



A farmer plants seedlings of winter hybrid paddy at a field in Sahapara under Kachua upazila of Bagerhat.

PHOTO: STAR

Hybrid paddy attracts growers

Its better yield benefits farmers in Bagerhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

The winter time hybrid paddy cultivation has become popular in Chitalmari, Kachua, Fakirhat, Mollahat and Sadar upazilas as it gives more production than normal varieties.

According to the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), farmers are cultivating the paddy on 1390 hectares of land in Chitalmari, 150 hectares in Kachua, 200 hectares in Fakirhat, 40 hectares in Bagerhat Sadar, 20 hectares in Mollahat and one hectare in Rampal.

Nakib Foysal, chairman of Badhal Union Parishad in Kachua, said the growers are now busy cultivating land, making seedbeds and planting the seedlings from dawn to dusk. It seems to be an agricultural revolution.

They are getting 40 to 45 maunds of paddy from each bigha of land, he said.

Farmer of Sangdia village in Kachua upazila Sabuj Kumar Das, also the sub-assistant agriculture officer of Pirojpur Sadar Agriculture Office, said he is cultivating the hybrid rice of Lalteer paddy variety

on his 2.5 bighas of land.

There is no alternative to cultivate hybrid rice variety as they get 30 to 40 percent more paddy than other normal varieties like high yielding variety (HYV), he said.

Milon Saha, a grower of Sahapara area in Kachua said hybrid rice production method is similar to HYV rice cultivation system.

"I planted the hybrid variety Shathi on one bigha of land this year. I got 45 maunds of paddy last year," he said.

Another farmer of the area Kali Das Shaha said "During planting, water will be kept on the land for planting 30-35 days old seedlings by mid January. We are planting it in rows."

Bagerhat DAE Deputy Director Aftab Uddin said the farmers are cultivating more and more hybrid varieties like Chamok, Lalteer, Hira, Tej, ACI-1 Sathi, Aloran, Hira, Superagro, Mukti-1, Rupali etc on their lands because it gives more production. They are providing the growers proper guidance.

The cultivating season for the hybrid variety is November to mid January, he said.

6 CONSTITUENCIES IN PATUAKHALI, BARGUNA

All but AL candidates lose deposit

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

All contestants except those from Awami League (AL) in six constituencies of Patuakhali and Barguna lost their deposit as they failed to get one-eighth of the cast votes in the 11th Jatiya Sangsad polls held on December 30, said sources of the district election offices.

Of the 27 candidates, who lost their deposit in the six constituencies, five each are in Patuakhali-1 and 4, three each in Patuakhali-2 and 3, six in Barguna-1 and five in Barguna-2, sources in Patuakhali and Barguna district election offices said.

In Patuakhali-1 constituency, a total of 3,02,879 votes were cast. AL candidate Md Shahjahan Mia won with 2,70,970 votes while Altafar Rahman of Islami Andolon Bangladesh got 15,103 votes, Altaf Hossain Chowdhury of BNP 10,369, Abdur Rashid of Jaker Party 2,340, Sumon Sannyamot of National People's Party 1,140 and Motaleb Mollah of CPB got 1,120 votes.

In Patuakhali-2, a total of 2,02,721 votes were cast and AL candidate ASM Feroz Mia got 1,85,783 votes. Md Nazrul Islam of Islami Andolon got 9,269 votes, Salma Islam of BNP got 5,660 and Shahabuddin of CPB got 1,099 votes.

Of the 2,35,599 votes cast in Patuakhali-3, AL candidate SM Shahajada got 2,17,261 votes while defeated candidates Kamal Khan of Islami Andolon Bangladesh got 9,009 votes, Goplam Maula Roni of BNP got 6,459, and Saiful Islam of Jatiya Party got 2,002 votes.

In Patuakhali-4, a total of 2,05,190 votes were cast and AL's Md Mohibbur Rahman won with 1,88,781 votes while Md Habibur Rahman of Islami Andolon got 7,251 votes, ABM Mosharof Hossain of BNP 6,097, Abdur Rahman of Islami Oikyajote 967, Anwar Hossain Hawlader of Jatiya Party 958 and Jahurul Alom of Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal got 272 votes.

