into a cleaner town

Biogas and compost produced from household waste

QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT,

Sustainable solid waste management project with the slogan 'Green Thakurgaon, Clean Thakurgaon' was inaugurated at Thakurgaon BD Hall premises in the town in May 2014. The guests, including Deputy Commissioner Mukesh Chandra Biswas and Superintendent of Police Foisal Mahamud inaugurated the programme by sweeping up a portion of the street at Thakurgaon Intersection. Biswas attended the programme as Chief Guest while Mahmud attended as Guest of Honour.

Later on, a colorful procession was brought out in town which ended at Thakurgaon BD Hall auditorium. The procession was also accompanied by a group of singers who sang about cleanliness with an aim to develop awareness among the townsfolk. The programme followed a discussion where former Lawmaker Fazlul Karim made the declaration of inauguration of the programme formally while Executive Director of Eco-Social Development Organization (ESDO) Dr. Muhammad Shahid Uz Zaman chaired the session. The Headmaster of Thakurgaon Government Boys' High School Akhteruzzaman, and the Headmaster of Thakurgaon Government Girls' High School delivered speeches as special guests. The Thakurgaon municipality implemented the project with the assistance of Bangladesh Climate Change Trust in partnership with



Local community leaders of Thakurgaon, including Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police, inaugurated the 'Green Thakurgaon, Clean Thakurgaon' programme by sweeping up a portion of the street last month.

Eco-Social Development Organisation. The goal of the programme is 'Enhancement of environment through the improvement of drainage system and sustainable waste manage-

In the welcome speech Mayor SMA Moin welcomed the cooperation of all stakeholders and the community to sustain the programme for the sake of keeping the city clean. If the project is sustained, in one hand the environment will improve, while the compost will be used on agricultural lands contributing to the nation's agricultural output. He also said that the citizens of the municipality have a duty to keep household wastes in two baskets, which have been provided by the project, dividing rotting and non-rotting waste separate and keep it in front of their

collection workers whistle

each morning. About 120,000 people live in the 30 square kilometre area of the Thakurgaon Municipality. It has been established in 1958 and upgraded as 'First Class Municipality' in 1997. To make the town clean and green, under the project, a total of 64 workers are engaged in collecting waste from 7,000 households in of bio-gas is slurry (com-12 wards of Thakurgaon post), which is a good municipality every day. organic fertiliser, and can be After collecting the waste, it used to maintain soil fertilis carried to 'Waste ity and increase crop pro-Treatment Plant' which has duction. It can also be used been set up behind as fish feed. Project officials Thakurgaon Sadar Upazila have said that the bio-gas Parishad. Two trucks and 36 will be used as cooking fuel rickshaw-vans has been as source of energy for made available for transporting the waste. Since the scale. The townspeople are inauguration of the optimistic about the project programme, the waste is activities at this initial stage being brought to 'Waste and are hopeful about its Treatment Plant' regularly, success in the long run. making the streets and

conducted an anti-formalin

drive at the litchi market at

Kalitola in Dinajpur town

on Monday, said he did not

and mango growers of

Dinajpur, the production of

the two fruits dropped to

and the days-long strike in

late May added to their

appears as a serious blow to

Now the formalin panic

According to the litchi

fruits that time.

losses.

public places of the town

cleaner. After dumping, the waste is sorted into two groups, rotting and non-rotting, this is why households have been provided with two bins to categorize their waste accordingly. The rotting or decomposable wastes are being dumped in a processed chamber for preparing bio-gas. The bi-product lighting houses in a limited

Thakurgaon set to turn Threshing facility benefits maize farmers

HABIBUR RAHMAN, Pirojpur

Though maize cultivation is increasing every year in the district, farmers had to face serious problems to thresh them. After getting maize threshing machine, they are very happy this year as it will lessen their hard labour in a village in Pirojpur. For the last six years, the farmers are cultivating maize at different areas in the district. But for the last two years, its cultivation has increased widely as farmers have begun to get help from some nongovernment organizations who are supporting farmers in many ways. Dak Diye Jai, an NGO, provided the maize threshing machine this year. The organization distrib-

uted a maize threshing machine known as 'Maize Sheller' among the maize cultivators at Raghunathpur village in Nazirpur upazila under Pirojpur. "I am cultivating maize for last two years. We had to face difficulties to release seeds from the maize's body. But this year we have a threshing machine in our area," said Nazrul Sikder, a farmer of Raghunathpur village who cultivated maize at one and a half acre of land. Like Nazrul, other maize cultivators of the village are happy that they now have access to a maize threshing machine. Though the machine is new to the farmers, it will spread among the maize cultivators soon widely in the district, opined the farmers.

