

Farmers earning high profit in mint growing

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Mint farming this year has been highly profitable to a good number of farmers at six villages of bordering Mogholhat union in Lalmonirhat sadar upazila. These farmers benefited from unexpected output this year due to favorable weather. Mint has a great demand in the local market and also abroad. It is used not as vegetable but as a remedy for different diseases, especially diabetics. Many local rural alternative doctors, called Kabiraj, use mint to make medicines. They find the result from mint is very satisfactory.

The mint framing villages are Karnapur, Etapota, Kurul, Fulgachh, Kodalkhata, Megharam, Vatibari and Kumartari of Mogholhat union in the upazila.

Ruhul Amin Babu, a mint grower from Karnapur village said, "I have cultivated only two decimal of lands for mint farming this year. I have already harvested 12kg of mint in the last month. I have earned Tk 2,400 from selling these 12kgs mint at a rate of Tk 200 per Kilogram in the local market. I am hoping to earn more by selling rest of the mint in my two decimal land within the running month".

Ruhul Amin Babu has become an ideal farmer in the union for his mint farming. He is the first farmer who started farming mint five years ago. Many farmers, evenz from



PHOTO: STAR

High profit in mint farming brings delight to farmers

different places of the district collects mint plants from him. They also take advice from him regarding cultivation. "It requires regular care of the field to grow mint. Therefore, the farmers can't cultivate large land for mint – they have to cultivate little land for mint. It is usually beside homestead," said farmer Ruhul Amin Babul.

Mint grower Shamsul Islam, at Etapota village said that he spent only Tk 300 for cultivating three decimal lands for mint. He, his wife and two sons always take care of the mint field. "I cultivated the same land for other vegetables last year. I earned only Tk 500 but same land has

already given mw earning Tk 2,000. I am hoping that I will earn more Tk 3,000 to Tk 4,000 by selling rest of the mint on the land," he said.

Bodrul Hossain, another mint grower at same village said "I cultivated my four decimal lands to grow mint beside my homestead spending Tk 1,000. I have already harvested all the mint keeping up some left for farming in the next duration. I have earned Tk 8,000 from selling mint in the last two months. I will cultivate more land for mint in the next time."

Another mint grower Narayan Chandro Roy, of Fulgachh village said, "people purchase mint at high rate not only because it serves as a food item, but also the

vegetable mint is used as remedy for different diseases especially for diabetics and pregnant mother by the doctors. "If anybody takes mint vegetable for a time with the meal regularly, it will help as remedy against different diseases".

According to Lalmonirhat Agriculture Extension Department AED official sources, at least 50 farmers at eight villages of bordering union Mogholhat in Lalmonirhat sadar upazila cultivated 15 bighas of land for mint this year. Mint growers get high profit as it has a high demand in the market. Farmer can get 12 to 18 Kg mint output from each decimal of land if the farmer takes care properly of the land.

Rajoni Kanta Barmon, a local Kabiraj (village doctor) at Mogholhat village said, mints natural remedy for different diseases. One can take it as vegetable but it works as remedy in the body and it can prevent different diseases. People with such conditions as pain, blood related diseases, diabetics and pregnancy will get cured using" he said.

Lalmonirhat Sadar Upazila Agriculture Officer Mohammad Nuruzzaman said, farmers getting bumper yield of mint this year due to favorable weather and good plants. Mint growers at eight villages are always in link with his office to get advice. He added that he and all other filedz level officials of agriculture department provide advice on mint farming.



The daring couple!

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

Major Manzur and Major Nusrat are the first successful paratrooper-couple in Bangladesh. The couple, along with 27 others of the group successfully jumped from a helicopter of Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) from a height of 2,500 feet in 4th April at the Panichhara Paratrooping zone in Jaintapur upazila near Jalalabad cantonment in Sylhet.

Captain Zannatul Ferdous became the first female paratrooper in Bangladesh the on the 6th of February this year after she successfully jumped from 1,000 feet height.

