# Scant rain hampers aman farming

Farmers struggle to save crops as cracks develop on fields

QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT, Thakurgaon

Aman farmers of Thakurgaon and Panchagarh are struggling to save their recently planted aman plants from damage due to insufficient rain during the ongoing monsoon.

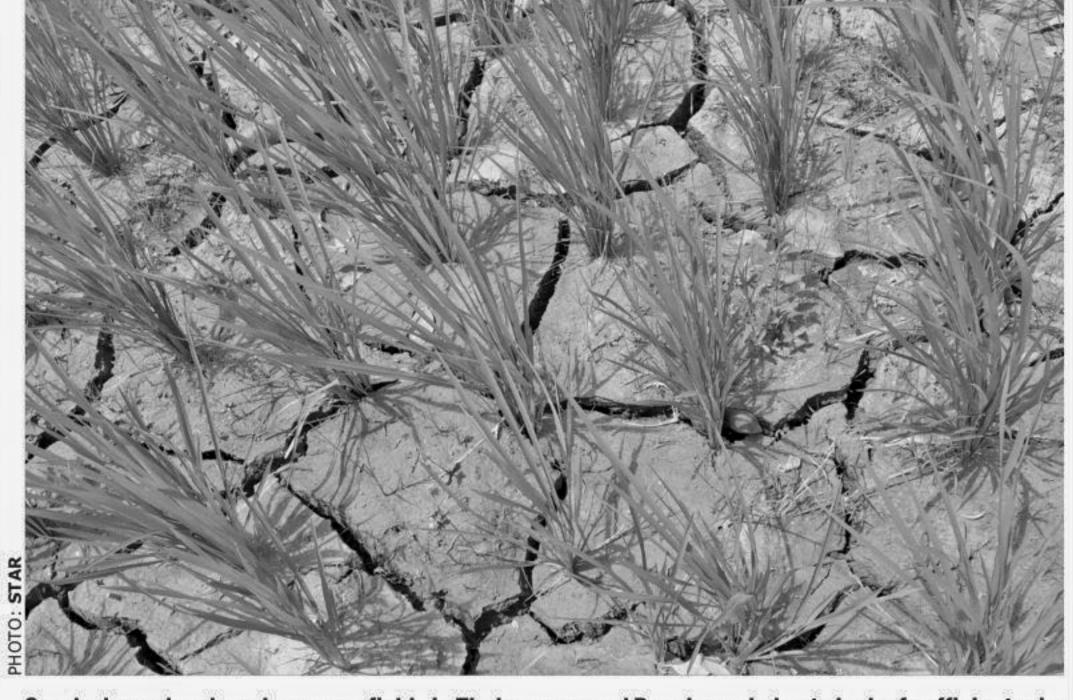
During a recent visit, this correspondent saw that cracks have developed on T-aman paddy fields in different areas of the two districts. Many solvent farmers are providing irrigation in their lands by shallow or deep pump machines, but marginal farmers and sharecroppers cannot afford to do it.

The season lasts during the Bangla months of Ashar and Shraban, and the yield declines if paddy seedlings are transplanted after this period. According to the Department of Agriculture

Extension (DAE) in the district, August this year saw only 170 mm of rainfall, whereas minimum 300 mm-400 mm monthly rainfall is necessary during the time for proper aman 🗲 farming. In August 2015, the district witnessed 🥫 only 140 mm of rainfall. Iddris Ali, 48, a farmer of Farabari under

Thakurgaon Sadar upazila, said cracks developed in his field about 6/7 days ago due to lack of rainfall. It was tough to provide irrigation as he destroyed the temporary canals he had built for Irri-boro season. If he wanted to provide irrigation now, he would have to use polythene pipe to bring the water, which would be very costly

Arun Barman, 35, of Boikanthapur village under Thakurgaon Sadar, who irrigated his aman field with shallow pumps, said there was no alternative way to provide irrigation to save aman plants from drying out due to due to scanty rainfall. He said farmers usually get more profit from



Cracks have developed on aman fields in Thakurgaon and Panchagarh due to lack of sufficient rain. The photo was taken at Barunagaon village in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila on Saturday.

aman paddy than Irri-boro as they irrigate it with aman on about 96,415 hectares of land while the irrigation by shallow pumps.

target of 3 lakh 66,177 tonnes of rice, while about 1 lakh 33,455 hectares of land have been cultivated in Thakurgaon till Thursday.

