

# Scanty rain hampers aman farming in Jessore

MOKAMMEL SHUVO, Jessore

Aman cultivation in the ongoing peak sowing season is badly hampered amid insufficient rain in the district as farmers are reluctant to bear the high costs for irrigation.

The Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) office in Jessore recorded 40 millimetres of rainfall from July 1 to 25 this year while it was 184 millimetres during the same period last year.

Dependent of rainwater during this season, cultivation of aman paddy usually do not require any irrigation.

But this year many farmers in the district are watering their fields with electric or diesel-run pumps for the purpose as the rainfall is much less than usual.

The target of aman cultivation in the district this season is 1 lakh 29 thousand 624 hectares of land but only 29 thousand 130 hectares have been brought under the cultivation till July 25, said sources of DAE in Jessore.

During the same period last year, aman was sown on over one lakh hectares of land, they said.

Sowing of aman paddy starts early July and continues till late August.

"Insufficient rainfall is hampering aman cultivation during the ongoing

peak sowing season. Now the farmers are sowing paddy by watering their land with pumps," said Hossain Iqbal, deputy director of Khulna Divisional Agricultural Office.

He, however, hoped that the target will be achieved as the sowing will continue till August.

Jessore district produces over six lakh tonnes of aman paddy a year.

"After preparing the aman seedbed we can wait highest 40 days to sow the seedlings in the field. As the seedlings are getting too matured for sowing, many of us have started sowing seedlings with irrigation due to the insufficient rain-

fall this season," said Babul Akter, a farmer of Shalkona village under Sharsa upazila in Jessore.

Aminur Rahman of Dehi village under the same upazila said they have to spend additional Tk 1000/1200 for irrigation to cultivate aman paddy on a bigha of land this season.



PHOTO: STAR  
An aman field at Narayangazi village in Jessore Sadar upazila dries up due to lack of rain during the ongoing monsoon.

## Power office besieged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

People of Hatibandha upazila besieged the sub-station of Power Development Board (PDB) in the area yesterday, demanding uninterrupted power supply during iftar, tarabi prayers and sehri.

The agitating villagers confined the officials to the sub-station for about two hours from 12:00pm. However, PDB's Residential Engineer Abdul Matin managed to flee.

They alleged that the load shedding is on increase since the first day of Ramadan.

Despite repeated pleas, the engineer is yet to take any steps to resolve the problem, the said.

## Medicine trader shot dead in Tangail, 2 arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A pharmacy owner was shot dead by a gang of criminals in Tangail town on Wednesday night.

The deceased was identified as Kabir Hossain, 25, son of Kudrat Ali of Kodalia area in the town.

Police said the victim also used to recharge mobile phones at his medicine shop in front of Tangail General Hospital.

They (police) quoted witnesses as saying that local criminals Roni and Pavel picked up a quarrel with Kabir over mobile

phone recharging at his shop at around 10:00pm and immediately left the scene.

After a few minutes, a gang of six led by Roni and Pavel came to Kabir's shop, riding two motorcycles and shot him point blank. Kabir died on the spot.

Being informed, a police team led by Superintendent of Police (SP) Saleh Mohammed Tanvir visited the spot. They recovered a fresh bullet and a shell of used bullet from there.

Ruhul Amin, brother of slain Kabir, filed a case with

Tangail Model Police Station the same night, accusing six people.

Golam Mafur Rahman, officer-in-charge of the Detective Branch (DB) of police in Tangail, said the DB police arrested two of the six accused, Akash and Ujjal, raiding different areas of the town early yesterday.

Protesting the killing, the medicine traders in the area kept their shops closed yesterday. They also took out a procession, demanding immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the culprits.

## Housewife killed for dowry

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A housewife was killed allegedly by her husband for dowry at Ghatmagura village in Dupchanchia upazila on Wednesday night.

The deceased was identified as Mohima Misty Khatun, 22, wife of rickshaw puller Shahidul Islam of the village.

