

Scanty flow in Teesta pushes farmers to tobacco cultivation

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

Tobacco cultivation in Teesta Irrigation Project area has been increasing alarmingly in recent times as Water Development Board (WDB) is unable to provide adequate irrigation facilities to Boro farmers due to scanty water flow in the Teesta river.

A number of agronomists, physicians and environmentalists have expressed their concern over increase of tobacco farming as it poses a serious threat to human health as well as environment.

During a recent visit to different villages like Kukha Para, Singdoi, Ramnagar, Bahali Para in Sadar upazila, Kalkeut, Horish Chandra Pat, Uttar Deshibai, Araj Kathali, Dundibari in Jaldhaka upazila along the project area this correspondent found that tobacco has been cultivated on thousands of acres of land on both sides of different narrow Teesta canals.

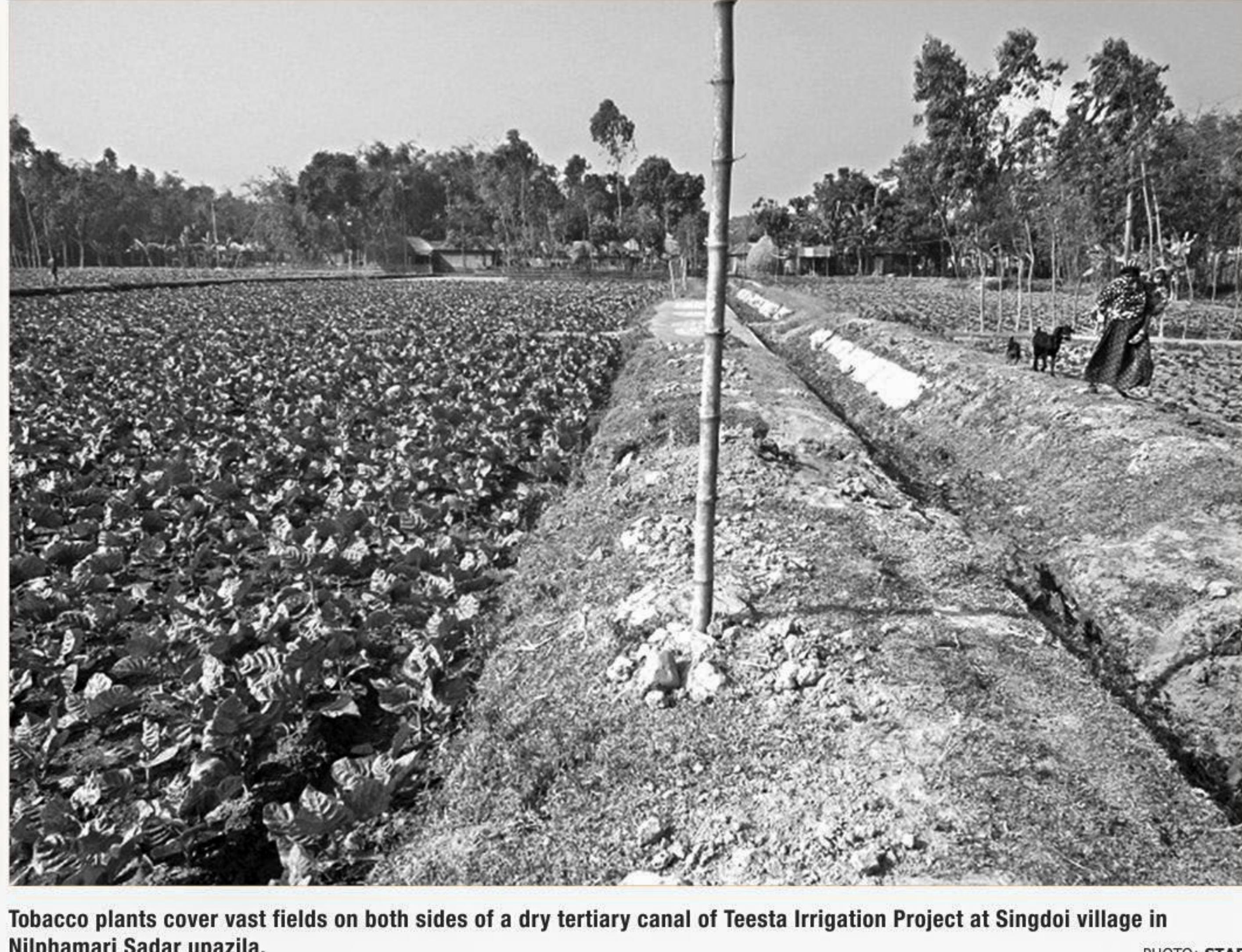
"My land is situated along a remote part of tertiary canal (side canal) where water hardly reaches and to avoid uncertainty, I cultivated tobacco on it as it required least irrigation," farmer Mominul Islam of Sindoi village.

