

Ensure fair price of tea leaves in N dists

Growers place set of recommendations at Thakurgaon meet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Small-scale tea growers of Panchagarh, Thakurgaon and Dinajpur have demanded effective steps for ensuring fair price of green tea leaves in the northern districts.

In a view exchange meeting with the stakeholders of tea sector at the Thakurgaon Deputy Commissioner's (DC) office on Monday, tea growers alleged that they had to sell the produce for very low prices this year due to manipulation by a syndicate of local tea factory owners.

Maj Gen Md Shohail Hossain Khan, chairman of Bangladesh Tea Board, attended as chief guest at the meeting with Thakurgaon DC KM Kamruzzaman Selim in the chair.

The tea growers demanded establishing a state-owned tea factory in the district with allocation of subsidy, setting up an auction centre for processed tea and arranging experienced and skilled manpower at the Tea Board's zonal office at Panchagarh to ensure fair prices of the item.

This year the tea growers incurred huge losses due to low price, said Abu Shahin, general secretary of Baliadangi Upazila Tea Welfare Association.

"In the beginning of tea plucking season in mid-March, a kg of tea leaves sold for Tk 35 to Tk 38. But after only two weeks the price started falling and tea growers had to sell green tea leaves for Tk 8 to Tk 14 a kg during the last five months.

"Last year I got Tk 9.5 lakh by selling tea from my 5.5-acre tea garden while I can hardly expect Tk 1 lakh this year. To keep the prices stable, a committee should be formed, comprising officials of district administration and tea board, growers and factory owners," Shahin said.

Uday Ram Sing, 45, who has grown tea on a five-bigha land in Baliadangi, said, "We are in a fix after making tea gardens. While we are not getting fair price, it is not easy to resume cultivation of former crops on the land."

Setting up of a state-run tea factory and an auction house is needed to save the northern region's promising tea industry as well as those who have made tea gardens on the lands earlier used for other purposes, said Md Awal Khan, 55, of Birganj upazila of Dinajpur.

Maj Gen Md Shohail Hossain Khan urged the growers to pluck tea leaves following instructions of experts so that the quality of the processed tea does not fall.

"We will send a proposal to the authorities concerned for setting up a state-owned tea factory in the northern region," he said.

About 5,692 acres of land in Panchagarh and 742 acres in Thakurgaon have been brought under tea cultivation.

This season's production will be over one crore kg against the target of 90 lakh kg, said Dr Mohammad Shamim Al Mamun, senior scientific officer and project director of Northern Bangladesh Project under Bangladesh Tea Board in Panchagarh.



PHOTO: STAR

The play and exercise class, facilitating exploration and experiment with educational toys and physical therapy apparatus, brings smile to learners of BLOOMS at Katigram in Manikganj Sadar upazila. Inset, the exterior of the school for students with special needs, founded by late police official Mohammad Rabiul Karim.

BLOOMS keeps Rabiul's dream alive

ZAHANGIR SHAH, Manikganj

As the morning sun flooded the brightly painted room of BLOOMS specialised school, Tanzila Akhter, a teenager with hearing impairment, recited a prayer poem.

The verses perhaps reflected the gratitude her classmates felt towards the founder of the school Mohammad Rabiul Karim Kamrul, one of the police officials who lost his life trying to rescue the hostages during the 2016 Holy Artisan Bakery terrorist attack.

The late assistant commissioner (AC) of the Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police had established the Beaconing Light Organisation of Mankind and Society (BLOOMS) in 2011 at Katigram village in Manikganj Sadar upazila for children with disabilities.

After his demise on July 1, 2016, everyone was concerned about the fate of the institution.

Thanks to AC Rabiul's family members, specially, his wife Umme Salma and younger brother Shamsuzzaman Shams, this philanthropic organisation is still running and its students have increased from 36 to 44 in the last three years.

In June this year, the school managing committee erected a one storied building with a classroom, an exercise and playroom, and an office room with donations from a Non-Government Organisation (NGO).

President of the 15-member committee GR Shawkat Ali said they registered the institution as a non-profit, charity with the Social Welfare Ministry on July 16, 2016.

