

# Boro to be costly as diesel, fertiliser prices spiral

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Boro farmers will have to count additional production cost this season due to increase in prices of diesel and fertiliser.

In the district, the extra cost for the purpose will stand around Tk 50 crore, said agriculture experts.

This year the Department

of Agriculture Extension (DAE) in the district set a target to cultivate boro on 78,212 hectares of land while last year the paddy was cultivated on 78,490 hectares, officials said.

Higher price of diesel and fertiliser might be the cause behind the slight fall in cultivation target, said farmers.

Farmers in the district

will use 24,600 diesel-run shallow pumps and three diesel-run deep tube-wells in the ongoing boro season to irrigate 61,500 hectares of land out of a total 78,212 hectares while electricity-run shallow pumps and deep tube-wells will irrigate the rest, DAE sources said.

Farmers informed that it needs 370-litre diesel to

irrigate a hectare of land during three-month boro season that usually requires 18 times irrigation on an average.

Four months ago, diesel sold at Tk 46 per litre while its present government rate is Tk 61. Accordingly, farmers have to spend additional Tk 34 crore for buying diesel for irrigation of 61,500 hect-

ares of land. Given the fact that diesel in rural areas is selling for Tk 63-64 per litre, the cost will be even more.

Besides, a bag of urea is selling at Tk 1000 which was Tk 600 before June last year. As farmers will need five bags of urea containing 50 kg each to spray on a hectare of boro land, they will need additional Tk 2000/ to buy the fertiliser for the same land.

Accordingly, farmers have to spend additional Tk 16 crore to buy urea for 78,212 hectares of boro land.

And so, farmers in the district have to spend additional Tk 50 crore for buying diesel and urea in this boro season, said agriculture experts.

Farmers Tayed Ali, Wahed of Kishoreganj upazila, Ramjan Ali, Mohabbat Hossain of Dimla upazila said they cut cultivation target as the price of agricultural products like paddy, jute and vegetables have decreased alarmingly while prices of diesel, urea and agricultural tools are increasing.

Mostafizar Rahman, district training officer of the DAE, admitted that farmers have to spend additional money for buying fuel and urea.

He, however, claimed that farmers' total expenditure will not increase that much as the government reduced the prices of murate of potash and triple super phosphate.



PHOTO: STAR

Criminals burn the furniture, documents and papers of Lighthouse School at Karotia in Tangail Sadar upazila early yesterday.

## Masked men burn down Shibir-run school

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Tangail

Criminals vandalised and burnt a school at Karotia in Tangail Sadar upazila early yesterday.

At midnight, a masked gang went to Lighthouse School, run by Islami Chhatra Shibir men at Rokeya Manzil of Karatia Jamindar Bari, police said.

They threw the tables, chairs and benches, as well as documents and papers out of the school building and set those afire. They also set fire to four classrooms of the institution, police said.

Being informed, fire service men from Tangail rushed to the spot and doused the fire.

"We set up the school at Rokeya Manzil of Karotia Zamindar Bari after renting

it from Wazed Ali Khan Panni Banting, the *motowalli* (supervisor) of the endowment estate, following house rent rules," Jahanur Chowdhury, principal of the school, said.

"However, a dispute took place between the *motowalli* and his younger brother Morshed Ali Khan Panni Tipu over the matter and Tipu recently directed the school authorities to leave the building.

"We were making preparations to shift the school to another place but a gang burnt it before our exit, making education of 550 students of the school uncertain," the principal said.

"I have visited the spot. Nobody is yet to file any case in this regard. However, we have imposed Section 144 to

stave off any unwanted incident as a tense situation is prevailing among the supporters of the two feuding brothers," Nazrul Islam, officer in-charge of Tangail Model police station, said.

Ahsan Habib Imroz, former international affairs secretary of the central unit of Shibir and also a resident of Karatia, founded Lighthouse School in 2000.

A police team from Tangail Model police station detained Imroz and his younger brother Firoz Chowdhury from their Chowdhurypara residence on January 9.

Police produced them before a court in Tangail after filing a case against them under Section 54 on the same day. The court sent them to jail.



PHOTO: STAR

Farmers use a diesel-run shallow machine to irrigate their boro filed at Harish Chandra Pal village in Nilphamari Sadar upazila. However, boro farming, requiring around 18 times irrigation during the three-month cultivation period, will be costlier this season as prices of diesel and fertiliser saw steep rise during last couple of months.