Farmers also said as they have got maize threshing machine, more and more farmers of the district will be interested to maize cultivation. A 'Maize Sheller' machine can thresh around 15-20 maunds of

maize corn in an hour, said the farmers. To cultivate an acre of land farmers had to spend TK 12,000-14,000 and they are expecting to get around 60-70 maunds of maize seeds from each acre of land this year. They sold each maund of maize seeds for TK 700 and this year they are expecting to sell each maund of maize seeds for TK 800. Because of increasing of poultry farms in the country, the demand of maize corn has increased. Farmers said wholesalers have begun to come to their houses for buying maize seeds from adjacent districts like Bagerhat and Khulna. After collecting aman paddy, the lands at different areas in the district would remain useless. After learning

cultivation. Department of Agriculture and two hectors are in vation this year.

about maize from some

NGOs like BRAC and 'Dak

Diye Jai', farmers have

become interested in maize



Maize threshing machine known as 'Maize Sheller'. Inset, Farmers of Raghunathpur village of Nazirpur upazila attending 'Math Dibosh' event organized by 'Dak Diye Jai'.

Extension (DAE) this year, Nesarabad upazila. 'Dak 242 hectors of land were brought under maize cultivation, up from 166 hectors last year. Among ers about maize cultivathem, 40 hectors are in Pirojpur Sadar, 150 hectors are in Nazirpur, 35 hectors are in Zianagar, eight hectors are in Mathbaria, four hectors are in Kawkhali, three According to the hectors are at Bhandaria

Dive Jai' office source said with the financial help of USAID, they train the farmtion at Sheikhmatia union of Nazirpur upazila in the district. Besides they supply high quality maize seeds to the farmers. With the help of Dak Diye Jai, 52 hectors of land were brought under maize culti-

FORMALIN PANIC GRIPS CUSTOMERS

Litchi, mango lie unsold in Dinajpur

houses while the garbage

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Huge quantities of seasonal fruits including litchi and mango have remained stockpiled in the district as operators of trucks, buses

and parcel service providers have virtually stopped carrying the two popular summer fruits amid formalin panic among the traders and buyers. Sending of litchi and

mango to other parts of the country including Dhaka has remained suspended for the last six days as authorities destroyed huge amount of formalin-treated fruits during recent drives in the capital, local traders said.

Litchi and mango have been produced on 4,000 hectares of land in Dinajpur this season, said sources of the Department Horticulture in Dinajpur.

Around 50 per cent of the litchi has already been sold

Although most of the remaining amount has ripened in the orchards,

growers are making delay to Mobarak Hossain, who | The bodies of a man and his pluck them due to lack of buyers and the ongoing heat wave is causing them to rot

The number of buyers find any formalin in the has dropped due to formalin panic as some dishonest people use the harmful item on the fruits to prevent rotting, said Azizar Rahman of Madhabbati village under Biral upazila of Dinajpur.

The growers demanded adequate action against the

dishonest traders. During a visit to the fruit market at Kalitola in Dinajpur town, the correspondent found that traders piled up large amount of litchi at their shops but there were no wholesale buyers.

Each hundred pieces of Bombay litchi and China-3 litchis were selling for Tk 200 and Tk 500 respectively although the prices were Tk 400 and Tk 1000 only a few

days ago. Mobile courts have continued anti-formalin drives at the markets in Dinajpur.

Executive Magistrate Md



post at Mawa ferry terminal in Munshiganj district.

A mobile court ordered destruction of over four tones of formalin-treated mangoes after their seizure at the check

Hanging bodies of father, two daughters found

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Chapainawabganj

two minor daughters were found hanging from the ceiling of their house at Durlovpurpara village in Gomostapur upazila of the district yesterday morning.

The deceased are Moshidul Haque Abujh, 32, son of Badrul Alam of the village and his two minor daughters Opi, half due to adverse weather 10, and Omi, 6.

> Police detained Moshidul's wife Parashmoni, 26, from her father's residence at neighbouring Fakirpara village for quizzing.

Parashmoni went to her following an altercation with police. her husband over a family feud on Monday afternoon.

Raisuddin, uncle of the deceased, said Moshidul's mother Moyeda Begum came to his house around 7:00am and called him. As Moshidul did not respond, a local boy scaled the boundary wall and opened the

main gate of the house. She entered the house by breaking open the door and found Moshidul and his two daughters hanging from the

Neighbours said ceiling at their tin-shed house.

father's house along with screams, local rushed to the their two-year-old son Anu spot and informed the Police recovered the

bodies around 10:30am and sent them to Chapainawabganj Adhunik Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Md Abbas Uddin, assistant superintendent of police (Gomostapur Circle) quoted locals as saying that Moshidul, a stamp vendor by profession, might have taken his own life after hanging both of his daughters following a family feud.



Relatives and neighbours wail after recovery of the hanging bodies of Moshidul Haque and his two minor daughters from the ceiling of their Durlovpara village house in Gomostapur upazila under Chapainawabganj district yesterday.