In Panchagarh, farmers have transplanted

rainwater. This season, it is uncertain if they can DAE set a target to cultivate 94,500 hectares with make profit from aman as they have to provide production target of 2 lakh 59,000 tonnes of rice. Deputy Director of DAE, Arshed Ali, said,

This year, DAE targeted aman cultivation on 1 "Rainfall is needed soon for saving aman plants. lakh 33,535 hectares of land with production They are advised to provide irrigation where cracks have developed in the fields."

About 13,000 deep tube wells of Barind Multipurpose Development Authority are in operation to provide irrigation, he added.

## Tea workers' strike today

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Workers of 23 tea gardens in Habiganj will observe a strike today, demanding due wages and rations for 16 weeks of 400 permanent workers at Boikunthapur Tea Estate in Madhabpur upazila. Bangladesh Cha Sramik

Union yesterday made the announcement following an emergency meeting at Srimangal Labour House in Moulvibazar, stating that tea workers across the country will observe the agitation programme simultaneously to realise the demands. The move came after

some tea workers recently fell sick due to starvation as the authorities of Boikunthapur Tea Estate in Habiganj's Madhabpur stopped paying workers four months ago, said Monib Karmakar, general secretary of Bangladesh Cha Sramik Union, Baikunthapur Tea Garden unit.

Nripen Paul, joint secretary of Bangladesh Cha Sramik Union, also threatened to go for a tougher programme if their demands are not met immediately.

## **SNIPPETS**

## LGED engineer stabbed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

An engineer of Shajahanour upazila parishad was stabbed by criminals yesterday. Police detained one Rony Mia for interrogation. Injured Shahinuzzaman, 43, an engineer of LGED department of the upazila, was admitted to a hospital. Police said three youths stabbed the engineer when he was returning his office after visiting a project area. The reason behind the attack could not be known immedi-

## Woman held for beating widow

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Police arrested a woman in a case for beating her daughter-in-law at Bhaularhat Podompur village in Sadar upazila yesterday. The arrestee is Nur Jahan Begum, mother-in-law of Parul Akhter of the village. Victim Parul filed the case, accusing Nur Jahan Begum, her sons Jahangir Alam, 27, his wife Runa Akhter, 25, Rafiqul Islam Labu, 25, and his wife Mim, 23. The 23-year-old widow, who was beaten up mercilessly by her in-laws on Wednesday, is still groaning with pain at Sadar Hospital.

## **Tourist found dead at Jaflong**

A tourist was found dead in the River Piain under Goainghat upazila of Sylhet yesterday. The victim was Asif Ahmed, 17, son of Abdur Rahman of Tongi area in Gazipur. Police said Asif went missing on Friday after-

### 21 Jamaat-Shibir men detained

Jhenidah police in separate drives arrested 21 activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir from six upazilas in the last two days. Of them, four are from Shailakupa, nine from Kotchandpur, two from Harinakundo, four from Moheshpur, one from district, said Assistant Superintendent of Police Ajbahar Ali Sheikh.

### JMB suspect lands in jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensing

Police arrested an alleged member of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) from Muktagachha upazila on Saturday. The arrestee is Kamor Uddin, 45, of Rampur village. Yesterday, he was produced in a court that sent him to jail, said Md Akhtar Morshed,

## One held in imam murder case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

1,662,417,921

1,674,601,188

মেঘনা লাইফ ইন্স্যুৱেন্স কোম্পানী লিমিটেড

Police yesterday arrested prime accused in the imam killing case in Bhaluka upazila. The arrestee is Mahbubul Gafargoan upazila. The victim Hossain Ali, alias a former imam of Madhya Rajoi Mosque. A gang, alleg-

### Slain police officer's legacy lives on University, Dr. Hakim Arif, arrived at other support to the children," says ZAHANGIR SHAH with ANDREW EAGLE

Renowned for his significant social contribution in his native Manikganj, police officer Mohammad Rabiul Karim is no longer with us. He was one of the two police officers killed during the 1 July terrorist siege in Gulshan. But his legacy lives on. On 19 August the school for chil-

dren with disabilities that Rabiul founded organised a health screening programme to provide students and parents with expert medical consultations. The event continues the tradition of free health care that was a part of Rabiul's dream.

