

Aman farmers beam with delight due to good yield, fair price

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Aman farmers are happy with good yield as well as fair price of the major paddy this season, according to reports from several districts.

Farmers in Lalmonirhat district are now busy in the field to harvest the paddy, said our correspondent.

Now one maund (40 kg) of aman paddy is selling for Tk 640 to 710 in different markets in the district while the production cost of a maund of paddy was Tk 420 to 450, farmers said.

Officials of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) in Lalmonirhat said aman was cultivated on 81,085 hectares of land against the target of 77,078 hectares in five upazilas of the district this year.

Farmer have got at least 120 maunds (4.8 tonnes) in each hectare of land this year but it was only 90 to 95 maunds last year, they said.

Anwar Hossain, 62, a farmer at Kashinath village in Lalmonirhat Sadar, said, "I cultivated high yielding flood tolerant aman paddy on 68 decimals of land this year and got 25 kg of paddy in each decimal. It was only 18 kg last year."

"I received seed and technical support from the IRRI-STRASSA Project of NGO RDRS to cultivate the variety. I will cultivate it on more lands next time," he said.

Favourable weather condition including timely rain helped bumper aman yield this season and its price is good too, said Abdul



PHOTO: STAR

Farmers harvest aman paddy at a field at Ghuridah village in Saghata upazila of Gaibandha. Production of the major crop is likely to increase in the district this season as the weather was favourable.

Mazid, deputy director in Lalmonirhat DAE.

Mamunur Rashid, agriculture and environment coordinator of NGO RDRS said, "Now the farmers apply scientific method for cultivation. They do not use excessive fertiliser and insecticides in their croplands."

Our Gaibandha correspondent reports: Aman production in Gaibandha district is likely to see increase this season as farmers brought total 1,27,800 hectares of land under aman cultivation against the target of 1,22,227 hectares and the weather was favourable, said sources of DAE.

DAE officials are expecting 3,26,423 tonnes of rice yield in this season.

"I have harvested 18 to 20 maunds of HYV of aman crop per bigha of land, as weather and flood was almost favourable this year," said Kamrul Hasan, a model farmer of Kholahati union in Gaibandha Sadar upazila.

This season the farmers are getting fair price of the crop that is now selling for Tk 730 to Tk 775 per maund, said Dipok Pal, a farmer of Badiakhali village in Sadar upazila.

UNB adds from Sherpur: Farmers in the district are happy with the good yield as

well as reasonable market prices of aman paddy.

Good aman harvest was expected this season in the district as weather condition remained favourable, prices of fertiliser and other inputs were relatively low while pest attack did not affect the crop, said growers and agriculture officials.

Sherpur DAE had set a target to bring 87,393 hectares of land under aman farming in the district this season but farmers cultivated aman on more areas of land.

"I cultivated aman on four acres (one acre=30 decimals) of land spending

Tk 7,000-8,000 per acre and got 35-36 maunds (each maund = 37.32 kg) of paddy from each acre. The new paddy is selling at Tk 800 per maund and I hope to get profit of Tk 30,000-32,000 by selling my produce," said Abdur Razzaque, 45, of Baromari village in Nalitabari upazila.

Agriculturists said growers sowed high quality aman seeds like BINA-7, BR-49 and local early variety Basmati Dhan while the DAE officials provided the farmers with training and necessary instructions to get better yield.

AL man sues BNP leaders, activists in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

A local Awami League leader yesterday filed a case against 16 leaders and activists of BNP and its front organisations in the district, accusing them of extortion and torture.

General secretary of Khagrachhari Sadar upazila Awami League Chandan Kumar Dey filed the case with the Sadar police station.

The accused include vice-president of district BNP Amin Sharif, its organising secretary Mostafizur Rahman Millat, joint secretary Tajul Islam Badal, acting press secretary Abu Talab, president of Sadar upazila BNP Animesh Chakma Nandit, senior vice-president of district Chhatra Dal unit Shariful Islam Asad, its general secretary Ibrahim Khalil and joint secretary Mohammad Mizan and president of district Krishak Dal Abdul Hannan.

Chandan Kumar alleged that the accused beat him up seriously and vandalised his motorcycle in Shaplachatter area during the hartal hours on November 4 as he refused to pay them illegal toll.

