



"Gaach Bari", in Laxmandia village of Shailakupa upazila, overlooks a meticulously landscaped lush green garden, trimmed skilfully to perfection.

PHOTO:  
AZIBOR RAHMAN

## A green enclave called 'Gaach Bari'

AZIBOR RAHMAN WITH FIROZ A MUZAHID

Everyone in Laxmandia village, in Shailakupa upazila, feels proud when visitors from faraway places come looking for "Gaach Bari" in their village.

Tucked away in an ordinary village, 12 kilometres from Jhenidah district town, "Gaach Bari" is no ordinary house.

The two-storey green retreat, covered in wall creepers all around, is an absolute delight to the eyes of a tree enthusiast or even an occasional traveller or wanderer.

The compound of the house is spread out on about 15 bighas of land and the centrepiece, the house, overlooks a meticulously landscaped lush green garden that consists of nearly 5,000 various plants including green shrubs and hedges -- trimmed skilfully to perfection.

The owner of the house, avid tree lover Aminul Islam, collected the plants from home and abroad. An established entrepreneur and supplier of embroidered merchandise, Aminul found his way to success by doing embroidery works that he learned from his mother at his young age.

Between 1990 and 2018, when he started buying more land next to his

ancestral land, his primary intention was to build a workshop for rural women who earn their livelihood by doing embroidery works.

But after it was finished, the house went unused as the workers preferred to work from their own homes where they also have to do their household chores.

Nature lover Aminul then decided to do something worthwhile to the empty house and became engrossed in using greenery to create his country hideaway. He reserved the rooftop for planting fruit trees only.

Rita, Nagalinam, Amazon lily, Wisteria, golden shower, necklace flower are among some of the exotic trees that can be seen at the house, while notable local varieties include Kanchan, Palash, Ashok, Krishnachura, Keshia, Kutoraj, Sonalu, Mohua, Hijal and Tomal.

The larger trees in the house have somewhat turned into a sanctuary of wild birds, sighting of which is an added attraction for visitors.

Aminul employs three fulltime attendants to look after "Gaach Bari". He and his wife Snigdha Islam live in Dhaka. They have a boy and a girl.

## Floods leave Tangail lemon growers in utter despair

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Lemon growers in Tangail have incurred huge losses after their lemon orchards were hit hard by the recent devastating and prolonged floods as well as heavy rains.

Lemon has been cultivated commercially in six out of total 12 upazilas in the district. The upazilas are Delduar, Nagarpur, Mirzapur, Sakhipur, Chatail and Madhupur.

Of the areas, Delduar, Mirzapur and Madhupur are major lemon producing upazilas in the district.

According to the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Tangail, lemon was cultivated on 2157 hectares of land this year with a target to produce 43000 tonnes of lemon.

Lemon orchards on 380 hectares of land in the district were fully damaged by the three phases of floods in July and August.

During a recent visit, it was seen that the lemon orchards were damaged mostly in Sadar, Laohati and Fazilhati unions of Delduar upazila and Mokna, Pakutia and Mamudnagar in Nagarpur upazila and Banail, Anatara, Warshi and Jamurki unions in Mirzapur upazila.



Humayun Kabir stands beside his flood-damaged lemon orchard in Tangail's Delduar upazila.

PHOTO:  
STAR

Around 500 lemon growers in the areas incurred losses.

Several affected lemon growers said they have already lost their capital. So, they sought government support in this regard.

Several lemon growers including Humayun Kabir, Refaz Talukder of Chhoanipara, Md Kodom Ali of Bhabanipur of Laohati union in Delduar upazila, Nazim Uddin,

Alam Miah and Yusuf Miah of Mokna union in Nagarpur upazila said they had raised lemon orchards taking lease of land from others.

When the lemon plants started dying days before harvest due to stagnant floodwater, they were compelled to harvest and sold out the lemon at throwaway prices, said the growers.

Humayun Kabir of Chhoanipara

of Delduar said previously he had worked at others' lemon orchard as day labourer. Later, he himself raised an orchard after taking lease of 1.2 acres of land.

"But my lemon orchard was fully damaged by the recent floods leaving me in utter despair," he said.

Several lemon wholesalers including Minhaz Miah of Putiajani market, Rashedul Alam of Laohati and Ainal Haque of Fazilhati market said they have bought lemon from the local growers at lower prices after floodwater entered the orchards.

After many orchards were damaged by flooding, now the prices of lemon have shoot up due to short supply.

"Now we buy a sack of lemon at Tk 5000 while it was only Tk 2000 before the floods," said wholesaler Minhaz Miah.

Agriculturist Ahsanul Bashar, deputy director of DAE in Tangail, said they have no allocation for the lemon growers.

However, they have sent a proposal to the higher authorities in this regard, he added.

## Man held for raping step-daughter

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Police yesterday arrested a man in connection with a case for raping his 15-year-old step-daughter in Bagerhat Sadar upazila on Saturday.

Police later produced arrestee Ibadat Sheikh, 32, before a Bagerhat court that sent him to jail.

Earlier in the morning, victim's mother filed a rape case with Sadar Model Police Station against Ibadat, Officer in Charge of the police station KM Azizul Islam said. According to the prosecution, Ibadat raped the girl when her mother and two younger siblings were not present at home on Saturday evening.



The month-long traditional boat race festival, which began on Chalabeel in Pabna's Bhangura upazila in early October, concluded on Friday amid festivity.

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## Lalon's shrine reopens after seven months

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

After seven months of closure, the shrine of Baul king Fakir Lalon Shah at Chheuria in Kushtia has been reopened for the Lalon followers and visitors.

The district administration reopened the shrine on Thursday.

From now, it will remain open between 9am and 6pm every day, said Deputy Commissioner (DC) Aslam Hossain, also the president of Lalon Academy.

Bauls and devotees of Lalon can enter the shrine only on some conditions, which include maintaining health guidelines, hygiene, and social distancing, said the DC.

"We will strictly monitor whether the health rules are being followed," he said, adding that the members of Lalon Academy are working for this.

On Friday, Selim Haque, a member of the convening committee of Lalon Academy, said the Bauls and devotees of Lalon were entering the shrine following all safety, hygiene and social



Kushtia district administration reopens Lalon's shrine on Thursday after seven months of closure. Lalon followers enter the shrine following all safety and hygiene.

PHOTO:  
STAR

distancing measures.

Baul Akul fakir of Cheuria area said they are very happy to enter the shrine, which was closed for almost seven months due to coronavirus outbreak.

According to the Lalon Academy, the shrine remained closed since

March 17 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

All kinds of programmes including the 130th death anniversary of Baul king Fakir Lalon Shah have been cancelled this year due to the pandemic.

## Housewife murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A woman was tortured to death allegedly by her husband and in-laws over family feud at Char-Awtapara village in Ishwardi upazila early yesterday.

The victim, Oishee Khatun, 20, was wife of Jahid Hossain of the village. Police said culprit Jahid and his family members went into hiding soon after the incident.

Quoting the deceased's relatives, Officer in Charge (OC) of Ishwardi Police Station Sheikh Nasir Uddin said Jahid and his family member might have killed Oishee and later hanged the body from the ceiling of her room so that it looks like a suicide incident.

The victim might have been killed over her husband's extra martial affair, he quoted locals as saying.

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