

# Hearing impairment no barrier for Bidhan

A journey forged with community support, determination

HABIBUR RAHMAN with ANDREW EAGLE

Meeting life's biggest challenges can take tenacity, and then some. And it isn't usually a solo effort. Being surrounded by a supportive family and community can make all the difference in achieving success in the pursuit of one's dreams.

In both aspects Bidhan Boiragi, 17, from remote Balibabla village in Pirojpur's Nazirpur upazila is lucky. The boy, who grew up mostly deaf and unable to speak but wanted nothing more than to go to school, has reached college. He's a first year business studies student at Nazirpur College, thanks to his own persistence, thanks to support from family, friends and the community at large.

"From an early age Bidhan couldn't talk or hear anything clearly," says his mother Shova Rani Boiragi. She notes that when he was just one-and-a-half years old Bidhan fell into water; the family is unsure if that mishap brought about his difficulties.

"But Bidhan always had a strong will to go to school," she says. "He was able to learn reading and writing; he completed his primary and secondary schooling." Bidhan achieved this outcome despite the village schools having no specialised facilities to cater to his condition.

Bidhan primarily communicates through body language and writing. At school he found in his classmates willing accomplices. "We used to help Bidhan," says one former classmate Sujit Boiragi. "Before and after school we assisted him. For us it was never a burden; rather, if we could help him in his studies we felt proud."

"Bidhan is really popular in our locality," says Bidhan's sister-in-law Suchitra Boiragi. "He socialises so nicely that all our family members and the neighbours cannot but love him.



Bidhan Boiragi poses for photograph with his parents at his home at Balibabla village under Nazirpur upazila in Pirojpur. PHOTO: STAR

We got used to the way he communicates with body language; and we respond with expressions and gestures too."

Like Bidhan's mother, his father Bimol Krishna Boiragi, a farmer, is equally supportive of his son's education. "We never created any obstacle for his studies," Bimol says. "Indeed we tried to give him all the support he needs."

It was a goal made easier by Bidhan's primary and high schools, both of which organised for him to receive his text books free of cost, neither of which would take any fees from the family.

"We always tried to help Bidhan," says Dilip Mandal, headmaster of Balibabla Adarsha High School where Bidhan completed his Secondary School Certificate. "But actually there was no suitable school for him in the village. Here, he studied alongside regular students; and the main weapon

he had in his quest for high school success was his unshakeable determination."

These days, as Bidhan embarks upon tertiary studies his father Bimol is more concerned than before about expenses. "My son is so curious to pursue higher education," Bimol says, "but I am anxious about bearing the costs since, with my eldest son Binoy who works with me, I have to earn enough to support our eight-member family." Of Bimol's four daughters, three are married and the youngest is a student of class eight. Another son, Bishwajeet, studies in class five.

In the meantime Bidhan's enthusiasm for study and for life in general has not dimmed. He helps his family working in the fields and at home. He studies. He wants to be a police officer; and although uncertain if it will be at all possible, Bidhan's determination and the support he has around him can only improve his chances of making it so.



With the weighing machine inoperative for over two years, the axle load control station at Koilabari near Sonamasjid land port in Chapainawabganj remains virtually useless to check plying of overloaded vehicles. PHOTO: STAR

# Axle load scale inoperative for over two years

Overloaded trucks ply Sonamasjid land port road

RABIUL HASAN, Chapainawabganj

The axle load scale meant for checking plying of overloaded vehicles at Koilabari on Chapainawabganj-Sonamasjid land port road in Shibganj upazila under the district has been lying inoperative for over two years.

Taking the opportunity, truckers are carrying more than stipulated 25 tonnes of goods, mostly imported items including stone, said traders at the land port.

The weighing station was set up at

Koilabari near Sonamasjid land port at a cost of Tk 65 lakh to check plying of overloaded vehicles on the 34 kilometre road stretching Chapainawabganj, Shibganj, Kansat, Sonamasjid and Baliadighi cheque post, said officials at the district office of the RHD.

Communications Minister Obaidul Quader inaugurated the station at Koilabari on August 28 in 2014.

The government has taken initiative to install axle load scales on different roads to check plying of overloaded vehicles that causes damage to

roads, the minister said after the inauguration.