However, organising secretary of BNP Mostafizur Rahman Millat refuted the allegation of Chandan, terming it a false case. Pickets just chased Chandan as he was driving motorcycle during the hartal hours, he said.

Youth rapes 4-year-old girl in Nilphamari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A madrasa student raped a four-year-old girl at Khalisha Chapani village in Dimla upazila of the district on November 20, leaving her seriously injured.

She is now undergoing treatment at the children's ward at Nilphamari 100-bed Hospital.

Dr Fazlul Huq, resident medical officer (RMO) of the hospital, told this correspondent that he found injury marks in the private parts of the rape victim, who was also suffering from high fever and severe pain.

Victim's mother told this correspondent that when her daughter was playing in front of their house at noon, neighbour Monsur Ali's son Saiful Islam, 20, a student of Khalishapani Bepari Tola Alim Madrasa, picked her up, saying he would give her chocolate.

"After sometime, I heard my daughter screaming in a bamboo cluster near our house. I rushed there and found her lying on the ground and bleeding profusely from her private parts."

The girl's father lodged a case with Dimla Police Station yesterday against Saiful Islam, but the accused went into hiding soon after the incident.

Contacted, Officer in-charge Azimuiddin of Dimla Police Station said they will launch a drive to arrest the culprit.

VANDALISM, ATTACK ON COPS 23 BNP-Jamaat men sued in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Police yesterday sued 23 local leaders and activists of BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday alleging vandalism and violence during clash between cops and 18-party men in the town on Friday.

Sub Inspector Masud Rana of Tangail Model Police Station filed the case, also accusing 200 to 300 other unidentified members of local BNP-Jamaat and its associate bodies.

Besides vandalism, the accused threw cocktails on cops and obstructed law enforcers from their duties, said the complaint.

Tangail district BNP organising secretary Farhad Iqbal, district unit Krishak Dal general secretary Mahmudul Haque Shanu, district Jubo Dal president Ahmedul Haque Shatil, general secretary of the organisation Ashraf Paeli, joint secretary of district unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal Nurul Islam and Jamaat leaders Ahsan Habib Imroz and Jahanur Islam are

among the accused.

Nazrul Islam, officer in-charge of Tangail Model Police Station, said three of the accused – Jony, Sazzad and Ashik – were held on the spot in connection with the incident.

The incident took place when BNP-led 18-party men were holding a meeting on Shaheed Minar premises in Tangail town on Friday afternoon as part of the alliance's central programme.

During the meeting, a few Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Islami Chhatra Shibir activists at the meeting tried to burn an effigy of Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad and later vandalised several billboards of local Awami League men in the area.

When police barred them from doing so, they threw brick chips at the law enforcers.

In defence, police fired rubber bullets, blank shots from shotguns and lobbed tear gas shells, leaving at least 20 people including fourteen 18-party men and six policemen injured.

Pabna BNP enforces daylong hartal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A daylong hartal enforced by Pabna BNP demanding release of Shamsur Rahman Shumul Bishwas, special assistant to party chairperson Khaleda Zia, passed off peacefully in the district yesterday.

Police arrested Shimul Biswas, also joint secretary of Bangladesh Road Transport Workers' Federation, from in front of BNP chairperson's Gulshan residence in the early hours of November 9.

Hartal supporters brought out several processions in different parts of the district town. They also blocked Dhaka-Pabna highway and burnt tyres at different points of the road.

No long route buses left the district town while

vehicular movement was less than normal on the roads. Roadside shops were seen closed but schools and colleges remained open during hartal hours.

A rally was held in front of the district BNP office at noon. District unit General Secretary Habibur Rahman Tota, Vice-President Abdullah Al Mahamud, Joint Secretary Nur Mohammed Masum, and local BNP leaders Toufik Habib, and AKM Musa addressed the rally. They demanded immediate release of five senior party leaders, including Shimul Biswas.

Meanwhile, Zia Parishad formed a human chain in front of the local press club yesterday morning, demanding release of Shimul Biswas.



PHOTO: STAR

Caretaker Mohammad Shah Alam gives a bleak look as criminals cut down at least 300 mango trees at an orchard owned by Abu Mohammad Hossain Ali at Bholaiyapara in Manikchhari upazila of Khagrachhari district on Friday night.

