

Maize farmers eye bumper yield in Lalmonirhat

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

The maize farmers in five upazilas under the district are expecting bumper yield of the crop that sees doubling of the cultivation area in a year.

This year 25,000 hectares of land in the district has been brought under maize cultivation although it was only 13,000 hectares last year, said sources in the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) in Lalmonirhat.

Increasing number of farmers are getting interested to cultivate maize

as the crop can be cultivated anywhere, even on abandoned lands, and it brings good profit for relatively lower cost, growers said.

"I have cultivated maize on 20 bighas of land leased from Bangladesh Railway at Balatari in Sadar upazila and hope to get 560 maunds of yield this year," said Alamgir Hossain Babu, 47, of Kalibari village in Lalmonirhat Sadar.

"I spent Tk 6,000 for cultivating maize on one bigha of land and it is expected to bring at least Tk

8,000 as profit. I will cultivate maize on a large area of land if I get agriculture loan from the bank or any quarters," he said.

Maize cultivation requires less cost for irrigation, labour and fertilisers, compared to other crops, said Aklasur Rahman, 55, of Dowani village in Hatibandha upazila.

"I got 104 maunds of maize from four bighas of land last year and hope to get better yield this year. I sold the crop at Tk 460 per maund last year," he said.

Delowar Hosain,

Naresh Chandra, Babul Miah, Shahed Miah, Rajoni Kanta Sen and several other farmers at Bawra village in Patgram upazila said they have been earning good profit by cultivating maize during the last few years.

Middlemen often make advance payment for purchasing the crop, they added.

Safayet Hossain, deputy director of DAE in Lalmonirhat, said farmers will achieve bumper yield of maize this year as they used good seeds and the weather is favourable.



PHOTO: STAR

A farmer tends maize plants at his farmland at Balapara village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

KALAPARA HOSPITAL IN PATUAKHALI

Caesarean stops as lone anaesthetist transferred

Four women give birth to stillborn babies in 3 weeks

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Pregnant women requiring Caesarean for safe delivery are badly suffering as the lone anaesthetist at the 50-bed hospital in Kalapara upazila was transferred around two months ago.

Besides, 29 out of 36 doctors' posts are lying vacant there, affecting overall treatment there for long, hospital sources said.

Amid the situation, four women gave birth to dead children at the hospital within three weeks in last month.

Expecting mothers from Kalapara upazila have to go to other areas including 52 km away Patuakhali General Hospital and 90 km away Barisal Sher-E-Bangla Medical College Hospital for Caesarean.

Caesarean at the Kalapara upazila hospital remained suspended since March 11 this year as Dr Abdul Motin, the lone anaesthetist of the hospital, was transferred to another place on promotion, hospital sources said.

In March 139 pregnant women were admitted to

the hospital and 35 of them gave birth through Caesarean till March 11.

In one year from February 2013 to February 2014, a total of 475 women gave birth to their children through Caesarean at the hospital and the number in last two months January and February was 177, hospital sources said.

As many as 144 pregnant women were admitted to the hospital from April 1 to May 6

this year and four of them -- Morium Begum, Renu Begum, Rima Begum and Alpona Begum, all from different villages under Kalapara upazila, gave birth to dead children from April 6 to April 27, the sources added.

"I believe I would give birth to a live child if I had the opportunity of timely Caesarean at the hospital. We are too poor to go to Patuakhali or Barisal for the purpose," said Morium

Begum of Chakamoiya village in Kalapara upazila.

"Now we cannot arrange Caesarean section due to lack of an anaesthetist although we have an operation theatre with modern equipment. We have already sent several letters and also verbally requested the higher authorities to immediately post an anaesthetist at the hospital," said Dr

Abdur Rahim, Kalapara upazila health officer.



Request for Proposals

Development of a Dynamic Website for Swisscontact- Katalyst

Katalyst is a market development project co-funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the UK Government, and the Danish International Development Agency (Danida). It is implemented by Swisscontact and GIZ International Services under the umbrella of the Ministry of Commerce, Bangladesh.

Katalyst requests proposals from interested firms or individual website developer to develop a dynamic website. The detailed Terms of Reference (ToR) for the assignment can be downloaded from the following web-link:
http://katalyst.com.bd/abtus_procurement.php

Interested firms or individual website developer are requested to submit their technical and financial proposals separately by 5:00pm, **25 May 2014** at Katalyst office for the bidding process.

Katalyst
 Sabera House, House 20, Road 6, Baridhara, Dhaka 1212

Brac official jailed for corruption

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A court here on Wednesday sentenced a Brac official to five-year rigorous imprisonment for misappropriating funds.

