

Flood-hit haor people worried

OMS suspended from today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Sale of rice and flour under Open Market Sale (OMS) in the district has been suspended from today, depriving the flood-affected haor people of the opportunity to purchase rice or flour at low prices.

District Food Controller (DFO) Md Zakaria Mustafa said initially 42 dealers were appointed in 11 upazilas to sell 42 tonnes of OMS rice at Tk 15 per kg and flour at Tk 17 for only two months.

Later on May 9, 110 dealers were appointed in the district as the prime minister gave an order following the request of farmers and different organisations. Since then, 22,000 poor families started getting the opportunity to buy 5 kg of OMS commodity, the DFO added.

Former Ali Ahmad of Telipara village in Dharampasha upazila is got stuck for Tk 15 per kg in Moidhanagar market. If OMS is stopped, the poor people will face a crisis as they do not have rice stock at their homes, he added.

Haor Bachao Sunamganj Bachao Andolon Member Secretary Bindu Talukdar said if OMS is stopped, many people in the haor areas will starve. He urged the government to continue OMS for the haor people of the district.

Abkar Hossain, an OMS dealer in Sadar union under Jamalgonj upazila, said the poor families, including farmers, were given the opportunity to buy OMS rice at low price.

Deputy Commissioner Sahibul Islam and the DFO said they have sent letters to the higher authorities for continuation of OMS.

Farmers' budget key to dev

SHYKH SERAJ

Finance Minister AMA Muhiith is going to present the national budget today and most probably the size of the budget is going to be Tk 4 lakh crore, 26 percent bigger than the past fiscal year. We know budget is part of the development process of a state. And we have seen the finance minister discuss with different professional groups. The agriculture sector always had a great impact on the national budget but in earlier times, the farmers hardly knew what their role was in this area.

Then came the idea of involving farmers with the national budget process through a pre-budget discussion event called Krishi Budget Krishoker Budget (KKBK) since 2005. Back then, it was an experimental idea how farmers can understand the real meaning of the national budget and how they have influenced the process – what they need for farming, what they need to earn a little more and produce a little more with great supply of agricultural inputs and market facility. These were all the concerns of farmers and they have gradually raised their voices in this pre-budget discussion.

Dear readers, you may have watched KKBK on Channel 1 where farmers of different classes, ministers, administrative



Finance Minister AMA Muhiith attends a pre-budget discussion between farmers and policymakers, titled Krishi Budget Krishoker Budget, in Jhalakathi.

policymakers and the government is acting in response to the farmers' demands. Through KKBK, more than 500 thousand farmers could send their messages to the government before the budget. That is how media could empower people for their demands in the most democratic manner.

The government's policy and planning for the farmers has changed a lot and it has become more progressive to give farmers an extra support. I believe this year's budget will reflect the same. A farmer-friendly budget is what I along with 110 million farmers are looking forward to. To the best of my knowledge, awareness among farmers about the national budget has increased. The government has gone through farmers' recommendations we submitted and I have noticed significant change in action for development of the farmers.

The government has successfully reached the Millennium Development Goals and is moving towards Sustainable Development Goals.

Bangladesh will hopefully reach success in every sectors but the primary focus should be to develop the grassroots people, mostly farmers and those hauling from the rural areas.

There should be more transparency in procuring rice directly from farmers. It has been the tradition so far that the mill-owners are the profit makers at the end. The government has to take a strong step and assist the real farmers. As natural disasters are more regular nowadays in Bangladesh, we should plan ahead and be climate smart. We need big ideas that can change the whole perspective and intelligent investments for farming in these dire climatic situations. More importantly, the government should plan to incorporate more youths in farming to bring out the best from IoT (Internet of Things) in farming. Crop insurance, through our restless campaign, is coming to some sort of a shape and this has to be implemented in a full-fledged manner.

