



PHOTO: KONGKON KARMAKER

Two sculptures, one featuring Bangabandhu's call for the nation to ready itself for a struggle to achieve the country's freedom, right, and the other on the Liberation War of 1971, are being built at Dinajpur Gate on Dhaka-Dinajpur highway at Mohanpur, about 20 kilometres off the district town.

Low price worries growers despite bumper aman production

A CORRESPONDENT,
Rangpur

Despite achieving bumper productions of aman this year, farmers in Rangpur division are worried because of low price of the paddy in wholesale markets.

Prices of the paddy fell by Tk 50 to Tk 100 per maund to range between Tk 500 and Tk 550 in last one month. The previous price range was Tk 600 to Tk 650 a maund in different markets in the division.

"A few days back, I took some 10 maunds of the paddy for selling at Badarganj Haat, a local wholesale market. But I could not sell it as the buyers offered only Tk 550 a maund," said Mondol Ali, 60, a farmer of Modhupur village in

Badarganjupazila.

"My production cost was more than Tk 700 a maund."

"I cultivated BR-28 and BR-29 varieties of paddy on five acres of land costing Tk 60,000 this year," he added.

Prodip Mohanta, 45, a grower of Payrabandh union in Mithapukur upazila of the district, said he cultivated swarna on three acres of land with the loan of Tk 10,000 from a local non-government organisation.

"I am now worried of refunding it because of the low price of the paddy," he said.

Md Shamimul Haque, marketing officer at Department of Agricultural Marketing (DAM) in Rangpur, said that the BR-28 and BR-

29 varieties are now being sold with Tk 1,575 to Tk1625 per quintal (100 kg) while the price of a quintal of swarna paddy range between Tk 1500 to Tk 1550 in the local markets.

Riazul Islam Rintu, an owner of Islam Brothers Rice Mill, also mayor of Lalmonirhat municipality, said the price of the paddy has been reduced due to low demand from rice traders in the capital.

"The volume of consignments of rice from my mill has been decreased in last few weeks."

Local paddy traders, however, said plentiful supply of paddy in the markets and small-scale of procurement of rice by government have led to the downward trend in prices.

According to the Department at Agriculture Extension (DAE), farmers have produced some 9.61 percent more paddy than of target in the last season in Rangpur Agriculture Zone (RAZ).

The total volume of harvested of paddy was 44, 42,602 tonnes while the target was fixed to 40, 52,541 in the season, said Mezbahul Islam Khandaker, horticulturist at DAE in the divisional office.

"The rates of production of hybrid varieties stood at 3.19 tonnes, high yielding varieties 2.80 tonnes and local varieties 1.64 tonnes per hectare."

Due to favourable weather and almost no pest attack contributed to the high yield, said ASM Motiur Rahman, deputy director at

Nilphamari DAE.

Some 10, 84,074 hectares of land were brought under aman cultivation which was 10,071 hectares more than the fixed target in the season.

Of the cultivated lands, 29,050 hectares in Rangpur, 4,055 in Gaibandha, 12,146 in Thakurgaon, 14,035 in Lalmonirhat, 40,206 in Nilphamari, 45,459 in Dinajpur, 43,385 in Thakurgaon and 14,950 in Panchagarh, were brought under the cultivation.

Rivals fell over 180 trees on disputed land

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Satkhira.

A group of people captured a disputed land and cut down over 180 trees and 400 bamboos from some bamboo clusters on the land at Jagannathpur village in Sadar upazila in three days for January 27.

There has been a dispute between two groups—one led by Abdul Majid and Anwar Ali and the other by Shahjahan Ali and Abdur Rahman—of the village over ownership of 13 bighas of land for the last three years.

The land was in possession of Majid and Anwar. On April 26 in 2010, Shahjahan and Rahman filed a case with the Assistant Judges' Court, Satkhira, claiming ownership of the land. Majid and Anwar filed a petition with the same court, seeking

a permanent injunction.

After hearing, the court asked both parties to maintain status quo and fixed March 1 this year for hearing on the petition filed by Majid and Anwar.

Police quoted local people as saying that a group of people led by Shahjahan and Rahman captured the land at around 8:00am on January 27. They later built two thatched houses and felled over 180 mango, coconut, plum and other trees and 400 bamboos from some bamboo clusters on the land.

