

Farmers jubilant as jute pricey again

FARHANA MIRZA, Munshiganj

Jute growers of the district are jubilant as the area sees good yield and high prices of the fibre this year.

The fibre has started coming to local markets. As there is no government buying centre in the district, brokers are going door to door to collect it from farmers.

Each maund of raw jute is now being sold at Tk 1,400 to Tk 1,500 in the local markets. The price is 15-20 percent higher than the previous year, market sources said.

Jute was cultivated on 4,328 hectares of land in six upazilas of the district this year. The cultivation target, however, was 5,070 hectares.

Aminur Rahman, deputy director of Agriculture Extension Department (AED), here said the farmers faced huge problems to process jute this year as water bodies lacked necessary water in absence of adequate rain. Most of the farmers had to use personal irrigation pumps. However, in the end they got a good production.

This year Sirajdikhan is likely to produce the highest quantity of jute as the farmers cultivated it on 2,230 hectares of land in the upazila.

Apart from that, jute was cultivated on 710 hectares in Tongibari upazila while on



Women busy removing the fibres of jute plants at a field in Munshiganj as harvest of the cash crop has started in different areas.

613 hectares in Sadar upazila, 298 in Louhajang, 250 in Gazaria and 227 in Srinagar.

According to the farmers, they got 20 maunds of jute on an average from each acre of land this year while the cultivation cost for each acre stood at Tk 2,200.

They had to spend Tk 300 after each labourer and they needed labourers for 50 working days.

While visiting different areas this correspondent saw a festive mood among the farmers.

Family members including wife, sons and daughters were

busy processing jute showing all the signs that the 'golden fibre' will soon regain its glory.

Farmers Joyal Abedin of Tongibari and Khalil Miah at Sadar upazila were all smiles and both yield and price of jute went beyond their expectation this year.

PHOTO: STAR

Tale of 5 worst girls' schools

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Authorities of five girls' schools of the district have received show cause notice from Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board, Dinajpur, as less than five students passed from each of the institutions.

The schools are -- Palashbari Girls' High School, Gourgram Nizpara Girls' High School, Jadurhat Girls' School, Balapara Gabrol Kachhari Girls School and Dakkhin Sonakhuli Girls High School.

In the notice served a few days ago, the board authorities directed the headmasters concerned to send reply to the show cause notice within 15 days of receiving it.

If the reply is not satisfac-

Less than five students passed SSC from each of the institutions

tory, the board authority might cancel the academic permission and also the monthly payment order of the school, said the notice.

As per education board's rule, a school is to face show cause notice if at least five students do not pass in the SSC examinations in a year.

Each of the five schools has nine to thirteen teachers, six to fifteen students appeared in this year's SSC examinations but only one to four students were able to pass this year.

There are eleven teachers in Palashbari Girls' High School in Nilphamari Sadar upazila but only four of the 13 SSC examinees passed.

Uttom Kumar Roy, headmaster of the school, however, said in a tone of satisfaction, "The success rate of my school is 31 percent as four of the 13 candidates passed."

The show cause recipient headmasters said they would send reply to the board's notice duly and pledge to the authorities to improve results

in the next SSC examinations.

Asked why the result debacle occurred in girls' schools only, the headmasters said that the girl students of backward rural areas could not cope with the new situation of the examination venue in district and upazila towns.

Many girl students of remote areas, who were married off earlier, appeared in the SSC examinations without adequate preparation, said Nilphamari District Education Officer Roksana Begum.

About 16 thousand candidates from the district appeared in this year's SSC examinations and 70% of them passed.

College student, 2 others drown

UNB, Netrakona

A college student drowned in a pond at Mokterpara of the district town on Monday evening.

The deceased was identified as Dip Biswas, 20, son of Pulin Biswas and a student of Netrakona Abu Abbas Degree College. He hailed from Madhupu of Tangail district.

He lived at his relative's house at Chhoto Bazar of the town.

Locals said Dip went to the pond to wash his hands after playing football at Mokterpara in the evening.

As his mobile phone set dropped into the pond, he fell in it while trying to get it back and drowned.

In Kishorganj, two people drowned as a goods-laden boat sank in a Haor (waterbody) at Hasanpur of Mithamoin upazila in the district on Monday night.

The identity of the victims could not be known immediately.

Police said, the engine boat capsized due to heavy rain and strong current in the water body while it was going to Mithamoin Bazar from Chamrabondar.

Forty-one other passengers of the boat, out of 43, swam ashore.

Youth stabbed to death

UNB, B'baria

A youth was stabbed to death allegedly by a friend at Kandapara village in Bancharampur upazila on Monday afternoon.

The deceased was identified as Bahar Uddin, 20, of Madhyapara village in the upazila.

Police and witnesses said, Bahar Uddin locked in an altercation with his friend Rabban Mia over a trifling matter when he went to Rabban's house.

At one stage, Rabban stabbed Bahar Uddin, leaving him dead on the spot and fled away.



PHOTO: STAR

Arrested Islami Chhatra Shibir activist Abdus Sabur being taken away by police from Dinajpur Government College campus after students caught him while threatening a teacher of the college with a knife.

