



“Anyone who threatens the State of Israel will die because of his actions.”

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu as hope rises for a US-Iran deal

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Haor farmers sink into debt, misery

SUKANTA HALDER, JAYDUL ISLAM and DWOHA CHOWDHURY

Untimely rains, floods, and upstream water inflow have left thousands of Boro farmers in the haor belt reeling from crop losses and plunging paddy prices.

Many have been pushed into a cycle of debt they fear they cannot escape, compounded by worries over how to feed their families through the year.

According to the agriculture ministry, over 2.36 lakh farmers across seven haor districts have been affected. The districts are Sylhet, Sunamganj, Brahmanbaria, Habiganj, Moulvibazar, Netrokona, and Kishoreganj.

Boro, the dry-season irrigated rice crop planted from December to February and harvested from April to June, contributes almost 55 percent of Bangladesh's annual rice output.

“Harvest is completed by the end of season every year. But this time, the damage occurred due to embankment failures and unusually heavy rainfall in April,” Md Salim Khan, additional secretary of the ministry's extension wing, told The Daily Star.

Boro paddy on 49,073 hectares, or 11 percent of haor cropland, were destroyed, while 17.5 percent of the fields remains at risk, he said.



Rain and storm on Wednesday afternoon flattened ripe Boro paddy in several villages of Poba upazila, Rajshahi, leaving farmers unable to harvest amid a labour shortage. They said the crops were due to be harvested within days, but the weather halted work. Yesterday, a woman in Darusha showed how the paddy lay damaged in the field.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

Act fast to help haor farmers

PM asks officials



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday directed authorities to take urgent measures to support farmers hit by heavy rainfall in the haor region.

He issued the directives at a meeting at the Secretariat's Cabinet Division office. The meeting was held to review financial aid for affected

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AT A GLANCE

- Boro paddy on 49,073 hectares, or 11% of haor cropland, destroyed
- Cultivated on 4.55 lakh hectares
- Boro loss amounts to 2.13 lakh tonnes
- Loss estimated in terms of money: Tk 1,047cr
- Number of affected farmers: 236,000

SOURCE: DAE

In the seven haor districts, Boro was cultivated on 4.55 lakh hectares, with 80 percent harvested so far, according to Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) data.

Officials said unofficial estimates suggest that in terms of money, the damage is Tk 1,047 crore.

Government officials said lists of affected farmers are being prepared, with emergency support expected to begin within days and continue for three months.

Nationally, acreage rose 3.29 percent year-on-year to 50.50 lakh hectares in FY2025-26, with production targeted at 2.24 crore tonnes. Production increased from 2.01 crore tonnes in FY22 to 2.13 crore tonnes

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US awaits Iran's response on peace deal offer

AFP, Tehran

The United States was waiting yesterday for Iran to respond to its latest proposed deal to end the war in the Middle East and to reopen the key shipping lane out of the Gulf.

Oil prices tumbled five percent after US President Donald Trump said once again that an agreement could be near after positive talks and Iran said it would pass on its latest position to mediator Pakistan.

However, late yesterday, Iran's foreign ministry spokesperson said Tehran has not yet reached a conclusion on the proposal, and no response has been given to the US.

Any agreement to prolong the ceasefire between the United States and Iran could also

lower tensions in Lebanon, where an already fragile truce was under renewed strain after an Israeli strike on southern Beirut killed a Hezbollah commander.

The war, launched by the United States and Israel in late February, has seen Iran respond with attacks across the Middle East and impose a chokehold on the Strait of Hormuz, the gateway to the Gulf oil and gas industries and a strategic trade route.

Trump had this week briefly launched a naval operation to escort commercial vessels and force open the strait, only to stand it down within hours, citing progress on negotiations with Iran, which have been mediated by Pakistan and supported by Washington's Gulf

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12 more die from measles, symptoms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twelve more children died from measles and measles-like symptoms in the 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, taking the total number of confirmed and suspected measles deaths to 336.

DEATH TOLL NOW 336

Of the 12, one tested positive for measles while the rest were suspected cases, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

With the one death, the number of confirmed measles deaths rose to 57.

The death was reported from Dhaka division, according to the DGHS.

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