

Pest attack makes Aman prospect bleak in 5 N dists

Yield may decline by 5 lakh tonnes, officials said

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

Aman paddy fields in five northern districts have been affected by massive pest attack, creating apprehension among farmers and agriculture officials about attaining the production target.

Agriculture officials apprehend that the production may fall short of the target by around five lakh tonnes in the five districts.

Aman paddy fields have been attacked by leaf blight disease and pests including brown plant hopper.

Pesticides available in markets are ineffective in controlling the disease and pest attack, farmers said.

Aman production target in five districts was fixed at 17,95,385 tonnes from 7,18,154 hectares in the current season. To attain the target, Aman was cultivated on 2,51,770 hectares in Dinajpur, 1,29,000 in Thakurgaon, 99,000 in Panchagarh, 1,26,000 in Joypurhat and 1,12,382 hectares in Nilphamari district.

The disease and pest attack which started about two weeks ago, have by now affected about 1,92,240 hectares in the five districts.

Of these, 40,000 hectares in Dinajpur, 10,000 in Nilphamari, 9,000 in Joypurhat, Thakurgaon 5,000 and 6,000 hectares in Panchagarh are worst affected, they said.

The production may be about 4,80,600 tonnes short of the target because of the disease and pest attack, according to officials of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE).

Many farmers this correspondent talked to said the disease could be due to lack of potash in Aman fields.

DAE officials said dearth of potash usually causes disease in paddy fields. Shortage of potash weakens paddy plants and make them susceptible to attack by leaf blight disease and brown plant hopper.

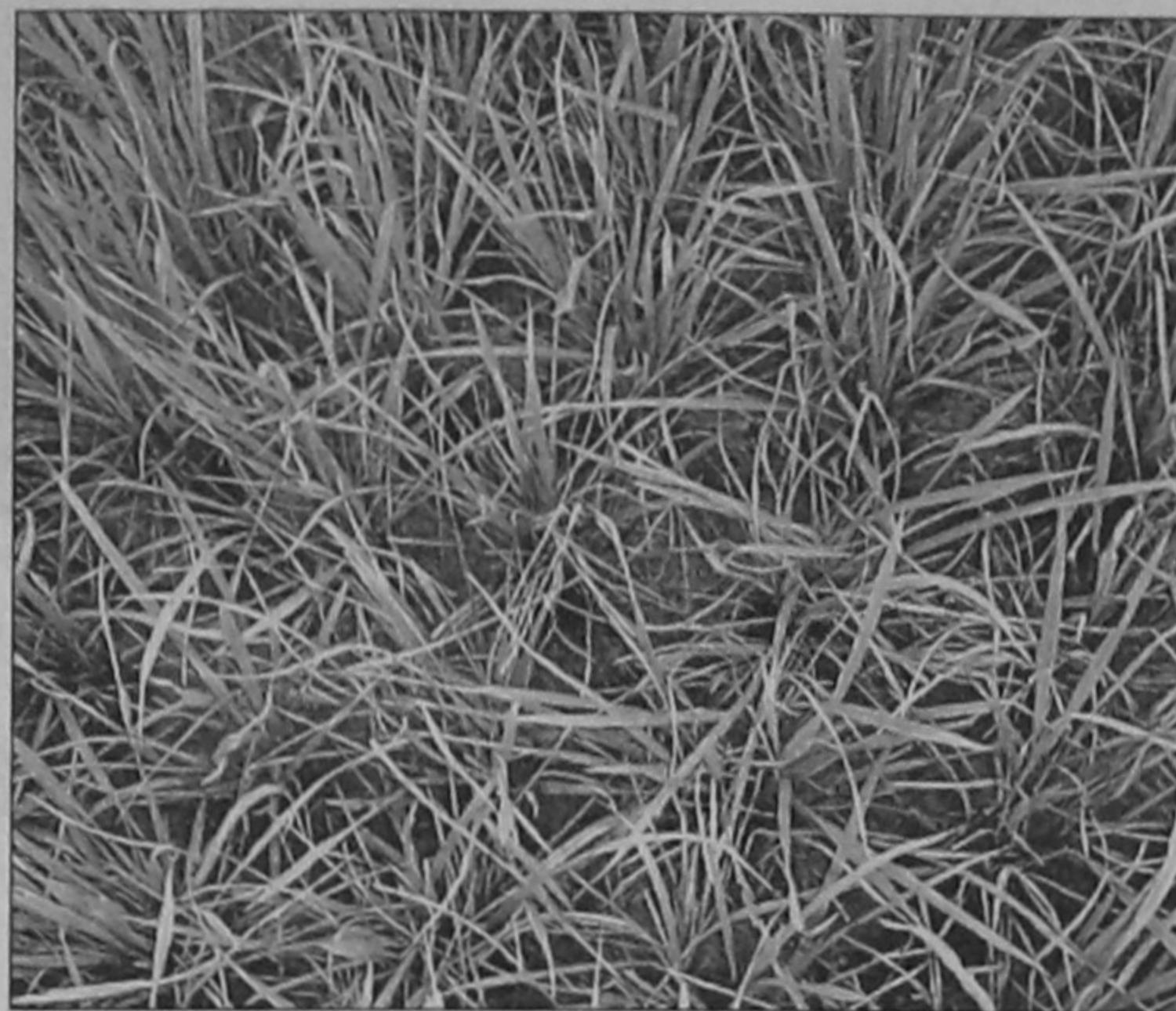
Failing to apply pricey potash and TSP (triple super phosphate), farmers used heavy doses of urea. Excessive use of urea in Aman fields increased attack by brown leaf hoppers, according to an agronomist at Haji Danesh Science and Technology University.

