

New HYV paddy to combat Monga innovated

Jobs for day labourers to be created in October, November

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU,
back from Rangpur

Agriculture scientists have innovated a new high yielding variety (HYV) of paddy to combat Monga (famine-like situation) in eight districts of greater Rangpur and Dinajpur in October and November, Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service (RDRS) agriculture coordinator MG Neogi said.

It will help create jobs for labourers in October and November which is known as 'Monga' period, said the agriculture scientist.

The new early variety of paddy was innovated after a seven-month research conducted by Research Initiative Bangladesh (RIB) in joint collaboration with Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB), Thengamara Mohila Sabuj Sangha (TMSS), Udayankur Seba Sangstha (SSU) and Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service (RDRS), he said.

The research project started in June last year and ended successfully in December the same year.

According to the project paper, jobs for more than one million day labourers was created by cultivating paddy on 2 crore 64 lakh 2,126 acres of land in eight districts during Monga.

Under the project, 100 hectares of land were brought under cultivation of high yielding BRRI Dhan-33 in Sadar Upazila in Nilphamari, Gangachara Upazila in Rangpur, Ullipur Upazila in Kurigram and

Hatibanda Upazila in Lalmonirhat district.

The research paper revealed

greater Rangpur and Dinajpur. It helped create jobs for labourers in October and November which is



PHOTO: STAR

Agriculture scientists visiting a paddy field at RDRS farm in Rangpur where a new high yielding variety of BRRI Dhan-33 was cultivated. The new variety will help combat Monga in 8 northern districts.

that generation of employment of more than one crore day labourers was created by cultivating paddy on 2 crore 64 lakh 2,126 acres of land during Monga in eight districts of

generally known as 'Monga' period, agriculture scientists said.

Farmer Mohammad Oliur Rahman, son of Al-haj Abdul Majid Sarker of Purbakhatikha Hazipara

village in Gangachara upazila, Rangpur is one of the beneficiaries. He told this correspondent he had cultivated BRRI Dhan 33 on 1.25 acres of land on experimental basis. He harvested 2.25 metric tons (MT) of rice at a cost of Tk 3,000 during Monga period. Earlier, he spent Tk 4,000 to cultivate paddy on the same land.

Oliur Rahman said, 'I have harvested early variety of paddy within 100 to 105 days of transplantation,' Oliur said. He said transplanted Boro required 150 days for harvesting. As a result it was impossible to cultivate potato and 'Mug' pulse on time. 'Now I can cultivate Rabi crops including potato after harvesting the early variety of paddy', Oliur said.

'I was benefited in several ways including early harvest of paddy during 'Monga' period and cultivated potato with less fertiliser.

Another beneficiary, Abdul Wahab, son of Amin Uddin Bepari of Kazaldanga Bheramara village under Ullipur upazila in Kurigram, said he had harvested more than two metric tons of paddy cultivating more than half acre of land.

I was benefited by early harvesting of crop during Monga, he said.

Workshop on reporting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Dinajpur*

A five-day workshop on Economic Reporting concluded here.

CCD Bangladesh and Economic Journalists' Network (EJ Net), Dinajpur, Thomson Foundation UK and European Union jointly organised the workshop.

The workshop ended at Dinajpur Chamber of Commerce and Industries' Conference room Monday. Sixteen journalists of local and national dailies participated.

25 injured in Netrakona clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Netrakona*

About 25 people including four women were injured in a villagers clash over a land dispute at Chakuapara village under Purbadhala upazila yesterday afternoon.

The dash ensued when Halaluddin's group attacked the houses of supporters of Gasuuddin group. The supporters of Gasuuddin group retaliated resulting in injuries to 25 persons of both the groups.

'Stop demolition of Kokborok Library'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Khagrachhari*

Tripura Students' Forum (TSF), a student organisation of the indigenous Tripura community, urged the district administration to stop demolition of Kokborok Library established a decade ago.

The district administration served a notice on the Kokborok Library authorities on April 18 to remove the 'illegal' structure within seven days of issuance of the notice.

Earlier, the chief executive of Roads and Highways Department (RHD) requested the administration to demolish the building claiming its existence on the land of cantonment.

The district administration also asked the owners of other unauthorised buildings to remove their structures built on government land on the Khagrachhari-Dighinala road within seven days of issuance of the notice. Otherwise, the will be demolished afterwards, the notice said.

TSF leaders handed over memorandums to Deputy Commissioner

(DC) Mohammad Shahadat Hossain and District Council chairman Monindra Lal Tripura to stop demolition of the library.

In the memorandums, they said the library is a non-political organisation which was built to create awareness among people about the culture and tradition of Tripura community. Earlier, the library authorities distributed books, clothes, educational implements among poor and meritorious students belonging to Tripura community.

The library is a symbol of hope of the community members, TSF leaders said.

When contacted with the District Council chairman Monindra Lal Tripura, he said the district administration is sympathetic to the demands of TSF leaders.

TSF president Roaza Jagadish Tripura told The Daily Star, they await a positive response from the district administration in this regard.



