

Reduce irrigation-dependent cultivation

Say experts

UNB, Dhaka

To pave the way for sustainable agriculture and development, the country's irrigation (deep tube-well) dependent cultivation should be minimised through encouraging production of traditional eco-agricultural crops that can protect the nature from overexploitation, experts said.

They also said nature is being seriously exploited for producing some species of paddies which need lots of groundwater, and cultivation of such crops should be immediately avoided.

"At least 2,000 liter of water is needed to produce just one kilogram of rice (paddy) whose price is nowhere near the price of the water. The nature has to give the subsidy for the abnormal price difference," an agricultural scientist told UNB preferring anonymity.

He also said it could not be acceptable that natural resources are being gradually overexploited in such a manner by the human beings. "Withdrawal of underground water for such irrigation is causing serious water crisis in rural areas and the water level is going down every year."

At a recent seminar in the city, Prof Dr Mohammed Ataur Rahman of International University of Business Agriculture and Technology, in his

research paper presented some proposals for the sustainable agriculture and development.

He mentioned that irrigation (deep tube-well) destroys crop diversity, especially the low water demanding crops like many varieties of rice, millets, cereals, peas, grams and pulses.

Suggesting choosing the right crop for right habitat he said there are so many varieties and species which are tolerant in different climatic conditions, soils and topography. For example, many varieties of rice (Aus) and millets grow well in dry weather condition but some are water demanding and prefers wet condition.

"Some crops are shade loving, some are partial but some requires long sunshine hours," he said, adding that farmers need to know which crops grow in what condition and also about their (crops) interrelationship among themselves and with other species.

"Therefore, we should know the use practices and the ideal conditions for growing crops and we must bring more species under cropping culture to save biodiversity and to maximize the use of land and productivity," he added.

Discouraging Dams for withdrawal of water from the up streams, Dr Ataur said it changes the habitats of both up and down streams creating distur-

bance in the natural water flow that causes impediment, rising of the catchments bed by silt.

Moreover, he said, it changes the natural cycle of dry and winter flora of the soil and ultimately affects the soil texture and structure. Decreased catchments reduce the water holding capacity and thus cause floods frequently during the wet monsoon.

He discouraged expansion of agricultural land by replacing the forests, cutting the hills and filling the catchments although facilitates managing agriculture but decreases land area, biodiversity, and catchments or water reservoirs.

"Thus causes floods frequently and damages crops. Excess surface water due to flood during the hot season absorbs solar radiation and increases the temperature of the water bodies and, thus raises inland atmospheric temperature. It is one of the reasons for global warming."

About plantation of three trees, he suggested that plantation of Rain trees, Mahogany and Acacias should be banned as they disturb the growth of other crops. As there is not sufficient pastureland, goat farming should be discouraged. Moreover, goat damages other crops. These are creating chaos among the people and are destroying

the social environment.

Dr Ataur mentioned that the changes of the nature are influenced by many factors -- solar radiation, heat and temperature, volcanic eruption, earthquake, wind, ocean current, glaciers, abrasion, wear and tear, action of living bodies including human beings.

"Changes may be very slow which cannot be understood by normal feelings but some sudden changes -- earthquake, volcanic eruption, cyclones and storms, nuclear and chemical war are so devastating that millions of lives get destroyed within a short span of time," he said.

Dr Ataur Rahman said with the advancement of civilization, rapid urbanisation and industrial development has changed the global environment significantly. Science, technology and medicine have reduced the death percentages and the world population has also increased beyond the natural balance of other lives and resources.

Competitions for food and survival among the people forced towards quick development without considering long term effect to the natural balances achieved through long run adaptation, he said.



PHOTO: STAR

(From Left) Yubeom Won, general manager of Samsung Dhaka office, Abu Sufiyan Khan, manager of Electra Telecom (BD) Ltd, Kanghyun Lee, managing director of Samsung Dhaka office, and Nausheen Nahrain, brand amplifier of the new products, launch the new range of specially designed Samsung mobile phones at a city hotel yesterday.

Samsung launches new sets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Samsung Electronics Co Ltd, a leading mobile phone provider, yesterday launched its new range of mobile phones specially designed for younger mobile users.

The Samsung Corby range of phones feature three models led by top of the line Corby (model S3653), which is followed by CorbyTXT (B3210) and Corby3G (M5650).

Kanghyun Lee, managing director of Samsung Dhaka office, launched the new mobile sets at a city hotel.

He said the launch of these

new handsets -- Samsung Corby, Samsung CorbyTXT and Samsung Corby3G -- is in line with the Samsung's strategy of designing a wealth of handsets to match every different lifestyles.

