



Farmers with their newly harvested boro paddy look frustrated at Dhelapir Bazar in Nilphamari Sadar upazila as the market, like several others in the district, sees very few customers and the offered prices remain too low.

PHOTO: STAR

# Nilphamari farmers upset over low boro prices

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Bumper yield of boro paddy has failed to please farmers this year as they aren't getting fair prices due to an absence of buyers. Some of them are even compelled to sell paddy at a loss to middlemen.

Sources in Nilphamari's Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) office said they set a target to cultivate boro paddy on 82,180 hectares of land this year with a production target of 5.15 lakh metric tonnes, which is likely to be exceeded.

By this time, 30% of paddy, mostly of the BRR1 dhan-28, has been harvested and the rest, including the high yielding, hybrid and local varieties, will be harvested in a couple of weeks.

These days, at markets including Dhelapeer, Ramganj, Tengenmari, farmers wait with their paddy for a long time to sell as there are few buyers from auto rice mills or paddy traders from other districts.

There were only a few middlemen or brokers looking for an opportunity to buy paddy at throw-away prices, which the farmers have no alternative but to

accept in order to repay the NGO loans.

Farmer Atiqur Rahman, 35, of Poolhat village in Sadar upazila, said he brought five maunds of BRR1-dhan 28 paddy to Dhelapeer market on Friday. "I had to pay Tk 200 to the rickshaw van puller to carry the paddy to market from my home, and if I return with unsold paddy I'll need to pay Tk 200 more. So, I sold all the paddy at Tk 450 per maund to a husking mill owner," he added.

DAE sources in Nilphamari said that according to their official estimates, the production cost of boro per bigha is Tk 14.5 thousand, including the cost of seeds, fertilizer, tilling, sowing, weeding, pesticide, harvesting, etc. The maximum yield in that area is 20 maunds and the production cost for a maund stands at Tk 725.

A maund of good quality paddy is now being sold at a maximum of Tk 500, causing a loss of at least Tk 225 per maund.

Emdadul Islam, a well-established farmer of Paschim Satnai village in Dimla upazila lamented that there is scarcity of day labourers in the area as they went to the cities in search of jobs,

which means the daily wage of a labourer is very high locally, surprisingly equal to the selling price of a maund of paddy.

Farmer Abdul Gaffar of Balagram village in Jaldhaka upazila said that many farmers like him have no skills for any job other than farming and so they can't leave agriculture and somehow survive ignoring consecutive losses, relying on their own and family labour.

President of the district automatic rice mill owners association Raquibul Alam said that big buyers are not purchasing paddy now as the newly harvested paddy contains a lot of moisture and weight loss might be 5-8 kg per maund when it becomes dry after few weeks, leading to financial loss.

"Moreover, the government is selling rice in the open market at Tk 15 per kg, which is playing a role in the downward trend in paddy prices," he added.

SM Idris, deputy director of the district DAE, expressed optimism saying that boro farmers are getting bumper yield and will get fair prices as soon as the government's boro procurement drive starts.

## Girl abused

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doctors asked us not to put mental pressure on her," said the girl's father by phone.

He added his daughter did not make a "single sound" since the incident.

Witnesses said around 10:00am on the day, Shihab and Imran, both final-year students at the Institute, went to the girl's classroom and forced all the students (except for the victim) out.

There were 22 students in the class at the time.

After vacating the classroom, Shihab went inside the room and hurled abuse at the girl.

Soon after the incident, the girl filed a written complaint with the principal, saying that Shihab abused her verbally and physically. She added Shihab stalked her over the phone and on the way to and from the Institute.

Mysteriously, the girl wrote to the principal the very next day again, cancelling her complaint.

The Daily Star obtained copies of both the applications and found the handwriting to be different.

"This means someone else has written it [the second application] or the girl was forced to do so," said an official at the Institute, asking not to be named.

The girl fell sick on May 3 and was taken to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital.

On May 4, the Institute authorities sat with the accused, their parents, the victim and her father. At the time, the two again apologised and gave undertakings.

"I have to know from my daughter what has happened. But I guess something is wrong," said the father of the girl, demanding action against the accused.

The Daily Star tried to reach Shihab and Imran by phone yesterday, but their phones were found switched off. They were not found in their mess either.

Campus sources they are skipping classes since the incident.

## Post-polls clashes leave one dead, 30 hurt in 4 dists

STAR COUNTRY DESK

A woman was killed and at least 30 other people were injured in post Union Parishad (UP) polls violence in Thakurgaon, Jamalpur, Mymensingh and Narsingdi districts yesterday.

Our Thakurgaon correspondent reported that a housewife, who sustained head injury during a post election clash at Karimpura village in Baliadangi upazila on Saturday night, died early yesterday.

The deceased, Asma Begum, 58, wife of Abdul Gani, was a resident of the village.

Police said an altercation took place between the supporters of defeated member candidate Gul Mohammad and Solaiman Ali, elected ward member under Amjankhor union under the upazila, over voting issues around 10:30pm on Saturday night.