Rizia Ahmed

Shaheed Janoni's death condoled

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Nilphamari*

Bangladesh Awami League (AL) publicity secretary and former law-maker of Nilphamari Sadar constituency Asaduzzaman Noor has condoled the death of Shaheed Janoni Rizia Ahmed, wife of Shikkha Guru Asir Uddin Ahmed, a noted educationist and renowned headmaster of Nilphamari Government Boys' High School (formerly Nilphamari High English School) and mother of Shaheed Captain RAM Khairul Bashar, a martyred valiant freedom fighter of the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971.

Terming the demise of Rizia Ahmed 'an irreparable loss', Noor said we have lost an ideal mother who sacrificed her entire life for the cause of education by staying always beside her celebrated husband who dedicated his life to kindle the light of education in Nilphamari and its surrounding areas.

Rizia Ahmed breathed her last at the Dhaka Shyamoli Adabor residence of her younger daughter Sakina Yakub, a senior teacher of Teigaon Government Boys' High School on April 13. She was 87. Her body was taken to Nilphamari the next day where her namaj-e-janaza was held at the Alia Madrasa ground. A large number of people including former students of Nilphamari High English School attended the janaza. She was buried beside her husband at Nilphamari College graveyard.

Two arrested with firearms

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Tangail*

Joint forces arrested two persons including a Jubo Dal leader and recovered two firearms from their possessions yesterday.

Sources said a team of joint force arrested Rafiqul Islam Swapan alias Bepari Swapan, 35, president of Tangail city unit of Jubo Dal from Akur Takur Para in the town. They also recovered a foreign made shotgun from his possession.

Following his confessional statement the joint force later arrested Aminul Islam Sumon, 25, from Weather Office Road and recovered a foreign made rifle from his possession.

Police said, Swapan was involved in different criminal activities including extortion in Tangail town for long.

A case was filed against them under Arms Act with Tangail Police Station.

Practice of philanthropy stressed

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Speakers at two separate meetings in Rajshahi and Barisal stressed on the need for revival of the traditional practice of philanthropy for well-being of mankind.

Bangladesh Freedom Foundation (BFF), Centre for Capacity Building of Voluntary Organisation (CCBVO) and Media Professionals Group (MPG) jointly organised the meetings to exchange opinion with journalists, social workers, lawyers, physicians and government officials.

Held at CCBVO auditorium in Rajshahi, the meeting was attended by Deputy commissioner Dr Aminul Islam as chief guest.

MPG director Samar Roy conducted the session. Journalist Jahangir Alam, Rajshahi representative of MPG, presented a paper or 'Practising Philanthropy in Bangladesh: Rajshahi Perspective'. He depicted the total picture of past and present philanthropic activities in Rajshahi. He mentioned the contributions of Queen Hemanta

Kumari in socio-economic development in the area. He recalled her contributions for welfare of people by installing the century-old 'Dhopkal' to solve water crisis in the area. Jahangir recalled her contributions for enrichment of Rajshahi Association and Rajshahi Public Library.

In Barisal a similar discussion was held at a meeting jointly organised by Bangladesh Freedom Foundation (BFF), Reach to Unreached (RUN) and MPG at the Sadar Road BNDN office in Arjolakhi Bhaban.

Barisal Manobadhiker Jote president Dr Syed Habibur Rahman presided.

Journalist Liton Bashar, Barisal representative of MPG, presented a four-page report on 'Practising Philanthropy: Barisal Perspective.' He lauded Mahatma Aswini Kumar Dutta in spreading education and doing social work in Barisal and Dr Zinat Memorial Hospital at Shikarpur for service to for distressed humanity.

Among others, philanthropist

Advocate Mohsin Khan, Zila Sangskritic Jote secretary noted physician Saiful Alam took part in discussion in Rajshahi while former president of Barisal Press Club SM

Iqbal, Jhalokati Government College teacher Prof Dipankar Chakrabarty participated in discussion in Barisal.

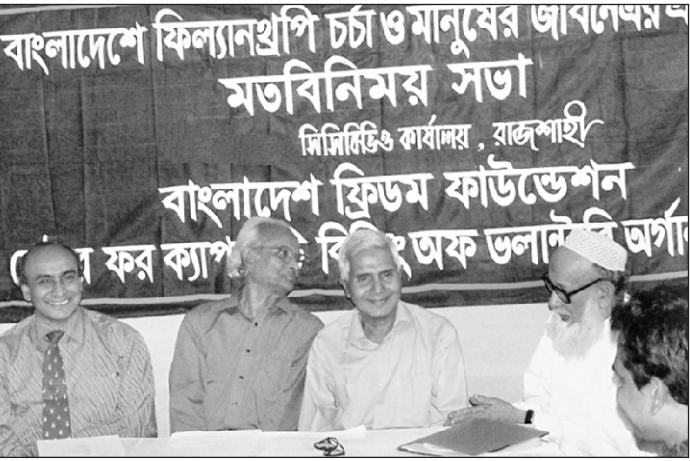


PHOTO: STAR

A discussion on 'Practicing Philanthropy, its Impact on Human Lives' progresses in Rajshahi. Bangladesh Freedom Foundation and Centre for Capacity Building of Voluntary Organisation organised the discussion.

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