



A blooming sunflower field beside the Gabkhan channel in Jhalakathi district.

# Sunflower farming gains popularity in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Farmers in Barisal division have started cultivating sunflower, finding it to be a profitable crop.

There is high demand for sunflower also because the oil derived from its seeds is good for health as it contains no cholesterol.

Sources in the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Barisal said farmers sowed sunflower seeds from mid-November. In March-April, sunflower plants start

sprouting new seeds, like those of mustard, which are later processed into edible oil.

Deputy Director Rafiqul Islam of DAE Barisal office, said the amount of land used for sunflower cultivation increased from 1,758 hectares in 2013 to 2,768 hectares in 2015 in the division. This year, the average production rate is 1.49 tonnes of oilseed per hectare due to favourable weather conditions.

"Sunflower cultivation is easier, cheaper and more

profitable. It requires very little irrigation and small amounts of fertiliser and insecticides. A kg of sunflower seeds yields 500 to 600 grams of oil, which is more than that of any other oilseeds," he added.

He said DAE and some non-governmental organisations are supplying seeds, necessary fertilisers and pesticides, and giving technical assistance to the farmers.

Anwar Hossain, a farmer of Isladi village in Wazirpur upazila, said this year he cultivated High Sun-

33 variety sunflower on four bighas of land. Last year, he earned Tk10,000 from sunflower cultivation on one bigha of land after recovering the production cost.

Interestingly, a good number of female farmers are getting involved in sunflower cultivation. Rokhsana Begum, a female farmer of Joyoshri village under Wazirpur upazila, who cultivated sunflower on 0.50 acres of land, said sunflower cultivation is very profitable, and it is increasing day by day.

PHOTO: STAR

## Govt urged to procure paddy, rice directly from farmers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Farmers of Dinajpur yesterday demanded that the government procure rice and paddy directly from farmers instead of middlemen and mill operators.

They made the demand at a press conference organised by Dinajpur unit of Jatiya Krishak Khetmajur Samity at Dinajpur Press Club yesterday.

They also urged the government to ensure fair price of paddy, direct procurement of paddy from farmers, affordable prices of agricultural inputs, rationing system for both urban and rural people, free irrigation facility and interest-free

agriculture loan.

At the conference, farmers said low price of their produce this year is unprecedented. "We are selling paddy at Tk 350 to Tk 400 per maund, whereas the production cost for the same amount of paddy is Tk 650 to Tk 700," they said.

Farmers across the country had suffered huge loss due to countrywide political deadlock from January to March, they said, urging the government to procure more rice from them.

Bikash Roy, general secretary of the samity, read out the keynote paper at the conference.

## ATTACK ON COPS IN BOGRA

# 187 BNP-Jamaat men charge-sheeted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Charges have been pressed against 187 BNP-Jamaat men in the case for attacking police in the district town on November 25, 2014.

Though Sub-Inspector (SI) Aslam Hossain of Sadar Police Station submitted the charge sheet to the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Habibur Rahman Khan Bhuiyan on April 16, Court Inspector Jahangir Alam disclosed it to local newsmen on Wednesday.

Jamaat district unit Ameer Md Shahabuddin, Chairman of Nandigram Upazila Parishad and Jamaat upazila unit Ameer Nurul Islam Mondol, Jamaat leader and former

chairman of Shajahanpur Upazila Parishad Yeasin Ali, Jubo Dal Bogra district unit President Shipar al Baktiar, Jubo Dal district unit General Secretary Arafatur rahman Apple, Chattral Dal Bogra unit President Jahangir Alam, Jubo Dal town unit President Masud Rana, BNP leader and municipality councillor Harunur Rashid, and Jubo Dal Bogra town unit General Secretary Saiful Islam Rony are among the accused.

BNP-led 20-party alliance took out a procession in the town on the day and hurled crude bombs at law enforcers in Satmatha area, leaving some cops injured.

A case was lodged with Sadar Police Station under Explosive Substances Act, accusing the BNP-Jamaat men the following day.

## Cloth trader abducted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

Local traders observed a daylong strike in Paglarhaat area under Bhurungamari upazila yesterday, demanding immediate steps to rescue their fellow trader, who was abducted the day before.

They kept shutters of their business establishments down during the strike enforced by the leaders of Paglarhaat Traders' Association.

The abductee is Abdul Mottalib Chad, 45, a cloth trader of the area, and son of Solaiman Ali of Diadangavillage.

