

Flood-tolerant varieties of Aman crop this year likely

It can produce 60 lakh tonnes additional paddy

BSS, Rangpur

Large-scale farming of flood-tolerant varieties of Aman crop can produce an additional six million tonnes paddy annually to make the country completely self-reliant in food production and rice exporting nation.

The authorities concerned are now in the final stage to officially release these varieties this year to enable the farmers cultivate at larger scales from the next season and produce their own seeds.

Scientists at Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) and International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) have successfully completed necessary research, experiments and validation of these new flood-tolerant varieties.

The experiments at the field levels showed that the varieties can sustain 12 to 16 days submergence paving the way for producing over 60 lakh tonnes additional paddy with average five tonnes per hectare in flood prone areas of Bangladesh alone.

Repeated successes in getting expected production of flood-tolerant paddy in Bangladesh and India in recent years have ushered in a new era in the disaster-prone agriculture sector of the country, sub-continent and other flood-prone countries.

The success was achieved through farming Swarna Sub1 along with three new Sub1 entries of BRRI Sub1, IR64 Sub1 and Sambamasuri Sub1 flood-tolerant varieties of paddy using participatory variety selection mother trial methods.

In Bangladesh, scientists and farmers successfully cultivated the paddy in on station BRRI Regional Station, Rangpur and on-farm farmers' fields at Rangpur, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Gaibandha, Sirajganj and Nilphamari districts in the past two years.

The varieties are being cultivated successfully in Uttar Pradesh (UP), Bihar and Orissa, where Swarna Sub1 seeds were officially released by the state governments for large-scale farming. Indian union government might release these seeds very soon, too.

Scientists at BRRI, IRRI, Central Rice Research Institute and Norendra Dev University of Agriculture Technology (NDUAT) of India and University of California (UC, Davis & Riverside) developed and validated the technology.

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) provided financial assistance through IRRI to increase seed production and disseminate the technology under its Stress Tolerant Rice for Poor Farmers in Africa & South Asia (STRASA) programme.

The scientists are hoping to overcome colossal crop losses being caused by flash floods to Aman paddy in 12 lakh hectares potential area annually in Bangladesh and 60 lakh hectares in UP, Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal by large-scale farming of these varieties.

Farmers in northern Bangladesh got desired results in farming these Sub1 entries using Developed Agronomical Management Method during past two seasons and named those 'magical paddies' for

'miraculous survivals' even after 12-16 days submergence.

Farmers Abdul Jabbar, Badsha Mian, Abul Hossain and Yasir Ali of village Jatrapur in Kurigram told BSS that their planted Swarna Sub1 variety paddy plants successfully sustained submergence recently for 11-15 days and are growing now excellent.

Manik has cultivated Swarna Sub1 in 14 bighas and Nuruzzaman planted BRRI Sub1 in two bighas this season and the crops show excellent growth now in Darshona of Rangpur after remaining inundated for 10 to 14 days recently.

Deputy Director General (Research) of IRRI Dr Achim Dobbermann along with Dr MA Mazid, consultant of STRASA Dr MA Bari and Head of BRRI's Rangpur Regional Station Dr MA Jalil Mridha visited the on-farm validation of Sub1 entries here recently.

"Last season, we have successfully cultivated these Sub1 varieties, growing plants of which sustained strains of floodwaters for 12-16 consecutive days in northern Bangladesh, then grew well and yielded better productions," Dr Mazid told BSS yesterday.

After conducting trials, preference analysis of Sub1 entries by farmers, extension providers, government organisations and NGOs in the flood-prone areas, BRRI scientists are hoping approval by technical committee of the National Seed Board for seed production soon.

Rangpur BRRI Station in collaboration with IRRI under Submergence and Flood

Prone Environment Agriculture Project of Consortium for Unfavorable Rice Environment tested and validated flood tolerant Swarna Sub1 and BRRI Sub1 since 2005-2007.

Talking to BSS here recently, Regional Project Coordinator of STRASA Dr US Singh termed the success as epoch-making to largely increase global rice production and food security by overcoming negative impacts of ongoing climate changes.