Knife-wielding Shibir man held at Dinajpur college

Another cadre beaten up, held at RU

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Police yesterday arrested an activist of Islami Chhatra Shibir on charge of threatening a teacher of Dinajpur Government College while another Shibir man was held in connection with the campus violence on February 9 this year.

Md Abdus Sabur, 23, a third year student of economics department of Dinajpur Government College, was brandishing a knife to threaten Dilip Kumar, a lecturer of the same department, when a few students caught Sabur, says our Dinajpur correspondent.

Hailing from Satjan village of Dimla upazila in Nilphamari district, Sabur is general secretary of Shibir's Dimla upazila unit.

Later, he was handed over to

police in presence of teachers. Confirming the incident, college Principal Prof Md Alauddin said, "We have asked the police to take legal action against the culprit."

A Correspondent reports from RU: Police yesterday arrested Mehedi Hossain, library and publication affairs secretary of Shibir's Rajshahi University (RU) unit, in connection with campus violence on February 9 this year.

Hearing that the Shibir leader, also a fourth year student of Islamic studies department of RU, was writing in the final examination, several hundred leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) blocked the three gates of Shahidullah Arts Building yesterday noon, sources said.

On information, members of the proctorial body of RU

along with law enforcers also rushed to the spot.

At around 12:30pm, BCL men entered the building and caught Mehedi from the examination hall. They beat him up with iron rods and sticks, causing injuries to his head and nose.

After the BCL activists dragged the Shibir man out of the building, police arrested him.

The Shibir leader was arrested in connection with February 9 campus violence that killed BCL worker Faruk Hossain and injured a number of others, said RU Proctor Prof Chowdhury Zakaria.

"The arrestee is an accused in cases filed in connection with the violence. We will take necessary steps after primary interrogation," Abul Khair, officer-in-charge of Mothar police station, said.

GRENADATE ATTACK ON SURANJIT'S RALLY

Deposition of 3 PWs on first day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Sylhet Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal yesterday started recording deposition of prosecution witnesses in the case for grenade attack on a rally of Awami League leader Suranjit Sengupta at Derai upazila headquarters in Sunamganj on June 21, 2004.

One AL activist was killed and 30 others were injured in the attack.

The accused in the case are outlawed Huji chief Mufti Abdul Hannan, Mofizul Islam alias Mohibullah, Shariful Alam Bipul, Delwar Hossain Ripon, Hafiz

Nayem Ahmed, Mufti Main Uddin and Nazir Rahman Nazu.

They were produced in the court yesterday.

On the first day, the court recorded statements of three out of the 63 prosecution witnesses. They are Dr Sheikh Emdadul Haque, Abdur Rab and Abdul Khaleque.

Tribunal Judge Md Mahub Ul Islam set July 20 for recording the deposition of the rest of the prosecution witnesses, court sources informed.

AL activist Abdul Wahid, 45, was killed

and 30 others were injured as bombs were hurled on the dais of the public meeting. Suranjit Sengupta MP and other AL leaders escaped unhurt as they got down from the dais just a minute ahead of the attack.

CID Inspector Shafiqur Rahman submitted charge sheet to Judicial Magistrate's Court, Sunamganj, against Mufti Hannan and six others on December 14, 2008.

The case was later transferred to the Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal through a gazette notification by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

RATHAJATRA FESTIVAL



PHOTO: STAR

A colourful rathajatra, festival with traditional chariots in honour of Hindu god Sri Sri Jagannath, parades different streets of Chittagong city, below left, a gorgeously decorated chariot moves along a road in Dinajpur town, and sweets are on sale on a similar occasion in Rajshahi city yesterday.

Dharla furious again, makes over 150 families homeless

A CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Erosion by the River Dharla rendered more than 150 families at three villages under Sadar upazila homeless in the last three days.

The most affected areas are Bapari Tari, Badai Tari and Kurul villages under Mogholhat union.

Erosion-hit Delwar Hossain, 40, of Bapari Tari village said that his homestead was eroded away for the fourth time on Saturday.

"Now my four-member family has taken shelter on government road," he said.

Dharla erosion took an alarming turn on Saturday morning, he said.

According to septuagenarian Dharendra Nath, 75, at Badi Tari village, Dharla erosion started suddenly in the morning on Saturday and engulfed many homesteads and cultivable lands within hours.

Yakub Ali, 52, another erosion victim said, he lost his homestead for the fifth time on Saturday noon. He said his family members have taken shelter at a relative's house at a neighbouring village.

"The Dharla River a-



PHOTO: STAR

Dharla River has continued devouring homesteads and cultivable lands in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila since Saturday.

engulfed scores of homesteads, cropland, orchards in the three villages since Saturday morning. Some villagers have left their homesteads in fear of erosion," local union parishad (UP) member Bhuttu Miah said.

Mogholhat UP chairman Habibur Rahman Habib said, at least 150 homesteads have been devoured by the Dharla in three villages of his union in the last three days. The river erosion is continuing, he added.

"I have already sought help for the erosion hit people," the UP chairman said while Sadar UNO Raja Miah said his office has taken preparation to help the people of Mogholhat union.