



Women collect drinking water that gathered at a shallow well at Debotachari village in Ghagra union of Rangamati's Kawkhali upazila while a runnel in the area, below, sees only a little flow.

PHOTO: ANVILCHAKMA

WORLD WATER DAY TODAY

## Water crisis grips Rangamati people as springs, runnels drying up

ANVIL CHAKMA, Rangamati

"All the 35 families in our village have to collect water daily from a distant chhara [spring in the hills]. Our sufferings mount during the dry season," said Karna Rani Tanchangya, 32, of Debotachari village under Ghagra union of Rangamati's Kawkhali upazila.

"We walk long hilly path daily to collect and bring a pitcher of water. We don't know whether it is safe. But we have to use the water for drinking, cooking, bathing and other household chores," she said.

When the country observes World Water Day today, many other indigenous people of Rangamati and two other districts of Chattogram Hill Tracts (CHT) region have similar tales to tell as the natural water sources like springs and runnels in hills are drying up.

During recent visits to several places of Rangamati, this correspondent found many people collecting water from dug up holes, where water from thin flows gathers.

For the purpose, they have to walk up to four kilometres on hilly paths.

Rupali Chakma, 30, who lives with her three-member family at Chhoto Pagli village of Ghagra union in Kawkhali upazila, said she has to walk a long



way every day to collect drinking and household water as there is no water source near her house.

"Once there were more than 30 springs in the upazila. But most of them have dried up. Now we are using water collected from a five-foot-deep well dug on a runnel," said a villager.

Rupa Chakma, a housewife at 'College area' of Ghagra union, said she has to undergo much hardship daily to carry water from a well, walking two kilometres

on a hilly path.

Tripun Chakma, a villager of Champa Toli under Ghagra union of Kawkhali upazila, said he tried many times to sink a tube-well or set up a ring well near his house but he did not find a minimum water even after digging 80 to 100 feet.

"Now I am collecting water from a distance. I am thinking of making a reservoir for storing rainwater during monsoon," he said.

Springs dried at many places in the

district, including Debotachari, Chhoto Pagli, Champa Tuli, Morong Chhari, Boro Pagli, Naraichhari, Sakra Chhari and Junu Maa Chhara.

The water flow in many streams got disrupted and stones were dislodged after a massive landslide in Rangamati on 13 June, 2017.

Sudatta Bikash Tanchangya, Parbatya Chattogram Bon o Bhumi Odhikar Sangrakkhon Andolon, said, "The water flows dried as many trees have been felled and large quantities of stones extracted from the stream areas. The local administration should take steps against those who are involved in such harmful acts."

"Water levels see a gradual fall due to rise in temperature. The soil moisture in the CHT is decreasing due to massive cutting of trees and bamboos and monoculture practice," said Anupam Dey, executive engineer of public health department, Rangamati.

"We have already set up 25 Gravity Flow System (GFS) in different areas of Rangamati to ensure water supply in remote areas. We decided to set up 26 more GFS during this Mujib Borsho so that every union of Rangamati comes under the programme," he added.



Green coconut, procured by wholesale traders in Narikelbaria area of Jhalakathi's Rajapur upazila, is being loaded on a truck before it is sent to Dhaka. The water of the fruit, rich in nutrients and antioxidant compounds, is in high demand in big cities during hot summer days.

PHOTO: STAR

## Demand high, pay low

Without direct access to market, green coconut growers in the south are losing out to intermediaries

M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL, Jhalakathi

Coconut grower Shahinur was shocked to see how a single green coconut was being sold for Tk 80 in Barishal city near Sher-E-Bangla Medical College Hospital. But, at her village, in close proximity to the city, she recently sold each coconut to traders for only Tk 12.

Demand for the nourishing water of green coconut peaks during the summertime when prices for the fruit increases significantly, especially in big cities and towns.

When traders and retailers are cashing in on the high demand, its growers in rural areas, mostly in the south of the country, are left to accept less than one-fifth of the fruit's final retail price.

A coconut grower in Jhalakathi Sadar upazila, Shukla Rani, said, "I am stunned to find out that a green

coconut sells for Tk 60 to 80 in the capital, whereas we [the growers] get only Tk 12 to 15 for each. The traders are getting richer, but we continue to suffer in poverty."

