

# 'Approval of land bill violation of accord'

Govt kept us in dark, says Larma

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

The Chairman of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Regional Council, Jyotinrindra Bodhipriya Larma, has said approval of the CHT Land Dispute Resolution Commission (Amendment) bill by the cabinet is a clear violation of the peace accord.

As per Article 53 of the deal, the government must inform and invite the authorities of the regional council to any ministerial and inter-ministerial meeting relating to taking such crucial and important decisions, he said while addressing a press conference here yesterday. Unfortunately, the government did not inform us about the issue. It has ultimately been proved that the



Santu Larma

government had an ill motive behind it, said Bodhipriya, popularly known as Santu Larma.

"We gave 23-point recommendations for amending the Act. Only 13 out of the 23 recommendations were unanimously accepted in an inter-ministerial meeting held on July 30 last

year," he said.

Only 10 of the 13 recommendations have been included in the amendment bill placed in the parliament on June 16, Santu said, urging the government to include the remaining three proposals in the bill.

Until or unless the amendment bill is passed in accordance with the recommendations of CHTRC, a resolution of land disputes in the hills will not be possible, he said.

Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) yesterday sent a memorandum to the prime minister, demanding inclusion of the three proposals that were excluded from the CHT land commission amendment bill.

# CHT hartal called off 18 hrs early

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

The 72-hours hartal in the three hill districts of Chittagong was called off 18-hours ahead of the scheduled time yesterday.

The programme enforced by Parbatya Bangalee Chhatra Parishad and Parbatya Nagarik Parishad from last Tuesday morning, protesting the approval to the CHT Land Commission (Amendment) Bill by the cabinet, ended at 12:00pm.

President of Parbatya Nagarik Parishad Alkas Al Mamun said, they decided to call off the strike as they would submit a memorandum to the Parliament Speaker and the Parliamentary Committee on Land Ministry in the afternoon asking them not to pass the bill in JS.

However, the hartal passed off peacefully in Khagrachhari, Rangamati and Bandarban districts yesterday.

In Khagrachhari, the

organisations relaxed the strike in the district town because of the weekly bazaar yesterday.

Life returned to normal, shops and markets remained open while autorickshaws and manual rickshaws, were seen plying from the morning.

However, the long route vehicles started operation from 03:00pm as the pro-hartal activists were active in different areas of Rangarh and Matiranga upazilas.

In Rangamati, the hartal passed off almost peacefully although pickets burned tyres at Banarupa, Reserve Bazar and Bhadvadi areas of the district town.

Most shops kept their shutters down during the hartal hours while a few vehicles including autorickshaws, motorcycles were seen on the streets.

In Bandarban, life in the district was almost normal during the hartal hours as shops, markets remained opened and all kinds of vehicles plied normally.

# JSD leader arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police arrested a leader of Jatya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) on charge of assaulting an official of Water Development Board on Wednesday night.

Chief Judicial Magistrate court in Kushtia sent joint secretary of district JSD Zillur Rahman of Haripur in Sadar upazila, also a contractor, to jail on the same night.

Police said, they arrested Zillur after the assaulted person filed a case against him.

According to the case filed by sub-assistant engineer Abdul Gafur, the JSD leader along with some of his aides went to WDB quarter adjacent to the office in Thanapara area in the town at about 5.30:pm on Wednesday.

Zillur wanted to know about a tender while the engineer asked him to come to office on next day.

This angered Zillur. He along with his men beat up the engineer. Later other staffs who were residing at the quarter rescued Gafur.

