

Stagnant water hampers cultivation

Thousand-acre cropland at Pashchimchak in Pabna's Sujanagar UZ lies under water as canals silted up

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPI, Pabna

Waterlogging disrupts crop cultivation on over a thousand acres of land in a shallow waterbody at Pashchimchak in between Ahmedpur and Raninagar unions in Pabna's Sujanagar upazila.

Farmers of the area used to cultivate paddy, onion and jute but most of them do not go for crop cultivation in last few years as stagnant water from the shallow waterbody of Gaznar Beel cannot be removed due to silting of the canals in the waterbody.

"I have 10/12 bighas of land in the beel area where I used to cultivate paddy and onion. But I am facing problem to cultivate the crops there as water hyacinth filled up the field due to stagnant water for the last few years," said Md Afzal Hossain, a local.

"After removing water hyacinth with difficulty, I have cultivated five bighas of land this year but early rain damaged most of the



crops. Then I had to bear the cost of engaging more workers to bring the crop home, as there is no road to carry the crop from the waterbody area," Afzal said.

Freedom fighter Md Dalil

Uddin Miah of Sayedpur village in Sujanagar upazila said, "Most of the farmers of the waterbody belong to Sayedpur village. Due to lack of dredging, most of the canals there have been silted up

and it causes waterlogging in the crop fields. Many people also dig ponds in their land, adding to the problem."

Locals farmers demand digging of the canals for removing stagnant water and constructing roads for easy transporting of crops from the fields, he added.

Md Moynul Haque Sarkar, Sujanagar upazila agriculture officer, said most of the beel areas were brought under development projects earlier but Pashchimchak area located in the middle of the vast waterbody out of the facility.

Digging of the canals is needed to remove stagnant water from there, he said.

Contacted, lawmaker of Pabna-2 constituency Ahmed Firoz Kabir told The Daily Star, "A Tk 110-crore development project, including canal dredging to connect the waterbody with the river, has been submitted to the water resources ministry, seeking the ECNEC's approval."

Double blow for Kalapara farmers

Cyclone Amphan also crushed the last strands of hope for the vegetable growers amid Covid-19 pandemic

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

The cyclone Amphan destroyed a number of households and vast tract of cropland. It also crushed the last strands of hope for many vegetable farmers in Kalapara upazila of the district amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

Zakir Hossain of Kumirmara village runs his five-member family by cultivating vegetables.

He cultivated various vegetables like cucurbit, wax gourd, green chilli and cucumber on two acres of leased land spending Tk 1.20 lakh this year but could not get expected price from selling the vegetables this season due to coronavirus outbreak, said Zakir, adding that it has happened as the fear over coronavirus pandemic has kept customers in the local market.

A local agriculture officer said thousands of people work in different mega projects like Payra Power Plant and Payra seaport in the upazila but most of the workers are now on leave due to coronavirus outbreak.

The closure of many offices in the area has also a direct impact on the sale, said growers in the area.

"I expected to earn Tk 5 lakh this year, but the storm and the pandemic have destroyed my dream," said Zakir.

Veteran farmer Sultan Gazi of the village said he cultivated vegetables on 60 decimals of land this year but could not get desired prices from selling the produces. On the other hand, the cyclone Amphan destroyed

his vegetable fields.

Other affected farmers--Aziz Hawlader, Salahuddin Gazi, Abdul Haq Gazi, Masud Gazi, Shahjahan Gazi and Monir Fakir--in the village faced the same fate.

Another farmer Abul Kalam Hawlader of nearby Majidpur village said his one acre of land was filled with crops, but he is now in utter despair as the vegetable field was fully damaged by the storm.

Vegetable farmers Nazrul Akon, Abid Akon, Jalil Kazi, Ansar Kazi and Ishq Hawlader of Sonatala village have faced the similar situation.

Some of the affected vegetable farmers have begun cultivation once again but they are facing acute financial crisis in this regard.

Farmer Sultan Gazi said he again bought the seeds with borrowed money. They are yet to get any government help to overcome their loss.

Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) Officer in Kalapara Abdul Mannan said the cyclone has left a very bad impact on vegetable business and farmers amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

The government will help the affected farmers so that they can overcome the losses, said Mannan.

According to the agriculture extension office in the upazila, Kalapara dwellers consume 48 tonnes of vegetable every day. Of them, around 20,000 people who work in the mega projects need three tonnes of vegetable daily.



The cyclone Amphan damaged a vegetable field at Kumirmara village in Patuakhali's Kalapara upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

AL's 71st founding anniversary today

FROM PAGE 12

A delegation of Awami League Central Working Committee will place wreaths at the grave of Bangabandhu in Gopalganj's Tungipara in the morning maintaining health guidelines.

