

UREA SHORTAGE

Boro output likely to be hampered in N districts

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU, *Bogra*

Boro production is likely to be hampered in 16 northern districts due to late application of fertiliser as farmers did not get urea in time this year, according to sources in the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) here.

DAE deputy director (DD) Abul Bashar said farmers must apply urea in their fields within 15 to 20 days of paddy transplantation during first phase of *Boro* cultivation.,

In the second phase, farmers should have to apply urea within 35 to 40 days of *Boro* cultivation to ensure its good production, the DD said. In some areas of three districts of greater Dinajpur, farmers apply urea in fields after 50 to 55 days of cultivation due to its late transplantation.

Application of insufficient doses of urea in fields is also another reason of probable short-fall of paddy production in the northern districts, said another senior official of DAE here.

Because of this phenomenon, *Boro* production is likely to be decreased by 15 to 20 percent in the region. Irrigation problem in some areas will aggravate the situation, he said.

Farmer Azaher and son of Ersad of Khutiapara Haripara village under Ghoraghat upazila in Dinajpur came to Haque and Sons, a fertiliser dealer in Bogra town to collect a sack of urea on March 24. He told this correspondent that he had transplanted *Boro* on 20 bighas of land about one and a half months ago. He needed more fertiliser for applying in fields during second phase of paddy cultivation. Earlier, he failed to collect the required fertiliser in Dinajpur on time.

Another farmer, Farooq, son of Sattar Mondal of Sheikhpara village in Shabgram Union of Bogra Sadar Upazila came to the same dealer for a sack of fertiliser the same day. He transplanted paddy on about five bighas of land but failed to collect even one sack of urea during second phase of paddy cultivation.

Nazrul Islam, another farmer of Hatikumrul Village under Ullapara Upazila in Sirajgonj district said to local journalists he got a slip for fertiliser from the local Block Supervisor (BS) of DAE about one and half months ago, but he failed to collect it although he approached the local dealer several times.

On the same day, Abdul Aziz,

another farmer under Sadar Upazila in Caddarmorh Village in the same district said to this correspondent that he did not receive urea during second phase of *Boro* cultivation.

On the same day, Mohammed Elam Uddin, son of late Maksud Ali of Pustumpur village in Sadar Upazila in Chapainawabgonj district said to this correspondent over cell phone that he had transplanted *Boro* paddy on more than 27 bighas of land. The second phase of paddy cultivation is about to pass, but he did not get urea.

Farmer Abdul Malek of Palashbari Village under Kurigram Sadar upazila said to this correspondent that he had transplanted paddy saplings on two bighas of land about two months ago. He applied less quantity of urea than the required 70 kilogram. He got 50 kilogram of urea against his demand. He said he needed one sack of urea to apply in fields during second phase of its cultivation but he could not manage the required fertiliser the same day.

No bird flu in B'baria

BSS, *Brahmanbari*

All poultry farms in the district were found free from avian influenza virus (bird flu).

District Avian Influenza Protection and Coordination Committee informed this at a meeting held at the Deputy Commissioner's conference room here on Wednesday.

The meeting was also informed that various measures were taken to protect the three lakh poultry farms in the district from bird flue.

The measures include setting up of a control room in the region, formation a rapid response team and engaging a veterinary team to prevent the spread of the virus. The team will visit the poultry farms in the area and give the farmers advice on farm and bio security management. They will also regularly report to District Livestock Office about their test results, official sources said.

18 injured in Patuakhali road mishaps

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Patuakhali*

Eighteen persons including a four-month baby were injured in separate road accidents at Dumki and Kalapara upazila town on Saturday and Friday night.

Locals and hospitals sources said, a Baufal bound truck hit a scooter from behind in Rajakhali area on Dumki-Baufal road at about 7 am on Saturday resulting in injuries to all the three passengers.

All the injured were admitted to Dumki Upazila Health Complex.

On the other hand, 15 persons were injured when a motor van fell into a road side ditch at Kalapara town in Patuakhali on Friday night.

The incident occurred at about 8.30 pm.

Of the injured, seven critically injured were admitted to Kalapara Upazila Health Complex.

They were identified as Unus Ali, 55, Hkim Gazi, 70, Ali Ahmed, 50, Nasir, 32, Abdur Rob, 55, Hasina Begum, 45, and her four-month-old baby Sayem, Police seized the motor van.

Arms recovered: 1 arrested

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Police recovered two pipe guns and three rounds of bullets from Sirajganj and three cartidges and 270 bottles of Phensidyl syrup from a private car in Satkhira yesterday.

Our Sirajganj Correspondent reports: Tarash police recovered the guns and bullets and arrested a gang leader of armed robbers from Gaborgari village in Tarash upazila.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of police raided the house of Abdur Rashid, 48, at Gaborgari village and recovered a pipe gun and three rounds of bullets from his possession and arrested him.

Acting on his confession, police recovered another pipe gun from a nearby pond of his house. Rashid is an accused of several cases.

Our Satkhira Correspondent reports: Police recovered the cartridges and Phensidyl bottles from a car in front of the Water Development Board (WDB) rest house on the Satkhira-Kaligonj road here at night.

Acting on a tip-off police stopped the private car and recovered those from the vehicle. But the drug peddler managed to escape.

On contact, Sadar Police Station officer-in-charge (OC) Safiqur Rahman confirmed the incident.

4 cases pending with Sylhet Speedy Trial Tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Sylhet*

Only four cases are now pending with Sylhet Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal.

Trial process of six other sensational cases including two others in connection with killing of Awami League leader SAMS Kibria remained suspended by order of the High Court.

An official close to the court said trial in the four pending cases would be completed within a fortnight.

However, the division level monitoring committee sent proposals to the Ministry of Home Affairs for sending over 50 cases to the tribunal for speedy trial. But, due to delay in publication of the gazette notification, the process could not be completed as yet.

'Extract coal from Khalashpir mine'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Rangpur*

Speakers at a dialogue here yesterday demanded of the government to take immediate steps for extraction of coal from Khalashpir mine at Pirganj.

The dialogue on ' Local Economic Development and Trade Issues' was jointly organised by Economic Journalists Network (EJ-Net) and Centre for Communication and Development (CCD). Held at the auditorium of Rangpur Rotary Centre. The dialogue was presided by the Rangpur unit convener of EJ-Net, Wadud Ali Speakers urged the government to set up a coal-based power station to expedite industrialisation in the northern region.

They emphasised the need for separate industrial policy for northern region mainly Rangpur, Nilphamari, Gaibandha, Kurigram and Lalmonirhat districts. There is no job opportunity for people of the five munga-prone districts due to lack of industrialisation, they said.

They put up some points to promote commerce and industry in the region. These include formation of new policies with easy terms for cottage industries, creation of bank loan opportunities with lower rate of interest, declaration of tax evasion for 10 years as incentive for entrepreneurs and creation of market for local industrial products.

Senior faculty member of Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank

Training Institute AB Siddique moderated the dialogue.

Rangpur Correspondent of Ajker Kagaj Joynal Abedeen and Rangpur Correspondent of The Daily Sangbad Liakot Ali Badal

were awarded fellowship by EJ-Net Rangpur after the dialogue.

The DC handed over certificates and cheques to them.

Among others, Rangpur Deputy Commissioner (DC)

Khondker Atiar Rahman, president of Rangpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mostafa Azad Choudhury and deputy director of DAE Abdur Rahim addressed the dialogue.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Members of a farmer's family harvesting onion from a field at Kathalbaria village of Saltha upazila in Faridpur. The village attained a bumper production of onion this year.

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