

# SOCIAL SAFETY NET FOR POOR WOMEN IN NILPHAMARI

## Irregularities in payment

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Female beneficiaries under rural employment and road maintenance programme-2 of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) besieged Domar upazila parishad yesterday demanding payment of eight months' unpaid wage and remedy of irregularities.

Under the social safety net programme for ultra poor rural women, each beneficiary gets Tk 150 as daily wage and 33 percent of the money is deposited in their bank account so that they can get a handsome amount after expiry of the project.

The five-year project will end in June this year.

Upazila LGED sources said 10 women from each of 10 unions, who are widow, divorcee, have disabled husband and/or have other problems, were listed for work under the programme.

A community coordinator (CC) looks after the work under the guidance of a supervisor, both employed by the upazila engineer.

"We have not got salary in last eight months," said Motina Begum, team leader of Gomnati union workers' group.

In January this year, the CC and supervisor received our bank cheques after getting signs from us for drawing our salary money from local Sonali bank for four months September to December of 2016.

"We have not got salary against our signed cheques. The CC and the supervisor said there is no money in bank although the bank officer



Workers of a social safety net project demonstrate in front of Domar Upazila Parishad office in Nilphamari yesterday demanding payment of their eight months' arrear dues and remedy for the irregularities.

PHOTO: STAR

concerned informed us that the money had already been drawn," alleged Tunibala, workers group leader of Sonarai union.

As the CC and the supervisor yesterday pressed the beneficiaries again to sign another cheque for salary of January-April period, they refused and came to Domar to lodge protest, the stakeholders said.

Kawsar Alam, senior assistant

engineer of Nilphamari LGED, said, "Salary of last year's September-December period was deposited in bank against each beneficiary's account in early January this year. The salary for January-April period has also been deposited in bank recently."

Contacted, Abdus Samad, CC of Domar upazila, claimed that women beneficiaries of ten unions

except Sonarai had got money and he had document for it.

Upazila engineer, Obaidul Huque who is responsible for monitoring the programme said, "I've heard the beneficiaries' complaint and started verifying the documents. If anyone is found guilty he will be brought to book. The workers will be paid in one or two days."

## Accused bragged

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afternoon. After a great deal of dilly-dallying, Banani police recorded the case against five youths including Shafat and Nayem Saturday night.

Besides Shafat, Nayem and Shadman Sakif, Shafat's driver Billal, who allegedly filmed the incident and his unnamed bodyguard, who was present at the scene, were accused in the case.

Meanwhile, police said they raided houses of the five accused and their relatives.

"We have written to immigration police to ensure that the accused do not flee," said Abdul Matin, inspector (investigation) of Banani Police Station.

Sheikh Najmul Alam, deputy commissioner

(north) of the Detective Branch of police, said the case was "sensational" and was of priority.

Shafat's father Dilder Ahmed Selim told this correspondent that teams of police kept visiting his house. "My son is a victim of blackmail. But if he did the crime he should be punished."

In another development, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque, in a statement, termed the incident a gross violation of human rights.

The commission yesterday formed a five-member fact-finding committee to identify the criminals and ensure punishment. The committee was asked to submit its report within 15 working days.

## Afghan IS

FROM PAGE 16  
by a group of militants disguised as doctors. Dozens of medical staff and patients were killed in the attack.

It said he also ordered fighters to behead local elders in front of their families and kidnap women and girls to force them to marry ISIS fighters.

The local affiliate of Islamic State, sometimes known as Islamic State Khorasan (ISIS-K), after an old name for the region that includes Afghanistan, has been active since 2015, fighting both the Taliban as well as Afghan and US forces.

It is believed to maintain links with the main Islamic

State movement in Iraq and Syria but has considerable operational independence.

US and Afghan special forces, backed by drone strikes and other air support, have waged a series of operations against IS-K since March, killing dozens of their fighters, mainly in Nangarhar, on the border with Pakistan.

Defeating the group remains one of the top U.S. priorities in Afghanistan and last month the United States dropped its largest non-nuclear device on a network of caves and tunnels used by ISIS in Nangarhar, killing 94 fighters, including four commanders.

## EU hopeful

FROM PAGE 2  
have an inclusive society. "This inclusive society rallies long objectives which are consensual objectives of bringing forward socio-economic agenda, and development agenda of Bangladesh."

He, however, said the EU would see how effective the engagement would be.

Some 350 representatives of Qawmi madrasas, led by Hefajat chief Shah Ahmed Shafi, met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Gono Bhaban last month. The PM at that meeting announced that the government would recognise Dawra degree of Qawmi madrasa as equivalent to Master's degree.

About the EU-Bangladesh ties, Mayaudon said the EU was engaged with Bangladesh under the 2001 cooperation agreement. "Democracy and human rights are the cornerstones of that agreement."

He said a positive result of the ties was the empowerment of women in Bangladesh. Millions of women were lifted out of poverty due to the rise of the RMG industry following the duty and quota-free access to the EU market, he added.

About the French presidential elections results, which brought relief to 28 EU member countries after concerns were raised over the UK's decision to leave the European Union, Mayaudon said the EU is an "extremely resilient institution."