Of the 3,53,029 votes in Barguna-1, AL candidate Dhirendra Debnath Shomvu got 3,19,957 votes while Matiar Rahman Talukder of BNP got 15,344 votes, Wali Ullah of Islami Andolon 14,419, Shah Abul Kalam of Tarikat Federation 621, Khalilur Rahman of BNP 364, Rafiqul Islam of Islami Oikyajote 206 and Masud Kamal of NPP got 189 votes.

In Barguna-2, a total of 2,20,987 votes were cast and AL's Hachanur Rahman Rimon won with 2,00,325 votes. Khondokar Mahub Hossain of BNP got 9,518 votes, Golam Sarwer Hiru of Islami Andolon 8,030, Basir Uddin Biswas of Islami Oikyajote 1,124, Mizanur Rahman of Jatiya Party 631 and Md Zakir Hossain of Bangladesh Nationalist Front got 182 votes.

LACK OF APPROACH ROADS

2 culverts virtually useless in Hakaluki

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

Two culverts over two canals in Hakaluki Haor area at Shahpur village in Juri upazila remain useless due to lack of approach roads, much to the suffering of thousands of people in the area.

Upazila Project Implementation Officer (PIO) Omar Faruk said a culvert was built on the Gungijuri canal in Shahpur area on Maniksingh Bazar-Rajapur road at the initiative of the Department of Relief and Disaster Management in the fiscal year 2011-12. The work was done at a cost of around Tk 13 lakh.

Contractor Sanjit Das got the work, but he went away without building the approach roads. Later, people of the area filled both sides of the culvert with earth to make a temporary road, but it was washed away during the flood.

Juri upazila Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) Engineer Abdul Matin said they built a culvert on Pacher Khal canal in west Shahpur area under the Annual Development Program (ADP) in the fiscal year 2017-2018.

Zila Parishad member Badrul Islam got the job for around Tk 3 lakh, but the approach roads were not constructed. In order to facilitate movement, a bamboo bridge has been constructed at the initiative of locals.

Thousands of people, including school and college students of Shahpur area, use the two culverts to go to the upazila headquarters every day.

When this correspondent visited the area, he saw that the culvert on the Gungijuri canal is quite steep. Three to four people have to push a motorcycle to reach the culvert, which is around 10 feet

high from the road.

Farmers, students and patients are the worst sufferers, said Md Hanif of Shahpur village.

"The culvert could ease our life if there was proper road connectivity," said Rafiqul Islam of the village.

"We are haor people. We use boat in the rainy season and walk in the dry season. The culverts were made for the people, but we are not getting any help from those. It is only a waste of public money," said resident Azmol Mia.

Sanjit Biswas of the same area said there is a culvert on the canal, but they cannot use it, adding that they have to use a bamboo bridge. "We are suffering much because there is no alternative road," he added.

"We raised the matter in the upazila parishad (UzP) development committee's meeting and approached the upazila LGED

engineer several times to start the work, but to no effect yet," said Motosin Ali, member of the local ward under Jafornagar UP.

He filed written complaints to the LGED's upazila office and PIO office about the culverts several times, but no progress has been made, he added.

Contractors Sanjit and Badrul said as there was no mention of approach roads in the work order, it was not possible for them to build the roads.

The upazila LGED engineer said the connecting road will be built on both sides of the culvert on the Pacher Khal canal.

"In the monsoon season, the Haor area is submerged underwater, so the work will be done in the dry season," he said.

PIO Omar Faruk said he joined a few days ago. He will find out about the culvert on Gungijuri canal and take necessary steps.



People struggle to take a motorbike on a culvert over Gungijuri canal in Shahpur village under Juri upazila of Moulvibazar, which has been lying almost useless since its construction a few years ago due to lack of approach roads. Right, locals use a bamboo bridge to cross Pacher Khal canal in the same village as another culvert remains there with a similar problem.



