

Bombay chilli cultivation brings good profit

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

A good number of farmers in Patuakhali, Barguna and Jhalakathi districts are engaged in commercial cultivation of Bombay chilli on around 1,000 acres of land.

Bombay chilli is cultivated on commercial basis in 16 out of 19 villages of Atghar-Kuriana union under Swarupkathi upazila, said Md Shahidullah, upazila agriculture officer of Swarupkathi.

"Around 5,000 seedlings are planted in an acre of land and each plant bears 150 to 200 chillies in the dry season. Each hundred chillies are sold for Tk 30 to 50 in local market. It is a very low-cost farming," he said.

Most farmers bring Bombay chillies to Kali Mondir haat (village market) at Jendakathi village of Atghar-Kuriana union on Fridays and Mondays every week.

Bombay chillies worth Tk 10 lakh to 15 lakh are sold on each haat day in the season from January to June. It is also avail-



PHOTO: STAR

Bombay chilli is on sale at Jendakathi village market in Atghar-Kuriana union of Swarupkathi upazila under Pirojpur district.

able during the rest of the year, although in less quantity, said Md Humayun Kabir, leaser of the haat.

"I buy about 3 lakh chillies on every haat day and supply it to different areas

including capital Dhaka. I buy per hundred chillies for Tk 25 to 40 in the main season and Tk 70 to 80 in off season," said Sukesh, a wholesaler.

Bombay chilli cultivation bears bright prospect

in the region as the soil and weather are very favourable, said Khondakar Sirajul Karim, additional director of the Department of Agriculture Extension in Barisal.

Criminals kill auto-rickshaw driver, take away vehicle

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

The body of an autorickshaw driver was found in a canal of Ishwardi Regional Agriculture Research Centre (IRARC) on Friday, two days after he went missing.

The deceased is Shariful Islam, 38, son of Nazrul Islam, also an autorickshaw driver and resident of Durgapur-Maria village in Rajshahi.

Quoting family members, police said Shariful went to Ishwardi with some passengers aboard his vehicle on Thursday and remained missing since then.

Locals found his body in the IRARC's canal. Being informed, police recovered the body and sent it to Pabna Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy on Friday afternoon.

Biman Kumar Das, officer-in-charge of Ishwardi Police Station, said Shariful might have been killed by miscreants who took away his autorickshaw and dumped the body in the canal.

COMPANY DISAPPEARS WITH TK 50CR

23 swindlers sued, two arrested in Patuakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A case has been filed against the chairman and 22 staffs of 'RDP Finance and Investment Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd' who went into hiding allegedly after embezzling about Tk 50 crore from a few thousand depositors in three upazilas under the district.

ATM Shahid Ismail, a depositor of the company, also a resident of Adalatpara area in the district town, filed the case with Patuakhali Police Station on Friday under Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012.

The same day, agitated depositors caught and handed over to police Rasedul Islam, 35, manager of Patuakhali branch of the swindler organisation, and Jewel, 19, its MLSS.

Rasedul and Jewel are residents of Gabua village under Patuakhali Sadar upazila and Najirpur village under Baufal upazila respectively.

"I deposited a total of Tk 5 lakh to the organisation under their 'fixed deposit' scheme in 2012 but recently I found various irregularities in their transaction," goes the case statement.

"As I asked for return of my money, the officials concerned assured me of returning my total money on May 4. But when I went to the office I found nobody there and the office was locked. I learnt that they went into hiding after embezzling about Tk 50 crore from a few thousand depositors," he added.

SM Ziaul Huq, officer in charge of Patuakhali Police Station, said, "We are trying our best to arrest the other

accused. The Anti-Corruption Commission will investigate the matter."

RDP Finance and Investment Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd opened its activities in a hired building on Patuakhali Sadar Road in 2012 with its chairman Ibrahim Khalil, former president of Narayanganj district unit of Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir, student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami.

In the same year, they opened two more branch offices in Baufal and Galachipa upazila towns in the district and by giving attractive interest offers, they collected about 5,000 subscribers under fixed deposit scheme, daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly deposit schemes, and double/triple benefit schemes.

CASE FOR ASSAULTING TRAFFIC CONSTABLE

4 Moulvibazar BCL men arrested, sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Four BCL men of Moulvibazar Degree College unit were arrested on Friday night on charge of assaulting a traffic constable in the town on Wednesday.

The arrestees are BCL college unit general secretary Rezaul Karim Reza, 27, and activists Yasin Mia, 25, Azizur Rahman, 23, and Mustakin Mia, 24.

Following a case filed with Sadar Police Station on

Thursday, police arrested the BCL leader and activists from different areas of the town.

Police and locals said BCL activist Mustakin Mia was going to a bazar in Choumohona area in the town in a battery-driven rickshaw at around 11:00am on Wednesday.

As the rickshaw-puller violated the traffic signal, on-duty traffic constable Krisna Talukdar intercepted the rickshaw and hurled abusive language at the

puller. At this stage, Mustakin locked in an altercation with the constable.

Reza, Yasin and Aziz, who were sitting at a nearby shop, came forward and beat up constable Krisna mercilessly. Seriously injured Krishna was admitted to at Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital.