Since 2017, they have started providing midday meal, he added.

"About Tk 70,000 is required per month to run the school now," he stated, adding that the fund mostly comes from financial



AC Rabiul Karim

donation from well-wishers.

The school recently purchased educational materials, classroom furniture and equipment needed for therapy of the students with physical disabilities with Tk 5 lakh donation from the Prime Minister's Office, informed Rabiul's younger brother Shamsuzzaman Shams.

He related Rabiul's dream about the school that the visionary man had built on 21 decimals of land donated by their mother. "My brother wanted to build an on-campus residential building for the students, a hospital and an old-home," he reminisced. "However, we are now struggling to hire and pay teachers and staff required to run the organisation," he said.

Currently, BLOOMS has two teachers, a physiotherapist, a cook and an accountant, informed Jahangir Alam, the school's administrative director and also head teacher.

"The two teachers are trained in sign language and one of them is also a speech therapist," he added.

Out of the 44 students, aged between five and 20 years, 23 are female and 21 male, stated the head teacher, adding that majority of the students have hearing and speech impairment.

One of the teachers, Shamima Nasreen Shaon, told this correspondent last Wednesday during a visit, that she works in BLOOMS to make Rabiul's dream come true.

"I am happy that I can work for the disadvantaged children of the society. I don't bother about the pay," she said.

Physiotherapist Arabinda Sarker said, "I try my best to help the children amid all the limitations of the school, in terms of facilities."

Five-year-old Rakib's mother Aleya Begum of neighbouring Keshti village is very happy with the progress of her physically-challenged son at BLOOMS.

"The treatment my son gets here for

land to fund the school and make it sustainable is currently running in a small scale. The money generated by the project is not enough to cover the expenses of the school, he added.

To add to their problem, the one kilometre mud road that leads to the institution is also in a bad shape and needs repair.

"It becomes difficult to bring the children with disabilities on the school van using this road," he noted, hoping the authorities will take care of the issue.

Both Shamsuzzaman and Rabiul's wife Umme Salma feels that the government needs to step in to secure the school's future.

Thanking the PM for giving her the job of administrative officer at Jahangirnagar University (JU), the mother of two children, expressed her thoughts about the issue.

"My husband sacrificed his life for the country. It is the government's responsibility to keep his dream alive. If the government does not take responsibility then it will not be possible to keep BLOOMS going," she said.

"I love the children of the school the same way I love my son Sajidul Karim Sami, 8, and daughter Kamrun Nahar Rayna, 3. If God is willing, I will overcome all obstacles to protect my husband's dream for the rest of my life," she added.

Umme Salma lives with her two children and Rabiul's mother Karimunnessa at JU campus.

AC Rabiul was Karimun and late Abdul Malek's elder son. Upon passing the 30th BCS examinations after completing his Master's in Bangla literature from JU, he joined the police service.

At heart, Rabiul was a social worker. Besides, BLOOMS, in 2007, he also established a kindergarten in his village, the Kabi Nazrul Bidyasiri, fulfilling a dream of his late father.

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999 saves new mother

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

A woman, who had excessive bleeding after giving birth to a baby in a running train on Monday, is stable now, as she got necessary medical treatment following a call to emergency helpline number 999.

Abdul Wadud, assistant director of Bogura Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital, confirmed it.

Nabia Begum, 30, wife of day labourer Md Shakmal Hossain of Lalmonirhat's Kaliganj upazila, along with her family members were returning home from Dhaka by Lalmonirhat Express.

Shakmal said his wife felt severe labour pain around 2:00am on Monday.

"There was no doctor in the train. Even nobody came forward to help us. Around 2:30am, my wife gave birth to a male child through vaginal delivery. Soon after giving birth to the baby, Nabia had excessive bleeding. At the time, a passenger or a constable of Government Railway Police called helpline number 999 seeking help" said Shakmal.

"When we reached Bogura railway station, firefighters took us to the hospital," he said.