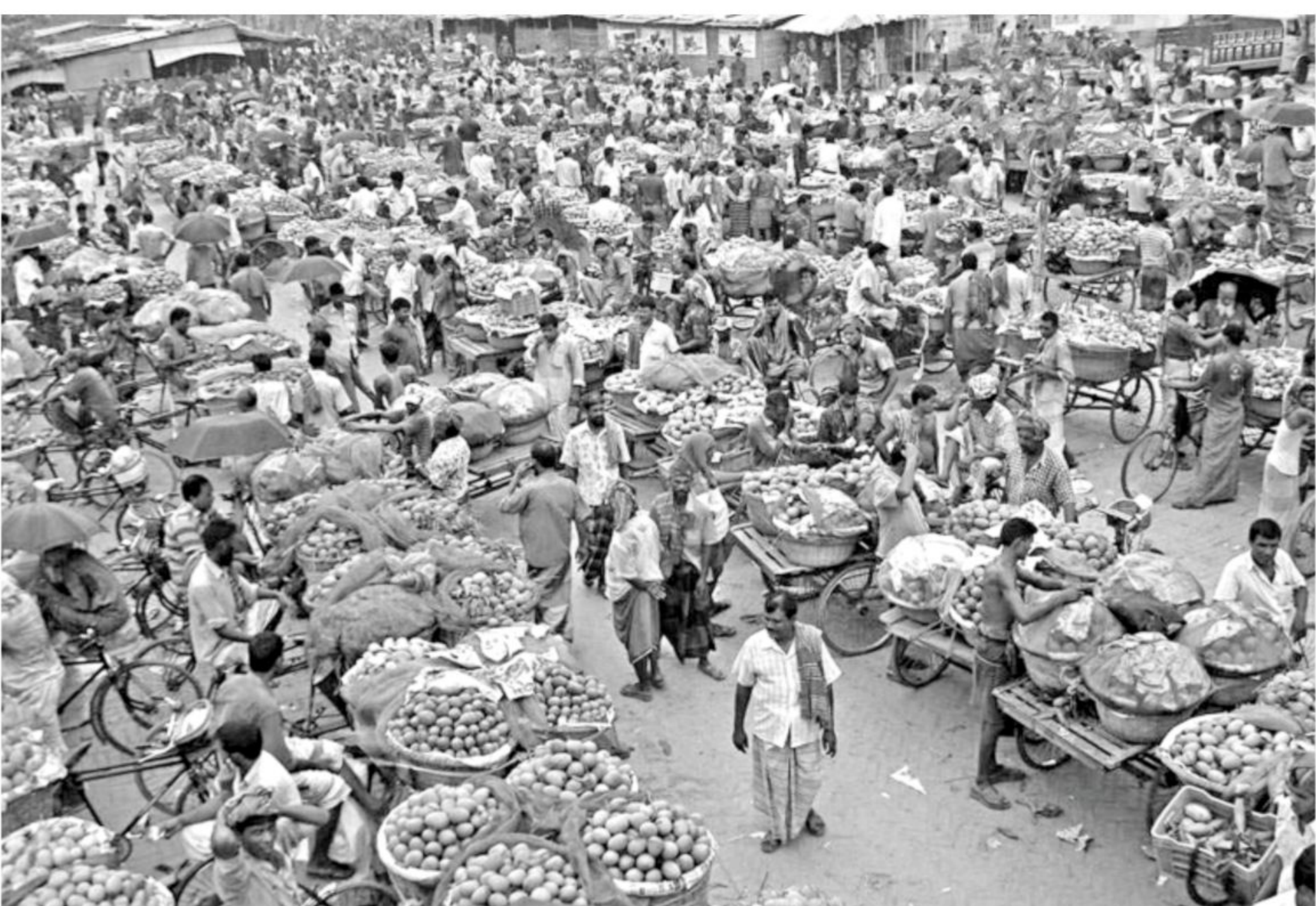


PHOTO: STAR

Huge quantities of mangoes arrive at Kansat mango market in Shibganj upazila under Chapainawabganj district that sees bumper yield of the delicious summer fruit this season.

RABIUL HASAN, Chapainawabganj

Mango markets in the district famous for high quality tasty varieties of the popular summer fruit is abuzz with activities as buyers from different areas of the country are thronging there during the ongoing peak harvest season.

Favourable weather this year has helped bumper yield of mango, much to the delight of the growers.

The buyers are happy too as the prices are relatively less.

Depending on varieties, a maund of mango is selling for Tk 1500 to 2000 while the prices last year ranged between Tk 1700 to 2200, said local growers and traders.