At one stage, both the groups locked in a clash and started pelting brick chips towards one another.

During the clash a brick chip hit Asma on the head, leaving her injured.

As it was almost midnight, Asma took primary treatment from a local drug store and went to her house where she died around 1:30am, Officer-in-Charge Aminul Islam of Baliadangi Police Station said.

The deceased's elder son Shajahan filed a murder case against Solaiman and 20/25 others with the police station, the OC added.

Meanwhile, the supporters of a defeated member candidate allegedly attacked several houses of Hindus at Hazipara village under Ward No 6 of Mohammadpur union in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila on Saturday night.

At around 8:30pm, supporters of Harisul, equipped with sticks and iron rods, attacked

the houses of Prosonno Dev, Rabindranath Barman and Bimal Roy of the village.

They also vandalised houses and beat up seven/eight Hindu people including Prosonno Dev, Rabindranath Barman and Bimal Roy.

In Jamalpur, at least 12 people were injured in a post UP poll clash at Sajimara village under Nilakkhia union in Bakshiganj upazila yesterday, reports our correspondent.

As Sattar's supporters stepped forward to resist the attackers, both the groups swooped on each other that left 12 people, including three women, from both sides injured.

Of the injured, seven were admitted to adjacent Islampur Upazila Health Complex while the rest received treatment locally.

Away in Mymensingh, at least eight people were hurt in a clash between the supporters of defeated member aspirants Jamshed Ali and member-elect Babul Master in Paraganj union in Sadar upazila around 3:00pm yesterday.

One of the injured Enamul Haque, 28, is now undergoing treatment at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital with severe injuries.

In Narsingdi, three people were stabbed allegedly by their rivals in a post-polls clash at Birgaon village under Nilakkhia union of Raipura upazila yesterday.

Anwar Hossain, 32, Mustafa Mia, 38, and Sohrab, 28, supporters of defeated chairman aspirant Abdul Haque, received stab injuries when followers of chairman-elect Tajul Islam swooped on them with lethal weapons around 10:00am.

Locals claimed that Tajul's men also set fire to 10 houses of Abdul Haque's supporters.



PHOTO: STAR

Artistes dance with lit candles at a programme at Patisar in Atrai upazila of Naogaon, marking the 155th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. The district administration organised the event at the place associated with a good amount of humanitarian and literary works of the Nobel laureate.

## Watch today

FROM PAGE 16  
will be seen all over the country. The first contact will take place at 17:31 and will end at 18:20.

Science organisation Anushandhitshu Chokro has set up an observation post with a solar telescope at its office to observe the transition, the organisation's President of Astronomical Division Shahjahan Mridha Benu told The Daily Star.

"The transit of Mercury is a phenomenon in which the planet will be seen as a small black dot travelling from one end of the solar disc to the other," he said.

None should see the Mercury transit with the naked eye, and staring at the sun without protection is harmful, he added.

"This historical event surely will help us to develop our Science culture and increase people's interest on Astrology."

This phenomenon is seen when mercury passes between the Sun and the Earth and it happens only when the three are lined up.

Mercury appears as a dot on the solar disc because its angular size is very small compared to that of the Sun as seen from Earth.

If someone has own telescope, he can watch the event using a safety filter to protect eyes from the sun. If doesn't have a filter handy, he can use a sheet of paper to rig up a safe viewing method - he can project the image of the sun (in the form of a white disk) onto a sheet of paper, then watch the black dot of Mercury crawl across it.

The transition can be enjoyed watching online or using a telescope with a special filter.

The safest way to observe a transit of Mercury is to project the image of the Sun through a refracting telescope onto a piece of white card.

## NIKHIL MURDER

# Three arrestees sent to jail after remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Three accused in the case for killing tailor Nikhil Chandra Joardar were sent to jail after completion of their six-day remand.

Judge Anjan Kanti Das of Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court in Tangail sent them to jail after they were produced before the court yesterday afternoon.

The three -- Rafiqul Islam Badsa, secretary of Gopalpur upazila unit of Jamaat-e-Islami, Aminul Islam, principal of Alamnagar Madrasa, and BNP activist Jhantu Miah of Bilnolhara village in the upazila -- were detained on April 30, a day after the killing of Nikhil.

They were later shown arrested in the murder case filed by Nikhil's wife Arti Rani Joardar, and an arms case filed by Sub-

Inspector Moksedul Alam of Gopalpur Police Station on May 1. The cases were later handed over to Tangail Detective Branch (DB).

Members of DB produced the three before the Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court on the same day, seeking a seven-day remand for each of the cases. The court placed them on a six-day remand each in the two cases.

The law enforcers quizzed the three arrestees, but did not disclose any information for the sake of the investigation, said Mahfizur Rahman Ghulam, officer-in-charge of Tangail DB police.

Nikhil, 50, was hacked to death by unidentified assailants in front of his tailoring shop at Dubail Bazar in Gopalpur upazila on April 30.



