Farmers find hope in solar-powered irrigation

EAM ASADUZZAMAN

Life is easier now for Abu Taleb, 45, a potato farmer of Saddyo Puskuruni village in Rangpur.

A year ago, high irrigation costs for diesel-run pumps, which he bore out-ofpocket, made it difficult for him to provide for his three children.

Now, after switching to solar-powered irrigation, his livelihood has changed for the better. "I can now afford new clothes and nutritious food for my family," he said.

Like Abu Taleb, thousands of farmers in five northern districts are reaping benefits from the solar-powered irrigation system five times cheaper than diesel-run pumps.

happened after Multipurpose Development Authority (BMDA), in Rangpur Division last year, introduced the new system with the aim of promoting environment-friendly approaches to agricultural production and boosting climate-resilience of farmers.

Under the project, 50 ring wells are supposed to be set up, at a cost of Tk 22 lakh each, in Rangpur, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat and Nilphamari. So far. 34 wells have been put into operation while the rest are likely to be set up by the end of this year.

Another farmer, Yunus Ali from Botlagari Borodaha village in Nilphamari, said, "With solar-powered pumps, we pay only Tk 50 per hour for irrigation of one

bigha of land whereas the cost was Tk 250 for diesel-run shallow pumps."

Previously, Ali had to irrigate crops through multiple rounds, which meant the total cost was around Tk 2,000 for four months. Solar-powered pumps also require less rounds. "I irrigate three times per cycle now and pay around Tk 150," said

With solar-powered pumps, we pay only Tk 50 per hour for irrigation of one bigha of land, whereas the cost was Tk 250 for diesel-run shallow pumps. We had to irrigate crops in multiple rounds, which meant the total cost was around Tk 2,000 for four months. I irrigate three times per cycle now and pay around Tk 150.

FARMER YUNUS ALI

Visiting several sites in the Rangpur district, this correspondent found that six to seven solar panels were installed on umbrella-shaped metal structures above deep ring wells.

"Rainwater, or surface-level water, stored in these deep ring wells is pumped up 120 feet through these pipes, which is

Two curious, young minds caught in a moment of shared wonder as they flip through the pages of a fairytale. This is one of the many scenes from the inaugural day of the book fair organised by Sylhet Kendriya Muslim Sahitya Sangsad in the city's Dargah Gate area. The fair will continue till December 25. This photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

MUJGUNNI SHISHU PARK

Closed for 4 years in name of renovation

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

For the last four years, Mujgunni Shishu Park in Khulna city has remained closed in the name of renovation. As a result, children are being deprived of a much needed recreational place.

On February 19 in 2019, Khulna Development Authority (KDA) locked the gates of the park with the promise of "modernisation". Although there are eight parks under Khulna City Corporation

(KCC), none of them have recreational facilities

for children. Jatishangha Hadis Park, Nirala and Sonadanga Residential Area and Solar Park KCC under are occupied people of all ages all day long. Only KCC's Khalishpur wonderland park is dedicated to children.

In 2007, KDA established Mujgunni Shishu Park on 8.67 acres of land in Mujgunni residential area. The authorities leased the park to SS World, a private company, on April 18, 2007.

among children because of its facilities.

Locals claim that since 2009, the park's environment had been deteriorating. KDA cancelled the park's lease on January 22, 2019 due to various allegations of unethical activities inside the park, illegal construction of structures within the park's boundaries, and renting out areas to third-party groups.

On February 19 of that year, the park's lessee was evicted, and the establishment was locked up by

(4" x.4 ool.)



park has been closed ever Visiting site recently, this correspondent didn't

see any workers in action. The pond inside the park was covered with hyacinth. It has turned into a breeding zone for mosquitoes. The park is filled with tall grass and weeds.

The rides that used to exist there The park was quite the rave have either been sold or shifted to other places.

Sheikh Sazzad Hossain, a resident of ward-9, said, "The park should be opened immediately. There's no recreational spot in the area where locals can walk or gather."

