

Water supply suspended in GK project areas Thousands of farmers unable to cultivate IRRI-boro crop

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, Mar 4: The owners of thousands of acres of land in Sripur and sadar thana of Magura district can not cultivate IRRI-boro crop due to absence of irrigation facility from Ganges Kobodak Project (GKP) under Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB). It was learnt.

According to the sources, about 80 per cent cultivable land in Sripur thana and about 10 per cent cultivable lands in Magura sadar thana are under the Ganges Kobodak Project (GKP). The farmers of the villages including Masalla, Chaturia, Tetulbaria, Sabinagar, Jaka, Char Joka, Goalpara, Sripur, Bakhra, Madanpur, Kajali Chakda, Ichhapur, Nabagram, Kallnagar, Udas, Chilgari, Sachilapur, Dalrapur, Badanpur Kodla, Goadla, Nakol, Sundarpur, Khamarpara, Tupipara, Srikola in Sripur thana and Ganganlia, Chandraprotab, Bagni Araisat, Atharokada in Magura sadar thana totally depend on Ganges Kobodak Project of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) for irrigation.

It was learnt from the farmers of these areas, they do not get water for irrigation from the project in the IRRI-boro paddy cultivation season. As a result they do not cultivate IRRI-boro paddy in this season. Talking to some established farmers, it was learnt that the operation in the Ganges Kobodak Project, the biggest irrigation project in the country has been facing

setbacks for want of adequate water in the river Ganges. As a result the authority of the GKP are unable to supply water for irrigation in the IRRI-boro paddy cultivation season in those areas.

According to the official sources, during the beginning of GKP, the authority dug main canal from Bherganga to 'WAPDA more' of Sripur thana in Magura district. This canal has been dug for functioning three purposes.

These are: (i) Supply water for irrigation (ii) flood control embankment and (iii) for drainage facilities. A good set work of the project was established in the project areas. Many secondary tertiary and field canals were dug for sufficient supply of water to the field. The authority of the GKP took initiative to give all assistance to the farmers including training, use of manures and pesticides.

Crops like aus, aman and boro were produced by rotation in the same plot. The socio-economic condition of the farmers under the project area improved.

But effects of unilateral withdrawal of the Ganges water by India at Farakka led to severe water crisis in the Ganges Kobodak Project. As a result, Ganges Kobodak project area suffered.

Talking to M Haq at village Chandikhali under the project area it was learnt that the supply of water from the Ganges Kobodak canal was sufficient

till 1978-79. They produced various crops in their land using water from the GKP. But after acute scarcity of water they do not produce aus, aman and IRRI-boro paddy up to their expectation. Even they do not plant IRRI-boro in their field at all due to setback of the Ganges Kobodak Project (GKP).

A Karim, a marginal farmer under the GKP area told this correspondent that since 1978 they are able to cultivate aman, aus, and boro paddy by using irrigation. Now they do not get water from the project in the dry season even in the low land. They are not able to plant IRRI-boro paddy in their land at all. As a result the farmers of their areas will have to pass their days with hardship.

When contacted, some farmers who have enough land said to cover the loss incurred they give emphasis to set up shallow tubewells by their own cost. According to reports, a number of irrigation pumps in the GK Project area are functioning for supplying water to the IRRI-boro paddy fields. Due to internal conflicts among the farmers and lack of spare parts and high price of diesel oil many pumps went out of order long ago.

Besides, withdrawal of water at Farakka has further lowered the ground water level even at some places at 50 feet deep.

Talking to a marginal paddy cultivator under GK Project area it was learnt that they

have no such fund so they can purchase shallow pumps for irrigation. As a result many farm land of the marginal farmers are lying unploughed or unsowed. Some rice dealers in Sripur thana area told this correspondent that the local demand of rice was fulfilled from the local paddy supply which was grown in GK Project areas in the district. But they do not fulfil the local demand any more.

They further informed that local 'chatal' (rice making farm) will be closed in very near future due to lack of IRRI-boro paddy output. Some experts said, if the concerned authority do not take initiative for irrigation in the GK project areas, the socio-economy conditions of these areas will be seriously affected in near future.

Dacoits caught red-handed

RAJBARI, Mar 4: Three dacoits were arrested with arms from a house at Gadimara area in sadar thana while preparing for committing dacoity on Monday night, reports UNB.