But the weighing machine of the station at Koilabari stopped functioning after about one month due to some problems of computer software, said Sunity Chakma, executive engineer of Chapainawabganj RHD.

"As per rule, trucks can carry 25 tonnes of goods on Chapainawabganj-Sonamasjid land port highway, but it is often violated in absence of checking mechanism. We have informed the higher authorities about the situation," he said.

# 'Spare home, farmland from acquisition list'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Local people at a human chain programme yesterday demanded that government to spare their homesteads and farmlands from the list of land acquisition for infrastructure development of newly formed Mymensingh division.

Recently, the government has planned for acquisition of some 4300 acres of lands in Char Gobindapur, Char Ishwardia, Char Bhawanipur, Char Durgapur, Char Jelkhana, Laxmir Algi and Char Sirta moujas, they said.

# BARAPUKURIA COAL-FIRED POWER PLANT Villagers protest pollution

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Hundreds of villagers near Barapukuria 250MW coal-fired power plant in Parbatipur upazila at a human chain yesterday protested the environment pollution and its adverse impact on the locals due to pumping out of huge underground water and release of toxic fly ash generated by the plant. The human chain was formed at Dudipur near the power plant. Dudipur Gram Jiban Bachao Sangram

Committee organised the rally. They also urged the government to meet their seven-point demand.

The demand includes compensation for the affected villagers, ensuring water supply free of cost for the affected people and power connection to the villages.

Local UP chairman Mamunur Rahman Chowdhury said at least 10,000 people of 11 villages were badly affected by the power plant.

