



Huge quantity of pumpkins is being loaded onto a truck from a field in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila as the area sees bumper production of the vegetable. The photo was taken recently.

# Pumpkin farming in barren lands changes their lot

QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT, Thakurgaon

Fortune smiled on the farmers as the district saw a bumper production of pumpkin this season.

Pumpkin traders are also happy as they are making good profit by selling the vegetable.

They are sending it to different districts including Jessore and Khulna. Thakurgaon pumpkin has already drawn attention of traders and consumers of several districts, local traders said.

Cultivation of pumpkin gained popularity in the district in recent years as it significantly contributed to alleviation of poverty in some villages.

Farmers have opted for high lands that were considered barren only 9-10 years ago. The growers of those areas, besides Farabari, Yakubpur, Dholerhat and Chameshshory villages, under Sadar upazila have become solvent by cultivating pumpkin for the last several years.

The cultivation process of pumpkin is easy and the production cost is also less than any other vegetables.

Sources said, about 1,155 tonnes of

pumpkin have been produced by cultivating about 135 acres of land in the district this season while each maund is being sold at Tk 180-200 in the wholesale market.

Biswanath Barman, 35, a farmer of Yakubpur village, cultivated pumpkin on 14 bighas (one bigha is equal to .3306 acre) of land producing about 1400 maunds of pumpkin.

"At the beginning of the season I sold each maund of pumpkin at Tk 200-Tk 220 and later at Tk 170", he said.

As Biswanath planted pumpkin after potato cultivation his production cost was only Tk 3000 per bigha because a very low quantity of fertiliser is needed for pumpkin field after potato cultivation.

Biswanath said he made a profit of about Tk 2 lakh this season spending only Tk 43,000 to prepare his land.

Bhabesh Chandra, a schoolteacher of Koshalbari High School and also a mid-level farmer under Sadar upazila, told this correspondent that he cultivated pumpkin on a 3-bigha land and produced 240 maunds of pumpkin.

"I spent only Tk 9,000 but sold the produces at Tk 45,000", he said.

Cultivation of pumpkin is easy and needs little care as the pest attack is lesser than any other vegetables, Bhabesh said, adding the harvesting cost is also cheaper compared to other crops.

Rafiqul Islam, a vegetable trader at Kalukhatra village told this correspondent that he has been sending pumpkins to Jessore and Khulna by covered vans for the last two months. Each van contained about 400 maund of pumpkin bringing a profit of about Tk 10,000-Tk 12,000, he said.

"I have already earned Tk 1,80,000 by selling pumpkin in the current season," said Rafiqul.

According to Dalil Uddin, Deputy Director of Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), Thakurgaon, sandy-loamy soil is ideal for pumpkin cultivation.

Mainly hybrid varieties like sweetie, suprema are being cultivated in the areas. Indigenous varieties are also quite popular, he said.

Farmers have become interested in pumpkin cultivation as they are getting good return with low production and labour cost, he explained.

PHOTO: STAR

## SNIPPETS

### Youth held with arms

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Police caught a youth with a foreign-made revolver from Wireless Gate area in the district yesterday. The arrestee was identified as Mashiur Rahman Mukul, 25, son of Samsul Alam of East Dashara under municipality area. On secret information, a team of police from Sadar police station led by its officer in-charge (OC) Azizul Haque went to a spot under a bridge in the area at around 4:30 pm and caught the youth and recovered the firearm from his possession.

### Fake fertiliser seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police in Bagmara upazila on Friday evening seized 537 sacks of adulterated fertiliser from a warehouse of local dealer Abdus Salam in Taherpur of municipality area. Police also arrested three people including an employee of the upazila office of Department of Agriculture Extension, Ataur Rahman. Two others are labourers Abdul Hakim Mondol of Durgapur and Rabiul Islam of Puthia. The seized goods include 198 sacks of adulterated MOP, 72 sacks of TSP and 291 sacks of MP fertiliser.

### Fish farm worker killed

UNB, Sherpur

A fish farm worker was killed in an attack allegedly by the firm owner and his two labourers in Singua Chakpara area of Nokla upazila on Friday. The deceased was identified as Hatem Ali, 40, son of late Moin Uddin, hailed from Barmaisha village in the same upazila. Police and locals said Moazzem Hossain Liton, owner of the farm, picked up a quarrel with his worker Hatem Ali over a trifling matter. At one stage, Liton with the help of his two other labourers, Hashem Quader and Ramizuddin, hit Hatem with a sharp weapon at about 12:00 noon, leaving him critically injured. Later, the victim died on way to Nokla hospital. Hatem's wife filed a case in this connection. Police arrested Hashem Quader in connection with the murder.