Md Ali, president of the association, said a gang of six in a microbus abducted Abdul Mottalib from Omar Ali Hafejia Madrasa area when he was returning home from his cloth shop at Paglarhaat Bazar on Wednesday night.

The abductors then demanded Tk 10 lakh ransom from the family.

## 3 burnt as engine of oil tanker explodes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Three workers of a ship sustained burn injuries as engine of a small oil tanker exploded in Karnaphuli area under Paitya upazila yesterday.

The injured are Joynal Abedin, 25, Akhter Kamal, 24, and Alamgir Hossain 26, workers of oil tanker-- OT Tasvir-3.

Police said the oil tanker's engine was being repaired at Matobborghat near Moizzartek under Karnaphuli Police Station.

All on a sudden, a fire erupted from the engine and it exploded at around 2:30am. The three, who were working on the engine during the time, sustained burn injuries.

They were rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital, said Md Harun, a colleague of the injured.

The fire was doused within half an hour, said Mizanur Rahman, sub-inspector of Karnaphuli Police Station.

The oil tanker was empty during the accident, said police.

## Two human traffickers arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Police arrested two alleged human traffickers at Haribhanga village in Ullapara upazila of Sirajganj district on Wednesday.

The arrestees are Md Alam Hossain, 35, son of Abul Kashem of the village, and Md Abdul Hakim, 32, son of Abdur Rashid of Ramgati village.

Acting on a tip-off, a police team raided the area and arrested the two in the evening.

They are listed human traffickers in the area, said Md Shamsuddin, officer-in-charge of Ullapara Police Station.

# 1,920 bicycles imported by dodging tax

## Four Panchagarh customs officials transferred

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Four officials of Customs, Excise and Vat in Panchagarh Sadar upazila have been transferred to the department's offices in different northern districts on charge of negligence in duty that led to illegal import through Banglabandha land port huge Indian parts for assembling of 1,920 bicycles.

Authorities yesterday issued an order, effecting instant transfer of the four officials -- Mohammad Zakaria, assistant commissioner of Panchagarh Circle of Customs, Excise and Vat, Sardar Mohammad Zakir Hossain, revenue officer, Abdus Samad Azad and Mohammad Nuruzzaman, assistant revenue officers.

"Acting on a tip, a team of task force comprising police, BGB and civil administration seized 2,400 bicycles worth about Tk 2 crore from five trucks on

Panchagarh-Dhaka highway in front of Panchagarh BGB headquarters around 9:30pm on Tuesday," said Lt Col Mohammad Ariful Haque, commanding officer of 18 Battalion of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) in Panchagarh.

"Proprietor of AB Brothers Binoy Kumar imported the bicycles from India through Banglabandha Land Port. Of the 2400 bicycles, only 480 were mentioned in the invoice while the rest remained undeclared," Lt Col Ariful Haque, who led the drive, said.

Executive magistrates Ilias Mehedi and Shahin Islam made the seizure list and sent it to the warehouse of Panchagarh BGB and Subedar Abul Kalam of Panchagarh 18 BGB Battalion filed a case with Panchagarh Police Station accusing 14 people in connection with smuggling of the goods.

"Tk 7 lakh was received as import tax against 480 bicycles. But I do not know how around 2,000 other bicycles were imported through evading tax," Zakir Hossain, superintendent of Customs, Excise and Vat, told the reporters.

Mohammad Zakaria, assistant commissioner of the department, declined to make any comment in this regard.

The task force also detained eight drivers and helpers in connection with the incident.

Demanding their release, Panchagarh Transport Owners' and Workers' Union blocked road yesterday afternoon by putting vehicles haphazardly on Panchagarh-Dhaka highway, much to the sufferings of the commuters.

The blockade was withdrawn around 9:00pm, following the authorities' assurance of releasing the eight arrestees.



PHOTO: STAR

A task force seizes huge quantity of Indian bicycle parts worth around Tk 2 crore that was imported illegally through Banglabandha land port on Tuesday.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITY



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### Assistant Registrar: 1 position

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Nissan	2006	2349	Octane	Black	Good	101950	01
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The bidders must submit their offer to the undersigned along with **earnest money @ 2.5%** of quoted price in the form of pay order issued from any scheduled bank drawn in favor of North South University on or before **June 08, 2015 by 02:00 p.m.** The Tender will be opened at 02:15 p.m. on the same day. Representative of the participating bidders may remain present at the time of opening the bids. Earnest money of unsuccessful bidder's will be returned after finalization of the sale.

NSU authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without showing any reason.

**The Director (Administration)**  
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