Small traders first procure the green coconut from growers at villages. Different traders then sell the fruit to wholesale traders in the area. The wholesale traders load around 5,000 to 6,000 of the fruit in each truck and transport those to big cities including Dhaka.

After it reaches the city, green coconut is then sold to wholesale trading houses. Retailers buy it in bulk from the trading houses and sell it to the end consumer.

Shahidul Islam, a Jhalakathi wholesale trader who sells green coconut to wholesale trading houses in Dhaka, said, "Local traders buy each coconut from growers at Tk 13 to 15. I buy it from them for

Tk 20 and sell it for Tk 29 to 32 to the wholesale trading houses in the capital. From there fruit sellers or vendors buy it for Tk 36 to 45 and sell it to consumers for Tk 45 to 80 or more, depending on the situation and its size."

"I make four trips to Dhaka each month with a truckload of 5,000 to 6,000 green coconuts. I make Tk 5 to 10 profit on each coconut and my monthly profit stands at around Tk 2 lakh," said Pannu, another wholesale trader.

The traders said they procure most green coconut from southern districts in the country for its quality and reasonable price.

It takes four or five years for each coconut tree to start bearing fruits and months of June and July are the best time to plant the tree, said Riya Ullah Bahadur, agriculture officer of Rajapur upazila.

## Ex-councillor, college student hacked

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

A college student and a former ward councillor were hacked in Pirojpur town, apparently in connection attacks yesterday noon.

The injured are Shahjahan Howlader, 58, former councillor of ward No 8 under Pirojpur municipality, and Tanvir Khan, a degree first year student of Government Suhrawardy College in Pirojpur.

"Around 15 youths holding sharp weapons and sticks attacked me inside the restaurant of my father near Pirojpur District Hospital at noon. As I ran to a nearby shop, attackers followed and hacked me at different parts of the body including head," Tanvir said.

Within minutes, some youths led by victim Tanvir's brother Sabbir Rahman attacked Shahjahan in front of his shop at Narailpara in the town and hacked him at different parts of the body including head.

Both Tanvir and Shahjahan were sent to Pirojpur District Hospital. Shahjahan was later sent to Khulna Medical College Hospital.

Earlier on Friday night, some youths led by Sabbir hacked Shahjahan's son Rahel Howlader and his friend Sajeeb in front of Pirojpur District Hospital, said Pirojpur Sadar Police Station OC Md Nurul Islam Badal.

Police picked up three youths for interrogation, he said.

FEUD OVER RECRUITING OF MUEZZIN

## Man killed in rivals' attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patna

A man, who sustained severe injuries in an attack allegedly by his rivals centring a feud over recruiting of a muezzin at a local mosque in Sadar upazila on Friday, died at a hospital early yesterday.

The deceased, Yasin Ali Pramanik, 50, was a resident of Bhajendrapur village in the upazila.

Meanwhile, police arrested Mohammad Nasim, 30, son of Iman Ali Mondol, president of the mosque managing committee, for his alleged involvement in the attack.

Quoting locals, Officer in Charge (OC) of Sadar Police Station Nasim Ahmed said in absence of the regular muezzin of a local mosque due to illness another man of the village has been performing duty as a temporary arrangement.

After the Juma prayers on Friday, Yasin urged to recruit a new muezzin immediately which triggered an altercation between him and the mosque managing committee president Eman Ali.

At one stage, men loyal to Iman Ali swooped on Yasin with sharp weapons near the mosque and stabbed him indiscriminately, leaving him critically injured.

Villagers rescued Yasin and admitted him to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital the same afternoon, where he succumbed to his injuries around 3:00am yesterday.

As a tense situation is prevailing in the area additional police have been deployed to avert any unwanted situation, the OC said.

## Schoolgirl raped in Patuakhali

Victim's medical test done, police drives are on to arrest the rapist

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A schoolgirl was raped allegedly by one of her neighbours at Itabaria village under Tiakhali union in Kalapara upazila on Thursday.

Grandmother of the 13-year-old girl filed a rape case with Kalapara Police Station on Friday night against one Shahin, 19, of the same village.

Meanwhile, medical test of the victim girl, also a Class VIII student, was completed at Patuakhali General Hospital yesterday.

