



Women workers pick mung bean at a field of Patuakhali Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

# Good price of mung bean makes farmers happy

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Mung bean farmers in the district are happy with bumper yield and good market price of the popular food crop this season. Growers cultivated mung bean in last December and they are now busy harvesting the crop. Favourable weather along with availability of fertilisers for relatively low prices led to bumper yield of the crop this season, farmers said. "I cultivated mung bean on three acres of land at a

cost of Tk 50,000. I have already got 22 maunds of harvest and hope to get 40 maunds more from my field this season. The total selling price would be Tk 1.24 lakh as per kg of bean is selling at Tk 50 in the local market," said Hanif Fakir of Badarpur village under Patuakhali Sadar upazila. "In last year I cultivated the crop on one acre of land and got 20 maunds of yield. This year I cultivated it on three acres as it is profitable," he added. Abdul Awal Mia of the same area said he cultivated

mung bean on five acres of land and hope to get about 100 maunds of yield. In the ongoing peak harvesting period, many women are engaged in collecting mung bean in the fields for a portion of the crop as wage from the field owner. "I can collect 14 to 16 kg of bean a day and get one-sixth of it as wage," said Sahida Begum, who was collecting mung bean in a field of Badarpur village on Friday afternoon. Aklima Begum, Helena Begum, Ambia Khatun,

Joynob Begum, Kohinoor Begum, and Jahanara were also seen engaged in the seasonal work to add to their family income. This year around 60,000 acres of land has been brought under mung bean cultivation in eight upazilas of Patuakhali district, said Ashok Kumar Sharma, deputy director of the Department of Agriculture Extension. The profitable farming sees gradual increase in the district and growers are happy with its bumper yield this year, he said.

## Cattle trader stabbed, robbed of Tk 5 lakh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

Criminals stabbed a local cattle trader and snatched Tk 5 lakh in Sharsha upazila of the district yesterday. The victim, Faruk Hossain, 30, a resident of Satmile area in the upazila, is undergoing treatment at Jessore Medical College Hospital. Amin Uddin, father of the victim, said a gang of 5/6 criminals, led by Kabir and Mushtaq of Baganchhra village, intercepted Faruk's motorbike while he was going to Satmile cattle market to buy cattle around 8:45am. They stabbed him indiscriminately and fled the scene with the money, added Amin. The incident might have taken place as a sequel to the previous enmity between two local rival groups over taking control of Satmile cattle market, said Enamul Haque, officer-in-charge of Sharsha Police Station.

## BCL Leader hacked

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Criminals hacked a local leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) in Tilagar National Park Road area of Sylhet city on Tuesday night. The injured is Ishtiaque Ahmed Chowdhury, 29, a member of Sylhet district unit of BCL, and a resident of the area. He was admitted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital. Sakhawat Hossain, officer-in-charge of Shahporan Police Station, said a gang of four attacked Ishtiaque with sharp weapons, leaving him injured in the area at around 9:30pm.

# MURDER OF TEENAGE GARMENT WORKER 'Serial killer' Rasu Kha to walk gallows

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

Alleged serial killer Rasu Khan has been awarded death penalty in a case for murdering a female garment worker after rape in Sadar upazila of the district seven years ago. Additional District and Sessions Judge of Chandpur Arunav Chakravarty pronounced the verdict in presence of the convict yesterday, said Additional Public Prosecutor Saidul Islam. Rasu killed Shahida, 19, a garment worker hailing from Daulatpur of Khulna

district, after rape and dumped the body with hands and legs tied on the bank of the Dakatia River at Sobhanpur in Bagati union of Chandpur Sadar upazila on December 17 in 2008, according to the case filed by Sub-Inspector Nazrul Islam of Chandpur Model Police Station. In this regard, Rasu gave confessional statement to the then senior judicial magistrate Abdur Rahman. Police arrested Rasu from Tongi on October 7 in 2009 and placed him on a three-day remand where he told the law enforcers that he had murdered a total of 11

female garment workers till then. Once a petty thief, Rasu, son of Abul Kha of Madan village under Chandpur Sadar upazila, turned a notorious criminal at one stage. Entrapping the victims by posing as lovers, he used to take the poor and needy girls from Savar and Tong areas on the outskirts of the capital to Chandpur district and kill them after rape, admitted the criminal to police. Most of the victims, aged between 16 to 35 years, could not be identified till date.



PHOTO: STAR

Death sentence convict killer Rasu Kha being taken out of the court at Chandpur after pronouncement of the verdict yesterday.

