

# Scanty rain, power outage hit tea production, processing

Gardens in Habiganj, Moulvibazar get less than 30 MW power against demand for 60 MW

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

Power crisis has badly hit tea production in the country this year, according to industry sources.

Besides production loss in gardens, quality of the sensitive export item is also being affected by load shedding up to six hours a day.

Out of total of 160 tea gardens in the country, 140 are in Sylhet region, most of them in Moulvibazar and Habiganj.

Habiganj Palli Bidyut Samity and Moulvibazar Palli Bidyut Samity supply electricity to most of the gardens in the two districts. The condition in gardens under Habiganj Palli Bidyut Samities is worse mainly due to frequent power outage.

Processing of tealeaf in factories is seriously affected due to load shedding, a least three a day. Low voltage creates another problem for the industry.

After plucking from gardens, tea leaves need withering, cutting, fermenting, drying and sorting to make those ready for sale. All these need accurate timing in each stage. It power goes without prior schedule, a total dislocation in the whole chain system is created, resulting in fall in quality.

Talking to the Daily Star, Mohammad Shahjahan, manager of Samonbhag Tea Estate in Barlekha upazila, yesterday said load shedding for 5 to 6 hours a day is a regular phenomenon. Besides, low voltage is causing great inconvenience in smooth running of the factory.

Besides, we are badly suffering from the frequent fluctuation in voltage, he added.

"Tea processing is very sensitive. It needs uninterrupted power supply. If the production process is interrupted, quality is

affected.

"The situation is worse this year compared to that of last year", he said.

There was 260 hours' load shedding from January 1 to April 20 in tea gardens in Juri valley while it was for about 160 hours in 20 days only from April 1, the sources said. Both production and quality of tea fell drastically due to frequent power outage, they said.

Alternative arrangement cannot ensure steady supply, the manager of Samonbhag Tea Estate said. Only a few multinational companies have alternative arrangement for power supply, which also can not be used properly for other reasons, the sources said.

Tea gardens in the region need about 50 to 60 megawatt power while up to 20 megawatt is being supplied on an average. Habiganj Palli Bidyut Samity and

Moulvibazar Palli Bidyut Samity, which supply power to most of the gardens have a total demand for about 80 megawatt power while they do not get up to 30 megawatt now, the sources said.

In each of the six tea growing valleys, there is 180 hours' load shedding in a week, they added.

An official at Bangladesh Tea Research Institute (BTRI) said, tea production this year had a good start with a favourable weather. Rainfall as well as sunshine was suitable at the beginning of the season in March. But a drought like situation is prevailing in some gardens for last two weeks, they said.

Tea production and processing needs adequate rainfall with uniform distribution, fertilisation, sunshine and uninterrupted power supply.

Tea production target for the current year has been fixed at 60 million kg against last year's production of 56 million kg.

## Tk 3.14cr cheating case against industrialist

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A case has been filed with the Chief Judicial Magistrate's court at Satkhira against an industrialist allegedly for cheating a man of Tk 3.41 crore.

Judge Ranu Bilkis Banu of the court issued 'summons' against the accused on Thursday, asking him to appear before the court within 15 days.

Akram Hossain, owner of M/s Mayer Doa Fish at Chapra in Assasuni upazila, filed the case against Mahbub Mollah, proprietor of M/s Penguin Sea Food Ltd in the same upazila, allegedly for cheating him of Tk 3.41 crore.

Akram Hossain alleged that he supplied Tk 3.41 crore shrimps to M/s Penguin Sea Food Ltd but he did not pay him.

The accused gave him several cheques but those were dishonored by banks as there was no money with his account.

Akram filed another case against Mahbub Mollah earlier. Mollah was arrested but got bail on promise of payment, the complainant said in his case. But after release on bail, he did not pay him.

Agrani Bank earlier filed a forgery case with a court at Satkhira against Mahbub Mollah for taking Tk 5 crore loan from the bank's Shyamnagar branch through forged documents.

Mollah also faces some other cases for cheating several institutions in the district by issuing false cheques.



Narrowed down by continuous silting, Karnaphuli River is turning risky for navigation of vessels bound for country's premier seaport Chittagong.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

## SUJON ROUNDTABLE IN KHAGRACHHARI

# Hold polls to local govt bodies in CHT

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Civil society leaders at a roundtable here yesterday demanded holding of election to all local government bodies in three hill districts to ensure transparency in their activities.

