



To celebrate the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Abdul Kadir, inset, has created the landscaped mural on 35 decimals of his crop land in Parakhalbala village of Mymensingh's Ishwarganj upazila.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

CELEBRATING MUJIB BARSHO

Farmer makes Bangabandhu mural with vegetable plants

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Many people proved their love for Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in many different forms before. But most likely in a first in the country, a farmer in Ishwarganj upazila has expressed his love for the Father of the Nation by creating an aesthetic landscaped mural in a crop field.

Abdul Kadir has created the mural on 35 decimals of land in his village home Parakhalbala. The main components the farmer used in the mural are red amaranth (laal shaak) and mustard plants.

"Depicting Bangabandhu with symbols of Bangladesh in a crop field is first of its kind in the country," said Sadhan Chandra Guha Majumder, agriculture officer in the upazila.

Kadir said he always wanted to do something extraordinary on the occasion of Bangabandhu's birth centenary and the

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country's golden jubilee of Independence. "At a young age, I learned that we won the War of Independence over the occupation forces of Pakistan under the steadfast leadership of Bangabandhu in 1971.

"I also learned that he was from a family of farmers and an advocate of

agricultural revolution. So I wanted to do something in my capacity on the occasion of Bangabandhu's birth centenary and shared my ideas with young members of 'Parakhalbala Bandhumahal Digital Club' [a local social club]."

The club members enthusiastically provided necessary support to Kadir in implementing his idea. With their support, on December 3, they etched forms of Bangabandhu's portrait, his party symbol boat, the national flower and the National Martyrs' Memorial in the crop field that was cleared up before.

They later planted seedlings of red amaranth and mustard along the etched marks of the art forms. The plants started to grow taller this week and their mural became visible clearly to all, Kadir added.

Kadir's eldest son Ekram Hossain, an SSC examinee, said he feels proud about his father when he sees how people from

all walks of life are appreciating the mural his father created with the help of the club members.

He also hoped that his father's creative work will inspire the younger generation in the area in working towards preserving the history of the country in various other creative forms.

Mohammad Oliullah, president of 'Parakhalbala Bandhumahal Digital Club', said after figuring out how they would etch the art forms on the ground, they selected a suitable place for it in the field, which will easily catch attention of passersby.

Kadir had previously made a massive 'love sign', using vegetable plants in his field last year, but people's response toward the mural he made this year has exceeded all expectations, said a smiling Oliullah.

Ishwarganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer Zakir Hossen said Kadir deserves national recognition for such inspiring work.

'Hazol' method brings benefit to char people

The technology used for hatching hens' eggs becomes popular in Kurigram and Lalmonirhat

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Earthen pot 'Hazol', a technology used for hatching chicken eggs, has become very popular in the char areas of Brahmaputra, Dudhkumar, Teesta and Dharla rivers in Kurigram and Lalmonirhat.

Using this technology, people of char areas are ensuring 100 percent chicks from hatched eggs. There are three holes in the clay pot. Of them, the large hole is used for chickens and eggs while water is kept in the second and food in last one. The hen takes food and water from two small holes while sitting on the eggs to hatch.

As the hens do not need to leave the eggs for food and water, the chicks come out of the hatched eggs successfully.

Shaheda Begum, 35, a housewife from char Bisarpara of Brahmaputra riverbed in Chilmari union of Kurigram's Chilmari upazila, said she has been using 'Hazol' technology to hatch hens' eggs for the last one year. Using this technology, they are getting cent percent chicks.

Before using this method, they would get 45 to 50 percent of the chicks from the eggs and the remaining 50 percent of the eggs got damaged, she said.

Moiram Begum, 45, a day labourer of the same char area, said earlier the hen came out for food and water while sitting

on the eggs. Due to this, the eggs did not hatch properly.

Now they are getting cent percent chicks from the eggs using this 'Hazol' method, she said.

Kohinur Begum, 40, a housewife from Char Jorgach area in the same upazila, said she has got 60 chicks from 60 eggs using Hazol method three times a year.

Non-governmental organisations -- RDRS Bangladesh and the ICCO Cooperation -- are jointly implementing a project titled Sustainable Opportunity for Nutrition Governance (SONGO), funded by European Union in the char areas. Through this project, 'Hazol' system has been introduced in the areas.

Ahsanul Kabir Bulu, Chilmari upazila coordinator of the project, said 'Hazol' method has been introduced in the areas so that the char people can get cent percent chicks from the hatched eggs.

Char women are given training on how to make 'Hazol', he said, adding that char people are benefiting by adopting this method for the last one year.

Kurigram District Livestock Officer Abdul Hai Sarkar said char people are getting 100 percent chicks from the hatched eggs using this technology. It is very useful method. People also use the method to hatch the chicks.



Successful mandarin orange farmer Ranjan Chakma displays the exceptionally large and mouth-watering fruits that he grew in his garden at Shoileshwari village in Rangamati's Naniarchar upazila.

