

Aman yield may face setback for use of fake fertilisers

PONUEL S BOSE, back to Narail from Jessore

Markets in Narail, Jessore and other south-western districts are flooded with adulterated fertilisers and pesticides, much to the worry of farmers and agriculturists during the ongoing aman cultivation season.

During the last couple of years, the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) and the district administration sealed 19 registered factories, including 10 zinc fertiliser producers and 9 NPKS fertiliser producers, for manufacturing adulterated fertilisers. They also filed cases against owners of quite a few unauthorised fertiliser factories.

But after getting release on bail, the perpetrators again involved in the unscrupulous act by changing addresses, sources said.

The Jessore regional office of DAE set this season's aman cultivation target at 6,82,936 hectares of land in 10 south-western districts.

But aman yield is likely to face setback due to widespread use of spurious fertilisers amid inadequate action against the unscrupulous manufacturers and traders, said farmers.

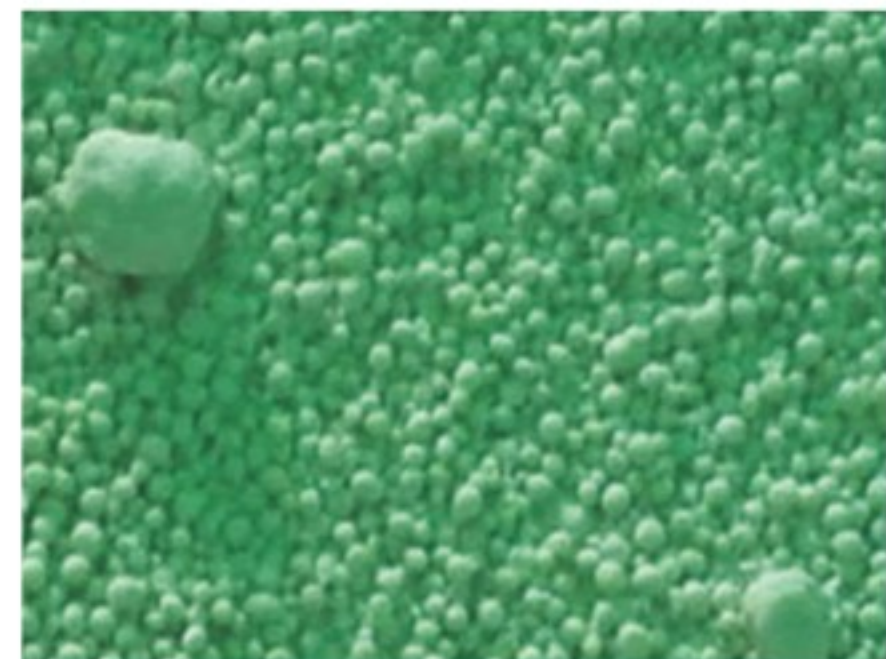
"Dishonest traders mix white cement, brick dust, mosaic powder, zinc sulphate and magnesium sulphate to make so-called zinc fertiliser. They use black cement, white powder and red mud to prepare fake NPKS fertiliser," said Kamrul Hasan Sagor, organic fertiliser producer and analyst of RKAgro.

While visiting markets at Monirampur upazila, Bagherpara upazila, Bagachra Bazar, Navaron Bazar of Jessore district, this correspondent found the traders selling adulterated zinc fertilisers openly, attracting customers with colourful advertisements.

"Last year I was cheated to buying adulterated zinc fertiliser that was in attractive packets. The syndicated traders are active to sell adulterated zinc fertilisers in the southern districts," Khondoker Shahed Ali, a farmer of Ujirpur village in Narail Sadar upazila said.



PHOTO: STAR



Two workers at an illegal factory in New Market area of Jessore are mixing white cement, brick dust, mosaic powder and magnesium sulphate to make so-called zinc fertiliser and on left, adulterated fertiliser lies on the floor of another unlicensed factory in Bahadurpur area of the district.

ated zinc sulphate fertilisers containing heavy metals may cause serious health hazards to the people and affect food production and soil fertility, DAE agriculturists said.

