

Low quality seeds flood Gaibandha markets

Supply shortage pushes up prices, cheated farmers fear production fall

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Low quality seeds packaged under the label of well-known brands of high yielding and hybrid varieties have flooded local markets, while dealers and vendors are charging high prices in absence of proper monitoring of markets, especially in remote areas of the district.

The situation during the peak sowing period may eventually hamper boro production in the area, said locals.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) stopped distribution of BR 26 and BR 50 on the plea of unavailability two weeks ago.

At present BR 29 seeds are being sold in the open markets in remote areas at Tk 450/- against the government stipulated price of Tk 360 per ten kg sack, farmers said.

Farmers thronging mar-

kets to collect quality hybrid and HYV boro seeds are often cheated with fake seeds.

"Last year a vendor cheated me with fake seeds that did not germinate and I had to procure boro seed for the second time. I cannot even rely on seeds that being sold under BADC labels in the open markets," said Jamal Mia, a farmer of Kholahati union in Sadar upazila.

There are 84 seed dealers of BADC in Gaibandha district while over 500 vendors are involved in selling seeds in the district.

But many of them are marketing fake seeds in different brands and names.

According to the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), 5,008 tonnes of boro seeds are needed in the district this season.

BADC supplied 591 tonnes and Agriculture Seed Distribution Centre contrib-

uted 480 tonnes while private seed producers and local farmers are supposed to supply the remaining amount, said the deputy director of DAE in the district.

The present market rate of ACI brand BR 28 seed is Tk 400 per 2 kg packet, BRAC Sathi hybrid Tk 250 per one kg bag, BRAC BR 28 (HYV) Tk 125 per 2 kg bag, BRAC Teji hybrid Tk 280 per one kg bag, Raihan hybrid Tk 450 per 2 kg bag.

There are several other brands of boro seeds in the market like dynamic seed, one seed, sonar bangla, Hira-2, ACI shera, lal teer, meghna, lal teer TR.

Fake seeds are packaged under attractive covers, making them difficult to differentiate from genuine varieties, said Ramnath Saha, president of Gaibandha district seed dealers' association.

A mobile court on November 23 seized 20 sacks

of fake hybrid boro seeds from the shop of Mominul Islam on Sadullapur Road and fined him Tk 4,000. The seed packets were inscribed with Master Seeds, Keranipara Rangpur, but there was no license number, seal of BSTI and manufacturing and expiry date. Later those seeds were destroyed openly.

Sadullapur police recently seized 300 sacks of boro seed from the godown of Sujon Seed Store at Hamindpur in Sadullapur upazila and arrested Kartik Chandra, a worker, on charge of packaging local species of paddy in the name of hybrid boro seed under BADC labels. Police also seized huge empty bags printed with BADC labels and packing machines.

Serious action will be taken against the unscrupulous traders who deals in fake seeds, said AH Bazlur Rashid, deputy director of DAE in Gaibandha.



PHOTO: STAR

Erosion by Madarbania Bharani River threatens Patuakhali-Angla road that facilitates communication with the district headquarters for around 50 thousand people of Chhoto Bighai and Boro Bighai unions under Patuakhali Sadar upazila.

3 'commit' suicide in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Three people, including an Indian national, allegedly committed suicide here yesterday.

The victims were Bhudhar Mondal, 72, son of Hajra Mondal of Fakrabad village, Azihar Rahman, 38, son of Wahed Ali Baksa of Madra village in Kalaroa upazila and Erfan Ansari, 30, an Indian national and son of Enamul Ansari of Paschimbanga, India, who was living with his Bangladeshi wife at Durgapur village in Assasuni upazila.

Quoting local people police said, Bhudhar committed suicide by hanging himself from the beam of the roof of his house at about 5:30 am yesterday following a family feud.

Locals found the body of Indian national Erfan hanging from the branch of a tree near his father-in-law's house at Durgapur village early yesterday.

He used to maintain his family by doing tailoring work at Assasuni bazar after marrying Rupali Khatun, daughter of Azharul Islam Dhali of the village about a year ago.

Because of his Indian nationality, a case was filed against him with a judicial magistrate's court here recently.

Azihar committed suicide by hanging himself from the branch of a mango tree near his house at about 6:00 am yesterday.

He had a quarrel with his wife before committing suicide, police quoting the victim's relative said.

Police recovered the bodies and sent those to Satkhira morgue for post-mortem.

12 murdered in Tangail district in a month

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Twelve people including three women were murdered in different upazilas of Tangail district in November.

Four of the murders occurred in Tangail Sadar upazila, three in Sakhipur, two in Ghatail, and one each in Mirzapur, Nagarpur and Kalihati upazilas.

In Sakhipur, Rokeya Begum, 30, mother of two children, was killed by his angry husband at Toildhara village on November 30.

Abu Sayeed, 25, security guard of the Sakhipur branch of Krishi Bank, was murdered at the bank on November 27.

Criminals abducted housewife Ambia Khatun, 25, of Ichhadighi village in the upazila and killed her after rape on November 10.

"We arrested two persons in connection with the cases for murder of Sayeed and Ambia. But Rokeya's killer husband could not be arrested yet," Mohammad Mohiuddin, officer-in-charge (OC) of Sakhipur Police Station (PS), said.

In Ghatail, Hosen Ali, 45, of Lakhindar village in the upazila was beaten to death at Khaznagora village on November 23.