Contacted, Shahjahan and Anwar said they felled the trees as they are the real owner of the land. "Abdul Majid and others forcibly occupied the land", they added.

Majid said Shahjahan and Anwar cut down the

trees in a bid to occupy the entire land. We went to Sadar Police Station to file a case against the two the same day, but police refused to accept the case, Majid alleged.

On January 29, they submitted a petition to Satkhira Police Superintendent (SP) Habibur Rahman, accusing Shahjahan and Rahman of felling the trees. The SP ordered Sub-Inspector (SI) Mahbubur Rahman of the Detective Branch (DB) of police to investigate the matter and take action against those involved.

Sub-Inspector Mahbubur Rahman rushed to the spot, seized the felled trees and kept them in the custody of Shibpur Union Parishad (UP) chairman. After investigation, we will take stern action against the persons involved, SI Mahbub said.



PHOTO: STAR

Police intercept Jamaat men as they try to bring out a procession in Rajshahi city carrying the body of Monday's violence victim Shafiqul Islam. The law enforcers took the body back and brought it to Hatim Khan, five kilometers off the city, for burial.

Bogra Azizul Haque college beset with manifold problems

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU,
Bogra

Academic activities of over 41,000 students of Government Azizul Haque College in Bogra are hampered as the institution is beset with multifarious problems including shortage of classrooms, teachers and accommodation for long.

"We have only 36 classrooms, against the need of 70 ones, for 42 courses including 23 at honours and 19 at masters' level, while only 163 teachers are working against the requirement of 256," said Prof AKM Salamatullah, principal of the college.

One of the largest educational institutions in the country's northern region, the college was established in 1939 and declared a government institution in 1968, but not a single department has full-fledged educational facilities.

"Most of the times we have to leave the classroom before the scheduled time as the teachers have to shorten their lectures to spare the rooms for other classes," said Md Shihab Uddin, a student.

Around 17,000 students of the college have to accommodate themselves in about 450 private-run messes in areas near the college, he said.

"More than 700 girls are staying in Begum Rokeya Hall that has accommoda-



PHOTO: STAR

Government Azizul Haque College in Bogra faces multifarious problems, including shortage of teachers, classrooms and accommodation.

tion capacity for only 350 residents. Most of the toilets have remained with broken doors for long," said Zannatul Naem Smrity, a third year student of English department.

"Even we have to share a table with two to three roommates. We are not happy with dining and cafeteria facilities," said Sharifa Sultana of the same department.

There are only 670 seats in four students' hostels in the college, college sources said.

"I have to pay on an average Tk 3,000 per month

as mess charge whereas per person hostel charge at the government college is around Tk 1000 including meals," said Mostafa Sabuj, a student of sociology.


The government has approved construction of an academic building at a cost of Tk 12 crore to solve the classroom crisis but the work is yet to start, said the college principal.

Transport is yet another problem. Four 52-seat buses are too inadequate to carry over 20,000 students from different areas of the district, college sources said, adding that at least

four more buses are needed for the purpose.

Md Mamun-ur-Rashid, a former student of English department of the college, said, "Due to scarcity of books at the library, we had to go to private tutors and other places for preparing notes."

Students find it difficult to complete their syllabus as the situation has remained the same, said Mamun, now serving as a lecturer in Kahaloo Women's Degree College in Bogra district.




আজ পহেলা ফেব্রুয়ারি থেকে
শুরু হচ্ছে মামব্যাপী

অমর একুশে গুরুমেলা ২০১২

মেলার সময়সূচি
১-২৯ ফেব্রুয়ারি

প্রতিদিন	: বিকেল ৩টা থেকে রাত ৯টা
ছুটির দিন	: সকাল ১১টা থেকে রাত ৯টা (শুক্রবার দুপুর ১টা থেকে ৩টা পর্যন্ত বিরতি)
২১ ফেব্রুয়ারি	: সকাল ৮টা থেকে রাত ৯টা

মেনায় বইপ্রেমী সকলকে আমন্ত্রণ



বাংলা একাডেমী
৩ কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ
ঢাকা ১০০০

বাংলা একাডেমী
বাঙালি জাতিসত্তা ও বুদ্ধিবৃত্তিক উৎকর্ষের প্রতীক