



Hundreds of people crowd Chan Mia Udyan in Mohammadpur Beribadh (embankment) in the city yesterday as a local Jubo League leader distributed sugar and vermicelli among the poor and destitute ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr. PHOTO: STAR

Rice production boom in monga season likely

BSS, Rangpur

The paddy plants, sowed for short-term cultivation to fight seasonal monga from October through November, have been showing likelihood of a production boom in Rangpur division this year, officials say.

Crop growers have planted four paddy varieties -- BRRI-33, BRR-39, BINA-7, and BU-1 -- in this Aman season in 90,401 hectares of arable land.

The paddy plants now in blooming stage are growing excellently, Dr MA Mazid, rice scientists and Dinajpur hub manager of CSISA, said yesterday.

Farmers will be able to harvest the paddies in only 100 days after sowing if they have used the dry and wet methods of Direct

Seeded Rice (DSR), according to Dr Mazid.

He said the ministry of agriculture and the DAE in collaboration with dozens of NGOs and research agencies have been assisting farmers for adequate rice production to combat monga.

DR Mazid said farming of BRRI-33 by Bangladesh Rice Research Institute has been contributing largely to effectively fight monga in Rangpur since 2007, with its maximum production expected this year.

Similarly, farming of BRRI-39, BINA-7, and BU-1 also began helping the poor in the area to overcome monga period in recent years.

"We are expecting a season free of monga this year for large-scale farming of these paddies that farmers can begin harvesting from

early October, also securing work opportunities to a lot of farm labourers," Mazid said.

Under the DAE programme, farmers have been cultivating the paddies in 19,895 hectares land in Rangpur; 4,541 in Gaibandha; 12,527 in Kurigram; 11,482 in Lalmonirhat; 19,050 in Nilphamari; 9,349 in Dinajpur; 10,035 in Thakurgaon; and 3,602 hectares in Panchagarh districts this year.

Additional Director of the DAE Mohsin Ali said BRRI-33 is being cultivated in 45,284 hectares, BRRI-39 in 12,680 hectares, BINA-7 in 32,214 hectares, and BU-1 in 223 hectares in all eight districts of Rangpur division.

In addition, hundreds of more farmers assisted by different NGOs are engaged in farming the paddies over 2,764 hectares of land in five districts of Rangpur this year.

Injured Jubo Dal leader dies at DMCH

BSS, Dhaka

Jubo Dal leader Shah Alam Chunnun succumbed to his injuries yesterday at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Wounded in a clash between two rivals of Jubo Dal on Monday, Uzirpur upazila General Secretary Chunnun was brought to Dhaka from Barisal the same day.

Groups led by Jubo Dal central president Moazzem Hossain Alal and BNP central committee member Sarfuddin Ahmed Santu clashed over occupying Uzirpur Ostra Degree College ground.

Both groups announced the venue for their iftar party arrangements on same day.

As they hastened to occupy the place earlier, an hour-long clash erupted in which Chunnun sustained injuries. (Related story on page 12)

One picked up over theft in TV offices

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A man was detained yesterday at his house in Ranibazar in connection with the burglary at Rajshahi bureau offices of five private television channels a day before.

Police picked up Habibullah Sayeed alias Rasel for interrogation after they found a camera of RTV at his house, said Shahadat Hossain, officer-in-charge of Boalia Police Station.

According to police, Rasel said he is a friend of Channel i cameraman Sayed Md Masud and RTV Rajshahi correspondent Foisal Ahmed Samrat.

Rasel, on the occasion of his child's birthday, borrowed the camera from Masud hours before the burglary, police added.

Channel i Rajshahi staff correspondent Abu Saleh Md Fattah said the camera was mistakenly listed as stolen valuables, because they could not instantly recollect that it was given to Rasel.

"We will decide about Rasel's arrest after interrogating him", said OC Shahadat Hossain.

Some unidentified burglars stolen valuables worth over Tk 3.5 lakh breaking open the bureau offices of Channel i, Channel 1, Banglavision, ntv, and Islamic tv in Rajshahi city early Monday.

Extortionist held with arms

UNB, Keraniganj

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members arrested an extortionist along with firearms from Hajratpur Dhalikandi village under Keraniganj Model police station early Monday.

The arrested man was identified as Jasim Uddin Bhuiyan alias Jasim, 35, son of Nur Mohammad Bhuiyan of the same village.

Rab-10 sources said acting on a tip-off they raided the village and arrested Jasim along with a 9mm pistol and bullets.

Rab sources said Jasim had engaged in realising extortion from owners of sand-laden vessels and brick fields at gun point in the area for long.

Six killed, 56 injured in road accidents

METRO DESK

Six people were killed and 56 others injured in separate road accidents in Thakurgaon, Comilla, Munshiganj, Jessore and Mymensingh yesterday.

Our Correspondent from Thakurgaon reports: A youth was killed in a road accident on Thakurgaon-Vaularhat road near Vaularhat Bazar under Sadar upazila here yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Zahirul Islam, 20, son of Abdul Jabbar of Padampur village of the upazila.

Sub-Inspector of Thakurgaon Police Station Rabiul Islam said the accident occurred at about 10:00am when a power tiller hit a bicycle leaving the rider Zahir critically injured.

Locals rushed him to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

Police sent the body to Thakurgaon Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A correspondent from Comilla says: Two people were killed and five others injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Harikola under Chandina upazila on Monday.

The identity of the dead could not be known immediately.

Police and locals said the accident took place when a Chittagong-bound bus of Bipul Paribahan hit a pick-up van coming from the opposite direction, leaving van driver and helper dead on the spot and five others injured.

The injured were rushed to Comilla Medical College Hospital for treatment.

Chandina police sent the bodies to Comilla Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

A Correspondent from Munshiganj adds: One person was injured when a truck collided hit a covered van on the Meghna Bridge on the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway in Gajaria upazila at around 6:00am yesterday.

The injured was identified as Rahman, 32, driver of the covered van. He was treated locally.

The accident caused a huge traffic jam that lasted for hours until a wrecker was used to remove the two damaged vehicles.

UNB from Jessore says: A coach of Eagle Paribahan from Dhaka collided with a local bus at Kodalia Bat-Tola in Sadar upazila at about 1:00pm, leaving driver Rabbil, 28, dead on the spot and more than 50 passengers injured.

Of the injured, 20 were rushed to Jessore 250-bed Hospital. Some others were undergoing treatment in private clinics.

Another report from Mymensingh adds: Two motorcyclists, including a retired army man, were crushed under the wheels of a bus on Dhaka-Mymensingh road at Kanthali in Bhaluka upazila yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Abdul Hamid, 50, a retired Army person and son of Hafizuddin Shikder of Kanthali Namapara village of the upazila and Khorshed Alam, 25, son of Saptar Ali of the same village.

Police said the accident occurred when a Dhaka-bound passenger bus from Mymensingh hit a motorcycle at Kanthali in the afternoon, killing Hamid on the spot and injuring Khorshed Alam seriously. ocal

BCL expels 5 Laxmipur activists

BSS, Laxmipur

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) expelled its five activists for extortion in the town.

The activists were identified as Rakib Hossain Lotus, Bappi, Sajib, Mir Shadath Hossain Rubel and Juwel.

The decision was

announced through a release issued by district BCL President Sheikh Jamal and General Secretary Maniruzzaman Patwari.

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