



## IRRI-Boro price poor, growers sad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

IRRI-Boro growers of Chuadanga and Faridpur districts are totally frustrated because of low price of their produce.

A bumper production of IRRI-Boro paddy has been achieved in four upazilas of Chuadanga district in this season. The upazilas are Chuadanga Sadar, Alamdanga, Damurhuda and Jibannagar.

The harvesting of paddy has already been completed in this district.

A total of 32,325 hectares of land had been brought under Boro cultivation in this district during this season as against the target of 29,500 hectares. An additional of 2,825 hectares of land had been brought under Boro cultivation in this district during this season against the target of 29,500 hectares.

According to Chuadanga district Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) office sources, during this season over 1.50 lakh metric tons of Boro paddy have been produced in the district during this season.

Both new IRRI-Boro paddy and rice are available in the market and the price of both new Boro paddy and rice are very low now. So, the cultivators are being deprived of fair price of their products.

The government has fixed a target to procure only 861 metric tons of paddy and 698 tons of rice during the current Boro procurement season from Chuadanga district. The procurement target is too meagre against the good production of Boro paddy.

Besides, the farmers will have to supply paddy only, while the government will purchase rice from the husking mill owners. As a result the farmers will not be benefitted.

Boro paddy is now being sold at local markets in Chuadanga between Taka 210 to 215 per maund which is below the production cost, while rice is being sold between Taka 440 to 460 per maund. On the other hand the government

procurement rate of paddy per maund is Taka 320 and that of rice is Taka 520.

According to the farmers, production cost of Boro paddy per maund is in between Taka 250 to 275. The procurement target needs to be increased, local farmers said.

**Our Faridpur Correspondent reports:** A bumper production of IRRI-Boro paddy has been achieved in the district in the current season. The farmers became very happy observing the good IRRI-Boro paddy production. But their joy diminished when they marketed their produce. To their utter dismay they found that the sale proceeds of one maund of paddy fall far behind its production cost.

The newly harvested IRRI-Boro paddy is being sold at different markets of the district at prices varying from Tk 200 to 230 a maund. This is much less than the production cost.

When contacted some farmers of Sadarpur and Banga upazilas told this correspondent that the cost of one maund of paddy varies from Taka 240 to 250 including labour prices. They said that they sustained a loss of nearly Tk 1400 to 1500 by growing IRRI-Boro paddy on one acre of land in the current season.

However, they opined that if labour cost is deducted from the total cost of production, a little profit is left for them.

According to the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) sources, 35,500 hectares of land had been brought under IRRI-Boro cultivation with a production target of 1,03,840 tons of paddy.

Sources opined that the production exceeded the target by five maunds of yields per acre.

## NEWS SNAPS

### Railway employee killed

UNB, *Natore*

A railway employee was killed at Ariamara railway bridge in Lalpur upazila of Natore district on Saturday.

The deceased was identified as Abdus Sattar, son of Tosiruddin Pramanik of Chamta village in Lalpur upazila and a guard of the Ariamara rail bridge. Police said some miscreants strangled Abdus Sattar to death and left the body after cutting the tendons of his hands and legs. Reason behind the gruesome murder could not be known. A case was filed.

### Man killed in conflict over sluice gate

UNB, *Narail*

A man was killed and three others were injured when attacked by a rival group following a conflict over construction of a sluice gate at village Char Ghonapara in Lohagara upazila of Narail district on Thursday.

The deceased was identified as retired army personnel Munshi Rafiqul Alam Lenin, 37. A conflict was on between Rafiq and Asraf Sheikh of the village over construction of the sluice gate on Char Shuchail canal. Witnesses said the rival armed group led by Asraf Sheikh, on the fateful day, attacked Rafiq and his three men when they were going to the nearby Tarail bazaar. Apprehending danger they took shelter at a nearby thatched house. At one stage the attackers set fire to the house and when Rafiq along with his men Mintu Munshi, Belauddin Munshi and Shamsu Fakir came out from the blaze they were attacked with lethal arms Rafiq died on the spot.

### Man stabbed to death

UNB, *Narayanganj*

A man was stabbed to death allegedly by his younger brother at West Masdarai area in Natore upazila of Narayanganj district Thursday.

Family and hospital sources said Momin, 22, a madrasa student, stabbed his elder brother Abdul Matin, 25, after he denied him money for buying phenisidyl syrup leaving him injured seriously. Momin was addicted to phenisidyl for long. Matin was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries on Thursday night. The killer brother went into hiding soon after the incident.

### Housewife commits suicide

UNB, *Joypurhat*

Following a family feud, a housewife hanged herself at village Chotahar Darki village in Sadar upazila of Joypurhat district Saturday.

Villagers said Nazu Begum, wife of Hafizuddin of the village, took her life hanging herself from the ceiling of their house. Meanwhile, three people were admitted to the Sadar upazila Tuesday after they took poison in their bids to commit suicide due to family feuds.

### Sunamganj border now a smuggling route

UNB, *Sunamganj*

Heavy arms and ammunition are being smuggled into the country almost everyday through different boarder point of Sunamganj district.

The smugglers' syndicate is storing arms and ammunition at Pekpara village in Doarabazar upazila. The safer routes of arms smuggling are: Pekpara-Bogla-Harnapati and Pekpara-Purba Banglabazar-Jahangirganj-Bilhara-Chittagong-Kalaruza-Sylhet and Dhaka. Most of the buyers of arms are members and cadres of political parties, musclemen extortions and influential businessmen of Dhaka, Chittagong and greater Sylhet region said a source close to a smuggling gang.

