

Pest attack on Aman paddy in Sylhet

MINTU DESHWARA, back from Sylhet

Farmers are worried due to insect attack on Aman paddy in Sylhet division, following the damage to their paddy fields by the recent prolonged flood.

Minhaj Uddin, a farmer in Kalijuri village under Golapganj upazila of Sylhet told this correspondent, "I cultivated Aman paddy on five acres of land after the flood. But the plants are drying out due to severe attack by insects."

Farmers are unable to combat the pest menace because of non-availability of effective insecticides in the local markets, he added.

Faruk Ahmed said he used pesticide but is worried that he will not get even 30 percent to 40 percent yield from his field.

Haji Alauddin, general secretary of Haor Bachao Krisok Bachao Andolon, a farmers' rights based organisation, told this correspondent that farmers could not cultivate Aman paddy in time this season as the floodwater took a long time to recede. As a result, a large section of farmers may not get the

expected paddy output, he said.

In an effort to save the unaffected crop, many farmers uprooted the dying Aman plants, but this will affect the paddy production as there is no time to plant new saplings, Alaudin added.

He said farmers could not seek suggestions from the agriculture officials and field workers as they are not visiting the affected fields.

However, agriculture officials refuted the allegation and said they are giving advice to the affected farmers to check the problem.

The cost of Aman cultivation has increased due to use of pesticides, but those have failed to check the attack, several farmers said.

Mosabbir Mia of Bade Monsur village in Kulaura upazila of Moulvibazar said they have to uproot the dying Aman plants to save the unaffected plants.

Habiganj Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) Deputy Director Md Fazlur Rahman told this correspondent that Aman was cultivated on 75,500

hectares of land in the district, and the insect attack is under control.

Sunamganj DAE Deputy Director Jahedul Haque said that Aman was cultivated on 75,000 hectares of land in the district. "We found insect attack in different areas, but it will not affect the production target," he added.

Moulvibazar DAE Deputy Director Shahjahan Chowdhury told this correspondent that Aman was cultivated on 96,500 hectares of land in the district.

Sylhet DAE Deputy Director Abul Hasem said 1.40 lakh hectares of land were brought under Aman cultivation in the district this year. The Aman paddy plants are drying due to attack by insects locally called *pamri poka* and lack of potassium, he added.

He urged the farmers to use more urea fertiliser to protect the plants from drying due to lack of potassium. "We are working in the field and giving suggestions to the affected farmers to tackle the situation," he added.



Pest attack damages Aman paddy in different areas of Sylhet division, much to the worry of farmers who had earlier lost their paddy in this year's recurrent floods. The photo was taken from Kalijuri village in Golapganj upazila of Sylhet. PHOTO: STAR

Three to die for killing woman after rape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

A Narsingdi court on Wednesday sentenced three people to death for killing a woman after rape in 2015.

Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal Judge Golam Rabbani handed down the verdict, Court Inspector Fakhruddin Bhuiyan said.

The convicts are Sultan Miah alias Jamai Sultan, 35, son of Hossain Ali Bepary of Hossainpur upazila of Kishoreganj, Shafiqul Islam Sharif, 32, son of Ali Hossain of the same upazila, and Osman Goni, 34, son of Abdul Motalib of Shibpur upazila in Narsingdi.

The court also sentenced each of them to seven years' imprisonment on another count and fined Sultan Tk 1 lakh, in default, to suffer one year more in jail and the others Tk 10,000 each, in default, to suffer three months more in prison.

According to the prosecution, police recovered the body of Mahmuda Akter, 28, daughter of Billal Hossain of Nandail upazila in Mymensingh, from the bank of Kalagachhia river of Shibpur upazila on February 2 in 2015.

At risk of losing eyesight

Kid faces blindness as father pokes eye

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

Having lost one eye due to a bizarre act of cruelty by her father, six-year-old Swapna Begum is facing the risk of total blindness for lack of proper treatment.

Swapna's father Shafiqul Islam, 30, poked her left eye with a pointed stick during a quarrel with her mother Sharifa Khatun, 25, at their house at Kazifarm village in Domar upazila of the district six months ago, Sharifa said.

The other eye is facing damage as a consequence, she said, referring to doctors.