"We have achieved huge success by developing and evaluating the advanced technology and are conducting research managements to produce seeds, quality seedlings and farming the paddy in submerged farmlands," he added.

These four varieties were invented through introducing Gene Sub 1 by marker aided selection, a molecular breeding method, at IRRI into Indian mega variety Swarna, Sambamasuri and Bangladeshi mega variety BRRI and Philippines variety IR64.

Under the assistances of BRRI scientists, 735 farmers have cultivated these Sub1 entries in 18.65 acres in 11 upazilas of Rangpur, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari, Gaibandha and Sirajganj this year where the crop successfully sustained recent flash floods.

Head of Agriculture of RDRS Md Neogi told BSS that his NGO expects to cultivate these varieties in 500 acres land involving 1,500 farmers next year against cultivation in 28 acres involving 85 farmers this year in greater Rangpur.



An Eid fair has replaced Iftar item vendors at Shahi Masjid Road in busy Chakbazar area in the city. The fair began on Eid day.

GUARD MURDER Bogra AL leader, 4 others sued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A case was filed against five people, including district Awami League vice-president Abul Kalam Azad, on charges of killing a night guard.

The night guard, Jannatul Ferdous Rony, an employee of Northern Cold Store, was killed on his premises on September 17. Abul Kalam Azad is the owner of the cold store.

Rony's father Montejar Rahman filed the case with Chief Judicial Magistrate court yesterday.

Other accused are Roman, son of Abul Kalam Azad, manager of the cold store Jahedul Islam, and two other employees Saheb and Israfil.

Earlier, Manager Jahedul Islam filed a case against Rony accusing him of stealing Tk 3 lakh from the store.

Cox's Bazar

FROM PAGE 16

His body surfaced at Diabetic Hospital Point in the morning.

The fate of the other two missing youths remained unknown, said Mostafa Kamal, director of Yasir Lifeguard Station, a local private organisation of lifeguards.

Over 300 tourists have been rescued from undersea gorges in the danger zone near the beach over the last two days as nearly one lakh tourists flocked to Cox's Bazar to spend Eid and Puja vacations there, said Kamal, a retired official of Bangladesh Navy.

He said many tourists venture into underwater gorges out of joy ignoring warnings from the authorities.

Kamal said he has not seen such a huge number of tourists there in the last seven years.

"I think around 30,000 tourists came to the beach between 8:00am and 5:00pm yesterday (Wednesday)," he said.

He said the authorities have put up banners at Laboni Point warning tourists about the danger of undersea gorges but many of them don't pay heed to it.

"Even red flags are hoisted during low tide to warn tourists but many in groups swim at that time ignoring the warning," he said.

Kamal said thousands of tourists have also flocked to Teknaf, Maheshkhali, Dulahazara Safari Park, Inani and Himchari.

Abul Kashem Shikder, general secretary of Hotel, Motel and Guesthouse Owners' Association, said all 250 hotels and motels in beach areas in Cox's Bazar are now crowded with tourists and the inflow would continue for at least 10 days.

Superintendent of Police Md Shakhawat Hossain said they have deployed patrol teams at 10 tourist spots to ensure safety of tourists.

commission's approval. He said they could start the work after getting approval from the planning commission. "We are expecting to start the work next dry season and we will do the work of sector-10 on priority basis," he said.

Talking to The Daily Star, Harirampur UP member Md Mostafa Jamal said, "I sent an application to Tejgaon circle office (development) under DC office for repairing the road a few months back. But I haven't got any response yet."

Road crashes kill 6

METRO DESK

Six people were killed and 60 others injured in separate road accidents across the country yesterday.

Staff correspondent in Sylhet reports: Three people were killed and eight others were injured in a road accident on Sylhet-Tamabil Highway in the district yesterday afternoon.

One of the dead was identified as Mosharraf Hossain Himel, 23, but the identity of the two others could not be known immediately.

The injured were rushed to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

The accident took place when a Jaflong-bound microbus collided head-on

with a passenger bus at Kodomkhal in Zaintapur at about 1:30pm.

