

GAIBANDHA, ADJOINING DISTRICTS

Turmeric farming increases as the spice gets pricey

K M REZAUL HOQUE,
Gaibandha

Cultivation of turmeric, a kind of ground spice, has gained popularity in Gaibandha and adjoining districts due to its high price.

Farmers are now planting turmeric commercially. But it was not so even five years ago, when this herb grew without care on otherwise fallow land, plot boundaries and even in homesteads. In 2005, turmeric was cultivated in only 127 hectares of land.

According to district agriculture extension department (DAE) this season 525 hectare lands have been brought under turmeric cultivation in seven upazilas of the district.

In Sadullapur upazila, around 150 hectares of land have been brought under turmeric cultivation. Of that 130 hectares are in Dhaperhat alone. In Gobindagnaj upazila, farming of the spice was done on 165 hectares. Last year it was cultivated on only 236 hectares in the district.

Dhaperhat is the main turmeric producing area and a very busy market of the spice as people from far-flung areas rush there for purchasing and selling raw, dried and powdered tur-

meric.

Last year turmeric produced in the district was worth over Tk 6 crore and the yield is expected to double this year as cultivation has increased significantly", said A H Bazlur Rashid, deputy director of AED, Gaibandha

"Once the item cultivated in these areas only for serving domestic purpose, but now it has become a pricey spice due to increased demand for its use in curries and antiseptic

medicine", he added.

"Vegetables are being cultivated with turmeric as mixed crops, and so farmers get additional profit. Turmeric can be harvested twice in a season, once after 90 days and again after a month", he added.

"We can earn Tk 25,000-30,000 from each bigha cultivating turmeric and related vegetables with minimum production cost whereas paddy brings only Tk 7,000-8,000 from the same", said Afzal Hossain, a

farmer of Dhaperhat.

"In 2008, the price of turmeric suddenly shot up. A kilogram of finished turmeric powder went up to Tk 360, whereas earlier it was sold at only Tk 70-80 per kg", said Hasen Ali, a trader of the area.

"Turmeric, specially Timla and local variety Sinduri, have huge demand in the market and wholesalers from distant areas of the country come here to buy it", said another trader Rafiqul of the same area.



Cultivation of turmeric gains popularity in Gaibandha and its adjoining districts due to high price of the spice. Photo shows a turmeric field of Bazarpara area in Sundarganj upazila of Gaibandha.

PHOTO: STAR

Road blocked demanding smooth power supply

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Kishoreganj

Around 400 power subscribers of municipal town in Bazitpur upazila blocked highway yesterday for about three hours, demanding smooth power supply.

According to sources, the agitated people blocked Bagalpur-Bazitpur highway after holding a procession from 9:00am to 12:00pm demanding smooth power supply and repair and full-fledged running of the transformer of the area that went out of order 32 days ago.

Due to the road blockade, scores of vehicles on both sides of the road remained stranded for 3 hours causing much sufferings to the passengers.

Later, the protesters withdrew their programme after Md Zahir Uddin Bhuiyan, local residential engineer of PDB, ensured them of smooth power supply within 2/3 days.

The power supply problem will be solved within 2/3 days as we are going to install 300 KB new transformer in the area, he said.

Two die, one missing in boat capsized

UNB, Pabna

Two people drowned and one went missing as a boat capsized in the Padma river near Bilkedar Ghat in Iswardi upazila yesterday morning.

The deceased were identified as Selim, 26, and Sekandar Pramanik, 34, of the area.

Locals said, the boat carrying 35 day labourers sank in the river at about 8am after it was caught in a strong current. They were going to a nearby char area to work in crop fields.

Local people recovered the two bodies at about 10:30am from the river while Mintu, 22, brother of Selim remained missing.

All other passengers managed to swim ashore.

Kushtia train derailment injures 30

UNB, Kushtia

An express train derailed in Bheramara upazila, leaving about 30 people injured and snapping train services for hours on Ishwardi-Kushtia route.

The train passengers were injured in stampedes as they scrambled to get down from the train during the incident at about 12:30pm.

Railway sources said, four out of nine bogies of the Syedpur bound Rupsha Express train from Khulna went off the tracks.

Train services on the route could not be resumed till filing of this report at 3pm yesterday.

Eight hurt as Shibir, policemen clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Noakhali

At least eight people, including three policemen, were injured as Islami Chhatra Shibir men clashed with law enforcers in Raipur upazila of the district yesterday.

The injured are sub-inspector Zahir Uddin, ASI Md Selim, constable Monowar and five Shibir activists Poran, Rashed, Hossain, Karim and Jasim Uddin.

They were admitted to Raipur upazila health complex and Laxmipur Sadar Hospital.

