Aman farmers cheated in Nilphamari

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

Most farmers in the district are not getting nitrogenated urea fertiliser at the subsidised rate announced by the government during the ongoing peak aman cultivation season.

In line with a recent announcement by Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, the agriculture directorate issued a circular on August 25, directing district and upazila agriculture officers to ensure that fertiliser dealers sell urea at Tk 16 per kg instead of previous rate of Tk 20.

The instruction was to be effective from the same date.

The government also decided to give compensation of Tk 4.00 per kg to listed fertiliser dealers for the amount they had withdrawn at the previous rate before the announcement.

ment, a 50-kg bag of urea is to be sold to farmers at Tk 800 instead of previous rate of Tk 1000, said sources of

the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE).

During a recent visit to different markets including Ramganj Haat, Mirganj Haat, Dhelapeer Haat and Sutibari Haat, this correspondent found many fertiliser traders selling urea at the previous rate, ignoring the government instruction.

Asked about the matter, several fertiliser traders said they are selling urea at the previous rate as they had collected it for higher price before the government announcement.

This season 1.07 lakh hectares of land in the district has been brought under aman cultivation, DAE sources said.

Around 250 kg of urea is needed in a hectare of land in three dozes for aman cultivation.

The production cost for aman will be considerably As per the announce- lower if the farmers get urea fertiliser at the subsidised rate, said DAE officials and farmers.

Abdul Wahed Sarker,

president of district unit of Bangladesh fertiliser association, said, "No listed fertiliser dealer is selling urea for higher prices. Probably some small retailers in rural areas are doing thias."

Field visits, however, showed that both listed dealers and retailers were selling fertiliser for prices higher than the government stipulated rate.

Many retailers said they would not get the benefit of government subsidy for their remaining urea stock although they had procured it from the authorised dealers.

SM Sirajul Islam, deputy director of DAE in Nilphamari, said, "May be urea fertiliser is being sold for higher prices in some remote rural areas. It will be controlled soon as I have directed sub assistant agriculture officers in union level to monitor the situation. Strong action will be taken if anyone is found to sell urea fertiliser for higher price."



Chithulia Digor village in Mollarchar union under Gaibandha Sadar upazila goes under water yesterday as overall flood situation in Gaibandha district has worsened further.

Gaibandha flood situation worsens as dyke collapses

50 villages flooded in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Gaibandha Flood situation in low-lying

areas of 16 unions in three upazilas in the district worsened further yesterday as fresh areas went under water, leaving 20,000 people marooned.

The 16 unions are in the Ghagot and Jamuna river basins in Saghata, Phulchhari and Sadar upazilas.

The surging water washed away nearly 130-meter stretch of flood control dyke at Saghata bazaar in the last

couple of days. Scores of dwelling houses went under knee to waist deep water while a vast tract

of cropland was inundated. Due to breach in the dyke, road communications between Haldia and Saghata snapped, causing sufferings

of villagers.

control dyke at Gideri also washed away, flooding areas of Malibari and Kamajani unions.

A large crack developed also in the flood control dyke at Ratanpur in Phulchhari upazila, seriously threatening a sluice gate. Panic-stricken locals were seen shifting movable properties to safer places, as the dyke might collapse at any time.

Two dwelling houses in Patilbari cluster village in Saghata upazila went into river yesterday due to erosion. Patilbari Govt. Primary School was washed away by the surging water while Digholkandi Primary School was on the verge of

being devoured by river. In Sirajganj, over 50 villages in four upazilas were flooded and Kazipur

Over 55 feet of flood upazila remained the worst | Patuakhali affected, reports our Pabna correspondent.

> At least 28 villages in six unions went under water, leaving over 10 thousand people of 2100 families marooned in Kazipur upazila in three days since Sunday.

> Crops on 2700 hectares also submerged by flood water, said principal Mozammel Hossain, chairman of Kazipur upazila.

> More than 10 villages in four unions in Chowhali upazila, 10 villages in three unions of Sadar upazila and five in Tarash upazila have been flooded, leaving 15 thousand others marooned sources said.

> Flood also hit most of the low-lying and char areas in the district but there was no official report from the flood control room yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR



Forced to leave houses due to flooding, a large number of Chapainwabganj people are still living amid sufferings in makeshift shanties on embankments and high places as the Mahananda River continues to flow over the danger level. The photo was taken from Sadar upazila on Monday.

Ferry that ran aground | SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICTS with 26 vehicles on way to Mawa rescued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

The Mawa-Kawrakandi Ghat (terminal) authorities were forced to cut their ferry service on the route yesterday as a ferry ran aground in a canal.

Of the 14 ferries, they could keep only three in operation. The launches also reduced their numbers.

Sirajul Haque, manager of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) terminal at Mawa, said Mawa-bound ferry Taplo with 26 vehicles from Kawrakandi Ghat ran aground in the Lauhajang Canal around 12:45am on Tuesday when it tried to safeguard itself from strong current.

Later, two rescue ferries from Mawa were sent to the spot, one km away from the ghat, to salvage the ferry. They rescued the passengers of the vehicles and took them to safer places after about 18 hours.