Quoting family members, police said Mohima, daughter of Abbas Ali of Sadar upazila in Natore district, married Shahidul 14 months ago.

After the marriage, Shahidul and his family members used to torture Mohima for dowry.

On the fateful night, Shahidul and his family members beat up Mohima mercilessly, leaving her dead on the spot following an altercation over the issue.

The accused then hung her body from the ceiling saying that she committed suicide, said Riaz Ahmed, officer in-charge of Dupchanchia Police Station.

On information, police recovered the body and sent it to Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College and Hospital morgue for autopsy.

The OC said it would be clear after receiving the autopsy report whether Mohima committed suicide or was killed.

An unnatural death case was filed with the police station in connection with the incident, he said.

## Abducted fisherman's body found

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

The body of a fisherman, abducted on Friday, was found floating in Malancha River near Debaki area in Pashchim Sundarbans under Sathkira range yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Rabiul Islam, 28, son of Morshed Gazi of Dumuria village in Shymnagar upazila.

Police and locals said a gang abducted Rabiul and 14 other fishermen while they went to fishing in Sundarbans on the day.

The abductors then demanded Tk 40,000 as ransom from Rabiul's family.



PHOTO: STAR  
The road near Tangail Stadium turns a safe haven for drug peddlers and muggers at night amid alleged negligence of law enforcers.

## Criminals' den in Tangail town

### Inaction of law enforcers blamed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The district town sees rising incidents of criminal activities allegedly amid inaction of law enforcers.

Several organised gangs remain active, often at places close to law enforcement agency offices, alleged townspeople.

Muggers recently snatched Tk 75,000 and a motorbike from Ratan Chandra Sarker when he returned to his home at Shantikunja intersection.

Similarly, Hafeza Begum of the Torabganj area had her bag snatched after withdrawing money from Islami Bank.

The muggers easily escape through the narrow lanes after snatching bags, gold chains and mobile phones, said locals. Cloth-

vendors often fall victim, losing bundles of clothes and cash.

Meanwhile, daring robberies were committed at two flats in Purbo Adalatpara and at a house in Bazitpur a few days ago. Armed robbers took residents hostage at gunpoint and looted valuables worth Tk 30 lakh. None have been arrested in connection with the incidents although three weeks have passed.

Moreover, extortion under political cover is affecting traders and people in general. Extortionists often use firearms, posing death threat to especially to those planning to construct houses or purchase land.

Victims say they are often unwilling to lodge complaints with law enforcers for various reasons including harassment and a lack of

security.

Nazrul Islam, officer in-charge (OC) of Tangail Model Police Station, said while he could not verify crimes for lack of complaints, reported robberies were being fully investigated.

Meanwhile, drug peddlers have been doing a brisk trade, selling drugs mostly to school and college students. Peddlers often bribe a section of law enforcers, sources said.

Surprisingly, drug peddlers are active in the town's stadium area, only a few metres away from the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) camp, locals said.

Contacted, Rabiul Islam, commander of Crime Prevention Company-3 of Rab-12, said they will soon launch a drive against the peddlers.

## 35 hurt as rival groups clash

UNB, Sunamganj

At least 35 people were injured during a clash between two rival groups at Kamarkhal village in Jagannathpur upazila of the district on Wednesday evening.

Police quoted locals as saying that the clash was a sequel to a long-standing conflict between UK immigrants Abarak Mia and Abdul Hashim over establishing supremacy at the

village.

The rival groups, equipped with firearms and sharp weapons, swooped on each others after the supporters of Abdul Hashim assaulted Kaptan Mia of Abarak group at around 7:00pm.

At least 35 people from both sides injured during the clash that continued for an hour. Being informed, police rushed to the spot, dispersed the clashing

groups and brought the situation under control.

The injured were admitted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital and the upazila health complex. No case was filed with the police station concerned as of 5:00pm yesterday.

SM Maksudur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Jagannathpur Police Station, said police have been deployed in the area to avert any further incident.

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  - (ii) SSC/A'Level certificate (mandatory)
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**For further information, please contact:**

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