

# Boro cultivation may be delayed in 8 N districts

*Cold wave, fog damage seedbeds*

MEHEDY HASAN, Rangpur

Boro cultivation in eight northern districts under Rangpur division is likely to be delayed in the current season as persistent cold wave coupled with dense fog during the last couple of weeks damaged a large portion of seedbeds prepared for the purpose.

The seedlings meant for transplantation are turning yellowish due to the adverse weather, said farmers of different areas in the region.

Spraying pesticides did not come of much help to save the seedbeds and boro production may be hampered due to scarcity of seedlings if the situation continues further, they said.

"I raised boro seedlings on a 10-decimal land but half of the tender plants have already been damaged. If the remaining seedlings are spoilt I will not be able to cultivate boro this season," said Foroz Ali, 60, a farmer of Ikorchali village in Taraganj upazila under Rangpur district.

"I procured quality boro seeds for high prices to prepare seedbeds on 25 decimals of land with the hope to get a good yield. But now I am frustrated due to the damage caused by weather," Helal Miah, a farmer of Talimganj village under Mithapukur upazila in Rangpur, said.

Boro cultivation as a whole will be delayed as many farmers will have to prepare fresh seedbeds and at least one month will be



PHOTO: STAR

**Boro seedlings on a seedbed in Gangachara upazila under Rangpur district get damaged under the impact of persistent cold wave accompanied by dense fog in the northern districts in the last couple of weeks.**

required for the seedlings to mature, farmers said.

According to the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), 38,706 hectares of land have been used for preparing boro seedbeds in eight districts of Rangpur division in the current season but about 25 to 30 per cent seedbeds have been affected by intense cold wave and dense fog.

The DAE has set a target to bring 7,74,130 hectares of land under boro cultivation

in Rangpur division during the current season but the target may not be achieved due to the adverse weather condition, officials said.

"Cold wave usually hits Rangpur division in mid January when the boro plants become mature. But this year it hit earlier, causing damage to immature boro plants," said Md Golam Subhani, deputy director of the DAE.

"BRRI dhan-28 and 29 are most popular varieties in the

area for boro cultivation but they do not have cold tolerant characteristics. And so, the seedbeds are getting damaged," he said.

DAE officials are suggesting the farmers to irrigate the boro seedbeds properly and mix cow dung with the irrigated water so that the soil temperature remains high. They also suggested covering the seedbeds with polythene to save them from cold and fog.

## JP leader murdered in Joypurhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

A union Jatiya Party leader was murdered at Atapur union of Pachbibhi upazila in Joypurhat district at midnight on Monday, police said.

Fazlur Rahman 52, president of Atapur union Jatiya Party, was hacked to death by unidentified criminals, they said.

Fazlur, son of late Abbas Ali of Netapara-Niranjan village in the upazila, was an elected member of Atapur Union Parishad. He was returning home riding his motorcycle after attending a marriage party at midnight, police quoting family members said.

When he reached Bazitpur village on Pachbibhi-Joypurhat road, a gang of unidentified criminals waylaid him and hacked him to death with a sharp weapon. Later, the criminals dumped the body on a nearby paddy field and left the scene with the motorbike belonging to Fazlur.

Locals found the body at around 10:00am yesterday and informed the police who recovered the body and sent it to Joypurhat Adhunik Hospital for autopsy.

Pachbibhi police station officer-in-charge Abul Kalam Azad said Fazlur might have been killed by his rivals.

A S M Titas Mostafa, district convener of Jatiya Party (Ershad), demanded a fair investigation into the killing and punishment to the killers.

## 48 bullets found in Sherpur

A CORRESPONDENT, Sherpur

Police recovered 48 bullets of Chinese rifle from bordering Balijuri village in Shreebordi upazila yesterday morning.

Acting on a tip-off, the law enforcers went to the area and found the bullets in a polythene bag on a mustard field behind Bulijuri High School.

They seized the bullets and took them to Sreebordi Police Station. A general diary was filed with the police station.

## Trucker killed in wall collapse

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

A truck driver was killed in a wall collapse in Madrasa More (intersection) area of the district town on Monday. The deceased was identified as Rony Ahmad, son of Ansar Ali of Islabary village in Sadar upazila.

Victim's brother said the wall of a motor garage collapsed on Rony and he died instantly.



PHOTO: STAR

**A locally made three-wheeler carries passengers on Narail-Jessore road in Narail Sadar upazila yesterday, the second day of the indefinite strike enforced by bus owners' and workers' associations demanding immediate steps for repair of the rundown roads in the two districts.**

## Vehicles go off Jessore, Narail roads as strike continues

*Seven buses, trucks vandalised, passengers' sufferings mount*

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Transport owners and workers of Jessore and Narail districts continued their strike for the second day yesterday.