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh				
Office of the Executive Engineer				
Education Engineering Department				
Netrakona Zone, Netrakona				
Tender Notice No: 04/EE/EED/Netro Zone/School-Furniture/2016-17, Date 20/10/2016				
1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Education.		
2.	Agency	Education Engineering Department (EED).		
3.	Procuring Entity Name	Executive Engineer, Education Engineering Department, Netrakona Zone, Netrakona.		
4.	Procuring Entity Code	None		
5.	Procuring Entity District	Netrakona District.		
6.	Invitation for	Tender V Goods V Single Lot.		
7.	Invitation Reference No.	Memo No: OM/317/EED/NI:BAY:MA:BI:AUBA:U/134		
8.	Date	Dated: 15-09-2015		
9.	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM) V National		
10.	Budget and Source of Funds	Revenue Budget V Government of Bangladesh		
11.	Project Code	8074		
12.	Project Name	Development of Physical Infrastructure of Selected Non-Government Secondary School.		
13.	Tender Lot No.	Lot No- 01 to 45		
14.	Tender Lot Name	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building to Selected Non-Govt. Secondary School.		
15.	Tender Publication Date	27-10-2016		
16.	Tender Last Selling Date	16-11-2016 during office hour		
17.	Tender Closing Date and Time	17-11-2016 up to 1.00pm		
18.	Tender Opening Date and Time	17-11-2016 at 3:00pm		
19.	Name and address of the office(s)	Office of the Executive Engineer, Education Engineering Department, Netrakona Zone.		
	(a) Selling Tender Document (Principal)	Office of the Deputy Commissioner (DC), Netrakona		
	(b) Selling Tender Document (Others)	Office of the Superintendent of Police (SP), Netrakona.		
	(c) Receiving Tender Document	Office of the Executive Engineer, Education Engineering Department, Netrakona Zone.		
		Office of the Deputy Commissioner (DC), Netrakona.		
		Office of the Superintendent of Police (SP), Netrakona.		
	(d) Opening Tender Document	Office of the Executive Engineer, Education Engineering Department, Netrakona Zone.		
20.	Eligibility of Tenderer	a)	Tenderer must have up-to-date Trade License, Income Tax Clearance Certificate and VAT Registration Certificate.	
		b)	Who have average annual construction turnover of Tk. 7.50 (Seven point five zero) lac for lot No.01 to 09 & Tk. 4.50 (Four point five zero) lac for lot No. 10 to 45 over the last 5 (five) years.	
		c)	Who have minimum liquid assets Tk. 6.00 (six) lac for lot No. 01 to 09, Tk. 5.00 (five ) lac & Tk. 4.00 (four) lac for lot No. 10 to 45 must be supported by bank statement (within 28 days before the submission of tender).	
		d)	Who have successfully completed similar works of at least Tk. 4.50 (four point five) lac for lot No. 01 to 09 & Tk. 3.00 (three) lac for lot No. 10 to 45 in a single contract over a period of last 5.00 (five) years.	
		e)	Satisfying the other criteria laid down in the Tender Schedule.	
21.	Brief Description of Works/Goods	Original work, Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture.		
22.	Price of Tender Document (Tk.)	Tk. 500.00 (five hundred) only (non-refundable).		
23.	Lot No.	Identification of Lot	Location	Tender security (Taka)
			Upazila	District
	01	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Rongchati High School.	Kolmakanda	Netrakona
	02	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Gogda High School.	Kendua	Netrakona
	03	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Jalshuka Kumudgonj High School.	Purbodhola	Netrakona
	04	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture in Saithi High School.	Purbodhola	Netrakona
	05	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Bادهপুটিকা High School.	Purbodhola	Netrakona
	06	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Nazirpur Polly Jagoron High School.	Kolmakanda	Netrakona
	07	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Patra Dampara High School.	Purbodhola	Netrakona
	08	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Somaj High School.	Mohongonj	Netrakona
	09	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Milon High School.	Sadar	Netrakona
	10	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Baromari High School.	Durgapur	Netrakona
	11	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Dhitpur High School.	Kolmakanda	Netrakona
	12	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Krishner Char High School.	Durgapur	Netrakona
	13	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Annandapur High School.	Kolmakanda	Netrakona
	14	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Mahmudpur High School.	Sadar	Netrakona
	15	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Satpai Borshikura High School.	Sadar	Netrakona
	16	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Muktal Hossain High School.	Sadar	Netrakona
	17	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Kishloy Shishu Niketon.	Barhatta	Netrakona
	18	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Kashbon Biddaniketon High School.	Barhatta	Netrakona
	19	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Kowra Adorsho Girls High School.	Kendua	Netrakona
	20	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Joyka Satashi High School.	Kendua	Netrakona
	21	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Paharpur High School.	Atpara	Netrakona
	22	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Durgashrom High School.	Atpara	Netrakona
	23	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Joynpur High School.	Mohongonj	Netrakona
	24	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Shampur Union High School.	Mohongonj	Netrakona
	25	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Modan Adorsho Public High School.	Modan	Netrakona
	26	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Podmosree A,U Khan High School.	Modan	Netrakona
	27	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Krishnoper Alimuddin Orjamesa High School	Khaliazuri	Netrakona
	28	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Bainja High School.	Purbodhola	Netrakona
	29	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Ragib Mujib High School.	Purbodhola	Netrakona
	30	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Bishorpasha Horishcondra High School.	Kolmakanda	Netrakona
	31	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Lengura High School.	Kolmakanda	Netrakona
	32	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at N. Bhaoutola J.H School.	Durgapur	Netrakona
	33	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Premnigor Chalipura High School.	Barhatta	Netrakona
	34	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Auitpur Abbasia High School.	Barhatta	Netrakona
	35	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Chollish Kahnia Hafijuddin High School.	Barhatta	Netrakona
	36	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Amtola High School.	Sadar	Netrakona
	37	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Mitali High School.	Kendua	Netrakona
	38	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Bolaishimul J. K Academy	Kendua	Netrakona
	39	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Tiosree N,H Khan Academy	Modan	Netrakona
	40	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Banshori Meherunnesa High School.	Modan	Netrakona
	41	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Mohongonj Adorsho High School.	Mohongonj	Netrakona
	42	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Bororia High School.	Purbodhol	Netrakona
	43	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Dholamulgan High School.	Purbodhola	Netrakona
	44	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Iculia High School.	Purbodhola	Netrakona
	45	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Maradighi Golam Hosain High School.	Sadar	Netrakona
24.	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Nowjesh Ali		
25.	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Executive Engineer		
26.	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Education Engineering Department, Netrakona Zone, Netrakona.		
27.	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel No: 0951- 62568 V Fax No: 0951- 62568 E-Mail: ee_net@eedmoe.gov.bd		
28.	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender proceedings.			