

Irrigation problem hits Boro farming in Panchagarh

Power shortage hampers functioning of deep tube-wells



Boro fields in Barashashi union under Boda upazila in Panchagarh district drying for want of irrigation as scanty electricity supply hampers functioning of deep tube-wells in the area.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, from Thakurgaon

Prospect of Irri-Boro cultivation in Boda and Debiganj upazilas in Panchagarh district has become bleak as large areas of land cannot be irrigated due to shortage of electricity supply.

With drastic fall in electricity supply in the district, power-run tube-wells, both deep and shallow, can lift only a little water.

Cracks developed on Boro fields on hundreds of acres of land in Barashashi and adjacent unions under Boda upazila for want of irrigation as deep tube-wells in the areas, conducted by Barind Multipurpose Development Authority, failed to lift water from under ground due to low voltage of power during the last 15 days.

"After planting we were able to irrigate Boro field only

for one day as the Barind's No.1 deep tube-well failed to lift water due to low voltage of power during last 15 days. Dried up Boro field has developed cracks. Our Boro plants will dry up within days if the situation continues," said Abdur Rashid and Abul Kashem, small farmers of Mohishbathan village in Barashashi union under Boda upazila.

"We fear huge loss in the current season as we cannot afford to irrigate our Boro field with diesel-run shallow pumps," they said.

"Cultivated Boro on three-bigha of land by taking loan from an NGO but am now facing trouble, as deep tube-well failed to supply water required water," Waliur Rahman, a small farmer of the same area, told this correspondent.

"Several times we informed officials of Barind

Multipurpose Development Authority of the matter but got no response to solve the problem," Omar Faruq, another farmer of the area, said.

During a recent visit to the areas, this correspondent saw that many farmers prepared their land but they are yet to sow Boro plant due to lack of irrigation facilities as deep tube-wells failed to supply water.

"The problem arises due to low voltage of power. We have nothing to do in this regard," a sub-assistant engineer at Boda office of Barind Multipurpose Development Authority said.

DAE officials said they have set target to cultivate Boro on about 43,380 hectares of land in the current season with the production target of 1,96,682 tonnes. About 40 percent of the land depends on power-run pumps for irrigation.

Connection to about 1400

power-run shallow pumps was given in the district, deputy general manager of Rural Electrification Board in Panchagarh said.

Power supply for irrigation in Boda and Debiganj upazilas is awfully scanty as only 4-5 megawatt (MW) is available on an average a day against the requirement of 18 MW, he said, adding that stoppage of power generation in Thakurgaon Power Station caused the situation.

Every day power remains off for 14-16 hours in the two upazilas, he said.

The Boro farmers who had earlier eyed good yield of paddy due to smooth supply of fertilisers and reduction of its prices have now become frustrated due to shortage of power supply for irrigation in the district.

Our Dinajpur Correspondent adds: Hundreds of farmers yesterday blocked the Dinajpur-Rangpur highway snapping road communication for three hours from 11 am to 1 pm at Bekipur in Chirirbandar upazila demanding water to irrigate their paddy fields, police said.

Being informed, Chirirbandar Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Anarkoli Mahbub rushed to the spot with a contingent of police force. Agitating farmers withdrew their programme as the UNO assured them of taking necessary measures in this regard.

Alakdhi Union Parisad Chairman Tariqul Islam said the farmers had been facing crisis of water since onset of the IRRI-Boro cultivation season. The situation worsened in recent days due to erratic power supply as well as drying of canals, he added. Chirirbandar UNO said farmers are unable to operate their power pumps due to shortage of power.

Outlaw shot dead in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A regional leader of outlawed New Biplobi Communist Party (NBCP) was shot dead by unidentified assailants at Charbiharia village under Khoksa upazila of the district on Thursday night.

The dead was identified as Bikash Kumar Bose, 36, son of Bipul Kumar Bose of Mulgram village in Kumarkhali upazila.

Bikash was a close associate of NBCP chief Akidil Hossain who was killed in a 'shootout' with police in February 1 last year.

According to police, a gang of 5 to 6 shot Bikash in the chest and abdomen and left the scene. He died instantly.