There are 18 lakh 24 thousand mango trees on 23,830 hectares of land in five upazilas of Chapainawabganj district and 2.15 lakh tonnes of the fruit production is

BUMPER YIELD, REASONABLE PRICE

# Growers, buyers both happy at mango markets

expected this season, said Abul Kalam Azad, deputy director of the Department of Agriculture Extension in Chapainawabganj.

Last year 1.68 lakh tonnes of mangoes was produced from 17 lakh 82 thousand trees on 23,281 hectares of land in the district, he said.

From the last week of May, three major mango markets in district -- Puraton Bazar in Chapainawabganj town, Rohonpur Bazar in Gomostapur upazila and Kansat in Shibganj upazila see setting up of a good number of wholesale shops for procuring and selling of the fruit.

Kansat, about 345 kilometres away from capital, is



the largest mango market in the country.

During a visit on Tuesday, this correspondent saw wholesalers busy striking deals with buyers who came from Dhaka, Chittagong, Sylhet and other areas of the country to purchase truck-

loads of mangoes.

"Mango varieties like *khirshapat*, *langra* and different kinds of *gutis* sell very well. Hundreds of three-wheelers, rickshaw vans and cycles carrying mangoes from gardens arrive at the bazaar. The popular fruit is sold out in a short time," said Mojibur Rahman, owner of an *arat* (wholesale shop) at Kansat Bazar that now sees buyers from across the country.

"Chapainawabganj mangoes are tasty and lots of varieties are available here. Everyday I purchase at least one truckload of mangoes from Kansat and send it to the capital for sale," said Mofiz Uddin, buyer from Hazaribagh in the capital to

buy mangoes..

"For over a week, I have been buying around 100 maunds of mangoes daily to send it to my district," Komar Ali, a buyer from Sirajganj, said.

Traditionally producing around 250 varieties of high quality tasty mangoes, Chapainawabganj district greatly contributes to the country's agricultural economy, said Abdul Wahed, president of Chapainawabganj Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The mango business worth around Tk 1,000 crore creates job opportunities for a large number of people in the district, he said.

A large number of people are employed for nursing of mango trees, harvesting the fruit and packing and transporting it to different areas of the country during the summer and early rainy season every year.



PHOTO: STAR

Teachers and students of Pabna Women's College form a human chain on the campus yesterday, protesting a bid to grab a piece of land in front of the honours building of the college by an influential man, inset, bricks have been kept on the land to construct a building there.

# Bid to grab college land triggers protest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Teachers and students of Pabna Government Women's College formed a human chain on the campus yesterday, protesting a bid to grab the land in front of the honours building by a local influential man.

Campus sources said businessman Md Aslam Hossain of Gopalpur area adjacent to the campus produced false documents before the surveyors during land survey in 2012 and seven kathas of college land was recorded in his name.

As Aslam stacked bricks and sand on the land yesterday morning to build a concrete structure there, teaches, students and the employees of the college formed a human chain in front of the honours building protesting the move to occupy the land.

They demanded that the government take immediate steps to foil the move of Aslam to grab the land. The college authorities also filed a general diary (GD) with

college, said Md Aslam Hossain of Gopalpur area adjacent to the campus produced false documents before the surveyors during land survey in 2012 and seven kathas of college land was recorded in his name.

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local police station against Aslam yesterday.

As per registered deed, the college authorities brought 16.61 kathas of land from a Hindu family in 1970 and built a three-storey building on 9.68 kathas in 1990, said Prof Md Shafiqul Islam, vice principal of the college.

Refuting allegations of the college authorities, Aslam said he had bought seven kathas of land in front of the building from one Abdul Wahab of the area in 2006.

"I am the owner of the land as it was recorded in my name during land survey in 2012," Aslam said, adding that he would construct a building there.

# 3 Bangladeshis shot by BSF in 2 dists

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Three Bangladeshis were shot and injured by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) at different border points in Thakurgaon and Lalmanirhat districts yesterday.

Two men were seriously injured as BSF opened fire on them on Beurjhari border in Baliadangi upazila of Thakurgaon early yesterday, reports our correspondent.

