

Organic *muri* from Pabna village gaining popularity

Production raised to meet demand in Ramadan

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR
TOPU, Pabna

A good number of people of Mahamudpur village in Pabna Sadar upazila are now passing busy time to produce traditional organic *muri* (puffed rice) to meet its increasing demand during the Ramadan.

Around 400 families of the village famous for producing organic *muri* are engaged in the job as ancestral profession.

"We produce organic spiky *muri* in our traditional way, without using any chemicals. It is tastier and

more nutritious than the chemically treated *muri* although the latter looks bright," said Hasan Ali, an elderly *muri* producer of Mahamudpurvillage.

"Health conscious people prefer organic *muri* as it is free from chemical contamination. It is produced here round the year but the demand increases during the holy Ramadan as the spicy *muri* is a common iftar item," said Md Abdul Alim, another producer of the village.

"Like many others at the village, I am now working all day long for preparing

organic *muri* to meet the high demand during the Ramadan. We are doing the job as ancestral profession for decades," he said.

Three power-run husking machines have been set up in Mahamudpur village to husk rice for producing *muri*.

Around 300 maunds of *muri* are being supplied to different places of the district as well as outside, a kg being sold for Tk 60 to 70, depending on quality.

Wholesalers often come to the village to purchase organic *muri*.

Local *muri* producers

have demanded government support like soft loan to continue and develop their traditional business of organic *muri* production.

"The people of Mahamudpur village are doing a great job by producing organic *muri*. Following them, many others in different villages of the district have started doing the same," said Jitendranath Pal, director of BSCIC, Pabna.

BSCIC is planning to extend financial assistance to the organic *muri* producers for promoting the business, he said.



PHOTO: STAR

Muri (puffed rice) is being prepared in the traditional way at a house of Mahamudpur village in Pabna district that sees large-scale production of the organic item. Inset, workers loading large sacks containing the item onto rickshaw vans for supplying to other areas.



Robbers kill trucker, one arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A trucker was killed in an attack by robbers in Gokul area under Sadar upazila of the district early yesterday.

The deceased is Anju Mia, 40, of Rangpur district, said Amirul Islam, officer-in-charge of DB police.

A gang of six intercepted a rod-laden Gaibandha-bound truck coming from Chittagong at Chandramore in Gazipur district at midnight.

They drove the vehicle into Gokul area in Bogra Sadar and strangled the trucker. The robbers also injured the helper, Saju Mia, 32, of Rangpur, and took away the truck.

The body was sent to Shaheed Zaiur Rahman Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Police in a drive later seized the looted truck from Shajahanpur upazila and arrested one Sohag Mia, 25, of Bogra town, in this connection, said the OC.

Meanwhile, armed robbers looted grocery items worth about Tk 2 lakh from a store in Doshmail area of Sherpur upazila the same day.

A gang of 10/12 tied two night guards with rope and stormed M/S Shefali Store of Mozammel Haque, said police.

The robbers took away oil, cigarette and other valuable items, said the grocer, Mozammel.



PHOTO: STAR

A refrigerator shop destroyed by Tuesday night's gas cylinder blasts at Gouripur Bazar in Daudkandi upazila under Comilla district.

10 burnt as gas cylinders explode in Daudkandi

A CORRESPONDENT,
Daudkandi, Comilla

At least 10 people sustained burn injuries in gas cylinder explosions at a shop at Gouripur Bazar in Daudkandi upazila of the district on Tuesday night.

The injured were taken to Daudkandi Upazila Health Complex and six of them-Saddam Hazari, 25, Dulal Mia, 45, Abul Kashem, 44, Ismail Hossain, 24, Nurul

Islam, 30, and Abul Kashem, 56--were referred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital as their condition deteriorated.

Quoting locals, Abu Salam Mia, officer-in-charge of Daudkandi Police Station, said a fire broke out following two gas cylinder blasts at 'Saudia Refrigeration' in the market around 7:30pm.

The fire soon spread to

three other adjacent shops, including two fridge warehouses, leaving 10 people injured, the OC added.

On information, two fire fighting units from Daudkandi and Homna fire stations rushed to the spot and brought the blaze under control around 9:30pm.

The affected shop owners claimed that the loss caused by the fire could go up to Tk 65 lakh.

AL leader 'abducted'

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Benapole, Jessore

An Awami League leader of Benapole municipality unit was abducted from Aricha Ferry terminal in Manikganj district early yesterday.

The victim, Mahtab Uddin, is joint secretary of the unit.

Victim's son Shahjalal Soheli said a gang abducted his father from the terminal around 2:00 am while he was returning to Benapole from Dhaka by a bus.

The driver and helper of the bus tried to save Mahtab, but failed.

CASE FOR TORCHING CENTRE DURING JS POLLS 24 Thakurgaon BNP men sent to jail on surrender

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Thakurgaon

A Thakurgaon court yesterday sent 24 activists of local BNP and its associate bodies to jail in a case for torching polling centre during parliamentary elections on January 5, 2014.

The BNP men surrendered before the District and Sessions Judge's Court in the morning, seeking bail. Judge Shafiqur Rahman

rejected the bail prayer and sent them to jail.

