



With very little flow, Sangdia-Bakultala canal in Badhal union of Bagerhat's Kachua upazila hardly serves the irrigation purpose for local farmers. *Right*, young plants at a Boro field in Rajnagar upazila of Moulvibazar are drying due to lack of irrigation.



PHOTO: STAR

# Water crisis hampers Boro farming in Moulvibazar, Bagerhat's Kachua

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Scanty irrigation due to lack of water in canals worries Boro farmers in different areas including Moulvibazar district and Kachua upazila of Bagerhat.

The problem in Moulvibazar has arisen due to lack of dredging in several areas under the Manu River Irrigation Project while scanty rain aggravates the situation, reports our correspondent.

"I fear huge loss as water did not reach my land near the end of the canal. In some places water level saw a drastic fall," said Kader Mia, a Boro farmer of Ekatuna area under Moulvibazar Sadar upazila.

There is much less rainfall this year compared to last year's, said Chandra Biswas, a farmer of Dildarpur area in Kulaura upazila.

"The Boro planting season usually ends in January. But due to the water crisis, I could not start planting it on my lands. If there is further delay in planting, I would get much less than expected yield," said ATM Alamgir Hossain, a

farmer of Raisree area.

Saber Mia, a power tiller operator at Dakkhinbaligaon village in Moulvibazar Sadar upazila, said, "Due to lack of irrigation, we have to plough through the rough soil, for which engines consume more fuel."

Several farmers said they have to use more fertilizer as the dryness of soil makes it less fertile.

Solvent farmers are buying small machines for irrigation but poor and marginal ones cannot afford it, they said.

Rat infestation adds to the problem in some places.

Rakib Chowdhury, president of Moulvibazar Seed Farmers Association, said, "There is shortage of water at many places including Shamra Bazar, Ekatuna and Raipur areas, especially at the end of the irrigation canals. Most of the village canals have turned into grasslands. Six out of my 20 acres of land has remained uncultivated due to the irrigation crisis."

"We need a sustainable water reservoir to solve the problem," he said.

Kazi Lutful Bari, deputy director of Moulvibazar Department of Agricultural Extension, said, "To get a good yield of Boro rice, the farmers need to have a steady supply of water throughout the process from sowing to harvesting. Otherwise, the crop suffers from disease, malnutrition and pest attack."

"We need a long-term sustainable plan and its implementation to solve this problem," said Advocate Bazlul Majid Chowdhury, president of Haor Bachao, Sunamganj Bachao Andolon.

Ranendra Shankar Chakraborty, executive engineer of Water development Board, Moulvibazar said they have done repair work in some areas to raise the level of the embankment.

"This year Tk 50 lakh has been allocated for the project of 105 km dam and allocated. It is not possible to do everything with such a small allocation. Manu rehabilitation project

is being taken. Through this project, everything including canals, dam will be fixed," he said.

Our Bagerhat Correspondent reports: The farmers' of Badhal union in Kachua upazila of Bagerhat are facing severe water crisis to irrigate their Boro lands and fish cultivation as canals that earlier carried freshwater are drying up.

The canals in several villages including Sangdia, Afra, Kalmibuniya, Mosni and Bilkul of the union are in dying condition, locals said, adding that if the situation continues, freshwater of the ponds will dry, causing drinking water crisis.

"We are not getting water for irrigation of Boro paddy lands and fish farming. We need urgent dredging of the canals here," said Liton Sheikh, a farmer of Kalmibuniya village.

Kamrul Paik, another farmer of the village, said, "People throw waste materials into the canals and some people made wooden bridge in Sangdia-Bakultala canal, blocking two sides of the waterbody."

"The farmers and the owners of fish enclosures are in a great crisis as the canals of Kanderkhal, Kalmibuniya, Sangdia-Bokultala, Bilkul and Atarogati areas are dying. The Biskhali River, which supplies freshwater into the canals, is also silted up," said Nakib Foysal Ohid, chairman of Badhal union parishad.

"We urged the authorities to dredge the river and the canals as early as possible," he added.

Kachua Upazila Agriculture Extension officer Lovely Khanam said, "Boro paddy has been cultivated on 6700 hectares of land in Kachua upazila and 1050 hectares of it is in Badhal union. We have informed the district water management committee about the water crisis in the area."

Contacted, Executive Engineer of Water Development Board Nahiduzzaman Khan said, "We have a plan to conduct dredging work in the Biskhali river as well as some canals in Badhal union as early as possible, as it is badly needed for irrigation."

## M ABDUR RAHIM MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL, DINAJPUR Number of patients falls

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Number of patients at M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital (MARMCH) in Dinajpur is showing a downward trend over the past few days.

On March 18, number of patients admitted at the hospital was 695, while on March 21, it dropped to 535. The figure was 778 on March 1.

At the outpatient services, 1,065 were given treatment on March 18 and the figure came down to 718 on March 21.

Jahangir Alam, an officer at MARMCH statistics department, said the igure are n the decline.

A number of attendants of former patients of the hospital alleged that they had left the hospital due to poor services caused by poor attendance of majority of doctors, nurses and staffers of the hospital.

Mother of a patient seeking anonymity said she left the paediatric ward of the hospital with her child last Wednesday after she had waited all day for a doctor to see her child the day before.

She also said although several intern doctors had assured her of a doctor's visit to the ward, no doctor showed up before she left.