Special warfare wing of the commando battalion at the School of Infantry & Tactics (SI & T) at the Jalalabad Cantonment conducted the Paratrooping course.

Trainer of the course Major SM Touhidul Islam said that so far over 5,000 members of the army and other defence services took part in the course, introduced in the Army in 1990.

While giving brevet and greeting the successful Paratroopers, at the completion of the parachute landing, Commandant of the School of

Infantry & Tactics, Jalalabad Cantonment Brigadier-General Mahbub ul Haque said "it was a milestone for the army – now, we can expect others to come forward"

On successful landing from parachute, an emotion-choked Major Nusrat Al Nuri Chowdhury told this correspondent that it was immensely thrilling to dive, and she felt like touching the sky during the dive. She also added that she is proud to have performed such daring act. Completing the exercise successfully along with her husband, she is hopeful that it would encourage other female in the defence service. She said "I am hopeful to do advanced courses in Paratrooping in future, although those are not yet allowed for female officers.

Major Md. Manzurul Haque said it was a dream of both of them, he hopes that they would go further.

Manzur joined the army in 2002 and now serving as an instructor in the special warfare wing, while Nusrat serves as a staff officer in the Research & Development wing at the SI&T, Jalalabad cantonment. She joined the army in 2003.

Manzur hails from Barisal and Nusrat from Feni.

What's Your Insight?

Send your contributions to star.insight@gmail.com. Articles/stories/profiles should be between 700 to 1300 words in length and should be accompanied by at least two photographs.

Water festival of Rakhaine community

SUVASISH PAUL, Chittagong

Water festival, one of the biggest festivals of the Rakhaine community organized to celebrate New Year. A weeklong programme, "Sangrai Powey" in Rakhaine means 'new year'. It is held in April 13-19. One of the days falls in Pohela Boishakh.

Pani Khela or Jolkali is the main attraction of the festival. Young Rakhain men and women wearing

traditional dress playfully douse each other with water with the music of local song. It is believed that this tradition removes the woes, pain and sins of the previous year and people are reinvigorated to have a good start.

Unmarried men and women are take part Jolkali event. Some falls in love with each other and get married, which is believed to be a good sign for them.



PHOTO: SUVASISH PAUL

Jolkali event is a part of Rakhaine New Year celebrations

Four killed as nor'wester lashes four districts

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Four people were killed and over 500 houses damaged as nor'wester lashed country's four districts on Friday night.

The storm-hit districts are Jhenidah, Chuadanga, Pabna and Jhalakathi.

Our Jhenidah correspondent reported that a storm swept through Shaikupa and Sadar upazilas at around 8:30pm, killing three people, including two siblings, and damaging over 200 dwelling houses.

The deceased were identified as Tuhin Hossain, 13, and Suhin Hossain, 10, son of Abul Kashem of Baroihuda village, and Solaiman Biswas, 60, of Malithia village under Shaikupa upazila.

The two brothers were staying at their tin-roofed house during the storm. Suddenly, the roof of their house was blown away. While taking shelter at a nearby house, they were struck by lightning and died instantly.

Solaiman Biswas was asleep in a room of his house and died in wall collapsed during the storm.

The other affected villages are Madandanga, Haatfazilpur, Dhaura, Malithia, Majdid, Malisa, Swarnnagar, Kamolnagar, Bagura and Kamanna under Shaikupa upazila; and Narikelbaria, Kushobaria and Naldanga under Sadar upazila.

The violent storm also killed at least 5,000 birds at Madandanga and Haatfazilpur villages and uprooted over 500 trees at all the affected villages of the two upazilas.

In Chuadanga, a man was killed and 12 others were injured as storm lashed

Jibonnagar upazila of the district the same night.

The victim was identified as Nur Islam, 55, son of Mobarak Islam of Katapol village.

Locals said Nur Islam along with some other villagers was offering Esha prayers at a mosque during the storm. At one stage, the roof of the mosque collapsed, killing Nur Islam on the spot and injuring 12 others.

Locals took the injured to Jibonnagar Upazila Health complex. Several trees were uprooted while Irri-boro paddy and vegetables badly damaged.

