



PHOTO: STAR

Unauthorised construction of a rice husking mill led to closure of the operation of a deep tube-well of Barind Multipurpose Development Authority at Hariharpur Balapara village in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila, causing irrigation problem for about 500 acres of land in the area.

## ILLEGAL HUSKING MILL AT BARIND'S DEEP TUBE-WELL SITE Irrigation badly hampered

QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT,  
Thakurgaon

A husking mill and its *chatal* (paved ground) set up on the land of a deep tube-well of Barind Multipurpose Development Authority (BMDA) at Hariharpur Balapara village in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila hampers irrigation on 500 acres of land, much to the worry of farmers in the ongoing Irri-boro season.

Water Development Board acquired 2.55 acres of land at the village and set up a deep tube-well (No 29) there for providing irrigation, said BMDA officials and locals.

But in last September, local rice trader Nazmul Hasan started setting up a husking mill and its *chatal*

on the same land and removed irrigation pipelines from there, said locals and officials of BMDA.

During a recent visit to the village, this correspondent saw that the mill's room and a godown were already complete and workers were constructing the paved ground of the husking mill adjacent to the deep tube-well.

"After start of the work of the husking mill, the operation of the deep tube-well stopped. About 65/70 local farmers who cultivate crops on around 500 acres of land around the deep tube-well are facing irrigation problem in the ongoing Irri-boro season," said Mohammad

Bablu, a sharecropper of the village.

Md Rafiqul Islam, a farmer of the same village, said the rice trader is also threatening to file a case against them for protesting against setting up of the husking mill.

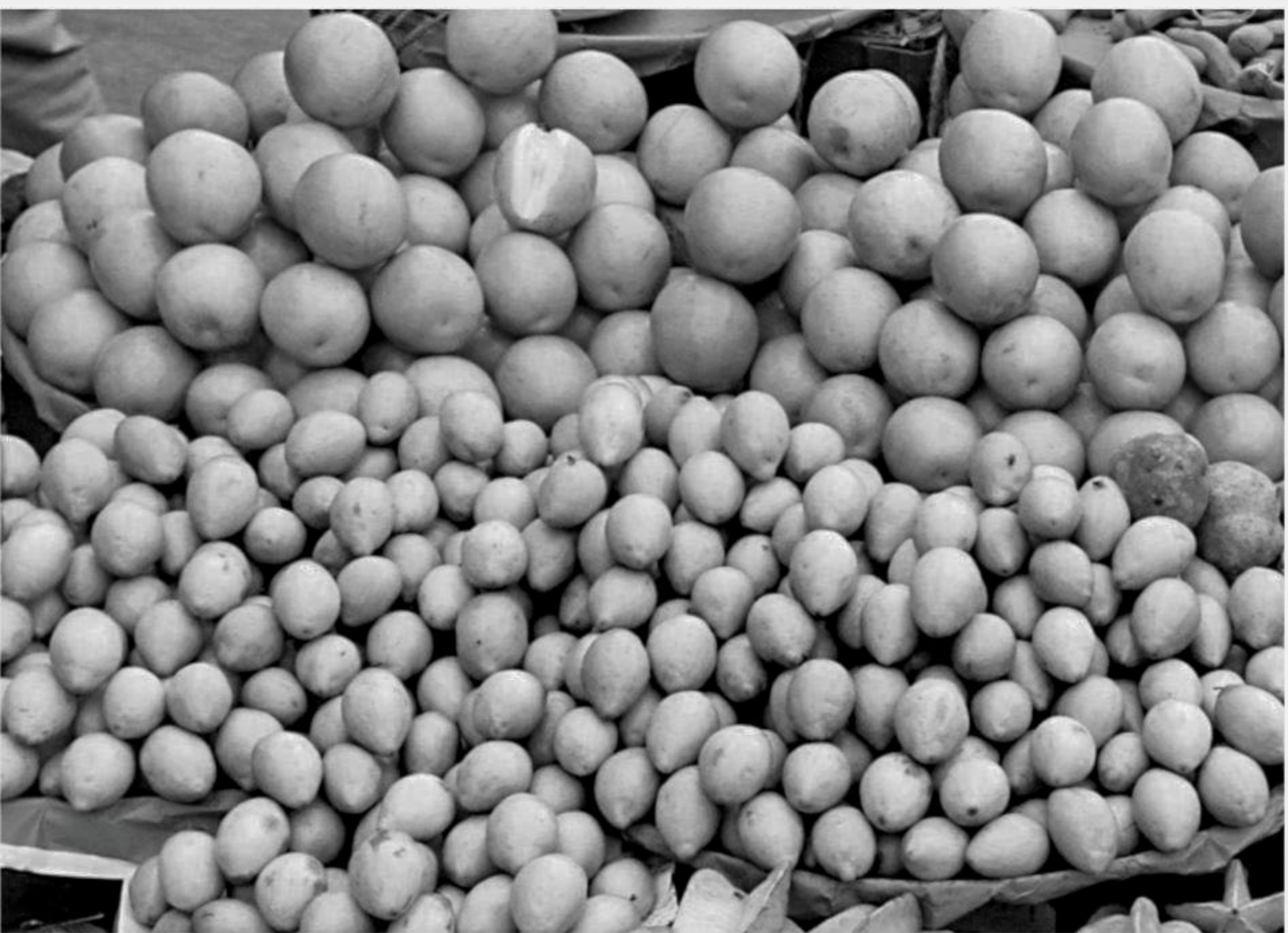
Shafiqul Islam, assistant engineer of BMDA in Thakurgaon Zone, said, "We sent three letters to the mill owner in September, October and November last year, asking him to remove the husking mill and its *chatal* from the land of the deep tube-well."