Travelling from Dhaka by bus a 20member team of general physicians, a physiotherapist, speech therapist and audiologists under the leadership of the founding chairman of the department of communication disorders at Dhaka

Katigram village in Krishnapur union of Manikganj Sadar upazila. At the campus of Rabiul's school,

called the Beaconing Light Organisation of Mankind and Society, or Blooms for short, the medical team set up three separate medical boards for consultations. "A total of 32 of the 36 children who

attend the school were examined along with their parents," says Abdul Alim Khan, executive member of the school's committee and a deputy secretary of public works. "We found that eight students have

speech and language problems," says Dr. Ummul Khair Alam, a member of the medical team, "six are short of hearing, two have cerebral palsy, one is autistic, while two each have thyroid problems, suffer learning difficulties or physical disabilities."

"We will also give medicine and

Shamsuzzaman Shams, member secretary of the school authority and Rabiul's younger brother. "This programme must continue.

"We are all happy to participate in these programmes," says Md Nuruzzaman, a professor from Dhaka University's philosophy department, on behalf of the medical team, "out of respect for the late police officer's efforts and his self-sacrifice.

Medical team participants also included Dr. Sonia Sultana, Dr. Nawsher Ali Bhuyan and Dr. Jannat E Nur who provided diagnoses, prescriptions and advice.

The parents meanwhile were thankful for the opportunity provided for themselves and their children to access such medical expertise. But among them the sentiment was universal that the day would be all the happier if Rabiul was still alive.

of the perpetrators.

Urging all to put pressure platform also declared a rally at Shahbagh on august 25.

# anthrax in Sirajganj

25 more infected with

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

among the villagers.

On Mortgage of Properties

Twenty-five more people have been infected with anthrax in Shahzadpur upazila of Sirajganj in the last couple of days, bringing the number of affected people to 88.

This is the third time that anthrax, a disease that is transmitted through animals to human beings, has struck the upazila. Earlier, 50 people were infected in May, and 13 in July.

Critically affected Tourza Begum, 30, Hasna Khatun, 25, Polash Hossain, 25, Hashi Khatun, 3, Mariam Begum, 30, Samartha Begum, 65, and Shahin Rahman, 12, are undergoing treatment at Shahzadpur Upazila Health Complex, said Dr Monwar Hossain, resident medical officer. Dr Jafarul Hossain, upazila health and family planning officer,

said a health assistant found an anthrax affected patient at Char-Kouzuri village on Thursday. Separate teams rushed to the village and found 22 people infected with anthrax in two days, he said, adding that the victims had eaten anthrax infected meat. "Most of the patients are women and children and the

about," Dr Jafarul said. Upazila Livestock Officer Md Abdus Samad said local people slaughtered a diseased cow in the village on August 8, defying advice, and distributed the meat of the animal

infection is only on the skin, except for those admitted to

### Primary test suggests it was suicide inspector Fazlu of Kafrul party -- have been holding upholding justice, Akash

had been murdered and they demanded immediate arrest of "her killer".

There was no sign of injury on her body except the strangulation mark on her throat, Shafiuzzaman said. The autopsy report received

by police yesterday did not mention whether the death was due to homicide or suicide, said Masood Ahmed, deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Mirpur Zone). Afsana's brother Fazle

Rabbi said, "It was a murder, not a suicide. Claims of her suicide are not acceptable to

Meanwhile, investigation officer of the case, subPolice Station, said police were yet to determine the location of Afsana's death and they so far did not make any arrest in this connection.

unidentified individuals brought and deserted Afsana unconscious at Al-Helal Hospital in the city's Mirpur. She was identified as a student of SAIC Institute of Management and Technology at Mirpur. Police later received her

dead body and filed a case of unnatural death with Kafrul Police Station.

Afsana's brother Fazle Rabbi and Chhatra Union leaders -- who claimed Afsana as an activist of their

Habibur Rahman Robin -- a Chhatra League leader at Tejgaon College -- responsi- have political affiliations." ble for her death.