The colourful concrete blocks painted by students at the Payra river embankment in Paler Baliatoli area of Barguna. Inset, a few of the students who took part in painting the embankment.

PHOTO: STAR

Students touch up Payra with paint

M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL, Jhalakathi

When students of their age usually spend their weekend playing games or hanging out with friends or family, twelve students in Barguna town made it their mission to use their spare time to bring colour in people's lives.

They have been doing so every Friday by literally adding colours to concrete blocks on the embankment of the Payra river in Paler Baliatoli area, thirty kilometres away from their home town.

Inch by inch, the youngsters are covering the dull concrete blocks of the two-kilometre-long embankment with blue, yellow, green and red paints in a specific pattern, giving a lively tone to the river bank.

One of them is Fehat Fakhruul Ishti, an eleventh grader at Barguna Govt College.

"At first my family was reluctant to allow me to go to the river bank. But after seeing how beautiful the river bank has turned out to be, they said they were proud of me," Fehat said smiling.

Barguna Polytechnic Institute student Kazi Inshak Anam said, "I usually play games on cell phone

or watch TV when I'm at home on Fridays. My parents were supportive of me when I asked for their permission to do something different."

Every Friday morning, the students head out to the river bank with paints and paint brushes provided by Arif Khan, who started running several businesses in the town after finishing his education in the UK.

Arif also founded voluntary organisation 'Sabuj Barguna' that plants trees alongside roads and at different institutions in the town.

Before painting a concrete block, they have to first scrub off the moss from the surface and wipe off the dirt, Arif said.

After working there on three different days, they painted a stretch of about seven hundred metres of the embankment and planted sixty banyan trees along the embankment.

"Since all the youngsters are volunteers and students of schools and colleges, we will work only on Fridays," and the way the work is going on, paintwork on the entire embankment might be finished in a short time, he also said.

"We are doing it to convey a message to all that many things around us could be beautified, only if we paid a little attention to those. We wanted to draw the attention of the local administration on such spots in Barguna district. Arif said, adding that if the administration sincerely intends to, many places in Barguna can be turned into nice tourist attractions.

Local resident Shah Alam said it was unimaginable that a place like that could wear such a colourful look. The villagers are thankful to the students who decorated a part of their village that is now drawing many visitors.

Barguna Deputy Commissioner Mustain Billah said being inspired by the beautification work of the students, the district administration has decided to take over and complete the remainder of the paintwork of the embankment with government funding and a committee was formed for the development of the place.

Also, he has already given directives to install five solar lamps along the beautified part of the embankment, he added.