Md. Abul Hayat Deputy Director of Thakurgaon DAE, admitted that 5,000 hectares Aman cropland in his district have been affected with the diseases. He said DEA officials are advising farmers to use five kilograms of potash per bigha immediately to save the Aman crop.

Contacted, DAE Deputy Director Md Moshin Ali in Joypurhat said he is aware of the attack by diseases and pest. Field workers and officials are advising farmers and the situation is under control in his district.

Azizur Rahman of Narayanpur village in Biral upazila of Dinajpur said his five out of seven acres of Aman filed have been affected. He has already spent Tk 6000 on pesticides but could not control the diseases. The total production may be 100 maunds less this year, he added.

Zaherul Islam of Dinajpur Sadar upazila said that five out of his eight bighas have been affected.



Affected by leaf blight disease and pest attack, paddy plants at a field in Dinajpur Sadar upazila turn yellowish.

According to a fertiliser dealer, a bag of TSP is sold at Tk 3,823 against last year's price between Tk 800 and Tk 1500 while the price of potash is Tk 2,376 against last year's Tk 800.

Agronomists said potash makes paddy plants strong and phosphate helps them attain maturity. Most farmers could not buy the fertilisers this year due to their high prices, they said.

Farmers said insecticides available in the district are ineffective as they are adulterated.

Our Correspondent reports from Gaibandha: Vast areas of Aman fields have been attacked by pest and diseases in Gobindganj

Upazila.

The fields are turning yellowish and the affected areas are increasing day by day, farmers and DAE officials said. By now, fields in 17 unions in Gobindganj Upazila have been affected, agriculture officials said.

Farmers said BR-11 and Sarna varieties of paddy are being easily attacked by pests and disease, which cannot be controlled even by spraying pesticide.

Gobindganj Upazila Agriculture Officer said pest attack is a seasonal phenomenon. It increased this year but to 'untimely rain'.

Most Kuakata hotel rooms booked for Eid vacation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Most of the rooms of hotels and motels in Kuakata are already booked by tourists, showing a sign of a good number of tourists' arrival at the scenic tourist spot during the Eid vacation.

Pranesh Ranjon Sutradhar, chief executive of Patuakhali district council, said all eight rooms including five VIP rooms in their rest house in Kuakata sea beach are already booked for October 3 to 8.

"Especially government service holders come here. Response from tourists is better than last year," he said.

Abu Hanif, Assistant engineer of Local Government and Engineering Department said all seven rooms in their two rest houses in Kuakata sea beach are already booked by home tourists.

"All our rooms including four air-conditioned ones, four non-AC, and eight ordinary rooms are already booked by tourists," said Abul Kalam, manager of Kuakata Parjatan Motel.

Meanwhile, flow of tourists this year has led to increase of room rents. During a visit to Kuakata yesterday, this correspondent saw that charge for double AC room has been increased from Tk 500 to 700 a day, for non-AC rooms from Tk 300 to 500 in different hotels and motels.

Rejoinder

Energy and Mineral Resources Secretary Mohammad Mohsin yesterday issued a rejoinder to a report published in The Daily Star on page 15 on September 29.

The rejoinder said, "My attention has been drawn to the news item captioned 'Energy Secy's 'official tour' during Eid vacation' published in The Daily Star of 29 September 2008.

