



Labourers at Burimari land port in Patgram upazila of Lalmonirhat look upset during lunch hour. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

BURIMARI LAND PORT

Labourers low paid

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Around 13,000 workers engaged in loading and unloading imported goods at Burimari land port in Patgram upazila are upset as they are paid low wage, which is insufficient to meet their basic needs.

Bangladesh Sangjukta Sramik Federation Burimari unit President Safar Uddin told this correspondent that 2,900 labourers are registered under the organisation, while 10,000 others unregistered. "We get Tk 37 for loading and unloading one tonne of imported goods, mainly stones from India and Bhutan," he said, adding that labourers in the land port are not happy as they are paid low wage.

Tofoar Rahman Bhuttu, 48, said he earns Tk 350 on average every day from loading and

unloading imported stones from morning to evening. "We work very hard, but our paid wage is too insufficient to maintain our families or educate our children," he added.

"We cannot think of saving a single taka for the future from our little earning," said Anwarul Islam, 52.

Rawshan Ali, 35, said they get healthcare support from their organisation but it is not sufficient. Loading and unloading stones is very risky, he said, adding that they are paid by the loading-unloading contractor.

"Of course, we would not continue this work at low wage if we had an alternative job opportunity," said Shamsul Islam, 46, a 'no work, no pay' basis labourer. He demanded Tk 60 as wage for loading and unloading one tonne of goods.

"We are communicating with the land port

authorities and the contractor for increasing our wages," said labour leader Safar Uddin, adding that he hoped the authorities concerned will take steps in this regard considering the humanitarian aspect.

Patgram Upazila Parishad chairman, also convener of Clearing and Forwarding Agents in the land port, Ruhul Amin Babul told this correspondent that he talked about this matter with the labourers and the contractor but he did not get any complaint from the labourers over their daily wage. "If I get any complaint over the labourers' wages, I will of course talk with the contractor and land port authorities to find a solution," he added.

Burimari Land Port Authority Deputy Director Maniruzzaman Manir said loading-unloading labourers in the land port are paid wages properly according to agreement.

Three-month ban on fishing in Kaptai lake from today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

The three-month yearly ban on fishing in the Kaptai lake takes effect from today.

Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation (BFDC) has issued letters informing the local administration and others concerned of the matter.

Every year, the authorities enforce the ban for three months from May 1 to July 31, banning all kinds of netting, marketing, preserving, drying and transport of fish from the lake during the period, BFDC officials said.

As many as 19,476 fishermen, who earn their livelihood by fishing in Kaptai lake, have been brought under a VGF (vulnerable group feeding) programme. Under it, each fisherman family will get 30 kg of rice per month during the period.

"During the ban period, we will conduct drives to bring to book those who will be found fishing in the lake. A naval police team will patrol around the lake to prevent illegal fishing," said Md Assaduzzaman, manager of BFDC, Rangamati.

Workers' welfare centre needs own welfare

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Srama Kalyan Kendra, set up in 1981 for the welfare of working class people, fails to do good for its stakeholders as it is beset with many problems.

It is a support centre under the Ministry of Labour and Employment in Saidpur town.

The two-storied building of the centre is supposed to run for 20,000 workers in the town for providing services like training, medical facilities, cultural activities, indoor and outdoor games facilities and books in own library.

Here, most labourers work in railway workshop, BSCIC industrial estate, and privately owned small engineering factories, also in communication sectors and in thirty other trades.

During a visit to the centre yesterday, this correspondent found that the medical officer (MO), appointed recently after 20 years, was busy treating patients.

It was also seen that eight officials are engaged here but all except the MO and pharmacist are passing time in gossiping as no labourer was present to avail other services.

The spacious hall room-cum training centre which is also used as reading room or for indoor games, was also seen empty without any stakeholder, although chairs and tables are kept there.

Shahinur Islam, labour welfare organiser of the centre, said it has a 24-inch TV, daily newspapers and different kinds of books for reading and also has musical instruments and indoor games and volleyball equipment.

During the visit, it was also found that musical instruments and indoor games equipment are either not in use or broken and kept uncared for and there was no space for playing volleyball on the campus.

Shahinur claimed that 20-25 stakeholders visit here daily for taking part in

40-DAY JOB-SCHEME

Workers unpaid for Farmers Bank's liquidity crisis

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Six hundred and thirty-one poverty-stricken workers of 40-day job-scheme (first phase) in 2017-2018 fiscal year in Islampur upazila are suffering a lot as their due wages were not paid by a private bank tagged with a schedule bank due to liquidity crisis of the bank.

The job-scheme started on December 30 last year and ended on February 22, sources said.

The upazila administration opened a supportive 'child account' with Farmers Bank's Islampur branch under a mother account of Sonali Bank to facilitate the workers to withdraw their wages from the bank, said Mehedi Hasan, project implementation officer (PIO).

