



## IRRIGATION CANAL FILLED WITH SAND

# Boro on 15,000 hectares in BADC project uncertain

MASUK HRIDOV, Brahmanbaria

Irrigation in 15,000 hectares of land in the upcoming Boro season seems uncertain as various parts of the canal under the Ashuganj-Palash Agro Irrigation Project have been filled with sand to upgrade the highway from Ashuganj river port to Akhaura land port into four lanes.

Around 34,000 farmers in 22 unions of four upazilas, including Ashuganj, will be deprived of irrigation facilities for IRRI-Boro production as the flow of water in the canal is badly disrupted due to dumping of sand.

According to Brahmanbaria Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) sources, the upgrading work of the highway has started in full swing from July this year. Since then, the canals of BADC have been filled with sand from Ashuganj to Sarail Bishwaroad. If the canal was not filled, they would start irrigation for Boro cultivation in the first week of January. But now it has become completely uncertain.

This special project, locally known as ‘Sabuj Prokolpo’ was launched in 1975. At that time, prominent social workers--Mahbubul Huda Bhuiyan and Khorshed Sikder -- took initiative to use the waste water from Ashuganj power plant for irrigation of paddy land. The government further expanded this irrigation facility through BADC in 1978-79 as the yield was better by cultivating IRRI.

Since the launch of the project, a pond of the Power Development Board was being used as a cooling reservoir along the Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Ashuganj upazila headquarters. It

is uncertain whether the irrigation project will continue as the pond was suddenly filled in June last year and work is underway to upgrade the highway into four lanes.

BADC officials said apart from Ashuganj, about 34,000 farmers of Sadar, Sarail and Nabinagar upazilas are the beneficiaries of the irrigation project. This irrigation is used to cultivate paddy on 15,000 hectares of land in 22 unions of the upazilas. The Baropit canal at Ashuganj adjacent to the Dhaka-Sylhet highway was being used as the main irrigation canal for the project. The canal has also been filled for expansion work of the highway.

They also said 56,250 tonnes of IRRI paddy is being produced every year by utilizing this irrigation facility. Local farmers used to get this benefit by paying irrigation tax.

Abdul Hannan, a farmer from Ashuganj Bahadurpur village, said, “It is not possible for us to sink deep tube-well. Our land will remain barren. We have to stay starved if there is no alternative for water management.”

Contacted, Mohammad Obayed Hossain, executive engineer of BADC Brahmanbaria region, said they have informed the higher authorities about the matter.

He added that a nine-member convening committee, led by Zakir Hossain, additional secretary (planning wing) of the Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges, to find a way to keep the irrigation project running. The members of the committee made a recommendation on October 29 after a field visit.



PHOTO: STAR

Various parts of the Baropit canal in Brahmanbaria's Ashuganj has been filled with sand to upgrade the highway. Thousands of farmers are suffering due to dumping of sand in the canal. Inset, the upgrading work of the highway goes on in full swing.

## Illegal charcoal factory demolished

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A mobile court in a drive demolished an illegal charcoal factory in Mirzapur upazila yesterday.

The court led by Mirzapur Assistant Commissioner (Land) Jubayer Hossain, executive magistrate, also fined factory owner Mosharaf Hossain Tk 50 thousand for running the factory defying laws. Mentionable, several charcoal factories have been producing charcoal by burning timber illegally in Mirzapur and its adjacent areas for long.

## Homes turning into ‘Pushti Bari’ in Chilmari chars

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmoirhat

Women from around 11 thousand families with limited resources -- in chars or river islands of Kurigram's Chilmari upazila -- are learning to ensure balanced nutrition for their families by growing fruits and vegetables around their houses for their own consumption.

Under a project titled ‘Sustained Opportunities for Nutrition Governance (SONGO)’, funded by the European Union, non-governmental organisations RDRS Bangladesh and ICCO Cooperation are training the char residents on how to make best use of their available land for growing vegetables or fruits.

The houses, mostly built on four

to six decimals of land, are now being turned into miniature agricultural farms, dubbed “Pushti Bari”.

Sabina Begum, from Char Karai Barishal on the Brahmaputra river in the upazila, said their house on four decimals land is now a “Pushti Bari”, where they have grown different vegetables and fruits including bottle gourd, green bean, papaya, chilli and ginger.

After meeting nutritional needs of the family, they can even sell excess produce, she added.

Yasmin Begum, from the same area, said after training, they are now able to utilise every inch of their unused land around the house and all vegetables and fruits consumed by the family are produced at home. They could not ensure nutrition

for the family due to high prices of different produce at markets, but the scenario has changed after training, said Nur Selima, from Char Bisarpara.

Ahasanul Kabir Bulu, project coordinator of SONGO in Chilmari, said women are provided free training on how to turn their houses into “Pushti Bari” by growing vegetables and fruits there.