Police said Abdul Alem, Babul Akhter and Shukur Ali were caught red handed from the residence of Azher Ali and recovered one pipegun, five rounds of bullet and one Kirich from their possession.

A contingent of police led by Officer-in-Charge Jahirul Islam conducted the raid.

Road accident claims three lives in Natore

From Our Correspondent
NATORE, Mar 4: Three people were killed in a road accident at Khajurtoala on Bogra-Natore highway under Shingra thana here on March 2 morning.

The victims, Morzina Begum, 25, Sonali 5, and Nice, 2, died on the spot.

A Bogra-bound bus crushed the victims under the wheel when they were crossing the road.

Later, agitated people set up barricade on the highway for two hours. The bus was seized in Bogra bus stand by the police later on.

Cargo boat raided in Chandpur: Contrabands seized, six arrested

CHANDPUR, Mar 4: Police raiding a Narayanganj bound cargo on River Meghna near Shaarmali area of the town on Monday, seized foreign cigarettes and Burmese crude salt, reports UNB.

River police, acting on secret information, challenged the MV Parvin cargo vessel which was coming from Teknaf and recovered the contraband items worth about Tk 27 lakh.

They also arrested six people, all from Cox's Bazar district, for their alleged involvement in the smuggling, but Shah Alam, the driver of the cargo managed to flee from the boat.

The raid was conducted by Additional Police Super Mohammad Ali Akbar, first class Magistrate Meer Mashul Alam and other police officials.



GAZIPUR: A 6-member delegation headed by Teruo Sekiguchi, President of Kawasaki Nishi Lions Club, District 330, Japan visited Sakura Home at Gazipur on last February 22. During their visit they donated some books and stationeries to the orphanage of Sakura Home for their education purpose. The General Manger of Sonargaon Pan Pacific Hotel Yoji Hamano was also present on that occasion.

Miscreants allegedly injure, hand over one person to police in Pabna

From Our Correspondent
PABNA, Mar 4: One person was arrested allegedly for possessing illegal firearms and a bullet, recently from Kashinathpur of the district under Bera thana.

According to police sources one Amanullah Aman Ratan 19, was allegedly forcibly taken to Bera thana police station from Horidebpur area and handed over to police with a firearm (pipegun) and a bullet in his pocket.

According to witnesses who were working in the nearby saw mill, four alleged miscreants on motorbikes attacked Ratan and beat him badly injuring the victim. Ratan's accomplices immediately fled the scene seeing the miscreants.

Ratan, unable to defend on his own, was later forcibly taken away and handed over to police.

The witnesses said that Ratan did not carry any firearm nor did his accomplices. The miscreants allegedly set up the situation to have him arrested.

It can be mentioned here that earlier Ratan and one of the miscreants, identified as Samad Mia, had rivalry centering a previous enmity with Samad's son.

580 villages in Bogra get new power line

BOGRA, Mar 4: Rural electrification board has installed 2,633 kilometres of electric lines in 580 villages of 106 unions at 11 thanas in the district, reports UNB.

The new lines have facilitated 72,440 electric connections in which already 49,831 consumers have got connections. Out of these, 40,904 are meant for residential purpose, 1591 for commercial, 3574 for irrigation purpose, 964 for industries, 742 for charitable purpose and 52 for street lighting.

The board has sold electricity worth about Taka 10 crore 72 lakh out of the total over Taka 10 crore 21 lakh selling have so far realised.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Facilities Department
Kurigram Zone, Kurigram

Corrigendum Notice

Ref: This office Memo No. EE/FD/KZ/298 dt 31-1-96 & Memo No. EE/FD/KZ/299 dt 31.1.96

Under unavoidable circumstances, the dates of selling & receiving tender against this office Tender Notice No. EE/FD/KZ/95-96(6) dated 30.1.96 and Tender Notice No. EE/FD/KZ/95-96(7) dated 30.1.96 are fixed on 16.3.96 & 17.3.96 respectively, instead of 25.2.96 & 26.2.96.

Other terms & conditions of tender will remain unchanged.

