

ACUTE POWER CRISIS HAMPERS IRRIGATION IN TANGAIL

Farmers feeding dying boro plants to cattle

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The acute power crisis in Tangail district is hampering irrigation during the peak boro paddy cultivation season, much to the concern of farmers who had expected a good yield this season.

As the boro plants are dying in dried up fields, farmers in some areas are feeding the plants to cattle.

The erratic power supply due to frequent load-shedding

also paralyses normal life in the town areas.

Demanding smooth electricity supply, local people including farmers laid siege to and damaged several power offices in different upazilas of the district in the beginning of the boro season.

Local officials of the Power Development Board (PDB) and Rural Electrification Board (REB) said the situation has arisen as they are getting less than 50 percent of the required electricity from the national grid.

Top officials from the two departments also visited the district but the situation has not seen any improvement.

Boro paddy was cultivated on 1,69,070 hectares of land in 12 upazilas of the district this year as farmers expected good output but they are now worried about success of the farming as boro saplings are drying up due to lack of irrigation.

The power crisis causes the shallow pumps to remain idle most of the time while a large number of electric motors of

the irrigation pumps got burnt due to unusual voltage fluctuations, sources said.

During recent visits to Mirzapur upazila, this correspondent saw farmers in the municipality area were feeding their cattle dried up boro paddy that was damaged due to lack of timely irrigation.

Local REB offices sources said electricity demand in Mirzapur upazila is 20 MW and off-peak hour is 20 MW and 14/15 MW while only 4MW to 5MW electricity is being

supplied from the national grid. A large portion of the electricity is supplied to the mills and industries in Gorai industrial area, they said.

"Currently we are getting only 40MW electricity from the grid line against the 85MW demand in the district during the peak boro cultivation season. The prevailing crisis situation cannot improve without increasing electricity supply from the grid," said Obaidur Rahman, general manager of Tangail Palli Bidyut Samity.

Frequent load-shedding also paralyses normal life and hampers activities in government and private offices, business centres, banks, educational institutions and other establishments in the district headquarters.

"The district town needs 21MW electricity during the peak hour while it is getting only 8MW to 11MW electricity currently," said Rafiqul Islam, executive engineer of Power Development Board (Sales and Distribution) in Tangail.

Besides, the works of urgent repair and necessary maintenance of PDB is being badly hampered due to shortage of necessary electrical goods including wire, pole and transformer, said Syed Tanzilul Aziz, general secretary of Tangail District Electricity Contractors Association.

Asked about the matter, Sarwar Hossain, executive engineer of PDB (Distribution) in Tangail, said they have already sent letter to the higher authorities mentioning lists of necessary electrical goods including wire, pole and transformer for completion of necessary and pending repair and maintenance works in the district.



Organisers arrange announcement through a loudspeaker about an ongoing month-long function at VTI ground in Sherpur upazila headquarters under Bogra district. The function, under the banner of 'handicrafts exhibition to help freedom fighters' has arranged obscene dance and gambling, much to the worry of conscious citizens in the area.

PHOTO: STAR



PHOTO: STAR

Dying boro plants being fed to cattle at a field in Mirzapur upazila under Tangail district as lack of irrigation due to acute power crisis causes premature death to the plants.

Another victim of teasing by delinquents

A CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

Failing to cope up with taunts made by some delinquents, a schoolgirl committed suicide by hanging herself from a ceiling fan at their house in Kishoreganj town on Wednesday night.

Daughter of vegetable trader Abdul Mutalib of Satal area of the town, Chand Moni, 15, was a class nine student of Azimuddin High School.

Police quoted family members as saying that Alam, 20, son of Ali Hossain, and his accomplices Abdur Rahman, 21, Saddam Hossain, 20, and Russel Mia, 23, of Satal area used to tease Moni on her way to school.

Alam's mother Asiron, sisters Nisat, Rina, and Lima also put pressure on Moni's parents to marry off their



Chand Moni

daughter to Alam.

On March 17, Alam along with his accomplices came to Chand Moni's house and told her parents that he wanted to marry Moni. He also threatened to kidnap Moni if they rejected his proposal.

Being tormented by feelings of insecurity, Moni killed herself by hanging from a ceiling fan at night.

Her father Mutalib filed

a case with Kishoreganj Sadar Police Station under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act the following day against Alam, his mother Asiron and two of his accomplices.

No one was arrested as of filing of this report at 6:00pm yesterday. The accused have been absconding since filing of the case.

Moni's family members alleged that the accused asked them over cellphone to withdraw the case. Otherwise, they said, the accused threatened them with death.