At least seven vehicles were vandalised on the road in front of Jessore Government City College yesterday and the day before.

Jessore and Narail District Bus Owners' Association and Bangladesh Paribahan Sangstha Sramik Samity jointly enforced an indefinite transport on Jessore-Narail route on Monday demanding immediate repair of the damaged roads in the two districts, reports UNB.

Our correspondents from Benapole and Narail reported that transport owners and workers staged demonstrations in Jessore

and Narail towns and in other parts of the districts yesterday and on Monday to press for their demand.

President of Jessore Bus owners' Association Md Ali Akbar said it is not at all be possible to resume transport services until roads of the two districts are repaired.

We have been compelled to call the strike for an indefinite period getting response neither from the Road & Highway Department (RHD) nor from the deputy commissioner of Jessore despite several reminders in writing, he said.

President of Jessore Transport Workers' Association Azizul Alam Mintu said the strike will continue until the demand is met. "We called off strike several times earlier on request from RHD officials and the deputy commis-

sioner who had assured us of meeting our demand for renovation of the damaged road, but they failed to act upon their commitment."

Transport owners associations of Jessore and Narail had earlier staged demonstration in support of the demand and submitted a memo to the

ministry concerned, but to no effect, Mintu added.

Transport workers alleged roads and highways in the two districts have become dilapidated and the department concerned is not taking any step to repair the damaged roads despite repeated reminders.

The strike has mounted sufferings to the commuters, especially the long route bus passengers of southeastern districts who use the route to travel to and from the capital.

## PRIMARY TERMINAL EXAM RESULTS

### Comilla Modern School top in Ctg divn

A CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

Comilla Modern School appeared seventh on the countrywide best schools' list while topping in Chittagong division in the primary terminal examination results published on Monday, reports a correspondent.

Three hundred and fifteen students among 761 examinees of the school achieved GPA-5.

Established in 1962, the school currently has an enrolment of around 4,000 students taught by 80 teachers.

"Dedication of teachers, parents' awareness, and students' efforts made the outstanding results happen. Regular model tests and monthly examinations helped everyone to improve," said Siddiqur Rahman, principal of the institution.

### Rangpur Cantt Public School and College best in division

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Of the 247 examinees from Rangpur Cantonment Public School and College, 164 secured GPA-5 and the rest GPA-4, making the institution achieve best results in this year's primary terminal examinations, reports our correspondent.

"Sincerity of teachers, students and guardians worked behind this result. Special coaching, monthly tests, class tests, model tests and special care to overcome individual weaknesses helped the students to achieve the success," said Col Md Rashedul Islam Khan, principal of the institution.

### Bluebird School and College peaks in Sylhet division

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

With hundred percent pass rate in the result of primary terminal examinations, Bluebird School and College has gained top position in Sylhet division this year, reports our staff correspondent.

Of the total 310 candidates from the school, 164 obtained GPA-5, 102 GPA-4 and 27 others got GPA-3.5.

"With special care in English and mathematics, we tried to raise confidence of the kids," said Hosne Ara, principal of the institution.

### Bogra Govt Girls' School first in Rajshahi division

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Bogra Government Girls' School secured the first position in Rajshahi Division in this year's primary terminal examinations, reports our staff correspondent.

Of the 252 candidates from the school, 42 got GPA-5 and the rest others GPA-4.

"The teachers identified students' weaknesses in particular subjects and spent extra time to address it," said Rabeya Khatun, headmistress of the school.

## Outlaw held, six bombs found in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Police yesterday arrested a regional leader of the outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) in Pabna Sadar upazila and recovered a firearm from his possession.

The arrestee, Kamal Hossain, 28, son of Abdul Hamid of Sonapur village, is the regional leader of the outfit and also an accused in several cases.

Acting on a tip-off, detectives raided his house at around 3:00pm and arrested him with a two barrel gun and four bullets.

In another drive, police recovered six bombs from Ahammadpur Uttarpara village in Sujanagar upazila of the district yesterday noon.

Officer-in-charge of Sujanagar Police Station Md Ahasanul Haque said locals found six bombs on a field and informed the police who went to the spot and recovered the bombs.

UNB adds: The body of a driver of nasiman, three-wheeler, was recovered from a pond at Baraipara beside Sariakandi-Chandanbaisha road in Bogra town on Monday.

The deceased was identified

as Reza Mandol, 35, son of Muja Mandol of Baraikandi area.

Reza's wife Shahnaz said he left home on Sunday morning and did not return at night. His mobile phone remained switched off, she added.

Locals found his body floating on the pond on Monday afternoon and informed police who recovered the body that bore injury marks.

Police said criminals killed Reza and took away his vehicle. No one was arrested as of 5:00pm yesterday.

*Change in the horizon*

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