

# Kuddus revives the strength within

Earns Tk 3 lakh from guava garden he raised with the money he had arranged to go abroad

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Kuddus Dewan of Bamrill village in Uzipur upazila in the district had decided to leave for Kuwait due to poverty and sold his cropland in 1996 to collect the passage fare.

He arranged Tk 3 lakh. But this year he expects to earn Tk 3.5 lakh.

Guavas weighing from 400 grams to 1500 grams (one kilogram and a half) are grown in his garden. His garden has earned a reputation in the markets.

Buyers from Dhaka and other parts of the country go to Bamrill to purchase fruits from his garden. Kuddus Dewan can not meet buyers' demand now.

He has not taken any loan either from any bank or any NGO. He does not use any chemical fertiliser in his garden. Organic fertiliser like cow dung is enough, he said.

Kuddus however has not yet received any recognition from the government or any other organisation.

He said officials come to visit his garden, praise his work and leave with fruits as gift.

He has so many queries. He asked this correspondent why the government allows import food

work in the garden.

Talking to this correspondent Kuddus said though he initiated the garden in 1996, harvest started in 1999, when he earned a profit of about Tk one lakh after meeting all expenses. The profit increased to around Tk three lakh in 2003. This year he expects to earn Tk 3.5 lakh.

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PHOTO: STAR

Kuddus Dewan plucking guava in his garden.

products like guava jelly. "Why the government does not initiate such factories and train youths?"

This correspondent had no answer to these questions.

Kuddus Dewan regretted that the government has done nothing to encourage him and others like him.

Uzipur Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Wahidul Islam, when contacted later, said papers have been sent to Dhaka for giving Kuddus Dewan a national award.

It was a big surprise for this correspondent during as visit to Kuddus Dewan's garden. He is also growing papaya, amla (amloki), grapes and banana.

Now he thinks how to expand the garden and add value to the huge quantity of guava he produces.

Following his example, at least 10 others in the area have not only overcome poverty but are also employing others.

Kazi Peyara has good demand in the market for its big size and high nutrition.

Kuddus has a happy family of five with two daughter one son.

They, together with eight employees

are growing guava in their garden.

It was part of a countrywide opposition programme.

After the human chain, the opposition activists brought out a massive procession and handed over a memorandum to the Deputy

Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), 11-party and NAP on Wednesday demanding resignation of the government.

It stretched from Gaibandha Shaheed Miner to Palashbari upazila.

Commissioner.

Two public meetings were held at Gaibandha Shaheed Miner and at Paleashbari upazila headquarter.

The meeting at the Shaheed Miner was presided over by Ranajit Bakshi Surjo, president of Gaibandha sadar unit of Awami League, and addressed by, among others, Sadru Kabir Angur, Anwarul Hasan Sabur, Shah Masud Jahangir and Kabir Milon.

The Palashbari meeting was addressed by, among others, district AL President Mohammed Khaled, Syed Shamsul Alam Hiru, Shah Sarwar Kabir, Aminuzzaman Rinku and Shah Ashraf Kabir.

The speakers said the government has lost the right to stay in power as it failed to ensure security of people's life and property. It should resign, accepting its failure.

Crimes increased because the ruling party men are sheltering criminals while the government is not allowing impartial probe into crimes, they said.

They also said fundamentalists have risen their ugly heads under the present government. They called upon all progressive and pro-liberation forces to unite to resist them to eradicate communalism from politics.

A partial view of the 22-km human chain in Gaibandha.

PHOTO: STAR

## Flood resistant rice variety evolved

BRRI-28 survives under water for 15 days, BRRI-33 can be harvested in mid-October

RAFIQUE SARKER, Rangpur

The Rangpur regional unit of Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) has evolved a high yielding variety of Aman paddy which can survive under flood water for at least 15 days.

The new variety—BRRI-28—will be very much suitable for flood prone districts, according to Principal Scientific Officer of Rangpur BRRI Dr. Moidj.

The Rangpur BRRI has also evolved another HYV rice variety which takes lesser time and can be harvested earlier. This variety—BRRI-33—takes only 100 days and can be harvested in the Bangla month of Kartik (mid-October), when monsoon (pre-harvest lean period when farmers have no work) begins in northern districts of Rangpur, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Lalmonirhat and Nilphamari. Normally, Aman harvest begins in late November.

The varieties have proved successful in experimental cultivation by BRRI and will be released for farmers soon, Moidj said. These have been developed after years of experiment and study in cooperation with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI).

Farmers in the flood prone areas in the country have to face loss of Aman crop almost every year. The BRRI-28

will help farmers avoid crop loss. Dr. MA Moidj along with Agriculture scientists Anarul Hoque and HU Harun of BRRI and Dr. Abdulbagi Ismail and Dr. D. Mackill of IRRI carried evolved the two varieties.

"Plants of BRRI-28 variety of Aman rice can survive in submerged condition for at least fifteen days," Dr. Moidj told this correspondent during a recently visit to the BRRI field at Dharmadaspur.

The present monsoon situation will



PHOTO: STAR

Sheaves of paddy coming out of BRRI-33 plants. The paddy will be ready for harvest by mid-October.

### Crimes in Eastern rail routes

Special squads to launch operation soon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A high profile anti-crime meeting held here has decided to form six special squads comprising police, railway police and BDR to control crimes on trains and along the routes in railway's Eastern Zone.

The meeting also decided to launch Task Force operations in different points in Comilla and Brahmanbaria districts to nab inter-district gangs. The Deputy Commissioners and Police Superintendents will coordinate the operations.

