

# Kishoreganj rice bowls to go empty

Sheaves on 24,000 acres of Boro lands in four haor upazilas won't bear grains

MUKLESUR RAHMAN LITON,  
Kishoreganj

Green Irri-Boro fields in at least 24,000 acres in four haor upazilas in Kishoreganj district will not yield any paddy in the current season as sheaves do not bear grains. Agriculture Extension Department (AED) sources and farmers said.

Farmers however claimed that the area would be over 30,000 acres.

AED officials said the fields apparently look good and green but sheaves are not bearing grains.

This has caused great worries for agriculture officials and farmers as well as they invested whatever they had in cultivation of rice, the main crop in the areas. Most of the low lying haors are single crop areas. Irri-Boro harvest is supposed to begin in the district in three to four weeks.

Deputy Director (DD) of Kishoreganj Agriculture Extension Department (AED) MA Baten said, about 24,000 acres of Irri-Boro fields in Itna, Austogram, Mithamoin and Niklee upazilas in the district would yield no paddy as sheaves are hollow and empty without any grain.

Baten said, this could be because of 'cold injury', which might have been due to 'abnormal variation of temperature during day time and night'. Early planting of seedlings or bad quality seed may be other causes, he claimed.

Three agriculture scientists from Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) at Gazipur comprising Principal Scientific Officer Helal Uddin Ahmed, Dr. Jibon Krishna Biswas and Dr. Bilash Chandra Roy visited haor areas in Niklee upazila last week. Another team including a Chinese seed specialist of a private seed company also visited the areas.

Baten also quoted them as saying that wide variation in temperature between day time and

night might have cause this.

But farmers differed. They attributed this debacle to inadequate irrigation due to diesel crisis and use of urea fertiliser far less than required.

Fertiliser and diesel crises during the peak season of Irri-Boro cultivation this year triggered violent protests by farmers in many areas of Kishoreganj like in most districts of the country.

They said paddy cultivation needs adequate irrigation but in most areas the fields remained almost dry when the plants needed water most, they told this correspondent during a visit to different haor areas.

Fertiliser has to be applied three times, but they could not use it timely due to crisis, they alleged.

Asgar Ali of Chhilni village of Itna upazila said, he stood in the long queue three times in three days for urea but came back home empty handed. When he got it, it was untimely and inadequate, he added.

Principal of Itna College Chowdhury Kamrul Hasan of Thanesor village in Itna also refuted the AED officials' claim.

The area of affected paddy fields would be almost double the AED officials' estimate. He also refuted the officials' claim that the disaster could be because of early transplantation of seedlings.

"Every year farmers in haor areas transplant paddy seedlings at around the same time. Farmers are experienced and they do it timely. A difference of seven to ten days does not matter", he said.

"This year, most of the farmers will be ruined as they had to spend more due to high price of urea", he said.

Around 9,433 hectares were brought under Irri-Boro cultivation in the four haor upazilas this year, Kishoreganj AED officials said.



Boro plants used as fodder in Katakhal haor in Itna Upazila as sheaves bear no grain.

PHOTO: STAR

## Campaign to grow Boro!

700 acres under Monu River Irrigation Project fallow for lack of farmer's interest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

About 700 acres of cultivable land in Moulvibazar Sadar and Rajnagar upazilas remain unutilized during Irri-Boro season every year despite good irrigation facilities due to lack of interest of landowners and farmers.

The lands are under the command area of Monu River Irrigation Project run by the Water Development Board (WDB) but the facility is not being utilised, WDB officials said.

About 1000 tonnes of paddy could be produced only during the Irri-Boro season if those lands were utilised, they said. Objective of the irrigation project is not realised fully as the lands remain fallow during Irri-Boro season, they said.

Most of the landowners are expatriates, they said. Monu River Irrigation Project

was implemented in 1982 at a cost of over Tk 100 crore with a plan to protect croplands in Kawadighi Haor from flood in rainy season and provide irrigation during dry season.

Officials of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) in Moulvibazar said, from the beginning of implementation of the project, landowners in the area showed poor response to cultivate Boro paddy.

Local people cultivate Aus or Aman and, the lands remain fallow until the next season.

The DAE officials said they have been campaigning to motivate the farmers to grow Boro by using the project water. This has yielded some result, but at least 700 acres lands in Ekatura, Chadnighat and Akhail-Kura unions under Sadar upazila and Tengra, Rajnagar and Monsurnagar unions under

Rajnagar upazila still remain fallow during Boro season.

During a visit to Monsurnagar, some farmers said they can not utilise the lands due to crisis of agriculture labourers during Boro season.

In the past, labourers came from other districts but few are found now a days, they said.