In early September, Sharifa Khatun filed a case against her husband in a Nilphamari court seeking his punishment and realisation of the girl's treatment cost from him.

"Sharifa, daughter of rickshaw-van puller Shariful Islam of Shimultoli village in my union, was married with Shafiqul, son of Moksad Ali of Kazifarm village in 2010," said Tofayel Ahmed, chairman of Boragari Union Parishad.

"After one year, a daughter was born to them and she was named Swapna Begum. Shafiqul went to Dhaka for better earning by pulling rickshaw. He used to come to his village home every month.

"But two years ago, he took a second wife in Dhaka and stopped supporting Sharifa and her daughter," he

added.

Sharifa said, "Six months ago, my husband suddenly came to the village home. At one stage of our quarrel over his second marriage and negligence to family, he started beating me with a stick."

"As my daughter Swapna embraced me to save me, her father poked her left eye with the pointed end of the stick. The eye started bleeding and he fled away," said Sharifa in a choked voice.

Afterwards, Sharifa's father-in-law drove her out of his house and she started living with her daughter in father's house.

She also took the work of a domestic help in a neighbour's house.

"A village doctor treated Swapna for a few weeks. But the affected eye gradually became redder, protruded from the socket and finally my daughter lost sight of the eye two months ago," said a tearful Sharifa.

In last week, Sharifa took the girl to Dr Shariful Islam, recently retired upazila health and family planning officer of Domar, who suggested consulting an experienced ophthalmologist in Rangpur to remove the damaged eye through operation for saving the other eye from gradual blindness.

"I've no money to meet an ophthalmologist. I can only pray to Allah to give light to my daughter's eye," said Sharifa.

Manikganj people threaten to stop gas bill payment

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Manikganj townspeople will stop payment of gas bills unless the authorities concerned ensure adequate gas supply to the residents, said leaders of district unit of Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB).

Earlier, Manikganj district unit of CAB submitted a memorandum to the adviser for the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources through Manikganj Deputy Commissioner Md Najmus Sadat Selim yesterday.

While talking to the journalists, CAB's district unit president Golam Sarwar Sanu and its general secretary Shamsun Nabi Tulip said they will also submit a petition to the High Court next week seeking direction to stop collecting gas bills.

They will send copies of the memorandum to the state minister of the ministry concerned, its secretary, general manager of Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited, central committee president of CAB and president of Human Rights Commission, the leaders said.

According to the memorandum, over 12,000 residential subscribers of Manikganj have been suffering from acute gas crisis for the last four years.

Rozina Akhter, a resident of Gangadharpatti area in the town, said, "We are not getting adequate gas supply for the last four years although we are paying bills regularly."

DC Najmus Sadat said he has already informed the state minister and the secretary of the ministry concerned about the situation but is yet to receive a reply.

Pledge to fight against drugs

Over 100 drug peddlers return to normal life and campaign against the menace

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Over 100 drug peddlers in the border areas in the district, who took an oath one year ago to give up the crime, are leading normal lives and taking part in campaigns against peddling and use of contraband drugs in their villages.

Eight border villages of Mogholhat union in Sadar upazila were known as safe dens for smuggling, peddling and using contraband drugs a year ago, but now these villages are free of drugs as the people who were involved in this illegal trade have said goodbye to drug abuse.

Azizul Islam, 36, son of Nur Jaman of Chawratri border village in Mogholhat union, said vegetable farming gives him a peaceful living, while he faced many troubles when he was involved in the illegal trade a year ago. "Getting encouragement from the Superintendent of Police (SP) SM Rashidul Haque, I took oath against drugs, and I have said goodbye to it forever," he said, adding that he has been farming various vegetables in his four bighas of land round the year.

"Oath taking gave me a normal, peaceful life, and I and my five-member family are living better," said Bakul Miah, 46, son of late Abdul Halim of the same village. "I used to earn a huge amount of money from smuggling and peddling contraband drugs from India, but it didn't give me peace," he said, adding that he is now farming vegetables and spices round the year.

