

# 'Mushroom park' in remote Nilphamari village

### Along with farming, it serves delicacies made of the nutritious vegetable

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

A 'mushroom park' at Laxmanpur village in Bangalipur union of Saidpur upazila under the district has drawn attention of a large number of locals as well as agriculturists.

Hafizur Rahman, 35, took the initiative to popularise foods made of the vegetable having unique medicinal and nutritional value.

"Facing hardship after my father's death, I started looking for something innovative to maintain the family. After training at the mushroom development and extension sub-centre under Horticulture Division of the Department of Agriculture Extension in Dinajpur, I started a mushroom laboratory in a room of my house made of clay and

straw in 2010," he said.

Mushroom cultivation and processing require special arrangement for temperature and humidity control and so, a 'laboratory' is required for the purpose.

Hafizur earlier hired rickshaw vans to go to Saidpur town with mushroom powder, tablets and foods made of mushroom for sale.

In November 2014, he set up a 'mushroom park' beside his house at BSC Bazar in Laxmanpur village on 1.09 acres of paternal land.

There foods made of mushroom are served to customers in a hospitable atmosphere, locals said.

Visiting the park on Tuesday, this correspondent found the spot encircled with colourful cloths also comprises a pond with clean water.

Mushroom statues made of clay and cement were kept beside the pond.

"Every day I prepare different mushroom foods like rolls, soups, vegetables, poratas, biranis and cakes for entertaining visitors," said Hafizur's wife Shukria Begum.

In the first half of January, Hafizur arranged a mushroom fare in his park where a variety of foods made of mushroom were served at reduced prices amid playing of folk songs and staging of dramas.

Meanwhile, Hafizur got a shocking surprise on February 25 when the upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) of Saidpur along with a police team raided his mushroom park and house and conducted hours-long search there.

Contacted, Saidpur UNO Abu Saleh Md Musa Jongi said the raid was

conducted as the local UP chairman in the monthly upazila parishad meeting on law and order alleged that Hafizur was dealing with drugs in the park under the cover of selling mushroom.

"But the law enforcers did not find any drug there. UP leaders sometimes lodges baseless complaints allegedly over village politics," he added.

"Although they did not find anything illegal here, the raid left a negative impact on the customers in my park. The UP chairman might have been angered as I worked for his opponent in last UP election," Hafizur said.

"I got impressed to see the mushroom park of Hafizur who came to my office on several occasions for suggestion," said Upazila Agriculture Officer Homaira Begum.



PHOTO: STAR

Hafizur Rahman's 'mushroom park' and laboratory (inset) for processing of the highly nutritious vegetable at Laxmanpur village in Saidpur upazila under Nilphamari district.

# BCL leader stabbed, three attackers arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Criminals stabbed a leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur (BRUR) unit in Mulatol area in the city on Tuesday.

The victim, Mostafa Mahmud Hasan, 22, general secretary of the unit, is now undergoing treatment at Rangpur Medical College

Hospital (RMCH).

Mahmud's elder sister Sumi Akhter, 32, also sustained stab injuries as she tried to resist the attackers. She is also undergoing treatment at the hospital.

Police arrested three people, Aminul Islam, 24, Oliur Rahman, 22, and Ripon, 22, of the same area for their alleged involvement in the incident the

same night.

A gang of 7/8 stabbed Mahmud, son of Abdus Salam of the area, while he was going to the university campus on Tuesday noon.

Hearing screams, Sumi rushed to the spot and tried to save her brother from the attackers. The gang also stabbed her and fled the scene.

Locals rescued the BCL

leader and his sister and took them to Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH), said Abdul Qader Jilani, officer in-charge of Kotwali Police Station.

Mahmud's father Abdus Salam filed a case against 18 people with the police station, the OC said, adding that the law enforcers are raiding different areas of the city to arrest the accused.



PHOTO: STAR

This bridge over the GK canal on Fazilpur-Hatgopalpur road in Jhenidah district remains in an awful condition, posing risk of serious accidents to commuters.

# 13 Shibir activists arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Police arrested 13 activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir at Rahmatpur Shifair Kamat village in Patgram upazila of the district yesterday.

The arrestees are Aynal Haque Prodhan, 32, Masud Rana, 19, Farhad Hossain, 17, Saful Islam, 18, Ziaur Rahman Zibu, 24, and Roknuzzaman, 25, of the village, Mohammad Hasan, 20, of Prankrishan village, Nur Alam, 16, and Altaf Hossain, 22, of Pashchim Jagatber village, Nur Huda, 19, of Kachuapara village in the upazila, Abdur Rahim, 18, of Dalalpara village in Hatibandha upazila, Shamser Ali, 32, of Barakhata village in Hatibandha, and Mohammad Ratan Miah, 24, of Nandi Shahor village in Palashbari upazila of Gaibandha district.