The meeting noted that crimes in the routes are rampant because these are through the two bordering districts.

Chittagong Zone Railway Police Superintendent (SRP) Shaibal Kanti Chowdhury, Brahmanbaria Police Super ATM Tareque, Additional Police Super Md Jahangir Hossain, Comilla ASP Tufayel Ahmed and OCs of thanas in Brahmanbaria attended the meeting, held at the conference room at the SP's office here on Thursday. The meeting was organised by Eastern Zone Railway Police.

The meeting discussed that crimes like arms and drugs smuggling and trafficking are committed through this rail route by organised gangs. Some railway men were also killed as they tried to resist crimes.

They identified outer signal points at Mandabhat, Imam Bari, Kasba, Shashidhara, Saldanadee, Rasulpur and Rajapur rail stations as crime points.

The criminals stop trains at these points for loading and unloading smuggled goods, arms and drugs. These are then sent to different destinations.

Gangs stabbed six railway policemen at the outer signal of Akhaura railway station recently.

Trains were illegally stopped at least 68 times on the routes in last two months, Brahmanbaria SP ATM Tareque told this correspondent.

### Students ransack classrooms at BM College

#### Teacher's removal demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A group of students of English Department at Government B M College ransacked some class rooms on Wednesday demanding removal of a teacher for his alleged extra-marital affairs with a student.

They also brought out a procession, distributed leaflets and threatened to boycott classes if their demand is not met.

The students are divided into two groups over the issue, one supporting the teacher and the other opposing him.

The college authorities earlier formed a committee to probe the allegation against Prof. Prodip Kumar Baral.

The students demanding his removal became violent after it was known that the probe committee reportedly gave its report in favour of the teacher.

Some sources also claimed that the whole thing was a conspiracy by a section of teachers to tarnish Baral's reputation in the college as a good teacher. The Principal, Prof Nurul Hug, meanwhile left for Dhaka.

Principal in-charge Prof Maksuda Begum called an emergency meeting of college Academic Council, which decided to form another committee to probe the incident of ransacking.

Prof Golam Mustafa, chairman of English Department of B M College said the problem was created about three weeks back when Baral's wife, whom is Chairman of English Department at Barisal Government College of the city, publicly accused her husband of extra-marital affairs.

The couple has no issue in their 12 years of married life.

### Lightning kills two

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Two persons were killed in lightning on Thursday in Gangachhara upazila.

The dead are Amina Begum, 40, wife of Khoka Miah of Dhamur village and Haricharan, 50, of Bagdorha village.

Eyewitnesses said Amina was working at the homestead and Haricharan at field when they were struck by lightning.

## MP gives 'false' bio-data to parliament?

Moulvibazar BNP leaders say they can prove Shaheen's 'falsehood'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Conflict between independent lawmaker MM Shaheen (Moulvibazar-2 constituency) and Moulvibazar district BNP has taken a new turn following the ruling party's false allegation against the lawmaker.

Leaders of Moulvibazar BNP have alleged at a press conference that Shaheen had given "false information" about his educational qualification in his bio-data submitted to parliament.

They have demanded his resignation as a lawmaker for giving "false statement".

Senior Vice President of district BNP Mujibur Rahman Mujib read out a written statement at the press conference, held at Moulvibazar Press Club on Tuesday. District BNP General Secretary Fazlur Karim Mayun and leaders of Kulaura upazila BNP, from where Shaheen was elected, were among others present at the press conference.

In the written statement, BNP leaders said independent lawmaker Shaheen had stated in his bio-data that he passed BA and BSc and also obtained graduation in computer science from Frankfurt University in Germany in 1981.

They said that Shaheen, replying to a question from a BNP lawmaker in parliament, had said that he would resign from parliament if any body can

prove that his educational qualification given in the bio-data is false.

The BNP leaders said they can prove that Shaheen information was false.

They said they came to know from Prof Dr Md Azizur Rahman,

Principal of Government Titumir College in Dhaka, that Shaheen did not pass the HSC examination in 1977-78, according to the tabulation sheet.

Moulvibazar BNP President M

Naser Rahman MP also obtained a letter from Ralf Breyer of Frankfurt University on August 21 which stated that Shaheen's name was not on the list of computer science students.

Shaheen has lost the moral right to represent the people of Kulaura upazila (Moulvibazar-2) in parliament because of the "falsehood", they said.

Shaheen's comment was not available as he is abroad now.

Mentionably, MM Shaheen was president of Kulaura upazila BNP and vice president of Moulvibazar district BNP. He sought party's nomination in the 2001 parliamentary election from Moulvibazar-2. But Jamaat-e-Islami leader Dr Md Shafiqur Rahman got the nomination as four-party alliance candidate.

Shaheen contested the election as an independent candidate and

was elected with a big margin.

Later Shaheen was expelled from BNP in October 2001. After his election victory, Shaheen tried to return to BNP but was refused.

### JCD men ransack principal's room

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

JCD (Jatiyatabadi Chhatra) activists ransacked the principal's office at Rahamatpur Agriculture Institute in Babuganj on Thursday as the authorities denied admission to party supporters who failed in the interview.

Sources at the institute said, over 650 students applied for admission in first year Diploma Course against 200 seats. The authorities took interview and selected a list for admission.

But the JCD activists demanded a special quota for their supporters. The authorities ignored their demand.

The JCD activists then ransacked the principal's office.

Principal Prof Nurul Islam later told newsmen that the list was prepared as per interview results.

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