## Rickshaws create traffic jam in Jhenidah town

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Jhenidah*

Jhenidah town has become a town of rickshaws and rickshaw vans.

Rickshaws and rickshaw vans have been increasing in the town day by day. But most often rickshaw pullers do not abide by the rules and regulations of traffic. They park their three wheelers on roads haphazardly violating traffic rules resulting in creation traffic jams.

Most of the rickshaw pullers do not use lantern at night. As a result accident may occur at any time. None of them keep any fare chart with them. Usually they demand exorbitant fare which leads to quarrel with the passengers.

The existing number of rickshaws is at least 6,000 while the number of rickshaw vans is over 5,000. But the local municipal authorities show the number of rickshaws and rickshaw vans as 2,689 and 2,642 respectively in black and white. The figure should be changed, they said.

When contacted with Mosharrif Hossain Mosha, Chairman of



PHOTO: STAR

A view of a recent traffic jam at Jhenidah Post Office turning point because of violation of traffic rules by rickshaw pullers.

Jhenidah Municipality, he said to this correspondent that he had taken measures so that rickshaw pullers use lamps at night.

Moreover, he has introduced fare chart for the passengers so that

dishonest rickshaw pullers can not cheat innocent people.

The municipality chairman also informed that to check the increasing number of rickshaws in the town he has already served notice on the

owners so that they do not manufacture new rickshaw or rickshaw van in the town.

According to him, he has been trying to convince the rickshaw pullers to behave with passengers cordially and to park their rickshaws at the authorised parking points.

The municipal chairman also informed that they he has been thinking seriously about construction of overhead foot bridges at various points in the town to avoid traffic jams.

However, some rickshaw pullers alleged that actually there is no parking stand in Jhenidah town. Whenever a rickshaw puller stops his van by the roadside, members of the law-enforcing authorities allegedly beat him.

## Trafficking of girls, children up thru' S-W borders

UNB, *Bagerhat*

Trafficking of young girls and children has increased through the country's southwestern borders to India which is considered to be the human trading centre in Asia.

Thirty-seven girls and children have been rescued from the traffickers during the last five months and four traffickers were held.

Informed sources said about 50 girls and little boys are trafficked everyday across Sathkhira, Jessor, Chuadanga, Meherpur and Kushtia borders, collected by agents of international chain of traffickers from poverty-stricken remote villages with allurement of work and better life.

Rahima, 11, of Rampal, Bagerhat told that a woman took her to a border village along with a few others promising work in garment factory.

Good-looking Laboni, 12, was collected from Tala, Sathkhira and Matia, 13, from Bahargachhi with similar promise.

Shamim, a 9-year-old boy, was kidnapped from a village in Daulatpur and Al-Amin, 8, from Boira in Khulna. They were all rescued from the clutches of the traffickers before taking across the border.

Traffickers have transit camps along the borders where the children are fed well and given good dresses. They change hands at different places.

According to confessional statements of arrested traffickers, agents, including women, get Tk 2,000-3,000 for each child after reaching the transit camp. After crossing the border, traffickers get Tk 4,000-5,000 for a little boy and ranging up to Tk 10,000 for a young girl.

Informed sources said that after crossing the border, the young girls and little boys are taken to Delhi, Bombay, Pakistan and Middle East, where girls are engaged in flesh trade. Boys are mostly taken to the Middle East for use as camel jockey. People dealing in kidney, human skull and blood also offer high price for them.

On May 10, three children were rescued from Daulatpur. They were kidnapped from Bagerhat and Khulna. On April 20, three other children, who were picked up from remote villages, were rescued from Khulna and Sathkhira.

While taking across the Jessor border, 16 girls and little boys were rescued by police on April 20. Picked up from Bagerhat and Pirojpur, they were taken in a microbus destined to other side of the border. On April 2, four young girls were rescued from

Monirampur, Jessor.

Police arrested a trafficker from Mongla and four little boys were rescued from him on February 2. He admitted that the boys, picked up from Dhaka, were brought in a motor launch for trafficking across the border.

Bangladesh National Human Lawyers Association, in a bulletin, said 24,000 girls and boys were trafficked from Bangladesh in 16 months until April this year.

It was revealed in a recent workshop organised by the Centre for Human and Children Studies that 200,000 children were trafficked from Bangladesh during the last one decade.

A research report of Bangladesh Jatiya Mahila Ainjibi Samity (National Women Lawyers Association-BNWLA) claimed that 25,495 children are trafficked from Bangladesh every year.

**Man dies as robbers open fire in Sathkhira**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Sathkhira*

A man was shot dead while two others were injured when a gang of robbers opened fire on a group of villagers at Krishanagar under Kaliganj upazila in the district on Wednesday.

The villagers intercepted a microbus in which the robbers were travelling at dead of night. As the villagers challenged their movement, the armed men opened fire on them, killing Abdul Motlib on the spot. Other were admitted to hospital.

Villagers, however, captured the microbus (Dhaka Metro Chna-11-0015). Earlier, robberies were committed at the houses Sanyasi, Sattar, Monimohon, Moni Mondol of village Benadona Wednesday night.

## Fire kills one in Khagrachhari

BSS, *Khagrachhari*

A man was killed and 20 others were injured in a devastating fire at Baghaichari Bazaar in Khagrachhari district on Sunday night, fire brigade sources said.

The sources said about 350 shops of the bazaar were burnt to ashes in the fire. The fire originated from the kitchen of a restaurant at around 10 pm and lasted for more than three hours.

The Army personnel rushed to the spot and worked hard to bring the fire under control. Fire brigade squad from Khagrachhari also rushed to the place.