All local governments including the CHT Regional Council (RC) and the three hill district councils are being run by government-appointed people for long. This gives scope for corruption on one hand and belies hopes of hill people on the other hand, they said.

Women's participation in local government bodies is negligible in the three hill districts of Khagrachhari, Rangamati and Bandarban, they said.

The roundtable was organised by Khagrachhari district unit of Sushashon-e-Junni Nagarik

(Sujan). It was held at a local community center in the hill town.

Prof Moazzam Ahmed, chairman of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) was the chief guest at the roundtable, presided over by Khagrachhari Sujan president Dr. Sudhin Kumar Chakma.

The speakers also suggested activating the Parbatya Zilla Parishad in 1989 and implementation of the CHT peace accord signed in 1997 and the Hill Tracts Manual 1900 for development of the region and protection of interest of indigenous and Bangla speaking people in the hills.

They also urged the government to ensure participation of all in any election, including ethnic communities.

They put forward a 13-point proposal to the government which include immediate election of all

local government bodies, preparation of correct voter lists after resolving the land disputes, strengthen coordination between local governments and government offices, creating income sources for poor people in hills and participation of community leaders in leasing lands and issuing permits.

Mohammad Shanay Alam, Khagrachhari district secretary of Sujan advocate Nasir Uddin Ahmed, Samo Adhiker Andolon leaders Nurunnabi Chowdhury, Rafiqul Islam and Nuruzzaman, Khagrachhari Awami League secretary Zahedul Alam, chief executive of Zabarang Kalayan Samity Mothura Bikash Tripura, former chairman of Khagrachhari Hill District Council (KHDC) Zafindra Lal Tripura and Samiron Dewan spoke at the roundtable.

## No coal import thru' Tamabil border for 9 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Coal import through Tamabil border could not be resumed as of yesterday while the stalemate has continued for nine days, much to the worry of the importers and brick manufacturers of the region.

The suspension of coal import is causing the government a loss of at least Tk 20 lakh in revenue every day, customs officials said.

The traders are in great worry at the stalemate in coal import at the ending stage of their season. As many as 150 Indian coal loaded trucks have remained stranded on the other side of Tamabil border for the last nine days, importers said. About 1,500 labourers engaged in 'overloading' and loading of the item at the border have also remained jobless.

Office bearers of Coal Importers Group in Sylhet alleged that the Indian traders suspended sending coal to Bangladesh through Tamabil-Dauki borders due to unwanted interference by the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR).

They said the BDR men often harass the Indian truck drivers and their helpers in the name of quizzing for collecting information although the Indian truckers are allowed to unload the imported coal on stockyard inside the Bangladesh territory through customs checking and other formalities.

The Indian sources alleged 'excesses' in the name of security checking by Bangladesh border guards.

BDR sources told the Daily Star that they are noting down information about the Indian truckers for security reasons.

Suspension of coal unloading inside Bangladesh territory at this ending part of the season is unwanted, president of Coal Importers Group, Sylhet, Haji Dilwar Hossain, also a director of Sylhet Chamber of Commerce and Industries, said yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Helpless Rushmida with her two minor sons after the death of her husband Dudu Miah, the lone family bread earner, in the April 16 Kalihati rail-road accident (Story on page 16).

## Indo-Bangla teams complete survey on Indian side

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A four-member Bangladesh team accompanied by a team comprising four Indian officials returned yesterday after a three-day survey along the Bangladesh-India borders at Habiganj-Tripura sector.

JK Rath, Director of Survey for West Bengal, Tripura and Mizoram, is leading the Indian side while Director General, Survey of Bangladesh, Mahfuzur Rahman heading the Bangladesh side.

The Bangladesh team entered into the Khawai sub-divisional town of Tripura through Ballah

borders in Chunarughat upazila in Habiganj on April 22. They, along with the Indian officials conducted a joint survey along the Habiganj-Khawai borders on April 23-24. Officials of the two countries will today conduct joint survey along 20 border pillars from Bangladesh territory and meet tomorrow at Habiganj circuit House to review and finalise the draft demarcation along the Bangladesh-Tripura borders.

