

UNCERTAINTY ABOUT POWER SUPPLY TO KASHIMPUR PUMP HOUSE IN MOULVIBAZAR

# Kawadighi farmers worried ahead of boro harvest

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Moulvibazar

Uncertainty about electricity supply to Kashimpur pump house, meant for pumping out excess water from Kawadighi Haor water body to the Kushiara River to save standing boro crops from inundation, has become a matter of concern for the farmers ahead of boro harvest.

Failure to drain out the excess water due to lack of power supply to the pump house set up on Koradair canal in Moulvibazar district, may cause inundation of the entire area in case of heavy rainfall and if it happens before or during the boro harvest, farmers will incur huge losses, locals said.

Uncertainty about uninterrupted power supply has arisen as another power line has been connected with the power supply line of Kashimpur pump house, said sources of Water Development Board (WDB).

A 24-kilometre electric line from Fenchuganj power station to Kashimpur through Moulvibazar was installed with the fund of WDB to connect the power sub-station installed at

Kashimpur Pump House to ensure uninterrupted power supply during the boro season.

WDB also bears the maintenance cost for Fenchuganj- Moulvibazar-Kashimpur power line.

Eight pumps with capacity of pumping out of 150 cubic feet of water per second were installed at the

pumphouse in 1980.

Meantime, normal life duration of these pumps has expired and only three of the pumps are operative now. The WDB official source said they are hopeful about repair and operation of four of the five inoperative pumps this season.

A new problem has appeared as the Power

Development Board (PDB) has connected Kulaura-Juri-Baralekha electricity supply line with Fenchuganj-Moulvibazar-Kashimpur supply line connecting the pump house of the WDB.

Now power supply in Fenchuganj-Moulvibazar-Kashimpur line disrupts automatically when Kulaura-Juri-Baralekha line

'trips', making Kashimpur pump house inoperative, WDB sources said.

Besides summer storms damaged the electric line at different points.

The boro harvest will start within a few days and the pump house has to be kept fully ready during the harvesting period but uncertainty prevails due to the above mentioned situation.

"The PDB has connected Kulaura-Juri-Baralekha line with Fenchuganj-Moulvibazar-Kashimpur line of the WDB without our consent. This connection should be off immediately to ensure smooth power supply to Kashimpur pump house in the boro harvesting season," said Md Mostafizur Rahman, executive engineer of the WDB, Moulvibazar.

Sirajul Islam, executive engineer of the PDB, Moulvibazar, said they had to take connection from Fenchuganj-Moulvibazar-Kashimpur line as the 'breakers' of Kulaura-Juri-Baralekha power line went out of order a few months ago. Now they have received five 'breakers' and the problem will be over after installation of these at Fenchuganj.



PHOTO: STAR

**Kashimpur pump house on Koradair canal under Monu River Irrigation Project in Moulvibazar district, set up to pump out excess water from Kawadighi Haor to save boro paddy from flooding during the harvest season, fails to give any assurance to the farmers this season as five of its pumps are out of order while electricity supply remains erratic.**

## 153 mutineers sentenced to jail in Chittagong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The special court-16 yesterday sentenced 153 border guards to jail terms ranging from one and a half years to seven years for their involvement in the mutiny at BGB Training Centre and School at Baitul Izzat at Satkania in Chittagong on February 25, 2009.

Of them, 80 were jailed for seven years, four for six years and six months, 13 for six years, 16 for five years and six months, 29 for five years, five for four years, three for three years, two for two years and one was jailed for one and a half years.

The court headed by BGB Rangamati Sector Commander Col Bashirul Islam delivered the judgement at around 10:00am. It (court) also fined the convicts Tk 100 each. Prosecutor Lt Col Shamimur Rahman briefed journalists after the verdict.

Nayek Subeder Md Shariful Islam filed the mutiny case against 153 jawans with the

special court-4 on July 7, 2010. The case was shifted to the special court-16 on March 6 this year.

The complainant alleged that 153 jawans revolted against their officers at the training centre and school, expressing solidarity with the mutineers of BGB headquarters at Pilkhana in the capital on February 25, 2009.

