

# Tea output may fall by 25pc this year

Gardens affected by scanty rain, high temperature and insect attack

IQBAL SIDDIQUE In Sylhet and RAJAT KANTI GOSWAMI In Moulvibazar

Tea production in Sylhet region may fall by around 25 per cent this year due to inadequate rain and attack of plants by insects including red spider, industry sources said.

About three-fourth of tea gardens are in Moulvibazar and Hobiganj districts, which experienced rainfall far less than last year, they said. Out of 163 tea gardens in the country, 143 are located in Sylhet region, of which 117 are in Moulvibazar and Hobiganj.

Tea production target this year is 60 million kilograms against last year's production of 57.96 million kilograms, up from the previous year's 53.41 million kilograms.

Tea gardens have been attacked by white ants, red spiders and mosquitoes named Helopeltis, in addition to red rust, which damage roots of plants. Rats are also causing

ing damage, they said.

Tea gardens in Balishira, Monu-Dholal, Laskerpur, Juri and Longia tea valleys in Moulvibazar and Hobiganj districts have been severely affected by lack of rain.

The Daily Star Correspondents visited a number of gardens in Moulvibazar, Habiganj and Sylhet recently. Tea buds and leaves are drying up due to lack of rain. If this situation continues, buds and leaves will not grow, garden officials said.

In some areas green tea leaves have turned yellowish and cracks have appeared on lands due to dry spell, they said.

Last week's scanty rain in the areas will not be able to offset the damage already caused by lack of rain from October to May, officials at Bangladesh Tea Research Institute (BTRI) at Srimgongal said.

Tea needs 200 mm rainfall between November and December and 450 mm rainfall between January and March for normal

production. But there was virtually no rain from October last year to April this year, they said.

Shamim Khan, manager of Uttarbhag Tea Estate said, 10,000 kilograms of tea were produced in his garden this time last year. This year, only 4,000 kilograms has so far been produced.

He said 25 to 28 degree Celsius temperature is suitable for tea. But it reached 40 degree Celsius in April this year, he added.

BTRI Director Dr Maymul Haque said scanty rain and excessive temperature has caused attack by insects. Life cycle of red spiders increase with rise of temperature, tea expert Dr Maymul said.

He said, the upper layer of green tea leaf is the main food of red spider.

Load shedding is affecting processing of the sensitive export item.

Talking to The Daily Star, Mohammad Shahjahan Akand, chief of Juri valley chapter of Bangladesh Cha Sangsad and

manager of New Samonbhag Tea Estate in Barlekha, said, load shedding for at least 5 to 6 hours a day and low voltage have become a regular feature in garden areas.

Tea leaf processing is very sensitive, which needs uninterrupted power supply, absence of which degrades the quality. The situation is worse this year, he said.

The tea gardens in the region need about 50 to 60 Megawatt electricity while the supply is only 20 Megawatt. The Habiganj Palli Bidyut Samities and Moulvibazar Palli Bidyut Samities, who supply power to most of the gardens have a total demand for about 80 Megawatt but they hardly get 30 Megawatt, he said.

After plucking, tea leaves need withering, cutting, fermenting, drying and sorting, which need accurate temperature and timing in each stage. If power goes without prior notice, the system is disrupted, resulting in fall in quality.



Markets in northern region are lively with traders and farmers who are bringing Boro paddy in large quantities following a good harvest this year. The photo was taken from Bodor Hat in Panchagarh district yesterday.

## Dewan Basit's son to run in polls race

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Dewan Shamim Afzol, youngest son of late Dewan Abdul Basit, who was leader of the house in the then East Pakistan parliament and also a central minister, yesterday said he will be an independent candidature from Moulvibazar-3 constituency (Sadar and Rajnagar Upazilas) in the next general election.

Afzol announced his candidature at a press conference held at his Monsurnagar village home.

Afzol said, he thinks a proper atmosphere for holding a free and fair election has been created by the caretaker government. "After a long time, a healthy political environment has appeared in the country", he said. Some leaders of Awami League, BNP and Jatiya Party were also present at the press conference.