Three hundred and seventy-four workers, including 124 women, under nine projects in Noarpara union and 257, including 85 women, under three projects of Sapdhari union were employed for 40 days in repairing earthen roads for daily wage of Tk 200 each, said Mehedi.

Farmers Bank got the workers' accounts opened individually by December, by which each of them was eligible to withdraw his/her wage of Tk 8,000 in two installments.

The bank deposited Tk 50.48 lakh for the payment of 631 workers in its 'child account' from the 'mother account' of Sonali Bank, said Farmers Bank Manager Jamil Ahmed.

As a first installment of 20-day-job, the bank was asked to pay Tk 14.96 lakh among 374 workers of Noarpara in mid-March and Tk 10.28 lakh among 257 workers of Sapdhari union by first week of April, but it is still unable to pay the money to the beneficiaries, alleged the PIO.

Asked, the manager said the bank is unable to provide the money to the workers as it has been suffering a liquidity crisis for several months.

"We have already informed the bank's higher authorities of the problem. The authorities said they will resolve the issue within a month," he added.

Several workers including Ubir Uddin, Aklima Begum, Madhu Mandol, and Basiran Begum expressed their concern over delay in payment by the bank. They are in great need of money and facing problems to maintain their families, said the workers.

Man to die for killing neighbour

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A court here yesterday sentenced a man to death for killing his neighbour at Birhali village in Pirganj upazila in 2015.

The convict is Azim Uddin, 50, son of late Selim Uddin of the village.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Md Haydar Ali also fined Azim Tk10,000.

According to the prosecution, Abdul Khalek had a longstanding dispute with neighbour Azim Uddin over a land.

A group of people led by Azim Uddin went to the land on June 4 in 2015.

As Abdul Khalek's brother Abdul Malek resisted them, Azim Uddin hacked Malek and he died at Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

Later, the victim's brother filed a murder case with Pirganj Police Station.

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY Treatment stops as van inoperative

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Free treatment to the people with disability in the district has stopped as the mobile rehabilitation van went out of order over a month ago.

Jatiya Protibondhi Unnayan Foundation (National Disabled Development Foundation) has been providing treatment to the people with disability free of cost since January 1 in 2017.

Around 2,000 people with disability received treatment from the mobile van since the service started, said Nayan Moni Biswas, Disabled Affairs Officer of the Foundation.

"We have written to the authorities concerned for allocation to repair the van," he said.

Service was provided mainly in remote areas of Dumki, Kalapara, Kuakata and Galachipa upazilas, he said, adding that the van would stay for three days in each place.

It is very convenient for disabled people as they can get treatment at a place near their homes, Nayan said.

"We have also been providing treatment from our office in College Road area in the town since June 13 in 2013," he said, adding that around 25,000 disabled people received treatment from there.

"We also provide medicines to the patients free of cost," Nayan said.

"We have eight members in our staff, including a physician," he said.