### SNIPPETS

#### 2 get life for murder

UNB, Comilla

A court here on Tuesday sentenced two men to life term imprisonment in a murder case. The court also fined Nuruddin and Tipu Tk 5,000 each, in default, to suffer six months more in jail. Of the convicts, Nuruddin is absconding. According to the prosecution, Sohel, son of Ruhul Amin of Boro Bari Chandpur village in Monoharganj upazila, was murdered by Nuruddin and his accomplices on the night of April 30, 2008. After investigation, police submitted a charge sheet against five people. After examining the records and witnesses, District and Sessions Judge AR Masud handed down the verdict acquitting three others.

#### I held with fake notes

UNB, Barguna

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested an alleged criminal along with fake currency notes from a house at Chhophkhali village in Betagi upazila yesterday. The arrestee is Habibur Rahman, 48, said Rab. On secret information, a team of Rab-8 raided the house of one Altaf Hossain at noon and arrested Habibur along with 24 fake notes of Tk 1000. Later, the arrestee was handed over to Betagi police station.

#### Youth's body recovered

UNB, Sylhet

Police recovered the body of a young man from Kushiya River in Golapganj upazila on Tuesday. Identity of the victim could not be known immediately. Gias Uddin, sub inspector of Golapganj police station, said locals found the body floating near the under-construction Sunampur-Chandarpur Bridge on Tuesday morning and informed police. Later, the law enforcers recovered the body that bore several injury marks and sent it to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College and Hospital morgue for autopsy.

#### Criminal held with firearm

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested an alleged criminal along with a 9 mm pistol from Puraton Kosba area in Jessore town yesterday morning. The arrestee is Zafor Ali, 25, son of Siddikur Rahman of Kasiani village in Gopalganj district. Rab-6 Jessore camp sources said, acting on a tip-off, they raided the house of Zafor at around 7.00am and arrested him along with the firearm.

#### Two commit 'suicide'

UNB, Netrakona

Two people allegedly committed suicide in separate incidents here on Monday and Tuesday. Police said Habib, 30, son of Gani Mia of Nagra village in Sadar upazila took poison on Monday night. Gani was admitted to Netrakona Adhunik Sadar Hospital where he died at about 4:30am on Tuesday. Mamun Mia, 35, son of Belu Mia of Shatkahan village in the upazila, killed himself by taking poison on Monday at around 11:30am. The reason behind their suicide could not be known immediately.

### 'INSTIGATION' TO COMMIT SUICIDE

## Wife, 2 others face charges

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Lalmonirhat

Charges were yesterday pressed against three people allegedly for instigating a man to commit suicide at Tongbhanga village in Hatibandha in August 2011.

Police said Sayeed Sabid Rubel, 30, committed suicide over a family feud at his rented house at Tongbhanga village in the upazila on the night of August 3 in 2011.

Rubel's mother Reshma Bewa filed a case against his wife Lazina Begum, mother-in-law Parul Begum, 48, and sister-in-law Hira Begum,

25, with the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court, Lalmonirhat, on August 8 the same year.

As per order of the court, Hatibandha Police Station recorded the case on September 30 in 2011. After investigation, Sub-Inspector Anisur Rahman, also the investigation officer of the case, submitted the charge-sheet to the court, accusing the three of instigating Rubel to commit suicide.

In the case statement, the complainant said her son Sayeed Sabid Rubel of Surkimil Colony in

Lalmonirhat married Lazina Begum, daughter of Nurul Islam Master of Purbo Thanapara village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila in January 2010.

Rubel had an altercation with his wife Lazia over her affair with a man. He also informed Lazia's mother and sister of the matter, but the duo sided with Lazia. Failing to settle the issue, he committed suicide, the complainant said.

The accused has been absconding since filing of the case, the IO stated in the chargesheet.



PHOTO: STAR

Ethnic people form a human chain at Zero Point in Rajshahi city yesterday demanding punishment to the criminals who kidnapped and raped a girl of the community at Shahpur Fulbari village in Godagari upazila of Rajshahi district on Monday.

## Abducted kid rescued, youth held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A three-year old boy, abducted for ransom from an apartment at Mirpur in the capital on January 16, was rescued from Shaheed Abdur Razzak Park in the district town yesterday.

The victim, Rahik Afsar, is son of Akhtaruzzaman Bhuiyan of House No-3, Road No-8 in Mirpur Section-11.

Police arrested the alleged abductor, Harun-ur-Rashid, 23, a night guard of the apartment building. He hails from Khejuria village in Debhata upazila of Satkhira.

Police quoted Akhtaruzzaman's relatives as saying that Harun-ur-Rashid abducted Afsar from the apartment in the evening of January 16, brought him to Satkhira and demanded a ransom of Tk 7 lakh over cellphone from his father on January 17.