Due to the disruption thousands of vehicles got stuck on both sides of the two terminals, causing immense suffering to thousands of passengers.

Sources said, the Mawa authorities ran 12 ferries on Monday and six on Tuesday. On Sunday they could put 3 ferries into operation due to fierce current in the Padma.

On Tuesday night, about 40 feet of the terminal suddenly went into the river, leaving the ferry service risky for the passengers.

Boro procurement drive suffers serious setback

UNB, Khulna

The target to procure Boro paddy and rice in 10 southwestern districts in the current season is unlikely to be achieved due to higher price of the foodgrains at the local markets compared to the government fixed procurement rate.

The four-month-long procurement drive is scheduled to end on September 30 though it is set to fall 43 percent short of its target.

Sources said, the procurement drive started in 10 districts of Khulna division on May 2 with a target to purchase 18,280 metric tonnes of Boro paddy and this year. To achieve the target,

food department signed an agreement with 1,930 out of 2,240 millers having licences.

However, only 537 metric tonnes paddy and 44,405 metric tonnes rice were procured as of Saturday last.

Talking to the news agency, a number of farmers said paddy sells at Tk 18 to 20 on the local mar- Kumar.

77,836 metric tonnes of rice kets, which is higher than the official procurement price.

Acknowledging the fact,

Badal Kumar Biswas, an official at local Food Department, said the official price rate of per kg paddy and rice was fixed at Tk 18.50 and Tk 29 respectively, which is lower than the market price.

"So, the farmers prefer selling paddy and rice at the local markets," said Badal

level graduates of 2013 of Maple Leaf International School are requested to register their names by 15th September at Dhanmondi office (House # 95/1, Rd# 11A). No students can register after 15th September. Without registration graduates cannot attend the Graduation Ceremony. In order to fulfill all requirements of registration graduates must bring two passport size photos and photocopy of their A level certificates.

30 hurt as JCD factions clash in Patuakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

At least 30 people were injured in a clash between two factions of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal in the town

yesterday. Police and locals said, Kalapara upazila and MB College units of JCD jointly held a party workers' meeting at Dr Atahar Uddin auditorium of Patuakhali

Press Club at 11:00am. Billal Hossain Tareq, vice president of central JCD, was the chief guest at the programme presided over by Zakir Hossain, president of Kalapara upazila JCD

unit. A few minutes after the meeting, a heated debate ensued between two groups of the upazila unit of JCD, one led by Badol and another by Selim.

Within a few moments, the rival activists locked in a clash, using brick chips and sticks, leaving at least 30 from both sides injured.

The injured include Mohibullah, 20, Eunus, 21, Shamim, 20, Jahangir, 22, Amir Hossain, 22, Mizan, 21, Ferdous, 21, Tito Fakir, 22, Anis Munshi, 22, Mamun, 20, Bayazid, 20, Jewel, 19, Naimul, 20, Mithu, 22, Maruf, 22, Alamgir Hossain, 21, Shakil, 22, Rasel, 23, Badol, 20 and

Of them, Mohibullah was admitted to Patuakhali General Hospital in critical condition while the rest to different clinics.

On information, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Referring the incident minor, Moshiur Rahman, party district unit general secretary, said this type of incidents not unusual in the large organisation like JCD.



মূল্যমান ঃ ৫,০০০ টাকা ১০,০০০ টাকা ২৫,০০০ টাকা ৫০,০০০ টাকা ১,০০,০০০ টাকা ২,০০,০০০ টাকা ৫,০০,০০০ টাকা ১০,০০,০০০ টাকা

৩-মাস অন্তর মুনাফাভিত্তিক সঞ্চয়পত্র (৩-বছর মেয়াদী)

৩-মাস অন্তর মুনাফাভিত্তিক সঞ্চয়পত্র (৩-বছর মেয়াদী), মুনাফার হার ১২.৫৯% এক লক্ষ টাকায় প্রতি তিন মাসে নীট মুনাফা ৩,০০০ টাকা।

মূল্যমান ঃ ১,০০,০০০ টাকা ২,০০,০০০ টাকা ৫,০০,০০০ টাকা ১০,০০,০০০ টাকা



অধিক সংখ্যায় জনগণকে সঞ্চয়ে সম্পৃক্ত করা ও গ্রাহক সেবার মান বৃদ্ধিই আমাদের অঙ্গীকার।

জাতীয় সঞ্চয় স্কীমের ক্রয় ফরম পেতে এবং বিস্তারিত জানতে জাতীয় সঞ্চয় পরিদপ্তরের ওয়েব সাইট

(www.nationalsavings.gov.bd) এ লগইন করুন।

মতিঝিল প্রধান কার্যালয় ৯৫৭৭৮০৮ **বঠব৪৯**৯৫ ৯৫৭৭৮০৪ কাঁটাবন ৯৫৮৭৫৭৩ ৯৫৭৭৮০৩

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সদরঘাট চাষাঢ়া, নারায়ণগঞ্জ 9688668

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PICTURE TELLS THE TALE: Large potholes make Baralekha-Shahbajpur road at Uttar Choumuhani in Baralekha municipality under Sylhet district a nuisance for commuters.