

# Women farmers outdo male counterparts

S DILIP ROY, *Salmonirhat*

Increasing number of women are getting engaged in agriculture in different areas of the district, performing even better than their male counterparts.

"At least 7,000 women are independently engaged in agriculture, especially vegetable farming, on their own or leased land. Without hardly any help of male family members, they are even doing better. Agriculture officials provide training and technical support to such women at many villages," said Safayet Hossain, deputy director of

the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) in Salmonirhat.

Sabina Begum, 35, wife of Nazer Ali of Fulgachh village in Salmonirhat Sadar, started vegetable farming on leased land at the village after taking 10 days' training from the DAE three years ago.

"In 2012, I earned Tk 70 thousand by selling vegetables from the land. I earned Tk 11,200 last year and Tk 40 thousand in first seven months of this year," said Sabina, who earlier worked as farm labourer for small wages.

Kakoli Begum, 25, wife of

Sahed Miah of the same village, said, "I started producing vegetables on three bighas of land taken from my husband three years ago after he failed to get profit from there. I have been enjoying good profit from the land through producing vegetables," she said.

Sabity Rani, 38, wife of Nitai Chandra Barmon at Kamalbari village of Aditmari upazila, said she has been maintaining all the expenditure of the five-member family through producing vegetables on their seven bighas of land in the village for the last five years.



A woman transplants winter vegetables at the field beside her homestead at Fulgachh village in Salmonirhat Sadar upazila. The area sees increasing number of women engaging in farming, traditionally done by males.

## SNIPPETS

### Accused snatched from police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Barisal*

An accused was snatched from police custody allegedly by the ruling party men at Aliganj Bazaar in Mehendiganj upazila of the district yesterday. A sub-inspector (SI) of Mehendiganj police station sustained injury and a camera of a local journalist was snatched during the incident. Acknowledging the fact, injured SI Habibur Rahman said Sabuj alias Pichchi Sabuj of Lakkhipur village was accused in a number of cases with the police station. Police arrested Sabuj from Aliganj Bazaar around 11:30am yesterday. A group of AL men attacked the police vehicle and snatched Sabuj when the latter was being taken to the police station. OC Ujjal Kumar Dey said they are conducting drive to re-arrest the culprit.

### Five shops gutted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Barisal*

Five shops and a godown were gutted in a fire at Torki Bandar Bazar in Gournadi upazila yesterday. At least three people were injured during the incident. The fire originated from an electric short circuit at a shop and soon engulfed the adjoining shops. On information, firefighters rushed to the spot and doused the blaze after two hours of frantic efforts, said fire service sources. The loss caused by the fire could go up to Tk 20 lakh, said Gournadi Fire Station Officer Inamul Islam.

### Fish poisoned to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Moulvibazar*

Fish worth Tk 3 lakh in a pond and an enclosure of a former UP chairman was poisoned to death by criminals at Kathaloli village in Bahubol upazila early yesterday. The affected fish farmer is freedom fighter Siraj Uddin, former chairman of the upazila parishad. A gang poured poison in the fish enclosure sometimes at midnight, said family sources. A case was filed in this connection, said Abu Yushuf, Borolekhia upazila fisheries officer.

## 13 sued in C&F agent killing case

### Sonamasjid land port workers continue agitation, demanding arrest of the killers

#### Follow-up

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Chapainawabganj*

Thirteen people have been sued on charge of killing Clearing and Forwarding (C&F) Agents Association leader Monirul Islam.

Victim's wife Rahima Khatun filed a case with Shiganj Police Station on Saturday night. Akhirul Islam, 48, president of C&F Agents Association of Sonamasjid land port, Sirajul Islam Munshi, 50, senior vice-president and Tohorul Islam, 41, general secretary of the association,

are among the accused.

Monirul Islam, 35, treasurer of the association and also general secretary of ward No1 of Shahbajpur union unit of Jubo League, was shot dead at Chaturpur area in Shibganj municipal area at around 7:00pm on Friday.