Movement against Murder-Rape-Militancy in the afternoon, MM Akash, professor of economics department at Dhaka University, said, "Everyone must be equal in the eyes of the law, but we haven't seen justice in the gruesome murders of journalist couple Sagar-Runi, Narayanganj youth Tanvir Mohammad Toki and Comilla Victoria College Student Sohagi Jahan Tonu."

on the government for

said, "The perpetrators are not being arrested as they Speaking at a press confer-

At a rally at Shahbagh ence held at Dhaka On August 13, two under the banner of Mass University by Pragatishil Chhatra Jote, a platform of several leftist student wings of various political parties, Lucky Akter said, "It was a well-planned murder. The post-mortem report has been tampered."

She reiterated that her party, Chhatra Union, would march to the Home Ministry today and submit a memorandum, demanding arrest

Student leaders of the

## the health complex, so there is nothing to be worried

18,130,444

FROM PAGE 16

Ten special trains will be added to the existing fleet of 378 trains daily to cope with the excessive rush of passen-

The railway authorities will also operate "Solakia Special" trains on Bhairab-Kishoreganj-Bhairab and

shortage of police and their

number will be increased very

He added that even

though providing security to

all project areas will put pres-

sure on the government

exchequer, security has to be

On July 1, the country

witnessed an unprecedented

terrorist attack at the Holey

Artisan Bakery in the capital's

diplomatic zone where gun-

men killed 20 hostages and

two police officials during a

Japanese nationals. They were

consultants working on a

provided.

12-hour siege.

Mymensingh-Kishoreganj-Mymensingh routes on the

Some 140 additional coaches will be included coaches and 18 additional locomotives will be added

leave the capital through the remain suspended on on August 23.

Kamalapur Railway Station every day during the Eid rush, according to railway officials.

Adequate security measures will be taken to avoid black marketing of tickets and any subversive activities, the minister said. Operation of Maitree portoperators.

Express, which runs on

September 11-12 due to Eid. Every year, around 60-70 lakh people leave the capital to celebrate Eid with the near and dear ones at their village homes. The major chunk of them travel on roads and railways, said railway officials and trans-

Private bus operators will Around 80,000 people Dhaka-Kolkata route, will start selling advance tickets

## Advance train

the tickets are sold out. A person will be able to buy maximum four tickets.

gers from September 9.

with the existing 202 locomotives during the Eid

with the existing 1,006

on a police checkpoint near

Sholakia Eidgah in

Kishoreganj where two

policemen, a resident in the

area and an alleged attacker

highest level of the govern-

ment cautioned that various

plots are there to carry out

project in Dhaka.

were killed.

country.

Japan for spl security

Japanese government aided project areas. The finance minister also Six days later, suspected said Japan is Bangladesh's terms and conditions of loans given to Bangladesh by Japan are very soft.

Till June 2015, the total available fund from Japan is \$4.63 billion for Bangladesh. After the incident, the In FY 14-15, Japan disbursed \$366 million which is highest among the bilateral donors. In June a few days before

more terror attacks in the the Holey Artisan siege, loan Muhith yesterday said the agreements were signed with Japan for assistance in six government has ensured Of those killed, 7 were highest security in the Padma projects with a total cost of Tk bridge project area. Similar 12,819 crore. The projects steps will be taken in other include: Jamuna Railway

Bridge construction project, Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit Development project, and militants carried out an attack largest bilateral donor and the Matarbari ultra-super critical coal fired power project. After the Holey Artisan

attack, a number of embassies, including that of Japan, India, Denmark, South Korea, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Austria, Thailand and the Netherlands, sought additional security for diplomats, UN organisations and their nationals living in Bangladesh.

Many embassies, foreign organisations and individuals wrote letters to the home ministry, requesting additional security measures.

