



A farmer tends to a tomato plant in a char of the Dhaleshwari river in Betuajani village of Nagarpur upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

Vegetable farming replacing tobacco in chars

OUR CORRESPONDENT, TANGAIL

Farmers who used to grow tobacco only a few years ago in char areas of the Dhaleshwari river in Nagarpur upazila, have started growing vegetables there.

The conversion has been made possible through years of motivation by the officials of Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Nagarpur.

Many farmers this correspondent spoke with, in Betuajani village under Mokna union of the upazila, said they used to grow tobacco in the area. But now, after being convinced by the DAE, they found success in cultivating other crops, especially vegetables.

Most winter and summer vegetables such as tomato, bean, cauliflower, cabbage, bottle gourd and brinjal grow well in the chars of the Dhaleshwari, they also said.

Farmer Karim Sheikh said, "We

grew tobacco before, but now, thanks to support and advice from the local agriculture office, we've been successful in growing different vegetables here."

Another farmer, Abdus Sabur, said the DAE office trained them on how to use organic fertilisers in the vegetable fields and protect the vegetables from pest attacks through the use of sex pheromone traps.

Agents of different seed suppliers also provide helpful advice to the farmers, he also said.

According to the DAE in Nagarpur, tomato was being cultivated on 85 hectares of land in the upazila this year.

A number of farmers, however, said they are often incurring losses due to falling prices by the time they harvest the tomato.

They said they could rip the maximum benefit from tomato cultivation if they could store the

excess produce in a cold storage in the area.

Abdul Matin Biswas, the DAE officer in Nagarpur upazila, said only several years ago, many local farmers cultivated tobacco in the chars.

They were converted into growing vegetables with the assurance that growing vegetables is easier and profitable, as opposed to the cultivation of tobacco that is harmful to humans as well as to the environment.

The farmers were trained on how to ripen the tomato without any chemical, by following natural methods. Now the local farmers are producing winter and summer vegetables including tomato in huge quantities in the char areas.

"Moreover, to ensure fair prices for their produce, we connect them with vegetable vendors, from Tangail and Dhaka, who procure safe organic vegetables from the char farmers," he added.

Man sent to jail for raping in-law

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A Lalmonirhat court yesterday sent a man, 56, to jail after he was produced before it for raping his disabled daughter-in-law in Kaliganj upazila.

Amjad Hossain Bhola, a rickshaw-van puller, was arrested on Monday night after a case was filed that night by the victim, said Kaliganj Police Station OC Sajjad Hossain.

The woman was sent to Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital for medical tests yesterday morning, he added.

The woman had been staying at her in-law's house since her marriage with Amjad's son eight months ago and her husband stays elsewhere for work. On Monday, their neighbours responded to her call for help and caught Amjad in the act of raping the woman, said police.

3 get life term for 2 murders in Habiganj, Rajbari

STAR COUNTRY DESK

A man on Monday got life term imprisonment for killing his mother in Habiganj while two others were awarded the same for a murder in Rajbari.

Additional District and Sessions Judge SM Nasim Reza in Habiganj sentenced a man to life term imprisonment for killing his mother in Madhabpur upazila about 16 years ago, reports our Moulvibazar correspondent.

The convict, Dipu Sarkar, son of Rajmohan Goshwami of Akhtarpur village, was tried in absentia.

The judge also fined him Tk 10,000. In default, he is to suffer two years more in prison.

According to the prosecution, Dipu told his mother Rasna Bala Sarkar to serve his meal on April 15 in 2004.

As Rasna took some time to serve the food, Dipu got angry and hit her on the head with a stick, leaving her seriously injured.

Locals took Rasna to a nearby hospital where she died the same night.

The following day, deceased's husband Rajmohan filed a murder case with Madhabpur Police Station against Dipu and police submitted the charge sheet on

July 3 the same year, said Advocate Saleh Ahmed, assistant public prosecutor.

Our Fairdpur Correspondent reports: A Rajbari court on Monday sentenced two men to life term imprisonment for killing a man in 2011.

The convicts are Aftab Uddin Sheikh, 36, son of Lalon Sheikh, and Ayub Ali Biswas, 34, son of Abdur Razzak Biswas of Tenapocha village under Goalanda upazila in Rajbari.

"Nilufar Sultana, judge of the District and Sessions Judge's Court, pronounced the verdict in absence of the convicts. The court also fined Tk 50,000 to each, in default they are to suffer more six months in jail. The court acquitted 12 others from the case," said Public Prosecutor Uzir Ali Sheikh.

According to the prosecution, there was a conflict between the convicts and Ershad Mollah, 28, of Tenapocha village over playing card. On July 26 in 2011, Ershad went out from his house to take tea but he did not return.

The next day, his body was found in a playground of the same village and his elder brother Sirajul Mollah filed a murder case against 14 people with Goalanda Police Station.



Boatmen and passengers alike push a boat, loaded with goods, livestock and passengers, through knee-deep water of the Brahmaputra river in Kurigram. Receding water over the last four weeks in the river has resulted in navigation problems for vessels plying between several river ports including Kurigram's Chilmari Ramna, Rowmari and Rajibpur and Sundarganj in Gaibandha. The photo was taken on Monday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

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