

Good production of mango expected in two dists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Farmers of Jhenidah and Bandarban districts expect a bumper production of mango this season.

Our Jhenidah Correspondent reports: Good output of mango is expected this year in Jhenidah, says an expert of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE).

More output may be ensured if the tree owners become more cautious in controlling pest, the expert opined.

Although Chapainawabganj, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Natore and some other northern districts and Meherpur, Kushtia and Chuadanga districts in southern area are well known for mango production, mangoes produced in Jhenidah and other districts are also delicious and of great demand.

According to the aforementioned expert, Lengra, Khirsa, Mohanbhog, Gopalbhog, Madanbhog, Fazli, Bombai, Srinath, Begumbhog and some other varieties including some local varieties of mango are produced in Jhenidah and in other southern districts. But the tree owners in Jhenidah are not much aware about management of their trees.

He said, at least three types of insects like Apsilia, Sucker and Brown Pest Hopper (BPH) affect the trees. Sucker and BPH sucks the juice of flower of mango and affects the tender mango immediately after flowering. Further Apsilia blocks the budding spraying gel or pest during flowering.

According to the expert, to ensure sufficient flowering or fruit the tree owners should spray pesticides for three times between mid-November and mid-December.

But about three per cent trees are sprayed during the period. Rest 97 per cent trees are not sprayed systematically resulting in pest attack.

Abdul Aziz, 42, Golam Nabi, 34, Nikhil Biswas, 37, of Saikupa said that they are well aware about spraying their trees. But no one of them sprayed at all, they revealed.

Sahidul Alam, Upazila Agriculture Officer (UAO) of Saikupa said that they mango production in Jhenidah and the surrounding areas depends on nature. Tree owners of the northern districts are much aware about the matter, he informed.

According to him, at least one per cent tree owners apply fertiliser and provide irrigation water in the Bangla month of Baisakh. Sometimes some tree owners supply irrigation water later which helps grow more leaves which is not effective for mango production.

The UAO said, a good number of trees are affected by wood borer. Earlier, the borers affected shishu tree. But as the shishu plants are declining, the borers have taken shelter on the mango trees and affecting the mango trees in massive scale. The borers have been affecting the bark of the trees and at one stage enters into the middle portion of the branches and main trees.

The UAO also informed that naturally the climate is favourable for mango production this year as almost all the trees bear much sprouts.

Monika Alam, 32, a housewife of Saikupa Shikhakpara in Jhenidah informed that to remove fog she sprayed water as fog destroys the flowering. She expects a good production of mango this year.

UNB from Bandarban reports: Farmers of the district expect a bumper production of 'Ranguaiyee', a special variety of mango this season.

Deputy Director of DAE told that some 190 acres of land in the district have been brought under the plantation of 'Ranguaiyee' sapling.

'Ranguaiyee' is very sweet and delicious and suitable for hilly weather and the growers there are showing interest to produce the variety on their land, he added.

He said the farmers started cultivation of the fruit since 1985, which was primarily introduced in Naikhongchhari upazila, a frontier area of Myanmar. DAE sources said that from one seed of 'Ranguaiyee' mango five sap-



PHOTO: STAR

A housewife of Sheikhpura in Jhenidah district spraying water to remove fog from her mango tree. She expects good output of mango this season.

lings grow and only one sapling carries the reproductive quality, which could not be seen in local variety.

Farmers were imparted training so that they can easily select the saplings properly for plantation. On average each tree produces 150-200 mangoes every season.

As the cultivation of the variety has become popular among the farmers DAE has undertaken a pilot project in 1998, which is now awaiting approval of the ministry.

DAE sources said farmers here earned Tk 45.60 lakh from this variety of mango last year and they expect to earn Tk one crore this year.

Enamul Haque, a grower expects to earn Tk one lakh from this variety from his 200 trees, which are now full of buds.

Shortage of judges delays justice

BSS, Bogra

Unusual delay and indifferent attitude of lawyers in disposal of cases leads the litigants of Bogra district in untold sufferings and financial punishment, according to the local people.

The Deputy Commissioner of Bogra said shortages of judges including magistrates have become acute.

Posts of nine judges are vacant out of 21 courts in the district. The working judges are one District Judge, three Additional District Judges, three Sub-judges and five Assistant Judges.

A total of 16055 civil and criminal cases are reported pending in 21 courts for trial. Five Assistant Judges out of 14 have been working in 14 courts where a total of 6599 cases are pending. Out of 16,055 cases 12,886 cases are of civil nature and 3,169 cases are of criminal nature.

A total of 776 civil and 798 criminal cases are pending in the District

Judge's court. 335 civil and 712 criminal cases are pending in Additional District Judge's court, 317 civil and 582 criminal cases in Additional District Judge's court No 2, 110 civil and 568 criminal cases in Additional District Judge's court No 3. 1567 civil and 189 criminal cases in Sub-Judge's court No 1, 2509 civil and 142 criminal cases in Sub-judge's court, 673 civil and 178 criminal cases in Second Sub-judge's court.

Besides, 1,763 cases in Sadar Senior Assistant Judge's courts, 100 cases in Additional Assistant Sub-judge's courts, 100 cases in Additional Assistant Sub-judge's court, 205 cases in Second Senior Assistant Judge's court, 99 cases in Additional Senior Judge's court, 908 cases in Sherpur, 461 cases in Nandigram, 484 cases in Gabtali, 562 cases in Adamdighi, 562 cases in Shibganj, 290 cases in Sonatala, 338 cases in Dupchachia, 195 cases in Shariakandi, 347 cases in Kahaloo, 261 cases in Dhanat Upazila courts are pending.

Revenue from Sundarbans down

UNB, Sathkira

Government revenue from Sathkira Range of the Sundarbans during the current season trailed far behind to about Tk 18 lakh.

But the collectors of wood, golpata and honey and fishermen say they were made to pay much higher amount than the rate fixed by the government which remained unaccounted.

According to officials, permission was given to collect 2.70 lakh maunds of gora timber and 1.50 lakh maunds of golpata from four stations of the range Buri Goalini, Kadamtala, Kaikhalai and Kobatak during the current season.

Official rate of revenue is Tk 5 for per maund of gora and Tk 3 for golpata. But the collectors requesting anonymity told that Forest officials extracted from them Tk 20-22 for gora and Tk 12-15 for golpata.

Besides, they said, Tk 500-1,000 was paid to secure 'pass' for entry of each boat to the forest range.

Each fishing boat was made to pay Tk 125-140 as against the official rate of Tk 76 per month.

Some junior officials in the range

requesting anonymity admitted taking bribes. "We are to pay a fixed amount every month to the high-ups. They are to be satisfied to keep our job," said an official.

Honey collectors and woodcutters said they were discouraged to go to the forest this season because of high demand of bribe.

Demonstration in front of police station

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A large number of people of Seroil area in Rajshahi town staged a sit-in in front of Boalia police station headquarters on Sunday demanding stoppage of the illegal trade of contraband phenidyl cough syrup, a popular antidote.

About 500 people led by Ward Commissioner Moniruzzaman Sharif laid siege to the police station at about 11:00 am and started sit-in.

Demonstrators also held a meeting. The speakers in the meeting demanded immediate action against the illegal trade.

NEWS SNAPS

Deer scandal: Release of two demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A large number of people on Sunday took out a procession in Rajshahi city demanding immediate release of Enamul and Mohsin who were arrested on Saturday in connection with the sensational deer selling incident in Dhaka.

According to Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC), the two bought the deer from Rajshahi Central Park authorities on condition that they would rear the animals, but they sold the deer in Eid cattle market. Locals from Vatapara, Luxmipur, Mohishbathan and Kazihata areas joined the procession, which paraded main thoroughfares in the town. The processionists also held a rally in front of the park and blamed the RCC, which looks after the park, for the scandal.

2,500 teachers deprived of Feb salary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

About 2,500 teachers of 150 government and non-government schools and madrasahs under Sadar upazila in Sirajganj district did not receive their salary of February this year due to negligence of the Education Ministry, alleged teachers.

A good number of teachers came to the main branch of Sonali Bank situated at Mujib Sarak in the district town and they tried to withdraw their salary for the whole day but failed. Ultimately they came back home without salary. When contacted manager of bank said they did not receive the checks of money from the respective authority. Most of the affected teachers told newsmen "we could not enjoy the holy Eid-ul-Azha with family due to this".

Police camp under attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Bhabadaha police camp in Abhoyanagar upazila in Jessore district came under attack by angry villagers on Friday midnight.

The angry villagers demanded release of Prashanta Mondal, an activist of outlawed of Biplobi Communist Party (BCP). Police arrested Prashanta on the same night from Dattagati village of Abhoyanagar upazila in connection with Jallil and Hafiz murder case recorded with Phultala police station on February 23. BCP armed cadres Jallil and Hafiz were killed on the night of February 22 at Baniapukur under Phultala upazila. High officials of Jessore district police rushed to police camp and brought the situation under control. Arrested outlaw Prashanta was taken to Phultala thana custody on the early hour of Saturday. Attempt to snatch the outlaw from police custody was foiled, said additional police super of Jessore.