The injured are Daimul Haque, 35, son of Karim Uddin and Poshirul, 25, son of Mahtab Ali of Ziabar Morahat village.

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) sources said a team of BSF shot a group of Bangladeshi nationals, leaving Daimul and Poshirul seriously injured while they were crossing the border area at 1:30am.

They were admitted to Rangpur Medical College and Hospital, said com-

manding officer of Thakurgaon 30 BGB Battalion Lt Col Abu Bakkar.

In Lalmanirhat, a Bangladeshi cattle trader was shot by BSF on Burimari border in Patgram upazila early yesterday, reports our correspondent.

Liton Islam Shamim, 22, son of Khamir Uddin of Mughlibari village, sustained bullet injuries in his leg and back. He was admitted to Rangpur Medical College and Hospital in critical condition.

BGB sources said a team of BSF men opened fire on a group of cattle traders, who tried to enter the border area to bring their cattle, leaving Shamim seriously injured.

Commander of 15 BGB Battalion Burimari camp Subedar Khademul Islam said they have already sent a letter to BSF, protesting the incident.

# 19 Jamaat-Shibir men charge sheeted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Police on Wednesday submitted charge sheet against 19 local Jamaat-Shibir men in the case for attack on police.

The charge sheeted accused are Jamaat town unit assistant secretary Abdul Hakim, Shahabuddin, Ahsan Shakil, Nasim, Atiqur, Ashraful, Yeasin, Faruque, Al-Amin, Raki, Sufian, Belal, Hedayetullah, Imran, Abedur Shohel, Mohtasir Billah, Hasan, Ruhul and Rafiqul.

On June 9, district Jamaat-Shibir men brought out a procession in the town, protesting conviction of their three

central leaders by International Crimes Tribunal (ICT). They also blasted 20 cocktails in Sutrapur area.

On information, police rushed in, fired at least 63 rubber bullets to disperse the protesters. Attacked by the Jamaat men, At least five policemen, including two officials, were injured.

The law enforcers then arrested 16 Jamaat-Shibir men, said sub-inspector of Sadar police station Kala Chand.

The SI filed a case against 20 identified and 80 unidentified Jamaat-Shibir men under the speedy trial act on charge of attacking police.