Police arrested Akhirul Islam, Sirajul Islam Munshi and Tohorul Islam in connection with the killing the same night.

loading and unloading of goods at Sonamasjid land port remained suspended for the second day yesterday as port workers continued work abstention, demanding arrest of the killers of Monirul.

### ALLEGED BID TO RAPE WOMAN

## Schoolteacher held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Rangpur*

for his alleged bid to rape a woman.

The arrestee, Golam Mostafa Mukul, 42, son of Abdur Rouf of Tularampur village, is an assistant teacher of Dariakpara Government Primary School in the upazila.

Police and locals said Mukul waylaid the woman, 30, also president of Satgara Nari Unnayan Samity, while she was returning home at the village from Pirkanj upazila headquarter at around 8:00pm.

He forcibly took her to a nearby banana orchard and tried to rape her. Hearing scream, locals rushed to the spot and caught the culprit red-handed.

They beat up Mukul and later handed him over to police.

Officer-in-Charge Md Israel Hossain of Pirkanj Police Station said the victim filed a case against Mukul under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act.

Mukul was yesterday produced in a Rangpur court that sent him to Rangpur Central Jail.

## PCJSS man shot dead in Rangamati

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Rangamati*

A supporter of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) was shot dead allegedly by the members of Manabendra Narayan Larma (MN Larma) faction of PCJSS at Rubberbag area under Baghaichhari upazila of the district yesterday morning.

The dead was identified as Sushil Bikash Chakma, 32, of Madihyia Baghaichhari village.

Locals said a gang waylaid Sushil at Rubberbag area at around 9:30am and shot him point blank. He died instantly.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) Md Azizul Haque of Baghaichhari Police Station quoted locals as saying that some of the gang members left the scene, riding three motorcycles while others took away the body.

"We did not find Sushil's body there," the OC said, adding that they found bloodstains on the spot.

## Panic spreads as over 100 blank shots fired on Kuakata beach

### Licensed shot gun, 2 pistols seized from three shooters

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Patuakhali*

Three people shot over 100 rounds of bullets in the air from their licensed arms on Kuakata sea beach in the district Saturday night, spreading panic in the area.

Police seized a shot gun and two pistols used in the act.

The three people -- Kamruzzaman Milon, Nur Uddin Emran and Alamgir Hossain, all of activists of Bangladesh Human Rights Commission in

Dhaka, came to Kuakata on Saturday morning to attend a conference held at a motel of Parjatan Corporation the same day.

They stayed in room No 201 of the motel.

"The three men who introduced themselves as human rights activists went to Lembur Char area about two km to the west of Kuakata Zero Point and shot a number of blank fire with their licensed arms from 10:00pm to 11:00pm," said Sanjoy Mondol, in charge officer for Kuakata police camp.

Panicked due to the sound of firing, a good number of people including women and children ran to the nearby forest for safety.

At one stage hundreds of locals tried to catch the shooters who managed to come back to their motel on motorbikes.

Informed, a police team led by Sanjoy Mondol rushed to the spot.

Searching the motel room used by the three shooters, police seized a shot gun and two pistols from there.

Locals found 19 bullet cartridges and two bottles of foreign wine at the firing spot and handed it over to



PHOTO: STAR

Foreign wine bottles and blank cartridges seized from Lembur Char in Kuakata sea beach where three people fired around a hundred rounds of shots in the air from their licensed arms on Saturday night, creating panic in the area.

police yesterday morning.

practise shooting."

On the other hand, Md Azizur Rahman, OC of Kalapara police station, said, "It is true that the three people have licenses for their arms. But to practise shooting, licensed arms holders should inform the police station concerned and take permission earlier, as per rules."

A GD has been filed with Kuakata police camp, he added.

Syed Mosfiqur Rahman, superintendent of police of Patuakhali, said they are taking lawful step after proper investigation.

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