### MEGHNA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED Registered Office: Biman Bhaban (2nd Floor), 100, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000 Phone: PABX: 9558297, 9558993, 9556204, Fax: 88-02-9578113 e-mail: info@meghnalife.com, Web site: www.meghnalife.com BALANCE SHEET (UN-AUDITED) AS AT JUNE 30, 2016 | LIFE REVENUE ACCOUNT(UN-AUDITED) FOR THE HALF YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016 **CAPITAL & LIABILITIES** 31.12.2015 TAKA 1. PREMIUM INCOME: rate (%) **AUTHORISED** 1st Year Premium: 60,000,000 Ordinary Shares 600,000,000 600,000,000 of Tk. 10/- each 218,625,501 First Year Premium (EB) 221,488,600 ISSUED, SUBSCRIBED & PAID UP 125,850,612 135,415,200 7.06% First Year Premium (LB) 304,053,640 30,405,364 Ordinary Shares 304,053,640 78,430,518 of Tk. 10/- each First Year Premium (IB) 83,730,600 -6.33% **BALANCE OF FUNDS & ACCOUNTS** 20,516,840 23,025,840 First Year Premium (IKB) -10.90% First Year Premium (SB) 38,219,618 59,230,450 35.47% LIABILITIES & PROVISIONS 481,643,089 522,890,690 Amount due to other persons or 1,224,670 3,399,626 -63.98% Renewal Premium: bodies carrying on insurance business 503,416,205 487,175,600 Renewal Premium (EB) of outstanding claims whether 426,120,616 420,142,700 1.42% Renewal Premium (LB) due or intimated 467,129,314 521,154,428 431,787 431,787 Premium Deposit 149,410,750 144,241,100 Renewal Premium (IB) 3.58% 577,342,858 63,046,705 Renewal Premium (IKB) 62,946,600 0.16% 26,540,800 26,052,200 1.88% Renewal Premium (SB) 15,353,985,750 15,179,422,393 1.15% 1,168,535,076 1,140,558,200 2.45% PROPERTY & ASSETS: 12,239,756 11,152,298 9.75% Group Insurance Premiun

19,860,414

2,663,416,345

427,543,865

2,418,871,66

465,184,676

On Insurer's Policies within 2,965,155 3,551,314 1,457,703 1,826,560 Less: Premium on Re-Ins. 22,237,330 21,088,030 their Surrender Value 1,659,452,766 1,671,049,874 1,152,403,460 1,114,294,928 Net Premium 40,367,774 40,948,444 2. INTEREST, RENT & INVESTMENT (At Cost) DIVIDEND INCOME 4,941,159,128 4,861,292,248 Securities & Shares 415,713 (4,966,654) 3. PROFIT ON SALE OF SHARES 511,433,624 487,633,679 4.88% House Property (At cost Less Dep. 5,452,592,752 5,348,925,927 1.94% 5,510,226 4. PROFIT ON SALE OF CAR 3,871,035 AGENTS BALANCE 264,507,37 264,507,377 117,625 272,134 MISCELLANEOUS INCOME 1,025,650 -39.50% **OUTSTANDING PREMIUM** 173,730,909 1,177,694,488 (A) TOTAL (1+2+3+4+5) 2,146,666,999 -1.43% 1,389,537,226 1,358,063,807 INTEREST, DIVIDEND & RENTS 5. CLAIMS & SURRNDERS 397,275,84 368,286,381 7.87% ACCRUED BUT NOT DUE ADVANCE, DEPOSIT & PREPAYMENTS 978,814,979 952,432,562 Less: Re-Insurance SUNDRY DEBTORS 325,632,093 325,632,093 MANAGEMENT EXPENSES CASH, BANK & OTHER BALANCES: (a) COMMISSION TO INSURANCE On FDR with Banks 4,977,529,598 5,018,319,919 AGENTS & EMPLOYER OF AGENTS 295,143,320 On C/D & STD A/C. 2,511,261,721 1,383,849,048 81.47% 25,771,741 75,780,709 -65.99% Cash & Other balances in hand 257,303,745 7,514,563,060 6,477,949,676 16.00% (c) Loss on Investment in Shares (44,816,986) (3,440,161) Printing & Stationary in hand 10,681,741 10,681,741 6,549,915 53,772,719 7. OTHER EXPENSES 16,589,398 109,602,273 -84.86% -13.88% 6,691,028 5,762,390 1,112,921,202 (B) TOTAL (5+6+7) 1,733,777,432 1,821,857,762 -4.83% 1,079,937,458 OTHER ACCOUNTS 184,951,885 Fixed Assets(At cost less Dep.) 200,305,677 -7.67% 245,142,605 26.29% SURPLUS TO LIFE FUND (A-B) Amount due from other persons or Add: Balance of Fund at the 470,431 470,431 4,634,518 Motor Cycle & Cycle Loan 190,056,834 205,672,676 LIFE FUND TRANSFERRED 15,353,985,750 15,179,422,393 TO BALANCE SHEET 14,155,248,713 13,731,075,219 2.56% CASH FLOW STATEMENT (UN-AUDITED) FOR THE HALF YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE, 2016 **PARTICULARS** 30.06.2015 PARTICULARS 30.06.2015 TAKA TAKA CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