Hearing gunshots, locals rushed to the spot and found Bikash lying in a pool of blood. On information, police rushed to the village, recovered the body and sent it to Kushtia Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

No one was arrested in connection with the killing as of 7:00pm yesterday.

SUNDARBANS DAY TODAY 'Save biodiversity of world's largest mangrove forest'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The 8th Sundarbans Day will be observed in Khulna, Satkhira, Bagerhat, Pirojpur, Barguna and Narail districts today through observance of different programmes.

The programmes include cultural functions and discussion meetings on world's largest mangrove forest.

On the occasion, a children's painting competition was held at Rupantar auditorium in the city yesterday morning. Children from different academic institutions took part in the contest.

Meanwhile, Executive Director of the Sundarbans Academy Prof Anwarul Kadir at a press conference here yesterday demanded full implementation of the Khulna Declaration to save biodiversity of the forest.

The Khulna Declaration

was announced on February 14, 2001 at the national convention on the Sundarbans inaugurated by the then president Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed.

The declaration, which contains 18 recommendations to save the Sundarbans and its biodiversity from extinction, is yet to be implemented.

The recommendations include improvement of law and order in the Sundarbans to protect its biodiversity, stoppage of killing its animals including deer and tiger, positive move to make it a suitable tourist spot, dredging of canals and rivers passing by and through the forest and formation of a watchdog body comprising experienced forest officials, environmentalists, researchers, NGOs and public representatives with a view to saving the

Sundarbans.

The executive director of Sundarbans Academy accused the past four-party alliance government and a section of officials of Sundarbans Forest Division of not implementing any of the recommendations of Khulna Declaration.

He urged the present government to take necessary steps to save the Sundarbans from looters, poachers, criminals and corrupt officials.

"Sundarbans is not only a revenue earning source of the government but also a shield to protect the country's south-western region from onslaught of natural disasters. It also serves as a source of livelihood for several thousand people," said the executive director of the Sundarbans Academy.

50 hurt as bus falls into ditch in Cox's Bazar

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

At least 50 college students including two teachers were wounded as a picnic bus of Cox's Bazar Government College fell into a 10 feet ditch beside Cox's-Bazar-Teknaf Marine Drive Road yesterday.

Twenty-three of the wounded, five of them critically, were admitted to Cox's Bazar Government Hospital.

Later, three of the critically wounded students Sharmin Jahan Sweety, Nasrin and Urme, were shifted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital as their condition worsened.

The accident occurred at about 10:00 when the bus carrying about 100 students and teachers of the college fell into the ditch as its driver lost control over the steering while crossing Rejukhal Bridge, police and witnesses said.

Other wounded are Principal Babul Kanti Pal, teacher Biplob Kumar Saha and his son Pritam Saha, students Nahid Akhtar, Razia Sultana, Rabeya Ferdous, Taslima Akhtar, Manu Rani, Farzana and Azia Akhtar.



Criss-crossed by rivers and adorned with a variety of flora and fauna, the Sundarbans is a great attraction for tourists but much is to be done to save the world's largest mangrove forest.

SAJEDA MURDER Charges pressed against 16 in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira.

Charges have been pressed against 16 people for killing a woman at Taluigachha village in Sadar upazila of the district last year.

Sub-Inspector Asadul Islam of Sadar Police Station, also investigation officer of the case (IO), submitted the charge sheet to the chief judicial magistrate's court, Satkhira, yesterday.

The accused are Aminur Rahman, Mizanur Rahman, Abdul Karim Gain, Aminur Rahman Gain, Ainal Sardar, Sultan Gazi, Mosharraf Hossain, Sohrab Hossain, Khalilur Rahman, Khairul Islam, Yakub Ali, Mazeda Begum, Ashura Khatun and Marufa Khatun of village Kakkanga, Kamal Uddin of village Boalia and Kamrul Islam of village Hijaldi in Kalaroa upazila.

Of them, Sultan Gazi and Mosharraf Hossain are now in jail while the rest have been absconding since filing of a murder case by Ayub Ali with Sadar Police Station.

In the charge sheet, the investigation officer stated that the accused swooped on Ayub Ali of village Taluigachha in Sadar upazila while he was harvesting paddy from a disputed land on November 2, 2008. As Sajeda Khatun, 26, daughter of Ayub Ali, came to rescue her father, the accused killed her.