The job was a long-desired one, said an official of the Department of Survey yesterday.

During the last several decades, a good number of reference pillars, border pillars etc had gone missing due to river erosion, stealing etc along the borders in Habiganj and Tripura's Khawai subdivision.

## 10 hurt in Keraniganj boiler blast

UNB, Keraniganj

At least 10 people were injured in a boiler explosion at a dyeing & washing factory in Kaliganj area of Dakkhin Keraniganj early yesterday.

Local people said the heavy boiler of Sonali Dyeing and Washing

Factory exploded with a big bang at about 3:30am injuring 10 people and damaging four nearby houses partially.

Of the injured, Sajib, 16, Shahabuddin, 12, and Sharif, 13, were taken to Mitford Hospital in critical condition while another to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Police later rushed to the spot and sealed off the factory.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Roof of a four-storey building on Bara Masjid Road at Kaliganj in Keraniganj upazila was badly damaged in a boiler explosion in nearby Kashem Dyeing yesterday.

## SCHOOLBOY FARID MURDER IN PATUAKHALI

# Family threatened as 17 chargesheeted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Police yesterday submitted charge sheet against 17 people in schoolboy Farid murder case.

Sub-Inspector Abdul Hoque of Galachipa Police Station, also investigation officer of the case, submitted the charge sheet.

The charge-sheeted accused are Delwar Hossain Kalam, 42, Ishaq Akon, 45, Joynal Akon, 27, Iyoddin Akon, 55, Eusuf Ali Akon, 60, Main Uddin Akon, 47, Shahin, 18, Hasan,

19, Tahsin, 25, Ejajul, 19, Mahmuda, 30, Jasim Akon, 35, Asim Akon, 32, Hafez, 25, Mizanur Rahman, 30, Mohsin, 28 and Sarwar, 20, all of Char Biswas village under Galachipa upazila.

A student of Patuakhali Technical School, 14-year old Farid was killed in a clash with villagers over a disputed land on December 26 last year.

Farid's father Mannan filed a case with Galachipa Police Station the following day against 15 people.

Police have arrested seven of the accused and the rest are still at large.

Victim's father Mannan at a press conference at Patuakhali Press Club on Thursday said they are getting death threat from different quarters that have sympathy for the accused.

"I filed a GD (general Diary) with Galachipa police station on January 11 and also submitted complaint with Patuakhali deputy commissioner," he added.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) is inviting applications for the following positions from dynamic, experienced candidates for implementing its Education for All & MDG programmes.

### 3. Assistant Programme Officer (Education)

- Masters in Education/ Social Science or any other relevant subject
- 3-5 years working experience in literacy and education field
- Proven record of organizing literacy CE programme development activities and literature development for CE activities
- Proficiency in computer
- Good report writing skills
- Knowledge about diversity and gender issues
- Has experience in maintaining financial records and reports
- Undertakes frequent field visit
- Age: Maximum 35 years
- Starting salary Tk. 11,347.00

### 4. Programme Assistant (Computer)

- Bachelor degree in any discipline
- 3-5 years working experience as computer operator (Both IBM and Mac computer)

### Instructions:

- Good interpersonal skill and ability to work under pressure
- Good verbal and written communication skills both in English and Bangla for all positions except for Driver.
- Female candidate with equal qualification and experience will be given preference.
- No 3<sup>rd</sup> Class/Division will be considered for the position of APO except PA and Driver.
- Salary may be negotiable in case of highly qualified and experienced candidates

Interested candidates are requested to send their application with detailed CV and photograph at CAMPE, 5/14, Humayun Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka- 1207 by 08<sup>th</sup> May, 2008 or in the Bujobs website online.

