

A village that thrives on eco-friendly product

RABIUL HASAN, back from Mahadevpur, Naogaon

Over time, Bhalain village in Naogaon's Mahadevpur upazila has adopted the name of 'pakha graam', where eco-friendly handheld fans are made from leaves of palmyra palm trees.

Out of the two hundred families that live in the village, 35 kilometres away from Naogaon town, most are now involved in making the handheld fans, also known as 'taal pakha'.

Almost everyone in Bhalain -- young and old, schoolchildren and housewives -- use their spare time in the making of the fans, contributing to attaining economic stability of their households and ultimately that of their rural economy.

While speaking with the villagers recently, many said it is possible for one person to make about Tk 70 from making 100 hand fans every day.

'Taal pakha' maker Anwar Hossain has been in the trade for 20 years. He and his wife with three female workers can make around six to seven thousand fans in one month, he said.

After finishing household chores at their own houses, the workers come to his house in the morning and start making fans.

A palmyra leaf is first cut to give it a rounded shape with its main stem sticking out, so it can be used as the handle of the fan. Fine stalks, carved out of bamboo strips and dipped in paint, are then sewn on both sides of the leaf's outer edge. Finally, colourful motifs are hand-painted on the fan.



Anwar's wife Shiuli Begum said she helps out her husband every day while she also takes care of their two children and everyday household work.

Saidul Islam, a 'taal pakha' trader, said about 25 years ago, when his family did not own any land, he started to help his father in his hand fan trading business. They used to buy hand fans from Bhalain village and sell those at different markets in Naogaon.

The family turned the corner after they started to make the fans themselves. Now Saidul employs five female workers to make hand fans at a small factory set up in

his house.

He now makes a decent living from the factory that produces over eight thousand pieces of hand fans per month. With the income, he made an earthen two-storey house on six decimals of land and bought a motorbike too, said Saidul, whose father still makes hand fans at 65 years of age.

Each piece of palmyra leaf, the main component, is bought for Tk 5 from different parts of Naogaon. After spending about Tk 3 more on bamboo stalks, paint, threads and labour, each fan usually sells for Tk 10 to 12, he said.

Cutting and preparation of the components are usually done by male workers, while the sewing, painting and finishing touches are done by female workers. Sometimes students in their free time also take part in the work alongside their parents.

Although 'taal pakha', made in Bhalain village, is now available in all major cities including Dhaka, Chattogram Sylhet and Rajshahi for their high demands, its makers are sometimes incurring losses due to fund shortage, Saidul said.

In order to recover the money invested throughout the year, they are often compelled to sell the excess production at low prices during cooler months, when demand for hand fans diminishes.

Bhalain village fan makers would find it greatly beneficial if commercial banks would come forward to offer them small loans at affordable interest rates, Saidul added.



A worker makes a handheld fan, top left, from leaf of palmyra palm trees in Bhalain village of Naogaon's Mahadevpur upazila.

PHOTO: STAR



A farmer works at his vegetable garden in Kagoil union of Bogura's Gabtoli upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

HOMESTEAD GARDENING

An endeavour to help Bogura farmers

MOSTAFA SHABUI, Bogura

The Covid-19 crisis has made lives of many people, especially marginal farmers, miserable. To overcome this situation, the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Bogura has recently taken an initiative to distribute free vegetable seeds and money among the marginal farmers under the gardening project.

As many as 3488 farmers in the district have got the benefit from the project till now, said Md Shahaduzzaman, additional deputy director of DAE in Bogura.

He added that they have lunched a year-round gardening project around homesteads in the district in June this year.

During a recent visit, this correspondent found that a number of farmers in Kagoil union of Gabtoli upazila were enjoying the benefit from the project.

Palash Candra, a farmer of Daskandi village in the upazila, said he has been harvesting organic vegetables from the garden for the last two months.

Earlier, he got 12 types of vegetable seeds and a cheque of Tk 1935 to make garden from the DAE authority, said the 60-year-old grower.

Mahbubur Rahman of Hizli village said "Our income has decreased amid the pandemic. The price of every vegetable item has increased significantly due to the prolonged flood but we are enjoying

benefit from the gardening project."