PHOTO: ANVIL CHAKMA

Larger and sweeter Naniarchar mandarin orange winning hearts

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Sajek in Rangamati's Baghaichhari upazila used to be known for producing sweet mandarin orange, which is simply called orange in the country. Slowly but steadily, that fame is being taken over by Naniarchar upazila of the district.

Larger than the size of a tennis ball and sweeter in taste than the ones grown in Sajek, the mandarin oranges produced in Naniarchar are gaining popularity all across the country.

Mandarin oranges are flatter on both ends than the typical sweet orange, and easy to peel. Other than vitamin C, mandarin orange is packed with a lot of minerals and antioxidants such as beta-carotene, lutein and zeaxanthin. The antioxidant in the fruit helps to lower bad cholesterol. Its skin even has many nutritional compounds.

During a recent visit to Shoileshwari village Burighat union of Naniarchar upazila, this correspondent came across several commercial gardens where hundreds of large trees were seen covered with a huge yield of mandarin oranges. Farmers and workers were seen busy plucking

ample-sized ripe mandarin oranges. The trees were supported by bamboo poles so those can withstand the heavy load of the fruits.

Ranjan Chakma, one of the garden owners in Shoileshwari village, said the fruit is very sweet and each weighs about 250 to 300 grams. Depending on weight, a pair of mandarin orange grown in his garden is now selling for Tk 40 to 80 at local markets.

Ranjan also said he cultivated total 800 saplings of mandarin orange on three acres of land in 2008. Some of the trees started producing fruit in 2013 and he started selling the fruits from 200 of the trees in 2014.

He now has 600 mandarin orange trees in his garden and most of the trees are now full of ripe fruits. "This year my investment was only Tk 1 lakh. But I already sold Tk 7 lakh worth of the fruit and I hope to sell another Tk 1 lakh worth," he added.

Ranjan's success made quite an impact in the area and many farmers are making good amount of investments in the cultivation of mandarin orange. Naba Jyoti Chakma, a resident of Namakarbari

Para of Sabekkhong union in the same upazila, said inspired by Ranjan's success, "In 2009, I planted 200 orange saplings that I bought from Ranjan. I started to sell some oranges from my garden this year."

Burighat union's Talukder para resident Dayal Chakma said with the Shoileshwari mandarin oranges gaining popularity, he planted 500 saplings of the variety on one acre of land last year.

When asked, fruit trader Shanti Chakma said the sweet mandarin orange of Naniarchar now has high demands at different markets.

No other mandarin orange variety grown in Chattogram hill tracts is as large as the ones produced in Naniarchar, said Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Rangamati.

DAE Deputy Director in Rangamati Paban Kumar Chakma said the soil in Naniarchar upazila is suitable for mandarin orange and as opposed to 8,000 tonnes of the fruit produced on 700 hectares of land last year, they expect that its production will reach 9,600 tonnes in the district from 800 hectares this year.



Hazol, an earthen pot used for hatching chicken eggs in different char areas of Lalmonirhat and Kurigram.

PHOTO: STAR

TORTURE OF WOMAN

Bogura OC, another cop sued

Court orders to probe the case and submit report within Jan 7

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

Mother of a young housewife filed a case against two policemen, including Officer in Charge (OC) of Shibganj Police Station SM Badiuzzaman, for torturing her daughter in police custody.

The other accused in the case is Ratan Kumar Roy, then a sub-inspector (SI) of the police station, now serving at Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP).

The plaintiff lodged the case with Bogura District and Sessions Judge's Court under the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act 2013 on Sunday.

Meanwhile, Judge Noreh Chandra Sarkar took the case into cognisance and ordered the authorities concerned to investigate the case by a first class magistrate and submit the report within January 7, 2021.

According to the case statement, Ramim Hasan Rimon, 20, a neighbouring youth of the victim woman, entered the housewife's room around 1:30pm on November 24, and tried to rape her forcibly, when her husband was not present at home.

Hearing her cry for help, neighbours rushed to the spot and rescued the victim.

They also caught Ramim, who had been offering illicit proposal to the victim for long, while he was trying to flee the scene.

Meanwhile, when victim's family members were taking preparation to file a case against Ramim, his relatives went to the victim's house and asked SI Ratan over phone to appear on the spot in a bid to save the culprit.

Later, SI Ratan took both Ramim and the victim woman to Shibganj Police Station, assuring her of filing an attempt to rape case against Ramim.

But surprisingly, when they reached the police station the same afternoon, OC Badiuzzaman verbally abused the victim instead of recording her complaint.

When she protests the OC's misbehaviour, SI Ratan physically assaulted her first and then put her in the lock-up of the police station.

The following day, police produced Ramim and the victim before a Bogura court, bring false allegation against the victim for her involvement in anti-social activity.

After hearing, the court granted their bail, plaintiff's lawyer Abdul Based said.

Contacted, OC Badiuzzaman refuted the allegation brought against him and denied to make any further comments in this regard.

While talking to this correspondent over phone SI Ratan said villagers caught the woman and her friend Ramim from the spot. Later, after discussing with his high officials he filed a general diary (GD) with the police station in this regard before producing them to the court.