The court also granted bail to two other accused in the case. They are Mokhlesur Rahman, 50, and Biplob, 35.

According to the case statement, activists of BNP and its associates bodies vandalised Akcha Adarsha High School centre in Sadar upazila during parliamentary elections on January 5, 2014 and set the centre afire. They also beat up the poll officials and forced

them to leave the centre.

Zahedur Rahman, assistant sub-inspector of Thakurgaon Sadar Police Station, filed a case on January 12, accusing 100 to 150 unnamed men.

After investigation, Sub-Inspector Tozammel Hoque of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) pressed charges against 27 BNP men on July, 2014. Court sources said one of the accused was acquitted of charges yesterday.

Dudhkumar, Gangadhar devour 180 houses

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Kurigram

At least 180 dwelling houses and 100 acres of cropland have been devoured by the Dudhkumar and Gangadhar rivers in three unions of two upazilas under the district.

Of the affected unions, one is under Bhurungamari upazila while the rest two are under Nageshwari upazila.

Abdul Aziz, chairman of Banga Sonahat union under Bhurungamari upazila, said the Dudhkumar devoured the dwelling houses of about 150 families of Ganairkuthi and Char Baldia villages in the union in the last four days. The erosion has taken a serious turn on the western side of

Sonahat Bridge, which is also under threat.

Erosion by the Gangadhar is continuing in North Dhanirampur, South Dhanirampur and Balahat villages under Kachkata union of Nageshwari upazila. Houses of around 30 families and around 100 acres of cropland went into the river in the last four days, said Hasem Ali, chairman of Kachkata union.

The local Water Development Board (WDB) has not taken any step yet to control the erosion, Hasem added.

"Kaliganj Bazaar, Shalmar Government Primary School and Shalmar Dakhil Madrasa of Kaliganj union are threatened by erosion by the

Dudhkumar and the Gangadhar Rivers. About 1.5 kilometers of flood control embankment in the union has been damaged in the recent flood," said Nur Islam, chairman of Kaliganj union. Lalmonirhat WDB has not worked to control erosion in the union since 1993, he added.

Abdul Kader, sub-divisional engineer of WDB in Lalmonirhat, said, "No work is going on for controlling erosion by Dudhkumar and Gangadhar rivers in Bhurungamari and Nageshwari upazilas. We have already informed the higher authority about the situation and sought fund for taking necessary measures to stop further onslaught by the rivers."



PHOTO: STAR

Erosion by the Dudhkumar River has taken a serious turn, devouring areas in the west side of Sonahat Bridge in Paikerchara union of Bhurungamari upazila under Kurigram district.

SNIPPETS

2 kids drown in pond

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sherpur

Two children drowned in a pond at Chakbandi village in Sribardi upazila of the district yesterday. The deceased are Asa, 7, daughter of Akkas Mian of Shimulchara village in the upazila, and her maternal cousin Moslem Uddin, 6, son of Abbas Mian of Chinarchar village in Islampur upazila of Jamalpur district. Locals said the two came to visit their maternal uncle's house in the area recently. Yesterday afternoon, they fell into the pond beside the house while playing on its bank and drowned.

Two crushed under train

UNB, Sirajganj

A woman and her seven-month-old daughter were crushed under the wheels of a train at Mulibari level crossing in Sadar upazila of the district yesterday. The deceased are Mukti, 22, wife of Saiful Islam of the upazila and her daughter Sadia. Saiful was also injured in the accident. Railway Police sources said Rangpur-bound 'Rangpur Express' train from Dhaka hit the couple and their daughter at the level crossing at 12:50pm.

Arms, bullets seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) seized four pistols and eight bullets from Rajapur border in Jibonnagar upazila of Chuadanga district yesterday. None was arrested in this connection, said Lt Col SM Moniruzzaman, commander of BGB-6 Battalion.

11 drug peddlers jailed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A mobile court in Phulbari upazila of the district sentenced 11 people to different jail terms for selling drugs. The convicts are Sharifa Begum, 40, Rashedul Islam, 25, Mintu Mia, 26, Idris Ali, 45, Lokman Ali, 50, Momin Mia, 19, Roki Mia, 21, Sohiful Islam, 42, Sukur Ali, 40, Rahedul Islam, 28, and Rawshan Ara, 40, of the area. They were awarded 15 days to six months imprisonment, said police. Executive Magistrate Md Moniruzzaman led the court.

Youth found dead

UNB, Sirajganj

Police recovered the body of an unidentified youth, aged about 23, from the River Jamuna at Delua Madhyapara in Belkuchi upazila of the district on Tuesday afternoon. Officer-in-Charge of Belkuchi Police Station Anisur Rahman said locals spotted the body floating in the river at about 5:00pm and informed the police. The law enforcers recovered the body and sent it to Sirajganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.



HOTO: STAR

A mobile court led by Kulaura Upazila Nirbahi Officer Mohammad Nazmul Hasan seizes around 70 thousand metres of current nets and 12 gill nets worth Tk 8 lakh from different areas of Hakaluki Haor in Bhukshimail union of the upazila under Moulvibazar district on Tuesday. The illegal nets were later burnt on the upazila complex premises.

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