Police said Shibir men brought out a procession in Raipur Sadar upazila protesting the arrest of the Jamaat's central leaders.

But they were resisted by the law enforcers, which triggered the clash, witnesses said.

Later, police arrested five Shibir activists including its president of Raipur upazila unit Md Shamsul Islam.

The arrested other activists are Md Nasiruddin Mobarak, Tanvir, Uzzal and Md Hossain.

The clash erupted as the Shibir men suddenly attacked the on-duty policemen, Ratan Krishna Nath, acting officer in-charge of Raipur police station, claimed adding that the situation is now under control.

Additional police have been deployed in the area to avoid untoward situation, he added.

Acid attack on boy

UNB, Pabna

A madrasa student was injured in an acid attack by criminals at his house at Mehedinagar village in Sathia upazila early yesterday.

The victim was identified as Monirul Islam, 17, a student of MCQ Alim Madrasa and son of Shahjahan Ali of the village.

Family sources said, criminals threw acid on Monirul at about 12:30am

through the window when he was sleeping at his room and fled away.

Hearing the screams of Monirul, neighbours rushed in and sent him to Pabna Medical College Hospital where his condition was stated to be critical. The reason behind the attack could not be known immediately.

Police arrested Sultan and Abdullah of the village suspecting their involvement in the acid attack.



A rickshaw van carries the outer structure of a car at Shiroil in Rajshahi city yesterday, offering an amusing sight for the passers-by.

PHOTO: STAR

Swechhasebok League chief in Katiadi killed

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Kishoreganj

President of Chandapur union Awami Swechhasebok League in Katiadi upazila has been murdered.

The deceased was identified as Md. Nazrul Islam, 27, son of Abdul Jabbar of Uttar Chandapur village in the upazila.

Police said, locals found the body of Nazrul near a paddy boiler behind Manik Khali Bazaryesterday morning.

On information by locals, police rushed to the spot and recovered Nazrul's body at noon.

Tendons of hands and legs of Nazrul were cut off while

the body bore several injured marks, police and witnesses said.

Md. Mahtab Uddin, chairman of Chandapur union and relative of the deceased said Nazrul went out of his house on Tuesday around 9:00pm to take tea at a stall at Manik Khali Bazar but he did not return home. After a hectic search, locals found his body near the paddy boiler yesterday at 11.00am.

Police could not say the exact reason behind the murder immediately but they suspected that it was a sequel to previous enmity.

Farid Ahmed, officer in-charge (OC) of Katiadi said,

police recovered the body and sent it to Kishoreganj Adhunik Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy. No case was filed till filing this report yesterday afternoon.

Earlier, on Sunday, police recovered another body.

Safir Uddin, 70, of Achmita village in Katiadi was murdered while he was returning home from Achmita bazar on Saturday night.

Safir was an accused in Suruj Bangalee murder case. Suruj was chopped to death in broad daylight by some armed criminals near Katiadi bazar on November 5, 2009.

Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Project Director
"Up-gradation of Pabna Textile Institute to Pabna Textile Engineering College"
Pabna

Bastra/Pab:Tex Engg. College/Ten. Adv./105/2007/1292(2)

