Alu bukhara can now be grown at home

ABM AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Highly nutritious alu bukhara, a kind of plum, used to add deliciousness to different foods and drinks like sherbet and burhani, now sees successful cultivation in Bangladesh, thanks to the initiative of a nurseryman in Muktagacha upazila under the district.

Four years ago, Md Shawkat Ali, owner of Banolata Nursery in Muktagachha, planted a sapling of alu bukhara that he bought from Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) Germ Plasma Centre.

"I started getting fruits from a tree last year. The plant bore more fruits this year. I received around 40 kg of fruit this year from an alu bukhara tree and the sale is on now. I have also produced around 350



A fruiting alu bukhara tree at Shawkat's orchard in Muktagachha upazila under Mymensingh district.

saplings so far," said a smiling Shawkat.

The price of per kg fruit is Tk 1000 to Tk 1200 in the local market while a sapling is selling for Tk 400 Tk

"Last year, I distributed some fruits among the relatives as it was the first yield. Now there are also ten matured alu bukhara trees at my nursery which will hopefully bear fruits next year. I am preserving seeds to grow more saplings of alu bukhara and meet the demand of other nurserymen in and outside Muktagachha," said Shawkat.

The demand of saplings has increased this year and many nurserymen from Dhaka, Bogra, Jessore and Mymensingh region are contacting me for seeds and saplings, informed Shawkat.

Prof Dr Abdur Rahim, director of Bangladesh Agricultural University Germ Plasma Centre, said Shawkat has become successful in producing alu bukhara as the climate of this country is favourable for its cultivation.

"It can be a great source of income for many farmers as the fruit sees increasing demand in Bangladesh. It has also potential for export if it is cultivated on a large scale," he said.

The tree bears fruits from May to July.

JUBILATION OVER ACADEMIC FEAT

Achievers of highest **GPA-5** in this year's HSC examinations, from 1) **Rangpur Cantonment Public School and** College, 2) Government Azizul Haque College in Bogra, 3) Holy Land School and College in Dinajpur, 4) Chandpur **Government Women's** College, 5) Mymensingh Commerce College, and 6) Professor Dr lajuddin **Ahmed Residential Model School and** College in Munshiganj flash V-sign.



PHOTO: STAR











Two get life for killing boy

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

A court here on Tuesday sentenced two people to life term imprisonment for killing a boy in 2010.

The convicts are Masum,

son of Saij Uddin, and Jewel, son of Amir Hossain, both residents of Shambhupur village in Bhairab upazila. The court also fined them

Tk10,000 each, in default to suffer one year more in jail. According to the prosecu-

tion, the two killed Rabin, 13, son of rickshaw-puller Ramiz Uddin of the village and left the body on a road near Yusuf Ali High School on May 23, 2010.

Robin's father filed case and police arrested Masum and Jewel.

In another case, one person was sentenced to death yesterday for killing. Judge AM Md Sayeed of

the District and Sessions Judge's Court gave the verdict against Jamal, 26, son of Abul Kashem of Dapunia

village in Sadar upazila for killing a girl in 2010.

According to the prosecution, Jamal was in love with Swapna, 20, daughter of Phul Mia of same village. The duo used to work at a garments factory in Dhaka. Jamal took Tk 40 thousand from Swapna and committed to marry her. In 23 November, 2010 while they were returning to Kishoreganj, Jamal suffocated Swapna to death by a scarf near a CNG filling station at night.

In another case, a man got life term for killing his wife in Nagua area in Kishoreganj in December, 2002.

The lifer is Molai Mia, 32, son of Hashu Mia of Katiarchar of the district.

According to the prosecution, on 23 December, 2002, Molai stabbed her wife Hena Khatun around at 7.30pm when she was returning home from a market. Badly injured Hena died at Kishoreganj Hospital on 25 December, 2002.

Outlaw held with arms in Rajbari

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Police arrested a 'regional leader' of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-ML) faction Lal Pataka with firearms from a village in Pangsha upazila of Rajbari district on Tuesday evening.

The arrestee was identified as Mobarak Hossain alias Bangla of the village.

Police said, Mobarak was accused in five murder and four extortion cases filed with Pangsha police station.

Abul Bashar Mia, officer in-charge (OC) of Pangsha PS told this correspondent that a team led by himself raided Bangla's house at Habaspur village about 7.30pm and arrested him. Police also recovered one shutter gun and two bullets from his possession.

Police said, Bangla was one of the Lal Pataka's top cadres who took part in the killing of five day labourers at a brick kiln in Pangsha upazila of Rajbari in June, 2009.

SNIPPETS

Cops-robbers 'gunfight'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

At least 11 policemen, including the officer in-charge of Chhatak police station, were injured in a gunfight between police and robbers in Bhanga Bridge area in Chhatak upazila of Sunamganj early yesterday. Police said, a gang was taking preparation for committing robbery in the area. Being tipped-off, a police team launched a drive around 3:00am. Sensing the presence of the law enforcers, the robbers opened fire on them, triggering a gunfight that left 11 policemen, including office in-charge of Chhatak PS Shahjalal Munshi injured.

42 shops gutted in Chandpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

At least 42 shops at a local market were gutted in a deadly fire in Haimchar upazila of the district early yesterday. Quoting witnesses, Fire Service official Faridul Islam Monin said, the fire originated from a mosquito coil of one Dadon Sardar's clothe shop at Charbhairabi Bazar around 1:30am.

5 crude bombs recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) recovered five crude bombs from Putkhali border area under Benapole Port Police Station on Tuesday night. Fayek Uddin, company commander of BGB 23 Battalion, said one Kuddus Ali of the village spotted the crude bombs at a place near his house and informed them. Later, the law enforcers seized the cocktails. However, nobody was arrested in this connection.