### Poultry owners burn chicks

UNB, Laxmipur

Poultry farm owners burnt 2,000 broiler chicks at North Temohony of the town yesterday protesting the high price of one-day old chicks. Witnesses said a poultry trader, purchasing those chicks from Usha Poultry and Hatchery of Dhaka, was going to Bhola through Laxmipur. On information, agitated poultry farm owners seized the chicks and set those on fire. The government fixed the price of one-day old broiler chicks at Tk 30 per piece and layer chicks at Tk 32 per piece but the hatchery owners are selling those chicks at the rate of Tk 70-75 per piece ignoring government's directive. National Committee of Poultry Farm Owners has been agitating for the last one week against the high price of chicks and poultry farm owners and also stopped purchasing chicks.

# Trade fair in Sylhet finally from July 14

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The much talked about international trade fair organised by Sylhet Chamber of Commerce and Industries (SCCI), is finally going to start from 14 July.

SCCI administrator Faruque Mahumud Chowdhury announced this at a press conference yesterday afternoon at Sylhet Press Club.

The business body had to look for alternative venues several times to hold 'Sylhet International Trade Fair 2010' due to protest from different quarters for the last 5 months.

Finally, the committee selected the open space belonging to the Sylhet Infectious Disease Hospital in Shahi Eidgah area.

In his written statement at the press conference, Faruque Chowdhury said the 12th international trade fair would be formally inaugurated by the Commerce Minister Faruque Khan.

Besides reputed Bangladeshi ones, business firms and companies from India, Pakistan, China, Thailand, Iran and Malaysia are expected to take part in it.

He said that the organisers this time leased out the event management through open tender at Tk 81,50,500. Adequate security arrangements have been made to hold the fair, he added.

Earlier the locals handed over a memo to the Deputy Commissioner recently to stop the fair on the plea of deterioration of the law and order since the site is close to a tea garden and also a crime zone.

The SCCI in line with the Ministry of Commerce calendar had decided to hold the fair in March. The trade body at first selected the Government MC College playground, but later shifted it to the Uposahar playground. Again the guardians of the area objected to the move compelling the SCCI to shift the venue to the Government Aliya Madrasa Maidan. But, that also had to be cancelled in face of protest by the businessmen and students.

The businessmen under the banner of Sylhet Zila Bayboshayee Oikya O Kalyan Parishad took to the street and observed a half-day strike in addition to human chain, sit-in and procession apprehending fall in their normal business.

# Lightning kills 7

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Lightning killed at least seven people in Nilphamari and Dinajpur districts yesterday.

At least five farmers were killed and 50 others injured by lightning during hailstorm in Sadar and Jhaladhaka upazilas of Nilphamari yesterday.

Those killed on the spot are Akbar Ali, 45, of Joychandi, Mohar Ali, 45, of Baniapara, Gulzar Rahman, 25, of Bajitpara, Apan, 35, of Kulkhpara and Abdul Kabul, 42, of Dauapara villages, reports UNB.

Of the injured, 47 were admitted to Nilphamari Sadar Hospital while three of them were later sent to Rangpur Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

Three others were admitted to Jhaladhaka upazila health complex.

All the victims were working in the field at the time of

the incident, villagers said.

They said heavy rain along with hailstorm and frequent lightning started about 9:00am.

In Dinajpur, at least two people were killed and another was wounded by lightning in Birganj upazila yesterday morning, reports our correspondent.

Fifty-year-old victim Gamir Uddin was son of late Md. Zakturul Islam of village Kazalgram of Birganj upazila.

Family members said lightning struck him while working at cropland.

Rahenur Begum 40, wife of Monsur Ali village Debipur of Birganj upazila was killed by lightning as she went out of home to fetch water from nearby tubewell.

Monoranjan Roy, 20, who survived lightning was admitted to Birganj upazila health complex.

# Tale of fairytale profit by landless Shamsul

SHEIKH SHAHIDUL ISLAM, B'baria

It may be difficult to believe, but Samsul Haque, 60, a landless farmer of Purbapara at Sultanpur village under Sadar upazila of the district has earned Tk 1,70,000.00 by cultivating pumpkin this season.

Brahmanbaria Agriculture Extension Department (AED) recently honoured him as one of the best cultivators in the district.