Some of the earlier sealed factories are now secretly producing adulterated fertilisers in Shahapur, Grurulia, Talbaria, Bahadurpur, Khazura and New Market areas in Sadar upazila and selling it at markets in the south-western districts, sources said.

"Fertilisers are in great demand during the current aman cultivation season

and so, we secretly produce adulterated fertilisers to make high profit," said a fake fertiliser trader seeking anonymity.

According to sources in the DAE regional office in Jessore, there are 38 registered fertiliser factories in Jessore district, including 24 zinc and 14 NPKS producing ones.

"Adulterated fertilisers are very harmful to soil fertility. We have continued raids on different markets to find out the dishonest traders and seal their factories," said Sheikh Hemayet Hossain, deputy director of Jessore DAE.

and so, we secretly produce adulterated fertilisers to make high profit," said a fake fertiliser trader seeking anonymity.

Top Tangail criminal Montu held with arms

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested Montu Miah, a notorious criminal of the district, with foreign made arms and ammunition.

Montu, 38, son of Pahalia Matbor of Old Adalat Para in the town, is also a drug peddler, according to locals.

Rab said, acting on a tip off, a team of Crime Prevention Company-3 of Rab-12, led by its commander ASP Mizanur Rahman, raided the house of Montu in Zamindar Potti area at around 2:00pm and arrested him.

The law enforcers, during the raid, recovered one pistol, one revolver, a magazine, 12 Bullets, one sharp weapon, several cans of beer and some heroin from his bedroom.

They also arrested Montu's accomplice Abul Khayer, 29, of the same area.

Montu is accused in at least 25 criminal cases, including five for murders, filed with Tangail Model Police Station, sources said.

Locals said, Montu and his elder brother Mamun had been committing different crimes including extortion at Tangail town for long.

Mamun was killed near his house in the town by his rival group a few months ago.



PHOTO: STAR

EID FEVER: Buyers through a market on Shaheed Rafiq Sarak in Manikganj town as Eid nears. Meanwhile the authorities have stopped movement of vehicles on the road to help the shoppers.

KAZIRHAT-PATURIA ROUTE

No step yet to rebuild the devoured ferry terminal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

The authorities are yet to take any steps for resumption of ferry service in Kazirhat-Paturia route more than a month after the Jamuna River devoured Kazirhat ferry terminal.

On July 20, the terminal went into the river, causing immense sufferings to the passengers and truckers in the route, said Md Abdul Jalil, manager of the terminal.

Earlier, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) on May 18 resumed the service that stopped due to

river erosion in 2007. Planning Minister AK Khandaker inaugurated the ferry service.

Despite repeated requests from locals, BIWTC did not take any steps for resumption of the ferry service, said Jalil.

Md Shahdat Hossain, deputy general manger of BIWTC, said they informed the higher authorities about the matter but to no effect as yet.

Md Shahidul Islam, technical engineer at BIWTA, said that his office sent letters to the shipping ministry, seeking fund for rebuilding the terminal.

Over 100 Kilometer distance is saved on an average if a truck goes to Dhaka from Pabna and other northern districts through Kazirhat-Paturia route, sources said.

The service also saves the transport costs of the truckers who use the route instead of Jamuna Bridge, they said.

"At least 60 to 70 litres of fuel worth Tk 2500 to 3000 would be saved by each goods laden truck if the route reopens", Abul Hossain Khan Mohon, president of Northern Region Truck Owners Association.



What the fone!

The last name of Symphony Xplorer W100 is Wow. No confusion. Only question is wat u can't do with it! Click the world, do the deals, turn heads with its almost invisible body. N smile ur twisted smile whn the others say "What the fone!"

- Symphony Xplorer W100
- Android 4.0 Ice Cream Sandwich
- AMOLED screen
- WVGA 4.3 inch Display
- 8MP Auto Focus Camera
- 9.8 mm thin
- 1 GHz Processor
- Dual SIM

8GB Free Micro SD Card

Price: Tk 19,990 only!

www.symphony-mobile.com