Farmers are compelled to irrigate their farmland using power pumps or diesel-run pumps due to insufficient water supply from Teesta irrigation project, Boro farmer Moktar Hossain of Bahalipara village in Sadar upazila said, adding that they have to pay Tk 3000 to Tk 3500 to the pump owners for irrigation of one bigha of land.

Ramnagar Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Mizanur Rahman said, "Cultivation of tobacco has been almost doubled in the project area in the last couple of years as many farmers do not get irrigation facilities."

According to Nilphamari Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) about 3100 hectares of land in the district have been brought under tobacco cultivation this year.

WDB Agriculture Extension Officer



Tobacco plants cover vast fields on both sides of a dry tertiary canal of Teesta Irrigation Project at Singdoi village in Nilphamari Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

Rafiqul Bari said farmers are inclining towards tobacco cultivation as it required less irrigation.

"We have set a target to provide irrigation in 29,100 hectares of Boro field this year as water flow in Teesta is now 1500 cusec on an average but it will be difficult to fulfil the

said target if the flow falls to 400 to 500 cusec like the previous years," Rafiqul said.

Nilphamari Civil Surgeon Dr Ranjit Kumar Barman said many deadly diseases caused by harmful smoking and consuming dried tobacco leaves and powdered tobacco, locally known as Jarda and Gul respectively.

Nilphamari DAE Deputy Director Abul Kashem Azad said the authorities concerned must ensure smooth irrigation facilities in Teesta irrigation project area so that farmers can go for diversified crops cultivation and divert them from tobacco cultivation.

Youth killed by brother

5 held for medicine trader murder in Netrakona

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A youth was killed allegedly by his younger brother over dispute in power tiller sharing at Balian village in Phulbaria upazila on Saturday night.

The victim was Golam Robbani, 22, son of Abdul Kader of the village. The power tiller owned by Kader is run by his sons to support their families, police said.

Quoting family members, Sheikh Kabirul Islam, officer-in-charge of Phulbaria Police Station, said there had been a feud between Robbani and his younger brother Nurul Haque, 19, over power tiller business.

On Saturday night, Robbani and Nurul locked in an altercation over the issue. At one stage, Nurul hit Robbani's head with an iron rod, leaving him critically injured.

He was rushed to Phulbaria Upazila Health Complex and then referred to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) as his condition deteriorated.

But the family members took Robbani back home instead of hospital to avoid police action, said the OC, adding that Robbani succumbed to his injuries at his house around 10:00pm.

On information, police recovered the

body and sent it to MMCH for autopsy.

The victim's mother Rezia Akter lodged a case, accusing Nurul, yesterday noon. The accused went into hiding.

Meanwhile, police yesterday arrested five people on charge of killing a medicine trader in Dighali Chatalkona Bazar area of Netrakona Sadar upazila early Saturday.

The deceased was Hadith Mia, 50, son of late Abdul Latif of Narayanganj village.

The victim's son Mizanur Rahman lodged a case, accusing some 10 people including the arrestees, said OC Md Badrul Alam Khan of Netrakona Model Police Station.

The arrestees are Shamsu, Lalon, Rubel, Bachhu and Abdul Mazid of the village.

Quoting family members, Mohammad Fakhrul Islam, additional police superintendent, said Hadith used to sleep at his medicine shop in the bazar area on various occasions. He also stayed at his shop on Friday night.

Informed by locals, police recovered the body from a field near the bazar on Saturday morning and sent it to Netrakona Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Hadith might have been strangled, said the Addl SP.

ABDUCTED FOR RANSOM 7-yr-old found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

The body of seven-year-old Jubayer was found in a lemon garden beside his house at Jalshuka village under Saturia upazila yesterday morning, three days after he went missing from his home.

Jubayer, son of Shamsul Haque, was a Class I student at Jalshuka Government Primary School. He went missing from his house on Thursday afternoon, Shamsul said.

Shamsul registered a general diary (DG) about the matter with Saturia Police Station on Friday morning.

After Shamsul filed the DG, he received a phone call from an unknown person. The caller demanded Tk 3 lakh from Shamsul in exchange for his son within twelve hours. The caller also threatened to kill Jubayer if Shamsul did not give the money.

Shamsul said he along with some of his family members went to Savar over-bridge area with the money the following day and waited there for a long time. "But nobody went there to take the money and we returned home," he added.

Saturia Police Station Officer-in-Charge Aminul Islam said police held one suspect. He did not disclose the name of the suspect for the sake of investigation.

Based on the statement of the suspect, police recovered the body of Jubayer from the lemon garden in the morning, he said.

"We are trying to know the cause of the killing and who are behind it," the OC said.



A large number of locals form a human chain at Nalua Bazar in Kachua upazila of Chandpur yesterday demanding arrest and punishment of those involved in the killing of pregnant housewife Shanta Aktar, 23, on Wednesday night. Neighbours and Shanta's relatives alleged that in-laws strangled her at their house in Dakkhin Dumuria under Karuia union in the upazila and hung the body to pass it off as suicide.