They ransacked the training centre and school, looted firearms and ammunition from armoury and fired blank shots, he added.

After hearing, the special court, set up at BGB sector headquarters at Halishahar in the port city, framed charges against 153 rebels on March 15. Of the accused, 11 confessed to their involvement in the mutiny while the rest 142 claimed innocence.

Advocate Belayet Hossain and advocate Kazi Iliasur Rahman assisted the prosecutor during the trial.

## 2 to die for killing wives for dowry

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Kushtia

A court here in separate verdicts on Wednesday sentenced two people to death for killing their wives for dowry.

The convicts were identified as Alam Malitha, 30, son of Loho Malitha of Chandanpara in Daulatpur and Sakim Uddin, 32, son of Mustafiz of Barkhada in Sadar upazila in Kushtia.

Both convicts were at large during the pronouncement of verdicts.

According to prosecution, Hazera Khatun, 20, daughter of Gazi Joardar of Joyrampur in Daulatpur upazila in

Kushtia was married to Alam in January, 2002.

Alam was paid Tk. 20000 dowry at the time of marriage. But after a few days, Alam demanded Tk 50,000 more and started to torture Hazera for it.

On the fateful night of September 14, 2008, Alam strangled Hazera and fled the scene.

In the other incident, Sakim beat dead his wife Banu Khatun, 22, for dowry on August 23, 2000.

Banu, daughter of Hatem Ali of Barkhada was married to Sakim in 1999.

Hatem filed a case with Kushtia sadar police. But police failed to arrest the killer.

After examining the records and witnesses, judge of Women and Children Repression Prevention Court Akbar Hossain Mridha handed down the verdicts.

In Sirajganj, a man murdered his wife in Enayetpur upazila yesterday, reports our correspondent.

The deceased was identified as Tara Banu, 35, wife of Abdul Karim of Mulakandi village.

Abdur Razzak, officer-in-charge of Enayetpur police station said, in the early hours of yesterday Abdul Karim beat up Tara Banu and later strangled her after an altercation over a family matter, and fled the spot.

All the members of Karim's family went into hiding soon after the killing.

## Muggers stab policemen

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Rangpur

Three muggers escaped arrest, stabbing two policemen at Baldipukur under Mithapukur upazila in the district on Wednesday night.

The injured policemen are Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Mominur Rahman and constable Sagor Hossain of Mithapukur Police Station.

Being informed that a gang of six looted money and valuables from passersby on Rangpur-Bogra highway at around 11:00pm, police rushed to the spot and chased the gang.

As the ASI Momin and constable Sagor caught three of the gang, they stabbed the two and fled the scene.



PHOTO: STAR

**Villagers give voluntary service to construct a two-kilometre-long paved road at Protima Bonki village in Sakhipur upazila under Tangail district as locals have taken the initiative to ease communication, especially for the school children, ahead of the rainy season.**

## Villagers build road to education for kids

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Tangail

People of Protima Bonki village in Sakhipur upazila of Tangail district are constructing a brick-built road at their own initiative to ease communication, especially for hundreds of school going students.

The two-kilometre dirt road from Protima Bonki Chourasta Bazar to Ekota High School has remained in a deplorable condition for long, making it unfit for use even after a moderate rain.

Keeping in mind the situation to be faced during the coming rainy season, the villagers recently took decision to construct a brick-built road there.

"We suffer a lot during

the rainy season as we have to walk on the muddy road to go to school. Now we hope to attend school with clean uniform and shoes when the work for the paved road completes," said Mina Akter, a class VIII student of Ekota High School.

Local Dreamland Club has taken the initiative to construct a paved road here to mitigate sufferings of local people including school students during the wet season, said Mohammad Zafar Iqbal, headmaster of Ekota High School.

The villagers are bearing all costs for the road and meantime, they have collected construction materials including bricks and

sand to build one kilometre of the road, he added.

During a visit to the area on Sunday, this correspondent saw that many villagers were giving voluntary service for the road construction in a happy mood.

"It is a different kind of joy to construct a road with our own money and labour. We the villagers are helping the road construction work according to our ability," said Julhas Uddin of the village.