The report is not based on facts. The proposed visit is absolutely private and no program to visit Sylhet Gas Fields was fixed. I may clearly mention that no official tour program (nor private visit program) was sent by my private secretary on Thursday, as claimed in the report."

Birampur mayor sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A magistrate's court here yesterday sent the mayor of Birampur Poursabha in Dinajpur district, Md Hossain Ali, to jail on his appearance before court, court sources said.

He allegedly imported 4,200 metric tonnes (MT) of rice worth Tk 26,13,192 through Hili Land Port by forging LC papers in April, 2006. Customs authorities found inconsistency in the papers after an investigation. Police then filed a case.

'No harmful deal with foreign cos on offshore drilling'

Oil, gas protection committee holds protest programmes in districts, demands Dr Tamim's removal

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Leaders of National Oil, Gas, Power Mineral Resources and Port Protection Committee yesterday held protest meetings and formed human chains in different districts opposing leasing of offshore oil and gas blocks to the multinational companies, our correspondent reported.

Our Dinajpur correspondent reports: Demanding cancellation of a proposed deal with multinational company, Md Mosaddeque Hossain Labu, Convener of Phulbari unit of National Oil, Gas, Power Mineral Resources and Port Protection Committee, submitted a memorandum to the chief adviser of the present caretaker government through the Phulbari upazila nirbahi officer.

The government should seek people's opinion before taking any decision of their assets including the underground coal and offshore oil and gas because people are owner of the national assets according to the constitution, leaders of the committee said.

Earlier, Dinajpur unit leaders of the committee held a human chain in front of Dinajpur Press Club opposing leasing out of offshore oil and gas blocks to any multinational company.

In Rangpur, the committee unit brought out a procession in the town yesterday to press home its six-point demand, reports our

correspondent.

The leaders of the committee handed over to the deputy commissioner a memorandum for the chief advisor.

They demanded that the caretaker government refrain from leasing out oil and gas to multinational companies.

They urged the caretaker government to terminate Dr Tamim, the chief advisor's special assistant for energy for his favouritism to multinational companies.

They also demanded inclusion of BAPEX with all endeavours of the foreign companies in finding out oil and gas in new blocks in the country.

Our Barisal correspondent adds: A human chain programme was observed in front of Ashwini Kumar Hall in Barisal yesterday demanding protection of natural and national resources and immediate removal of Dr M Tamim from government post.

Barisal unit of National Committee for Protection of Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Electricity and Ports, organised this programme.

Leaders of committee and representatives from different socio-political-cultural-professional-human and rights groups and NGOs attended the programme.

The participants termed Dr M Tamim as 'agent' of the imperialist and multinational companies

engaged in looting natural and national resources.

They also demanded controlling price hike of essential commodities and introducing country-wide rationing system.

They urged supply of natural gas from Shahbazpur Gas field of Bhola to Barisal for domestic and industrial uses.

Our Brahmanbaria correspondent reports: Brahmanbaria unit of Oil, Gas, Power, Port and Mineral Resources Protection Committee formed a human chain in front of Brahmanbaria Press Club yesterday to protest the government's move to deal sign with multinational companies about leasing out sea bed for exploration of gas and oil.

Among others, Ali Akbar Mazumder, district vice-president of Sachetan Nagrik Committee; Shahriar Muhammad Firuj, secretary of district Workers' Party, Sajidul Islam, president of district CPB, advocate Akter Hossain Sayed, president of district JSD, Md Jaodul Hossain, president of district Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee, Md Abnur Noor, convener of Sammilita Sangkritik Jote, Fazilatun Nessa, Zila Nari Mukti Sangsad, Md Masud Ahmed, president of Jubo Moitri attended the programme.

Committee also submitted a memorandum to the chief advisor through the deputy commissioner.

BNP leader's body found in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Body of a BNP leader was recovered from Chatar Beel in Atakula in the district yesterday.

The dead was identified as Nur Shamim alias Piar, 40, joint secretary of Fripdur upazila unit of BNP.

Police said Piar was abducted by miscreants on September 23. The recovered body bore marks of injury. Previous enmity could be behind the murder, said the officer-in-charge of Atakula police station.

Earlier, Piar's brother filed a abduction case with Fripdur police station on September 25.

FAILURE TO GIVE POLLS EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

EC's show-cause on 20 SCC councilor candidates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The Election Commission yesterday sent show-cause notices on 20 councilor candidates in Sylhet City Corporation (SCC) polls for failing to submit statements on their election expenses even two weeks after the deadline.

