

Poor aman output frustrates farmers in Nilphamari

Paddy harvesting begins

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Aman paddy harvesting started here in a limited scale about a week back. But local farmers are frustrated due to its poor yield.

Because of moisture in field, full swing harvesting will be late by at least another week.

According to sources in district agriculture department, aman production is likely to fall short of target this year due to natural calamity and massive pest attack on paddy field. BR-11 and Sarna varieties of high yielding paddy are the worst sufferers, according to DAE Deputy Director (DD) AKM Sakhawat Hossain. He further told that farmers cultivated these varieties ignoring their advices. He revealed that pests attacked less than one per cent of paddy fields. He termed heavy rainfall and storms in October as a big blow in aman cultivation. He admitted that due to adverse situation, yield of paddy would fall to 2.30 metric tons instead of the target of 2.52 metric tons per hectare of land.

Farmers have apprehended that one third of the total yield would not be achieved this year.

Paddy on several hundreds of hectares of land have been badly affected due to attack of diseases like Sheath Blight, Sheath Rot, prolonged drought in August, besides heavy rainfalls in October and pest attack. Application of additional pesticides caused sharp rise in its production cost. Moreover, pesticides were either adulterated or of low standard. So, the pesticides did not come to any help to combat diseases. Attack of brown plant hopper pests on paddy fields just before paddy harvesting has caused

a blunder.

Nazrul Islam Modal, Plant Protection Specialist of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) told this correspondent that such insects are too tiny to be visible and develops in wet places. This year's weather was not favourable for aman farming, he said. Paddy plants died as the pests sucked paddy juice. The pests moved from one place to another

quickly in group.

Abul Hossain, a farmer at Singdoi village in Sadar upazila told this correspondent. Brown Plant Hoppers attacked paddy plants when rice was about to be formed. 'Cattle even did not eat straw of dried paddy plants', said Abul.

While visiting different villages like Rammagar, Charai Khola, Itakhola in Sadar upazila, Gayabari,

Balapara in Dimla upazila and Kasiram Belpukur in Syedpur upazila, this correspondent found standing aman on several hundred hectares of land had been damaged completely.

According to farmers, one bigha (30 decimals) of land yielded 15 to 16 maunds of paddy last year while this year the same land is likely to yield only 10 to 11 maunds of paddy.



PHOTO: STAR

Farmers harvesting aman paddy in Nilphamari. But its poor yield failed to bring smile in their faces this year.

Boro farming faces setback in Satkhira

Artificial seed crisis created by unscrupulous dealers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Boro farming is likely to be hampered in the current season due to acute seed crisis here.

Unscrupulous dealers have created an artificial seed crisis. But the authorities' indifference to tackle the situation has shattered the hopes and aspirations of local farmers.

Everyday several hundreds of farmers are seen thronging the seed sales centres of the Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC), but they are returning home empty handed. Some dealers are allegedly realising excessive prices. Although the selling price of a 10-kg packet of seed supplied by BADC is Tk 170, the dealers are selling it at between Tk 210 to 220.

According to sources in the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), it has taken up a programme to cultivate boro on about 49,200 hectares of land while the demand of 100 metric tonnes have been sanctioned for Satkhira.

On contact, BADC Assistant Director Liakat Hossain said, only 40 metric tonnes of seeds out of local demand of 100 metric tonnes have been sanctioned for Satkhira.

On contact, a reliable source in the office of the Deputy Director of the DAE said, dealers are getting commission at 13 per cent. So, they are supposed to sell seeds at the fixed price. If anyone is found to sell seeds at an exorbitant rate, they will be punished, the sources said.

seeds will be sold through sales centres at Satkhira Sadar and Kaliganj upazilas while 146 metric tonnes of seeds will be sold through 34 dealers in the district.

Farmer told this correspondent that surging waters from the Kobdak and incessant rainfalls have flooded a vast tract of land in Kalara, Tala, Sadar and Assasuni upazilas damaging standing aman crops. Now they are facing acute seed crisis at the advent of boro season.

Farmers alleged that a section of dealers are selling seeds at between Tk 210 to 250. At places dealers are allegedly cheating farmers by selling adulterated seeds.

On contact, BADC Assistant Director Liakat Hossain said, only 40 metric tonnes of seeds out of local demand of 100 metric tonnes have been sanctioned for Satkhira.

On contact, a reliable source in the office of the Deputy Director of the DAE said, dealers are getting commission at 13 per cent. So, they are supposed to sell seeds at the fixed price. If anyone is found to sell seeds at an exorbitant rate, they will be punished, the sources said.