Sub-inspector (SI) Abdul Hannan of Ghatail PS said some angry villagers beat

Hossain Ali to death when he along with others went there for robbery.

Miscreants strangled Ramzan Ali, 42, of Rasulpur village in the same upazila and left his body at a turmeric field on a hillock in Masterer Chala area on November 21.

SI Mohammad Sayem of the same PS said the victim had land dispute with his neighbours.

Uzzal Hossain, 30, of Nazirpara village in Mirzapur upazila was killed slitting the throat on November 24.

SI Jakir Hossain of Mirzapur PS said police suspects Uzzal might be murdered by his friends centring dispute over drugs.

The same day, police recovered body of Akbar Ali, 45, from a water body at Pachsarutia village in Nagarpur upazila.

Akbar hailed from Kurki College Para of Chowhali upazila in Sirajganj and his body bore injury marks.

Police arrested a man in connection with the murder, said Rabiul Islam, OC of Nagarpur PS.

Kalihati police recovered body of Mohammad Robin, 22, from a water body of Rampur Uttarpara village on November 3. Local sources said Robin had land dispute with his relatives.

Jahurul Islam, OC of Kalihati PS, said, "We are

waiting for the post mortem report to confirm whether the incident was a murder."

In Tangail Sadar upazila, housewife Helena Begum, 50, was strangled at her residence at Akur Takur Para in the district town on November 17.

A day before, party rivals slit the throat of Mobarak Ali, 40, local leader of Purbo Banglar Communist Party (red flag), at Baghil in the same upazila.

Centring a trifling matter, CNG-run three-wheeler driver Rubel Miah, 24, was killed by his two friends at Suruj Khalpar in the same upazila on November 9.

On November 1, hoodlums shot dead Sadekur Rahman Dipu, 30, owner of City Electronics on Victoria Road in Tangail town, at the shop. The criminals also injured Dipu's younger brother Sayem and shop employee Rubel when they tried to save Dipu.

Police arrested eight youths in connection with the murder but main culprit who led the killing and planners behind the murder have remained at large.

Nazrul Islam, OC of Tangail Model Police Station, said Mohammad Hakim and Maznu Miah, arrested in connection with the CNG driver Rubel murder case, confessed to their involvement in the killing.



PHOTO: STAR

Farmers throng a trader's shop in Gaibandha town to procure boro seeds during this peak sowing season as Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation stopped distribution of hybrid seeds two weeks ago due to their unavailability.

Tortured wife faces death threat, seeks security

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A housewife, also mother of two children, has alleged death threat by husband and in-laws after she filed a case against them on charge of cheating and torture for dowry.

Sharmin Jahan Sumi, 30, wife of Liakat Shahriar Khan Russel, 35, a resident of Gorosthan Road area of Barisal city, made the allegation to reporters at Barisal Reporters Unity on Friday noon.

Russel started physical and mental torture on her demanding dowry after their marriage on November 25,

1999, and the torture continued even after two daughters were born to them, Sumi said.

On November 30, Sumi lodged a case with Kotwali police station against her husband Russel, brothers-in-law Rigan and Munna, Russel's friend Selim Ahmed and car driver Razu, accusing them of torture and working as accomplices.

Russel collected gold ornament worth Tk 2 lakh and other valuables from Sumi and Tk 17 lakh from in-laws by cheating in the name of loan for business and again demanded Tk 3 lakh, the

complainant said in the case.

"On October 24, 2011 Russel tortured me and ousted me with younger daughter from the rented house in Gorosthan Road area of Barisal city. Keeping our elder daughter as hostage, he asked me to take her after paying the demanded Tk 3 lakh from my father.

"I went to my father's house at Kawnia in the city and took treatment there. On November 13, I went to my husband's house and told him about our inability to pay the demanded dowry. Russel and his family mem-

bers then tortured me and snatched my gold chain worth Tk 60 thousand.

"As my father and brother rushed to Russel's house to rescue me, the in-laws also tortured them and snatched their money and mobile phone before letting them and me go," Sumi said.

Shaheduzzaman, officer in charge of Barisal Kotwali police station, said Sub Inspector Helal has been given the charge of investigating the case and action will be taken if the allegation is found true.

Accused Russel denied the allegations against him.

Ulema League leader murdered

STAR NATIONAL DESK

A ulema League leader was murdered in Gouripur upazila of Mymensingh district yesterday morning.

Our Mymensingh correspondent reported that the body of Jane Alam, 45, president of Ulema League Gouripur upazila unit, was found Hirokhal village in the upazila at around 10:00am.

Police quoted family sources as saying that Alam, also a marriage registrar of Douhakhola Union, went out of his house at around 10:00pm on Friday.

As he did not home during the night, family mem-

bers started looking for him in the morning and found the body lying under a bridge at adjacent Hironkhal village.

On information, police went to the spot at around 10:00am, recovered the body and sent it to Mymensingh Medical College and Hospital (MMCH) morgue for autopsy.

A case was lodged but none was arrested till filing of this report at 4 pm.

Police said the body bore several injury marks in the throat and chest. The officer-in-charge (OC) of Gouripur Police Station said they are trying to unearth the clues to the murder.



PHOTO: STAR

Students of anthropology department of Rajshahi University bring out a colourful procession on the campus marking the 12th anniversary of the department yesterday.

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