## PKSF to provide jobs to 5 lakh poor in 5 N dists

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Polli Karma-Shahayak Foundation (PKSF) has undertaken an ambitious programme in five northern districts to alleviate monga (near famine situation) under its integrated programme 'Prime' during 2008-2009 fiscal.

More than five lakh hardcore poor of five northern districts will be provided with jobs during Bangla months of Ashwin and Kartik under the programme.

This was learnt at a daylong regional workshop held at the RDRS auditorium here yesterday.

PKSF will also provide resources to 3.5 lakh hardcore poor families in the region during the period. PKSF and Manpower Export

## Bureau jointly signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on May 18. Partner NGOs will provide loan to hardcore poor who are interested to go abroad for work.

PKSF would provide micro-credit at less interest with easy terms and Cash for Work to 5.33 lakh hardcore people in 35 northern upazilas during lean season (October to early December).

Speakers said about Tk 40 crore was disbursed to 1.83 lakh beneficiaries in 18 upazilas till April this year under the programme.

PKSF director general Dr MA Hakim, managing director Dr Mezbahuddin Ahmed, deputy general manager Dr Jasim Uddin and executive directors of 11 NGOs in the northern districts took part.

## Painting competition marks Zainul's death anniversary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A painting competition for school children was organised by Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Sangrahasala (art gallery) on its premises yesterday marking the 32nd death anniversary of Shilpacharya.

Dulal Chandra Gain, Assistant Keeper of the art gallery, inaugurated the competition. More than 150 children from 20 educational institutions in and outside the district town took part in the competition in three groups. Of the total, 11 were selected for prizes.

A discussion on the life and works of the great artist will be held on May 28 at the art gallery hall room.

## Threat to blow up KCC office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Criminals have threatened to blow up the newly constructed building of Khulna City Corporation (KCC) in a bomb attack anytime.

Admitting receiving the unsigned computer-composed letter sent to him by post last week, Khulna City Corporation acting mayor Moniruzzaman Moni yesterday said he did not disclose it for security reasons.

Security measures has been stepped up in and around the KCC building with constant vigil by intelligence agencies, the acting mayor said, adding that the matter was brought to the notice of KMP commissioner and high officials of district administration.

KCC sources said the bomb threat might have been given to divert attention from the ongoing investigation against alleged corruption and irregularities by detained city mayor and a group of officials and engineers.

Authorities have also started investigation after several big cracks developed in different parts of Tk 6 crore new KCC building.

Task force entered KCC office in April to help run its administration fairly and carry out probe into its irregularities.

Khulna Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge ABM Zakir Hossain said they have started investigation.

## Journo released in Moulvibazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

M A Muhi, Moulvibazar correspondent of Jugantor, was released from jail Thursday evening after 13 months.

Additional District and Sessions Judge on Wednesday acquitted Muhi and two others in a case lodged under Emergency Power Rules (EPR).

Muhi was arrested from his house on March 9 in another case. He got bail in the case and was released, but was arrested from the jail gate in the case filed under EPR.

## Recovery of water bodies begins in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

The district administration yesterday started an eviction drive here to recover rivers and water bodies grabbed by influentials.

The team recovered over one acre six decimals of land of the Chenghi river and Khagrachhari Bazar grabbed by Khagrachhari Poursabha chairman Joinal Abedin.

On contact, Joinal said he filled up the land considering interest of the municipality.

Land office sources said Khagrachhari Poursabha grabbed 0.0642 acres of land, Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board grabbed 0.0172 acres, BNP leaders Yusuf grabbed 0.0293 acres, Abdul Awal grabbed 0.0045 acres and Nurul Islam grabbed 0.0266 acres of land of the Chenghi river and Khagrachhari Bazar.



Workers employed by district administration demolishing a wall erected by grabbers on the bank of Chengy River in Khagrachhari town.