Moulvibazar Sadar AED Officer Syed Abul Basar however said the lands remain fallow mainly because most of their owners are expatriates, living in UK or USA. The caretakers do not show any interest to utilise the lands fully, he said.

Moulvibazar DAE Deputy Director Laxmi Kanta Pandit also expressed the same view, saying they are campaigning to motivate the people.

22 clinics, diagnostic centers closed in Jhenidah

A CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Twenty-two clinics and diagnostic centers have been closed in Jhenidah town and in five upazilas since March 5 for operating without valid papers, trained doctors and technicians and proper equipment.

There are 82 clinics and diagnostic centers in the district, of which 53 are registered, according to sources at the Civil Surgeon's office.

Civil Surgeon Ekramul Haq said he leads a team which is visiting every clinic and diagnostic centre in the district.

"We will visit all the clinics and close those operating illegally and are ill equipped", the civil surgeon told this correspondent yesterday.

UP chairman held with arms

RU CORRESPONDENT

Joint forces Tuesday night arrested Rezaul Karim, Hujripura Union Chairman in Paba upazila in Rajshahi district and recovered a firearm from his possession, police said yesterday.

The UP chairman who faces several criminal cases filed with Paba police station was a listed criminal, police said.

Joint forces picked him from the UP office, searched his house and recovered a shutter gun from his house.

Cry for safe water in southwestern dists

Procession, rally held in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Several thousand people poured on streets of Satkhira district town yesterday demanding 'access to safe drinking water'.

They paraded the streets carrying banners and chanting slogans for immediate steps to ensure supply of safe water in Satkhira, Khulna and Bagerhat districts, severely affected by salinity of surface water and arsenic contamination of ground water.

The demonstration was followed by rally and a seminar, held at Satkhira Auditorium.

The Kendrio Pani Committee (central water committee), a newly formed citizen's body, Action AID Bangladesh and a local NGO--Uttaran--jointly organised the programmes in observance of the World Water Day-2007.

Committee president Shafiqul Islam presided over the rally, addressed by, among others, Water Development Board (WDB) executive engineers Zulfikar Ali Hawladar and AKM Mujibar Rahman, Ashrafur Alam Tutu of CPD, Daily Star Correspondent Prof Abu Ahmed, Principal Rajul Islam, Principal Ashek-e-Elahi, Principal Enamul Islam, Harun-ur-Rashid, Rafiqul Islam and Prof Rejaul Haque.

The speakers said, seven out of 26 rivers in the region are dead and

the rest are due to lack of dredging, creating crisis of surface water.

They said India's river inter-linking project will aggravate the problems and create an environmental disaster in the region.

If the rivers are silted more, salinity will penetrate 80 km inside, aggravating the situation for over 50 lakh people living in coastal areas of Satkhira, Khulna and Bagerhat districts.

They deplored that successive governments in the last three decades did not take up any pragmatic plan to resolve the problem.

They urged the government to prepare a master plan to ensure safe water in the region by 2015.

BSF abducts one

A CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

A Bangladeshi farmer was abducted by Border Security Force (BSF) of India from Naodapara border in Raumari upazila of Kurigram district yesterday.

Abducted Shahinur Islam, 27, is son of Sahajalal of Naodapara village.

BDR sources said, BSF personnel abducted the man from near border pillar no 1064 at 7 am.

Shahinur was going to his land to apply fertiliser.

BDR company commander of Bangla Bazar BOP sent a protest letter to BSF.



বাংলাদেশ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

বাংলাদেশ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরী কমিশন

ট্রেনিং এন্ড ইনস্ট্রুমেন্টেশন বিভাগ

আপারদাও, শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭

ফোনঃ ৯১১৫৭৬৫, ৯১২২০১১

ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ট্রেনিং এন্ড ইনস্ট্রুমেন্টেশন বিভাগ (টিআইডি) বাংলাদেশ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরী কমিশন নিয়ে বর্ণিত বাক্যব্রহ্ম প্রয়োজনীয় ২টি স্ট কোর্সের আয়োজন করেছে :

A. PLC & Frequency Inverter Troubleshooting.

1. Course fee : Tk. 6,500/-

2. Class time- : 5.30-8.00 P.M. (5 days a week).

3. Duration : 60 hrs (6 Weeks)

4. Qualifications : B.Sc./ Diploma Engg. or Service holder of any Industry.

B. Professional Short Course on Communication Systems.

1. Course fee : Tk. 2,500/-

2. Class time- : 5.30-8.00 P.M. (3 days a week)

3. Duration : 30 hrs (4 Weeks)

4. Qualifications : Minimum HSC/ "A" Level or Service holder of any Department. (Priority will be given to the University Students)

Course starts on : April 22, 2007.

