

Boro farming suffers as irrigation hampered

Power crisis, lack of rain responsible for situation

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR
TOPU, Pabna

Frequent power outage coupled with lack of rain hampers irrigation to Iri-boro fields during the ongoing cultivation season. Visiting different areas of the district during the last few days, this correspondent found that cracks have developed on the fields due to the situation.

"I have cultivated boro paddy on two bighas of land after harvesting wheat but I could not arrange irrigation to my paddy fields on a regular basis as the power pumps often become inoperative due to frequent electricity disruption," said Md Abdus Salam, a farmer of Hamchiapur village in Pabna Sadar upazila.

"We are totally dependent on irrigation pumps as water bodies like beels have dried up due to lack of rain this summer," added Salam, who now fears production fall.

Thousands of farmers of the district are in the same boat.

"We had a target of boro cultivation on 60,335 hectares of land in nine upazilas of the district this season with a production target of 2,31,529 tonnes. But the target may not be



PHOTO: STAR

Boro paddy planted on a dried up water body in Malanchi union under Pabna Sadar upazila, gets damaged as the land gets drier still due to disturbance in irrigation amid lack of rain this summer.

achieved as the farmers cannot smoothly operate their power pumps due to electricity crisis. Lack of rainfall has worsened the situation," said Md Mostafizur Rahman, deputy director of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), Pabna.

Md Abdul Motin, general manager of Pabna Palli Bidyut Samity, said there are

5,583 electricity-run pumps under it for irrigation in the district.

"Now we are getting only 45/48 MW of electricity supply against the daily requirement of 88MW during the peak IRR1-boro season. Due to lack of power supply from the national grid we could not ensure smooth power supply for irrigation," he said.

The electricity crisis also disturbs life in general.

Md Ziaul Islam, assistant engineer of Pabna municipality, said the town dwellers are suffering due to acute shortage of power and consequent water supply as the pumps cannot run properly due to random power outages, low voltages and decline in water level amid the drought-like

2 youths murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Benapole

Two youths belonging to rival groups were killed in attack and counter-attack at Baropota under Benapole Port Police Station in Sharsha upazila under Jessore district yesterday.

The dead are Iman Ali, 35, son of Anis Uddin of Shibnathpur Baropota village, and Lalon Mia, 26, son of Majed Ali of Uttar Baropota village.

The supporters of Lalon Mia attacked Iman Ali with bomb at Baropota Bazar when he was talking to his friends in the morning,

leaving him dead on the spot, police and witnesses said.

As news of the Iman Ali's murder spread, his supporters equipped with arms rushed to Uttar Baropota village, shot Lalon Mia dead and left the village exploding 15 to 20 bombs.

Iman Ali and Lalon Mia were killed as a sequel to previous enmity over establishing supremacy in the locality, said Apurbo Hasan, officer in charge of Benapole Police Station.

Police sent the bodies to hospital morgue for autopsy.

A tense situation was prevailing in the area fol-

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

Huge cotton, phensidyl seized

UNB, Jessore

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) seized a huge quantity of Indian contraband cotton and 570 bottles of Phensidyl syrup worth Tk3.83 crore from Navaran Bazar in Benapole town on Friday morning. BGB sources said a BGB patrol team halted a Dhaka-bound truck (Dhaka Metro-Ta 16-5304) at Navaran Bazar in the morning and recovered the cotton and Phensidyl from the truck. However, the driver of the truck and his helper fled the scene leaving behind the vehicle. A case was filed in this connection.

13 rescued from traffickers

UNB, Benapole

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) rescued 13 people, including nine women and two children, while they were being trafficked to India through Charemthar on Putkhal border here on Friday night. Acting on secret information, a team of BGB-23 battalion raided the area and rescued the 13 people and handed over them to Benapole Port Police Station, said BGB-23 Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Mostafizur Rahman. All of the rescued hail from different parts of Narail and Gopalganj



PHOTO: STAR

Police recovered this 10-kg touchstone statue from Mirataluk village in Daipukuria union of Shibganj upazila under Chapainawabganj district Friday evening. The valuable artefact was found when workers were digging a pond at the village.

BNP man murdered in Magura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narail

A BNP activist was murdered allegedly by Awami League (AL) men at Malonchi village in Sadar upazila of Magura district on Friday noon. The victim, Omar Ali Mollah, 45, son of Berek Mollah of Malonchi village, was hacked to death when he was returning home and the body was left in a paddy field, said his family members. Informed, police recovered the body and sent to Magura Sadar Hospital for autopsy. He was an adherent of local BNP leader Tojam who had rivalry with AL leader Obaidur over establishing dominion in the area, locals and police said.