Date: 04/10/2011

Invitation for Tenders

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Textiles & Jute.			
2	Agency	Department of Textiles.			
3	Procuring entity name	Project Director, "Up-gradation of Pabna Textile Institute to Pabna Textile Engineering College" Project, Pabna.			
4	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.			
5	Procuring entity district	Pabna.			
KEY INFORMATION					
6	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).			
FUNDING INFORMATION					
7	Budget & source of funds	GOB.			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION					
8	Project name (if applicable)	"Up-gradation of Pabna Textile Institute to Pabna Textile Engineering College."			
9	Tender package No.	01.			
10	Invitation for tenders Ref. & date	Bastra/Pab:Tex Engg. College/Ten. Adv./105/2007/1292(2), Dt.: 04/10/2011.			
11	Tender package name	Procurement of Machineries (Lot-A: Machineries for Spinning & Fabric Manufacturing Department, Lot-B: Machineries for Wet Processing & Clothing Department, Lot-C: Equipments for Fashion & Testing Section.			
12	Tender publication date	03/10/2011.			
13	Tender last selling date	02/11/2011.			
14	Tender closing date & time	03/11/2011 at 11.00am.			
15	Tender opening date & time	03/11/2011 at 03.00pm.			
16	Time for completion of delivery	120 days after work order.			
17	Name and address of the office(s) selling tender document	(i) Project Director, "Up-gradation of Pabna Textile Institute to Pabna Textile Engineering College" Project, Pabna-6600. (ii) Director, Department of Textiles, BTMC Bhaban (5 th Floor), 7-9, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215. (iii) Assistant Chief, Ministry of Textiles & Jute, Bldg No-06, Room No-1102, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.			
18	Name and address of the office(s) receiving tenders	(i) Director, Department of Textiles, BTMC Bhaban (5 th Floor), 7-9, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215. (ii) Assistant Chief, Ministry of Textiles & Jute, Bldg No-06, Room No-1102, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.			
19	Name & address of the office opening tenders	Ministry of Textiles & Jute, Conference Room, Bldg No-06, Room No-1113, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.			
20	Date, time & place of pre-tender meeting (optional)	N/A.			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER					
21	Eligibility of tenderer	Tenderers should have original valid trade license, TIN & VAT registration, bank solvency certificate and their attested copies shall be submitted along with tender document. All activities in connection with the said works will be guided as per PPR-2008 & PPA-2006 (2 nd Amendment).			
22	Price of tender document	Tk. 3000/- for each set tender document.			
	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in weeks/months
23	Lot-A	Machineries for Spinning & Fabric Manufacturing Department.	Pabna	7,87,000.00 (seven lakh eighty-seven thousand)	120 (one twenty) days
24	Lot-B	Machineries for Wet Processing & Clothing Department.	Pabna	6,42,000.00 (six lakh forty-two thousand)	120 (one twenty) days
25	Lot-C	Equipments for Fashion & Testing Section	Pabna	3,72,000.00 (three lakh seventy-two thousand)	120 (one twenty) days
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS					
26	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Mohsinul Alam (Deputy Secretary).			
27	Designation of official inviting tender	Project Director.			
28	Address of official inviting tender	"Up-gradation of Pabna Textile Institute to Pabna Textile Engineering College" Pabna.			
29	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel- 0731-65090 E-mail: pdtextilepab@yahoo.com.			
30	(i) The tenderers should submit individual sealed closed financial offer. (ii) The tenderers should submit tender security money as Bank Draft/Pay-Order or on any schedule bank of Bangladesh in favour of The Project Director of Pabna Textile Engineering Up-gradation Project, Pabna. (iii) The procuring entity can also impose any terms and conditions in line with PPR-2008 and tender schedules.				
31	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept any tender or reject all tenders.				
Md. Mohsinul Alam (Deputy Secretary) Project Director "Up-gradation of Pabna Textile Institute to Pabna Textile Engineering College" Project Textile Engineering College, Pabna					

GD-4164

SNIPPETS

One held with arms

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Police arrested a man along with a foreign-made pistol and a bullet from a bus in Goalunda Feed Mill area on Daulatdia-Khulna highway in Rajbari yesterday morning. The arrestee was Ziaul Islam, 45, son of Abul Bashar of Kathaltoli village in Jessore Sadar upazila. Acting on a tip-off, a team of Goalunda police led by SI Shaminul Haque searched the bus of Sohag Paribahan in the area and arrested Ziaul with the pistol loaded with one bullet at about 09:00am. Police said, Ziaul confessed that he was going to Savar in Dhaka with the arms for one Zakir from Jessore.

Robbery at expat's house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A gang looted valuables worth about Tk 4.5 lakh from the house of expatriate Harun ur-Rashid at Shaistanagar in Habiganj town yesterday. Harun was in Korea and had been staying in the house for months. Family sources said, about 20 robbers entered the house by breaking open its gate and a door at about 3am. They first beat up two tenants of the house and took away their mobile phones and money. They later swooped on Harun and beat him mercilessly before tying him up with ropes. The gang looted 8 tolas of gold, 4 mobile phone sets, Tk 30,000 and other valuables from the house.

Drug peddler gets life

UNB, Chuadanga

A court here on Tuesday sentenced a man to life term imprisonment for possessing contraband phensidyl syrup. The convict was identified as Babul, son of late Mofizuddin of Shyampur village in Damurhuda upazila. According to the prosecution, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) arrested Babul and Alim along with eight liters of phensidyl from Darshana border area on May 31, 2003. A case was filed against them under Narcotics Control Act on the same day. Later, after investigation police submitted charge sheet on June 15, the same year. After examining the records and witnesses, Judge of Additional Sessions Judge Court-2 Abdur Rahman Sardar handed down the verdict and acquitting Alim.

Fake juice factory

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Police seized at least one lakh packets of adulterated powdered juice from a fake factory in Bera municipality area yesterday morning. They arrested two manufacturers of the juice and a mobile court fined them Tk 1 lakh and 30 thousand. Officer in-charge of Bera police station Md. Abdul Hai said police raided the factories of Md. Anwar Hossain and Md. Khalid Hossain at local poura market and recovered over one lakh packets of fake juice. The packets were later destroyed at Bera poura market area. The traders were manufacturing the juice by using toxic chemicals and selling those among the children in name of 'Number One Shakib Khan'.