

CENTURY-OLD PAYMENT STRUCTURE IN SANSKRIT COLLEGES

A principal gets only Tk 149.50 per month

S DILIP ROY

Principals, pandits and employees associated with Sanskrit Colleges are living inhumane lives because of a meagre salary.

Although it may sound astonishing, a Sanskrit college principal gets a monthly salary of Tk 149.50 whereas the pandit of the institution gets the same salary and the office assistant gets only Tk 65. This salary structure in Bangladesh Sanskrit College has not been revised for ages.

Each Sanskrit College has a principal, two pandits and an office assistant. According to the government rule, the principal, scholar and office assistant of Sanskrit Colleges must withdraw their salary from Sonali Bank.

There are two Sanskrit colleges in Lalmonirhat and three in Kurigram.

A total of 110 Sanskrit colleges across the country in Bangladesh teach Kabya Byakaran Teertha, Veda, Purana, Astrology and Ayurveda. Each subject is taught for three years--Adya (Beginning), Madhya (Middle) and Upadhi (Degree). The minimum educational qualification for studying in a Sanskrit College is SSC. Around 400-1200 students are studying in each Sanskrit college.

Bipin Chandra Roy, principal of Baidderbazar Sanskrit College in Rajarhat upazila of Kurigram, said that it is hard to believe that a principal and a pandit get a monthly salary of Tk 149.50 which has to be withdrawn from Sonali Bank.

"It costs me Tk 80 to travel to the bank to raise a salary of Tk 149.50," he said.

Prior to joining as a Principal in 1990, he had been working as a pandit in this Sanskrit college.

Besides running the college, he has to work in his farm to run the family.

Bipin Chandra Roy demanded that the Ministry of Education think anew about the people associated with Sanskrit Colleges and take effective steps.

Bivatsu Roy, the pandit of the college, said that the government pays him Tk 149.50 a month, which is barely enough to buy a day's food.

'Even then, I have been teaching in the college for the sake of honour. I run my family by farming. I have been teaching in the college for a decade,' he said adding, 'We demand a new payment structure from the education ministry to eliminate the inequality in the payment.'

Manik Chandra Roy, an office assistant of the college, said that he gets a monthly salary of Tk 65. To withdraw a monthly salary of Tk 65, he has to spend Tk 80 to travel

to the bank "I have working here hoping that if our payment structure is changed ever, I will be able to run my family well," he said.

Paramananda Roy, the principal of Debirpat Sanskrit College in Aditmari upazila of Lalmonirhat, said that they have to live an inhuman life and it is officially recognised. They have been demanding for a change in their salary structure for a long time but to no avail. 'The salaries of the principals, scholars and staffs of Sanskrit colleges were fixed about 100 years ago and that structure is still in place,' he said.

Lalmonirhat District Education Officer Abul Kalam Azad said that he was aware of the matter. It is a matter for the Ministry of Education.

It is necessary to revise the salary structure of those associated with Sanskrit colleges, he said.



The entrance of Baidderbazar Sanskrit College in Rajarhat upazila of Kurigram.

PHOTO: STAR



Selim Tuhin displays some of the seedless lemon produced at his orchard in Jola Amedabad village of Jashore Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Sweet success of a jobless youth

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

While the coronavirus pandemic continues to cause havoc on different sectors including agriculture globally, an increased awareness of consuming vitamin C -- to fight the virus -- has helped a lemon farmer in Jashore become self-reliant.

In 2019, Right before the pandemic broke out in the country, unemployed youth Selim Tuhin -- son of late Rakib Uddin Biswas from Jola Amedabad village in Sadar upazila -- collected one thousand saplings of seedless lemon from Mymensingh and planted those on his four bighas of land.

He initially spent Tk 60 thousand on the saplings at the advice of one Abdul Berek Lal Dadu of Mymensingh, but Selim's monthly earnings now have reached between Tk 6 to 7 lakh.

Roughly ten thousand pieces of the lemon are now being plucked every day from his orchard and shipped out to different markets in Jashore as well as in Dhaka.

Before his seedless lemon cultivation took flight, the SSC graduate Selim had suffered losses in his previous business ventures and had been looking after ancestral property.

He recently extended his lemon orchard on to twelve bighas of land and prepared six more bighas to add to the orchard. He said he was planning to extend the orchard further on a total of one hundred bighas of land eventually.

The variety of the seedless lemon Selim

The fruit is juicier and its fragrance is more attractive than most other lemon varieties available in the market.

has been growing is called 'BINALEbu-1', which was released in 2016 by Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA).

Rafiqul Islam, chief scientist of Horticulture Division at BINA, said some of the best features of BINALEbu-1 are that the fruit is full of vitamin C and the plant produces fruit all year round.

The fruit is juicier and its fragrance is more attractive than most other lemon varieties available in the market.

The plant starts producing fruit ten to eleven months after planting and it bears fruit several times a year, the scientist said, adding that a plant bears around 250 to 300 fruits in each harvest season until it reaches 15 to 18 years of age.

Selim said he was also earning Tk 80 to Tk 100 from each sapling of BINALEbu-1, which he has been producing at his orchard using grafting method.

Making a lemon orchard with 120 saplings on one bigha land would need organic fertiliser only and the total cost would be around Tk 15 to 20 thousand, he also said.

FOLLOW-UP Five brokers held from hospital premises

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-8) in cooperation with the authority of Patuakhali Medical College Hospital arrested 5 brokers from the hospital premises yesterday.

