



A vast tract of green Aman fields irrigated under Teesta Irrigation Project beside Dinajpur branch canal at Chanderhat village in Sadar upazila of Nilphamari.

PHOTO: EAM ASADUZZAMAN

Irrigation to save Aman farming

Teesta Irrigation Project supplies the water targeting 65,000 hectares of land

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

The farmers who are facing problem in Aman transplanting due to scanty rain in the Teesta Irrigation Project area here are being given irrigation facilities.

The facilities are being given by the project authorities.

Dalia Division Water Development Board Agriculture Extension Officer Rafiul Bari said they have been rendering irrigation facility to farmers, targeting irrigation of 65,000 hectares of Aman fields in Sadar, Jaldhaka, Dimla, Kishoreganj, Gangachara, Badarganj, Taraganj, Khanshama, Chirirbandar and Parbatipur upazilas.

Bari said they are able to supply irrigational water through a network of 425km of canals to even distant fields without hindrance as the normal flow of water in the Teesta river is now 10,000 cusec. The flow of water is more than adequate as 2,000 cusec to 2,500 cusec of water flow is needed for smooth irrigation, he added.

Farmer Azizul Islam in Dimla upazila said they usually get water from the irrigation project in the dry season when Boro paddy is cultivated as India closes all gates of its Gajaldoba Barrage, bringing water flow down to only 400 cusec.

The gates are opened in the rainy season

during Aman cultivation, which depends on rainwater, he added.

The project area is adorned with green Aman fields, while many farmers living outside the area cannot plant even a single sapling although the peak Aman transplantation season is going to be over in a few days, said farmer Abdul Gaffar in Jaldhaka.

Khairuzzaman Liton, leader of the stakeholder farmers' group under S4T irrigation canal in Sadar upazila, said the Teesta project has been the saviour of Aman farmers this year.

District Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer Sanarul Islam said there was only 185mm of rain in almost three weeks of August this year while it was 650mm during the same period last year.

District DAE Deputy Director Abul Kashem Azad said they set a target to cultivate Aman paddy on 1.13 lakh hectares of land, but scanty rain was a barrier to achieving the target. Azad said they managed to overcome the problem as Teesta Irrigation Project provided irrigation water.

Farmers outside the project arrange irrigation through 328 deep tube-wells and 40,000 shallow pumps and there will be no problem in getting maximum yield, he added.

BEAUTY MURDER

Father, uncle among three charge-sheeted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Detective Branch (DB) of police on Saturday submitted charge sheet in sensational Beauty murder case against three accused including the victim's father and uncle in Sayestaganj upazila of Habiganj.

"The investigation officer of the case, Habiganj DB OC Shah Alam submitted the charge sheet to Habiganj Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court against Beauty's father Sayed Ali of Brahmandora village in Shayestaganj, uncle Moyna Mia and hired killer Kamal Mia," Habiganj Superintendent of Police (SP) Bidhan Tripura told a press conference at his office yesterday.

"Moyna Mia stabbed Beauty to death in presence of her father while Kamal held her.

"Moyna's wife Asma Akter lost to Kolomchan in the Brahmandora Union Parishad election held in December last year. Kolomchan is mother of Babul Mia, who abducted and raped Beauty early this year. Moyna decided to kill Beauty to trap Babul and his family.

"Moyna told Sayed Ali that Beauty should be killed for the sake of the future of Beauty's two younger sisters," the SP said.

EID HOLIDAYS

Barapukuria power plant unit to run 5 days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Second unit of Barapukuria 525MW Coal Fired power plant is going to be restarted from today for five days after almost a month to support the increase power demand during Eid-ul-Azha in eight northern districts of Dinajpur and Rangpur regions.

Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) is operating the plant in Parbatipur upazila.

Power generation of the plant was shut down on July 22 after 1.45 lakh tonnes of coal disappeared from the stockyard of Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Ltd (BCMCL), a company of Petrobangla.

The market value of the missing coal is Tk 230 crore.