UNB adds: An elderly person was killed and 50 others were injured as a bus plunged into a roadside ditch at Galura in Manikganj yesterday.

The dead was identified as Mahmud Ali, 70.

The accident took place at about 9:30am when the victims were returning from the shrine of Hazrat Shahjalal (R) in Sylhet.

Twenty of the injured were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital while the rest were taken to Sadar Hospital.

Staff correspondent in Chittagong adds: A man was killed and two others were injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Mirsarai yesterday.

The dead was identified as Md Kausar, 28.

The accident took place when a Dhaka-bound pick-up van knocked a CNG-run autorickshaw near Baratakia Bazar at around 8:00am.

The injured were rushed to the nearby health complex.

Our correspondent in Magura adds: An employee of Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) was killed in a road accident in the district yesterday.

The victim was identified as Abul Kalam Azad, 50.

The accident took place at around 12:30pm when a Dhaka-bound bus hit the bicycle of Azad was riding on near Magura station on Magura-Jhenidah highway.

Ashraf warns against failure

FROM PAGE 1

session, which will resume on October 4, to make it effective and institutionalise democracy.

"There is no alternative to establishing a sustainable democracy and making parliament effective. Otherwise there will always be apprehension of undemocratic rule in the country," said the AL spokesperson.

"I hope the opposition will return to parliament and speak for the nation. We shall solve national crises through discussion and there is no alternative to it," he said.

Ashraf said democracy would not be strengthened unless all political parties practise it in parliament.

The AL leader said since the people had to sacrifice a lot to get back democracy, all political parties should work together to give democracy a chance to flourish.

Ashraf said it is not possible to ensure development and establish peace without democracy.

The people's representatives must go to parliament without making any general issue a political one, the minister said.

"Come to parliament and speak," said the minister referring to the opposition.

Replying to a query, the LGRD minister said the government would withdraw all politically motivated cases

filed against opposition leaders during the tenure of the last caretaker government.

"The cases which have no merit will be withdrawn," he said.

Asked about the price hike of essentials, he claimed that the prices of essentials, except one or two, had not gone up during Ramadan. He held the media responsible for price hike of sugar during the period.

Ashraf said the price of sugar is still high on the international market.

In reply to another question, the LGRD minister said the government has a plan to construct an expressway from Gazipur to Kanchpur to ease traffic jam in the city.



World Bank President Robert B Zoellick calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her suite at Hotel Grand Hyatt in New York on Wednesday. (Story on Page 1)

WB to help boost social safety net

FROM PAGE 1

PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad briefed newsmen after the meeting, saying that the premier told the WB president the new democratic government of Bangladesh is working round the clock to ensure better living standards of the people.

Hasina said her government has taken various measures and chalked out plans to create a social-safety net for the people by alleviating poverty, generating more employment opportunities, ensuring quality but cheap health services for the masses and quality education facilities for them.

"But, unfortunately, global climate change has become a serious obstacle to implementing the development projects in Bangladesh, though it contributes little to

emission of the greenhouse gases," the PM said.

She told Zoellick that the Bangladesh government has planned to launch massive capital and maintenance dredging, reclaiming lands, building more embankments and creating forest net along the coastal belts as some ways of tackling the climate challenges.

Hasina said her government is doing everything possible to save people from natural calamity, which increased in frequencies nowadays due to global warming, but without combined efforts it is not possible to tackle the global challenges.

In reply, the WB president assured the prime minister of providing necessary supports in attaining its goal for creating social-safety net and implementing the develop-

ment agenda.

Development of transport infrastructures in Bangladesh was discussed with high importance at the meeting, as the new government plans a number of massive projects.

The PM mentioned her government's steps to build the much-expected Padma Bridge between the country's south-western and eastern parts.

As the WB chief raised the issue of corruption in the road communications sector during the past governments, the Bangladesh PM emphatically said her government has further strengthened the country's Anti-Corruption Commission to "root out corruption from society."

"All stakeholders have been strongly and clearly told by the government that corruption on any scale and at

any level will not be tolerated during the rule of Bangladesh Awami League-led government," she said.