The arrestees were later produced before a mobile court that fined four of them Tk 1,000 each, and sentenced another to seven days imprisonment, Lt Shahidul Islam, company commander of Rab-8, said.

Mentionable, the drive took place within couple of days after The Daily Star published a story news titled 'Patuakhali Medical College Hospital: Brokers, medical representatives, pvt ambulance staffers disrupting services' on Monday.

Two boys drown

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Two teenagers drowned while taking bath in a local waterbody in Kaliganj upazila.

The deceased are Siam Hossain, 13, son of Mithun Rahman, and Mahim Islam, 14, son of Majibur Rahman, of Sundrabhi village.

The incident took place in Tushbhandar union.

Police and fire service officials said four teenage boys s were taking a bath in Sundrabhi Beel on Saturday.

At one stage, they all got trapped in the sand under underneath the water.

Although two of them somehow managed to get to swam ashore, Siam and Mahim went missing.




Being informed, divers from local fire station rushed to the spot and rescued the missing boys after an hour of frantic search.

The two boys were immediately taken to Kaliganj Upazila Health Complex, where the doctors declared them dead.



A boat race was held in a local waterbody, known as Chapra Beel, at Basulia village in Tangail's Basail upazila on Saturday. Over 50,000 people from different areas enjoyed the traditional event, organised by Freedom Fighter Abdul Malek Smrity Foundation.

PHOTO: STAR

	Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Dhaka Transport Co-ordination Authority(DTCA) Road Transport Highway Division Ministry of Road Transport Bridges				
Invitation for Re-Tender					
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH					
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges Road Transport and Highways Division			
2	Agency	Dhaka Transport Co-ordination Authority (DTCA)			
3	Procuring Entity Name	Executive Director			
4	Procuring Entity Code	Not used at present			
5	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka			
6	Invitation for	Procurement of Secure Access Module (SAM) Card for Metro Rail Line-6			
7	Invitation Ref No	DTCA/ED/SAM Card			
8	Date	06-September-2021			
KEY INFORMATION					
9	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)			
FUNDING INFORMATION					
10	Budget and Source of Funds	Revenue Budget and GOB			
11	Development Partners (if applicable)	Not Applicable			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION					
12	Project / Programme Code (if applicable)	Not Applicable			
13	Project / Programme Name (if applicable)	Not Applicable			
14	Tender Package No.	GR1			
15	Tender Package Name	Procurement of Secure Access Module(SAM) Card for Metro Rail Line-6			
		Date			
16	Tender Publication Date	06-September-2021			
17	Tender Last Selling Date	03-October-2021 at 5.00 PM			
		Date			
18	Tender Closing Date and Time	04-October-2021 12.00 PM			
19	Tender Opening Date and Time	04-October-2021 12.30 PM			
20	Name & Address of the office(s)	Address			
	- Selling Tender Document (Principal)	Accounts & Finance Officer Dhaka Transport Co-ordination Authority(DTCA), Nagar Bhaban, 13th Floor, Phoenix Rd, Dhaka 1000			
	- Selling Tender Document (Others)	Not Applicable			
NO CONDITIONS APPLY FOR SALE, PURCHASE OR DISTRIBUTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS					
	- Receiving Tender Document	Dhaka Transport Co-ordination Authority(DTCA), Room No:1322,Nagar Bhaban, 13th Floor, Phoenix Rd, Dhaka 1000			
	- Opening Tender Document	Room No:1322, DTCA, Nagar Bhaban, 13th Floor,Phoenix Rd, Fulbaria, Dhaka 1000			
21	Place / Date / Time of Pre-Tender Meeting (Optional)	Per-tender meeting will not be held			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER					
22	Brief Eligibility and Qualification of Tenderer	(a) The minimum of years of general experience of the Tenderer in the supply of Goods and related services as Supplier shall be Two (2) years. Years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper (b) The minimum production capacity of Manufacturer of Goods is: 1000 nos. Secure Access Module(SAM) Card per year (d)The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e working capital or credit line(s) of the Tenderer shall be 32 Lac Taka.			
23	Brief Description of Goods	Secure Access Module(SAM) Card for Metro Rail Line-6			
24	Brief Description of Related Services	Not Applicable			
25	Price of Tender Document (Tk)	Tk. 1000.00 (One Thousand Taka)			
26	Lot No	Identification of Lot	Location	Tender Security Amount (Tk)	Completion Time in Weeks / Months
	1	Procurement of Secure Access Module(SAM) Card	Dhaka Co-ordination Transport Authority (DTCA), Nagar Bhaban, 13-14th Floor, Phoenix Rd, Dhaka 1000	Tk 1,00,000.00 (1 Lac Taka)	8 Weeks
27	Name of Official Inviting Tender		Khandakar Rakibur Rahman		
28	Designation of Official Inviting Tender		Executive Director		
29	Address of Official Inviting Tender		Nagar Bhaban, 13th Floor(East Block), Phoenix Rd, Fulbaria, Dhaka 1000		
30	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender		Tel: +88 02-9562686 Email: ed@dtca.gov.bd		
31	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all Tenders or annul the Tender proceedings				
 Khandakar Rakibur Rahman Executive Director Dhaka Transport Co-ordination Authority Nagar Bhaban, 13th Floor, Phoenix Rd, Dhaka 1000					
GD-1581					