Contacted, Officer-in-Charge Mir Musharraf of Sadar Police Station said they are trying to nab the accused, tracking their cellphone numbers.

BDR mutineers' trial resumes at Satkhira today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Trial of the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) mutiny case will resume today as the Special Court No-1 set up at 41 Rifles Battalion headquarters in Satkhira will record statements of the prosecution witnesses (PWs).

After recording statements of the 15 out of 40 prosecution witnesses on

January 21, the court fixed March 21 to record the statement of other prosecution witnesses, court sources said.

Sixteen out of 60 accused BDR members have already confessed to their involvement in the mutiny and begged for mercy in writing before the court on January 20.

The trial of BDR mutiny at 7 Rifles Battalion at Nildumur in Shyamnagar

upazila began on December 7.

The special court framed charges against 60 BDR mutineers of 7 Rifles Battalion at Nildumur in Shyamnagar upazila on January 18.

BDR Director General Major General M Mainul Islam, head of the court along two other members of the court is now at Satkhira to record the statements of the

witnesses today.

The other members are Lt Col Gazi Khalid Hossain and Major Lutful Karim.

Deputy Attorney General (DAG) advocate Khasruzzaman on behalf of the Attorney General and advocate Mosharraf Hossain Kajal and advocate Sahidur Rahman, senior public prosecutors on behalf of the state, are expected to be present at the court.

KIBRIA KILLING CASE Babar grilled, sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Grilling of former state minister for home affairs Luthfuzzaman Babar for second time in the Kibria killing case ended yesterday. Judicial magistrate of Habiganj Shahidul Amin yesterday sent him back to the jail after CID produced him before the court.

CID police took Babar on six days remand first on February 11 and again on March 14 on five days in the sensational case. Babar was shown arrested in the case since February 2 this year. CID ASP Md Rafiqul Islam, also investigation officer of the case, sought to quiz Babar in the August 21 incident.

During interrogation, Babar confessed to his role in the Kibria killing, CID sources said.

Babar was quizzed along with Huji operative Mizanur Rahman Mithu in the case last week, the IO said.

Declining to give details, ASP Rafiqul Islam, Mithu threw the grenade on Kibria. Mithu disclosed this in confessional statement before judicial magistrate of Habiganj on Thursday last.

SAMS Kibria and four others were killed while 70 sustained wounds in a grenade attack at Baidyerbazar in Habiganj on January 27 in 2005.

After the incident, district AL organising secretary Abdul Mazid Khan (now lawmaker) filed a case.

CID submitted charge sheet in the case but further investigation has been going on as the complainant and the victim's family members filed Naraji (objection) and appealed for fresh probe in January, 2007.

AL leader murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A local leader of the ruling Awami League (AL) was murdered at Tatadhan union in Rangpur Sadar upazila early yesterday.

On information, police recovered the body of Motiar Rahman Moti, 55, AL president of ward No-5, from a paddy field at Chandkutti around 10:00am.

The hands and legs of the victim were tied up with ropes. There were marks of injury on his throat.

Police said Moti might have been killed by rivals following a conflict over forming a bazaar management committee at about 2:00am.



Plunderers fell 80 trees

A CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Tree 'plunderers' cut down at least 80 Mahogany trees in broad daylight at Jora Mondir near Murodir Moar (intersection) area in the outskirts of the town on Friday.

Police yesterday recovered 35 trees from the spot.

Land owners Anowar Hossain, Monower Hossain and Sanowar Hossain said, being informed by people they

rushed to the spot at about 11:00 am on Friday and saw about 30/35 labourers engaged in felling the Mahogany trees from their land.

Failing to stop them they informed the matter to the police.

Police came to the spot and stopped the plundering but by that time they had already cut down about 80 trees.

The alleged plunderers,

including Mizanur Rahman Mizan of Chanchara Roypara, Mozaffar Hossain Fonta, Shamim, Tarikul, Hira Ahmad and Fazlu of Jora Mondir area, claimed that they had purchased the trees from one Rozina Khatun.

However, they failed to show any documents in this regard to the police.

Police recovered 35 trees while being taken to a saw mill.

The land owners later filed a complaint with Jessore Kotwali police station.

The owners of the land have been living in Bokchar area, about half a kilometre away from the tree garden, for at least five decades.

They said, their father Kitab Ali planted about 120 Mahogany trees on the 40 decimal land about 15 year ago.

FEB 9 VIOLENCE

Two more RU Shibir men arrested

A RU CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested two activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir at Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday and the day before in connection with the February 9 violence on the campus.

