

Sunflower farming gains popularity

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Feb 1: Sunflower farming has gained popularity in the district over the years as farmers consider it a cash crop.

According to local Agriculture Extension Department, about 100 acres of land were brought under sunflower cultivation this winter season in the district.

People are now showing interest to consume the edible oil extracted from sunflower seeds. Besides, many farmers are cultivating the crop at their own initiatives.

Agriculture Extension De-

partment officials said both the climate and the soil of Myensingh zone, which also includes Jamalpur district, are suitable for the cultivation.

Sunflower grows well on high lands and it can be cultivated in all the seasons, agriculture officials said. The crop can be harvested within 90 to 100 days, they added. About four kg seeds are required to cultivate an acre of land.

Cultivation of sunflower was started in Jamalpur ten years back at the initiatives of Agriculture Extension Department. Local people have urged the

authorities concerned to provide assistance to farmers to bring more lands under sunflower cultivation.

UNB from Panchagarh adds: Encouraged by the booming edible oil market, farmers of the district are increasingly opting for sunflower cultivation.

Sources at the AED said various programmes have been taken in up five thanas of the district to boost the output of the oilseed.

The programmes included production of hybrid variety of oilseed, bringing more lands under sunflower cultivation and extracting more oil from seeds.

"Sunflower cultivation in the district is gaining popularity alongside mustard, peanut, sesame, linseed and soybean," said an official.

Sunflower on 2,000 hectares of land was cultivated in the district last year while more lands would be brought under sunflower cultivation this year, he said.

Experts said sunflower has 55 per cent acid, which is very beneficial to human body. Nearly 15 maunds of sunflower can be produced from one acre of land, spending only Tk 800 excluding irrigation expenses. Its oil extraction rate is about 40 per cent.

Pasham Ali, a farmer of Boda thana, said he has planned to cultivate sunflower on two acres of land this season and will cultivate more in future if he gets necessary supports from the authorities concerned.

He had cultivated sunflower on one acre of land last year and earned Tk 1,500.



A Jamalpur farmer in his Sunflower field. --Star photo

Uplift projects progressing in various districts

Many development projects are progressing in various districts recently, report agencies. Some 382 development projects are being implemented in Chapainawabganj district under Food-for-Work Programme using 575 metric tons of rice and wheat.

Officials said works on the projects in five thanas and three municipalities have already begun and are expected to be completed by the current fiscal.

They said 125 mts of rice and wheat have been allocated for 51 projects in sadar thana, 113 mts for 164 projects in Shibganj, 82 mts for 57 projects in Gomastapur, 72 mts for 64 projects in Nachol, 64 mts for 57 projects in Bholahat, 41 mts for 27 projects in Nawabganj municipality, nine mts for four projects in Shibganj municipality and 20 mts for nine projects in Rahonpur municipality.

A total of 63 projects are being implemented in six unions of Chhagalnaiya thana under Feni district and Test Relief

(TR) Programme in the current financial year 1999-2000.

Official sources said the government has sanctioned 85 metric tones of wheat for execution of the projects.

The work of the projects include repair of rural kutcha roads, culverts, earth filling in different educational and religious institutions and play grounds.

Education Ministry has sanctioned Tk 2.19 crore for renovation works of 32 educational institutions in two districts in the current fiscal.

Of the institutions, 12 are high schools, seven colleges, seven vocational training centres and six madrasas in Jhenidah and Magura districts, officials said.

The projects works included construction and reconstruction of two-storied buildings, classrooms, community centre and installation of tube-wells.

Works on the project have begun and are expected to be completed by June next. Satkhira Zila Parishad has

taken up a project to implement the development work of 83 rural roads in seven thanas in the current financial year.

According to an official source, an amount of Taka 81.69 lakh will be spent for implementation of the approved development project. The project included two Bituminous Carpeting (BC) roads, 30 Haring Brick Bond (HBB) roads and 51 Brick Soling (BS) roads. The project has been taken under the Rural Development and Rehabilitation project.

Work order for construction of these roads will be issued soon and it is expected that the projects will be completed by the end of March.

After completion of the projects the people of seven thanas will be benefited.

The Roads and Highways Department has sanctioned an amount of Taka 13 crore for completion of Mokrapur bridge on Mohananda river in Chapainawabganj district during the past fiscal year.



Children enjoying fishing at a canal in Kurigram district.

— Star photo

Separate incidents claim 9 lives in four dists

Nine persons were killed recently in separate incidents in four districts, report agencies.

A young girl was raped and killed allegedly by one of her father's friends at village Nikardighi in Panchbibi thana of Joypurhat district on Saturday.

Police said Solaiman Ali took Laila, daughter of another Solaiman of the village, to his house and raped her there in the evening.

He later strangled Laila, a class VIII student of Nikardighi High School, to death apprehending that she might disclose the incident.

Later, villagers recovered the body of the ill-fated girl from the house. But Solaiman went into hiding.

A case was filed.

Three people, including a woman, were killed in separate incidents in Jessore district on Wednesday.

Two of the victims — Barik Sarder, 65, and an unidentified woman — were killed in road accidents, and one person named Hamid Biswas allegedly committed suicide.

According to reports, the unidentified woman was crushed under the wheels of a Khulna-bound mail train near Rupdia railway station at about 6 am.

Barik Sarder, 65, hailed from Gatipara of Sarsa thana, was run over by a Jessore-bound truck near Gatipara Squire on Gatipara-Navaron road at about 11 am while he was crossing the road.

After the accident, local people caught the truck driver and handed over him to Sarsa police with the vehicle.

Hamid Biswas, 25, son of Bilal, allegedly committed suicide over family feud. All the bodies were sent to Jessore General Hospital morgue for autopsy. Separate cases were lodged with the respective police station. A cruel grandfather al-

legedly slaughtered his grandson at Hidia village in Abhoy-nagar thana of Jessore on Thursday.

The victim was identified as Monirul Islam, 3, son of Zamiruddin Gazi.

Police and witnesses said Dalluddin Mollah and his cousin Hossain Ali Mollah of Katenga village in Dumuria thana of Khulna district, came to the house of their daughter-in-law's house and stayed there at night.

At dead of night, Hossain Ali killed the grandson with a big knife and tried to flee the scene.

Hearing hue and cry, local people rushed to spot and caught Hossain red-handed and handed over to the police after giving a good thrashing.

The body was sent to Jessore General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Police said land dispute between Dall and Hossain might be the cause of the killing.

A case was filed with the police in this regard.

A school teacher was committed suicide at Hariatala under Barhatta thana of Ne-trakona district recently.

Police and family sources said Habibur Rahman, 45, an Assistant Teacher of Hariatala Government Primary School committed suicide by hanging

himself at his house premises.

He was suffering from mental disease for a long time. A UD case was filed with Barhatta thana in this connection.

Three persons were killed and another was seriously injured in a devastating fire that broke out in a house at Char Faizuddin in Monpara thana of Bhola district on Thursday evening.

According to police and witnesses, fire broke out in the house of one person named Kazal Islam of Char Faizuddin village in the evening on Thursday from a lighted lamp when it was being filled with kerosene from a container. The fire engulfed the house. The blaze left four persons including a woman and a child, seriously injured.

The victims are — Mariam Bibi, 45, Shahina Begum, 20, Alauddin, 10, and boy Rakib, 3.

The villagers admitted them to a local health complex where Rakib succumbed to his injuries instantly. Alauddin and Shahina Begum were sent to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital, but on way they also succumbed to their injuries.

The condition of Mariam Bibi, who is fighting for her life at Daulat Khan Thana Health Complex, is very critical.

Bagerhat PC College beset with problems

BAGERHAT, Feb 1: Prafulla Chandra College has been grappled with numerous problems, including lack of teachers and classrooms, reports UNB.

The PC College, situated on a sprawling 15-acre campus in Haringhata, introduced science course at intermediate level in 1922-23 year while BA in 1923-24 and honours in Bangla, English, History, Mathematics

and Sanskrit in 1924-25 academic sessions.

But all the honours subjects, except Bangla, were closed due to shortage of funds during post-liberation period.

The college, nationalised in 1979 with introducing 13 new honours subjects, now has 4,500 students. But it cannot accommodate the huge students for lack of classrooms.

When the number of its students is increasing day by day, some 65 posts of teacher have long been lying vacant in the college.

The post of principal has been lying vacant for the last five months.

When the college started its modest journey in 1911, there were only three educational institutions for higher studies in the southern region. These are Daulatpur Hindu College in Khulna, BM College in Barisal and Victoria College in Narail.

The college was known as Bagerhat College until it was renamed after scientist Acharya Prafulla Chandra in 1933.

Prafulla Chandra had provided valuable scientific equipment for the college.

Kaliakoir people greet Rahmat Ali

By Staff Correspondent

People of Kaliakoir in Gazipur district have congratulated Advocate Alhaj Rahmat Ali MP, on his appointment as State Minister for Rural Development and Cooperatives recently.

Noted banker Md Nazrul Islam and teacher Gobinda Chandra Gop in a statement felicitated him. They wished the newly appointed state minister and his family health and happiness. They termed him as an ardent follower of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and a dedicated politician who is engaged in welfare activities for the nation.

Jasimuddin Padak, Alaol award distributed

FARIDPUR, Feb 1: Alaol Literary Award '97 and '99 and Jasimuddin Padak '99 and 2000, sponsored by Faridpur Sahitya and Sanskrit Unnayan Sangstha were distributed among the recipients in the 11th biennial Literary Conference of the Sangstha.

held at local Kabi Jasimuddin Hall on Saturday, reports BSS.

Minister for Environment and Forest Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury attended the function as the chief guest and distributed the awards among the recipients.

Khondoker Mosharrat Hossain, President of Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI) was the special guest while the function was presided over by Prof Md Azizul Haque Khan, President of the Sangstha.

Earlier, the conference was inaugurated on January 28 by eminent educationist and litterateur Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqi.

The recipients of Alaol Literary Award '97 in different branches of Bangla literature were Mofazzel Karim for poetry, Rahat Khan for novel and Abul Kashem Fazlul Hoque for essays.

The recipients of Alaol Literary Award '99 were Mahubb Sadik for poetry, Shahidul Zahar for short stories and Sukumar Barua for doggerel verses. The recipients of Jasimuddin Padak 1999 and 2000 for their contribution in Bengali Literature and Culture were Prof Kabir Chowdhury and Kalim Sharafi.

Except Rahat Khan and Kalim Sharafi all recipients were present in the function and received their awards from the chief guest. The award giving function was addressed, among others, by municipality Chairman Hasibul Hassan Labu and Deputy Commissioner of Faridpur Atiqul Islam Chowdhury.

News snaps

Two alleged abductors held

RANGAMATI, Feb 1: Police rounded up two tribal men from Krishnamachhara in Nariarchor thana recently for their alleged involvement in the abduction of a headman, reports BSS. Police said they arrested Shanti Jiban Chakma, 28, and Sona Dhren Chakma, 30, and recovered a gun, 21 bullets, a dagger and three sets of olive green uniforms, used by now defunct Shantibahini, from their possession. Shamiran Chakma, 45, headman of Betchhari Mauza in Nariarchor thana was abducted on January 12 from Rangpara in the same thana allegedly by the quarters who are opposing the CHT peace accord, officials said. The elder brother of the abducted headman was allegedly gunned down the then rebel outfit, Shantibahini, in 1988.

Furniture for land offices

TANGAIL, Feb 1: Thirty union land offices are being provided with furniture worth Taka 6,02,320 in this fiscal year, reports BSS. District administration sources said, under this programme each of these offices will get one steal almirah, two steal-body cushion chairs, two benches, two wooden chairs, one steal-made rack, one half secretariat table, one ordinary table and two stools.

Stray dogs bite 104 persons

BARISAL, Feb 1: Stray dogs bit as many as 104 persons including women and children in four thanas of Jhalakathi district during the last week, health office sources said, reports BSS.

Of the total, 39 persons were attacked by dogs in sadar thana, 22 in Nalchhity, 25 in Kathalia and 18 in Rajapur thanas during the period. Some the victims were identified as Shamima, 20, Alzal, 40, Sajib, 3, Eplab, 12, Sanjoy, 9, Manju Rani, 40, Rejha Rani, 14, Tali, 8, and Feroja Begum, 40. Identity of other victims could not be known. Resident Doctor of Jhalakathi Sadar Hospital said, the incidences of dog biting have increased alarmingly this year. The victims have been given treatment properly. But, some times, the supply of necessary vaccines and medicines are not sufficient as per requirement of the increased number of patients.