Housewife beaten to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

A housewife was beaten to death allegedly by her husband and in-laws at village Batikadanga in Sadar upazila in Magura on Sunday.

The victim was identified as Joyontee Rani Biswas, 25, wife of Dilip Kumar of village Batikadanga. Police said Joyontee was beaten to death by her husband Dilip and his family members for dowry. Later, Dilip allegedly hanged the body from ceiling in a bid to hush up the murder. Police also arrested husband Dilip, his sister Shujata and mother Suniti Rani in this connection. The body was sent to morgue for autopsy.

Tk 2.81cr contraband seized in 2 months

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

BDR personnel in Chapainawabganj, Rajshahi and Naogaon districts seized huge quantities of contraband goods worth about Taka 2.81 crore in the first two months of the current year.

Some 528 cases were filed and 23 smugglers were arrested during the period. A source with the BDR said Taka 5.96 crore revenue was earned through six cattle corridors in the districts during the same period.

Agriculture fair concludes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A three-day agriculture fair concluded in Jhenidah town recently.

Deputy commissioner of Jhenidah Shoyebur Rahman attended the inaugural session as chief guest. Presided over by MA Awal, Deputy Director of Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), the function was addressed, among others, by District Training Officer M A Rashid and DAE official Rubi Khan. Speakers on occasion said the country is producing 10 lakh metric tons of surplus food grains. But we had 40 lakh metric tons of food grain deficit a few years back. It has been made possible due to use of modern technology in agricultural fields, they added. The speakers also said women should participate in agriculture sectors to boost agriculture output.

Robbery committed

UNB, Mymensingh

Armed robbers stormed the house of a businessman in RK Mission Road area in Mymensingh town and looted cash and gold ornaments Sunday night.

Police said the looters, numbering about 10, burst into the house of Kamalesh Dey at about 9 pm, tied up his wife and two children and looted Tk 46,000 and 35 tolas of gold ornaments from the almirah. Kamalesh was not in the house during the incident. A case was filed.

Arsenic-free water supply scheme on

BSS, Narsingdi

The Public Health Engineering Department has been implementing a scheme to sink 143 deep tubewells for supplying arsenic-free water in Narsingdi district.

Of the total, 92 deep tubewells have already been installed. The project is being implemented at a cost of Taka 60,06,000. After completion of the project, 15 thousand people of the district will be benefited.

Tense situation over jhum farming

UNB, Bandarban

As tribal Mro jhumia families were tearing down the hill forest to bring more land under jhum cultivation, a tense situation has been prevailing among the local forest officials and the families.

This year some 16,672 acres of land have been targeted to bring under jhum cultivation in Bandarban hill district.

To fulfill the target, the Mro families destroyed a 12-acre forest garden of the Forest Department recently.

As Deputy Range Officer of local Forest Department Mohammad Fazlul Huq prevented the jhumias from destroying the forest, the agitated farmers detained him in his office room for three hours on February 27.

On information, police from nearby Chimbuk outpost rushed to the spot and rescued the officer.

Following the incident, forest employees of the range were refraining from patrolling the area, sources said.

Mro leaders said forest officials never barred them from jhum cultivation on the khas and barren lands in the hills. They blamed the Deputy Forest Officer for this unpleasant situation.

Local Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) sources said jhumia families generally start jhum cultivation at the beginning of Bengali month of Baishakh.

They sow 10-12 types of crops in a same hole and harvest the crops one after another after three months.

The tribal families consume these crops round the year and sell the

excess for cash money.

But forest officials said unabated felling of trees has already created an adverse effect on the ecosystem of

RU classes will resume Mar 20

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

All classes of Rajshahi University (RU) will resume on March 20.

The decision was taken in an emergency Syndicate meeting held last week with Vice Chancellor Prof Sayeedur Rahman Khan in the chair.

The university authorities declared closure of the university from February 16 to March 10 following a violent clash between students and villagers where 60 people were injured.

the district causing soil erosion and depletion of various valuable flora and fauna.



PHOTO: STAR

Sirajganj town dwellers suffer a lot due to road digging throughout the year. At present workers of the T & T Department are digging road near Shila Jewellers of the town. As a result woes of the local residents have multiplied.