The arrestees are Mazharul Islam, a third year student of law and justice department and Aatur Rahman alias Akash, a second year student of social welfare department.

Motihar police captured

Mazharul Islam from an examination hall at Rabindra Arts Building yesterday noon.

Earlier, Chhatra League (BCL) activists of Shaheed Shamsuzzoha Hall unit caught Akash from the hall gate and severely beat him with sticks Friday night. Later, he was handed over to the law enforcers.

The BCL activists alleged that Akash along with a group of outsiders attacked their workers on the campus on February 9.

CONGRATULATIONS



Fahim Iqbal Khan has obtained the world highest mark in Mathematics B and secured all A in O Level. Congratulating him his parents and younger sister, Iqbal Khan Shanto, Farzana Khan Rupa and Ridita. He is grandson of Late SM Abdul Jabbar, Senior Lawyer of Khulna and Nurul Hoque Khan. C-458

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন

আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিচ্ছন্ন রাখুন
আপনার শিশুকে টিকা দিন

অবৈধ বিজ্ঞাপনী বোর্ড অপসারণের

জরুরি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের অনুমোদন ব্যতীত বা কারিগরী দিক থেকে যথাযথ নয় বা জানামালের জন্য ঝুঁকিপূর্ণ, আয়তনে বড়, বিদ্যুৎ সরবরাহ লাইন সংলগ্ন বা লাইনের উপর বিভিন্ন সংস্থা, প্রতিষ্ঠান ও ব্যক্তিমালিকানাধীন ভূমি/ভবনে স্থাপিত বিজ্ঞাপন বোর্ড অনতিবিলম্বে নিজ দায়িত্বে অপসারণের জন্য সংশ্লিষ্ট বিজ্ঞাপনী সংস্থা, স্থান/ভবনের মালিক, সরকারি-বেসরকারি সংস্থাকে পুনরায় অনুরোধ জানানো যাচ্ছে। উল্লেখ্য, ডিসিসি'র বিজিলাপ্স টিম কর্তৃক ইতিমধ্যেই এসব বিলবোর্ডসহ অন্যান্য অনুমোদনবিহীন বোর্ড অপসারণের কাজ চলমান রয়েছে।

স্থানীয় সরকার (সিটি করপোরেশন) আইন ২০০৯ মোতাবেক ডিসিসিতে যথাযথভাবে বিজ্ঞাপনী কর/মডেল ট্যাক্স পরিশোধ ব্যতীত ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন এলাকায় যে কোন বিজ্ঞাপন প্রদর্শন দণ্ডনীয় অপরাধ। সুতরাং বিজ্ঞাপন বোর্ড স্থাপনকারী কর্তৃক নিজ দায়িত্বে অনুমোদনবিহীন বিলবোর্ড/সাইনবোর্ডসহ যে কোন ধরনের প্রচারমূলক সরঞ্জাম অপসারণ করা না হলে সংশ্লিষ্টদের বিরুদ্ধে অপসারণের খরচ আদায়সহ আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে। এ ধরনের বিজ্ঞাপনী বোর্ডের কারণে কোন দূর্ঘটনা ঘটলে সংশ্লিষ্ট বোর্ড স্থাপনকারী সংস্থা/ব্যক্তিকে সম্পূর্ণ দায়-দায়িত্ব বহন করতে হবে।

সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহকে অনতিপ্রত্নে বামেলা এড়ানোর জন্য ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন এলাকায় যে কোন ধরনের বিজ্ঞাপন প্রচারের ক্ষেত্রে কোন বিজ্ঞাপনী সংস্থার সাথে চুক্তি সম্পাদনের পূর্বে বিজ্ঞাপনী সংস্থাটি বিজ্ঞাপন বোর্ডের জন্য ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের অনুমোদন গ্রহণ করাসহ হালনাগাদ বিজ্ঞাপন কর প্রদান করেছে কি-না তা নিশ্চিত হয়ে চুক্তিবদ্ধ হওয়ার জন্য অনুরোধ জানানো যাচ্ছে।

ডিসিসি'র অনুমোদন ব্যতিরেকে বিলবোর্ড, ব্যানার, ফেস্টুন, পোস্টার ইত্যাদি না লাগানো এবং দেয়াল লিখন থেকে বিরত থাকার জন্য সংশ্লিষ্ট সকল মহলের সহযোগিতা কামনা করা হচ্ছে।

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কর্তৃপক্ষ
ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন