

Golden rice by 2012

Says BRRI

BSS, Dhaka

The country is likely to complete all necessary experiments on golden rice, a genetically modified crop variety, tentatively by 2012, said Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) sources.

They said as the government is yet to approve the field level experiment of the variety, the institute is conducting test in multiplying the seed of the new variety at laboratory level.

BRRI scientists said after some more experiments limited cultivation of the variety would be possible following permission of the government.

Following a memorandum of understanding signed between the government and the International Rice Research Institute in 2003, the BRRI has already developed a variety of golden rice through transfer of gene into the BR-29, the highest yielding BRRI variety, and hopes that the yield of the new variety would be much more.

"This is one kind of GMO variety and there is nothing to be worried if the variety is introduced as everything is being done on the basis of scientific research and if it bears any risk it would not be released for farm level production," said Dr M Abdul Mannan, director general (DG) of BRRI.

Mannan said, "We have already produced foundation seed of the variety and now working on how to go for a very limited production of the variety and everything is confined to laboratory at the moment. But we hope that a

New forest policy urged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A new forest policy should be formulated to cover legal provisions for taking administrative action for the better management of forests in Bangladesh, said environmentalists at a discussion yesterday.

They said indigenous people dwell in the forests. So they should not be deprived of staying in the forests rather their participation should be ensured recognising their "customary rights."

The recommendations came from the discussion on "Forest Management in Bangladesh and Threatened Indigenous Community" organised by Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) and Adivasi Paribesh Rokha Andolon (APRA) at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity in the city.

Sharif Jamil, national coordinator of APRA and joint secretary of BAPA, in his keynote paper said reckless deforestation is going on in many areas, causing a threat to the livelihoods of the indigenous people.

Justice Golam Rabbani was the chief guest at the discussion moderated by Sultana Kamal, executive director of Ain o Shalish Kendra.

Information Commissioner Sadeka Halim, Gano Forum president member Pankaj Bhattacharya and general secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum Sanjib Drong spoke at the discussion.

Worldwide, 125 million children - particularly those in developing countries - suffer from vitamin A deficiency, causing blindness (up to 500,000 per year according to the World Health Organisation) and even death.

An additional one million people die annually due to vitamin A deficiency and malnutrition.

In many of these countries, rice is the staple food and provides 80 per cent or more of daily calories. Polished, white rice - the most consumed form of rice - contains no beta-carotene or other forms of pro-vitamin A, and is also a very poor source of other micronutrients (iron and zinc).



Electricity pillars brought down when a truck struck one of them and pulled down several of the serially connected poles between Bangla Motor and Shahbagh in the city disconnecting telephone, electricity and internet lines of the area yesterday.

Graft case against Moudud to continue

SC orders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday ruled that proceedings of corruption case against former BNP law minister Moudud Ahmed would continue at the trial court, excluding the part of his expenditures stated in the case.

A five-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim passed the order after disposing of a leave to appeal petition filed by Moudud against a High Court order.

The HC in June 2008 rejected a writ petition filed by Moudud challenging the legality of filing and proceedings of the case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission against him on charge of amassing illegal wealth and concealing information about it.

ACC filed the case with Gulshan Police Station on September 16, 2007, saying that that Moudud have properties and wealth worth over Tk 17.70 crore, but his properties and wealth worth over Tk 9.00 crore is disproportionate to his known source of income.

The case, however, did not specifically mention any amount of his expenditures.

Barrister Rafique-ul Huq appeared for Moudud, while advocate Anisul Huq and advocate Khushid Alam Khan stood for ACC.

CASE AGAINST SHAH ALAM, BABAR Time for probe report extended

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday extended the time for submission of the probe report in a bribery case filed against Bashundhara Group Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan alias Shah Alam, former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar and two others until September 30.

With this order, the court has so far extended the submission date 10 times for the Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

The case was filed in connection with taking and giving bribes to cover up the murder case of Humayun Kabir Sabbir, a director of Bashundhara Group.

Metropolitan Magistrate SK Topael Hasan passed the order as the investigation officer of the case failed to submit the probe report yesterday, the deadline of the previous extension.

The two other accused in the case are Abu Sufian, director of Prime Bank and East West Property Development Private Limited, and former BNP lawmaker Qazi Saleemul Huq Kamal.

Abu Sufian, now on bail, was present in the court while a counsel represented Kamal.

Earlier on June 17, the court asked the CID to submit the probe report by yesterday.

An official of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka, said he had not found any documents in the case file showing Shah Alam on bail in the case or on the run.

CID Assistant Superintendent Arman Ali filed the case with Ramna Police Station on May 8, 2008.

Earlier on May 6, 2008, Anti-Corruption Commission pressed charges in another case against former prime minister Khaleda Zia's son Tarique Rahman, Babar, Saleemul Huq, Shah Alam, his two sons Shafiq Sobhan Sanvir and Sadaat Sobhan, Abu Sufian and Tarique's personal secretary Mia Nur Uddin Apu.

The anti-graft body said the eight were involved in the bribery to save Sanvir from the charges of killing Sabbir.

On July 5, 2006, Sabbir's body was found outside a building in Bashundhara residential area.



Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury, as the chief guest, attends the inaugural session of a conference arranged by Manusher Jonno Foundation and its partner organisations at the BIAM Foundation in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 16)

Treat Faruque as ex-chair of Proshika: SC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court observation that Qazi Faruque Ahmed, ousted chairman of Proshika, would be treated as the former chairman and former president of the organisation.

The apex court, however, said this order should not affect the hearing of the original case in the trial court regarding the organisational dispute.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Justice Shah Abu Nayeem Mominur Rahman, passed the order after disposing of a leave-to-appeal petition filed by Qazi Faruque challenging the HC observation.

Qazi Faruque's lawyer Mustafizur Rahman Khan, however, told The Daily Star that the SC neither upheld nor cancelled the HC observation.

On May 24 last year, the present governing body of the non-governmental organisation replaced Qazi Faruque with MA Wadud as its chairman in the face of employees' agitation against Faruque for his alleged corruption and nepotism.

The same year on August 11, the HC had directed the Proshika authorities to maintain status quo regarding the organisation.

On August 26 last year, Qazi Faruque filed the leave-to-appeal petition with the SC challenging the HC observation.

WEATHER TODAY

Slight rise in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over all the seven divisions in next 24 hours till 6pm tomorrow (Monday).

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met Offices said.

The sun sets in the capital tomorrow at 6:36pm and rises on Tuesday at 5:31am.

Country's highest temperature 36.0 degree Celsius was recorded today at Jessore and lowest 25.0 degrees at Sitakunda.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns today were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.7	28.4	80	81
Chittagong	32.5	26.4	77	76
Rajshahi	35.8	26.5	75	63
Khulna	34.5	26.5	80	78
Barisala	34.0	26.5	76	71
Sylhet	35.2	26.8	81	73
Cox's Bazar	33.0	25.8	72	75

KAP study towards tigers to be done

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh (WTB) will conduct survey on both local people residing near the Sundarbans to find out their knowledge, attitude and practices (KAP) towards tigers and the mangrove forests.

WTB will conduct both qualitative and quantitative data among the people of six major groups--forest resource users, opinion leaders, women, youths, businessmen and field staff of the forest department.

The survey will be conducted at the villages of Mirganj of Sarkhira, Kalabogi of Khulna, Shandkhola of Shandkhola and Chandpai of Chandpai, says a press release.

10 killed, 12 injured in road accidents

METRO DESK

Ten people were killed and 12 others injured in separate road accidents in five districts yesterday.

Our Sirajganj correspondent reports: At least three people were killed in separate road accidents in the district.

Police said a Dhaka-bound couple on a motorcycle was hit by a bus from behind at Pachlia leaving the woman dead on the spot.

Her husband was rushed to the hospital where he died at 5:00pm.

Meanwhile, one Shahid, 10, of Shahjadpur upazila was killed at Sharishabari of the upazila on Bogra-Nagarbari road.

Witness said Shahid died on the spot when a truck hit him while he was crossing the road in the morning.

Our Dinajpur correspondent adds: An old man was killed and two others were injured in a road accident in Parbatipur upazila of Dinajpur said police sources.

The deceased was identified as Md Yousuf Uddin, 70, son of late Mofiz Uddin of Rampura of Taraganj upazila in Rangpur. His wife Rozina Begum, 60, and son Md Muslim Uddin, 38, were critically injured in the accident.

Police quoting witnesses said a Parbatipur bound bus hit a rickshaw van the victims were on in front of Parbatipur Lamb hospital killing Yousuf on the spot.

Sources said the injured were admitted to Parbatipur Lamb Hospital in critical condition.

Our Netrakona correspondent adds: Two people on a motorcycle were killed when a bus ran over them at Jahangirpur area in Netrakona at about 12:30pm.

The dead were identified as Jahangir Kabir, 26, son of Mangal Khan of village Hirkanda and Isha Khan, 27, son of Siraj Khan of village Koirati under Kalmakanda upazila in the district.

Police said the two were coming to Netrakona on a motorcycle when a Kalmakanda bound bus ran over them at Jahangirpur on Netrakona-Kalmakanda road, killing them on the spot.

Our Thakurgaon correspondent adds: A person was killed in a road accident at Ranishankoil upazila.

The victim was identified as Shirajul Islam, 60, son of late Reaz Uddin of Bangoan village of the upazila.

Police said Sirajul's motorcycle collided head-on with another on Ranishankoil-Nekmarad road under Mirdangi village, leaving Shirajul critically injured. The other motorcycle rider, Joyral Abedin, 22, received minor injuries.

Locals rushed Sirajul to Ranishankoil Helath Complex where his condition deteriorated. He succumbed to his injuries on the way to Rangpur Medical college hospital in the evening.