BDR, BSF decide to resolve issues peacefully

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

A sector commander level coordination meeting between Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Indian Border Security Force (BSF) was held in Ramgarh municipality under the same upazila on Thursday.

Issues like border crimes, identification of border and river control were discussed at the meeting where they decided to maintain peaceful co-existence for resolving the issues in a peaceful manner, official sources said.

Khagrachhari BDR Sector Commander Colonel Showkat Imam led the Bangladesh team while Udaypur BSF Sector Commander Kowshik Chanda led the 13-member Indian team.

Supply gas to Khulna from Shahabazar in Bhola Speakers demand at meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Speakers at a view exchange meeting yesterday underscored the need for installation of 150 kilometre long pipelines from Shahabazar in Bhola district for gas supply to Khulna.

Present stock of gas in two wells at Shahabazar is able to supply it on long-term basis in Khulna region including Barisal, Pirojpur and Bagerhat, they said at the meeting held at Purbanchal Dialogue Centre (PDC) at 4:00pm.

South-western region including greater Khulna will economically develop if gas supply is ensured through pipelines from Bhola, Liakat Ali, editor of Dainik Purbanchal, chairman of Khulna WASA and convenor of Greater Khulna Development Action Coordination Committee (GKDACC), said in his presidential speech at the meeting.

In absence of gas supply through pipelines in south-western region of the coun-

try, foreign exchange earning jute industries, newsprint mills, hardboard mills and a cable factory have now become sick and losing enterprises as they fail to cope with higher production cost, he said.

"The government has a plan to supply gas through pipelines to Khulna by 2010 with financial assistance of Asian Development Bank but implementation of the plan may be delayed due to some reasons. Ensuring gas supply to Khulna through pipelines from two gas blocs at Shahabpur can meet domestic and industrial needs in south-western region," he said.

Liakat also emphasised the need for construction of Padma bridge for development of communication network in the south-western region.

Prominent civil rights leader Sheikh Abdul Mannan, Prof Dr Salekuzzaman of Khulna University, Prof Dr Mihir Ranjan Halder of Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (KUET) and former Secretary General of GKDACC Sheikh Ashrafuzzaman, addressed the meeting, among others.

Twenty-eight of 41 ward councillors also attended the meeting.

Film show to raise fund for sick RU student

RU CORRESPONDENT

A two-day film show began at Momtaj Uddin Arts building on Rajshahi University (RU) campus yesterday to raise fund for treatment of Atul Chandra, a third year student of History Department who has been suffering from spinal diseases.

RU unit of Prothom Alo Bandhu Sabha organised the show.

RU Psychology Department teacher Prof Shamsuddin Ilias, also adviser of Bandhu Sabha opened the show.

An amount of Tk 3 lakh will be needed for his treatment, the organisers said adding, five local and foreign movies will be screened in two days.

Unidentified criminals kidnapped a trader from South Central Road in the city on Thursday morning and then demanded Tk 20 lakh as ransom for his release.

Police quoted family sources as saying that a gang of criminals picked up the victim, MA Wahid, 80, a jhut (byproduct of garment factory) trader, from in front of his residence at around 8:00am and left the scene.

Wahid's son Tariqul Islam Zahir, general secretary of Khulna city Jubo Dal, filed a GD (general diary) with Khulna Sadar Police Station at around 9:00pm.

He stated in the GD that he had received a call over cellphone from the kidnapers who demanded Tk 20 lakh for his father's release. He said the gang also threatened to kill his father if he failed to pay the ransom.

The law enforcers could not rescue Wahid as of 6:00pm yesterday.

Release of UPDF leader demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

United People's Democratic Front (UPDF), an anti-peace treaty organisation, yesterday demanded immediate release of its central committee member Sachib Chakma who was arrested by army from Bagachhara in Rangamati district on charge of killing and abduction on February 06.

UPDF demanded this through a press statement signed by District Pahari Chhakra Parishad secretary Arpon Chakma.

Terming Sachib innocent, the statement said previously many innocent indigenous people were arrested in a similar style. It has threatened to launch a greater agitation if the UPDF leader is not freed soon.