"We filed a written complaint with Thakurgaon Police Station in this connection on November 6 last year and its copies were sent to the deputy commis-

sioner of Thakurgaon, upazila nirbahi officer concerned and BMDA officials. In late December, we also wrote a letter to the deputy commissioner requesting him to take steps to remove the structure from the government land, but to no effect yet," he said.

Contacted, husking mill owner Nazmul Hasan said, "The land is our ancestral land. The irrigation activities will not be hampered due to setting up of the mill."

AKM Mehedi Hasan, officer in charge of Thakurgaon Police Station, said, "We have received a complaint from BMDA. A decision will be taken after examining the documents of both sides."



## Plum cultivation gaining popularity

Agri dept provides technical and other supports for 500 farmers in Sharsha upazila of Jessore

UNB, Benapole, Jessore

Cultivation of plum, especially baukul and apple kul varieties developed by Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI), is gaining popularity in Sharsha upazila under the district.

Seeing its profitability in recent years, increasing number of farmers, especially youths, are engaging in plum cultivation.

Around five hundred farmers are cultivating different varieties of plum

including baukul and apple kul and the agriculture department provides technical and other support for the farming, said Hirok Kumar Sarkar, upazila agriculture officer.

Khurshed Alam, 45, of Samata village of Sharsha upazila has raised three orchards comprising eight bighas of land near his house where he cultivates baukul, apple kul and narkel kul.

"I expect profit of Tk 3-4 lakh this year," said Khurshed, who started the

fruit cultivation ten years ago.

Moni Begum of Shyamalgachhi village, who has cultivated the fruit on one bigha of land, said, "I have already sold plums worth over Tk 35,000 this year while the production cost was Tk 15,000."

Many others including Rexona Khatun of Kashiadanga village, Ahsan Habib and Shafuddin of Gotipara village, and Shahidul Islam of Gogha village, have similar success stories of commercial plum cultivation.

After meeting the local demand, large quantities of plum is sent outside, including Dhaka, Barisal and Satkhira.

Farmers said a considerable amount of the fruit gets damaged after dropping off the trees, said farmers.

Plum cultivation would be more profitable if the government authorities arrange proper training and technical support for its cultivation, safe preservation and marketing, they said.

## Man jailed for 14 years in arms case

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Chapainawabganj

A special tribunal here yesterday sentenced a youth to 14 years' rigorous imprisonment for possessing firearms.

The convict, Mohammad Shamim, 35, son of Alamgir Master, is a resident of Koylardiar village in Shibganj upazila of the district.

Special Tribunal-1 Judge Kabita Khanam delivered the verdict in the afternoon.

According to the prosecution, a team of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-5) raided Shamim's house and arrested him for possessing four pistols, eight magazines and 24 bullets on October 2, 2013.

Mohammad Ali, sub-inspector of Shibganj Police Station, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge-sheet against Shamim on October 28 the same year.

Meanwhile, law enforcers in separate drives seized four firearms and five bullets from different villages in Shibganj and Gomostapur upazila on Tuesday night.

Shibganj police arrested one Ketabur Rahman from Baliadighi village along with two pistols, two magazines and five bullets.

The same night, BGB member recovered two pistols from different spots in Gomostapur upazila in abandoned conditions.



PHOTO: STAR

Like others of the kind, a retail shop of diesel at Burimari Bazar in Patgram upazila under Lalmonirhat district sells the item for higher prices, showing the excuse of added transport cost amid the countrywide blockade.

## Paddy trader hacked to death in Bogra

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A paddy trader was hacked to death at Shibakomla village in Kahaloo upazila early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Dhukhu Mia, 39, son of Bulu Mondal of Shabrul village in Shajahanpur upazila.

Locals said Dhukhu Mia along with a van puller was returning his father-in-law's house after attending a religious function there.

A gang waylaid the two and demanded toll. As they failed to pay heed to the demand, the

criminals attacked them with sharp weapons, leaving them seriously injured.

They were rushed to Shaheed Zaiur Rahman Medical College and Hospital where the on duty doctors declared Dhukhu Mia dead.

Injured van puller Abdul Momin, 30, hailed from Shabrul village, said police.

Police are trying to unearth the clue of the killing, said Shumit Kumar Kundau, officer-in-charge of Kahaloo Police Station.