Our Sylhet correspondent adds: Two people were killed and ten others injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Sylhet highway in the morning.

The deceased were identified as Deen Mohammad, 35, of Narail district and identity of another man, aged around 30, could not be known yet, said police.

Sources said a microbus, on which the victims were travelling, collided head on with a Sylhet-bound truck around 10:30am near Kolarai in Osmaniganj upazila, killing the two on the spot.

The injured were admitted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College hospital.

In another incident, a van puller was crushed to death as a speeding truck hit his van at Shahjalal bridge in Mendibag area in the afternoon.

The deceased was identified as Faruque Miah, 30, hailing from Baniachang upazila of Habiganj district.

BNP human chain at Savar foiled, 20 hurt

UNB, Savar

Police yesterday charged baton on a human chain of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) at Tolaib stand leaving at least 20 people injured.

BNP Savar unit organised the human chain on Dhaka-Aricha highway in the afternoon to protest eviction of establishments of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia on 17.68 decimal land at Niribili under Ashulia.

Witnesses said police dispersed the human chain and beat the activists leaving 20 wounded. Nine activists were arrested from the spot.

Savar Police Station Officer Mahmudur Rahman said the human chain was staged without prior permission. It caused traffic jam and chaos. The action was taken to avoid traffic jam in the busy highway, he added.

President, PM greet Singapore leaders

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in separate messages greeted their Singaporean counterparts--President Sellopan Ramanathan and Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on the occasion of the National Day of the country falls today.

Both the Bangladesh leaders wished their counterparts of Singapore good health, happiness and long life and continued peace, progress and prosperity for the friendly people of the country.

Qulkhwani

BSS, Dhaka

The qulkhwani of Syeda Maksudara Aref Topa, daughter of Mahfuza Begum, former principal of Khulna Government Women's College, will be held at 16, New Eskaton (Gaosnagar) after Asr prayers today.

Maksudara Aref, a former officer of Dhaka Ahasania Mission, passed away due to 'systemic cirrhosis' at the city's Shamrita Hospital at the age of 37.

She left behind his husband UNFPA Official Dr. Margub Aref Jahangir, a daughter and a son and a host of relatives and friends to mourn his death.

DHAKA TODAY

Cultural programme 5:00pm.
British Council and Journey Communication will jointly organise a cultural programme. Venue: British Council auditorium, Time: 5:00pm.

Workshop
International Business Forum of Bangladesh will arrange a workshop. Venue: Sheraton Hotel, Time: 11:00am.

Roundtable
Engineers Institution of Bangladesh will arrange a roundtable. Venue: Engineer institute seminar room, Time: 4:00pm.

Meeting
Bangladesh Medical Association will organise a meeting. Venue: BMA auditorium, Time: 3:30pm.

Conference
Chartered Accountants will arrange an international conference. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel, Time: 7:30pm.

Meeting
Bangladesh Awami Ain Chhtra Parishad will hold a meeting. Venue: 23, Bangabandhu avenue, Time: 4:00pm.

Poetry recitation
National Poetry Council will arrange a poetry recitation programme. Venue: Public Library, Time: 5:00pm.

Discussion
Bangladesh Indigenous Forum will organise a meeting. Venue: Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, Time: 4:00pm.

Seminar
Inter Cooperation of Bangladesh will organise a seminar. Venue: Spectra Convention Centre, Time: 10:15am.

Meeting
Gonoforum will hold a presidium meeting. Venue: 2/1, Arambag Time:

Workshop
International Business Forum of Bangladesh will arrange a workshop. Venue: Sheraton Hotel, Time: 11:00am.

Literary evening
Goethe-Institute will organise a literary programme. Venue: German Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 6:00pm.

Discussion
Dhaka City Corporation will hold a discussion. Venue: DCC auditorium, Time: 12:00pm.

Meeting
Directorate of Primary Education will hold a meeting. Venue: DPE auditorium, Mirpur-2, Time: 11:30am.

Rally
Bangladesh Indigenous Forum will hold a rally. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar, Time: 10:00am. Award giving ceremony D.Net will organise a award giving ceremony. Venue: National Museum auditorium, Time: 7:00pm.

Discussion
Manusher Jonno will organise a discussion. Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy, Time: 4:00pm.

Seminar
Petrobangla will arrange a seminar. Venue: Petrobangla seminar hall, Time: 1:00pm.

Roundtable
Business Social Compliance will organise a roundtable. Venue: Sheraton Hotel, Time: 9:00am.

Obituary

Qulkhwani

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Third edition of novel titled 'Oleek Atti' written by Mizanur Rahman Shelley, second from left, was launched at a city restaurant in Dhanmondi on Saturday. Eminent writer Selina Hossain, second from right, unveiled the cover of the book. Historian Sharif Uddin Ahmed, writer Nikhil Ranjan Mandal and Delwar Hossain discussed on the book published by Academic Press and Publishers Library.