The power plant has three separate units. Of them, two units are capable of generating 150MW power separately (250MW total) while another unit is able to produce 275MW power. The plants jointly had been supplying 380MW power on average to national grid before it was shut down.

Abdul Hakim Sarkar, chief engineer of the plant, said PDB high officials wanted to restart power generation from the second unit Barapukuria Coal Fired power plant to supply more power to national grid to meet the increasing demand during this festival vacation in eight northern districts of Dinajpur and Rangpur regions.

The second unit is capable of generating 125MW power, he said.

"We are taking preparation to restart the second unit," said the engineer.

He further said they have around 5,000 metric tonnes of coal at the stockyard, supplied by BCMCL. With the coal, it is possible to operate the plant for five days highest. The generation will be continued if PDB gets more coal supply from the BCMCL meantime, he said.

The plant will be shut down if the existing coal is burnt, he said.

Besides adding additional power supply to national grid, the plant will help to adjust the prevailing voltage and fluctuation across the regions, which is now a top cause of public suffering.

Coal production of BCMCL remained suspended since June 16 as coal at the existing pocket is exhausted. The company is developing another coal pocket and will need 40 days more to resume coal production.

If everything goes properly, coal production from the fresh pocket may resume by the end of September or early October this year, according to the BCMCL officials.

Patuakhali cattle market lessees force buyers to pay extra toll

Local cattle sell for high prices as BGB resists Indian cattle smuggling in Lalmonirhat

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Lessees of different cattle markets in Patuakhali district are allegedly forcing the buyers of sacrificial animals to pay extra toll, violating the government-fixed rates.

In Lalmonirhat, local cattle are selling for good prices as arrival of Indian cattle has virtually stopped due to anti-smuggling drive by Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).

Our Patuakhali Correspondent reports: Buyers have to pay Tk 200 to 500 for each goat and sheep and Tk 500 to 2,000 for each cow and buffalo in cattle markets of the district while according to the rate fixed by the district administration, a lessee cannot realise more than Tk 200 from each cow and buffalo and Tk 75 each for goat or sheep.

"On Tuesday I bought two goats from Hetalia Badghat Haat in Patuakhali town at a cost of Tk 13,000. The leaser's men demanded Tk 1,000 as toll and I paid Tk 500 after a bargain," said Kamal Hossain

of Dibuapur village under Patuakhali Sadar upazila.

"I don't know about toll rate fixed by the district administration as there is no notice here," he added.

Imrul Kayes of Patuakhali town, another buyer of the same haat, said he bought a cow for Tk 45,000 and bidder's men took Tk 500 from him.

This correspondent failed to contact Golam Sarwer Badol, lessee of the cattle market, as he did not receive cell phone calls.

A similar scene was found at Kalaiya Haat, the biggest cattle market in the district.

On Monday, Saidul Islam, a buyer bought a cow for Tk 56,000 and he had to pay Tk 1,000.

According to the deputy commissioner's (DC) office sources, a lessee can realize Tk up to 200 for each cow and buffalo and Tk 75 for each goat or sheep.

The rate was fixed in a meeting held on September 14 in 2006 with Md Rafiqul Islam, the then DC of Patuakhali, in the chair.

As per rule, lessee have to hang the rate chart on a

board at a visible place in each haat or bazaar but no leaser follows the instruction.