All the 20 had lost in the election.

Deputy Election Commissioner

for Sylhet division Khondker Mizanur Rahman, who was Returning Officer in SCC polls, said the 20 candidates did not file their statements even on repeated notices through letter and phone.

The candidates including four females were issued the notices to reply within three days. However, they will get a few days more due to the Eid vacation, official sources said.

EC will lodge cases with police for failing to comply with the notices.

September 12 was the last date for filing the polls expenditure statements.

Those served with the notices are Dilruba Akhtar Koli, Moni Begum, Khaleda Begum Hena, Runu Begum, Mohammad Ali, Fazar Uddin, Mobarak Hossain, Kamal Ahmed, Borhan Ahmed Rahel, Ali Mohammad Sultan, Mujibul Haque, Walid Hossain, Nurul Islam Chowdhury, Md. Rahim Shah, Mahbubul Alam Shahin, Afzal Uddin, Nurul Islam Khan Pintu, Ahmed Shamsher Siraj, Chanchal Uddin and Rafiqul Islam.

10,000 marooned as Kobadak busts dam in Satkhira again

Eid, Puja festivities a far cry for 5 lakh people

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

At least seven villages in Gabura union adjacent to the Sundarbans in Shyamnagar upazila submerged on Sunday night as water entered the area following collapse of an embankment for the third time at Khalshibunia point on Kabodak River due to violent tide.

As 200 feet embankment collapsed, the sluice gate was also devoured into the river caused by heavy pressure of water from the river due to high tide.

Over 10,000 people in the areas were marooned on Sunday night inundating the fresh areas one after another.

Earlier on September 4 and 16, at least 15 villages in the area submerged as water entered the area through breached embankment at Khalshibunia and Lebubunia points on River Kabodak.

The authorities repaired the collapsed embankment at a cost of Tk 11 lakh on September 21 but the repaired embankment collapsed again at the same point on Saturday and Sunday night.

Over 6,000 homeless people have taken shelter on high lands in the areas as hundreds of kutchas houses were damaged.

Affected people are suffering from acute scarcity of drinking water and food, said Sharifa Khatun and Fatema Khatun of village Sora in Shyamnagar upazila.

The worst affected villages are Khalshibunia, Lebubunia, Gabura, Chakbara, Sora and Laxmikola in Pratapnagar union.

Local people said cracks developed on the repaired embankment on Friday and their attempt to

reconstruct the embankment on self-help basis failed as the embankment finally collapsed on Sunday night due to violent tide in the river.

Contacted, Satkhira Water Development Board Assistant Engineer Shahadat Hossain said they are trying to reconstruct collapsed embankment on an emergency basis.

Meanwhile, Eid-ul-Fitre, the greatest religious festival of the Muslims, and Durga Puja, the largest religious festival of the Hindus, will bring no joy for over five lakh people in Kabodak basin areas under Satkhira, Jessore and Khulna districts.

Ex-JP MP sued for 'forgery'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Mohammad Ali, a former Jatiya Party MP from Rangpur-2 constituency, was sued yesterday for 'forgery'. Kazi Para Women's Model Technical College Principal Mohammad Anisul Haque lodged the case with Rangpur Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court.

As president of the college managing committee, Mohammad Ali took Tk 10,50,000 from the principal in 2005, for giving bribe for affiliation of the college, it was alleged in case.

Ten teachers of the college gave the money, which the former lawmaker received by signing on a written statement.

Earlier, the principal served a legal notice to Mohammad Ali through Advocate Golam Mostafa Sarker on September 17, 2008 for return of the entire money within five days. But he did not respond to the legal notice.



National Oil, Gas Protection Committee forms a human chain in front of Dinajpur Press Club yesterday demanding cancellation of a proposal to lease offshore blocks to multinational companies for drilling.

Bangladesh Cricket Board Invitation for Tender

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from eligible Tenderers as per terms and conditions stated below:

1	Employer	Bangladesh Cricket Board		
2	Procuring Entity	Dhaka, Bangladesh		
3	Name of Work	Installation of Tubler flood lights pole with installation of flood light at Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur, Dhaka.		
4	Invitation Ref	No-BCB/2007/08/2918		
5	Procurement Method	Two Envelope Method		
6	Budget and source of Fund	Bangladesh Cricket Board		
7	Tender Publication Date	30-09-2008		
8	Tender last Selling Date	26-10-2008		
9	Tender Closing Date and Time	27-10-2008 at 12.00 Pm		
10	Tender Opening Date and Time	27-10-2008 at 13.00 Pm		
11	Name and Address of the Selling Tender	Finance & Accounts Dept., Bangladesh Cricket Board.		
12	Receiving & Opening Tender	Office of the CEO, BCB		
13	Place/Date/Time of Pre-Tender meeting (Optional)	To be notified by the consultant		
14	Eligibility of Tenderers	The intending firm must fulfill the following eligibility criteria: i) The firm should be enlisted special class contractor of Gov./Semi Govt./Autonomous organization. ii) The firm must have experience a. Stadium flood lighting not less than Tk. 5(Five) core in a single tender. b. Supply and installation of at least 2000 KVA, 11KV/0.4 KV Sub-Station Valued not less than Tk. 50 (Fifty) Lacs in a single tender. c. Supply and erection of steel high mast valued not less than Tk. 70(Seventy) Lacs in a single tender. iii) The tenderer may form Consortium /Association with local /foreign firms to fulfill all of the said requirement jointly. iv) The Lead firm must have experience of stadium flood lighting exclusively.		
15	Brief Description of Goods or Works	Construction of Tubular flood lights pole using latest type of metal Halide lamps and luminaries similar to Arena Vision of PHILIPS or equivalent from other international reputed manufactures. Country of Origin:-UK, Holland, Germany, South Africa, Australia.		
16	Price of Tender Document (TK.)	TK. 5000/- (Five thousand) non-refundable		
17	Identification of Package	Location	Tender Security	Completion Time in Week/Month
	Construction of Tubler flood lights pole with installation of flood light at Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur, Dhaka.	Mirpur Dhaka	Tk. 2.5% OF Quoted Amount	12 (Twelve) Month
18	Address of the Official Inviting Tender	Bangladesh Cricket Board, Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur, Dhaka. 1216. Phone : 8031001-4, Fax : 8031199		
19	The Procuring Entity Reserves the rights to accept or reject all tenders.			

Chief Executive Officer
Bangladesh Cricket Board

Bangladesh Cricket Board Invitation for Tender

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from eligible Tenderers as per terms and conditions stated below:

1	Employer	Bangladesh Cricket Board		
2	Procuring Entity	Dhaka, Bangladesh		
3	Name of Work	Construction of suspended Steel Canopy at Entry Level of Grand stand at Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur, Dhaka		
4	Invitation Ref	No-BCB/2007/08/2920		
5	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method		
6	Budget and source of Fund	Bangladesh Cricket Board		
7	Tender Publication Date	30-09-2008		
8	Tender last Selling Date	26-10-2008		
9	Tender Closing Date and Time	27-10-2008 at 12.00 pm		
10	Tender Opening Date and Time	27-10-2008 at 12.45 pm		
11	Name and Address of the Selling Tender	Finance & Accounts Dept., Bangladesh Cricket Board.		
12	Receiving & Opening Tender	Office of the CEO, BCB		
13	Place/Date/Time of Pre-Tender meeting (Optional)	To be notified by the consultant		
14	Eligibility of Tenderers	The intending firm must fulfill the following eligibility criteria: i) The firm should be enlisted contractor of Gov/Semi Govt./Autonomous organization. ii) The firm must have at least 5 (Five) years of experience in construction field. iii) The firm must have experience in successful completion of a similar nature of job like construction of Pre Fabricated Steel Structure works in a single contract of over Tk 20.00 Lac during the last 5 years under Govt./Semi Govt./Autonomous organization.		
15	Brief Description of Goods or Works	Construction of suspended Steel Canopy Made of MS pipe & joint and covering the roof with Tinted Tempered Glass as per design drawing of Architects and Engineers in charge		
16	Price of Tender Document (TK.)	TK. 2000/- (Two Thousand) non-refundable		
17	Identification of Package	Location	Tender Security	Completion Time in Week/Month
	Construction of Steel Canopy at Entry Level of Grand stands at Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur, Dhaka.	Mirpur Dhaka	Tk. 2.5% OF Quoted Amount	6 (Six) Month
18	Address of the Official Inviting Tender	Bangladesh Cricket Board, Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur, Dhaka. 1216. Phone : 8031001-4, Fax : 8031199		
19	The Procuring Entity Reserves the rights to accept or reject all tenders.			

Chief Executive Officer
Bangladesh Cricket Board