Besides, doa and munajat will be offered in the afternoon, seeking eternal peace of departed souls of Bangabandhu and other martyrs of 1975 carnage, four national leaders, martyrs of 1971, martyrs of different movements, and those AL leaders who died of Covid-19.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, also the AL president, will address party leaders through videoconferencing from the Gono Bhaban at 5:00pm. A limited number of party leaders will be present at its Bangabandhu Avenue office maintaining social distancing and health guidelines.

Meanwhile, the PM yesterday greeted the countrymen and the party leaders, activists and well-wishers on the occasion of its founding anniversary.

In a message, she said none would remain poor and homeless in the country.

"On this day I recall with respect the greatest Bangalee of all times, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. I recall Awami League's founding president Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani and general secretary Shamsul Haque. I remember with respect Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy," she said.

To mark the day, the AL will hold a special webinar titled "Mass people's party Awami League" at 8:30pm today. It will be broadcast on the party's official Facebook page (www.facebook.com/awamileague.1949) and YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/user/myalbd).

The programme will also be aired live on private television channels Somoy Television and Bijoy TV, Facebook pages of several national dailies, including The Daily Ittefaq, Daily Samakal and Daily Jugantor, online portals bdnews24.com, banglanews24.com, and jagonews24.com.

In a statement, AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader has called upon the party units across the country and their associate and like-minded bodies to observe the AL's founding anniversary maintaining health guidelines and social distancing.

Political analysts and distinguished personalities observe that the AL's achievements are the achievements of Bangladesh and its people.

Historian, writer and folklorist Shamsuzzaman Khan said the AL became immensely popular as a political party by carrying out movements and protests against repression, exploitation, and subjugation by the then West Pakistani rulers on the Bangalee nation and other small ethnic groups.

The sacrifice of AL leaders and workers and their contributions to the nation would be ever remembered, he added.

Though the AL was floated as Awami Muslim League at the historical Rose Garden on KM Das Lane in Dhaka, the word "Muslim" was dropped from its name at the party's third council in 1955.

Univ teachers demand abolished

FROM PAGE 12

DSA has been an institutional attempt to seize people's freedom of expression.

"Those who have been lying since the inception of the coronavirus outbreak in the country by saying they are well equipped to combat the pandemic are the real criminal.

"Digital Security Act should have been applied against them, instead of those who have remained vocal against corruption, abduction and killing," he said.

The state is very alert to protect the corrupt politicians and bureaucrats, but not at all to protect people's lives, Tanzim said.

"We need the freedom of expression to raise

voice against these irregularities and corruption; we need it for the sake of survival. This black law needs to be abolished to protect our right to speak," he added.

Samina Luthfa, associate professor of sociology at DU, said, "We have to raise voice against the law for the sake of our security and safety. We need to make them [the government] abolish this law and unveil the real picture of the irregularities.

"If we, the general people, want to survive we have to speak up about the mismanagement, corruption and irregularities. But no one, including teachers, doctors and policemen, has the right to speak," she added.

Calling for a mass movement against the act, Rushad Faridi, assistant professor of Economics at DU, said "The act includes repressive non-bailable penalties for at least 14 offences which means one may be imprisoned for two or three months for a Facebook post. A country which has such a law is not worth living."

Rashed Sahriar, general secretary of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, alleged that the government has violated the constitution by curbing people's freedom of expression.

Several teachers and students were arrested for updating Facebook statuses criticising the health sector, following the death of former health minister Mohammed Nasim.



A woman brings an oxygen cylinder for treatment of a family member at home in Rangpur recently as the latter, suffering from severe asthma, was denied admission at a hospital in the city.

PHOTO: STAR

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
 Local Government Engineering Department
 Office of the Upazila Engineer
 Raiganj, Sirajganj
 www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.8861.000.14.023.20.465 Date: 21/06/2020

e-Tender Notice No. 19/2019-2020

e-Tenders are hereby invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of:

Sl. No.	Name of works	Package No.	Tender ID	Last selling date & time	Closing & opening date and time
01.	Construction of additional classroom Chok Gobindpur RPS under PEDP4 Raiganj Sirajganj.	e-Tender/PEDP4/SR/JRAI/2019-20/W2.01625	454455	14-Jul-2020 & up to: 17:00	15-Jul-2020 & up to: 15:00
02.	Construction of additional classroom Nalchia RPS under PEDP-4 Raiganj Sirajganj.	e-Tender/PEDP4/SR/JRAI/2019-20/W2.01169	438370		
03.	Construction of additional classroom Salanga RPS under PEDP-4 Raiganj Sirajganj.	e-Tender/PEDP4/SR/JRAI/2019-20/W2.01166	438366		
04.	Construction of additional classroom Chandpur RPS under PEDP-4 Raiganj Sirajganj.	e-Tender/PEDP4/SR/JRAI/2019-20/W1.00532	438363		
05.	Construction of additional classroom Hasil Hossen RPS under PEDP-4 Raiganj Sirajganj.	e-Tender/PEDP4/SR/JRAI/2019-20/W1.00530	438360	14-Jul-2020 & up to: 17:00	15-Jul-2020 & up to: 16:00
06.	Construction of additional classroom Daripara RPS under PEDP-4 Raiganj Sirajganj.	e-Tender/PEDP4/SR/JRAI/2019-20/W1.00529	438359		
07.	Construction of additional classroom Bara Bhag Zanki Ganti RPS under PEDP-4 Raiganj Sirajganj.	e-Tender/PEDP4/SR/JRAI/2019-20/W1.00528	438358		

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders 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).