Storing of used plastic items on house roofs adds to environment pollution in Khagrachhari town. The photo was taken from Bus Terminal area.

বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ কল্যাণ ট্রাস্ট
পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স
ঢাকা

উন্নয়ন প্রস্তাব আহ্বান

নং-সিএডএ/বি/১৪-২০০৭(অংশ)/২৭০(১) তারিখঃ ৫/০২/২০০৯খ্রিঃ

বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ কল্যাণ ট্রাস্টের আওতাধীন পুলিশ বিভাগের মালিকানাধীন জমিতে উন্নয়ন প্রস্তাব আহ্বানের নিমিত্তে ইতোপূর্বে বিসি ২৯/১১/২০০৮, ০২/১২/২০০৮খ্রিঃ তারিখে দি ডেইলি স্টার, ০৩/১২/২০০৮খ্রিঃ তারিখে দৈনিক প্রথম আলো এবং দৈনিক ইত্তেফাক পত্রিকায় প্রকাশিত বিজ্ঞাপনের স্থানসমূহ সংশোধন/বর্ধিত করণঃ নিম্নোক্ত স্থানসমূহে নির্ধারিত শর্তাবলী ভেদে নির্মাণের প্রয়োজ্য সকল বিধানাবলী পালন সাপেক্ষে বহুতল বিশিষ্ট বাণিজ্যিক কমপ্লেক্স নির্মাণের জন্য প্রকৃত ডেভেলপারদের নিকট হতে উন্নয়ন প্রস্তাব আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। উল্লেখিত তারিখসমূহে জারিকৃত বিজ্ঞাপনের অন্যান্য সকল স্থানের প্রকল্প বাতিল বলে গণ্য করাতে হবে।

ক্রমিক নং	জমির অবস্থান	জমির পরিমাণ
১।	ঢাকা পলওয়েল মার্কেট সংলগ্ন জোনাকী সিনেমা হল, পলওয়েল মার্কেটের পিছনের ঝালি জমি এবং পুলিশ ট্রাস্টের জমি।	১০৫.৮৬ শতাব্দে
২।	যশোর জেলা শহরের গাজী বানা রোডস্থ যশোর পুলিশ ট্রাস্টের জমি।	৪৮ শতাব্দে
৩।	কক্সবাজার জেলার মহেশখালী পুরাতন থানার পরিচালক জমি।	৮৯ শতাব্দে
৪।	মুন্সিগঞ্জ জেলার শ্রীনগর পুরাতন থানা সংলগ্ন পরিচালক জমি।	১০০ শতাব্দে

১। প্রস্তাবিত নিম্নবর্ণিত বিষয়সমূহ থাকতে হবে (সকল প্রকল্পের ক্ষেত্রে):
(খ) প্রস্তাবিত বাণিজ্যিক কমপ্লেক্স ভবনের স্কেমটিক প্রোপোজাল (Schematic Proposal) সহ বিশদ নির্মাণ পরিকল্পনা, সম্ভাব্য নির্মাণ ব্যয় ও নির্মাণকাল।
(গ) আর্থিক প্রস্তাবের বিশদ ব্যাখ্যা (চুক্তিমাফার বসডাউস) পেশ করতে হবে।
(ঘ) প্রতিষ্ঠানের কাজের অভিজ্ঞতার বিবরণ এবং প্রকল্প বাস্তবায়নের কারিগরি যোগ্যতা ও আর্থিক সক্ষমতার প্রমাণপত্র।

২। ডেভেলপারদের যোগ্যতাঃ সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ প্রকল্পের জন্য পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স হইতে সরবরাহকৃত প্রকল্প প্রস্তাবনা পাওয়া যাবে।

৩। প্রস্তাবিত কমপ্লেক্স নির্মাণের জন্য পুলিশ কল্যাণ ট্রাস্ট কোন অর্থ বিনিয়োগ করবে না। পুলিশ কল্যাণ ট্রাস্ট উল্লেখিত জমির মালিকানা ডেভেলপার বা অন্য কারো নিকট আর্থিক বা পূর্ণভাবে হস্তান্তর করবে না। ডেভেলপার সম্পূর্ণ নিজস্ব আর্থিক ব্যবস্থাপনার মাধ্যমে প্রকল্পটি বাস্তবায়ন করবেন।

