

Breakthrough in organic pest control

Seeds treated with BAU-evolved 'garlic tablet' become pest resistant: Bio-pesticide treats soil

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The Bangladesh Agriculture University (BAU) has evolved environment friendly organic methods for treating seed and soil at negligible cost...

'Garlic tablet', prepared from garlic and 'allamanda tablet' made from 'allamanda' (an indigenous lower) treat seeds and make them pest resistant.

The seeds thus treated have over 90 per cent germination rate compared to around 60 percent now at farmers' level.

These devices have proved effective during experiment at farmers' level.

One tablet will cost only Tk five. Their use is also very simple. A farmer will crush either of the tablets and mix the powder with an appropriate quantity of water.

The seeds will be kept in the water for about 15 minutes and then dried. These will be ready for sowing.

The Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Laboratory in the Department of Plant Pathology (DPP) at BAU evolved the tablets after research for over one year.

Internationally reputed scientist and founder of the IPM Laboratory Prof Dr M Bahadur Miah was behind the great achievement.

Seeds needed for one hectare of land can be treated with one 'garlic tablet' or an 'allamanda tablet', Dr Bahadur Miah told this correspondent during a field day with farmers on the BAU compound.

The collaborative research project titled 'Development of an Integrated Approach for Management of Phomopsis Blight/Fruit Rot of Eggplant in Bangladesh' was funded



Prof Dr Bahadur Miah talking to farmers about their experience with the organic pest control devices on the BAU compound recently.

by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Like seeds, the soil should also be treated before sowing to keep crop free from pest attack, Dr Bahadur said.

A bio-pesticide named 'Trichoderma' evolved at the IPM Lab has proved very effective in treating soil at farmers' level, he said. This is for the first time in the country that such an effective bio-pesticide has been evolved, which can be made easily available to farmers, he said.

To treat the land, Trichoderma is sprayed in the field after cultivation. The land is cultivated again so that the bio-pesticide is mixed with the 'topsoil' (six inches).

One kilogram of Trichoderma can treat the soil for transplanting over

1000 vegetable seedlings, which will cost Tk 10 only, he said. The cost will be Tk 600 to Tk 800 for one hectare, depending on the density of seedlings, he said.

The two tablets and the bio-pesticide have proved 'excellent' during experiment at farmers' level, Dr Bahadur said.

Over 100 farmers have so far been trained by IPM scientists on use of the two methods.

Abdur Rouf, a farmer from Nandina in Jamalpur district and Iqbal Hossain from Laxmipur district who received training said they are now using seed treating devices with good results.

Sohrab Hossain, an eggplant grower from Gafarganj upazila in

Mymensingh said his three-acre field is now free from pest attack after use of garlic tablets and Trichoderma. The yield is also good and harvest is on.

The three farmers were at BAU recently to exchange their experience with the scientists.

Talking to this correspondent, Dr Bahadur regretted that the government has a big programme for IPM but its research work is not getting the required attention. The government should give more attention to research, he said.

Being satisfied with research work at IPM Lab, donors allocated Tk two crore and extended the project period by five years, Dr Bahadur said.

Probe begins on 'corruption' by Rangpur Civil Surgeon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

An allegation of corruption against the Rangpur Civil Surgeon (CS) is being investigated.

The Health Ministry has formed a two-member committee to investigate into the alleged corruption and irregularities done by Rangpur CS Dr Joyal Abedin Khan in appointment of 54 third and fourth class employees recently.

The probe body members are Senior Assistant Secretary of the Health Ministry Sayeda Anwara Begum and Assistant Director of Health Department in Dhaka Dr Akram Hossain. They have started their investigation on Sunday. They are supposed to complete their investigation today (Tuesday).

The complainants were served with notices to submit their statements to the committee. It has been alleged that a section of employees of the CS office tried to refrain themselves from submitting statements.

BSF hands over abducted student rescued in India

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A Bangladeshi school student, abducted by an Indian gang, was rescued by BSF and handed over to BDR at a flag meeting held at Kacharipara on the man's land on Sunday.

Along Indian border security force BSF handed over Bangladeshi school student Selim through a flag meeting with its counterparts Bangladesh rifle BDR on Sunday.

Police said Selim, a student of Jamalpur Primary School, was playing alone in a field at bordering Jamalpur village in Daulatpur upazila on January 11.

A gang came from across the border and took him away forcibly. They later demanded Tk 80,000 to his father Aslam Hossain on cell phone. Sources said, the gang was led allegedly by Indian national Anwarul.

The victim's father informed BDR at Jamalpur outpost, who informed BSF. BSF informed Indian police, who rescued the boy from a village in Murshidabad district.

At least seven people including four school and college students were abducted in last 16 days in the district. Of them, six bought their freedom and one was rescued by police.