Md. Abdul Based
 Upazila Engineer
 Raiganj, Sirajganj
 E-mail: us.raiganj@lged.gov.bd

GO-1025

হাইড্রোজেন এনার্জি গবেষণাগার স্থাপন-প্রকল্প
 Establishment of Hydrogen Energy Laboratory-Project
 বাংলাদেশ বিজ্ঞান ও শিল্প গবেষণা পরিষদ (বিসিএসআইআর)
 Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR)
Invitation for Tender (OTM)

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Science & Technology.			
2. Agency	Bangladesh Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (BCSIR).			
3. Procuring entity name	Project Director, Establishment of Hydrogen Energy Laboratory-Project.			
4. Invitation for	Procurement of Laboratory Analytical Instruments.			
5. Invitation Ref. No.	39.02.1506.012.07.002.2020/120; Dated: 23.06.2020			
KEY INFORMATION				
6. Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (National).			
FUNDING METHOD				
7. Budget and source of fund	GOB.			
9. Project/programme name	Establishment of Hydrogen Energy Laboratory-Project.			
10. Tender package name	Procurement of Laboratory Analytical Instruments & Equipment.			
11. Tender last selling date	13.07.2020 up to 05.00pm.			
12. Tender closing date and time	14.07.2020 up to 03.00pm.			
13. Tender opening date and time	14.07.2020 up to 03.15pm.			
14. Name and address of the office: Selling of tender documents	Office of the Project Director, Establishment of Hydrogen Energy Laboratory-Project, BCSIR Laboratories Chattogram, Chattogram-4220.			
15. Name and address of the office: (Receiving & opening tender documents)	Office of the Project Director, Establishment of Hydrogen Energy Laboratory Project, BCSIR Laboratories Chattogram, Chattogram-4220.			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
16. Eligibility of tenderer	All terms & conditions will be applicable as per tender document.			
17. Brief description of works	As per schedule specification.			
18. Price of tender documents	2000.00 (two thousand Taka only) non-refundable			
19. Lot	Identification lot	Location	Tender security amount (Tk) (refundable)	Completion time
GD-01 2020-21	1. FESEM-EDS	Chattogram	2% of quoted price	Within 03 (three) months from the date of notification of award
	2. MBR Permeation Analyzer	Chattogram	2% of quoted price	Within 03 (three) months from the date of notification of award
	3. CHNS/O-Elemental Analyzer	Chattogram	2% of quoted price	Within 03 (three) months from the date of notification of award
	4. TG-DTA	Chattogram	2% of quoted price	Within 03 (three) months from the date of notification of award
	5. Hydrogen Fuel Cell Vehicle	Chattogram	2% of quoted price	Within 03 (three) months from the date of notification of award
GD-02/ 2020-21	6. Hydrogen Dispensing Unit	Chattogram	2% of quoted price	Within 03 (three) months from the date of notification of award
	7. Bomb Calorimeter	Chattogram	2% of quoted price	Within 03 (three) months from the date of notification of award
	8. High Pressure Gas Regulator (Flammable-6 & Non-Flammable-4)	Chattogram	2% of quoted price	Within 03 (three) months from the date of notification of award
	9. Ultrasonic Cleaning Bath	Chattogram	2% of quoted price	Within 03 (three) months from the date of notification of award
	10. Density Meter(Hydraulic) Hot Press Machine	Chattogram	2% of quoted price	Within 03 (three) months from the date of notification of award
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
20. Name of official inviting tender	Dr. Md. Abdus Salam.			
21. Designation of official inviting tender	Project Director, Establishment of Hydrogen Energy Laboratory-Project.			
22. Address of the official inviting tender	Office of the Project Director, Establishment of Hydrogen Energy Laboratory-Project, BCSIR Laboratories Chattogram, Chattogram-4220.			
23. Contact details of official inviting tender	Mobile: 01870085657; E-mail: hydrogenenergy@lged.gov.bd Web: www.bcsir.gov.bd ; www.otphlc.gov.bd			
24. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or to reject any or all tender.				

GO-1023

Dr. Md. Abdus Salam
 Project Director