A police team, acting on a tip-off, raided the house of Aynal in the afternoon and arrested the 13, said Superintendent of Police TM Mozahidul Islam.

The Shibir activists were arrested on charge of training on jihad, said the SP.



PHOTO: STAR

Aggrieved activists torch a car and six motorbikes after Badhan Khondoker died of bullet injuries during the clash between two groups of local activists of the ruling party at Muladuli in Ishwardi upazila under Pabna district yesterday. Inset, relatives of the victim break into tears to see the body.



# BCL man killed in clash over gambling

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

An activist of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) was killed and 10 others were injured in a clash between two local rival groups belonging to ruling Awami League (AL) over control of a gambling spot at Muladuli of Ishwardi upazila under the district yesterday afternoon.

The deceased, Badhan Khondoker, 22, son of Babul Khondoker of Muladuli station para, is an HSC examinee and a union-level activist of the BCL, party sources said.

The clash took place between two groups -- one led by AL activist Kamal Hossain Mithu and another by BCL man Milon Khondoker around 1:00pm following a rivalry over control of gambling in the area, said Md Selim Malitha,

chairman of Muladuli union parishad.

Milon group arranged a gambling party in Muladuli station area where an annual fair of the Hindu community was being held.

As Mithu group tried to take control of the gambling, the two groups locked in a fierce clash that included trading of bullets, locals said.

Bullet-hit Badhan was taken to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital but he succumbed to his injury at about 1:30pm yesterday, said Siddikur Rahman, additional superintendent of police in Pabna.

Police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control, he added.

The fellows of Badhan, nephew of Milon Khondoker, set fire to a

private car and six motorbikes of their rivals in Muladuli station area.

Despite the clash, the local Hindu community's traditional fair organised by Shondhar Pukur Kali Matar Mondir was held peacefully, said Md Selim Malitha, chairman of Muladuli union parishad.

"The clash took place centring control of a gambling party. This is not a political issue. If party men are found guilty after investigation, we will take organisational step," said Mokhlesur Rahman Mintu, secretary of Ishwardi upazila unit of AL.

A tense situation is prevailing in the area after the clash. Additional policemen have been deployed to stave off further untoward incident.



PHOTO: STAR

Patuakhali district administration starts knocking down illegal structures on both sides of the Ulania River in Galachipa upazila on Tuesday.

# Demolition of illegal structures starts in Patuakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Patuakhali district administration has started demolishing 111 illegal structures on both sides of the Ulania River in Galachipa upazila of the district.

The structures were built allegedly by the relatives of Golam Maula Rony, former lawmaker of Patuakhali-3 (Galachipa-Dashmina) constituency.

Led by executive magistrates Md Moeen Khan and Gokul Chandra Kabiraj, the drive started on Tuesday noon. Over 50 illegal structures were demolished as of filing of this report at 3:00pm yesterday.

The team with the help of law enforcers also recovered 1.74 acres of land where the illegal structures were erected.

On December 23, 2014, Amitabh Sarker, deputy commissioner (DC) of Patuakhali, issued eviction notices, asking the owners to remove their illegal structures from both sides of the river within seven days.

As they failed to comply with the order, the district administration has started knocking down the structures, said Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Md Mahub Alam.

He said some local influential people grabbed 1.74

acres of land, filling both sides of the Ulania River. Local people said relatives of the former lawmaker sold each of the plots to businessmen for Tk two to three lakh.

In 2009, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela) filed a writ petition with the High Court, seeking its ruling on the issue. One Monir Hossain of Ulania Bazaar also filed a case with a Patuakhali court in 2013 against the illegal occupiers.

Both the courts asked the DC to take necessary steps to demolish the illegal structures and recover the land.

# Robbers loot teacher's house

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Armed robbers looted cash, gold ornaments and other valuables from a house in Sadar upazila of the district on Tuesday night.

Umme Salma, daughter of Abdur Razzak, ex-principal of Jessore Cantonment Daud Public School and College, said a gang of 10/15 robbers entered their house at Kala-Laxmipur village by breaking open the main gate and confined the family members to a room.

The gang later took away 14 tolas of gold ornaments, Tk 50 thousand and other valuables from the house.