At least 122 abduction incidents took place in the district last year. Organised gangs and outlaws are behind the incidents, according to police and victims' families.

Spurious Phensidyl kills one

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A drug addict died at Nunia village in Palashbari upazila following intake of spurious Phensidyl on Saturday.

The dead victim is Jahangir Alam, manager of a bus counter.

He was recovered in an unconscious state by breaking open the door. Afterwards, he was removed to Palashbari Health Complex where the on-duty physician declared him dead.

Foes in politics, friends while land grabbing

Jubo Dal, Jubo League leaders grab 5 acre prime railway land in Companiganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

They are political foes but together have grabbed a prime railway land, sparking protests by people in Bholaganj in Companiganj upazila. Some influential leaders of ruling BNP's youth front Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal and opposition Awami League's Jubo League forcibly grabbed five acres of railway land near Bholaganj stone crushing plant area on January 10.

They grabbed the land allegedly with backing from a section of police officials of Companiganj thana and Ansars, according to sources there.

Railway employee Mokbul Hossain stationed at Chhatak filed a case with Companiganj police on January 13 accusing nine persons including Jubo Dal leader Sujjan Miah and Jubo League leader Alauddin.

The other accused persons are Ilyas Miah, Alim Uddin, Khorshed

Miah, Tota Miah, Syed Jamal, Shahid Miah and Jahir Miah.

On information, an official visited the site on January 14. People brought out a procession in the upazila headquarter on Saturday and held a rally demanding restoration of the land from the grabbers and steps to save Bholaganj, a rich source of stones rolling from Meghalaya hills across the border.

Stone collection is the main source of income for the people of the area. The processionists paraded the main roads in the upazila headquarters chanting various slogans. They also demanded punishment for corrupt police officials who allegedly backed the land grabbers.

They submitted a memorandum to Sylhet Deputy Commissioner through the Upazila Nirbahi Officer which also demanded withdrawal of ASI Golam Mostafa from

Companiganj thana and the Ansar Commander posted at Bholaganj.

The protesters threatened of tougher agitation including hartal if the demands are not met immediately.

The rally was addressed by, among others Mujibur Rahman Mintu, Azir Uddin, Nur Miah, Nurul Islam, Shallen Chandra Shil, Ali Akbar and Shafiqur Rahman.

Because of several stone quarries in the area, a stone crushing plant and a ropeway were set up in Bholaganj in 1968 for supply of stones for railway.

But due to some influential quarters and extortionists, stone collection was disrupted and the government closed the plant in 1998 and withdrew most of the staff. A few staff members were kept there and an Ansar camp set up to guard the government property.

Bid to abduct teenage girl foiled by mob: 21 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A bid to abduct a teenage girl was foiled by mob at Katiyer Vita village in Fulchhari upazila on Saturday.

Police arrested 21 abductors and sent them to jail.

According to police and villagers, one person named Sushil Chandra of the village arranged marriage of his daughter Lucky Rani, 18.

But Sushil's son-in-law Bhushan Chandra tried to convince his father-in-law to arrange Lucky's marriage with his younger brother Bhabesh Chandra. As Sushil refused to agree with his proposal, Bhushan planned to kidnap Lucky.

He along with his accomplices went to Sushil's house in two microbuses. They abducted Lucky and tried to flee with her. Local people chased the microbuses.

In the meantime, local member of parliament (MP) Begum Rowshan Ershad was on her return journey after visiting her constituency on board a vehicle. Her driver created a barricade with the vehicle.

Local people caught the miscreants and recovered Lucky from their clutches. The mob began to beat the miscreants including Biswanath and Bhabesh.

At this stage, Rawshan Ershad

3 bombs recovered from Agailjhara barber shop

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Agailjhara police searched a locked barber shop and recovered three home made bombs Saturday night.

Police sources said they searched the shop at Kalur Bazar at the upazila headquarter after an anonymous caller said some bombs were hidden at the shop.

The three bombs were contained in a plastic bag. Proshanta Shil, owner of the shop, said he does not know how the bombs were kept there. He said he closed the shop at about 7 pm Saturday and the bombs were recovered an hour later.

He started the new shop at a rented house a few days ago, he said. Other sources said the landlord, Shukdev Dewri, has dispute over the owner ship of the land with another person - Selim Gomasta.

Police lodged a general diary in this connection.

Jobo League leader among 3 held by Barisal Rab

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested three persons including a Jobo League leader from Rajpasha village in Shekherhat union in Jhalakati district Sunday night and recovered arms and ammunitions from their possession.

The arrested persons are Jubo League leader Saifur Rahman Swapan, 35, Badal alias Milton, 44 and his brother Abdur Rashid.