- Knowledge of popular package e.g. MS Word, MS Excel, PowerPoint, Quark Express, Photoshop, Illustrator, PageMaker, SPSS, FoxPro, etc
- Working knowledge of programming language such as Database programme
- Has experience in maintaining financial records and reports.
- Age: Maximum 30 years
- Starting salary Tk. 7,787.00

### 3. Driver

- Minimum Class Ten pass
- 7-10 years driving experience in national/international organization.
- Must have original driving licence (BRTA) and working knowledge of vehicle maintenance and repair
- Must be physically fit and able to work under pressure
- Age: Maximum 40 years
- Starting salary Tk. 6,436.00

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তাং-২৩/০৪/২০০৮ইং

### “পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি”

০১)	প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম	আতগঞ্জ পাওয়ার স্টেশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড, আতগঞ্জ, বি-বাড়ীয়া-৩৪০২।
০২)	ফ্যাক্টের উৎস	আতগঞ্জ পাওয়ার স্টেশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেডের নিজস্ব ফ্যাক্ট।
০৩)	প্রকিউরমেন্ট মেথড	খোলা দরপত্র।
০৪)	কাজের নাম	আতগঞ্জ পাওয়ার স্টেশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেডের ৩য় ভিসিচার্স চ্যানেলের পশ্চিম পাশে নিরাপত্তা প্রাচীর নির্মাণ করণ।
০৫)	দরপত্র দাখিলের মূল্য	টায় ৫০০.০০ (পাঁচশ) মাত্র (অফেরতযোগ্য) আতগঞ্জ পাওয়ার স্টেশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড, আতগঞ্জ, বি-বাড়ীয়া এর অনুকূলে বাংলাদেশে যে কোন সিভিল ব্যাংক হইতে ব্যাংক ড্রাফট / পে-অর্ডার আকারে মাধ্যমে পরিশোধ করিতে হইবে।
০৬)	দরপত্র জামানত	টায় ২০,০০০.০০ (বিশ হাজার) মাত্র (কেরতযোগ্য) আতগঞ্জ পাওয়ার স্টেশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড, আতগঞ্জ, বি-বাড়ীয়া এর অনুকূলে বাংলাদেশে যে কোন সিভিল ব্যাংক হইতে ব্যাংক ড্রাফট / পে-অর্ডার আকারে দরপত্রের সহিত দাখিল করিতে হইবে।
০৭)	দরপত্র ক্রয়ের যোগ্যতা	প্রকৃত ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠান।
০৮)	কাজের সময়সীমা	মুক্তি স্বাক্ষরের তারিখ হইতে ৯০ (নব্বই) দিনের মধ্যে বিষয়ে বর্ণিত কাজটি অবশ্যই সম্পন্ন করিতে হইবে।
০৯)	দরপত্র প্রাপ্তির স্থান, সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	(ক) প্রধান প্রকৌশলী (উৎপাদন) এর দপ্তর, বিউবো, ওয়াশাঙ্গা ভবন (২য় তলা), মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০। (খ) উপ-পরিচালক (অর্থ), আতগঞ্জ পাওয়ার স্টেশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড, আতগঞ্জ, বি-বাড়ীয়া। তাং-০৬/০৫/২০০৮ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে দরপত্র সিভিল ট্রয় করা যাইবে।
১০)	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	আহবায়ক (প্রকিউরমেন্ট কমিটি) অফিসে ০৭/০৫/২০০৮ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২ঃ০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হইবে।
১১)	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	আহবায়ক (প্রকিউরমেন্ট কমিটি) অফিসে ০৭/০৫/২০০৮ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২ঃ১৫ ঘটিকায়া অমহী দরদাতাগণের উপস্থিতিতে (মদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র ব্যাং খোলা হইবে।
১২)	বিশেষ শর্তাবলী	ক) বর্ণিত কাজটি বিজ্ঞপ্তির নির্দেশনা, তফসিলের বর্ণনা / স্পেসিফিকেশন / ভারপ্রাপ্ত কর্মকর্তার পরামর্শ এবং এতদসঙ্গে সংযুক্ত বিশেষ শর্তাবলী মোতাবেক সম্পন্ন করিতে হইবে। খ) কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই যে কোন অথবা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ / বাতিল, সংশোধন বা এতদসংক্রান্ত যে কোন সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।
১৩)	নথিপ্রাপ্ত সংযোজন	প্রকৃত ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের হাল সন নাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, আয়কর সনদ পত্র এবং ভাট সনদ পত্র ইত্যাদির কপি দরপত্রের সহিত দাখিল করিতে হইবে।

(মোঃ আব্দুস সামাদ)

আহবায়ক  
প্রকিউরমেন্ট কমিটি।