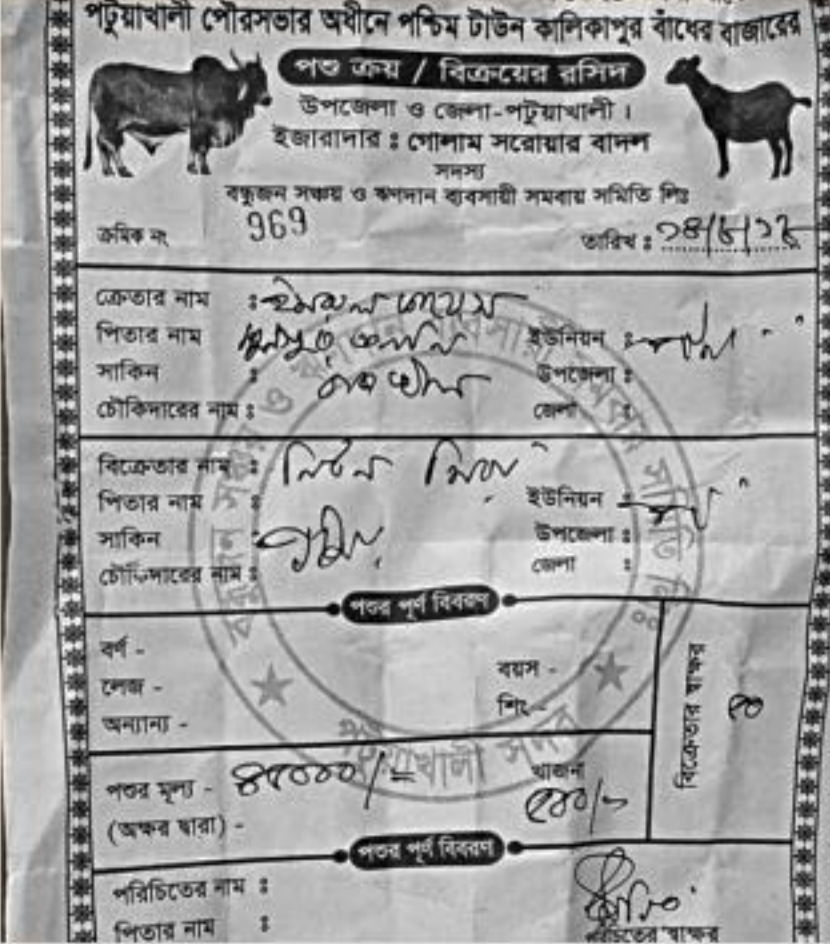
Over 100 haats have been set up in different areas of eight upazilas in the district centring the Eid-ul-Azha.

Dr Masumur Rahman, DC of Patuakhali, said, "I have asked the UNOs to conduct mobile courts to ensure government fixed rates at cattle markets."

Our Lalmonirhat Correspondent adds: Local cattle are selling for high prices at 15 cattle markets in the district as smuggling of Indian cattle has stopped due to vigilance by BGB.

Nur Islam, lessee of the cattle market, said, "No Indian cattle arrived here for the last one year whereas only two years ago some 2000 to 2500 Indian cattle were sold on every weekly market day," he said.

Lt Col Golam Morshed, commanding officer of Lalmonirhat 15 BGB Battalion, said, "Cattle smuggling is the main cause of border killing incidents and other crimes and so, we have resisted it strictly."



A receipt, bearing testimony to additional toll collection at a cattle market in Patuakhali municipality. Right, locally reared cows fill Durakuti Haat, the largest cattle market in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, a couple of days before the Eid-ul-Azha.



PHOTO: STAR

Social media

FROM PAGE 1
Mahmud Menon, executive editor of online news portal sarabangla.net, said, "To tackle fake news, real news should be published more."

Shah Alamgir, director general of PIB, said rumours were not a good sign for the society.

"The national election is ahead and the government should build a mechanism to tackle rumours and take lessons from the past," he added.

Others suggested the government have spokespersons providing verified news and updates of developing events.

Information Minister Inu said he would talk to the people concerned in the government about appointing a spokesperson in times of crises and circulating news updates at the right time on verified Facebook pages.

He also said the government would start a campaign against rumours and fake news after the Eid. The journalists said there was a lack of co-operation from different government agencies during incidents like the BDR mutiny and Holey Artisan attacks. The mass media were in the dark.

They cited the example of the rescue of a teenage football team from a cave in Thailand, where the government sincerely handled the

information management for media.

The speakers said just as people should be aware of rumours, journalists should also be aware of the authenticity of their news.

Some journalists present at the roundtable took up the issue of a photograph, which was published in a national daily with the claim that the photo was taken at the recent student protest. The photo was actually taken in 2012 and it was shared on social media by ruling party followers with the false claim.