Moibul Islam, 48, son of Joban Ali of Mogholhat, said he got a new, peaceful life after he took oath against drugs on encouragement by the SP a year ago. "Neither the villagers nor my family members liked me when I was involved with illegal drug trading a year ago, but now I get respect from everybody," he said, adding that he campaigns against drugs in the villages. Mogholhat Union Parishad Chairman Habibur Rahman said former drug peddlers are earning their livelihood through farming vegetables, pulling rickshaw-vans and working in garments factories, adding that it was possible only due to the special initiative of SP SM Rashidul Haque.

The SP said he encourages people to say goodbye to drugs for building a peaceful society. "We are working to make Lalmonirhat, a border region of the country, completely free of drugs," he added.



A construction firm has kept huge quantities of materials including a mixture machine on the premises of Purbo Gongabordi Government Primary School in Faridpur Sadar upazila, hampering the kids' classes as well as recreational activities. PHOTO: STAR

Construction materials on Faridpur school ground

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A construction firm has been keeping construction materials, a mixture machine and burnt bitumen on the ground of a primary school in Sadar upazila of the district from September 19 without any permission from the school authorities, due to which the school was closed two days before Durga Puja vacation.

East Gongabordi Government Primary School was established in 1970 on 40 decimals of land. It has 261 students and seven teachers.

On a recent visit to the school, this correspondent saw that a big mixture machine had been set up and large

quantities of sand and stone were piled in the ground, while bitumen was being burned in a corner. The mixture machine made an unbearable sound and black smoke was being emitted from the burning bitumen.

About 20 male and female workers were busy mixing those materials to be used for building the Hatkani-Pachar road.

"The work was started on September 19, and it will take seven more days to finish," a worker said.

Md Akash, who is supervising the work, said, "SB Construction kept those materials on the ground after taking permission from the school

authorities, and they will pay for any loss incurred by the school."

Headmaster Syeda Jakia Sultana said, "The construction firm did not take any permission from us. We closed our school two days before Durga Puja vacation because it was impossible to take classes due to the work."

District Primary Educational Officer Shiv Pado Dey said, "It was very difficult for the students to stay in the classroom, so we told the headmaster to close the school. The school is scheduled to reopen on October 5, and we will take action if they do not remove the materials soon."



Bangladesh Tourism Board

(National Tourism Organization)
Level-3, Building-2, Hotel InterContinental, 1 Mintu Road, Shahbagh, Dhaka

Open Tender Notice

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism		
2. Procuring Entity Name	Bangladesh Tourism Board (BTB)		
3. Invitation for	Non-Consulting Services For Organizing 10 th Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM)-2017		
4. Invitation Ref No	BTB/ICTM-Tender/17/556		
KEY INFORMATION			
5. Procurement Method	Open Tender Method (OTM)		
FUNDING INFORMATION			
6. Budget & Source of Funds	GOB		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
7. Tender Publication Date	October 6, 2017		
8. Last Selling Date & Time of Tender Documents	October 25, 2017, 5.00 PM		
9. Last Date and Time of Submission of Tender Documents	October 26, 2017, 2.00 PM		
10. Tender Opening Date and Time	October 26, 2017, 3.00 PM		
11. Place of Submission	Office of the Chief Executive Officer Bangladesh Tourism Board Level-3, Building 2, BSL Office Complex (Hotel Inter Continental) 1 Mintu Road, Dhaka-1000.		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER			
12. Brief Eligibility and Qualification of Tenderer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 years experience of organizing International Multi-Country Conference in Bangladesh • Experience of organizing at least 01 (one) International Event at the national level in last 2 years. 		
13. Brief Description of Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event Management Services for organizing the 10th International Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) • Venue Decoration, Outdoor Branding, design & supply Conference Materials and transport & Logistics. 		
14. Price of Tender Document (Tk)	5000/- Taka Non-Refundable		
15. Package No	Package Name	Tender Security	Mode of Submission
(A)	Venue Decoration, Outdoor Branding & Conference Management	Tk.7,00,000.00 (Seven Lac)	In the form of Pay order
(B)	Transport & Logistics	Tk. 2,00,000.00 (Two Lac)	
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS			
16.	Name & Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Dr. Md. Nasir Uddin Chief Executive Officer (Additional Secretary)	
The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject any or all tenders or annul the Tender proceedings without assigning any reason.			
(Dr. Md. Nasir Uddin) Chief Executive Officer (Additional Secretary) Bangladesh Tourism Board			

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