Monwara Begum of Koichar village said the greater benefit is that they are getting chemical-free vegetables from this garden.

Tabibur Rahman, another grower of Kagal village, said "We are getting sufficient vegetables from this one-decimal garden in the crisis time. After seeing my garden, many villagers started homestead gardening."

Farmer Shahidul Islam of Koichor village said "Before starting this homestead gardening, I spent Tk 400 to Tk 600 for buying vegetables for my extended family every week, but now I can save this money."

However, every farmer of the union is not getting the opportunity. Only selected farmers are getting this benefit.

Upazila sub-assistant agriculture officer Zannatul Mohol said a farmer, who has one decimal of land at their home yard to make garden, is getting the benefit.

Only 32 farmers in a union have got this benefit from the gardening project, said the officer.

Bogura DAE Deputy Director Md Dulal Hossain said they started the year-round project to support the farmers amid the pandemic.

He further added that in the first phase, 32 farmers in a union parishad got the opportunity to make the garden.

Criminals stab driver, loot auto-rickshaw

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Criminals stabbed a battery-run auto-rickshaw driver and snatched his vehicle in Sarail upazila on Friday.

Critically injured Abdul Hai, 13, son of Helal Mia of Swalpo-Noagaon village under Sadar union, was first taken to Sarail Upazila Health Complex, from where he was shifted to a hospital in the capital for better treatment.

Quoting the victim's family members, police said two unidentified men boarded on Hai's auto-rickshaw in guise of passengers on Friday night.

When they reached near Islamabad area the duo stabbed Hai on his throat from the back and took away his vehicle.

Later, another auto-rickshaw driver Milon, who was crossing the area, found Hai lying in a pool blood, rescued the boy and took him to the upazila health complex.

Bakki Mia, general secretary of Sarail upazila Auto-Rickshaw Workers and Owners' Association, said another such incident occurred at the same place about one and a half months ago.

OC of Sarail Police Station Nazmul Ahmed said they were investigating the matter.

One killed, 10 injured in villagers clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A man was killed in a clash between two rival groups of villagers over establishing supremacy in their locality in Sadar upazila yesterday.

The deceased, Farid Hossain, 45, was son of late Moin Farazi of Bhabanipur village.

Meanwhile, at least 10 people from both sides were injured during the clash that took place around 10:00am.

Officer in Charge (OC) of Sadar Model Police Station Kamruzzaman Talukder said there had been a feud between two rival groups, one led by local Awami League (AL) leaders Liaquat Ali, Badshah Mia and Reza Mandol and the other by Rashidul and Labu for long.

As a sequel to the conflict, both the groups locked in a fierce clash that left Farid killed and 10 others injured, police said.

রেজিস্ট্রার দপ্তর

যশোর বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

যশোর-৭৪০৮, বাংলাদেশ

নং-যবিপ্রবি/রেজিঃ(একাঃ)/১৪২৩/এম.ফিল ও পিএইচ.ডি ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি/২০১৯-১৮৭৬



Office of the Registrar

Jashore University of Science & Technology

Jashore-7408, Bangladesh

তারিখঃ ২২/০৯/২০২০খ্রিঃ

(একই স্মারক ও তারিখ স্থলাভিষিক্ত)

ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

(পূর্ণকালীন এম.ফিল ও পিএইচ.ডি প্রোগ্রাম)

অত্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে পূর্ণকালীন এম.ফিল ও পিএইচ.ডি প্রোগ্রামে ২০২০-২০২১ শিক্ষাবর্ষের জুলাই-২০২০খ্রিঃ সেমিস্টারে পরিবেশ বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি, জেনেটিক ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং এন্ড টেকনোলজি, ইন্ডাস্ট্রিয়াল এন্ড প্রডাকশন ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং, ফার্মেসী, রসায়ন, ইংরেজি এবং মার্কেটিং বিভাগে ছাত্র-ছাত্রী ভর্তির জন্য নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তে নির্ধারিত ফরমে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

১. এম.ফিল প্রোগ্রামে আবেদন করার সাধারণ যোগ্যতা ও শর্তাবলীঃ

- Candidates must have Master's Degree/an equivalent Degree obtained from this University/a recognized University in the relevant/related subjects.
- Candidates having at least second class Honours Degree with 50% marks in total or CGPA 3.00 (out of 4) and second class Masters Degree with 50% marks or CGPA 3.00 (out of 4) shall be eligible for admission. In case of Degree pass Examination, candidates must have one first class or CGPA 3.5 (out of 4) either at Degree Pass Course or Master's level.
- Candidates having M.B.B.S degrees with 50% marks in total or CGPA 3.00 (out of 4) shall be eligible for admission to the M. Phil Program.