Corby (S3653) is an affordable touch screen handset focused on social networking, Lee added.

It will be available at the price of Tk 12,490 at all the Electra dealer outlets. The other two models will reach the market next month.

Corby is a full-touch handset that places users at the centre of the social media revolution with a wide range of social networks

support such as Facebook, Twitter and MySpace.

The best social networking services are combined with enhanced multimedia capabilities in a compact form factor. The Corby boasts a 2.8 inch (7.1cm) TFT touch screen and can be used as an MP3 player, video playback device and 2 mega pixel sensor with smile detection.

Abu Sufiyan Khan, manager of Electra Telecom (BD) Ltd, Yubeom Won, general manager of Samsung Dhaka office, and Nausheen Nahrain, brand amplifier of the new products, were present on the occasion.

Two madrasa students held in Patuakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Patuakhali police arrested two youths on suspicion of links to militant groups in the town at about 8:00am yesterday.

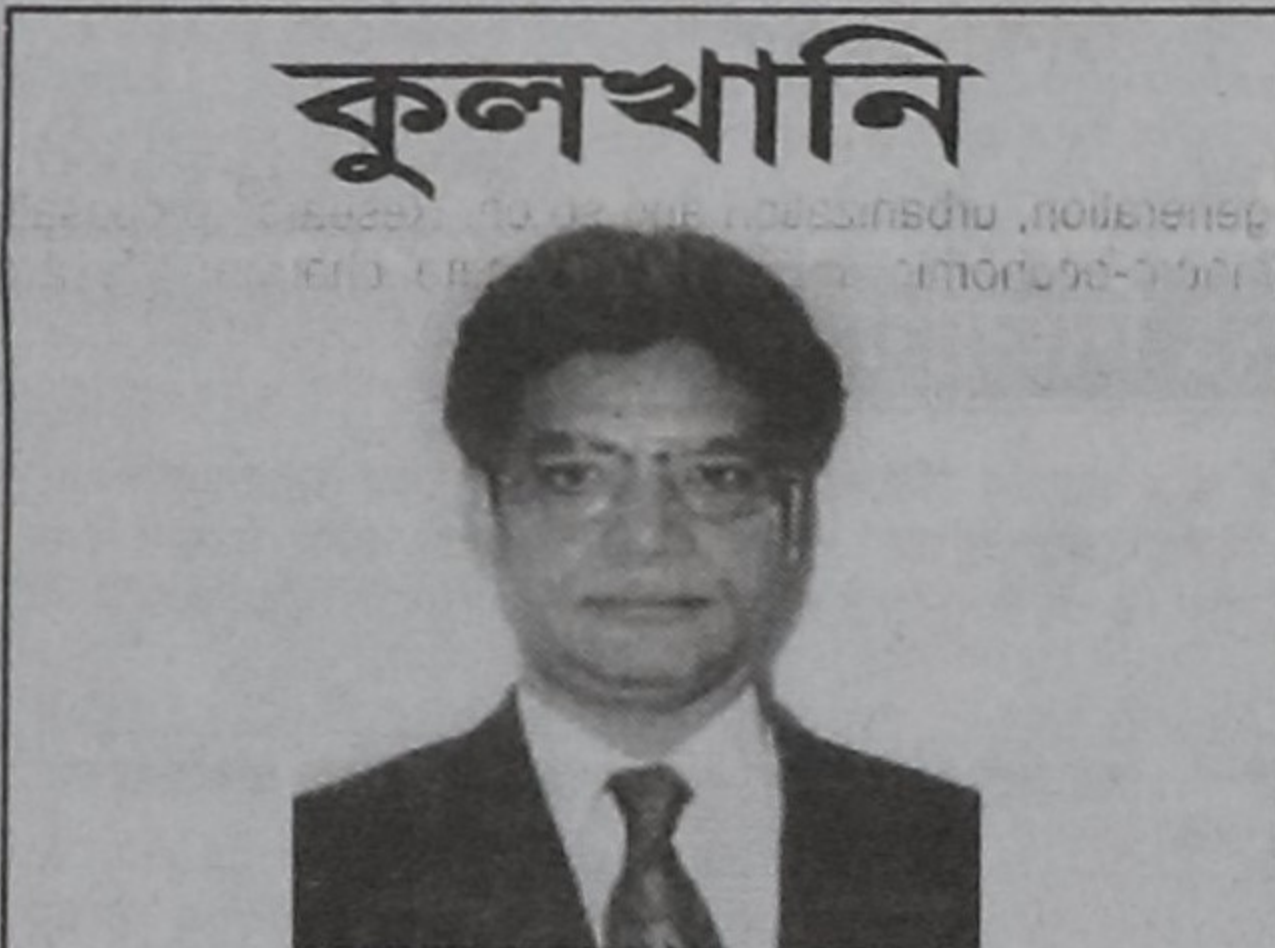
The two were identified as Jasim Uddin, 25, an Alim student of Mesbaul Alam Kamil Madrasa in Dhaka, and Rafiqul Islam, 20, a Dakhil examinee of Louhajang Madrasa.

