

Hot spell hits mango output in Chapainawabganj

Good production expected in Mymensingh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mango production in Chapainawabganj district appears to face setback this season mainly due to prolonged hot spell. But good production of the juicy summer fruit is expected in Mymensingh district.

UNB from Chapainawabganj reports: Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) fixed the mango

production target at 2 lakh metric tons this year but the output is likely to decrease by 30,000 metric tons.

The DAE officials said this year is the "on year" for mango production. So, the production was supposed to be higher than the previous year, which was the "off year". But the prolonged hot spell has destroyed huge green mangos in the district, fading the chances of a good output.



A demonstration plot of Amrapali variety of mango at Horticulture Centre in Mymensingh. Plantation of HYV mango trees has gained popularity in recent days in the district.

To overcome the problem caused by the hot spell, the DAE officials are suggesting the growers to spray water on the mango trees.

Mango is one of the major cash crops of the district and the district on average earns Tk 1 crore every year.

Besides, more than 1.5 lakh people in the district largely depend on mango cultivation.

Our Mymensingh correspondent reports: Good production of mangoes is expected in the district this year due to mainly favourable weather condition.

Local farmers said cultivation of high yielding variety (HYV) of mango has enhanced the chance of good output in the district where plantation of the HYV mango trees has gained popularity in recent days. Earlier, local varieties failed to yield expected production.

An official of local Horticulture Centre said the production of the popular summer fruit will be very good this year if the severe storms do not lash the district.

Among the high yielding varieties, Amrapali, Mollika and Highbreed-10 are popular.

Officials at the Horticulture Centre located at Kewathkhali said they have collected samples of various varieties developed by Indian Agriculture Research Centre to attract the growers.

Small-sized Amrapali yields huge quantities of fruits. A piece of Mollika variety weighs 300-400 grams while Highbreed-10 weighs 500-700 grams on average.

An official of the Horticulture Centre said the centre has distributed grafting HYV mango saplings among the growers to make the varieties popular.

Teestamukh ferry terminal plagued with irregularities

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Teestamuk Ferry Terminal, run by Bangladesh Railway, is plagued with corruption, mismanagement and irregularities, resulting in revenue losses.

Sources with the railway terminal said despite regular servicing, many ferries cannot work smoothly. Very often the boats go out of order for unknown reasons, the sources added.

Very recently the repair and maintenance works of wagon carrier Barge No10 were conducted at Narayanganj Dockyard spending Taka 37 lakh. But soon after its re-commissioning a large crack developed at the bottom of the vehicle.

Some spare parts of MV Bairum Khan went out of order and money was also spent on repair works, but the vehicle still remains abandoned at Bahadurabad Terminal.

Last year, tugboat MV Titumeer was sent to Narayanganj for its regular servicing. But within few days

a crack developed at the bottom of boat.

Besides, the illegal practices of pilferage of fuel and equipment from ferries are very common. But no actions are taken in this regard.

The terminal maintains rail link of northern zone with the capital. Passengers and vehicles use the terminal in Gaibandha to reach Bahadurabad Terminal in Jamalpur district.

With the closure of Sirajganj-Jaganathganj ferry terminal, the importance of Teestamuk-Bahadurabad Terminal has increased to a great extent. But the quality of services at Teestamuk Terminal has decreased over the years, local people said.

Three passenger ferries -- the MV Sher-e-Bangla, the MV Sonargaon and the MV Suhrwardy -- and four vehicle-carrying ferries -- the MV Bahadur Shah, the MV Titumeer, the MV Mirjumalla, and the MV Isha Khan -- are now in operation in Teestamuk-Bahadurabad route.

Attackers of Ullapara college principal, others sued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

The Ullapara Akbar Ali Science College authority filed a case against some Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinees and copy suppliers at Ullapara police station in Sirajganj district on Wednesday.

Police and witnesses said a gang of HSC examinees and copy supplies assaulted the college Principal, Ahmed Halim Mojher and six other teachers of the college centre invigilators and ransacked the Principal's office on Tuesday.

The story in brief is that when examination was started at the centre on the Tuesday, the invigilators started searching the examinees. Angry examinee with other copy suppliers assaulted Principal and Centre Secretary Ahmed Halim, Assistnat Professor Abu Sayed Shamsul Hoque,

Moktar, Hossain Feroz Rasid Jahurul Islam and Library Assistant Hasanur Rahman. The injured persons were admitted to local clinics. None was arrested till filing of the report on Wednesday.

AL activists scuffle in Panchagarh

UNB, Panchagarh

A scuffle between two feuding groups of Awami League took place at Debiganj rest house in Panchagarh district on Thursday in presence of a state minister.