**Gross Premium** 

(1,093,386,97 (1,156,018,518) C. CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES (837,422,95) (794,006,547) Payment for Management Expenses & others 1,140,935,145 953,246,410 Net Cash Flows from operating activities Net Cash Flows from investing activities 1,036,613,384 793,285,822 D. Net increase/Decrease in cash and cash equivalents (A+B+C) E. Cash and Cash Equivalents at the beginning of the Period Purchase of Fixed Assets (12,452,560) F. Cash and Cash Equivalents at the end of the Period 7,606,460,376 CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY-AS AT JUNE 30, 2016 Share Capital | Share Premium | General Reserve | Reserve for Exceptional Losses | Retained Earnings Balance as on 1st January 2016 304.053,640 304,053,640 Addition during the period (Issue of bonus Share) 304,053,640 304,053,640

Investment made during the Period

Net Cash Flows from investing activities

applied in the preparation of annual audited financial statements of our Company. Namely Accounting Policy: Accounting policies adopted for interim financial reports are the same as adopted for most recent audited accounts (that is financial statements 2015). Seasonality of interim operation: The Company's business is not heavily seasonal. Unusual and Extra Ordinary items: There were no extra ordinary items the nature and amount of which can affect the assets, liabilities, net income or cash flows because of their nature, size or incidents. Changes in estimates: There were no significant amounts of changes in estimates reported in the prior financial year which have material effects in the current interim report. Dividend Paid: The Company did not pay any dividend to its shareholders during the interim period. However, the Board of Directors of Meghna Life Insurance Company Limited in its 117th meeting held on August 14, 2016 has recommended for declaration of total @ 25% in the form Cash Dividend @ 20% and Stock Dividend @ 5% on the paid-up capital of Tk. 30,40,53,640/- (Taka Thirty crore forty lac fifty three thousand six hundred forty only) to the Shareholders for approval in the ensuring Annual General Meeting. The effect of the dividend will be incorporated in the interim financial statements/reports in the next quarter. Event after the reporting period: There were no material events subsequent to the end of the interim period that have not been reflected in the interim financial statements except the event that has been mentioned above under "Dividend Paid". Impact of major events, activities and circumstances: There were no changes in the composition of the enterprise during the interim period. Material changes in Contingent Liabilities: There were no material changes in liabilities of the company since the last annual balance sheet date.

( Mohammad Tarek- FCA ) Chief Financial Officer

Balance as on 30, June 2016

Some Selected Explanatory Notes in the preparation of interim financial statements (BAS 34, Para 08):

(D.S. Taiful Islam) Chief Executive Officer (c.c)

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

noon when he along with his friends went to take a bath in zero point of the river near Jaflong tourist spot.

## OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ihenidah

Sadar and the rest from Kaliganj upazila. They conducted the drives to prevent any sort of subversive activities in the

## officer-in-charge of Muktagachha Police Station.

Islam Pappu, 25, son of Sorjul Miah of Kandipara area of Chalamot Munshi, 70, of Rajoi village in the upazila, was edly led by Mahbubul, hacked Hossain Ali on his way to home from the mosque on Friday evening, said Mamunur-Rashid, officer-in-charge of Bhaluka Police Station. He

rate (%)

167.14%

10.32%

Jun'15

Taka

144,587,300

65,001,100

36,130,000

4,434,040

33,608,750

283,761,190

395,467,800

266,415,800

106,704,300

39,920,800

17,956,400

826,465,100

5,895,198

1,116,121,488

(147,508,028

(159,960,588)

(103,086,155)

(104,321,761)

62,824,094

29,412,293

11,845,225

32,606,868

280,103,481

411,405,585

281,734,907

111,314,032

44,041,305

19,024,597

867,520,426

6,237,256

1,153,861,163

-0.73%