the eight is nothing but a rumor. Ramrachai and Sagorika were elected as upazila parishad representatives with the support of UPDF, he said.

However, locals said that the AL men went missing on Friday afternoon.

Contacted, superintendent of police Sheikh Md Mizanur Rahman said he was not fully aware about the incident.

SNIPPETS

29 Indian fishermen held

Members of Bangladesh Navy arrested 29 Indian fishermen for illegally catching fish in Hironpoint area of the Bay of Bangle in Mongla upazila on Friday. Mohammad Aminul Islam, off cer-in-charge of Mongla Police Station, said a patrol team of Navy arrested the 29 Indian fishermen along with two trawlers-- FB Mayer Ashirbad and FB Himalayas-- while they were catching fish in the Bangladesh territory, violating the maritime boundary law in the morning. All the arrestees hail from Akhhoynagar village in Chabbish Pargana district of paschimbanga. Later they were handed over to police night. During primary interrogation, the fishermen said they had entered the country by mistake due to dense fog, said the OC.

BSF picks up Bangladeshi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Indian Border Security Forces (BSF) picked up a Bangladeshi farmer from Ramkrishnapur border point in Daulatpur upazila of the district yesterday afternoon. Identified as Ripon Hossain, 33, he was son of Bazlu Mollah of Charpara village in the upazila. Nayek Subedar Abdul Oahab of BGB Ramkrishnapur Camp told this correspondent that a BSF team from Sarkarpara Camp under Jalangi PS of Murshidabad district in Pashimbanga caught Ripon at about 4:00pm when he was collecting grass near the border. BGB sent a letter protesting the incident and asking for a flag meeting. BSF, however, did not reply till filing of this report yesterday evening, a BGB official said.

'Outlaw' murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

An alleged outlaw was found murdered at maize filed at Pantapara village in Sadar upazila yesterday evening. The deceased is Sirajul Islam, 35, son of Adil Uddin of village and a member of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP). He was accused in several cases including murder and abduction, said officer in-charge Kazi Jalal Uddin Ahmed of Sadar police station.

Fertiliser laden vessel seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Coast Guard seized a 100-sack fertiliser laden cargo vessel early yesterday at Andhamanik River under Kalapara upazila in the district. There were 50 sacks of TSP, 10 sacks urea, 13 sacks of DAP and 27 of MoP in the vessel. Md Zahid, a Coast Guard official at Nizampur camp sources said, they seized the vessel when a team was patrolling the river at about 3:00am.

Invitation to Participate in IDCOL Biogas Program

IDCOL is a public-private institution promoting economic development in Bangladesh by encouraging private sector investment in infrastructure, renewable energy and other eco-friendly sectors. IDCOL seeks applications from non-governmental organizations ("NGOs")/ micro-finance institutions ("MFIs")/ private entities for selection as Participating Organizations (hereafter referred to as "POs") under its Biogas Program. To accelerate the dissemination of domestic biogas plants across Bangladesh for fulfilling basic energy requirements in the rural areas as well as maintaining the fertility of soil, IDCOL intends to select new POs from organizations mentioned above which have successful track records of doing businesses and/or micro-credit operations, and are interested to participate in construction, maintenance and financing of Biogas Plants.

IDCOL has a target of financing 100,000 biogas plants by 2016 of which 30,918 biogas plants have been constructed under the program up to November 2013.

IDCOL will provide investment subsidy for the benefit of customers and technical assistance, as applicable, sourced from the KFW, the World Bank and other development partners to POs for implementation of the project.

Interested organizations are requested to download complete application package from www.idcol.org. Application package may also be collected from IDCOL office at a cost of Taka 500/- (non-refundable). Completed applications must be submitted to the address mentioned below before **4:00 p.m. on 16 January 2014**.

Applications will be evaluated by an independent evaluation committee in accordance with the criteria described in the application package. Selected POs will be required to sign Participation Agreements with IDCOL. IDCOL reserves the right to accept or reject any application without assigning any reason.

স্থানান্তর

নারায়ণগঞ্জ শাখা ও
আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয়, নারায়ণগঞ্জ

সম্মানিত গ্রাহক ও শুভানুধ্যায়ীদের আধুনিক ব্যাংকিং সেবা প্রদানের প্রত্যয় নিয়ে আমাদের নারায়ণগঞ্জ শাখা ও আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয়, নারায়ণগঞ্জ আজ ২২ ডিসেম্বর ২০১৩ রবিবার নতুন ঠিকানায় স্থানান্তরিত হয়ে নবপর্যায়ে বৃহৎ পরিসরে কার্যক্রম শুরু করতে যাচ্ছে।

<p>পুরাতন ঠিকানা</p> <p>পূবালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড নারায়ণগঞ্জ শাখা ও আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয়, নারায়ণগঞ্জ ৩১, বি বি রোড থানা ও জেলা- নারায়ণগঞ্জ।</p>	➔	<p>বর্তমান ঠিকানা</p> <p>পূবালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড নারায়ণগঞ্জ শাখা ও আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয়, নারায়ণগঞ্জ ৮১, বি বি রোড (নারায়ণগঞ্জ ক্লাবের বিপরীতে) থানা ও জেলা- নারায়ণগঞ্জ।</p>
--	---	---

সম্মানিত গ্রাহক ও শুভানুধ্যায়ীদের নারায়ণগঞ্জ শাখা ও আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয়, নারায়ণগঞ্জ এর নতুন ঠিকানায় ব্যাংকিং সেবা গ্রহণের সর্বনিম্ন আমন্ত্রণ জানানো হচ্ছে।

পূবালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড

ঐতিহ্যের পথ বেয়ে অর্থনৈতিক অগ্রগতি
www.pubalibangla.com

Infrastructure Development Company Limited

UTC Building, Level - 17, 8 Panthapath, Kawranbazar, Dhaka-1215.
Phones: 9102171-8, Fax: 8116663, E-mail: biogas@idcol.org, Website: www.idcol.org