The government needs to increase budget for social safety net programmes. The poor people should have more access to food. The elderly farmers who can't work any longer on fields should get pension. With the hope of the finance minister, I hope that Bangladesh will become a welfare state in seven to eight years. Since most of our people live in rural areas, our planning and policy must focus more on the rural Bangladesh and this should be embedded

holistically in the strategy plans.

The government spends a lot to ensure that farmers get information for their queries, however it's sad they don't get it the way it should have been. Union Digital Centres should be equipped with more skilled people. If this happens early, the marginal people will become smarter and stronger with the most important information which will develop them as well as the state faster.

Agricultural technology is where we need more attention from the government. There are up-to-date technologies around the world which are making the lives of the farmers easy and productive. However, we need proper knowledge first to bring these technologies and then apply those accordingly. First of all, the technologies have to be cost effective.

These are the areas, in brief, according to my observation, where the government should concentrate more for the farming sector. We have submitted elaborate recommendations to the finance minister. And I believe many of the recommendations will be considered and accepted and finally reflected in the national budget, like every year.

Another bridge on Teesta soon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Another bridge will be constructed over the Teesta river, connecting Gaibandha and Kurigram, along with an 80 kilometre regional highway.

The 1,490-metre-long and 7.32-metre-wide bridge will connect Haripur in Sundarganj upazila of Gaibandha with Rajobkhali in Chilmari upazila of Kurigram. The cost of construction of the bridge and regional highway is estimated to be Tk 730 crore.

Construction of the bridge will be started within the next two months, said Maksudul Alam, executive engineer of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) in Gaibandha.

Maksudul said the plan was placed before the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC) after selection of the location and feasibility study, and it was approved on March 16 in 2016.

LGED will supervise the construction and funding by Saudi donor agency SFD and the government of Bangladesh.

There are two other bridges over the river, including a rail bridge, in Rangpur.

A consulting firm under a joint venture between EGIS of India and Modern Engineering of Bangladesh reviewed the location and design of the bridge on Thursday, Maksudul said.

Shykh Seraj is a Media and Agriculture Development Activist. He is an Ashoka Fellow and recipient of Ekushey Padak, FAO A.H. Boerma Award and many other prestigious accolades. At Channel 1, he is Director and Head of News. He is also Director and Host of the popular agro-documentary, 'Hridoye Matti O Manush'.



officers, researchers, academicians, intellectuals and economists take part. The finance minister has been taking part in this event for the past seven years and he has closely heard farmers' demands. It's been our privilege that we could send farmers' recommendations to the finance minister before the budget. It's been thirteen years that farmers' voices are reaching the



Bajah Uddin is going downstairs along with students at Shaheed Smirty High School and College in Madhupur upazila of Tangail. He has not taken any leave during 38 years of teaching.

I've retired from job, not teaching

Says Bahaj Uddin Fakir who took no leave in 38 years

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

Bajah Uddin Fakir, a retiree from Shaheed Smirty High School and College in Tangail's Madhupur upazila, has not taken even a day's leave during the 38 years of his teaching service.

Bahaj, 60, an English teacher of the institution, spent his last formal working day on Wednesday when he retired from the job.

"I did not take any leave as imparting education to my students, mostly from ordinary surroundings from the rural area, was my priority. Although I have retired from the job, I want to continue with teaching till my last days," said Bahaj.

Bazul Rashid Khan, principal of the institution, narrated how Bahaj came to work even on September 14 in 2012 – the day his mother died – after keeping the body at his house yard in the morning.

"After signing the (attendance) register, Bahaj took the day's first class and returned

to his house. But surprisingly, he came back to school right after his mother's burial and went on to take his scheduled class," said Bahaj.

"Bahaj, however, had to give in and return home at his colleagues' insistence on the day," he added.

"His father Abdul Hamid Fakir died on a Friday in 2003. Bahaj took all his scheduled classes as usual the following day," the principal added.

Other teachers of the institution consider Bahaj has also promised to follow and they have also accepted to work sincerely, he added.