In Jhalakathi, nor'wester

hit Galua, Boria and Satura unions under Rajapur upazila at around 8:00pm on Friday, reports our correspondent.

The storm, which lasted for only 20 minutes, damaged dwelling houses, shops, schools and mosques. At least six people sustained injuries during the storm.

Our Pabna correspondent adds: Storm lashed Sunagar, Chatmohar, Vangura, Faridpur, Atghoria, and Ishwardi upazilas at 9:30pm on Friday.

Sujanagar is worst affected upazila where over

200 houses at 10 villages were razed to the ground. The villages are Goaria, Kamarhat, Nazirganj, Hasampur, Borakpur, Naogram, Mohonpur, gopalpur and Malfia villages under Najirganj union of the upazila.

Locals and upazila administration sources said the violent storm, which continued for at least 15 minutes, uprooted over 400 trees and many electric poles, plunging the upazila into darkness. Power supply in many of the affected areas could not be restored as of 6:00pm yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Nor'wester hit families rebuild their houses at Shikrpur village in Sadar upazila of Jhenidah, right, a storm-ravaged house at Malifa village in Sujanagar of Pabna yesterday.



Marriage registrar jailed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A mobile court has sentenced a marriage registrar to one month's imprisonment in Santhia upazila for registration of an underage girl.

Md Forkanul Hamid, 44, of Afrapara village registered the marriage of 14-year-old Monira Khatun, a student of class seven, on Friday.

Police and locals said Monira Khatun, daughter of zohurul Islam of Dottopara village, was married off against her will with Manzarul Islam Sabuj, 18, son of Abu Bakkar of the village in the afternoon.

On information, police arrested the marriage registrar. However, the family members of Monira and Sabuj managed to flee.

8 hurt as rival Jubo League men clash

UNB, Laxmipur

At least eight people were injured in an intra-party clash between two groups of Jubo League at Torabganj Bazar in Kamalnagar upazila on Friday.

Locals said, an altercation ensued between Char Laurence union unit Jubo League convener Mohammad Ismail Hossain, also member of the union, and Jubo League activist Abul Kashem, also nephew of the upazila unit Awami League president Nurul Amin Master, over a judgment in a village arbitration on Friday evening.

Following the altercation, two groups of the local unit of the ruling party's youth front, equipped with lethal weapons, attacked each other, leaving eight people injured.

DEARTH OF FOOD COSTS IT DEAR



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Locals caught this spotted deer when it entered Charkachapia village in Charfasson upazila of Bhola in quest of food yesterday and handed it over to forest officials with the help of police.

Bullets stolen from police barracks recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police on Friday night recovered 120 bullets in two magazines, 18 hours after those were stolen from the police 'barracks'.

One magazine with 60 bullets of China rifle were recovered from an abandoned place behind Charghat police station at around 8pm, said OC Abdur Razzak.

The other magazine with 60 bullets of short machine gun (SMG) was found behind Charghat Poura Bhaban (municipality office) after sometime, he added.

Police arrested two persons – Liton, 30, and

Titu, 30 of Charghat, suspecting their involvement in the stealing.

The ammunition were given to assistant sub inspector (ASI) Hedayetul Haque of the police station for patrol duty on Thursday night, said the OC.

The ASI went out for duty leaving those ammunition in his travel bag at the 'police barracks.'

Hedayet used to stay at an abandoned building in the police station compound along with three constables. The building was being used as an extension of barracks for lack of room at the main police barracks.

Returning from duty at 2.00am, Hedayet saw all

the belongings of four policemen, including travel bags and the bullets, were stolen.

Police started to raid different areas around the police station. They recovered the travel bags of the three constables in the morning and Hedayet's one in the afternoon. But the bullets still remained missing.

Later they found the bullets in an abandoned condition at the two previously mentioned places.

A four-member committee, headed by Additional SP Moazzem Hossain Bhuiyan, has been formed to look into the reasons for stealing, said Anwarul Kabir, SP of Rajshahi.