Officer-in-Charge Salek Uddin, of Moulvibazar Police Station said the arrestees were yesterday produced in a court that sent them to jail.

Two traders hacked, robbed of Tk 3 lakh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Muggers beat up and hacked two paddy traders on Shariakandi-Bogra road in Sharakandi upazila yesterday and took away Tk 3 lakh from them.

The victims are Asalotuzzaman, 28, and Foyjul Haque, 27, of Phulbari Dhakshinpara village under the upazila. They were going to Nazipur market under Noagaon district to buy paddy.

When the traders reached near Hat Phulbari area of the road at around 4:00pm, a gang of 7 to 8 muggers

waylaid them. The gang beat up the traders, hacked them with sharp weapons and left the scene with a bag containing the money.

Hearing screams, locals rushed to the spot and took the duo to Shariakandi Upazila Health Complex. Asalotuzzaman was later shifted to Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College and Hospital as his condition deteriorated.

Contacted, Sub-inspector (SI) Nayan Kumar of Shariakandi Police Station said police are investigating the matter and trying to arrest the muggers.



PHOTO: STAR

This under-construction bridge over the Halhalia River on Matpara-Tarakandi road in Dhunat upazila under Bogra district collapsed on Friday, leaving five labourers injured. Locals have blamed use of low quality materials and flouting of the project plan by the contractor for the accident.

Abducted schoolgirl, youth rescued in Bogra, Jhenidah

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Police rescued a 13-year-old girl from a village in Shariakandi upazila on Friday, 24 days after her abduction from a village in Dhunat upazila.

The victim is a Class VIII student of Jorgachha Girls' High School in the upazila.

According to the case statement, Sobuj Mia, 20, son of Chan Mia of Sonapur village in Shariakandi upazila, abducted the girl while she was going to her school on April 14. Victim's family members lodged a general diary (GD) with Dhunat Police Station accusing Sobuj the same day.

Being tipped-off, police conducted a drive at Sobuj's house around 12:30am on Thursday and rescued the girl from there. Sobuj fled the house sensing the presence of the law

enforcers. Police detained his mother Parvin Akter.

Victim's family lodged an abduction case with the police station on Friday night, accusing seven people, including Sobuj and his parents, said Abdur Razzak, sub-inspector of the police station, also the investigation officer of the case.

Away in Jhenidah, a youth, who was kidnapped from Sreepur upazila in Gazipur on Wednesday, was rescued from Maheshpur upazila of the district on Friday, reports UNB.

The victim, Saidul Islam, 22, son of Sattar Bepari of Damdama village in Sreepur upazila, is an expatriate in Kuwait.

Police quoted family members as saying that Saidul went out of his house, receiving a phone call on

Wednesday night and did not return home till midnight.

A gang phoned Saidul's father and demanded Tk 6 lakh from him for his son's release early Thursday, said Arifur Rahman, sub-inspector of Sreepur Model Police Station.

Sattar Bepari filed a case with Sreepur Police Station the following morning. After tracking the kidnapper's mobile phone numbers, a team of Sreepur police with the help of Maheshpur police raided Maheshpur Upazila Parishad Auditorium and rescued Saidul around 7:00pm.

Two other kidnapped victims, Tushar Ahmed, 27, and Liton Mia, 28, of Keraniganj in Dhaka, were also rescued from the same spot.

The kidnappers escaped arrest, sensing the presence of the law enforcers.



PHOTO: STAR

A devastating fire gutted five houses and a small garment factory at Ballabari in Rampal union under Munshiganj Sadar upazila yesterday, causing a loss of around Tk 1 crore.

Woman kills twin daughters, attempts suicide in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A woman allegedly tried to kill herself after killing her three-year-old twin daughters at Bhuberdia village in Babuganj upazila under the district yesterday.

The deceased are Mariam Akter and Ayesha Siddika, daughters of Sharmin Begum, 26, and Selim Khan, 31, a day labourer.

Neighbours rescued Sharmin, floating in the Sugandha River, after foiling her alleged suicide bid, police quoted locals as saying. She had been suffering from mental depression, they said.

Later, according to Sharmin's statement neighbours found the bodies of her twin daughters from an adjacent bamboo cluster,

said Shah Alam, officer-in-charge of Babuganj Police Station.

Informed by the locals, police went to the spot, recovered the bodies and sent them to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

They also admitted the mother to Babuganj Upazila Health Complex under their custody, the OC added.

Three women return from Indian jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

Three Bangladeshi women returned home on Friday night after serving two years in an Indian jail.

Indian immigration police handed them over to Bangladeshi immigration police at Benapole check post.

The returnees are Anju Roy, 45, Gita Mondol, 36, and Anjali Mondol, 19. They hail from different areas of Chittagong, Barisal and Satkhira districts.

Aslam Khan, officer-in-charge of Benapole check post immigration police, said Indian police arrested them from Delhi for crossing the border without passports two years back.

Later, an Indian court sentenced them two year imprisonment for entering the country without valid documents, Aslam added.



PHOTO: STAR

A portion of the Sonai River in Madhabpur is being filled up to build Saiham Future Complex. Inset, Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon forms a human chain in front of M Saifur Rahman Town Hall at Habiganj protesting the callous act.