৪। নিম্নোক্ত সমসাময়িক অনুযায়ী প্রকল্প বিষয়ে অস্বীকৃত ডেভেলপারদের সহিত আহ্বানকৃত প্রস্তাব সংক্রান্ত পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্সের ২য় তলার সচিবানা কক্ষে প্রি-বিড সভা অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

ক্রমিক নং	প্রকল্পের নাম	প্রি-বিড সভার তারিখ ও সময়		প্রস্তাব জমা দেয়া এবং খোলার তারিখ ও সময়		প্রকল্প প্রস্তাবনা গ্রহণযোগ্যতা (নগদ)	
		তারিখ	সময়	তারিখ	জমা দেওয়ার সর্বশেষ সময়		খোলার সময়
১।	ঢাকা পলওয়েল মার্কেট সংলগ্ন জোনাকী সিনেমা হল, পলওয়েল মার্কেটের পিছনের ঝালি জমি এবং পুলিশ ট্রাস্টের জমি।	২৪/০২/২০০৯	১০.০০ঘঃ	১২/০৩/২০০৯	১৪.০০ঘঃ	১৫.০০ঘঃ	২০০০/-
২।	যশোর জেলা শহরের গাজী বানা রোডস্থ যশোর পুলিশ ট্রাস্টের জমি।	ঐ	ঐ	ঐ	ঐ	ঐ	১৫০০/-
৩।	কক্সবাজার জেলার মহেশখালী পুরাতন থানার পরিচালক জমি।	ঐ	ঐ	ঐ	ঐ	ঐ	১৫০০/-
৪।	মুন্সিগঞ্জ জেলার শ্রীনগর পুরাতন থানা ও থানা সংলগ্ন পরিচালক জমি।	ঐ	ঐ	ঐ	ঐ	ঐ	১৫০০/-

৫। প্রস্তাবিত কমপ্লেক্স সম্পর্কে পুলিশ কল্যাণ ট্রাস্টের বিশদ পরিকল্পনা ও সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ তথ্যাদি ২২/০২/২০০৯খ্রিঃ তারিখে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ের মধ্যে নির্ধারিত মূল্য পরিশোধ সাপেক্ষে পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্সের ইএডভি শাখা (কক্ষ নং ১১২, নীচতলা) হতে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।

৬। অস্বীকৃত উন্নয়ন প্রস্তাবনা জমা করার ডেডলাইনঃ কোম্পানীসমূহের প্রতিনিধিত্বপূর্ণ সরবরাহকৃত উন্নয়ন প্রস্তাবনার বিষয়ে প্রি-বিড সভায় তাদের মন্তব্য/মতামত/সুপারিশ ব্যাক করতে পারবেন।

৭। প্রস্তাব জমা দেয়ার স্থানঃ
(i) পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স (অভ্যর্থনা কক্ষ), ফনিলা রোড, ফুলবাড়িয়া, ঢাকা।
(ii) উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (ইএডভি), ঢাকা মহানগর পুলিশ, ৩৬, শহীদ ক্যাম্পেট মনসুর আলী সড়কী (২৭ পার্ক এডিনিটি), ঢাকা এর কার্যালয়।

৮। ইতোপূর্বে যেসকল ডেভেলপার কোম্পানীসমূহ প্রকল্প প্রস্তাবনার কপি জমা করবেন তাহাদের পুনরায় জমা করার প্রয়োজন নেই। তবে তারা প্রি-বিড সভায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবেন।

৯। বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ কল্যাণ ট্রাস্ট কোন কারণে প্রদর্শিত বাস্তবিকভাবে যে কোন প্রস্তাব বা সকল প্রস্তাব গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।

মোঃ মইনুর রহমান চৌধুরী
ডিআইবি (অর্থ ও উন্নয়ন), বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
ও
সদস্য সচিব
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ কল্যাণ ট্রাস্ট
পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, ঢাকা
ফোনঃ ৯৫৬৯৯২২

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