This season, Samsul Haque along with his two sons -- Jahangir Hossain, 25, and Alamgir Hossain, 22, -- leased 2.70 acres of cultivable high land at Bangaj village under Darkhar union of Akhaura upazila.

In the Bangla month of Kartik (from October 16 last year), Samsul started cultivating the vegetable with an investment target of Tk 40,000.00. He started harvesting after about six months in the Bangla month of Baishakh and finished the sale of produce last month. He sold pumpkin worth Tk, 1,70,000.00 with a net profit of Tk 1,30,000.00.

Samsul said he implemented his own way

of cultivation for achieving the bumper production. Besides he used high yielding seeds which he stored every year.

He has grown 7,000 pieces of pumpkin in his land, each weighing from 5 kg to 40 kg. About the process of cultivation, Samsul said he at first made the land fit by tilling after weeding out the grass. Then he made hundreds of 3.38 cubic feet size holes in the land leaving a gap of two feet. Each hole was filled with a certain quantity of mixture of ashes, cow dung, water hyacinth, compost manure and 200 gm of chemical fertiliser. After 10 days he planted seed in every heap of mixture in the land.

Following his huge success Shamsul put on display a few big pumpkins weighing 35 kg to 40 kg at a stall of recently held agriculture fair, arranged by Brahmanbaria Agriculture Extension Department.

Contacted, Samsul Haque said, he owns no land but he grows different crops after leasing field from the land owners.

He has also a nursery garden, he added.

# BSF kills one in Dinajpur

Body of another yet to be returned at Jaintapur  
STAR NATIONAL DESK

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) yesterday killed a Bangladeshi in Dinajpur while they are yet return the body of another man shot dead by Indian Khasias at Jaintapur in Sylhet.

A cattle trader was shot dead by BSF along Birampur frontier in Dinajpur early yesterday.

The victim was identified as Okimuddin, 18, son of Kefatullah of Chalksulan village of the upazila.

BDR sources said BSF troops of Bhimpur Patla camp opened fire on Okim near border pillar 291/13 at about 5:00am when he went there to bring cow, leaving him dead on the spot.

The BSF members also took away the body.

In Jaintapur, Sylhet, the BSF is yet to return the body of Bangladeshi who was shot dead by the Indian Khasias Thursday afternoon on the Lalakhil borders.

Tension mounted again on the day after the Indian Khasias intruded and picked up a Bangladeshi national from Lalakhil and shot him dead.

It was the latest such incident along the 20 kilometre border in Jaintapur and Gowainghat upazilas in Sylhet since February this year.

Border sources said, Indian Khasias picked up Abdullah, 45, as he was collecting firewood from a place about 50 yards inside Bangladesh territory at about 3pm Thursday. He is a son of Hayatullah of village Gourigram.

The BDR at Lalakhil border outpost lodged a protest and held a meeting with the Indian BSF later at Amkona border. The BDR asked BSF to return the body of the victim immediately. The BSF said the body was handed over to the Indian police who will return it after postmortem and other formalities, a BDR official informed.

Intrusion by the Indian Khasia tribesmen under the BSF protection and farming inside Bangladesh territory have become a regular affair for the last few weeks along Jaintapur and Gowainghat borders.

About a hundred men sustained injuries as the Indian Khasias shot arrows and fired gunshots on the Bangladeshi farmers on the said borders since February this year.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Prime Minister's Office  
Armed Forces Division  
Dhaka Cantonment

### Appointment of Advertising Agency

- Sealed quotations are invited from qualified advertising agencies for publication of special supplement in the newspapers on the occasion of Armed Forces Day 2009. Detail specifications are mentioned in the tender schedule.
- The tender schedule may be purchased from Civil and Military Relations Directorate of Armed Forces Division from 18-22 July 2010 during office hour on cash payment of 750/- (Taka seven hundred fifty) only (non-refundable) for each set.
- Earnest money must be enclosed with the quotation @ 5% of the total quoted amount in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order (refundable) issued by any schedule bank of Dhaka in favour of Administration and Logistic Directorate, Armed Forces Division, Dhaka Cantonment. Bidders to deposit a copy of attested passport size photograph also.
- The tender must be dropped on or before 26 July 2010 by 1200 hours in sealed cover in the tender box kept at the main gate of Armed Forces Division, Dhaka Cantonment, which shall be opened at 1230 hours on the same day in presence of the bidders or their representative (if any).
- The authority reserves the right to accept/reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