২. পিএইচ.ডি প্রোগ্রামে আবেদন করার সাধারণ যোগ্যতা ও শর্তাবলীঃ

- Candidates must have Master's Degree/an equivalent Degree obtained from this University/a recognized University in the relevant/related subjects. Candidates should have a strong academic record with not less than 55% marks or CGPA 3.25 (out of 4) both in Honours and Master's degree and have minimum 2 (two) years teaching/research experience in any recognized institution.
- Candidates, who have four years Honours with MS/M.Sc degree can be enrolled directly to the PhD Program.
- Candidates having M. Phil Degree obtained from any recognized University shall be eligible for admission to the PhD program.
- Candidates having 3rd division at any level shall not be eligible for admission to the PhD program, except in cases of candidates having first class both in Honours and Master's level or CGPA 3.50 with an outstanding contribution in the field of their research interest and have minimum 2 (two) years teaching/research experience in any recognized institution and have minimum 2 (two) research publications in recognized journals. This clause may be relaxed for candidates having outstanding research carrier with the approval of the Academic council.
- The teachers of this University or of any other University who do not satisfy the condition given in clause 2 (a) of the ordinance shall be eligible to apply for admission to the PhD program. It is noted that they have minimum 2 (two) years teaching experience in any recognized university and have minimum 2 (two) research publications in the field of their research interest in standard academic journals.

৩. আবেদন ফরম সংগ্রহ ও জমা দেওয়ার নিয়মাবলীঃ

১ ও ২ এ বর্ণিত যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন প্রার্থীগণকে স্ব-স্ব বিভাগ থেকে এম.ফিল আবেদন ফরম বাবদ ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা এবং পিএইচ.ডি আবেদন ফরম বাবদ ১০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা রশিদের মাধ্যমে জমা দিয়ে ফরম সংগ্রহ করতে হবে। প্রাথমিক আবেদন ফরম সঠিকভাবে পূরণ করে আগামী ১৯/১০/২০২০খ্রিঃ তারিখের মধ্যে (ছুটির দিন ব্যতীত) স্ব-স্ব বিভাগে জমা দিতে হবে। আবেদনপত্রের সঙ্গে অবশ্যই সকল পর্যায়ের পরীক্ষার সত্যায়িত মার্কশীট, সনদপত্রের অনুলিপি, তিন কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের সদ্য তোলা রঙিন ছবি ও ১ সেট গবেষণা প্রস্তাব/সিনপসিস জমা দিতে হবে। চাকুরীভিত্তিক প্রার্থীগণকে নিজ নিজ নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে লিখিত অনুমতিপত্র আবেদনপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে। গবেষণা প্রস্তাব ব্যতীত/ক্রেতাপূর্ণ/অসম্পূর্ণ বা বিলম্বে প্রাপ্ত আবেদনপত্র (নির্ধারিত সময়ের পর) গ্রহণ করা হবে না।

৪. ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত যে কোন তথ্য বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েবসাইট (<https://just.edu.bd>) অথবা স্ব-স্ব বিভাগ হতে জানা যাবে।

/স্বাক্ষরিত

প্রকৌশলী মোঃ আহসান হাবীব

রেজিস্ট্রার

যশোর বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

GD-1613



People of Batajore and Sharikal union, under the banner of 'Bhuktabhugi Purbanchalio Janagan', form a human chain in Barishal's Babuganj upazila, demanding immediate steps to repair the 20 kilometre-long Batajore-Sharikal road that connects Birshrestho Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir Library.

PHOTO: STAR