Turkey farming changes his life

SAIKAT DEWAN, Khagrachhari

Even 10 months ago, Brishaketu Chakma, had to go through hardship, but he can run his nine-member family smoothly now.

It is turkey farming which has brought dramatic change to the life of the 54-year-old, who once worked as farm labourer to feed his family members at Gargirachhari village of Sadar upazila.

In February this year, Brishaketu set up a farm at his house with 60 turkey chicks spending Tk 80,000, and he did not look back since then. His

son-in-law, a vegetable trader of the upazila headquarters, bought the chicks for him.

The farm now has 180 turkeys, including 27 full grown, and an incubator as well. He has earned Tk 60,000 from the farm till now, said smiling Brishaketu, adding that his income is increasing day by day.

"I'm very grateful to a retired veterinary field assistant of livestock department who helped me a lot to look after the birds as I had no previous experience to deal with the turkeys," he said.

"Each egg of the birds is sold at Tk 100 and the

selling price of one-month-old turkey is Tk 500 to Tk 600, while a two-month-old is sold at Tk 1000 to Tk 1200. The meat sells for up to Tk 450 per kilogram," said Brishaketu.

"It is a profitable venture as turkeys eat vegetables, including spinach and cabbage, while you have to spend extra money to feed poultry chickens," he said.

Upazila Livestock Officer Rafiqul Islam Khan said if Brishaketu comes to them, they will train him how to treat the turkeys and give proper training in rearing the birds as well.



Brishaketu Chakma at his turkey farm at Gargirachhari village in Khagrachhari Sadar upazila. Inset, an incubator at the farm.

PHOTO: STAR

AL activists damage houses of BNP men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Awami League activists allegedly damaged four houses of BNP men in Boro Chak area of Shibganj municipality under the district yesterday.

Shikdar Md Moshir Rahman, officer-in-charge of Shibganj Police Station, confirmed the incident.

Abdul Mannan, Kawsar Ali, Abdul Ohab and Mohammad Shahin, activists of Shibganj upazila unit of BNP, are the owners of the houses.

The attackers also torched the house and poultry farm of BNP supporter Jewel in the area, said the OC, adding that locals later doused the blaze.

Informed, police went to the spot and brought the situation under control, he said.

Sarwar Jahan Sentu, office secretary of the upazila BNP, blamed local AL men for the attack.

However, none was injured during the incident, said the BNP leader.

12 of 17 candidates in 4 JS seats in Faridpur lose deposit

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Twelve MP candidates out of 17 in four constituencies of the district have lost their security deposit for failing to get one-eighth of the cast votes as per the Election Commission law.

In Faridpur-1 constituency, three MP aspirants have lost their security deposit as they failed to secure one-eighth of the cast votes in December 30 election.

They are BNP candidate Shah Md Abu Zafar, Md Waliur Rahman Rasel, contender of Islami Andolon Bangladesh, and National People's Party candidate Md Jakaria.

Abu Zafar got 27, 324 votes out of 4,010,499. He lost his security deposit for 19 votes only.

Meanwhile, Waliur Rahman Rasel got 5, 580 while Jakaria got 253 votes only.

In Faridpur-2, BNP candidate Sama Obaed Islam got 14,910 votes out of 2,087,370. KM Sarwar of Islami Andolon Bangladesh got 4, 151 votes and Md Zenul Abedin alias Bokul Mia of Bangladesh Khilafat Andolon got 657 votes.

In Faridpur-3, a total of 3,053,469 votes were cast.

In the constituency, three candidates, including BNP Vice President of the central committee Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, have lost their security deposit.

Yusuf got 21,704 votes.

Islami Andolon Bangladesh contender MM Nurul Islam got 2,827 votes and Md Rafekuzzaman Mia of Communist Party of Bangladesh got only 348 votes.

In Fairpdur-4 constituency, BNP candidate Khandakar Iqbal Hossain got 12, 380 votes out of 3, 070,695 votes, Islami Andolon Bangladesh candidate Abdul Hamid Mia got 9,010 and Communist Party of Bangladesh candidate Ataur Rahman got only 331 votes.