They also provide seeds and technical support for free, he added.

Chilmari Upazila Agriculture Officer Kumar Pronoy Bisan Das said they also provide the same training and technical support free of cost to the char residents.

Pushti Bari can play a vital role in meeting nutritional needs of the ultra poor in the chars, he added.



PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

An elderly woman, trained in growing vegetables and fruits around the house, tends to vegetable plants that she grew around her house in Char Karai Barishal of Kurigram's Chilmari upazila.

শেখ হাসিনার নির্দেশ  
জলবায়ু সহিষ্ণু বাংলাদেশ

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Bangladesh Forest Department  
Bana Bhaban, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207

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জলবায়ু সহিষ্ণু বাংলাদেশ

No. 22.01.0000.101.029.20.728

Date: 21/12/2020

Request for Expressions of Interest (Eol)

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
2	Agency	Bangladesh Forest Department.
3	Procuring entity name	Assistant Chief Conservator of Forests (Finance, Budget and General Direction).
4	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
5	Expression of Interest for Selection of	Panel Lawyer.
6	Procurement sub-method	Selection of Individual Consultant (SIC).
7	Budget and source of funds	GoB.
8	Place of Eol collection, submission and opening	Assistant Chief Conservator of Forests (Finance, Budget and General Direction), Room No. 216, Bana Bhaban, Agargaon, Dhaka, Phone: 02-8181739.
9	Eol closing date and time	Date: 14.01.2021 Time: 02:00pm
10	Eol opening date and time	Date: 17.01.2021 Time: 11:00am
11	Brief description of assignment	The assignment is to deal with the writ petitions, Forest cases, administrative cases and other legal issues of Bangladesh Forest Department (BFD) in the Supreme Court of Bangladesh judiciously and efficiently in order to dispose of the BFD related cases timely. Details Terms of Reference (ToR) is available in the above office address.
12	Bangladesh Forest Department invites Expression of Interest (Eol) from experienced applicants under the following positions:	
Sl. No.	Name of position	No. of positions
(i)	Panel Lawyer	3
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Minimum LL.B (Hons) or pass Degree from UGC recognized any university.</li><li>Minimum 10 (ten) years experiences as Advocate in Supreme Court/Bar Association of Bangladesh and at least 02 (two) years experiences as law officer with the government/semi-government/autonomous organization in Bangladesh.</li><li>Applicants must have Bar Council Enrollment Certificate and permission for the High Court Division.</li><li>Applicants having for the Appellate Division permission will get privilege.</li><li>Applicants having experience in handling BFD cases in the High Court Division will get preference.</li></ul>
13	Other details (if applicable)	Interested Applicants are requested to submit their Expression of Interest. Application Forms (complete CV with other details as required as per the Application Forms) in accordance with Standard Request for Application (SRFA) which may be collected during normal office hours. Application shall be submitted in sealed envelope to Assistant Chief Conservator of Forests (Finance, Budget and General Direction) and be clearly marked "Request for Expression of Interest for Selection of <b>Panel Lawyer</b> ". Panel Lawyers will be selected using the selection of individual consultant sub-method in accordance with Public Procurement Rules-2008 and Standard Request for Application (SRFA). No application will be received after the deadline of submission. The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all applications without causing any reason. The Authority also reserves the right to omit, increase or decrease in any or all Eols. The Applicants must abide by the decision of the appropriate Authority.

Interested Lawyer may obtain further information by applying to the address above during normal office hours.

GD-2037

Ajit Kumar Rudra  
Assistant Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Finance, Budget and General Directions)  
Phone: 02-8181739

## Two killed in villagers clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

At least two people were killed and 20 others injured in a clash between two groups of villagers in Habiganj's Baniachang upazila.

The deceased are Idris Ali, 73, and Nurul Haque, 50, of Balla Gazipur village.

Locals said the clash erupted between the men of Nurul and his neighbour Alai Mia over occupying a portion of a government land on Sunday that left at least 22 people injured.

Of them, Nurul and Idris died the same night.

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Memo No-1. 154/2007(part-3)1277/Stha  
2. KA-12/89/2017 (part-11)1278/Stha

Dated-20-12-2020

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify for all concern that the following Tender have published through e-GP Portal.

Sl.No	Tender ID	Package No.	Name of Works	Publishing Date & Time	Last selling Date & Time	Closing Date & Time
01.	528960	DOA-20-02 Cleaning Items	Procurement of Cleaning Goods	23 December, 2020 12:00	11 January 2021 12:30	11 January 2021 13:30
02.	529005	DOA-20-03 Computer & Computer Accessories	Computer & Computer Accessories Goods	23 December, 2020 12:00	11 January 2021 14:30	11 January 2021 15:30

The interested persons/firms/supplier may visit the website [www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) to get details of the e-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 not be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP portal (<https://eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guideline are available at the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP helpdesk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

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