"This kind of debate started even before the creation of the EU. We are used to it, we accept it and even we welcome it as a way to keep us under constant encouragement to revisit the way EU is defining and conducting its policies," he added.

Appreciating the Chinese move to offer assistance to Bangladesh in solving the Rohingya refugee crisis, the diplomat said China as an important partner of the EU expressed its willingness to find out a solution to the long-standing problem.

## How could CJ say

FROM PAGE 1  
saying there was no rule of law in the country.

She questioned if there was no rule of law, how Bangladesh contained terrorism, a global threat now.

Taking a swipe at the Amnesty International for its recent report on the press freedom in the country, the PM said, "I want to say it clearly that newspapers, journalists and electronic media are enjoying full freedom."

Freedom of expression also prevails in the country. "But to enjoy the freedom, one has to perform responsibilities too as freedom does not mean to obstruct

anybody's rights."

Referring to television talk-shows, discussions and live programmes, Hasina said participants were criticising the government round the clock. "They're doing it openly... no one is going there to gag them. Newspapers are also writing against the government, freely."

Hasina, however, warned that if anyone did "yellow journalism", gave false and untrue information, got involved in character assassination, the person affected had the right to take action legally.

If any defamation case is filed against any journalist,

it is his duty to prove his innocence, she added.

Hasina said a section of people always thought they could get benefits out of any abnormal situation in the country. "They think their dignity gets a boost during the period. But in a democratic system, their chances diminish."

The vested quarter had the desire to come to power, but they lacked the ability to seek votes from people. "Many of them tried to form a party, but people didn't respond to their calls."

These people are spreading propaganda, the PM added.

The prime minister urged

all, including parents, guardians, teachers, imams and other professionals, to remain alert so that no one can get involved in terrorism and militancy, and to help the law enforcement agencies root out the menaces from the country.

15th JS session pro-rogued

The 15th session of the 10th parliament was pro-rogued yesterday after only five sittings that passed two bills and unanimously accepted a motion to enact a law for punishing those who will distort the history of the 1971 Liberation War and the mass killings during that time.

## Rich feasts

FROM PAGE 16  
line for Open Market Sale (OMS) for hours. But the rice was being sold at many shops at a high price.

She also alleged that the VGF cards were being sold.

The UP member of Rofinagor union said she brought an allegation of corruption against Rofinagor union Chairman

Rezwan Hossain Khan.

Another complainant Ratan Mia, of Rofinagor, said, "UP Chairman Rezwan Hossain Khan collected Tk

50-200 for including a name in the VGF list. For this reason, I complained to the upazila nirbahi officer against the chairman. I requested the UNO to investigate the matter."

Contacted, Rezwan refuted the allegation and said some UP members were trying to destroy his reputation.

Touhiduzzaman Pavel, UNO of Derai upazila, said there were several allegations of irregularities in the distribution of VGF cards.

He said a three-member committee was formed to

investigate the incident. After receiving the probe report, necessary action would be taken against those involved in irregularities.

Talking to this correspondent, Sheikh Rafiqul Islam, deputy commissioner of Sunamganj, said he would not tolerate any irregularities in the distribution of VGF cards and OMS rice.

## Bangabhaban, Gono Bhaban

FROM PAGE 16  
the judiciary separation case.

Earlier in the day, Attorney General Mahubey Alam, on behalf of the government, submitted an application to the apex court for adjourning the hearing in the case for two weeks.

Getting the plea, the chief justice expressed astonishment, as the court had already extended the time for the gazette publication on several occasions.

Annoyed, the court said, "two weeks, two months, and two years are all the same for the attorney general".

The AG didn't say anything in reply.

The SC ended yesterday's proceedings, adjourning the hearing for one week.

The apex court on several previous occasions expressed dissatisfaction at the government's failure to issue the gazette notification.

The judiciary was offi-

cially separated from the executive in November 2007 but the code of conduct for lower court judges is yet to be finalised.

The government drafted the code and sent it to the SC more than two years back for its opinion. The court revised the draft in light of the 1999 verdict in the separation of judiciary case.

On May 5, Law Minister Anisul Huq told The Daily Star, "We will of course issue a gazette notification on the rules. But we may seek 10 to

15 days from the Supreme Court as we need the honourable president's approval in this regard."

Supreme Court Bar Association President Zainul Abedin, also a BNP leader, told a press conference on May 2 that the apex court gave many orders on the issuance of the notification, but the government already sought 67 extensions.

"Taking time proves that the government doesn't want the judiciary to work independently," he said.

## Four baby civets die

MINTU DESHWARA

Four baby Indian civets died in Sonapur area under Sadar upazila of Moulvibazar in spite of receiving treatment for one month.

According to the wildlife management and nature conservation department, the babies were suffering from weakness as they could not drink breast milk. The first one died on April 26, two died on April 28, and the fourth died on Saturday.

Wildlife researcher Tania Khan said, "The babies were caught when they were too small, so they did not have the opportunity to breastfeed. They suffered injuries while being caught."

According to wildlife management and nature conservation department, the cubs were caught by some children from a cemetery in Sadhugram area under Nazirbazar of Sylhet on March 29.