The incident happened at the extended meeting of Debiganj upazila Awami League at the rest house, where State Minister for Post and Telecommunications Abdur Rouf Chowdhury was present as chief guest.

Bumper IRRI-Boro produced in Faridpur dist

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Bumper production of IRRI-Boro paddy has been achieved in Faridpur district during this season.

According to Department Agriculture Extension (DAE) sources, 35, 500 hectares of land were brought under IRRI-Boro cultivation in the district with a production target fixed at 1,03,840 metric tons.

The bumper production has been possible this season due to favourable climate. The yield has

exceeded the production target.

Some farmers told this correspondent while visiting some plots of IRRI-Boro paddy filed under Bhanga upazila that they (farmers) are in great tension as day labourers are not available in Bhanga area to harvest the IRRI-Boro crops. "There are no poor people living here" one farmer said adding that most of the people in the area are solvent for having good IRRI-Boro paddy for more than a decade. At present they have to purchase day labourers from the neighbouring districts at

high prices to harvest the crops. One day labourer is getting Tk 100 with three free meals per day, he mentioned.

However, harvesting of the IRRI-Boro has already been started. Heavy rains which occurred a few days back have caused some damage to the standing IRRI-Boro paddy in the low lying areas, the said.

Housewives in the area are also busy storing IRRI-Boro crops and making different cakes and fried rice.



PHOTO: STAR

Farmers take care of standing IRRI-Boro paddy at a field at Char Kalibari village under Sadar upazila in Mymensingh district. The growers expect bumper rice production this year mainly due to favourable weather condition.

NEWS SNAPS

Youth dies after taking excessive liquor

UNB, Jessore

A young man of village Ghose Shena in Keshabpur upazila of Jessore district died on Thursday due to intake of excessive alcohol.

Local people said Masud, 23, son of Tasiruddin along with seven others took excessive alcohol at a fair at Meherpur village in the upazila on Wednesday and fell ill seriously. Later he died on the following day of Jessore district. The body was sent to Jessore General Hospital. AUD case was filed with the police.

Narayanganj road mishaps claim 2

UNB, Narayanganj

Two people were killed in two road accidents in Narayanganj district on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway on Saturday.

Rustom Ali, 68, of Sonargaon upazila, was killed when a truck knocked him down at Sanarpur at about 3 pm. In another incident, a speeding truck ran over a pedestrian, Parimol Chandra Biswas, at Shirmrail of Siddhirganj in the afternoon.

Anti-terrorism meet in Luxmipur

UNB, Luxmipur

Local leaders in Luxmipur called upon the people of all walks of life to launch a social movement against terrorism.

The call was made in a meeting against terrorism held at Tumchar bazar in Sadar upazila Saturday with local Awami League leader Nurul Islam master in the chair. Local MP Harunur Rashid was the chief guest in the meeting. Adv Nuruddin Chowdhury Nayan, Shahjahan master and Ruhul Amin Master also spoke on the occasion.

Two policemen closed

UNB, Gazipur

Two policemen of Tongi thana in Gazipur were closed on Saturday for Thursday's death of a youth in police custody.

Police Super closed Sub-Inspector Abdus Sattar and Assistant Sub-Inspector Shah Alam for the death of Haris Khan, 19, who was arrested from Anarkali cinema hall area in Tongi on May 15. The youth, hailing from Bhanan in Tongi, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital Friday. SI Sattar said he died of asthma while victim's family said inhuman torture by police was responsible for his death. A two-member committee led by an ASP was formed to probe the death.

Ponds excavation scheme taken up

UNB, Rangamati

With a view to encouraging the common people for pisciculture the Fisheries Department has taken up a scheme to excavate one demonstration pond in each of the 10 upazilas of Rangamati district.

With the financial assistance from the hill district council the Fisheries Department would cultivate different species of fish like rohi, katal, mrigel, kalibaus in these ponds. In case of necessity the fish fries would be brought from other parts of the country. With the success of the scheme more demonstration ponds will be set up and steps will be taken to cultivate fish on share basis. The fisheries department with the assistance from the World Food Program has been implementing 23 schemes costing Tk 1.65 lakh in different upazilas of the district.

5 community barracks under construction

UNB, Brahmanbaria

A scheme has been taken up to construct five community barracks under Asrayan project in Brahmanbaria district for the rehabilitation of the distressed people.

Official sources said the barracks are being constructed at Chandura, Majlishpur and Pattam in Sadar, Gutma in Nasirnagar upazila and Bishnupur in Nabinagar upazila. Meanwhile, earth-filling work of the barracks has been completed costing 514 metric tons of wheat. Members of the Armed Forces are constructing the barracks for the rehabilitation of 370 distressed families.