The national daily published the photo without verifying it and later apologised.

Shahnaz Sharmeen said, "My daughter is in class IX and she took part in the student protest for road safety. When the rumours spread on Facebook about the incident in Jhigatola, I could not convince her that it was not true as there was no information on broadcast media. "She still did not believe me when I showed her The Daily Star and the Prothom Alo. She said the media was censored and not telling the truth.

"If being a journalist, I cannot convince my daughter, then how will the general people believe us?"

She said such a situation arose because there was a lack of information.

Booters stun

FROM PAGE 16
red and green bounced back in the next match against Thailand by playing out a 1-1 draw, despite taking the lead.

Coming into yesterday's final group match against Qatar, who are ranked nearly 100 places above Bangladesh in the FIFA rankings, Bangladesh had a golden opportunity to create history by making it to the knockout stages. The charges of English coach Jamie Day achieved the feat in the dying moments to deliver the kind of rousing result for which football lovers have long been waiting.

As expected, the boys in red and green adopted a counter-attacking strategy and they made their mighty opponents sweat on a few occasions with Mahbubur Rahman Sufil and Biplu Ahmed penetrating the backline on the break at regular intervals. Meanwhile, Bangladesh's backline -- marshalled by Tapu Barman, Tutul Hossain Badsha, Bishwanath Gosh and Sushanta Tripura - formed an unbreakable fortress and successfully thwarted all attacks by Qatar.

The match finally rolled into the four minutes of added time and Bangladesh survived a strong hand-ball appeal by Sushanta inside the danger zone. The boys then built up attacks from the left flank before the clinical finish by Jamal, who advanced into the box after receiving a neat cut-back from Masuk Mia Jonny to drive a sudden ground that cannoned into the back of the near-post net to send substitute players and coaching staffs into wild celebrations.

Robbers kill army man

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Robbers killed an army man of Sadar upazila on Saturday night.

The deceased, Saiful Islam, 32, son of Habib Uddin of Bankira village in the upazila, was a member of Bangladesh Army Medical Core at Ghatail Cantonment in Tangail.

Deceased's younger brother Monirul Islam said a robbers' gang waylaid Saiful and his father-in-law Shamsul Islam near Haunghata area, about 700 yards from Bankira Police Outpost, while they were returning home around 9:00pm.

They hacked Saiful on the shoulder and hand with a machete, leaving him bleeding profusely, Monirul said.

Hearing screams, local people rescued Saiful and took him to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital, where the doctors declared him dead around 10:00pm.

Saiful's wife Shammi Akter is one of the famous athletes of the country and the couple has two sons.



Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Limited
Office of the General Manager (Procurement)
Telephone Revenue Bhaban, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
Web: www.btcl.com.bd

Reference No: 14.33.0000.753.07.007.18-16

Date: 19-08-2018 AD

e-Tender Notice (OTM)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following works and related services.

Sl No.	Tender ID & Reference No.	Name of works	Online publications date & time	Closing & opening date and time
01	ID No. 215270 Reference No: 14.33.0000.753.0 7.007.18	"Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Optical Fiber Outside Plant to connect with BTCL existing Optical Fiber under Dhaka Region (WR-8)"	19 August 2018 09:00am	19 September 2018 11:30am
02	ID No. 218504 Reference No: 14.33.0000.753.0 7.008.18	"Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Optical Fiber Outside Plant to connect with BTCL existing Optical Fiber under Barishal and Khulna Region (WR-9)"	19 August 2018 10:15am	18 September 2018 11:00am
03	ID No. 218546 Reference No: 14.33.0000.753.0 7.009.18	"Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Optical Fiber Outside Plant to connect with BTCL existing Optical Fiber under Rajshahi and Rangpur Region (WR-10)"	19 August 2018 09:30am	20 September 2018 12:30pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Muhammad Iqbal Atiqur Rahman
General Manager (Procurement)
Phone: 02-58150500