During a visit to MARMCH yesterday, this correspondent found only a handful of doctors at the hospital. Whereas, according to fingerprint attendance records, 71 doctors of the hospital had recorded attendance on the day.

While the health ministry had cancelled leaves of doctors at government hospitals, MARMCH Director Dr Nirmal Chandra Das was said to have been on leave.

Admitting the fall in patient numbers both at outpatient and inpatient services at MARMCH, Dr Mozahidul Islam, acting director, however, denied the allegation of doctors' lax attendance.

Meanwhile, shared entry of the newly set up Corona Isolation Unit of MARMCH has raised concerns among locals.

Built beside Dinajpur-Gobindaganj regional highway, the access road to the entrance of the facility is shared with a public toilet and a motorcycle workshop.

M Iqbalur Rahim, lawmaker of Dinajpur-3 and Whip of the parliament, inaugurated the Corona Isolation Unit on March 14.

Locals said hundreds of people use the public toilet and fix their vehicles at the workshop every day and the common entry to the isolation unit leaves room for virus contamination.

## More forestland freed from grabbers

Tangail forest department recovered a total of 51 acres of land in Madhupur upazila

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Forest department yesterday recovered eight acres of forestlands from illegal occupiers and demolished fruit orchards under Dokhala forest area in Madhupur upazila.

The local foresters led by Jamal Hossain Talukder, assistant forest conservator (ACF North) in Tangail, conducted the drive.

With this recent recovery, the department has freed a total 51 acres of forestland under different forest in the upazila during special drives that started on March 8.

Abdul Ahad, range officer of Dokhala forest, said people from neighbouring areas had been cultivating banana occupying vast land inside the Sal forest for long.

ACF Jamal said they recovered 23 acres of forestlands in Gachhabari, Chawra Baid, Shukonpocha and



PHOTO: STAR

Community forest workers felled down banana trees raised on grabbed forestland in Dokhala area under Madhupur upazila in Tangail.

Chitakhola area during drives March 18.

from March 8 to 13 and 20 acres Trees like Jarul, Hijol and Rain of forestland in Digorbaid area on Tree and different varieties of

other trees will be planted on the recovered forestland, he said.

Tangail Divisional Forest Officer Dr Jahirul Haque said they will continue such drive to free the grabbed forestlands. He also sought supports from all concerned in this regard.

Mentionable, the traditional Sal forest in Madhupur is shrinking very fast due to nonstop tree felling and illegal encroachment.

Over 20,000 acres out of a total of 45,565 acres of forestland in the upazila are currently under illegal occupiers. Many locals and influential outsiders raised different fruits and vegetables orchards on the grabbed forestland, according to sources at the forest department.

Forest officials said their department has been struggling to recover the grabbed forestland due to shortage of manpower and interference of powerful quarter.



PHOTO: SUZIT KUMAR DAS

Mohammad Jannu Baperi, a street vendor in Faridpur town, is passing busy time selling dust masks. Many citizens across the country are wearing this in-demand item, amid the outbreak of the coronavirus.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার	
উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার পরিকল্পনা কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়	
সদর, শরীয়তপুর	
shariatpursadar@uhfpo.dghs.gov.bd	
স্মারক নং- উপঃ স্বাঃ ও পঃ পঃ অঃ/সদর(শরীঃ)/প্রশা/এমএসআর/দরপত্র/২০১৯-২০/২৭৭	
তারিখঃ ২১/৩/২০২০ইং	
এমএসআর দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (OTM)	
উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার পরিকল্পনা কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, সদর, শরীয়তপুরে আওতাধীন ০৪টি উপ-স্বাস্থ্য কেন্দ্রের ২০১৯-২০২০ইং অর্থ বছরের এমএসআর সামগ্রী ক্রয়ের নিমিত্ত গণখাতে সংগ্রহ আইন/বিধিমালা ২০০৩, ২০০৬, ২০০৮ ও ২০০৯ এবং তৎপরবর্তী সংশোধিত বিধিবিধান অনুযায়ী নিম্নোক্ত "ছক" মোতাবেক ফ্রপ ভিত্তিক পৃথক পৃথকভাবে সীলগালায়ুক্ত খামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে।	
০১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ
০২	এজেন্সি
০৩	সংগ্রহকারী সংস্থা/প্রতিষ্ঠান
০৪	সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি
০৫	বাজেট/তহবিলের উৎস
০৬	দরপত্র আহবানের সূত্র ও তারিখ
০৭	দরপত্র প্যাকেজের নাম/দরপত্রের ধরণ
০৮	দরপত্রাদাতার যোগ্যতা
০৯	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের স্থান
১০	দরপত্র তফসিল বিক্রয়ের তারিখ ও সময়
১১	দরপত্র তফসিল (সিডিউল) প্রাপ্তি এর মূল্য/নিয়ম
১২	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান
১৩	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়
১৪	দরপত্র বাস্তব খোলার তারিখ ও সময়
১৫	দরপত্র জামানতের (বায়নার) টাকার পরিমাণ
১৬	দরপত্র আহবানকারীর নাম ও ঠিকানা
১৭	বিল পরিশোধ সংক্রান্ত নির্দেশিকা
১৮	সরবরাহের সময়সীমা
১৯	বিশেষ নির্দেশিকা
ডাঃ আবদুস সোবহান কোড নং-৪২৮৫১	
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