

# 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 Bamril 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 2 lakh. But he changed his mind and bought 15,00 saplings of a high yielding guava named Kazi Peyara and planted those in the courtyard.

Perhaps he could not imagine what he was doing. Kuddus Dewan is now a rich man with an annual income of over Tk three lakh.

It was a big surprise for this correspondent during a 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

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.

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 Bamril 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



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.

## Crimes in Eastern rail routes

### Special squads to launch operation soon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

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 Easter 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 Mandabhadra, Imam Bari, Kasba, Shashidal, 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 SPATM Tarek 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 classrooms 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 became 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 Huq, meanwhile left for Dhaka.

Principal in-charge Prof Maksud 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 upzila.

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

Eyewitnesses said Amina was working at the homestead and Haricharon 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 fresh 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 Fayzul 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 Titumeer 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 Dal) activists ransacked the principal's office at Rahamatpur Agriculture Institute in Babaganj 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.

# 22-km human chain formed in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A 22-kilometre long human chain was formed jointly by Gaibandha district Awami League, Jatiya

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

It stretched from Gaibandha Shaheed Miner to Palashbari upazila.

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

Commissioner.

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

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, Sadrul 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.



PHOTO: STAR

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

# 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. MAMojid.

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 munga (pre-harvest lean period when farmers have no work) begins in northern districts of Rangpur, Kurigram, Gibandha, 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, Mojid 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 Majid along with Agriculture scientists Anarul Hoque and HU Harun of BARRI and Dr. Abdelbagi 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. Mojid told this correspondent during a recently visit to the BRRI field at Dharmadasapur.

The present munga situation will

disappear largely if BRRI-33 is cultivated, he said. As the cropping period is short, farmers will be able to grow two crops in a year, he said.

Then BRRI will also introduce 'drum seeder' technology for sowing rice seeds, which will reduce cost. The technology is now being used in other countries of South Asia. Farmers will need a drum to sow the seeds in fields instead of preparing seedbeds.

This will also increase the yield by at least 10 percent, he said.



PHOTO: STAR

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

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## SNAPS

### Clashes over drug peddling: 8 hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

At least eight persons including a JCD leader were injured and several shops were looted in two incidents of clash over supremacy in drug peddling in the city on Thursday. Armed rival gangs led by Alam and Al Amin exploded bombs and clashed with lethal weapons over their areas of drug peddling in Saw Road, Hatkhola Amanatganj and Hatkhola areas of the city, leaving seven persons injured. Of the injured, Salahuddin, 22, a security guard of Power Development Board (PDB) and Rubel, a local resident were admitted to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (BSBMCH) in critical condition.

In the other incident Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader Md. Nunna was hacked by a gang led by Shakil, in a dispute over share of drug money. He was admitted to BSBMCH.

### Ferry service faces disruption

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Ferry service in Paturia-Daulatdia and Paturia-Kazirhat routes may be disrupted any time as the water level of the Padma is falling fast. Ferry vessels Karamat Ali from Kazirhat and Motiur Rahman from Daulatdia ran aground on a shoal near Paturia ferry terminal on Sunday last. Those were towed by other vessels, BIWTC sources said yesterday. The water level is falling by about 24 cms in 24 hours at Goalanda and Paturia points. At least eight feet water is need for a ferry to move but now the depth is slightly over six feet at places, they said.