A teacher or other staff who has not taken leave for a single day in a year is entitled to a month's additional salary, school authorities said, adding that Bahaj had been getting the bonus every year ever since he joined the work.

Bahaj, father of two daughters and a son, has had got honour from different levels for his unique devotion to his profession.

ATTEMPT TO MURDER 12 BCL men sued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Twelve BCL activists of Patuakhali Science and Technology University were sued for their alleged involvement in an attempt to murder student of the university.

Abdul Aziz Sikder, father of Al Amin Hossain, filed the case on Tuesday with Patuakhali Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court.

Judge Md Aminul Islam asked the officer-in-charge of Dumki Police Station to submit a report on the matter by July 25, said plaintiff's lawyer Nizam Uddin Helali.

The accused are Rayhan Ahmmed, Rimiza, Kawsaruzzaman Sumon, Radoi Shil, Arafat Islam Sagor, Arifil Islam, Golam Rabbani Surki, Sorous Kamkar, Shikhi Bari Sami, S M Sabbir, Miraj Hossain, Kamrul Hasan Munnah and Md Reaz Hossain.

Teachers' crisis hampers primary education

14 Khagrachhari schools also lack lab, library

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Shortage of teachers and furniture, poorly stocked library and lack of laboratory equipment have been hampering educational activities up to 14 government primary schools in the district that have also arrangement for classes up to VIII.

District Primary Education Office (DPEO) records show that seven government primary schools in the district introduced classes up to VIII in 2015 and another seven did the same in 2016.

This correspondent recently visited Laitan Government Primary School in Panchi upazila of the district. The school started Class VIII in 2015. Two batches have passed Junior School Certificate (JSC) from the school. At present, there are 33 students in Class VI, 20 in Class VII and 18 in Class VIII in the school. There are six teachers and two more are on deputation, but that is not enough.

Headmaster Jayoti Chakma said when the government started Class VIII two teachers were to be deputed for Classes VI, VII and VIII each, but there are still only two teachers on deputation.

The teachers have no training on creative methodology of teaching or on Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Pralay said, adding that the library does not have enough books and there is neither a laptop nor multimedia equipment in the school.

School managing committee President Bikas Moni Chakma said, "Ambition Government Primary School is situated in a remote area and the nearest high school is Laitan km away."

He urged the authorities concerned to solve the various problems of the schools. Headmaster Omar Faruk of Beatchari Government Primary School in Dhigajala upazila told this correspondent that there are 110 students in Class VI, 97 in Class VII and 80 in Class VIII. There are 62 students and only six teachers. And so, it is very difficult to maintain classes, he added.

District Primary Education Officer Fatema Mehar Yesmin said no teachers have been appointed in the district for a few years, adding that they will give appointments soon.

Man to die for killing wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A Joypurhat court yesterday sentenced a man to death for killing his wife in 2012.

The convict is Md Nazrul Islam, 42, of Dulali village in Akkelpur upazila of the district.

Dr Md Abdul Mazid of Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court also fined him Tk 20,000.

According to the prosecution, Nazrul used to torture his wife Nazma Begum over family feuds. On October 30 in 2012, Nazrul stabbed his wife dead following a family feud and dumped the body at a nearby paddy field. On information, police later recovered the body from the spot.

After examining witness and evidence, the judge found Nazrul guilty and pronounced the verdict.

সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড
(পেট্রোবালোর একটি কোম্পানী)
Sylhet Gas Fields Limited
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সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড
সিলেট জেলা সদর, এর কার্যালয়
পেট্রোবালোর সিলেট কার্যালয়

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01.	Fencing of Barbed Wire Construction at Chatak Railway Siding Area under Sylhet Gas Fields Ltd., Chatak, Sylhet (Re-Tender).	Tender ID: 108495	20-Jun-2017 at 15:30 Hours	21-Jun-2017 at 14:00 Hours

1) This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

2) To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

3) The fees for downloading the e-Tender Document from the National e-GP System Portal to be deposited through any registered bank's branch.

4) Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP help desk helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd

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