ISPR/Misc/2010/213  
Date: 05 July 2010  
GD-3018

**Shafiul Moslemeen Khan**  
Wing Commander  
For Acting Principal Staff Officer

**Bangladesh Computer Council**  
Establishment of Computer Lab in Secondary and Higher Secondary Educational Institutions at Upozilla Level in Chittagong & Sylhet Division (2<sup>nd</sup> Phase)  
BCC Bhaban, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka 1207

### Invitation for Tenders (Multiple Lot)

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

1	Ministry/Division:	Ministry of Science and Information & Communication Technology
2	Agency:	Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC)
3	Procuring Entity Name:	Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC)
4	Procuring Entity Code:	Not used at present
5	Procuring Entity District:	Dhaka
6	Invitation For:	Goods
7	Invitation Ref No.:	39.111.018.00.00.1576.2010-1953
8	Date:	7-July-2010

**KEY INFORMATION**

9	Procurement Method:	NCT, Open Tendering Method (OTM)
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**FUNDING INFORMATION**

10	Budget and Source of Funds:	Revenue Budget (GoB)
11	Development Partner:	N/A

**PARTICULAR INFORMATION**

12	Project/Programme Code:	—
13	Project/Programme Name:	Establishment of Computer Lab in Secondary and Higher Secondary Educational Institutions at Upozilla Level in Chittagong & Sylhet Division (2 <sup>nd</sup> Phase)
14	Tender Package No.:	01 of FY 2010-11
15	Tender Package Name:	Supply of Installation of Personal Computer, Printer, LAN Accessories, UPS, USB Internet / Mobile Modem and Furniture
16	Tender Publication Date:	10-July-2010
17	Tender Last Selling Date:	08-August-2010
18	Tender Closing Date and Time:	09-August-2010 at 2:00 PM
19	Tender Opening Date and Time:	09-August-2010 at 2:30 PM
20	Name & Addresses of the Offices:	<b>Selling Tender Document:</b> Room # 211, 1st Floor, BCC Bhaban, Agargaon, Sher-e- Bangla Nagar, Dhaka 1207 <b>Receiving Tender Document:</b> Conference Room, 1st Floor, BCC Bhaban, Agargaon, Sher-e- Bangla Nagar, Dhaka 1207 <b>Opening Tender Document:</b> Conference Room, 2nd Floor, BCC Bhaban, Agargaon, Sher-e- Bangla Nagar, Dhaka 1207
21	Place/Date/Time of pre-Tender Meeting (Optional):	25-July-2010, at 10:30 AM, Conference Room, 1st floor, BCC Bhaban, Agargaon, Sher-e- Bangla Nagar, Dhaka 1207

**INFORMATION FOR TENDERER**

22	Eligibility of Tenderer:	Renowned Manufacturer/Distributor/Agent
23	Brief Description of Goods or Works:	Supply and Installation of 1500 nos. Personal Computer, 300 sets LAN Accessories (8 port Switch, UTP Cable, RJ 45 Connector etc.), 300 nos. Printer, 1500 nos. UPS (1000VA), 600 nos. USB Mobile Modem and Furniture (Computer Table and Chair) for 300 Labs.
24	Brief Description of Related Services:	N/A
25	Price of Tender Document:	Tk. 5000.00 (Five Thousand) in cash (Non-Refundable)

26	Lot	Identification	Location	Tender Security (Tk.)	Completion Time
	1	1. Personal Computer (1500 Sets)	Upozilla Level	15,00000.00	10 weeks
		2. Lan Accessories (8 port Switch, UTP Cable, RJ 45 Connector etc.) 300 nos			
	2	Laser Printer (300 Nos.)	Upozilla Level	1,00000.00	10 weeks
	3	UPS 1000VA (1500 Nos.)	Upozilla Level	2,00000.00	10 weeks
	4	600 nos. USB Mobile Modem	Upozilla Level	70,000.00	10 weeks
	5	Furniture (Computer table & Chair) for 300 Labs	Upozilla Level	2,00000.00	10 weeks

**PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS**

27	Name of Official Inviting Tender:	Md. Zafurul Alam Khan
28	Designation of Official Inviting Tender:	Program Director, Chittagong & Sylhet Division, BCC
29	Address of Official Inviting Tender:	BCC Bhaban, Agargaon, Sher-e- Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
30	Contact Details of Official Inviting Tender:	Phone: 8144786, Fax: 9124626
31	The Procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any/all tender(s) without assigning any reason whatsoever.	

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