



Farm workers harvest tomatoes in Mohammadpur village of Brahmanbaria Sadar upazila recently.

PHOTO: STAR

# Tomatoes bring fortune for them

SHEIKH MD SHAHIDUL ISLAM,  
Brahmanbaria

Tomato cultivation has brought good luck for two Brahmanbaria farmers, setting an example for others.

The farmers earned a profit of Tk 4,00,000 in the last year by dint of perseverance and hard work.

In the running season, harvesting is yet to complete. Meanwhile, they have sold tomato worth Tk 17,00,000, and they expect to make a profit of Tk 10,00,000 from the sales by the end of the season.

But the beginning was not smooth sailing for Md Mohiuddin and Md Jamal Uddin, hailing from Muhammadpur village under Sadar upazila in the district.

In 2009, they took lease of some cultivable land in their village and engaged themselves in cultivating various vegetables. But the initiative was an utter failure in the absence of much-needed training.

The duo then received training under the National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP) of the Department of Agriculture Extension in the district in 2010.

They developed expertise on how to prepare compost, and how best to use chemical fertiliser. They also got the know-how to grow vegetables without using pesticides.

They did not look back since they took lease of three bighas of land in 2013 and cultivated "summer seasonal tomato-4".

Md Mohiuddin, one of the two successful farmers, said that they had earned a good profit in the season.

Being inspired, the farmers again leased 15 bighas of land at nearby Ghatiara village and cultivated hybrid winter seasonal tomato called "Raja hybrid tomato" in October last year.

Md Bachhir Uddin, acting deputy director of the DAE in Brahmanbaria, said the duo would easily make a profit of Tk 10,00,000 by the end of the season.

Another farmer Jamal Uddin said they had been cultivating tomato using modern technology.

The jubilant farmers said the production cost could be scaled down and output could be enhanced if fertilisers, pesticides are applied following the instructions of the DAE.

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## No Tamim

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from February 25.

The big name missing from the squad is injured opener Tamim Iqbal, who was the Tigers' most successful batsman in the last edition in 2012 -- also held in Dhaka -- with half-centuries in each of the four matches. All-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, who was on Friday handed a 3-match ban for his offensive gesture directed at the live cameras during the second ODI against Sri Lanka, was also in the squad but will miss the first two matches because of the ban.

"We will not be getting Tamim Iqbal in the Asia Cup. He has not recovered from an injury and it may take another week or so for him to return. Under the circumstances our priority is to have him fully fit for the ICC World Twenty20 and he will continue his rehab," said national chief selector Faruque Ahmed about Tamim. After

the series loss against Sri Lanka yesterday, captain Mushfiqur Rahim had said that they will try to wait until the last minute to take a call on Tamim, but the Tamim-less squad was announced within a half hour of that remark.

Also missing is former national vice-captain Mahmudullah Riyad, who has endured a torrid series against Sri Lanka. In his absence recalled hard-hitting all-rounder Ziaur Rahman will, according to the chief selector, slot in at number seven in the batting order.

### SQUAD

Mushfiqur Rahim (Captain), Anamul Haque, Imrul Kayes, Shamsur Rahman, Naeem Islam, Mominul Hoque, Nasir Hossain, Arafat Sunny, Ziaur Rahman, Abdur Razzak, Shohag Gazi, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Rubel Hossain, Al Amin Hossain, Shakib Al Hasan

## Jessore JOURNO KILLING Key accused murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

A chargesheeted accused of Jessore Udichi bomb blast and journalist Saiful Alam Mukul murder cases was found dead in Jessore town yesterday morning.

The dead, Saiful Islam, 48, was son of Jeher Morol of Shankarpur area in the town.

Saiful was accused in several cases, including local daily Runner editor Saiful Alam Mukul murder, Udichi bomb blast, Laujani four-murder and Babul murder at Satighata, said Johurul Haque, sub-inspector of Kotwali Police Station.

Johurul said locals found the body of Saiful near Murali rail crossing in the town and informed police.

Criminals killed Saiful by slitting his throat, and left the body there in a sack, he mentioned.

The police official said Saiful might have been murdered following a feud over smuggling.

In another incident, a tailor, who was beaten allegedly by village defence group members in Monirampur upazila on Friday night, succumbed to his injuries at Jessore Medical College Hospital early yesterday.

The deceased, Asadul Islam, 35, was son of Joydul Abedin of Chanpakona village of the upazila.

Mizanur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Monirampur Police Station, said Asadul was locked in an altercation with the village defence group members on Thursday night over a trifling matter. He was returning home from his shop at Dhakuria Bazar.

Following the altercation, the group members on Friday night attacked Asadul on his way home. They beat him up and hacked him with sharp weapons, leaving him critically injured, he added.

