

Curfew casts long shadow on low-income people

DIPANKAR ROY, *Khulna*

Shafiq Mandal, 65, who works as a porter and ticket broker at Sonadanga Bus Terminal in Khulna city, was seen sorting some rusted iron rods and bars at an abandoned car garage near the terminal on Friday noon.

Amid nationwide curfew over the past few days, he found no work to make ends meet and has been compelled to collect discarded metal pieces to sell as scraps.

"The terminal hardly had any passengers in the past few days due to curfew, so I had no work. Yesterday, I earned Tk 140 by selling scrap metal, but today [Friday], I won't probably be able to make more than Tk 80-90," he said.

Like him, almost all low-income people in Khulna city, including day labourers, hawkers, cobblers, rickshaw-pullers and vendors, have found themselves in dire straits amid the ongoing situation for over



PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Almost all low-income people in Khulna city have found themselves in dire straits amid the ongoing situation for over a week.

Like other times, day labourers were seen waiting at the city's Sat Rasta and Moilapota intersections on Friday and Saturday in the morning, looking for clients to hire them for work. However, even after waiting for more than four hours, less than half of them got any work.

a week and are passing their days with frustration and struggling to stay afloat.

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However, even after waiting for more than four hours, less than half of them got any work.

Homeowners are reluctant to engage in any kind of construction work amid the prevailing situation, said the workers.

Many workers and marginalised people were also seen at Khulna Rail Station and BIWTA Terminal sitting idle.

"After finding no work for a week, I

resorted to borrowing some money to buy essentials for my family of five and some lemons, which I have been selling in the Bastuhara kitchen market for the last three days. However, there are not many buyers on the market. So how am I going to earn anything in this situation?" lamented Rabiul Alam, a day labourer.

Hanif Gazi, 33, a construction worker from Haldar Para in Khalishpur, said he had to borrow Tk 1,300 from a relative to put food on the plate for his family of four as the construction work he was employed in has been suspended amid the curfew.

"How long can you survive with Tk 1,300? I need to find some work, but no one is hiring workers amid the curfew," he

added.

Al Amin Sheikh, 55, a rickshaw puller from Nayabati area, said he could not even earn a quarter of his usual daily income by pulling a rickshaw during the few hours when curfew gets relaxed.

Numerous other low-income and marginalised people shared similar plights with this correspondent.

Contacted, Kazi Aminul Haque, president of Khulna Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said daily wage earners have been the most adversely affected amid the ongoing situation.

He called upon the government as well as affluent members of society to come forward and help those affected.



With the help of a stick, Pushpa Rani plucking guavas from a tree in Bhimruli area of Jhalakathi yesterday. After collecting guavas, she stacks them on a boat and sails towards the floating market on Bhimruli canal. She sells the guavas for around Tk 500 per maund to traders there.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Guarantee easy accessibility to climate finance Says environment minister

UNB, *Dhaka*

Environment Minister Saber Hossain Chowdhury has called for the implementation of mechanisms that guarantee easy accessibility to climate finance for developing nations.

He highlighted the need for increased transparency in the allocation and distribution of these funds to ensure they effectively support the intended climate actions.

The minister said this while delivering a speech on the opening day of the two-day Head of Delegation retreat programme held in Shamakhii, Azerbaijan, on Friday.

The event, which brings together key international leaders, is focused on shaping the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance.

Furthermore, the minister underscored the importance of considering the unique needs of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the formulation of the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG).

He stressed the necessity of finalising a clear definition of climate finance, ensuring that it comprehensively covers adaptation, mitigation, and loss and damage.

The Head of Delegation programme commenced with an in-depth discussion on setting the scene for the NCQG, which is poised to replace the current USD 100 billion climate finance goal set by developed countries for developing nations after 2025.

COASTS IN BAGERHAT Solar power brings light, resilience

PARTHA CHAKRABORTTY, *Bagerhat*

In the coastal areas of Bagerhat's Kachua upazila, solar power has emerged as a boon for the people, especially amid natural disasters and routine power outages.

The renewable energy source has not only brightened homes in the villages of Sangdia, Afra, Sreerampur, Kalmibuniya, Mosni, and Bikul but also enabled residents to stay connected and maintain their daily activities without disruption.

"I purchased a solar panel and battery for Tk 20,000. During natural disasters, solar power helps us light our homes, recharge our mobile phones, torches, and even power banks. These devices are crucial for communication and safety in such critical times," said Mehedi Hasan Khan from Afra.

Echoing him, Bappi Debnath from Sreerampur noted that the use of solar power in these villages is not only a response to emergency situations but also a practical solution to daily challenges.

"Load-shedding is a common issue faced by rural people in summer. During power outages, the scorching heat is unbearable. Solar panels generate electricity

harnessing energy from the sun, allowing us to run fans and lights during power cuts. At night, the charged batteries provide us with the necessary power to keep our homes lit and comfortable," he said.

Embracing the use of solar power has transformed the lives of many in Kachua upazila towards enhanced sustainability.

Ashim Chakraborty from Sangdia said, "I received a solar panel from the government and later bought another for Tk 16,000. Solar power has revolutionised our lives. It's a cost-effective and eco-friendly solution to ensure that we are never left in the dark. The investment is worth every penny, given the long-term benefits."