Bangladesh Tea Board

171-172, Baizid Bostami Road
Nasirabad, Chittagong

“বেশি বেশি চা পান করুন।
স্বাস্থ্য সুন্দর সতেজ রাখুন”।

“বেশি বেশি লিকার চা পানে
ক্যাপ্সার, হৃদরোগ হার মানে”।

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Consulting Firm

01.	Ministry/division	Ministry of Commerce.		
02.	Agency	Bangladesh Tea Board (BTB).		
03.	Procuring entity name	Bangladesh Tea Board (BTB).		
04.	Expression of interest for selection of	Consulting firm, Lump sum.		
05.	Invitation Ref No. & date	26.09.0000.104.14.04117-116; Date: 30/04/2018.		
06.	Procurement method	Quality Cost Based Selection (QCBS).		
07.	Budget and source of funds	Bangladesh Tea Board's own fund.		
08.	Project/programme name	Construction of "Bangabandhu Cha Bhaban" modern 30-Storeyed Building.		
09.	EOI closing date, time & submission place	17/05/2018 on 12:10pm; Bangladesh Tea Board, Head Office, 171-172, Baizid Bostami Road, Nasirabad, Chittagong.		
10.	Brief description of the assignment	The services must be included but not limited to: (a) Assess functional and architectural needs of "Bangabandhu Cha Bhaban" and Information Exchange Meeting (IEM) or Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with BTB management personnel regarding different utilities and floor space; (b) Carry out digital topographic survey for capturing Site-Plan and surrounding features; where the consultant may propose alternative options resulting optimum benefit for BTB; (c) Prepare Visionary Plan for present and future infrastructure requirement for "Bangabandhu Cha Bhaban" including soil test report; (d) Prepare the work schedule (Gantt Chart) for monitoring the implementation progress of the works; (e) Prepare and present models showing different present and future options; (f) 3D-Visualization and animation from GIS; (g) Carry out detail design: Architectural (also with fire fighting system, car parking, furniture lay-out plan etc), Structural, electromechanical, electrical (also with intercom, CC TV system, telephone line, calling bell, internet, security alarm system, dish connection etc), & Plumbing, interior design, acoustics design i.e. all facilities required for the proposed commercial building; (h) Prepare technical specifications, BOQ, calculation sheet of BOQ, tender document with contractual random supervision; (i) Submission of all drawings in printed form at least 05 sets along with soft copy.		
11.	Experience, resources & delivery capacity required	(i) The EOI must contain information demonstrating that they are qualified to perform the services delineated above. Criteria of evaluation of the EOI shall include: (i) Management Competence- information such as the age, legal status, reputation, organizational structure, and financial and managerial capability of the firm or the consortium shall be assessed to judge their competence; (ii) Technical Competence- the EOI should summarize the diversified experience of the firm (or combined experience of the consortium) supported by project sheets, which should be annexed to the EOI; (iii) HR Competence- the EOI should demonstrate the availability of "Bangabandhu Cha Bhaban" of qualified and experience engineers and logistic support with the firm; (iv) All legal documents regarding the business.		
12.	Other details	Interested firms shall submit Expression of Interest (EOI) to the BTB within the given time frame. The EOIs will be evaluated according to the Provisions of the Public Procurement Rules-2008 guidelines. They should have proven track records of management and financial solvency.		
13.	Phasing of services	Location	Indicative start date	Indicative completion date
	Consultancy services for design & supervision of construction of "Bangabandhu Cha Bhaban" Modern 30-Storeyed Building	111-113, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000	01 July, 2018	30 June, 2023
14.	Name, designation & address of the official inviting tender	Mohammad Nurullah Noor, Secretary, Bangladesh Tea Board, 171-172, Baizid Bostami Road, Nasirabad, Chittagong; Ph. 031-682096, Fax: 031-682863, E-mail: secretarybtb1@gmail.com, Website: www.teaboard.gov.bd		
15.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all EOIs without assigning any reason.			

Secretary
Bangladesh Tea Board

GD-1180

Motherly care for an abandoned newborn

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The abandoned newborn baby, rescued from a stray dog at Korra Kawaljani village in Mirzapur upazila four weeks ago, is being nurtured at the home of SM Mizanul Haque, officer-in-charge (OC) of Mirzapur Police Station, after its release from hospital on April 22.

Naming him "Noor Nabi", Rezwana Haque, wife of the OC, is nurturing him with motherly affection.

"Several childless couples have already showed keen interest to adopt the baby boy and we are waiting for the decision from the Child Court in Tangail for handing over him to a suitable couple for adoption," the OC said.

Madrassa teacher Humayun Kabir of Korra Kawaljani village under Warshi union rescued the newborn, wrapped in a polythene bag, when a dog was dragging it away, into a bush around 5:45am on April 4.

Informed, Mirzapur police admitted the baby to Kumudini Hospital.

After failing to find the baby's parents, police on April 5 applied to the Judicial Magistrate's Court in Tangail for getting an order about the matter, the OC said.

"The court on April 6 ordered



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Rezwana Haque, wife of Mirzapur Police Station Officer-in-Charge SM Mizanul Haque, feeds Noor Nabi at their home. The newborn was rescued from a stray dog in Mirzapur upazila on April 4.

the law enforcers to provide necessary treatment to the newborn, keeping him at the hospital.

"On April 12, Mirzapur police informed the court that Dr Moynul Hossain and Dr Farhana Afroz of the child department of the hospital gave a certificate to the police, mentioning that the baby can be discharged from the hospital.

"Later, the court informed the law enforcers that the matter was sent to the Child Court in Tangail for getting an order in this regard.

"On April 22, the baby was taken to Mirzapur Police Station and then to our home after doctors requested us to take the baby from the hospital for providing him home care," the OC said.

Mysterious death of madrasa girl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhalakathi

The body of a female madrasa student was found hanging from a tree in Charakhali village under Rajapur upazila on Sunday morning.

The deceased was identified as Rakhi Moni, 12, daughter of Abdul Khalek Howlader of Bodnikathi village. She was a Class VI student at Pashchim Charakhali Alim Madrasa, said Rajapur Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Md Shamsul Arefin.

Rakhi was staying at her grandmother's house in Charakhali as her parents work in a garments factory in Dhaka.

Locals saw the body hanging from a tall tree near the house and informed the police.

"Rakhi was the first girl in her class and was very polite," said Rakhi's aunt Tamanna Aktar, adding that Rakhi slept beside her after taking dinner on Saturday night.

Police do not know whether it was murder or suicide, but everything will be clear after autopsy, the OC said, adding that the body was sent to Jhalakathi Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy after preparation of inquest report.