Asadul was rushed to Jessore Medical College Hospital.

Four people were arrested in this connection, the police official said.

## AL trying

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and boost campaign efforts, party insiders told The Daily Star.

The AL teams, formed with central leaders for the upazila polls, would soon begin their countrywide tours to manage the situation and end the infighting at the grassroots.

Party presidium member Kazi Zafarullah told The Daily Star that they had failed to manage the rebels in the February 19 elections to 97 upazilas and that they have now directed the grassroots to convince party supporters and voters to vote for the Awami League-backed candidates.

Party Organising Secretary Ahmod Hossain said they would convince rebels to make public their support for the party-backed candidates in the second phase.

Several leaders while talking to the media had identified the party's organisational weakness and rebel candidates for its poor performance in the first phase.

Awami League election steering committee co-chairman and prime minister's adviser HT Imam blamed rebels for the party-backed candidates losing. While talking to the BBC on Thursday, he also said if the Awami League could ensure one candidate for each post, the result would have been better.

## 3 major jobs

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Two crucial issues -- technology and the cost -- of the reactor would be determined in the techno-economic solutions, he added.

These have been done under the first deal Dhaka and Moscow inked in June last year in their quest for a nuclear power plant in Bangladesh.

Activities of the nuclear plant construction slowed down due to political turmoil in Bangladesh and year-end vacation in the last couple of months. However, the project director said they were very much on target of completing all activities in time.

"Another vital issue is the design and safety documentation of the reactor, which we are going to start soon with a target to complete in the given 24 months," Shawkat told The Daily Star.

The documentation is being done under a deal signed between the two

countries in October last year when Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the country's first nuclear plant in Rooppur.

Design and drawing of the reactor, working and construction condition, and structures of the nuclear plant would also be done in this phase.

Basement for establishment of the reactor will be done at this stage, which is called the First Concrete Boring (FCB). "With the FCB we will step into the nuclear world," said the project director.

The two countries have meanwhile started discussion to sign the third deal for preparation of nuclear plant construction through developing required infrastructure, service facilities and setting up of equipment on the site.

"All the activities will be completed by 2016 so that we can kick off construction of the reaction unit at the beginning of 2017," said Yeafesh

Osman, state minister for science and technology.

Both the minister and the PD expressed the hope that installation of the reactor would be completed by 2020 with a view to adding power to the national grid the following year.

Russia is giving technical and financial support to build the plant and has promised to install the latest and safest type of reactor complying with all post-Fukushima international safety regulations. Russian state nuclear power company Rosatom would provide the nuclear power plant.

Last year, Moscow provided Dhaka a \$500 million loan to complete the preparatory works.

Russia, which is now building several dozen nuclear plants in different countries, will also provide 90 percent of the construction cost that ranges between Tk 12,000 crore and Tk 15,000 crore.

## Polls mostly fair

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The EWG said around 59.19 percent voters had cast ballots whereas the Election Commission had estimated voters' turnout rate at 62.44 percent.

EWG had deployed as many as 2,035 observers to monitor the elections in four segments -- opening of polling stations, voting operations, closing and vote counting.

The observers counted at least 40 incidents in which polling officials or law enforcers had worked in favour of a particular candidate.

At least 38 attempts were made by unidentified people to snatch ballot boxes or to occupy polling centres, while 63 incidents of giving fake votes were noticed, EWG Director Abdul Alim said while presenting the report.

The voting did not begin on time in some 55 stations, while voting remained suspended for a few moments in 16 stations due to tension and violence.

The observers also found 27 ballot boxes that were not sealed properly or the seals were broken between the time the voting ended and the counting of ballots began, according to the report.

In some 13 percent polling centres, additional people were present during the counting of votes in violation of electoral laws.

Besides, 31 incidents of violence occurred inside and outside polling stations, the report says.

Supporters of some candidates were seen conducting electoral campaign within 400 yards of nearly 45 polling centres. At some 17 centres, candidates were seen arranging transport for voters.

EWG steering committee members, Ruksana Khandaker, Harun-or-Rashid and AHM Noman also attended the function.

In response to a question whether the ruling party men had influenced the polls, Director Abdul Alim said, "We cannot say this in general. But in some places we saw that they [ruling party men] tried to influence."

Asked how then the report claimed the elections had been held in a fair and peaceful manner despite all these anomalies, Alim said, "These anomalies, irregularities and violence occurred in a very few places. But the voting in the remaining areas took place peacefully and fairly."

## Fencing to spoil beauty

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The Speaker, deputy speaker, chief whip and six whips live inside the complex, the official said.

"We apprehend that armed assailants may overpower the unarmed security personnel deployed there," the official said, adding, "We also want to prevent unauthorised entries."

Thousands of guests gather on the parliament premises to attend night-time wedding ceremonies and "they do not pose any security threat", the official said.