Md Harunur Rashid
Executive Engineer
Facilities Department
Kurigram Zone, Kurigram

DPP-4660-29/2
G-331

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Directorate of Health
Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212

Memo No. DD/M&PDC/Tender/95-96/4026 Dt. 28.2.96

Tender Notice

Tenders under sealed cover are invited from bonafide Bangladeshi manufacturer/supply firm for emergency basis supply of 4000 (four thousand) family size polyester mosquito nets for use in malaria control. Tender schedule can be collected from M&PDC section of this Directorate up to 11.3.96. Tenders will be received up to 11.30 minutes (am) of 12.3.96. And the tenders will be opened on the same day at 12 Noon in presence of the tenderers (if any tenderer or his representative present). No tender will be supplied on the date of submitting tender.

Dr Md Kaiser Uddin
Deputy Director (M&PDC)
Directorate of Health
Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212

DPP-4753-2/3
G-330

Jaundice takes alarming turn in Rajbari

RAJBARI, Mar 4: Jaundice that claimed 30 lives during the last year has again broken out in different areas of the district, reports UNB.

Medical sources said several hundred people attacked by the disease took treatment from sadar hospital during the last 15 days.

Besides, rush of the patients in health complexes in Goalando, Pangsha, Bahakandi thanas has also increased in the recent days.

The sources said spreading of the waterborne disease for which taking water and bed-rest are the best treatment, could not be resisted as many patients rushed to the quacks for their inability to buy anti-jaundice vaccine.

2 housewives commit suicide

From Our Correspondent
FARIDPUR, Mar 4: A housewife, Marzina, 23, of village Bhabanipur under Char Krishnapur Union in sadar thana committed suicide by taking poison recently.

It is reported that on the day of occurrence, husband Jamal forced the victim to bring dowry money from her father. But she refused to bring the money. Refusing to do so husband Jamal became furious and beat her mercilessly. She reportedly took poison. In critical condition she was rushed to Faridpur General Hospital where she died just after admission.

A case was lodged with Kotwali police in this connection.

Traders allegedly creating artificial crisis of fertilizer bags

SHERPUR, Mar 4: Acute crisis of urea fertilizer has been prevailing in different areas of the district affecting IRRI-boro cultivation during the current season, reports UNB.

Taking the advantage of the situation, some unscrupulous traders are selling urea at high prices. A 50-kg bag of urea is being sold here between Tk 340 and 360.

In January, government appointed 31 dealers to sell urea at the markets in the district. They took a total of 11,470 metric tons of urea from Jammu Fertilizer factory, officials said.

But farmers alleged that some dealers sold the fertilizers at the millgate to the traders who stockpiled a huge quantity of urea creating the artificial crisis.

Farmers of the district are not in a position to procure urea at this high price.

Agriculture Extension Department has been given the charge of monitoring the distribution of fertilizer instead of district administration, by a recent order of Agriculture Ministry.

Housewives taking part in income generating activities

From Monojit K Das
MAGURA, Mar 4: Women in rural areas are increasingly taking part in income generating activities. They are tending to become financial providers of their families specially in the rural areas.

Selina Khatun in her mid thirties, a housewife of a low poverty line family at a village of the district has braved herself to come out of the four walls of her house promising to help her family as financial provider.

Selina Khatun at village Kusthal Ichhapur. Proudly told this correspondent that her husband A Khasem is now self employed. He plys his own rickshaw van which is purchased by their income from 'chatal' (rice making farm).

She told, her husband was a landless day labourer. He used to pull hired van occasionally before she started paddy husking business.

At first she started paddy husking business taking a small amount of loan money as capital. She has been running paddy husking business for 8 years now. Her husband helps her to make rice. He buys paddy from the markets and sells rice at the bazars. Her husband no longer works as a day labourer.

She also informed that she had taken Taka 5000 as loan from BRAC, an NGO. BRAC has



Anowara Khatun and Sabiron making chira. — Star photo

Office of the Executive Engineer
Pabna Water Dev Divn-I
BWDB, Pabna

Tender Notice

Sealed Bid is hereby invited from "B" Class Contractors under BWDB for the works as shown in the following list under Pabna IRD Project, BWDB, Pabna of Pabna Water Development Division-I, BWDB, Pabna for the year 1995-96.