প্রার্থীর একটি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ফটোগ্রাফ অফিসের নির্ধারিত ফরমে আবেদন করতে হবে। ভর্তির বিষয়ে বিস্তারিত

জানার জন্য অফিস সময়ে (সকাল ৯:৩০ থেকে বিকাল ৪:৩০টা) যোগাযোগ করা যাবে।

G D - 959

অনিল চন্দ্র পাল

পরিচালক (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)

## Job Opportunity

The Agricultural Extension Component (AEC) is operating with DANIDA assistance in the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Dhaka. Its immediate objective is 'Improved, demand driven and decentralized extension systems developed to support poor, marginal and small farmer households'. To attain this objective, AEC is implementing extension and training activities for smallholder farmers, agricultural extension staff and inputs retailers/dealers. The AEC is working as a component under DANIDA-Agriculture Sector Programme Support (ASPS II).

The Component Management Unit is seeking a qualified candidate for its head office in Dhaka for the position of **Accounts Officer** initially for 1 year (3 months probation), renewable up to June 2011.

**Duties and Responsibilities if brief:**

Duties and Responsibilities include but are not limited to: preparing and booking of cash, bank and journal voucher, controlling imprest cash, advances, tax & VAT matters, debtors, preparing staff payroll, maintenance of accounts, consolidating monthly accounts of different cost centers, liaising with banks, suppliers and auditors. Assisting in preparation of budgets and annual closing accounts.

**Requirments & Competencies:**

- Masters of Commerce with CA course completed from a reputed firm.
- 3-5 years working experiance in donor aided projects, reputed national or international NGO and Commercial Establishment.
- Should have practical knowledge and experiance on Accounting, Auditing, Finance, Budgeting, Office Management, Taxation & VAT.
- Should have excellent computer skills, like MS-Word, MS-Excel etc. and able to handle Accounting Software, preferably TALLY.
- Should possess very good communication skills in spoken and written English.

Salary, terms and conditions of employment will be in accordance with the DANIDA service regulations for local staff.

Interested candidates are requested to send their detailed CV along with a recent passport size photograph and name / address of two referees (one of which must be current or most recent employer). The title of the position must be mentioned on top of the envelope. All applications must be reached to the following address on or before 15<sup>th</sup> of april 2007.

Senior Adviser  
AEC-DAE  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Rear Building  
Khamarbari, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215

Only short listed candidates will be contacted. Any forms of persuasion will be treated as disqualification.

Inqilab editor, reporter granted bail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A court in Manikganj yesterday granted bail to daily Inqilab Editor and Publisher AMM Bahauddin and its Staff Reporter Omar Faruk Al-hadi in a defamation case filed against them by a Jamaat leader for writing two reports on the daily.

The editor and publisher and the reporter appeared before the court at around 12:30 pm and First Class Magistrate Shah SM Habibur Rahman granted the bail when the two appeared before the Cognisance Court 'Ka' in Manikganj. Another staff reporter of the daily, Harunur Rashid, is also accused in the case but he was not present at the court yesterday.

Manikganj district Jamaat Publicity Secretary Prof Abdul Mojib filed the case on May 4 last year after two reports were published in the daily on March 6 and March 11 last year. The reports said Jamaat had links with Jamaatul Mujahidin, Bangladesh.

The complainant in the case alleged that the two reporters damaged the party image.

The court issued a somon and later issued an arrest warrant against them as they were not present before the court.

Relief CI sheets recovered in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Joint forces recovered 110 pieces of relief CI sheet from different places of Banaripara and Babuganj upazila in Barisal.

In a drive joint force recovered 18 pieces of relief CI sheet from the house of Alamgir Mir. Alamgir is cousin of Mir Shahid, secretary of Banaripara upazila BNP unit. Police arrested Alamgir.

Joint forces also recovered 56 pieces of relief CI sheet hidden under earth on the premises of the house of Mahbubur Rahman Master, secretary of Banaripara municipal unit of BNP.

In another drive, joint forces led by Magistrate A T M Shariful Islam recovered 14 pieces of relief CI sheet from Syeda Kulsum Altaf orphanage named after mother of Syed Moazzem Hussein Alal, former BNP lawmaker and central secretary of Jubo Dal.

Besides, 22 pieces of CI sheet were recovered from the garden of some BNP activists and form Madina Nagar Madrasa of Babuganj upazila.

Separate cases have been lodged with Babuganj and Banaripara upazila police station.