Mubasshar Hussain, former president of Commonwealth Association of Architects, said, "This is an uncivil way and futile attempt to protect an architectural marvel and symbol of national identity." He said, "It only shows foolishness of the initiative."

Abu Sayeed M Ahmed, president of Institute of Architects Bangladesh, said the entire South Plaza was dedicated for the people and contact between the parliament and the people.

Any visitor, including foreigners, could enter the German national parliament even during sessions, he said. Despite the 1987 grenade attack at the Sri Lankan parliament, there was no physical barrier put in place there, he said, adding that its security personnel

are so efficient that they instantly caught him when he tried to take a photo in 2004 popping out of a blind spot.

A committee led by the deputy speaker around three years ago told the government that a 10-foot high solid boundary wall with a three-foot barbed wire on top was required.

The issue was placed before the Nagar Unnayan Committee for a decision, said Mubasshar Hussain, who was then a committee member.

The committee viewed that no physical barrier could be advisable but it had to give in to the insistence of the parliament authorities.

World famous architect Louis I Kahn designed the Jatiya Sangsad Bhawan on 200 acres of land in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar and it was inaugurated in 1982.

According to eminent architect Shamsul Wares, the parliament building is an epic masterpiece of architecture. In his view, the building is one of the world's best works of all times in terms of greatness in the use of space and light.

Despite repeated attempts over the mobile phone, neither the Speaker nor his deputy could be reached for comments.

## Modi bats

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Indian polls, also warned China to shed its "expansionist mindset" as he toured a disputed region in the remote northeast, our New Delhi correspondent reported.

"As soon as we come to power at the Centre, detention camps housing Hindu migrants from Bangladesh will be done away with," Modi was quoted by PTI while addressing a public rally at Ramnagar.

"We have a responsibility toward Hindus who are harassed and suffer in other countries. Where will they go? India is the only place for them. Our government cannot continue to harass them. We will have to accommodate them here," he said.

Stating that this did not mean that Assam has to bear the entire burden, he said "it will be unfair on them and they will be settled across the country with facilities to begin a new life."

Earlier, Hindus from Pakistan had arrived in Gujarat and Rajasthan, but Atal Behari Vajpayee during his prime ministership evolved schemes to accommodate them in different states, he said.

## Hackers active

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An official of the state-run bank was suspended for alleged involvement in the cyber-theft following a Bangladesh Bank probe.

"We have identified the culprit [Sonali Bank official] and suspended him," Pradip Kumar Dutta, managing director and CEO of Sonali Bank, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Now, Sonali Bank is trying to retrieve the money with the help of Bangladesh Bank.

"We have written to the central bank of Turkey, seeking help for getting back the money," a senior Bangladesh Bank official told The Daily Star.

The latest incident once again exposed Sonali Bank's poor control and management for which it has lost business to private banks over the past two decades.

The state-run bank has given so many bad loans that its nonperforming loans (NPL) stood at 28 percent of its total loans at the end of December last year against an average of less than 9 percent in the industry.

Several information technology experts said hacking of SWIFT security system and password was not possible unless bank officials were involved in

the cyber-theft.

"The bank officials who transferred the money might have been involved in the theft. It was a fraud committed by insiders," said the head of IT department at a private bank, asking not to be named.

Experts said registration of SWIFT Code is handled by the Belgium-based Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT).

SWIFT Code is a standard format of Bank Identifier Codes. Every code is unique and meant for a particular bank. These codes are used when money is transferred between banks, particularly for international transactions. Banks also use the codes for exchanging messages between them.

The experts said they never heard about any instance of hacking of SWIFT password. The system is considered very secure and safe, as only SWIFT clients have access to the system, according to them.

A wave of scandals has hit Sonali Bank, the country's largest state-owned bank, over the past few years.

In 2012, the bank faced the country's biggest-ever loan scam involving more than Tk 3,500 crore. Of the amount, Tk

2,686 crore was swindled by little-known Hall-Mark Group.

Early this year, miscreants robbed more than Tk 16.4 crore from the Sonali Bank's Kishoreganj branch, which was set up at an insecure location.

At yesterday's conference, Aslam made a mention of the January 24 bank robbery and an incident of trespass on the bank's head office at Motijheel during a Hefajat-e-Islam rally on May 5 last year.

He said the incidents could have been avoided if appropriate security measures were put in place.

The secretary suggested that the bank's risk management system should be strengthened to avoid recurrence of such crimes.

A huge amount of money is swindled through online fraud each year, making fraud detection and prevention crucial to minimising risk. Bangladesh banks and business houses are now exposed to the risk, as they are gradually computerising their systems.

According to a recent research by Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management, much of the technology-based fraud was done through mobile-banking and plastic card transactions.