# Hacked Barguna madrasa teacher dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Brutally tortured madrasa teacher Shahidul Islam succumbed to his injuries on the way to Dhaka from Barisal Sher-E-Bangla Medical College Hospital on Tuesday midnight, fighting for life for hours after criminals severed his left hand and left leg earlier on the day. He died at Madaripur on Barisal-Dhaka road and the body was brought to Barguna General Hospital morgue to autopsy at about 10:00am yesterday. A gang allegedly led by Eakub, waylaid Shahidul Islam, 40, teacher of Gazipur

Alim Madrasa in Amtali upazila of Barguna district, on his way from Chalitabunia village home to Amtali upazila town around 10:00am on Tuesday, police and locals said. The attackers hacked Shahidul with sharp weapons and severed his left hand and left leg. Hearing screams, locals rushed to the spot and brought the victim to Amtali Upazila Health Complex where the on-duty doctor referred him to Barisal Sher-E-Bangla Medical College Hospital. Shortly after the incident, police arrested five people -- Eakub, 27, Bahadur, 25,

Kawsar, 30, Mahtab, 28, and Babul, 30, all from Chalitabunia, in connection with the incident. "We have arrested five people for their alleged involvement in the incident and the victim's cousin Md Monir Hossain has filed a case with Amtali Police Station accusing 13 people in this regard," said Sukumer Roy, officer in charge of the police station. Lawful steps will be taken after investigation, he added. A longstanding quarrel with neighbours might have led to the brutal incident, locals said.



# Capital punishment of schoolboy Sakib's killers demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Teachers and students of Mohonpur KM Institution in Ullapara upazila of Sirajganj district staged a demonstration on the premises of the school on Tuesday, demanding immediate arrest and capital punishment of the killers of schoolboy Sakib. They also formed a human chain and held a rally at Mohonpur Bazar in the upazila to realise the demand. Son of Golam Mostafa Kamal of Mohonpur village, Md Sakib Hasan, 15, was a Class IX student of the institution. Police recovered the body of Sakib, who was killed after abduction on April 15, from Bangabandhu Safari Park in Gazipur district on April 17. Addressing the rally, the

speakers said Sakib went out of their house with his friends and schoolmates on the day of Pahela Baishakh and later his body was found murdered in Bangabandhu Safari Park on Friday. They demanded immediate arrest and capital punishment of the killers. "My son was killed for Tk 15 lakh ransom," Golam Mostafa, father of the boy, said at the programme. Headmaster Abdul Hannan, school managing committee members Shahdat Hossain and Jomsher Ali, and assistant teacher Abdul Alim, among others, spoke. Contacted, Md Tazul Huda, officer-in-charge of Ullapara Police Station, said police arrested three schoolmates of Sakib in connection with the incident.



PHOTO: STAR

Teachers, students and managing committee members of Mohonpur KM Institution in Ullapara upazila under Sirajganj district bring out a procession yesterday demanding punishment of the criminals who killed after abduction Sakib Hasan (inset), a Class IX student of the school, a few days ago.

# Eight gamblers jailed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A mobile court in Pirganj upazila of the district on Tuesday sentenced eight gamblers to different jail terms. The convicts are Altab Hossain, 40, son of late Abdul Karim of Sonakander village, Abu Taher, 35, son of Akbar Ali of Rajarampur village, Badal Rahman, 37, son of Abu Bakkar Siddique of Fatehpur village, Mohachand Mian, 42, son of Mamotaj Ali of Chhoto Umarpur village, Zakaria Hossain, 33, son Samad Mondol of Chhoto Umarpur village, Abdul Wahed, 30, son of late Kasir Uddin of Duramithipur village, Saidul Prodhan, 35, son of late Osman Ali Prodhan of Baroghola village in Pirganj upazila, and Shahabul Alam, 38, son of Abu Taleb of Khurda Sherpur village in Mithapukur upazila. Md Mokshed Ali, officer-in-charge of Pirganj Police

Station, said a police team in separate drives arrested the eight from different areas on the day while they were gambling. The arrestees were yesterday produced before the court led by Executive Magistrate ATM Ziaul Islam. The court sentenced Altab Hossain, Abu Taher, Badal Rahman, Mohachand Mian and Zakaria Hossain to 15 days' imprisonment and Abdul Wahed, Saidul Prodhan and Shahabul Alam to one month in jail. Away in Jessore, police arrested four alleged gamblers at a baishakhi fair at Faridpur village in Jessore Sadar upazila early Tuesday, reports our Benapole correspondent. The arrestees are Emdadul Haque, 23, Kamrul Islam, 25, Ismail Hossain, 26, and Mir Ripon, 32, of the village. Police arrested the four while they were gambling at the fair.



PHOTO: STAR

The tin-roof of this house at Pashchim Baluadanga in Dinajpur town gets mangled as a nor'wester lashed the area on Tuesday night.



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