As Akhtar agreed to give him (abductor) Tk 4 lakh for release of his son, the abductor asked him to send money through SA Paribahan courier service.

Accordingly, Akhtar sent the money to Harun through SA Paribahan courier service. He also sent three of his relatives who arrived in the town yesterday noon

and went to SA Paribahan counter.

When the alleged abductor came to the counter to draw the money at around 12:30pm, Akhtar's relatives, including his brother-in-law Md Amanat Shah, caught the youth and handed him over to the police.

As per Harun's statement, law enforcers from Sadar Police Station rescued Afsar from a tea shop in Shaheed Abdur Razzak Park area and handed him over to his relatives.

Amanat Shah filed a case with Satkhira Sadar Police Station against Harun-ur-Rashid.

### Bogra trader to face tax evasion case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,  
Bogra

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) is going to take legal action against a businessman in Bogra for evading tax.

Md Abdus Salam, deputy commissioner of taxes at Bogra Circle-1 of the NBR, told this correspondent yesterday that they would likely to file a case against Gouri Shankar Prosad, owner of GS International in Bogra, today.

Earlier on December 8, 2011, a board meeting of the NBR decided to take legal action against the businessman following an investigation report submitted by its Central Intelligence Cell (CIC).

NBR sources quoting the report said the businessman evaded Tk 16.30 crore tax by preparing fake documents on import of commodities, including onion and garlic, during the fiscals 2007-2008 and 2009-2010.

Refuting the allegation, Gouri Shankar said the NBR move is meant for harassing him.

"Despite repeated request to assess the actual amount of tax that I have to pay, they did not give me the assessment report."

However, NBR official Abdus Salam said Gouri Shankar never submitted any application to the NBR for the assessment.

## 6 Shibir men held in Sylhet, Patuakhali

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Police arrested four Shibir activists yesterday in connection with Sust incident in Sylhet and two others in Patuakhali on Tuesday night.

Police in separate raids arrested four more Shibir activists from different students' hostels and messes in Sylhet city early yesterday.

The arrestees are Farhadul Islam, son of Haji Mohammad Din, Azizur Rahman, son of Abdul Khaleq of Shimulbagh of Dakkhin Sunamganj and Humayun Kabir Badrul and Abul Mansur Fahim of Sheikhghat area in the city, reports our staff correspondent.

Police picked them up in connection with a case filed by Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust) unit Chhatra League on charges of attacking its activists and vandalising vehicles.

The drive to arrest all accused in the case will con-

tinue, said a police official. Police arrested 20 Shibir activists from different parts of the city on Tuesday. Till yesterday, the number of arrest rose to 28.

In Patuakhali, police arrested two activists of Chhatra Shibir on Tuesday night.

The arrestees are Mirajul Islam, 21, and Kabir Hossain, 22, both students of Patuakhali Government College and activists of Patuakhali district unit Shibir, reports our correspondent.

Shahnur Rahman Sujon, secretary of Patuakhali district unit BCL said, some Shibir men were holding a secret meeting at Jubilee School playground at about 7:00 pm.

A group of BCL men went there and held two activists while others managed to flee. Later both were handed over to Patuakhali police.

## Woman remanded in acid throwing case

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Satkhira

A housewife, arrested on charge of throwing acid on three members of a family at Saihati village in Kaliganj upazila on Sunday night, was placed on a three-day remand yesterday.

Accused Tania Khatun, 24, is wife of Hasan Gazi of Agardari village in Sadar upazila.

Police also arrested Raja Enteshar Ali, 50, son of Ahmad Hossain of Bakchara village in Sadar upazila Tuesday night for selling acid.

Police earlier produced the accused woman before a judicial magistrate's court with a prayer for seven-day remand on Saturday.

The 14-year-old victim, her father Danith Mollah and brother Salam Mollah of Saihati village are now undergoing treatment at

Satkhira Sadar Hospital. Quoting locals police said, Tania came to know that her husband Hasan Gazi had affairs with the teenage girl.

She went to the house of the girl on Sunday and stayed there to 'teach her a lesson'. When the girl was playing ludo on their verandah, Tania allegedly threw acid on her at about 9:00 pm.

As her father and brother came to her rescue, she threw acid on them also and tried to flee the scene.

The victims received burn injuries on different parts of their bodies including face, hand and chest, police said.

Local people caught Tania and handed her over to Kaliganj police.

Later, a case was filed with Kaliganj PS accusing Tania Khatun and her husband.