One stolen car recovered, two held

BENAPOLE, Feb 1: One stolen car was recovered and two persons were arrested by DB officials of Jessore police recently, reports BSS.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided at Navaron Mokbul Textile Mills under Sharsha thana and recovered a stolen car from its premises. It was reported that the car was stolen from Dhaka couple of weeks ago. Police arrested Shajalal Elias Babu and his cousin Razzak from Navaron Bazar under Sharsha thana in this connection.

Phensidyl recovered

BENAPOLE (Jessore), Feb 1: Narcotics Control Department, Jessore recovered 120 bottles of Indian phensidyl syrup from the house of one Abdur Rahman Gaji and 85 bottles and 12 litter loose-packed phensidyl syrup from the house of one Abdul Kader of village Satmail Amtola under Sarsha thana on January 20. A case was registered with Sarsha police station in this connection.

Pulse cultivation

RANGPUR, Feb 1: Some 14,400 hectares of land in eight districts of greater Rangpur-Dinajpur zone of Agriculture Extension Department have been brought under pulse farming this season, reports UNB.

Of the land, 6,000 hectares are in Rangpur, 3,000 in Gaibandha, 8,000 in Kurigram, 3,000 each in Lalmonirhat and Nilphamari, 2,500 in Dinajpur, 1,000 in Thakurgaon and 5,000 hectares in Panchagarh districts, officials said. They hope that some 2,70,000 metric tons of pulse will be produced in the districts if things go well.



Rotary Club of Bogra distributing winter clothes among the distressed people at Sariakandi thana in Bogra district.

228 arms seized, 210-arrested last yr

BENAPOLE (Jessore), Feb 1: Jessore police have arrested 210 persons and seized 228 firearms from their possession from eight thanas last year, reports BSS.

Police said the seized arms included three 303 rifles, three single barrel guns, four double barrel guns, 15 country made guns, 16 country made pistols, five foreign pistols, 68 pipe guns, 33 shutter guns and 57 other types of fire arms. Police also seized 171 rounds of bullets during the period.

A total of 118 criminal cases were lodged with respective police stations. Besides, police arrested a total of 7,718 persons including 2,374 wanted accused, 278 listed terrorists and 306 smugglers during the period.

Loan disbursed

PIROJPUR, Feb 1: Rural Development Board has distributed loan over Tk 3.45 crore among its 22,780 members during the first six months of the current fiscal, reports UNB.

Of the amount, Tk 56.67 lakh was given in sadar, Tk 48.60 lakh in Nazirpur, over Tk 1.16 crore in Sawrupkati, Tk 27.55 lakh in Kankhali, Tk 27.20 lakh in Bhandaria, Tk 43.23 lakh in Mathbaria and Tk 26.6 lakh in Inurbani thanas. The board provided the loan so that its members could undertake income-generating projects like cattle-rearing, small trade, pisciculture, nursery and pottery. During the period, the board also re-allocated its overdue loan totaling Tk 3.74 crore.

Waterlogging hampers farming

MADARIPUR, Feb 1: About 50,000 acres of land in Rajoir thana here remain uncultivated due to "permanent" waterlogging depriving the thana of production of crops worth about Tk 25 crore in a year, reports UNB.

A vast track of land at Khalla union and Bhenabari, Shatpar, Laxmipur, Kadambari, Ikrabari, Fulbari, Chhorbari, Mohishmari, Narayanpur, Sundikuri, Khalia, Chamta and Kanaipar areas of Kadambari union remain under knee-deep water even in winter as there is no system to drain out the water. These areas also go under water during rains in the Bengali month of Jaistha. Growers cannot till their land both in summer and winter seasons. Boro paddy was cultivated on the land in last several years, but it will not be possible this season owing to water logging.



Thousands of Natore traders brought out a huge procession in Natore town protesting the increasing trend of extortion.