Contacted, Rakhi Banerjee, upazila nirbahi officer of Kachua upazila, said, "At times of natural calamities, such as cyclones and storms, when conventional power grids are often the first to be affected, solar power systems remain largely unaffected, providing a steady source of energy."

The solar street lights in rural areas have also been incredibly useful, she added.

The UNO, however, expressed the need for renewed government support to distribute more solar power units in the coastal areas.

Security beefed up at Khulna jail

UNB, *Khulna*

Security has been tightened at Khulna District Jail considering the current situation in the country, including the recent attacks in Narsingdi jail.

"Surveillance has been increased in and around the jail while the leaves of all jail staffers have been cancelled," said Jail Superintendent Md Rafiqul Kader yesterday.

However, the jail authorities also suspended the visits of the relatives of the jail inmates, he said.

"Everyone is performing their duties continuously. Additional police have been deployed at the main gate of the jail," he said.

Security has been beefed up inside the jail and law enforcement agencies have been kept on alert, he added.

Currently, there are 1,421 prison inmates in the jail, against its capacity of accommodating 676 inmates.

JAMUNA BASIN FAO gives silo, cattle feed to 15,110 families

UNB, *Dhaka*

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations has distributed silos and cattle feed to families across five districts of Jamuna River basin to mitigate the impacts of monsoon floods.

The project aims to safeguard livelihoods, reducing the adverse effects of climate-related disasters.

As part of the project FAO, with the budget of nearly USD 600,000, is distributing silos for the safe storage of food grains, seeds, clean water and other valuable assets during the monsoon flood and 50 kilogrammes of ruminant concentrated feed to 15,110 vulnerable farming households engaged in livestock production.

PRAYER
TIMING

JULY 28

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JAMAAT 4:55 1:15 5:15 6:55 8:45

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বেনাপোল স্থলবন্দরের ১৩টি টয়লেট কমপ্লেক্স ও গোসলখানা ইজারা প্রদানের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ স্থলবন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষের আওতাধীন বেনাপোল স্থলবন্দরের ১৩টি টয়লেট কমপ্লেক্স ও গোসলখানা পরিচালনা ও রক্ষণাবেক্ষণের জন্য ইজারাদার নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে অগ্রাহ্য দরদাতাদের নিকট হতে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে

ক্রমিক নং	বিবরণ	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য	দরপত্র জামানত	ইজারার মেয়াদ
১.	বেনাপোল স্থলবন্দরের ১৩(তেরো)টি টয়লেট কমপ্লেক্স ও গোসলখানা।	২০০০.০০ (দুই হাজার)	মোট উদ্ধৃত দরের ৩ (তিন) শতাংশ	২(দুই) বছর

২। দরপত্র সিডিউল প্রাপ্তির স্থানঃ পরিচালক (ট্রাফিক) এর দপ্তর, হিসাব উপ-শাখা, বেনাপোল স্থলবন্দর, যশোর।

৩। দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়ঃ ১১/০৮/২০২৪ খ্রি অফিস চলাকালীন সময়।

৪। দরপত্র জমা প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়ঃ ১২/০৮/২০২৪ খ্রি, বেলা ১২:০০ টা।

৫। ইজারা দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের প্রকাশের তারিখ হতে (সরকারি ছুটি ব্যতীত) আগামী ১২/০৮/২০২৪ তারিখ দুপুর ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত পরিচালক (ট্রাফিক) এর কার্যালয়, প্রকৌশল উপ-শাখা, বেনাপোল স্থলবন্দর, বেনাপোল, যশোর এ নির্ধারিত ব্যক্তি দরপত্র জমা প্রদান করা যাবে এবং ডাকযোগে ও ইজারা দরপত্র জমা প্রদান করা যাবে। তবে, ডাকযোগের ক্ষেত্রে আবশ্যিকভাবে সরকারি ডাক/রেজিস্ট্রার্ড কুরিয়ার সার্ভিস এর মাধ্যমে প্রেরণ করতে হবে এবং তা নির্ধারিত সর্বশেষ তারিখ অর্থাৎ ১২/০৮/২০২৪ তারিখ দুপুর ১২:০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে অত্র দপ্তরে পৌঁছাতে হবে। নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময়ের মধ্যে ডাকযোগে প্রাপ্ত দরপত্রসমূহ রেজিস্ট্রার এন্ট্রির মাধ্যমে সংরক্ষণ করা হবে।

৬। নির্ধারিত টেন্ডার বক্স ও ডাকযোগে নির্ধারিত সময়ে প্রাপ্ত ইজারা দরপত্র সমূহ আগামী ১২/০৮/২০২৪ তারিখ বেলা ২:৩০ টার সময় উপ-পরিচালক (প্রশাসন), বেনাপোল স্থলবন্দর, যশোর এর সভাপতিত্বে উপস্থিত দরদাতা/প্রতিনিধির সম্মুখে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন) খোলা হবে।

৭। ইজারা প্রদানের শর্তাবলী ও তথ্যাদি দরপত্র সিডিউলে বর্ণিত আছে।

৮। কোন কারণ দর্শানো ছাড়াই কোন একটি বা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করে।

মো: রেজাউল করিম
পরিচালক (ট্রাফিক) অ: দা:
বেনাপোল স্থলবন্দর, যশোর
ফোন: ০২৪৭৭৭৯৫৬০১
ই-মেইল: benapolelandport@gmail.com

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