Youths claiming themselves as 'UPDF men' destroy orchard

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Criminals felled around 300 mango trees at an orchard at Bholaiyapara under Manikchhari upazila of the district on Friday night.

Mohammad Shah Alam, caretaker of the orchard, said a gang of 10 to 15 criminals entered the orchard at around 8:30pm and started cutting down the trees.

"As I tried to prevent them from felling the trees, they gave me a death threat," the caretaker said.

Orchard owner Abu Mohammad Hossain Ali

blamed the cadres of United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) for felling the trees.

He said a group of youths, identifying themselves as UPDF men, recently demanded illegal toll from him. "As I refused to pay them toll, they cut down the five-year-old trees," the orchard owner said.

Refuting the allegation, Niran Chakma, press and information secretary of UPDF, said his party men were in no way involved in such evil act.

Contacted, officer in-

charge (OC) Keshab Chakraborty of Manikchhari Police Station, said he was aware of the incident. No case in connection with the tree-felling was filed as of 3:30pm yesterday.

"If the orchard owner files a case, legal action will be taken against the persons involved," the OC added.

Extortionists recently felled trees at different orchards in Manikchhari, Ramgarh and Matiranga upazilas as owners failed to pay them illegal toll.

Two killed in clashes over land

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Two people were killed while two others injured in land-related clashes in Natore and Chapainawabganj districts yesterday and the day before.

A man was killed and his wife sustained burn injuries as they were set ablaze allegedly by the man's brother-in-laws over a land-related dispute at Kujipukur in Lalpur upazila of Natore early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Habibur Rahman, 50, son of Hayet Ali, a resident of the upazila, while the injured was his wife Sufia Begum, reports UNB.

Police said Habibur had a longstanding enmity with Ibrahim and Akkas, two brothers of Sufia, over possession of a piece of land for long.

As a sequel to the conflict, Ibrahim and Akkas, aided by their associates, yesterday stormed the house of Habibur and set the couple afire by pouring petrol at about 1:30am, leaving Habibur dead on the spot and Sufia injured.

Sufia was rushed to a local hospital. Being informed, police went to the spot and recovered the body.

In Chapainawabganj, a man was killed and another

person was injured allegedly when their rivals attacked them at Gorokkhonathpur village in Sadar upazila on Friday night over a peace of disputed land.

The deceased was identified as Hafizuddin, 65, son of late Sahebjan of Dinonathpur village under Sadar upazila in the district, reports our correspondent.

Sub Inspector Abdur Razzak of Sadar police station, said men of Hafizuddin and Jodu of Dinonathpur village were discussing the issue of the disputed land at a mango orchard of neighbouring Gorokkhonathpur village at

about 9:15pm.

Suddenly a group of supporters of Jodu swooped on Hafizuddin and Sufal Sarkar with sharp weapons. Hafizuddin died on the spot while Sufal was seriously injured.

Sufal Sarkar was later admitted at Chapainawabganj Adhunik Sadar Hospital.

On information, police recovered the body and sent it to Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Hafizuddin's son Sanaul Haque yesterday filed a murder case with Sadar police station.

SNIPPETS

Injured Jubo Dal man dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

An injured Jubo Dal activist of Monirampur upazila died on Friday night while he was being treated at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. The activist was identified as Ashiqur Rahman Ashiq, 37, son of Tobibar Rahman of Aminpur village in the upazila. Ashiq was injured in a clash between the activists of Awami League and BNP at Chineta bazaar under Monirampur upazila on Thursday night. When the news of his death spread to the area, local BNP activists barricaded Jessore-Satkthira road for two hours on Friday evening. A case was filed accusing a few Awami League activists, said officer in-charge (Investigation) Nasir Uddin. "We have already arrested a local Jubo League activist, Shahidul Islam, in this connection, he added.

Eight held in killing case

UNB, Satkhira

Police arrested eight more 'Jamaat-Shibir activists' from different places in Debhata upazila on Friday night in connection with the killing of local Awami League leader Abu Raihan. Acting on a tip-off, a team of police conducted a drive in the upazila and arrested them at night. With the eight, a total of 25 people have so far been arrested in connection with the murder. Jahangir Hossain, Satkhira police superintendent, confirmed the arrest. Abu Raihan, 38, organising secretary of the upazila unit of the ruling party, was stabbed to death by miscreants at Parulia Bazar in Debhata on Thursday night.