— Star photo

Dhaka Electric Supply Authority
Tender Notice
 Tender Notice No XEN/Grid-North/2.05/2000/13 Dated: 18/1/2000

Sealed tenders in Form No T-1 are invited from the "A", "B" and "C" class contractor under PDB/DESA for (a) Emergency tower protection work of Tower No 9, 31, 32 of Ullon-Basundhara-Tangi 132 KV Transmission line and Tower No 2, 3, 4 of 132 KV Ullon-Tangi Transmission line, (b) Emergency repair & maintenance work of Tongi-Burulia-Joydevpur 33 KV out going feeder from 132 KV Tangi Grid Sub-Station, (c) Tower protection work including earth filling & other allied works of Tower No 151 to 159 of Hasnabad-Mirpur Double Circuit 132 KV Transmission line under Grid Division North, Dhaka Electric Supply Authority. The tender documents for each work will be available up to 16-2-2000 in the office of the (a) Superintending Engineer, System Control Centre & Grid Circle, DESA, Dhaka, (b) Additional Deputy Commissioner (Overall), Dhaka Division, Dhaka, (for group 'A') (c) Executive Engineer, Grid (South)/Workshop, DESA & the office of the undersigned at a cost of Taka 400/- (Tk four hundred) only for group 'A' and Tk 200/- (two hundred) only for group B and C (non-refundable) in the shape of Bank Draft/Pay Order in favour of Addl. Director, RAO, DESA, Dhaka with the prior written permission from the concerned Head of the Office. The tender will be received up to 12:00 Noon of 17-2-2000 in the office of the (a) Superintending Engineer, System Control Centre & Grid Circle, DESA, Dhaka (b) Additional Deputy Commissioner (Overall), Dhaka Division, Dhaka (for group 'A') (c) Executive Engineer, Grid (South)/Workshop, DESA & the office of the undersigned. The tender will be opened on the same day at 12:30 PM (in presence of tenderer if any), (I) An earnest money equal 2.5% of the estimated cost is to be submitted along with the offer, (II) Bidder quoting rate more than 5% above or below of the estimated cost rate analysis shall have to be submitted along with the offer, (III) Bidder quoting rate from 5% to 10% of the estimated cost will be required to submit 5% additional amount in excess of 2.5%, of the estimated cost as earnest money with their offer, (IV) Bidder quoting rate more than 10% below estimated cost will be required to submit 10% additional amount in excess of 2.5% of the estimated cost as earnest money with their offer in the shape of Bank Draft/Pay Order in favour of the Additional Director, RAO, DESA.

The Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason.

Executive Engineer
 Grid Division, North
 DESA, Dhaka.

DFP-1862-27/01
 G-187

Invitation For Bid (IFB)
Bangladesh Arsenic Mitigation Water Supply Project
(Credit No 3124-BD)
 IFB No PD/BAMWSP/30 Date: 24-01-2000

- The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) in various currencies towards the cost of "Bangladesh Arsenic Mitigation Water Supply Project". It is intended that part of the proceeds of this credit will be applied to eligible payments under the contract Printing of Information Sheet.
- The Project Director (Addl Chief Engineer) of "Bangladesh Arsenic Mitigation Water Supply Project" now invites sealed bid under National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures from eligible bidders for the supply of for Printing of Information Sheet.
- Payments made under this contract will only be in Bangladesh Taka. Interested eligible bidders (including foreign bidders who are willing to receive payments in Bangladesh Taka) may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding document at the office of the Executive Engineer, PMU
 Bangladesh Arsenic Mitigation Water Supply Project
 House No 450, Road No 31, New DOHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1206.
- A complete set of bidding document may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the Executive Engineer, PMU, BAMWSP upon payment of a non refundable fee of Tk 500.00 (Five hundred) in the form of Bank Draft or Pay Order from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh in favour of Executive Engineer, PMU, BAMWSP.
- The provisions in the Instructions to Bidders and in the General Conditions of Contract are the provisions of the Standard Bidding Document: Procurement of Goods (SBD), National Competitive Bidding (Trial Edition - August 1997), issued by the World Bank Dhaka Office in Bangladesh. The Sample Forms (Except Price Schedules) of the SBD remain unchanged.
- Bid must be delivered to the office of the Executive Engineer, PMU, BAMWSP on or before 1500 hours on February 29, 2000, and must be accompanied by a security of Tk 40,000.00 (Forty thousand) as provided for in the Instruction to Bidders.
- Bid will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 1510 hours on February 29, 2000 at the office of the undersigned.
Farid Uddin Ahmed Mia
 Project Director (Addl Chief Engineer)
 Bangladesh Arsenic Mitigation Water Supply Project
 House No 450, Road No 31, New DOHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1206

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