## 42,200 Yaba tablets seized in Teknaf, five arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Law enforcers in separate drives arrested five people and seized around 42,200 Yaba tablets in Teknaf upazila of the district yesterday.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) Aatur Rahman Khandaker of Teknaf Police Station said a police team, acting on a tip-off, raided Teknaf bus stand at around 12:30pm and arrested two people with 40,000 Yaba tablets.

The arrestees are Nazrul Islam, 20, son of Sabar Ahmed of Guchchhagram village; and Mahmudul Alam, son of Abdul Ahad of Dakhin Jaliapara village in the upazila. Police said the two were carrying Yaba tablets in bags.

Sub-Inspector (SI) Omar Faruk, in-charge of Hoachkong police outpost, said police arrested three people from Cox's Bazar-bound bus on Teknaf-Cox's Bazar road yesterday morning and seized 2,200 Yaba tablets from their possession.

The arrestees are Nur Hossain, Md Salimullah

and Nurnabi. Cases were filed against the five with Teknaf Police Station.

## SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

### BNP leader arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhalakathi

Police arrested a local BNP leader at Suktakar in Rajapur upazila on Wednesday evening. The arrestee is Abul Kalam Azad, secretary of Rajapur upazila unit of BNP, said Md Masuduzzaman, officer-in-charge of Rajapur Police Station. Kalam, also the chairman of the upazila parishad, was arrested on charge of planning subversive activities in the area, said the OC.

### Jailer suspended

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhalakathi

Jhalakathi jailer Md Shariful Islam has been suspended for negligence of duty. The home ministry issued the suspension order on Tuesday, said Shariful. On January 16, convicted prisoner Monir Hossain escaped from the jail. Police in a raid later arrested Monir in Chittagong city on Wednesday.

### Illegal sand lifter fined

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A Mobile court fined a man Tk 50,000, in default, he is to suffer another six months in jail for illegally lifting sand from the bank of the River Laghata in Kamalganj upazila of the district yesterday. The convict is Imran Ahmed, 45, of Borocheh village in the upazila. Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md Jahidul Islam Miah led the court, said Md Ajgor Ali, assistant commissioner (land).

### 4 held with bullets

UNB, Satkhira

Detectives arrested four people along with seven bullets in Mehediabagh area of the district town on Wednesday morning. The arrestees were identified as Maulana Sohain Islam alias Sohel, son of Abdul Kader, a resident of Naoapara in Jessore district; Abdur Rashid, son of Baser Ali, a resident of Dohar village in Tala upazila of Satkhira; Masud Rana, son of Mantu Sardar, a resident of Betbunga village in Paikgachha upazila; and Mahibullah, son of Shahjahan Gazi, a resident of Hariharnagar in Koyra upazila of Khulna district. Satkhira DB officer-in-charge Mostafizur Rahman said acting on a tip-off, a team raided the area and arrested the four along with the bullets. A case was filed in this connection, he said.

### Baby found in tea garden

UNB, Sylhet

A two-month-old baby was rescued from a tea garden in Jaflong of the district on Wednesday evening. An auto-rickshaw driver heard the baby crying while he was passing through the area around 6.00pm. Later, along with other drivers, he rescued the baby and took it to his home, said Sub-Inspector Rafiq of Goinghat Police Station.

### Bogra Press Club election today


OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Bogra Press Club election will be held today. Election committee source said 40 candidates are contesting for 21 posts at the poll. Noted journalists Jahedur Rahman Jadu and Mahamudul Alam Nayan will vie for president and secretary posts. All preparations have been made to hold a free and fair election, said Rezaul Hasan Ranu, member of the election committee.



PHOTO: STAR

Rapid Action Battalion seizes three deer skins from Pathorghata upazila under Barguna district on Wednesday.



**EMBASSY OF SWEDEN**

**Dhaka**


**New Position as Programme Officer**

The Embassy of Sweden in Dhaka is looking for qualified candidates for the position as Programme Officer for Private Sector Development (Employment and Skills Development) at the Section for Development Cooperation. The main responsibility of the position will be to initiate, manage and follow up Swedish funded projects and programmes related to private sector development (PSD). Additional tasks include developing project portfolio, following trends and promoting cooperation with other relevant actors within the area of responsibility.

The candidate should have a Master's Degree in Economics, Political Science and/or Social Studies from a reputed university - preferably from abroad - with minimum 5 years' experience working with development cooperation and at least three years' experience working with private sector development. Experience in industrial relations, private sector collaboration and/or development financing and/or a background in gender studies will be an advantage. Excellent IT skills, especially MS Excel are a must.

Special attention will be given to result-oriented candidates with excellent analytical, written and communication skills, able to work proactively and independently, as well as in a team. The Embassy can offer an exciting international working environment and opportunities for competence development.

For specifications please visit [www.bdjobs.com](http://www.bdjobs.com) or [www.jobs.proedge-asso.com](http://www.jobs.proedge-asso.com). To avail of this career opportunity apply online through the latter, along with your motivation letter (not more than 400 words), a CV and at least two references or e-mail to: [recruit@proedge-asso.com](mailto:recruit@proedge-asso.com) by **February 10, 2015**. Mark the subject line with "Programme Officer".



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