Judge Sharif Uddin Azad of Barisal Divisional Special Court also fined the absconding convict Bonita Aich, former accountant of the NGO's Nazipur upazila branch in Pirojpur, Tk 11 lakh.

According to the case

1 killed, 500 houses damaged as storms lash Pabna, Jhenidah

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Nor'wester lashed two upazilas of Pabna and Jhenidah on Wednesday night and early yesterday, leaving one killed and damaging at least 570 houses.

Our Pabna correspondent reported that a school girl was killed and two others were injured as a nor'wester swept through ten villages of Chatmohar upazila at around 7:30pm on Wednesday.

The deceased was identified as Urmi Khatun, 11, daughter of Umar Ali of Bururia village in the upazila.

Urmi, a class six student of Chatmohar Pilot High School School, died when a boundary wall of their house collapsed during the storm.

Her mother Rebeka Khatun also sustained injuries and is undergoing treatment at the upazila health complex. One Alhaj Mollah of the village was also injured during the storm.

The storm damaged at least 70 houses and Irri-boro paddy and uprooted over 100 trees at the villages.

In Jhenidah, Nor'wester lashed four unions in Shaikupa upazila of the



PHOTO: STAR

Two houses lie mangled at Baruria village in Chatmohar upazila of Pabna as nor'wester lashed the area on Wednesday night.

district early yesterday, damaging at least 500 houses and Irri-boro crops, reports our correspondent.

The storm hit the unions at around 4:30am and continued for half an hour. Over 1000 trees were uprooted in the affected areas during the storm.

The storm-hit unions are Tribeni, Diknagar,

Kacherkol and Umedpur.

While visiting the affected areas yesterday morning, this correspondent found that the nor'wester damaged at least 500 tin-roofed houses and Irri-boro and other crops and uprooted over 1000 trees..

Akka Ali, a farmer of Diknagar village, standing boro paddy on his two

bighas of land was badly damaged by the nor'wester.

Contacted, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Mohammad Ali Prince said around 500 houses in four unions were damaged by the nor'wester.

"The upazila administration with the help of union chairmen is preparing a list of the affected villagers," the UNO said.

BNP calls hartal in Sunamganj for Sunday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

District BNP yesterday has called an 8-hour hartal in Sunamganj district for Sunday, demanding steps to rescue 'missing' Mujibur Rahman, former BNP vice-president of the district unit and founder president of the UK chapter of the party's youth front Jubo Dal.

The hartal was announced from a human chain formed in Bilpar area yesterday afternoon, following a procession that paraded the main streets of the town.

District BNP convener Nasir Uddin Chowdhury, Sadar Upazila Parishad Chairman Dewan Zainul Zakerin and several other leaders and activists of the party addressed the rally.

Man gets life for possessing illegal arms

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A Pabna court on Wednesday sentenced a man to life imprisonment for possessing illegal arms.

Lifer Md Abul Kalam Azad alias Jahangir, son of Abul Khayer of Katalia village in Chowdhali upazila of Sirajganj district, was tried in absentia.

According to the prosecution, police arrested Jahangir along with a pistol and two bullets from a passenger bus in Bera upazila of Pabna on October 20, 2003.

A case was filed with Bera police station in this connection. Jahangir was sent to jail. He later went into hiding after getting bail from the court.

Sub-inspector Samsul Haque submitted charge sheet accusing Jahangir after

ATTACK ON BUSES ALLEGEDLY BY HSTU STUDENTS Dinajpur transport workers start indefinite strike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Transport Workers' Union went on an indefinite strike on all routes in the district yesterday, protesting attack on four passenger buses by the students of Hajee Danesh Science and Technology University on Wednesday.

Although the strike began at 6:00am, no passenger buses left the district since Wednesday night.

Meanwhile, students of the university blocked Dhaka-Dinajpur highway for the second consecutive day yesterday, protesting an attack on five people, including two students, and three student buses of HSTU by the transport workers on Wednesday evening.

The decision to enforce the strike was taken at a meeting at the union office in Suihari area of the district town on Wednesday night,

said M Rafiq, president of Dinajpur Transport Workers' Union.

The bus operators cancelled tickets, causing immense sufferings to the passengers, said locals.

At 5:30pm on Wednesday, three buses of HSTU with the students aboard were coming to the district town from

the campus.

As one of the buses accidentally hit a Dhaka-bound bus in Kalitola area, the transport workers of the area damaged the university buses, leaving two students and three bus staffs injured, said Di Shahadat Hossain, student advisor of HSTU.



PHOTO: STAR

The students of Hajee Danesh Science and Technology University (HSTU) stage demonstration on the campus yesterday, protesting attacks on two students and three buses of the university by transport workers at Kalitola of Dinajpur town on Wednesday.

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