এখন বাজারে  
পাণ্ডিতিক  
সুপার এইট সমীকরণ  
কতদূর যাবে বাংলাদেশ  
রাজনীতির  
মাইনাস টু তত্ত্ব  
মুক্তিযুদ্ধের সেরা বই

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Paragon Group  
বাস্পার গ্রুপ  
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৯৬/৯৭, সিটি ইন্সটান, ঢাকা-১০০০  
ফোন : ৯০৪৯৪২৯, ৯০২০৩৫১-৩

বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ কল্যাণ ট্রাস্ট  
পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স  
ঢাকা

স্মারক নং-সিএডএ/বি/১১৪-২০০৪/৫২৭ তারিখঃ ২২/৩/২০০৭ খ্রিঃ

সংশোধিত উন্নয়ন প্রস্তাব আহ্বান

রাজারবাগ পুলিশ লাইনের উত্তর পূর্ব কোণে আনুমানিক ১ (এক) একর জমিতে ভবন নির্মাণে প্রয়োজ্য সকল বিধানাবলী পালন সাপেক্ষে মান্টিপারপাস কমপ্লেক্স নির্মাণের জন্য প্রকৃত ঠিকাদারদের নিকট হতে প্রস্তাব আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

১। প্রস্তাবিত ভবনের বিশেষ দিকসমূহঃ

- ক। প্রস্তাবিত মান্টিপারপাস কমপ্লেক্সটি ১তলা বেসমেন্ট বিশিষ্ট ৬তলা ভিতের উপরে ৩তলা হবে।
- খ। প্রতি ফ্লোরের আয়তন আনুমানিক ১৮০০০ বর্গফুট হইবে।
- গ। নীচ তলায় বাণিজ্যিক ব্যবহার এবং দুই তলায় একটি ও তিন তলায় পৃথক ডিনটসিং মোট ৪ (চার)টি কনডেনশন সেন্টার হবে।

২। প্রস্তাবে নিম্নবর্ণিত বিষয়সমূহ থাকতে হবেঃ

- ক। প্রস্তাবিত কমপ্লেক্সের কেমেটিক প্রপোজাল (Schematic Proposal), ড্রাকটরাগ ডিজাইন, ইলেকট্রিক ও প্রাণি ডিজাইনসহ প্রয়োজনীয় সকল ড্রইং ও ডিজাইন।
- খ। পৃথক খামে ফাইনান্সিয়াল প্রস্তাব যাতে খরচের বিস্তারিত বিবরণ থাকবে।
- গ। প্রতিষ্ঠানের কাজের অভিজ্ঞতার বিবরণ এবং প্রকল্প বাস্তবায়নের কারিগরি যোগ্যতা ও আর্থিক সক্ষমতার প্রদানপত্র।
- ঘ। নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর বরাবরে প্রস্তাবের জামানত (Bid-bond) হিসাবে ২৫,০০,০০০/- (পঁচিশ লক্ষ) টাকার ব্যাংক গ্যারান্টি।

৩। ডেডলাইনসহ যোগ্যতাঃ

- ক। বিগত ৫ (পাঁচ) বৎসরের মধ্যে কমপক্ষে একটি ৬ (ছয়) তলা বাণিজ্যিক ভবন সফলভাবে নির্মাণের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। এছাড়া বেসমেন্টসহ ভবন নির্মাণের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে।
- খ। কমপক্ষে ১০,০০,০০,০০০/- (দশ কোটি) টাকার একটি একক প্রকল্প বাস্তবায়নের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে।
- গ। বিগত ৫ (পাঁচ) বৎসরে প্রতিষ্ঠানের বার্ষিক টার্নওভার কমপক্ষে ৫,০০,০০,০০০/- (পাঁচ কোটি) টাকা হবে।
- ঘ। নির্মাণ কাজে কমপক্ষে ১০ (দশ) বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে।

৪। এ সংক্রান্ত পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স কনফারেন্স রুম আগামী ২৮ মার্চ ২০০৭ তারিখ সকাল ১০.০০ টায় প্রি-বিড ব্রিফিং অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। অগ্রাধী ঠিকাদারদের অংশগ্রহণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হ'ল।

৫। প্রস্তাব জমা দেয়ার শেষ তারিখ ৯ এপ্রিল ২০০৭।

৬। প্রস্তাবিত কমপ্লেক্স সম্পর্কে পুলিশ কল্যাণ ট্রাস্টের বিশদ পরিকল্পনা ও সংশ্লিষ্ট তথ্যাদি পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্সের ইমারত শাখা হতে সংগ্রহ করা যেতে পারে।

৭। কল্যাণ ট্রাস্ট কোন কারণ প্রদর্শন ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন প্রস্তাব গ্রহণ বা সকল প্রস্তাব বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।

বেনজীর আহমেদ  
ডিআইজি (অর্থ ও উন্নয়ন), বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ  
ও  
সদস্য সচিব  
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ কল্যাণ ট্রাস্ট  
পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, ঢাকা  
টেলিফোনঃ ৯৯৯-২৮৩৩

ডি-২৬৫