She told the chief of the multilateral funding agency that now every person in government is working relentlessly to ensure a better life for the people.

The WB president highly praised leadership of the Bangladesh prime minister and hoped that her government would be able to give people the long-cherished economic emancipation.

Hasina's son, Sajeeb Wazed Joy, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, Cabinet Secretary M Abdul Aziz, Foreign Secretary Mijarul Quayes, Alternative Executive Director of the World Bank Qazi Aminul Islam and Deputy Press Secretary to the PM Mahbubul Hoque Shakil were present.

Uttara roads in bad shape

FROM PAGE 16

Roni has to use road-4 of sector-10 to go to his shop at Rana Bhola Union Parishad Road under Harirampur Union. Besides, the condition of the roads under Harirampur Union is also bad and vehicles cannot run smoothly on the roads.

There are 2-3 feet deep ditches at places on road-1 and road-1A under sector-10. The residents of the area dread to run their vehicles on the dilapidated roads.

"We do not use these roads as we are aware of it.

But people who do not know about the risky condition of the roads use it and their cars are often trapped in ditches," said Belal Hossain, a resident of the area.

Many private cars often fall into ditches and it takes time to pull the vehicles from ditches, he said.

Belal said the roads were damaged severely in the last two years due to running of heavy trucks.

Like the Rana Bhola road, road-1 and road-1A of sector-10, most of the roads including 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10,

11, 12 and 13 under Uttara sector-10 are in a very bad condition.

Besides, the condition of many lanes under different sectors including 11, 12, 13, and 14 is also bad, as the authority concerned did not take proper step to keep the road okay.

General Secretary of Sector-10 Kalyan Samity Abdul Ali said many times they have complained to the Dhaka City Corporation about the roads but the corporation paid no heed to their requests.

He said all the 20 roads of the sector-10 except road-4 are heavily damaged.

Ali said there is a way to go to Ashulia road through Dhaur and Kamarpara via Rana Bhola village. Drivers of the covered vans and trucks use the roads of sector-10, causing damage to it.

Executive Engineer of zone-10 of DCC Mesbaul Karim said there is a project worth Tk 19.19 crore to repair the roads of Uttara sector-10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 and to construct drain. The project is now waiting for planning

AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY-BANGLADESH		
WHERE LEADERS ARE CREATED		
Academic Programs www.aiub.edu		
UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS	Faculty of Engineering	Architecture Computer Engineering (CoE) Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE) BArch BSc
	Faculty of Science	Computer Science (CS) Software Engineering (SE) Computer Information System (CIS) (Students from Commerce background may apply) Computer Science and Software Engineering (CSSE) Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) BSc
	Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences	Advertising English Mass Communication and Media BA
	Faculty of Business Administration	Accounting and Finance Marketing Management Operations Management (OM) International Business (IB) Human Resource Management (HRM) Hotel and Tourism Management (HTM) Management Information System (MIS) BBA
GRADUATE PROGRAMS		Masters in Public Health Master of Science in Computer Science Master of Engineering in Telecommunications Finance Marketing Operations Management (OM) Human Resource Management (HRM) Management Information System (MIS) Business Economics Agribusiness MBA Executive MBA MPH MScs MEngg MBA AMBA EMBA
	ADMISSION Spring Semester Academic year 2009-10 Admission Exam: November 5, 2009	
	Continuing Education Center (CEC) Microsoft IT Academy, MSDNAA, CCNA and CISCO Regional Academy for IT Essential, Authorized Sun Education Centre, Prometric Authorized Center For more information on the CEC programs Phone: 9887914-5, 8814462, 8816173 Ext. 406	
	ADMISSION INFORMATION OFFICE: 83/B, Road 4, Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani, Dhaka Phone: 8815387, 9897387, 8811749, 9894229; Ext. 100, 200 GRADUATE PROGRAM OFFICE (12 pm to 8 pm): 58/B, Road 21, Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani, Dhaka Phone: 8820865, 9890804, 9894641; Ext. 555 E-mail: info@aiub.edu , Web: www.aiub.edu	