PHOTO: STAR

Criminals fell over 100 banana trees at an orchard in front of Muladuli rail station in Pabna district on Friday noon. The incident occurred apparently as an act of vengeance after a member of the gang was arrested for assaulting the stationmaster five days ago.

Rock production at Madhyapara in limbo

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Hard rock production at Madhyapara Granite Mining Company Limited (MGMCL) remained suspended for around two weeks due to mine's maintenance and overhauling.

Besides, shortage of explosives and detonators, key elements to extract rock from underground of the mine, is likely to cause delay resumption of the production, said officials.

Earlier, on February 24, the mine started its rock operation under a new contracted company after a three-month hiatus. Germania Trest Consortium (GTC) signed the agreement with MGMCL, a company of Patroabanga, on September 2 last year.

Rock production at MGMCL came to a halt on November 24 as 308 miners and workers under Blue Star Company went on an indefinite strike to realise their five-point demand including 20 percent dearness allowance, abolition of the system of employment of workers and miners through outsourcing companies and regularisation of job of diploma engineers.

But, all the agitating miners and workers lost

their jobs as the agreement with Blue Star, an outsourcing company, ended on December 31.

On February 24, GTC recruited fresh manpower and resumed rock production but the company again suspended its operation due to maintenance and overhauling on April 14.

Contacted, the authorities said an initiative was already taken to procure the explosives and detonators from the neighboring country India as early as possible.

They hoped that the elements to extract rock would arrive at the mine within this month.

"On arrival of the explosives, the rock production will be started within seven to ten days," said Md Meer Abdul Hannan, general manager (Marketing) of MGMCL.

GTC signed the agreement with MGMCL for producing rock and mine maintenance for next six years. During the agreement tenure, the company is likely to produce 9 million tonnes of rock operating three shifts.

On the other hand, the production suspension already created a scarcity of rock. Most of the buyers alleged that they are not getting rocks as per their demand.

"I sought four rock-laden trucks two days ago but got only a single truck," said Mehedi



PHOTO: STAR

Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University chapter of Bangladesh Veterinary Students Association brings out a colourful procession that parades different streets in Dinajpur town yesterday, marking World Veterinary Day-2014.

বাংলাদেশ হাউস বিল্ডিং ফাইন্যান্স কর্পোরেশন
সংস্থাপন ও সাধারণ সেবা বিভাগ, সদর দফতর, ২২, পুরানা পল্টন, ঢাকা।

অফিস স্পেস ভাড়া পুনঃ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা শহরের প্রাণকেন্দ্রে প্রধান সড়ক সংলগ্ন বাংলাদেশ হাউস বিল্ডিং ফাইন্যান্স কর্পোরেশন এর ২২, পুরানা পল্টন, সদর দফতর ১০ম তলায় সার্বক্ষণিক লিফট, গাড়ী পার্কিং এবং আধুনিক টয়লেট সুবিধাসহ প্রায় ১২১১৫ (বার হাজার একশত পনের) বর্গফুট (কম/বেশী) অফিস স্পেস বারাদাসহ (সম্পূর্ণ/অর্ধেক) ভাড়া প্রদান করা হবে। সরকারি, আধাসরকারি, স্বায়ত্তশাসিত সংস্থা, প্রতিষ্ঠিত ব্যাংক, বীমা কোম্পানীকে অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া হবে। ভাড়া নেয়ার জন্য অগ্রাধিকার প্রার্থীদের নিকট থেকে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। বাংলাদেশ হাউস বিল্ডিং ফাইন্যান্স কর্পোরেশন, সদর দফতর ভবনের ৩য় তলায় সংস্থাপন ও সাধারণ সেবা বিভাগ হতে ৩০০/- (তিনশত) টাকা মূল্যে (অফেরৎযোগ্য) ২০.০৫.২০১৪ খ্রি: তারিখ রোজ মঙ্গলবার অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত সিডিউল ক্রয় করা যাবে। ২১.০৫.২০১৪ খ্রি: তারিখ রোজ বুধবার অপরাহ্নে ১.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত সদর দফতর ভবনের ৩য় তলায় সংস্থাপন ও সাধারণ সেবা বিভাগে রক্ষিত বাক্সে দরপত্র জমা দেয়া যাবে। একই দিনে অপরাহ্নে ১.৩০ ঘটিকায় সদর দফতর ভবনের ৩য় তলায় সংস্থাপন ও সাধারণ সেবা বিভাগের উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক মহোদয়ের অফিস কক্ষে দরপত্র দাতাদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেই উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র বাজ খোলা হবে। বেসরকারি প্রতিষ্ঠানের ক্ষেত্রে দরপত্রের সাথে হালসনের ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ইনকাম ট্যাক্স সার্টিফিকেট, ভ্যাট সংক্রান্ত কাগজপত্র, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সার্টিফিকেট ইত্যাদি সনদের সত্যায়িত কপি জমা দিতে হবে। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন প্রকার কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। অনিবার্য কারণ বশত: নির্ধারিত দিনে দরপত্র গ্রহণ/খোলা সম্ভব না হলে তা পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে একই সময় ও স্থানে যথাক্রমে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা হবে।

উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক, সংস্থাপন ও সাধারণ সেবা বিভাগ

12 injured in AL-BNP clash in Noakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Noakhali

Twelve people were injured in a clash between the supporters of local Awami League and BNP in Char Elahi union of Companyganj upazila under the district on Friday night.

Following an altercation over a previous incident, the supporters and activists of the two parties engaged in a clash at around 11:30pm, said Md

Shajidur Rahman, officer in charge of Companyganj Police Station said.

Twelve people were injured in the incident. They were rushed to Noakhali Medical College Hospital.

Police detained Companyganj upazila Krishak Dal president Abdul Matin Tota, also chairman of Elahi union parishad, his son Md Sabuj and three others after the clash.

The situation is now under control, said Ilias Sharif, superintendent of police in

Cops hurt in attack by smugglers in B'baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Brahmanbaria

Two policemen were injured in an attack by smugglers at bordering village Kharampur in Akhaura upazila yesterday.

They are assistant sub-inspector (ASI) Md Asad Ullah and constable Md Rejaul Karim of Akhaura police station. They were admitted to the upazila health complex.

Police said Harij Mia, 40, and his wife Monwara Begum are listed criminals and accused in several cases including those for drug smuggling. They remained absconding for long.

Informed that the duo stayed in the border area a police team raided there yesterday morning.

At this, the husband and wife started scuffling with the team and pushed the ASI and constable down into a nearby pond.

Later, the villagers caught the smugglers and handed them over to police, said officer in charge Hamad Hossain.

EMBASSY OF DENMARK DANIDA INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

UNDP Empowered lives. Resilient nations.

Vacancy Announcement
Promotion of Development and Confidence Building in the Chittagong Hill Tracts

United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh announces vacancy for the following position for "Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility" under "Service Contract" modality. The duration of the contract is one year initially and subject to renewal on an annual basis upon satisfactory performance and availability of Funds.

1. District Farmer Field School Expert- 1 position

For details of the Terms of Reference and instructions to apply, please visit our website: <http://www.bd.undp.org/content/bangladesh/en/home/operations/jobs/>. Hard copy of the TOR can be collected from UNDP-CHTDF Offices of Dhaka, Rangamati, Khagrachari and Bandarban. Applications should be submitted no later than **May 12, 2014**.

"Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Submitted documents will not be returned to the applicants"
"Qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply"

1GB pack offer

• the price of the 1GB data pack is tk.275, with 30 days validity • to activate, dial *5000*511# • for volume related queries, prepaid and call & control subscribers can dial *222*3*29# and postpaid subscribers can type 3G and send SMS to 121 • to deactivate, dial *222*2*29# • VAT applicable

brac

Tender for TVC Airing on Sexual Harassment

Project Name	Gender Justice & Diversity
Source of Fund	Donor Fund (SPA)
Invitation for Tender No	IFT/BRAC/BPD-GJ&D/14-10
	Date: March 22, 2014
Tender Package no.	BPD-GJ&D/01-14
	Date: March 22, 2014
Name of Item	TVC Airing
Airing Duration	June 01, 2014 - June 30, 2014
Price of the Tender Documents	Tk.: 1,000/- (Tk. One thousand) only, Non-Refundable
Tender Documents Available	Accounts Department, 8 th Floor, BRAC Center, 75, Mohakhali, Dhaka -1212.
Date and Time for Selling Documents	April 29, 2014 to May 14, 2014 Between 9:30 am to 3:00 pm.
Name and Address of the Office Receiving Tender	Box no. 01, BRAC Procurement Department, Ground Floor, BRAC Center, 75, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212
Date & Time for Submission of Tender	May 15, 2014. From :10:00 am to 2.30 pm.
Tender Opening Place, Date & Time	Staff Canteen, 4 th Floor, BRAC Center. May 15, 2014. At 3:00 pm.

BRAC, BRAC Centre, 75, Mohakhali, Dhaka- 1212
Phone: 9881265 , Ext- 3796