PHOTO: STAR

Hotel being built, occupying land of RHD

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

An influential businessman is building a hotel after allegedly occupying a land belonging to the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) in Meghla tourist spot area of the hill district.

The illegal construction work is going on beside Bandarban-Chattogram road.

Bandarban RHD Executive

Engineer Sajib Ahmed said they are under pressure from the ruling party people of Bandarban.

"How can we take steps? The grabber is very influential. Recently, some ruling party leaders of the district put pressure on us not to take any steps," he said.

"We are helpless as we cannot take any step against the illegal occupier," he added.

Alleged grabber Mahbubur

Rahman claimed he bought the land by managing the district administration and RHD officials, but failed to show any legal documents.

"How can we remove the illegal structure from government land if RHD does not send any letter to us seeking our help?" said Bandarban Additional Deputy Commissioner Md Shafiqul Alam.

TRAWLER CAPSIZE TRAGEDY 2 bodies found after six days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Two bodies surfaced on the Meghna yesterday, six days after the sinking of a trawler in the river in the district.

The bodies were recovered from near Gazaria launch terminal in Munshiganj and Satnoi in Chandpur.

Police arrested Zakir Dewan, the owner of the trawler, yesterday, said Munshiganj Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) (Sadar-Gazaria) Khandker Ashfaquzzaman. Zakir was produced before a court that sent him to jail.

Officials said the trawler carrying 34 labourers capsized after it collided with an oil tanker near Charjhapti area of Munshiganj early Tuesday.

Twenty people are missing and feared dead while 14 people managed to survive.

Of the missing people, 17 are from Bhangura upazila of Pabna, one from Sirajganj's Ullapara and two others are yet to be identified, police said.

Members of police, coast-guard, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authorities and fire service are searching for the missing people.

Two men hacked to death

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Two men were murdered in Jamalpur and Pabna on Saturday, report our correspondents.

An elderly man was hacked to death and his son critically injured allegedly by a gang led by one of his neighbours at Bangalpara village in Jamalpur's Baksiganj upazila on Saturday.

Police arrested two people in connection with the murder.

The deceased was Samir Ali, 60, son of late Sadek Ali of the village.

Quoting family members, AKM Mahbub Alam, officer-in-charge of Baksiganj Police Station, said there was a longstanding conflict between Samir and his neighbour Shahajalal, 55, over a farm land in the village.

Samir along with his son Noor Hossain, 30, was returning to his house from his son-in-law's house at Kamalbari village around 8:30pm.

At that time, a gang led by Shahajalal attacked the duo and hacked them indiscriminately, leaving Samir dead on the spot and the son injured seriously.

Injured Noor was rushed to Baksiganj Upazila Health Complex from where he was referred to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital as his condition deteriorated.

Police later arrested Fakir Ali, 40, son-in-law of Shahajalal and Fakir's son Shahjahan Miah, 20, in connection with the murder, said the OC.

The body was sent to Jamalpur General Hospital for autopsy.

Meanwhile, a man was hacked dead over capturing a disputed water body in Raghurampur area of Pabna's Atghoria upazila the same day.

The victim was Hafizur Rahman, 35, son of Ratan Hossain of Raghurampur village.

OC Md Moniruzzaman of Atikula Police Station said Hafiz had longstanding enmity with Sabir Rahman of the village over the disputed water body.

Hafiz beat up Sabir on Friday. To take revenge, Sabir along with his men attacked Hafiz at Raghurampur Bazar around 8:00pm with sharp weapons, leaving him critically injured, said the police official quoting the family members.

The victim later died on the way to Pabna Medical College Hospital.

Hafiz's brother Monirul Haque filed a case, accusing 16 people. Sabir is the key accused in the case, said the OC.

Police are trying to arrest the accused, he said.



An alleged land grabber is constructing this building on land belonging to the Roads and Highways Department in Meghla tourist spot area in Bandarban.

PHOTO: STAR

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

National Housing Authority
Low Income Community Housing Support Project
Grihyan Bhaban
82, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000

Memo No. 25.38.0000.704.07.66.19-11

Date: January 20, 2019

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concerned that the following tender have published through e-GP Portal.

Sl. No.	Tender ID, Package No. & date of publishing	Name of package	Online tender last selling & closing date and time
01	Tender ID: 269687 (Package # LICHSP/W-2-1-1) Publishing date: January 20, 2019	Construction of HBB Ring Road, Retaining Wall and Landfill for Kobdas Para Settlement under Sirajganj Pourashava (Package # (LICHSP/W-2-1-1)	Last selling: February 18, 2019 up to 15:00. Closing date and time: February 19, 2019 at 14:30

The interested person/firms may visit the website www.eprocure.gov.bd to get the details of the tender. 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 (<http://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, +8809609112233, +880176225528, +880176265529).

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Low Income Community Housing Support Project

GD-127