PHOTO: STAR

Unloading from trucks and setting makeshift shops on roads often cause nuisance for traffic and passers-by. The photo was taken from Bagri Bazar in Barisal-Khulna highway yesterday.

## Missing boy found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

The body of a schoolboy, who went missing from Bhurabari village under Sarishabari municipality of the district on Thursday, was found under a bridge at the village yesterday morning.


The deceased was identified as Ashik, 9, son of Nurul Islam of the village, and a Class II student at Active Kindergarten at the village.

Police, quoting the family members, said Ashik went missing from in front of their house in the evening. Relatives and family

members looked for the boy in the municipality area, but could not find him.

Locals detected a foul smell coming from under the bridge on the Subarnakhali River at around 10:00am. They went there, found the decomposed body of Ashik and informed the police, said Billal Uddin, officer-in-charge (OC) of Sarishabari Police Station.

Police recovered the body and sent it to Jamalpur General Hospital morgue for autopsy. Victim's mother Abeda Begum filed a case, accusing some unnamed people, with the police station.



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Memo No.: APSCL/MD/Project-400MW (East)/2016/1437 Date: 05 May 2016

### Invitation for Bids

**Project Title : Construction of Ashuganj 400 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (East)**  
**ADB Loan No. and Title : Loan No. 3350-BAN, Power System Expansion & Efficiency Improvement Program**  
**IDB Financing No. and Title : BD-N/A: Ashuganj Power Station Efficiency Improvement Project**  
**Deadline for submission of Bid : 20-07-2016 at 12:00 Hrs BST (Bangladesh Standard Time)**

- The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a loan from Asian Development Bank (ADB) and also applied for a financing/loan from Islamic Development Bank (IDB) towards the cost of Power System Efficiency Improvement Project and it is intended that a Part of this loan will be used for payments under the contract named above. Bidding is open to eligible bidder(s) from eligible source countries of ADB and IDB as defined in the Bidding Documents (Section 5).
- Ashuganj Power Station Company Ltd. (APSC), ("the Employer"), an enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB), invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Demolition, Disposal of existing plant, site preparation and Detailed Engineering, Design, Manufacture/Procurement, Inspection, Testing, Delivery to site, Installation, Construction of related civil works, Commissioning and Performance test on turnkey basis of Ashuganj 400 (±5%) MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (East) including two years defect liability period. The Plant capacity shall be in the range of 400 (±5%) MW net at site ambient conditions of 35°C, 1.013 bar atmospheric, 98% relative humidity. The configuration of the plant shall be 1: 1: 1 (Single shaft without Bypass Stack). Fuel shall be natural gas supplied from Bakhrabad Gas Distribution Company Limited (BGDCL) and generated power will be evacuated to 400 KV national grid through new 400 KV GIS Sub-Station.
- International competitive bidding will be conducted in accordance with ADB's and IDB's "Two Stage" Bidding Procedure.
- To be qualified for bidding against this IFB:  
The prospective Bidder shall have essential experiences in the supply, construction, testing & commissioning of at least one Combined Cycle Power Plant having minimum capacity of 300 MW within the last 10 years. The plant shall have been in satisfactory operations for at least three (3) years at the date of bid submission.  
(Note: Only important qualification criteria are mentioned above briefly. To know the other qualification criteria, intending bidders are advised to inspect the Bidding Document by visiting the website of APSC for view only but not for submission).
- To obtain further information and inspect the bidding document, bidders should contact:  
Project Director, Ashuganj 400 MW CCPP (East)  
Ashuganj Power Station Company Ltd.  
Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria-3402, Bangladesh  
Tel: 0088 08528 74690, Fax: 0088 08528 74014, 0088 08528 74044  
E-mail address: [pd400east@apscl.com](mailto:pd400east@apscl.com), Website: [www.apscl.com](http://www.apscl.com)
- A complete set of bidding documents (in English) may be purchased by any interested eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fees of BDT. 30,000.00 or US\$ 400.00 on submission of a written application to the Deputy General Manager (Finance and Accounts), Ashuganj Power Station Company Ltd., Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria, Bangladesh only during normal office hours on all working days till 19-07-2016. The method of payment will be either in Pay Order or Demand Draft in favor of the Ashuganj Power Station Company Ltd., Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria, Bangladesh.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Stage Bid must be delivered to the Project Director, Ashuganj 400 MW CCPP (East), Ashuganj Power Station Company Ltd., Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria-3402, Bangladesh on or before 12:00 noon Bangladesh Standard Time on 20-07-2016. Bidders are requested to submit sealed envelope. The First Stage Bids will be opened immediately after the deadline in the presence of bidder's representatives who choose to attend.
- APSC will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids, site visits, etc.
- The authority reserves the right to accept or reject all bids without explaining any reason.

*Md. Anwar Hossain*  
05.05.2016  
**Md. Anwar Hossain**  
Project Director  
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