Sl No	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Earnest money for Fixed Deposit holder	Class of contractor
1	Construction of truck bridge at Balberia over ISS19 canal at 8.40 KM (Under CAD)	30,51,352/-	76,284/-	30,514/-	"B"
2	Resectioning of flood embankment from 62.50 to 65.50 KM under FDR	18,90,345/-	47,259/-	18,904/-	"B"

2. The Bid will be received on 9.3.96, 10.3.96 during office hours and on 11.3.96 up to 12.00 Noon in the following offices:
(a) The Executive Engineer, Pabna Water Development Divn-I, BWDB, Pabna
(b) The Executive Engineer, Bera Water Development Division, Bera, Pabna
(c) The Superintending Engineer, C&M Circle, BWDB, Dhaka.

3. The Tender Documents will be available in the following banks up to 10.3.96 at the cost of Tk 750/- (Taka seven hundred fifty) only per set (non-refundable):
(a) The Manager, Sonali Bank, WAPDA Branch, Mofijheel C/A, Dhaka.
(b) The Manager, Sonali Bank, Mohila Branch, Pabna.
(c) The Manager, Janata Bank, Atna Branch, Pabna.
(d) The Manager, Janat Bank, Bera Branch, Bera, Pabna.
(e) The Manager, National Bank Limited, Pabna.
(f) The Manager, City Bank Limited, Pabna.

4. The Name of Advertiser: Md Hossaine Zakir, Executive Engineer, Pabna Water Dev Divn-I, BWDB, Pabna.

PANI-44695-96
D-241

Leather Research Institute
BCSIR
Nayerhat, Savar
Dhaka

Local Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from local suppliers and traders for the following equipments for Leather Research Institute of BCSIR.

Sl No	Tender No	Short description of equipments	Source of Fund	Price of Tender documents	Date of dropping
1	LRI/Purchase/94-95/2	Leather Processing/ Testing equipments	Local Country	Tk. 750/-	31-3-96

Tender documents may be purchased from the office of the Director, Leather Research Institute, on cash payment (non-refundable) up to 30-03-96 during office hours.

Completed tenders will be received in the office of the Director of the institute up to 31-03-96 before 12-00 AM, which will be opened on the same day at 12-10 PM in presence of tenderers/ representatives (if any).

Bangladesh Council of Scientific & Industrial Research reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

DPP-4718-2/3
G-329

Director-in-Charge

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
LGED, Kushtia.

Memo No: XENLGED/KUSH/96/542 Date: 24-2-96

Tender Notice

No-13/95-96

1. The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a Loan (No: 1215-BAN (SF) from the Asian Development Bank in various currencies towards the cost of Rural Development Project-18: Infrastructure Greater Khulna, Jessore & Kushtia district. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for the following works:

Code No	Name of Work	Completion Time	Cost of tender document	Class of Contractor
KU6F05BC81	Pavement work with BC on Taragonia-Pragpur Road at Ch. 500-652m, 3252-3502m & 6342.00-8942.00m-3002.00m.	90 days	1,000.00	A & B

2. The Executive Engineer, Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) Kushtia, now invites sealed tenders in prescribed form for construction and completion of the works mentioned above from prequalified contractors of Class A & B under this Project.

3. Tenderers may obtain further information on the Tender Form and inspect the tender documents at the offices of the undersigned as well as the Project Director, Rural Development Project-18, 3/1, Block-B, Dhaka-1207. The Executive Engineer, LGED, Chuadanga/Meherpur/Jhenidah/Magura/Jessore & Thana Engineer, LGED, Daulatpur/Bheramara/ Mirpur and office of the DC, Kushtia.

4. A complete set of tender documents may be purchased by interested eligible tenderers upon payment of non-refundable fee from the offices mentioned in Para 3 only on or before 13th March, 1996 during office hours.

5. All tenders must be accompanied by a Tender Security of 2.5% (two point five per cent) of the total tender price in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order in favour of the Executive Engineer, LGED, Kushtia.

6. The tenders will be received at the office mentioned above on 14th March, 1996 before 12:30 PM and the tenders will be opened at the same office at 1:00 PM on the same date.

7. The undersigned shall not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by tenderers in connection with the preparation or delivery of tenders, including costs and expenses related to visits to the site.

DPP-4686-2/3
G-328

Executive Engineer
LGED, Kushtia.