During preliminary interrogation, they told the police that they came to Patuakhali to visit one of their friends, Sagar. But after their arrival from Dhaka in the morning, they could not reach him on his cell phone.



PHOTO: STAR

Garment Sramik Oikya Jote stages a demonstration at Muktangan in the city yesterday demanding payment of salary arrears and bonus before Eid.



মরহম ইঞ্জিনিয়ার নুরুল হক সিকদার, প্রতিষ্ঠাতা ও চেয়ারম্যান, পলমল গ্রুপ অফ ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ; এর কুলখানি অন্য শনিবার ২১ নভেম্বর ০৯ইং বাদ আসর মরহমের বাসভবন রোড # ৭/এ, বাসা # ৭৩, ধানমন্ডিতে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

সকল আত্মীয়-স্বজন, বন্ধু-বান্ধব ও শুভাকাংখীদের কুলখানিতে উপস্থিত হয়ে মরহমের রুহের মাগফিরাত কামনা করার জন্য অনুরোধ করছি।

বিনীত
মরহমের পরিবারবর্গ।

'Pay salary arrears, bonus before Eid'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Garments Workers Unity Council staged a demonstration at Muktangan in the city yesterday demanding payment of salary arrears and Eid bonuses by November 24, says a press release.

Prior to taking out a procession, the protesters staged a rally where the council leaders put their demands.

They said if their demands are not met by November 24, the garment owners, BGMEA and government would have to be responsible if any untoward situation arises.

Amirul Haque Amin, Salahuddin Swapan, Mainuddin Mondal, Alamgir Roni, Momtaz Uddin, Nazrul Islam, Mala Rani Das and Abdul Kader, among others, spoke.

BIWTC's special Eid services from Nov 24

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) has decided to arrange two week-long special steamer, launch and sea truck services along with the regular services ahead of Eid-ul-Azha to ensure safe and comfortable journey of the home-bound passengers.

ANM Shahadat Ali, deputy general manager (commercial and passenger) of BIWTC, told The Daily Star that the special steamer services on different major river and coastal routes will begin on November 24 and continue until December 6.

On Dhaka-Chandpur-Barisal-Khulna routes, BIWTC will operate special vessels -- paddle steamer PS Ostrich, PS Mahmud, PS Turn, PS Lepcha.

Screw type vessels -- MV Sela and MV Sonarganj -- would be placed on those routes for operating daily for at least one regular trip and one special trip from each end to carry the passengers.

On November 24, the first steamers of special services will leave Dhaka for Morelganj

via Chandpur, Barisal, Jhalakathi and Hularghat at 6:00pm.

Besides, coastal ships MV Baro Awlia, MV Abdul Matin and MV Manirul Huq would be operated on Hatia-Chittagong-Hatia routes from November 25 to 29 as Eid special services.

The authorities said the regular services of BIWTC would be as usual on those routes.

Moreover, BIWTC will operate its regular and special sea truck services on eight coastal routes of Barisal, Bhola, Laxmipur and Noakhali districts from November 25 to 30.

Pran Gopal, assistant general manager of Barisal BIWTC, said the fare of BIWTC carriers would remain the same on special trips.

On the other hand, launch owners' association declared that they would not arrange any extra trip and would place only four vessels daily on each ends of Dhaka and Barisal for Eid passengers from November 25 to 27 and December 1 to 4.

Saidur Rahman Rintu, vice-president of Barisal Launch Owners' Association, told this correspondent that eight launches for seven days without any extra trip would be difficult to manage the heavy rush of Eid passengers.

Sunil Mela begins at Kalkini today

A CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

A three-day Sunil Mela (fair) begins today at Majipara village under Kalkini upazila here to observe the 76th birth anniversary of Sunil Gangopadhyay, noted poet and litterateur of the Indian subcontinent.

The fair has been organised by the poet's close associates - freedom fighters Razzak Howladar and Abdul Wahab Howladar Nannu.

A series of programmes, including discussions recalling the poet's life and his contributions to Bangla literature, dramas, music and recitations, will be held at the fair venue.

Artists and poets from Madaripur and other districts are participating in the event which will be opened by freedom fighter Hemayet Uddin Bir Bikram.

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