SNAPS

Founding anniversary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

The sixth founding anniversary of weekly *Monu Barta* was celebrated here by holding a discussion on Thursday. The discussion, held at a local community centre, was presided over by editor and publisher Syed Abu Zafar Ahmed. Moulvibazar Deputy Commissioner Md Younusur Rahman attended the function as chief guest. The function was addressed, among others, by Moulvibazar Press Club General Secretary (GS) Prof Rajat Kanji Goswami, its former GS Sarwar Ahmed, Monu Barta News Editor Abdul Hamid Mahbub, Weekly Desh Darpan Editor Advocate Mujibur Rahman Muib, weekly Patukur Desh Editor Nurul Islam and daily Banglar Din Editor Bakshi Iqbal Ahmed.

Body of 'outlaw' recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police on Sunday recovered a body of a young man from Muijuni by-pass road in Khalishpur Thana. He was identified as Noor Islam, son of Mir Mohammad of Labchonore in Khulna Thana. On contact, DC Akbar Ali of Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) said Noor Islam was an armed cadre of Janajuddho faction of Purba Bangla Communist Party (PBCP) and an accused in several criminal cases. He died in a road accident while crossing the road. DC Akbar said refuting allegation that the outlaw was beaten to death by police as was alleged by his father.

School for Monipuri children

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A school of Monipuri Bishnupuria tribal language started functioning at Madhabpur Monipuri Lalitala Academy in Kamalganj upazila recently.

Sil Bangladesh, a foreign NGO working with indigenous people helped establish the school to teach Monipuri tribal children in their own language.

Nripendra Kumar Sinha, President of Monipuri Language Development Committee presided over the function while Raj Kanta Sinha, Headmaster of Madhabpur High School attended the opening function as the chief guest. A representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Netanil Taniz and Sil Bangladesh official Unistan were present at the function.

In her address, the NGO representative announced that more such schools would be established here by her NGO soon for teaching tribal children in Meithi and Khasia languages.

A large number of Monipuri women and children attended the function and expressed their satisfaction as their children will be able to learn in their own Bishnupuria language in this school.

Two held while selling VGF rice illegally

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bbaria

Two persons were arrested and 18 sacks of Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) rice seized by police from Shamogram village of Shamogram union in Nabinagar upazila on Thursday.

Nabinagar Thana Police also seized a boat.

According to police sources and villagers, Acting Chairman of Shamogram Union Parishad (UP) Md Shah Jahan and three other members Mizan, Md Mia and Monir Hossain misappropriated VGF rice and was selling it to a person at nearby Lauhuri village.

When they were loading 18 sacks of VGF rice in a boat from Shamogram UP at dead of night, local people caught the boatman, Shahin and buyer Sudar Mia along with the loaded boat. They informed the matter to police at Chalimgon Police Outpost.

Police arrested two persons and seized 18 sack of VGF rice and the boat.

Teen raped by ruling party 'hoodlums'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A 16-year-old unmarried girl belonging to the minority community was gang raped allegedly by ruling party 'hoodlums' at Kapashdanga village in Tula upazila on Sunday night.

Miscreants abducted the girl while she was asleep at dead of night on a veranda and took her to a nearby bush and raped her, according to police. Later, local people rescued her with a pool of blood and admitted her in Janata Clinic in the town. But she was compelled to leave the clinic in a serious condition as the ruling party miscreants threatened her to leave the clinic. They also forced the clinic authority to discharge the victim from the clinic.

GOOD GOVERNANCE

Community policing programme launched in Bogra

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A one-year pilot programme titled 'Community Policing Programme' was been launched here recently aiming at ensuring good governance, according to police sources.

Sponsored by the Asia Foundation, the programme was launched by Light House, a local NGO at a meeting held at Bogra Police Line Auditorium.

The programme was aimed at ensuring social justice by creating awareness among people about existing law of the country, human rights, justice and legal support of government to people, according to sources in Light House.

Presided over by Superintendent of Police (SP) Kazi Mortaz Ahmed, the launching programme was attended by local elite, besides social and political leaders.

The meeting was addressed, among others, by the Consultant of the Asia Foundation, Mirza Hasan, Project Adviser Shahjahan Kabir, Programme Officer Rakib Ahsan, former Principal of Bogra Mojibur Rahman Mohila Collage Habiba Begum, former Headmaster of Bogra Zila School Fazilul Rahman, former President of Bogra Chamber of Commerce and Industries Ajmud Hossain Tazma, District Awami League President Momotaz Uddin, Workers Party leader Shaleha Sultana, advocate Mir Iqbal, Dr Mostafa Alami Nannu, Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Aminul Islam, Executive Editor of The Daily Karotia Faruq Talukder and the Executive Director of Light House, Haroon-Ur-Rashid.



Kazi Mortaz Ahmed, Superintendent of Police (SP) of Bogra addressing the launching ceremony of a one year pilot programme, 'Good Governance through Community Policing' at a meeting held at the police line conference room in Bogra recently. Sponsored by the Asia Foundation, the programme was launched by a local NGO, Light House.