Police disperse unruly HSC examinees

UNB, Rangpur

Police fired in the air 8 bullets, teargas shells and used club to disperse unruly HSC examinees expelled from Badarganj Mahila College centre in Rangpur on Tuesday afternoon resulting in injuries to 30 people.

Officials said a team from the Rajshahi Board in a surprise visit to the centre expelled 40 examinees for adopting unfair means during the Physics examination in the second session. At the face end of the examination, the expelled students joined by outsiders, pelted bricks in which the principal of the college and three policemen were injured. Police went into action against unruly examinees and brought the situation under control.

Textbook crisis prevails

UNB, Dinajpur

The academic life of about 25,700 primary school students in Birganj upazila of Dinajpur district has plunged into a deep uncertainty due to textbook crisis.

Though four months of the current academic year have elapsed, 25,700 primary students, out of 44,900, have not yet received their textbooks. Officials said there are 86 government and 124 non-government primary schools in addition to four community and eight satellite schools at 187 villages in Birganj upazila. They said only 19,200 students of class I and II have received their textbooks, but the students of class III, IV and V are yet to get their books. According to the upazila education officer, textbook distribution could not be completed here due to short supply.

Plaintiff imprisoned

UNB, Naogaon

The Special Court on the prevention of Women and Child Repression in Naogaon Tuesday sentenced a plaintiff to one-year simple imprisonment for filing false case against four people.

According to the prosecution, the convict Rupali, daughter of Kasimuddin at village Chakhoitannya in Dhanurhat upazila, filed a rape case against her four neighbours on March 3, 2000. Examining the witnesses and evidences, the judge of the special court, Shawkat Hossain, found that the case was filed with an ulterior motive to harass them, and he handed down the verdict.

Female child lifter arrested

UNB, Narayanganj

A female child lifter was caught red-handed from in front of Narayanganj Preparatory School on Bangabandhu Road in Narayanganj Thursday.

Police said parents of the school students caught Rina, 28, for her suspicious movement around the school and handed her over to police. They said Rina was a prostitute and she turned child lifter after being evicted from the brothel she used to live.

Jail term for smuggler

UNB, Dinajpur

A court in Dinajpur has sentenced a man to two years rigorous imprisonment in a smuggling case.

The court also fined Montaj, 30, son of late laruddin of Birampur upazila Tk 500, in default, to suffer one month more RI. According to the prosecution, BDR arrested Montaj along with 100 kgs of Indian sugar on May 9, 1998. After examining the records and witnesses, the judge handed down the judgement on Wednesday.

Cash, valuables worth Tk 2 lakh looted

UNB, Narayanganj

In a string of robberies, armed bandits swooped on three houses at Jhaugara village in Arailhajar upazila of Narayanganj district leaving eight people, including a child, injured early Wednesday.

They also looted cash and valuables worth about Tk two lakh from the houses. Police said a band of about 30 bandits broke into the houses of Parimal Chandra Biswas, Kusum Chandra Biswas and Kanu Chandra Biswas and looted cash Tk 12,000, TV sets and 11 tolas of gold ornaments. Separate cases filed with local police and police arrested two people in this connection.

Development works progressing

UNB, Pirojpur

Works on 30 development projects in Pirojpur district, involving Tk 38.69 lakh, are progressing satisfactorily. Thirteen of the projects are being implemented with assistance from Asian Development Bank while the rest with District Council's own resources.

Upazila-wise breakup of the project: Sadar-11, Mothbaria-10, Bhandaria-1, Nazipur-1, Nesarabad-5 and Kaukhali-2. The projects include construction and reconstruction of roads, bridges and culverts, and renovation of the District Council building. Besides, Local Government Engineer Department is constructing 15 footbridges in three upazilas of the district costing Tk 90.46 lakh.

LGED implementing 461 projects

UNB, Patuakhali

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) is implementing 461 projects in Patuakhali district costing Tk 49.78 crore. The projects include construction of roads, culverts, Bailey bridges and cyclone centres.

LGED officials said Tk 1.74 crore has been allocated for implementing 75 projects while Tk 1.22 crore for two, Tk 5.78 crore for 144, Tk 4.73 crore for 45, Tk 9.95 crore for 51, Tk 14.93 crore for 122, Tk 2.28 crore for four projects.

The government also allocated Tk 3.27 crore for implementing eight projects, Tk 3.45 crore for five, Tk 2.15 crore for three, Tk 10 lakh for one and Tk 1.50 lakh for one project. Besides, 219 projects are being implemented spending 1,275 mts of wheat, according to the officials.