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ঢাকা, তারিখ: ২৪/১১/১৯

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১.	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	সংস্কৃতি বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়			
২.	সংস্থা	প্রস্তুত্ব অধিদপ্তর			
৩.	ক্রমকারী	সহপরিচালক, প্রস্তুত্ব অধিদপ্তর			
৪.	ক্রমকারীর জেলা	ঢাকা			
৫.	দরপত্রের বিষয়বস্তু	রাসায়নিক দ্রব্য ও মালামাল, আনুষংগিক মালামাল, কর্মচারীদের দাপ্তরিক পোষাক সরবরাহ এবং আউটসোর্সিং জনবল সরবরাহকারী কোম্পানী নিয়োগ।			
৬.	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং ও তারিখ	নং-৪৩.২৩.০০০০.১২৩.০৭.০১৮.১৯.তারিখ: ২৪-১১-২০১৯ খ্রিঃ।			
৭.	ক্রয়ের পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি			
৮.	বাজেট এবং তহবিলের উৎস	গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার			
৯.	দরপত্রের প্যাকেজ নং	০১/২০১৯-২০২০			
১০.	দরপত্রের প্যাকেজের নাম	রাসায়নিক দ্রব্য ও মালামাল, আনুষংগিক মালামাল, কর্মচারীদের দাপ্তরিক পোষাক সরবরাহ এবং আউটসোর্সিং জনবল সরবরাহকারী কোম্পানী নিয়োগ।			
১১.	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশনার তারিখ	২৭-১১-২০১৯ খ্রিঃ			
১২.	দরপত্র তফসীল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	২৭-১২-২০১৯ খ্রিঃ			
১৩.	দরপত্র তফসীল জমা দেয়ার শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১৮-১২-২০১৯ খ্রিঃ, দুপুর- ১২.০০ ঘটিকা।			
১৪.	দরপত্র তফসীল খোলার শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১৮-১২-২০১৯ খ্রিঃ, বিকাল- ০৪.০০ ঘটিকা।			
১৫.	অফিসের নাম ঠিকানা	প্রস্তুত্ব অধিদপ্তর,এফ-৪/এ, আগারগাঁও প্রশাসনিক এলাকা, শেরেবাংলানগর, ঢাকা।			
১৬.	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের ঠিকানা	প্রস্তুত্ব অধিদপ্তর,এফ-৪/এ, আগারগাঁও প্রশাসনিক এলাকা, শেরেবাংলানগর, ঢাকা।			
১৭.	দরপত্র তফসীল জমা দেয়ার ঠিকানা	(১) সংস্কৃতি বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়, ভবন নং-৬,(১০ তলা),বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা। (২) প্রস্তুত্ব অধিদপ্তর,এফ-৪/এ, আগারগাঁও প্রশাসনিক এলাকা,শেরেবাংলানগর,ঢাকা। (৩) লালবাপু দুর্গ জাদুঘর, প্রস্তুত্ব অধিদপ্তর, লালবাপু, ঢাকা।			
১৮.	দরপত্র খোলার ঠিকানা	প্রস্তুত্ব অধিদপ্তর,এফ-৪/এ, আগারগাঁও প্রশাসনিক এলাকা, শেরেবাংলানগর, ঢাকা।			
১৯.	প্রাক দরপত্র সভার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	প্রযোজ্য নয়			
২০.	দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণের যোগ্যতা	টি.ডি.এস. অনুযায়ী।			
২১.	পদের সংক্ষিপ্ত বর্ণনা	রাসায়নিক দ্রব্য ও মালামাল, আনুষংগিক মালামাল, কর্মচারীদের দাপ্তরিক পোষাক সরবরাহ এবং ১৬ জন আউটসোর্সিং জনবল সরবরাহকারী কোম্পানী নিয়োগ।			
২২.	দরপত্র তফসীলের মূল্য, জামানত ও স্থানের বিবরণ				
লট নং	বিবরণ	স্থান	দরপত্র তফসীলের মূল্য	নিরাপত্তা জামানত	কার্য সম্পাদনের সময়
১।	রাসায়নিক দ্রব্য ও মালামাল সরবরাহ কাজ	প্রস্তুত্ব অধিদপ্তর,এফ-৪/এ, আগারগাঁও প্রশাসনিক এলাকা, শেরেবাংলানগর, ঢাকা	১,০০০/-	১০,৫০০/-	২৮ দিন
২।	আনুষংগিক মালামাল সরবরাহ কাজ	-ঐ-	১,০০০/-	১১,০০০/-	২১ দিন
৩।	কর্মচারীদের দাপ্তরিক পোষাক তৈরি ও সরবরাহ কাজ।	-ঐ-	১,০০০/-	৬,৫০০/-	২৮ দিন
৪।	১৬ জন আউটসোর্সিং জনবল নিয়োগের জন্য জনবল সরবরাহকারী কোম্পানী নিয়োগ	-ঐ-	১,০০০/-	২২,৮০০/-	২৮ দিন
২৩.	বিশেষ শর্তাবলী				
ক) কর্তৃপক্ষ সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।					
খ) অনিবার্য কারণবশত দরপত্র তফসীল বিক্রয়, জমা ও খোলা নির্ধারিত তারিখে সম্ভব না হলে তৎপরবর্তী কার্য দিবসে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।					
গ) এই ক্রয়ের ক্ষেত্রে পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা-২০০৮ প্রযোজ্য হবে।					

(গাজী মোস্তাফিজ-উল-হক)
যুগ্মসচিব
উপপরিচালক (প্রশাসন)।