Abdul Matin, a resident of the village, informed the local administration about the matter, who informed the wildlife management and nature conservation department.

The department rescued the civets and handed them over to Tania.

"The babies were fed orsoline and Lactogen for the first two days. Then they were gradually fed bananas, milk and eggs," Tania said.

Divisional forest officer of wildlife management and nature conservation in Sylhet Mihir Kumar Doe told this correspondent yesterday that the four baby civets died after one month of treatment.

"Civets are mainly carnivorous but also eat fruit. Their skin is brown col-

*The baby civets were injured while being caught and they did not have opportunity to breastfeed*



Picture of four Indian civet cubs, huddling on a bed at a private-run 'mini hospital' for wildlife at Sonapur in Moulvibazar Sadar upazila, is just a memory now. The creatures, caught too young over a month ago, died one after another mainly due to lack of breastfeeding.

PHOTO: STAR

**Rajshahi City Corporation**  
Engineering Department  
Nagar Bhaban, Kadirgonj, Rajshahi  
erajshahi.portal.gov.bd

উন্নয়নের গণতন্ত্র  
শেখ হাসিনার মূলমন্ত্র

### Invitation for Tenders (IFT)

**Tender Notice Number: 19/2016-2017**

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh	
1 Ministry/Division	Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives, Local Government Division.
2 Agency	Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC)
3 Procuring Entity Name	Mayor, Rajshahi City Corporation.
4 Procuring Entity Code	
5 Procuring Entity District	Rajshahi.
6 Invitation for	"Construction of incomplete works of Shaheb Bazar Boro Mosque in Rajshahi City" Package No. WD-SBBM/2016-17.
7 Invitation Ref No.	46.06.6100.006.06.2017-1008(40)
8 Date	07.05.2017.
KEY INFORMATION	
9 Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).
FUNDING INFORMATION	
10 Budget and Source of Funds	Block Allocation.
11 Development Partners	---
PARTICULAR INFORMATION	
12 Project/Programme Code	---
13 Project/Programme Name	"Construction of incomplete works of Shaheb Bazar Boro Mosque in Rajshahi City" Package No. WD-SBBM/2016-17.
14 Tender Package No.	As per para-26.
15 Tender Package Name	As per para-26.
16 Tender Publication Date	09.05.2017.
17 Tender Last Selling Date	30.05.2017 during normal bank hours at 4:00pm all working days.
	Date Time
18 Tender Closing Date and Time	30.05.2017 Up to 1.00pm
19 Tender Opening Date and Time	31.05.2017 At 2.30pm
20 Name & Address of the Office(s)	Address
- Selling Tender Document	Agrani Bank Limited, Nagar Bhaban Branch (4:00pm all working days), Rajshahi.
- Receiving Tender Document	Office of the Secretary, Rajshahi City Corporation.
- Opening Tender Document	Office of the Secretary, Rajshahi City Corporation
21 Place/ Date/Time of	Place Date Time
Pre-Tender Meeting	---
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER	
22 Eligibility of Tenderer	The Invitation for Tenders (IFT) is open to all eligible tenderers as described in the TDS of tender documents for each Package work.
23 Brief Description of Works	Construction of Aluminium fixed louver, Aluminium curtain wall, Aluminium top hung/basement windows, Glass partition, Aluminium sliding window, Marble stone flooring, Stainless steel (SS) stair railing & Electrical works, etc.
24 Brief Description of Related Services	Not applicable.
25 Price of Tender Document (Tk)	For WD-SBBM/2016-17: Tk. 2000.00 (two thousand).
	Package No. Package Work Location Completion Time in Days/Weeks/Months Tender Security Amount (Tk.)
26 WD-SBBM/2016-17	"Construction of remaining work of Shaheb Bazar Boro Mosque in Rajshahi City" Package No. WD-SBBM/2016-17 6 months 1,50,000.00
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS	
27 Name of Official Inviting Tender	Kh. Khairul Bashar.
28 Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Superintendent Engineer.
29 Address of Official Inviting Tender	Room No. 306 (3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor), Nagar Bhaban, Rajshahi City Corporation.
30 Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Telephone: 0721-772119 Telephone: 0721-772119
31 (a) Interested tenderer(s) may obtain further information regarding preparation and submission of tenders or any technical matter from the Engineering Department of Rajshahi City Corporation during office hours up to 5.00pm.	
(b) Rajshahi City Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.	
32 Tender notice available	(a) erajshahi.portal.gov.bd

রাসিক/জন-১৭৪(২০১৬-১৭)  
তারিখঃ ০৭/০৫/১৭  
GD-959

**Kh. Khairul Bashar**  
Superintendent Engineer  
Rajshahi City Corporation

## 2 'robbers' hurt in 'gunfight' with police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Two alleged robbers were injured in a 'gunfight' with police in Panchbibi upazila of Joypurhat yesterday.

The injured are Rafiq Mia, 32, son of Abdus Sattar of Radhabari village in the upazila, and Milon Hossain, 36, son of Mir Kashem of Ghugail village in Khetlal upazila.