Sheikh Ashraf Uz Zaman, president of Greater Khulna Development Sangram Coordination Committee, echoed

Md Faruq Hossain, the park's lone security guard, said it is not possible to take care of the park 24/7. It has

এসেনসিয়াল ড্রাগস্ কোম্পানী লিমিটেড

Meanwhile, KDA invited tenders on November 22, 2021 to lease out the park. But the process was cancelled due to a lack of qualified institutions.

On September 15 this year, KDA again issued a lease notice.

The last day of the tender invitation was October 12. The tender submission period was extended till October 27. Until the last date, only two bidders applied, said officials, adding that they decided to lease the park to one of them.

Contacted, Md Bodiuzzaman, director (estate) of KDA, said the park was leased out to SS World in 2007 to preserve its natural beauty and build a place for children to play.

"SS World couldn't maintain such an atmosphere in the park and hasn't paid the rent for a long time. We evicted the illegal structures and locked the park," he said.

"We're planning to renovate the park with modern rides. We... will take initiatives to open the park soon," he said.

পক্ষেঃ ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক ।

Illegal brick kilns back in business

Local farmers are getting frustrated as two illegal brick kilns, demolished by the local administration over one and a half years ago in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, have started operation once again.

In February last year, Lalmonirhat Department of Environment (DoE) conducted a mobile court drive and demolished two illegal brick fields -- SUN Bricks and SIR Bricks -- which were set up illegally on farmlands at Purbo Saptana village in the upazila.

The owners of the two brick kilns, however, repaired those quickly and resumed operations shortly after the mobile court left the area.

Locals said the two brick fields had been set up illegally on croplands around 20 years ago.

Although the fields were demolished during a drive in 2021, they never stopped their operations, they said, adding that even though the DoE took action in the face of agitation from local farmers, it did not yield any

Farmers said due to emission of toxic smoke and heat from the brick kilns, vast croplands around the brick fields are losing their fertility, and people were not getting expected harvest. Farmer Abul Kashem said the owners of the brick

fields are so influential that no one dares to protest out of fear of being harassed. "If such activities don't stop immediately, our

ricultural production will halt." he added. SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

'Protect our graveyard' Residents of 3 villages form human chain

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Demanding intervention of local authorities, people of three villages formed a human chain yesterday, demanding a stop to soil extraction from a graveyard in Dinajpur's Phulbari upazila.

The protestors also submitted a letter to Phulbari upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) in this regard.

Around 200 people from three villages Basudebpur, Nurpur and Dadpur -- formed the hour-long human chain near the graveyard at Basudebpur village

They said residents of these villages have been using the graveyard for the burial rites for



Stakeholders can deal with Evaly on own accord

HC says in full text of order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court in the full text of an order has cleared the way for banks and other stakeholders to deal with beleaguered e-commerce platform Evaly on their own accord.

"Since this court has never passed any order to halt the activities of Evaly, it is for the banks and other stakeholders to deal with Evaly as per their choice. This court expected that if Evaly is allowed to carry on its normal business, eventually, it may be a profitable concern," the HC bench of Justice Muhammad Khurshid Alam Sarkar said in the three-page full text of the order, which was released yesterday.

Earlier on December 6 this year, the HC passed the order on this issue after disposing of an application filed by Evaly, seeking directives necessary on the relevant state SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

PRAYER TIMING **DECEMBER 13**

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha AZAN 5-15 12-45 3-45 5-19 7-00 JAMAAT 5-50 1-15 4-00 5-22 7-30 JRCE: **ISLAMIC FOUNDATION**