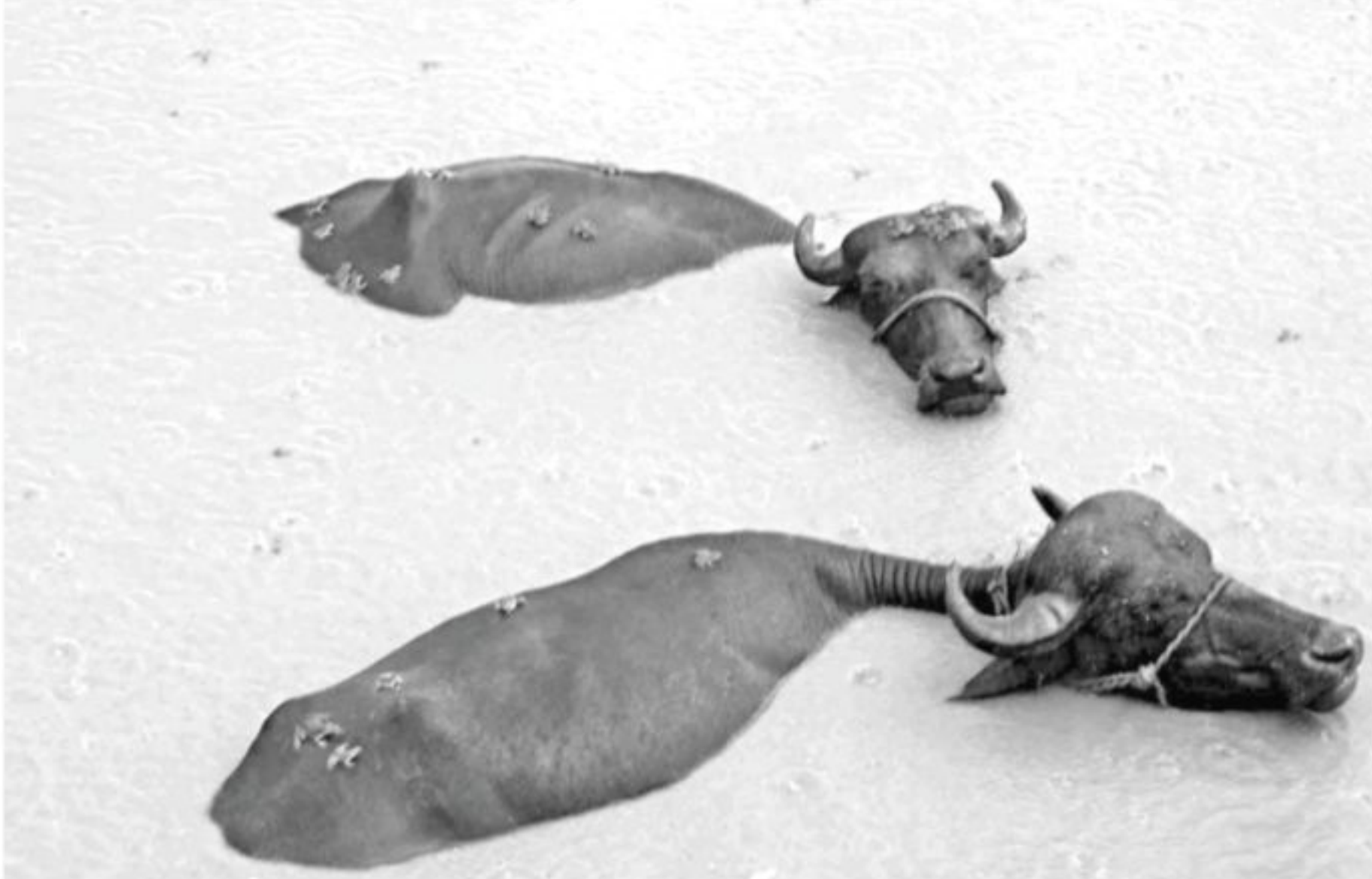


PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Buffaloes get into water to have a relishing bath amid the ongoing scorching heat of the summer. The photo was taken from a hill area of Fulbaria upazila under Mymensingh district.

# Farmers switching to okra in Batiaghata

UNB, Khulna

Cultivation of okra (ladies finger), locally called *dherosh*, is becoming popular among the farmers in 28 villages under Batiaghata upazila of the district.

They are farming the green vegetable extensively to what they say to recoup the losses from boro paddy.

Farmers said they failed to get expected profit from boro paddy due to its low price.

Earlier, they suffered a huge loss in shrimp cultivation as the fish was affected by virus, following cyclonic storms Sidr and Aila.

Besides, production of aman paddy also did not come as expected due to excessive rain in the district.

As a result, to recover from the losses, they are now opting for okra cultivation.

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Dry weather has made it possible for farmers in the 28 villages to get good yield of the vegetable. They had a harvest beyond expectation, enabling them to recover the earlier losses.

Production of okra on one acre land costs Tk 32,000 and it sells at up to Tk 1.5 lakh.

Nirmal Boiragi of Hetal Bunia village for the first time cultivated okra on his 15 katha land.

He sowed 'Sinjenta' and 'Suruchi' varieties of seeds spending about Tk 12,000 and now expects more than Tk 30,000 profit from his produce.

Teacher of BHM High School, Gourdas Dhali said he spent Tk 32,000 to cultivate okra on one acre land.

One can easily earn Tk 1.5 lakh by cultivating the

item on the land between Bangla months of Chaitra and Jaistha, he said.

Batiaghata Sadar union parishad member Sheuli Mistri said that gradually the farmers are getting interested to cultivate the vegetable instead of boro and aman.

He expressed the hope that this will generate employment opportunity for hundreds of people in the dry season.

If the farmers get bank loan, cultivation of okra will expand in the region largely, he said.

Mojibur Rahman, deputy assistant officer of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), Batiaghata, said there has been an increased cultivation of okra in the district this season compared to last year's.