Later one revolver, one pipe gun and three bullets were recovered from the house of Abdur Rashid. Harunur Rashid, ASP and Rab Commander in Barisal said, there are many allegations of extortion and other crimes against Saifur. They would be handed over to police after primary interrogation, he said.

SNAPS

BDR-BSF flag meeting held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A two-hour flag meeting of the company commanders of the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) was held at Benapole check post on Saturday. The BSF withdrew their extra force from the check post after the fruitful flag meeting. The BSF regretted Friday's firing incidents at Benapole check post without any provocation from the BDR. Both the sides agreed on discussion before resumption of any construction work at Zero point. A five-member Indian team was led by Virendra Singh, while Naik Subedar Abul Kalam led the Bangladesh side.

Anti-drug meeting held in B'baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

An anti-drug meeting was held at Kazipara here on Sunday. Brahmanbaria Pousabha Commissioner Khondkar Md Shah Alam presided over the meeting. Advocate Md Tanbir Ahmed, President of Brahmanbaria Dhumpan-O-Madok Birochi Sangathan, a non-smoking anti-drug committee, was present there as the chief guest. Among others, Md Kitab Ali, Kazi Shaif Uddin, Master Md Mona Mia, journalist Md Apu Ahmed, Md Manik Mia and advocate Mintu Bhaumik addressed the meeting.

Two buy freedom, one abducted in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

College student Ziaul, abducted on January 10 and expatriate Kalu, abducted on January 13, bought their freedom on Sunday.

In another incident, criminals abducted a rice mill owner on Sunday.

A gang posing as policemen stormed into the house of Nasir Uddin at Jhoulia village in Sadar upazila on the night of January 10. They asked Nasir Uddin's son Ziaul, a degree student at a local college, to accompany them to identify a criminal's house in the village.

But after some time, the gang told Nasir Uddin over mobile that his son was abducted and demanded Tk 2 lakh ransom.

Nasir went to police next morning and filed a case but to no result.

"We paid the captors Tk 40,000 for Ziaul's release", victim's relative Sawkat told this correspondent over phone yesterday.

After the payment, the gang left Ziaul near his village Sunday evening.

When contacted, police said they did not know about ransom payment.

Kalu Ahamed, 32, son of Kader Sardar of Pirtola village in Gangni

A life for a bidi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Refusal to offer a bidi to a person has led to a bloody clash resulting in death of one person and injuries to two others at Shapmara village in Gobindaganj upazila on Saturday.

The dead is Saimuddin, 40. He had turned down a request from Jaharul Islam for a Bidi. A hot exchange of words ensued between them. Soon the news spread fast and their supporters equipped with lethal weapons reached the spot. Both the groups were locked in a bloody clash.

The three injured persons were taken to Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH). One of them, Saimuddin died on Sunday.

Police arrested two persons named Jaharul and Golzar.

A relative of the victim seeking anonymity told to this correspondent over cell phone that they were trying to negotiate with the captors for Sanjoy's release.

The BNP-lead four party alliance organised a big rally and brought out a colourful procession in the city on Monday to celebrate a government announcement upgrading the Brojo Mohan College (BM College) to a university.

The alliance leaders speaking at the rally thanked the government for the step, saying this will open a new era in education in Barisal division.

But they urged the authorities concerned to name the university as Brojo Mohan University.

Teachers, students, activists of components of the alliance and people from all walks of life joined the programme in large numbers.

Advocate Majibur Rahman Sarwar MP, Mayor of Barisal City Corporation and Minister-in-Charge of the district, district BNP secretary Nazrul Islam Razon, City Jamaat Amir Moazzem Hossain Helal, Barisal Islami Oikko Jote Secretary AKM Sahjahan, BM College Principal Prof Nurul Huq, Prof. Md. Hanif, Ward Commissioner Abdur Rahman Azim, City JCD President Mashul Alam Sentu addressed the gathering.



Leaders of the four-party alliance leading a procession in Barisal city on Sunday, hailing the government for upgrading Barisal BM College to a University.

UPGRADING BM COLLEGE TO UNIVERSITY Alliance holds rally, procession to hail govt announcement

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

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It was presided over by former principal of BM College Prof Syed Moazzem Hossain Mia.

The speakers thanked the Prime Minister for fulfilling a long desired dream of the people of the region.

But presence of Sentu among the leaders drew criticism from many among members of the public. Police said Sentu was wanted by Rapid Action Battalion for toll collection, tender snatching and other crimes.

He was hiding after Rab began its operation in Barisal.

Rab members were also present at the programme.

Advertisement for Biman Flight Catering Centre (BFCC) featuring details of an international tender notice for catering services, including contact information and tender specifications.

Advertisement for the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Directorate of Food, Procurement Division, regarding an Amendment Tender Notice for rice purchase, including terms and conditions.