বাংলাদেশ উন্মুক্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় গাজীপুর-১৭০৫		
পরীক্ষা বিভাগ		
PGDM Examination Time Table-072 Term (2nd Semester)		
Date	Time	Course Name & Course Code
June 06, 2008 Friday	09.00am - 12.00 noon	Business English (MGD 2305)
June 13, 2008 Friday	09.00am - 12.00 noon	Microeconomics (MGD 2306)
June 20, 2008 Friday	09.00am - 12.00 noon	Entrepreneurship Development (MGD 2307)
June 27, 2008 Friday	09.00am - 12.00 noon	Introduction to Management Accounting (MGD 2308)
July 4, 2008 Friday	09.00am - 12.00 noon	Financial Management (MGD 2309)

**Professor Dr. Md. Shafiu Alam**  
Controller of Examinations (Additional Charge)

GD-2469

## 'Implement National Women Development Policy'

Satkhira workshop urges govt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Speakers at a discussion yesterday urged the caretaker government to implement the National Women Development Policy (NWDP) 2008 for empowering women at all levels in the society and accordingly declare an action plan in the next budget.

The government should immediately reject the recently submitted recommendations of the review committee formed by 'Islamic bigots', they said.

Samajik Protirodh Committee (social resistance committee) organised the discussion at Satkhira Bar Association auditorium.

As eminent ulemas at a seminar on April 22 said the new NWDP has no contradiction with the Quranic laws and the chief justice also recognised the women's movements in realising their demand as logical, the NWDP should be implemented, they said.

They criticised the government for its soft stance against the communal forces who are opposing the policy.

The government should encourage women to enter the mainstream development sectors

because women, who comprise half of the population, are still in backward position in the society, they said.

Hailing the government for announcing the policy, speakers said it should be implemented as per the announcement as it does not go against Islam.

Blasting those who are opposing the National Women Development Policy terming it as 'anti-Islamic', they vowed to fight for implementing the policy by creating awareness among the people for development of the country.

Samajik Protirodh Committee (social resistance committee) convenor and district College Teachers Association President Principal Ashek E Elahi presided over the meeting.

It was addressed by, among others, vice-principal Prof Abdul Hamid of Satkhira Government College, District Bar Association President advocate Shah Alam, public prosecutor advocate Tapan Kumar Chakraborty and FBCCI central committee member Sheikh Azhar Hossain.

## Prof Taher's family, RU teachers feel insecure as Salehi released

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Family members of murdered Rajshahi University (RU) teacher Dr S Taher Ahmed and many other RU teachers are feeling insecure after release of key killer-suspect Salehi from jail.

Mahbubul Alam Salehi was freed from jail on Thursday afternoon after a Rajshahi court acquitted two persons including him. The court awarded death to four persons including RU teacher Dr Mia Mohammad Mohiuddin.

"I am anxious about security of my son and daughter. We are in fear. We cannot tell what everybody knows," said Sultana Ahmed, Taher's wife.

"We faced pressure while running the case. Now we are thinking about our security," said Taher's son Sanjid Alvi Ahmed.

Expressing anxiety over Salehi's release, several senior RU teachers of RU said they are not satisfied with the trial of Prof Taher's killing while trial of another RU teacher's killing is yet to be completed.

"Shibir men who were always after progressive teachers will be desperate after Salehi's release," said a senior teacher.

"Jamaat-Shibir men tried to influence the case by threatening the previous government to create anarchy throughout the country.

They also sheltered Salehi although he was sought after by the court. His release might lead to deterioration of the law and order," said another teacher.

Prosecution lawyer Golam Arif Tipusaid, "There was no eyewitness in Prof Taher murder case. The trial was done following confessional statements and circumstantial evidences."

"Salehi was acquitted on the benefit of doubt raised due to contradictions between the judicial confessions and medical reports. But the law points by which the other accused were punished, were sufficient to prove Salehi's involvement," he said.

Expressing similar opinion, another prosecution lawyer Hamidul Haque said,

"Salehi's involvement and his suspicious activities during and after the murder were revealed by judicial confessions and several witnesses."