Quoting the case statement, Officer in Charge (OC) of Kalapara Police Station Monirul Islam said the victim's grandmother went to a neighbour's house while her grandfather went to attend a religious gathering (Mahfil), keeping her alone at home on Thursday night.

Taking advantage of the situation, neighbour Shahin entered the house and forcibly raped the teenager.

As the girl cried for help, Shahin fled the scene before the neighbours could catch him.

OC Monirul said they were conducting drives to arrest the culprit.

Victim's grandmother said he granddaughter has been staying with her as the girl's parents remain out of home for work purpose for most of the time.



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ  
আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন হেডকোয়ার্টার্স  
উত্তরা, ঢাকা



স্মারক নং-এপিবি/হেডকো/এমটি-২০১৯-২০/১৬১৯

তারিখঃ ১৯ মার্চ ২০২০খ্রিঃ

### প্রকাশ্য নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, ঢাকার স্মারক নং-৪৪.০১.০০০০.০২৪.০৯.০০৫.১৯(অংশ-১)/৬১৪, তারিখঃ ০৩/০৩/২০২০খ্রিঃ মূলে এপিবিএন হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, উত্তরা, ঢাকার অকাজে ঘোষিত যানবাহনসমূহ (যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে) নিলামে বিক্রয়ের নিমিত্তে প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী ব্যবসায়ী/টিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে প্রকাশ্যে নিলাম ডাকে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

১.	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়/বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ।
২.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী ও ঠিকানা	পুলিশ সুপার (প্রশাসন ও অর্থ), এপিবিএন হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, উত্তরা, ঢাকা।
৩.	কাজের নামঃ- অকাজে ঘোষিত সরকারি গাড়ি নিলামে বিক্রয়	যানবাহনের ধরণ ও রেজিস্ট্রেশন নম্বর বিআরটিএ কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত মূল্য ঢাকা মেট্রো-খ-১১-৮৭৬৪ প্রোটিন সিডান কার (মালয়েশিয়া) শেরপুর-ঘ-১১-০০০২ পাজেরো জীপ (জাপান)
৪.	নিলাম পদ্ধতি	প্রকাশ্য নিলাম।
৫.	অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	এপিবিএন হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ, উত্তরা ঢাকা।
৬.	প্রকাশ্য নিলামে যানবাহনসমূহের পরিদর্শনের সময়সীমা	বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ হতে ০৬/০৪/২০২০খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত প্রতিটি কার্যদিবস অফিস চলাকালীন সময়।
৭.	প্রকাশ্য নিলাম ডাকে অংশগ্রহণের তারিখ	০৭/০৪/২০২০খ্রিঃ তারিখ ১১.৩০ ঘটিকার সময়।
৮.	প্রকাশ্য নিলাম ডাকে অংশগ্রহণকারী ফার্ম/প্রতিষ্ঠানের যোগাতার বিবরণী	নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তনামে নিলাম ডাকে অংশগ্রহণ করতে হবেঃ- (০১) নিলাম ডাকে অর্থী প্রার্থীকে নগদ ৫,০০০/- (পাঁচ হাজার টাকা) মাত্র (ফেরতযোগ্য) নিলাম কমিটির বরাবর জমা দিয়ে নিলাম ডাকে অংশগ্রহণ করতে হবে, (০২) সর্বোচ্চ নিলাম ডাক প্রদানকারী টিকাদার/ফার্ম/প্রতিষ্ঠান অকাজে যানবাহন গ্রহণের জন্য বিবেচিত হবেন, (০৩) সর্বোচ্চ ডাক প্রদানকারী টিকাদার/ফার্ম/প্রতিষ্ঠান বিধি মোতাবেক আয়কর এবং ভাট পরিশোধ করে ০৩ (তিন) দিনের মধ্যে অকাজে যানবাহন বুঝে নিতে হবে, (০৪) যানবাহনের মূল্য নিলাম ডাকে অর্থীকে নিলামে কম প্রতীয়মান হলে কমিটি নিলাম ডাক বাতিল করতে পারবেন।
৯.	কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারী যে কোন দর গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিল করায় ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।	

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