Sakhipur upazila Chairman Shawkat Sikder and Sakhipur municipality Mayor Abu Hanif Azad have visited the road construction work and assured the villagers of extending help to complete the work.



PHOTO: STAR

**MYSTERIOUS POISONING LANDS THEM IN HOSPITAL: Mominul Haq, 35, his son Amit, 10, daughter Mohona, 7, and wife Rebeka Begum, 27, are undergoing treatment at Phulbari upazila health complex after they fell unconscious at their Chawkshahabazpur village home in Phulbari upazila of Dianjur district yesterday morning.**

## Four of a family poisoned 'mysteriously' fight for life

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Dinajpur

Four member of a family, who were poisoned 'mysteriously' at their residence at Chawkshahabazpur village in Fulbari upazila on Wednesday night, are fighting for life at the upazila health complex.

The victims are Md Mominul Haque, 35, his wife Rebeka Begum, 27, and their son Amit, 10, and daughter Mohona Khatun, 7.

Resident Medical Officer Dr Abul Azad, who washed stomachs of the four at the hospital, said they consumed poison-mixed water. They are still not out of danger, he added.

Since the door of their house remained shut until 8:00am and no one responded from inside, neighbours in presence of the local ward councillor entered the house by breaking open the door and found

the four lying on the floor.

They immediately took the four to Phulbari Health Complex.

Villagers suspected that some criminals secretly entered the house of Mominul on Wednesday night and mixed poison with drinking water.

Contacted, Md Shawkat Ali, officer-in-charge of Phulbari Police Station, they will try to unearth the mystery behind this heinous act.

## Breaking the shackles of dowry

### Two young men wed Laboni and Shilpi, two orphans, with the noble gesture

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Manikganj

Two girls residing at Government Children's Home (orphanage) at Manikganj have started their new life as housewives, thanks to the initiative of the authorities.

At a special ceremony arranged on Wednesday, Laboni Akter, 19, was married with Foysal Islam, 25, son of late Julhas Uddin of Kapasia upazila in Gazipur district, and Shilpi Akter, 18, with Abu Sayeed, son of Sohrab Mia of Baro Sarundi of Manikganj.

Foysal and Sayeed, both bus drivers by profession, married the girls without any dowry.

Laboni and Shilpi said they have been living at the government-run orphanage in Manikganj for the last 10 years. Earlier they lived at a shelter in Narayanganj.

Both the girls, who do not know who their fathers and mothers are,



said they are very happy with their marriage.

Deputy Commissioner Munshi Shahabuddin Ahmed, Additional Deputy Commissioner Nizam Uddin, Additional Police Superintendent Joydeb Bhadra, Public Prosecutor of District and Sessions Judge's Court advocate Abdus Salam, Deputy Director of Social Welfare Department Kiron Shankar Biswas, Deputy Superintendent of the

Government Children's Home Golam Mostofa, Manikganj Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer Wahedur Rahman, district Bar Association President advocate Khondaker Sharif Mia and its General Secretary advocate Jamilur Rashid were present at the ceremony.

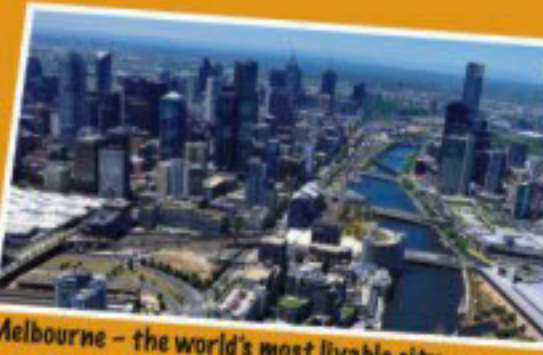
The family members and relatives of the bridegrooms and brides were also invited at the function.

The authority handed

over the two girls to their bridegrooms after completing their marriage at around 5:00pm.

Local elites including law maker Jahid Maleque Swapan, Manikganj Municipality Mayor Md Ramzan Ali and Public Prosecutor Abdus Salam gave financial support to arrange the ceremony, said Golam Mostofa, deputy superintendent of the children's home.

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