The SP in his address told the gathering that all classes of people and social leaders will be involved with community policing. He requested the people to make the programme a success.

Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) Bogra unit ensured free legal support to poor people in the project area which include 11 unions in Sadar upazila and 12 wards in Bogra Purasabha.

Light House sources said about four lakh people in Sadar upazila will be benefited through the programme. At the same time, the

law and order will be improved in the district decreasing the rate of crime including reduction in drug related crime, speakers told the meeting.

Community Policing Forum (CPF) will coordinate with district police for legal support and corporation. CPF committee will make social and political leaders including religious leaders aware about the programme and help find out local problems. It will also advise the authorities in solving the problems.

The Asia Foundation already started community policing in Jessor and Madaripur district.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Magura

Memo No. LGED/EE/MA/C-74/04-05/3051

Date-01/11/04

Invitation for Tender (IFT)

Tender Notice Number, 7/2004-05

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the eligible tenderers as defined in the tender documents for the undermentioned list of works as per terms and conditions stated below.

Package No.	Name of contract	Tender security (Tk)	Time for completion (days)	Price of tender documents (Tk)
Re-Seal				
1	a) Periodic Maintenance of Moghi UP (Moghidhal)-Raghobdar Bazar via Tiltarkhara Road (Chainage: 2050-3150) (MAGURA-S); b) Periodic Maintenance of Katakhali GC-Ichakhaba R&H via Raghobdar UP Office Road (Chainage: 12580-13280) (MAGURA-S); c) Periodic Maintenance of Pukuria Girls High School-Ballandanga Road (Chainage: 200-800m) (MAGURA-S);	16000.00	75	500.00
Other Road				
20	Periodic Maintenance of Rajpur GC-Ramdergati R&H Road (Chainage: 00-1500) (MAGURA-S);	18500.00	75	500.00
21	Periodic Maintenance of Alamkhali-Singra via Laxmipur Road (Chainage: 4860-10135) (MAGURA-S);	37000.00	75	750.00
22	Periodic Maintenance of Kadamtola R&H-Hatgopalpur via Hazipur-Sreerampur Road (Chainage: 3015-4282) (MAGURA-S);	14500.00	75	500.00
23	Periodic Maintenance of Nohata-Lahoria Road (Chainage: 00-1300 & 2000-3200m) (MOHAMMADPUR);	23000.00	75	500.00
24	a) Periodic Maintenance of Balidin UP Office-Kalamdhori Bazar via Sreepur RD Road (Chainage: 2000-4100) (MOHAMMADPUR); b) Periodic Maintenance of Naura Bazar-Babukhali UP Office Road (Ch: 1500-4800m) (MOHAMMADPUR);	12500.00	75	500.00
25	Periodic Maintenance of Jhama Bazar-Polashbaria UP via Dangapara Bazar Road (Chainage: 0-4800) (MOHAMMADPUR);	16000.00	75	500.00
26	Periodic Maintenance of Magura-Bunagati (Salika Portion) Road (Chainage: 00-2700) (SALIKHA);	22000.00	75	500.00
27	a) Periodic Maintenance of Saighoria-Junay via Katoli Bazar Road (Chainage: 1759-2144) (SALIKHA); b) Periodic Maintenance of Phulbaria-Chanda Road (Chainage: 1250-2480) (SALIKHA);	16000.00	75	500.00
28	Periodic Maintenance of Arpara-Darisalai Road (Chainage: 00-2024) (SALIKHA);	12000.00	75	300.00
29	Periodic Maintenance of Srekhola UP Office (Khamarpara)-Magura Sreepur R&H Road (Ch: 00-600) (SREEPUR);	13000.00	75	500.00
30	Periodic Maintenance of Sachilapur GC to Amtol Bazar Road (Chainage: 850-1850) (SREEPUR);	20000.00	75	500.00
31	Periodic Maintenance of Dariapur Kalbari-Shanbandha Ghat via Dariapur Natupara RD Road (Chainage: 700-1500) (SREEPUR);	15000.00	75	500.00
Other Structure				
32	a) Periodic Maintenance of 0.6m U-Drain at Chainage 4082 & 4127 on Alamkhali-Singra via Laxmipur Road (MAGURA-S); b) Periodic Maintenance of 3.00x2.30m Box Culvert at Chainage 750 on Chowlia UP (Malgaram)-Gobindapur Bazar Road (MAGURA-S); c) Periodic Maintenance of 1.00x1.00m Box Culvert at Chainage 8400 on Kullia Bazar-Barol UP, Nutogram, Gabtala Bazar, Gangarampur Dakhi Madrasa via Chandpur Road (MAGURA-S);	13000.00	90	500.00
33	a) Periodic Maintenance of 60m Bridge approach at Chainage			