Man dies in police custody

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A man died in police custody at 250-bed Sadar Hospital in the district yesterday morning. The deceased was identified as Ansar Ali, 45, son of Anjob Ali of Sataih village in Nabiganj upazila of Habiganj district. Sadar police said, they arrested Ansar in a criminal case on October 24. When he complained of pain in his heart, police referred him to Moulvibazar 250-bed Sadar Hospital where Ansar died around 10:00am, they said. Moulvibazar Jail Superintendent Al Mamun said that Ansar Ali died following a cardiac arrest. "We have sent his body to the family, he said.

Teenage girl 'commits suicide'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A teenage girl allegedly committed suicide at Jugidoy in Sadar upazila of the district early yesterday. The deceased is Supriya Das, 17, daughter of Krephesh Das of Choky village in Nabiganj upazila of Habiganj district. Supriya lived at her uncle Sribash Das' house at Jugidoy. Police said, she took poison early yesterday but they couldn't ascertain the reason behind the suicide. Contacted, office in-charge of Moulvibazar PS Md. Azizur Rahman said, they sent her body to Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital for postmortem.

Fish traders clash

UNB, Comilla

At least 20 people were injured in a clash between two groups of fish traders over establishing supremacy at Tulatuli Bazar in Meghna upazila on Friday. Quoting traders, police said, an altercation ensued between two groups -- one of Tulatuli village and the other of Khidirchar village -- over sitting arrangement at Tulatuli Bazar in the afternoon. At one stage, the traders of Tulatuli chased their rival group, triggering a clash that left 20 people injured.

Worker electrocuted

UNB, Brahmanbaria

A construction worker died from electrocution while another was injured at Uttar Morail in the district town on Friday. The deceased was identified as Dilu Mia and the injured was Siddikur Rahman. Witnesses said, Dilu Mia and Siddikur came in contact with a live electric wire while they were doing roof construction work of a building of contractor Selim Mia at the village, leaving them injured. Dilu Mia died on the way to Sadar Hospital while Siddikur Rahman was admitted there.

Two muggers jailed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

A mobile court here sentenced two youths to three months' jail for mugging a vegetable vendor on Tuesday noon. The convicts are Sajib, 22, son of Abdul Mannan of Rashidpur Dakkhinpara and Abdur Rahim, 24, son of Abdul Malek of Nayapara Panchrasta area under Jamalpur municipality. Police said, locals caught three youths while mugging the vendor in Dakpara area of the town near Sherpur bridge at around 1:15am. Then the locals handed Sajib and Rahim over to police as Rana, 25, of Gatepar area in the town managed to flee with the mugged money amounting to Tk. 3100, police said.

9 hurt as JCD, police clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

At least nine activists of JCD Palashbari upazila unit and a policeman were hurt as they clashed yesterday afternoon. Police fired several rubber bullets to disperse the agitated activists while the JCD men blasted cocktails and vandalised at least 10 vehicles during the incident. Earlier, police arrested five JCD leaders including its upazila convener Abdul Mottaleb Bakul and upazila president of Swachhchasebok Dal Wariur Rahman Liton on Wednesday. Demanding unconditional release of the arrested leaders, the activists and supporters of upazila JCD and Swachhchasebok Dal brought out a procession that paraded the main road of Palashbari upazila headquarter yesterday. Police intercepted the procession triggering a clash. Six activists of JCD were arrested from the spot.

Two held for medicine theft

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Police arrested a pharmacist and an employee of Khedmatpur health and family planning clinic under Pirganj upazila on Wednesday night. They were identified as Rajib Hossain, pharmacist and Phulu Mian, an employee of the clinic. Dr Mahbubur Rahman, Health and Family Planning Officer of Pirganj, said, on Wednesday night, Rajib and Phulu were going by a pick-up van to the upazila headquarters, along with medicine of the clinic worth of Tk 2 lakh. Locals caught them on suspicion and later officer-in-charge of Pirganj police station rushed to the spot and brought them to the police station. Health officer Dr Abdur Rahman of the clinic lodged a case against the duo in this connection.