 $\frac{2^{n}}{8}$, begin $10^{\frac{2^{n}}{8}}$, fluorum eqs., symme 10^{n} , gm 10^{n} ঞ্চপ- G ২০২৬ সালের বাসরসনি ও এইচরসনি পরীক্ষার করেতেটোর দীট ও দল হৈছা। রাশ- H ৯৩ শাইত তেপ কাবলে জাপত্র মোড়ালো বৃত্ত প্রস্থাতের বিভিউটে গাম কৈটা arm । টোরসেশ্যা নীটা (অন্টিনিটিটিঃ) ১৫"×১১", ১০০ জিনসভাম, ন কাম্যা কার্যসেই কাম্যান মালাসে রাশ- J ২০২৫ সালের এসএগলি ৬ এইচএসনি পরীক্ষা সভ্রোপ্ত বিভিন্ন রাকার করম স্বাপানে সাময় শ্বামি श्राभद्र जुद्ध स्था শ্বরক ন্য: ছবিমেন্ড্রশ্-২/টে কমিট/১৬/৯৫ (কংশ-৪), করিন্য ১৯/১২/১৮২২টা দাপর পিডিউল ভার্টনালাভ ও দাবাটি মাইনচাচে ও সাবাটি এবং 26/14/R033 WEE 03/01/Apito 08/01/3046 बरात प्रतिश । मध्य शक ३३,००मि नर्गश्च com drop (filed) (fil शास्त्रीक = प्रेक्ष कार्तीक निकारका, प्रकृत्य : क्षमणदिल श्रीक म्हल्या PER SERIO পতিব, মাধানিক ও উক্ত মাধানিক শিক্ষা কোৱা, চউন্নাম এর অনুকৃত্যে কাশ- ম' ৩,০০০/-, কাশ- B' - ২,০০০/-भवनाव मिन्द्रस्य दला APPL C 2,000/, APPL D 2,000/, APPL E 180/, APPL F 100/, APPL D/ 100/, APPL H sool, are I sool, are I sool, for oncie "from unit north" units, wer-१३७५७०००० काम कलाईन लाज्ये लोडिकड़ निमान्यक्रीतिनायकि सार्व वर प्रमाद नीताना করে অভ্যাইদে নবশর তার করা থাকে। HEMINISTERS STREET शामराताम (du. पूर्व 8086) द्वीर मारिएमा, शामराताम नारक राष्ट्रमधार रहता, चांडकर महिलाएसा शामराताम द्धाराज, कार्ड मिल्लीकल राम्म, प्रक्रिकात राम्म (काम महन्त्रहै)चान-महन्त्रहै/पाशक्तरिक दक्षिण सह করেছে এ রকম কার্যালেশের মনি। মূল নানি স্বয়েনির করে ক্ষালাইটো দাবিল করতে মানে। ব্যৱসায় কৰ্ম (মানুনীয়ানি) THE THE N. AT 4,00,000/1, B. PT 4,00,000/1, C. PT 4,00,000/1, T PT. \$,00,000), E-#M 90,000), F-#M 90,000), G-#M 00,000), H-#M 80,000) T প্ৰশা- ৪০,০০০/, 'J- প্ৰশা বহ,০০০/ ইন্সা পৰিং, সাম্যামিক ও উক্ত মাধ্যমিক শিকা পোৱা, মইলাম এব অনুবাদ পে-অমীয়ালয়কে ভ্ৰাকট কলে উচ্চ পে-অমীয়াখাকে ভ্ৰাকট কমিব, অধ্যতিক ও উদ্ধ সাধানিক শিক্ষা ्रार्थ, प्रदेशक अर प्रमुक्त विकारिक नवर्गिका नाम विकार विकित्य (UCBL) साधावत ता त्यस मध्यक त्यार्थत Torre et: 07811010000000000 une Fick ce-reducere gred de redirefe a unexion efen-WITH YOU THRUSTON WITH WHIT FACE BOX I দরশর রাউন্যানত ও সাধার্মিই সংরোধ বিষয়ে বিশ্বারিক কার জনবর 09611-991188/01837-685936

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হতে। তথাৰী কৰুনিক বেচন কৰেন কৰিবল ব্যক্তিকেতে যে কেনে দলনাম প্ৰহণ ও নাৰ্চনাৰ কমাৰা সংক্ৰমণ কৰেন।



মদণ দাটৰ

ROW ROSHA

ब्राप्टमन पूक्तम बाधकम घटनान PHT6-04349 গ্ৰহাটক ৬ উক্ত ভাৰাটক শিক্ষা বোৰ্ড, ভৌলান

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