Salehi's lawyer Abu Mohammad Selim said, "The court considered part of the judicial confessions to be true. But the part involving Salehi was not true that was proved by the post-mortem report."

He added that the prosecution could not also prove any rivalry between Salehi and Prof Taher during the trial.

Three killers Jahangir, Salam and Nazmul provided judicial

confessions that Salehi put a pillow over Taher's face and sat on it after confirming his death.

They also stated that Salehi helped them dumping Taher's body into a sewerage well behind Taher's house.

## Coal import thru Tamabil border to resume soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, SYLHET

Stalemate over coal import from Indian State of Meghalaya through Tamabil Land customs station is expected to end soon, coal importers in Sylhet yesterday said after a meeting with the Indian exporters on Tamabil border.

The import is likely to resume on Monday, they added.

Earlier on Wednesday, a joint meeting was held at BDR Sector Commander's Office.

As the import of coal through Tamabil land custom station remained suspended for over a month, the government is losing at least Tk 22 lakh in revenue every day, custom officials said.

BDR sector commander in Sylhet, Col Obaidul Ahsan said coal import will resume soon.

BPDB's International Tender Notice			
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resource/Power Division.	
2	Agency	Bangladesh Power Development Board.	
3	Procuring entity name	Director, Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka.	
4	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.	
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka, Bangladesh.	
6	Invitation for	Procurement of 8,00,000 Nos-Bar Coded Seal & 8,00,000 Nos-Four Level Security Seal.	
7	Invitation for tenders Ref No.	Pur-220/2007-08/Rev.(CF).	
8	Date	15/05/2008	
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>			
9	Procurement method	Open tendering method.	
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>			
10	Budget and source of funds	BPDB's Revenue Budget (Cash Foreign Exchange).	
11	Development partners (if applicable)	Not applicable.	
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>			
12	Project/programme code (if applicable)	Not applicable.	
13	Project/programme name (if applicable)	Not applicable.	
14	Tender package No.	Revenue (Foreign) (FY 2007-2008) No. 12.	
15	Tender package name	Procurement of 8,00,000 Nos-Bar Coded Seal & 8,00,000 Nos-Four Level Security Seal.	
16	Tender publication date	15/05/2008	
17	Tender selling date	20/05/2008 to 14/07/2008.	
18	Tender closing date and time	15/07/2008 at 11.00am.	
19	Tender opening date and time	15/07/2008 at 11.30am.	
20	Name & address of the office	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9 <sup>th</sup> Floor), Motijheel.	
	Selling tender document (principal)	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9 <sup>th</sup> Floor), Motijheel.	
	Selling tender document (other)	Not applicable.	
	Receiving tender document	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9 <sup>th</sup> Floor), Motijheel.	
	Opening tender document	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9 <sup>th</sup> Floor), Motijheel.	
21	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	N/A	
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>			
22	Eligibility of tenderer	Renowned manufacturer/supplier.	
23	Brief description of goods or works	Procurement of 8,00,000 Nos-Bar Coded Seal & 8,00,000 Nos-Four Level Security Seal.	
24	Brief description of related services	N/A	
25	Price of tender document (BDT)	Tk. 2,500.00 (two thousand five hundred) only.	
26	Lot	Identification of lot	Location
	1	Procurement of 8,00,000 Nos-Bar Coded Seal	BPDB's Central Store, Tongi, Gazipur
	2	Procurement of 8,00,000 Nos-Four Level Security Seal	Tk. 1,40,000.00 or US\$ 2,000.00 or Tk. 1,45,000.00 or US\$ 2,100.00
			180 days from the date of L/C opening
27	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Abduhu Ruhullah.	
28	Designation of official inviting tender	Director, Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka.	
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>			
29	Address of official inviting tender	WAPDA Building (9 <sup>th</sup> Floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka	
30	Contact details of official inviting	Phone: + 88 02 9550532, 7120089 Fax: + 88-02-7126151	
31	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.		
Biddyt/Jana-1382 (4)/18-5-08 GD-2446			Md Abduhu Ruhullah Director, Purchase BPDB, Dhaka