



Lankeshor Singha and his wife Mamata Singha working at their potol garden at Uttar Baniary village in Nazirpur upazila under Pirojpur district.

Potol cultivation takes off in Pirojpur

HABIBUR RAHMAN, Pirojpur

Lankeshor Singha of Uttar Baniary village in Nazirpur upazila under the district has seen success in growing potol, or pointed gourd, cultivating the vegetable for the first time in the area this year.

"In last February, I collected some potol creepers from Mollarhat upazila of adjacent Bagerhat district and planted them on 33

decimals of land," said the 55-year-old farmer.

"It is not that difficult to grow the popular vegetable. After one and a half months of planting, I started getting yield. Every week, I collect 15-20 kg of potol from my garden and sell them in the local market for Tk 35-40 a kg.

Instead of pesticide, he uses environment-friendly sex pheromone traps.

"Now other farmers of my village are showing interest to cultivate potol. I hope that I will be able to sell it to the local farmers from next year," Lankeshor said.

Lankeshor's wife Mamata Singha, 40, said often she takes care of the potol garden, especially when her husband remains busy in other fields.

Generally potol is

brought to Pirojpur from Khulna and sells for good prices.

"Cultivating potol for the first time in the area, Lankeshor has seen success. It is likely to spread rapidly in the upazila as it has special demand in the local market," said Bijan Krishna Howlader, sub-assistant agriculture officer in Nazirpur.

PHOTO: STAR

SNIPPETS

Father, daughter electrocuted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A man and his daughter died from electrocution at Ratgaon village in Kulaura upazila of the district yesterday. The deceased are Md Safique Miah, 60, and his daughter Ripa Akther, 25, of the village. Police said the two were electrocuted when they were washing the refrigerator at their house. They died on the spot.

13 gamblers fined

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A mobile court fined 13 gamblers Tk 100 each in Sherpur upazila of the district yesterday afternoon. They are Mohidul Islam, 26, Nur Islam, 45, Abdur Razzak, 30, Jamal Uddin, 28, Shibu Chandra Das, 50, Khairul Bashar, 36, Nazmul Mandal, 26, Nasir Uddin, 32 of Nishindhara village, Hafizar Rahman, 30, and Abdul Majid, 40, of Shimla village in the upazila, Abdul Momin, 20, of Shalonga village, Abdur Rouf Sheikh, 40, of Betgari village in Royganj upazila, and Rokon Sheikh, 27, of Belkuchi upazila in Sirajganj district. Upazila Nirbahi Officer AKM Sarwar Jahan led the court, said Alhaz Hossain, sub-inspector of Sherpur Police Station.

Man found dead

UNB, Sathkhira

Police recovered the body of a mentally challenged elderly man from a pond in Sadar upazila of the district yesterday morning. The deceased is Mokajjem Miraj, 65, of Radhanagar village. The victim's brother Abul Kalam Babla said Miraj went out of the house on Wednesday and did not return home since then. Locals found the body floating in the pond around 7:00am and informed the police. The law enforcers recovered the body and sent it to a hospital morgue for autopsy, said Emdad Sheikh, officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station.

8 Jamaat men held

UNB, Joypurhat

Police arrested eight Jamaat men, including the party's district ameer, at Hariপুর village in Sadar upazila yesterday morning. The arrestees include Dr Fazlur Rahman Syeed, ameer of the district unit of Jamaat, Anwar Hossain, Jamaat secretary of Sadar upazila, Taiful Islam Fita, Jamaat ameer of Kalai upazila, Taslim Uddin, Jamaat ameer of Panchbibi upazila, and Sujaul Islam, Jamaat secretary of the upazila. On secret information, the law enforcers raided a house in the area and arrested the eight while they were holding a clandestine meeting there, said Additional Superintendent of Police Belayet Hossain.

Two robbers arrested

UNB, Jhenidaha

Police arrested two alleged robbers in Belemath area under Sadar upazila of the district early yesterday. The arrestees are Mohidul Islam of Gopalpur village, and Motiar Rahman of Durgapur village. ASP Gopinath Kangilal said on information, a police team arrested the two while a gang was making preparation to commit robbery in the area. However, their other cohorts managed to flee the scene, sensing the presence of the law enforcers.

Three die in Habiganj trawler capsize

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Three people died and ten sustained injuries as a trawler capsized in the Gordair River near Biratgram village in Ajmeriganj upazila of Habiganj district yesterday.

Police said the trawler carrying 50 passengers was heading for Majar in Ghagra area in Mithamoin upazila of Kishoreganj district from Biratgram at around 5:30pm.

When the trawler reached the edge of Biratgram it hit a tree and capsized in the river.

Most of the passengers and crew could get out of the trawler and swim ashore.

On information, a rescue team rushed to the spot and recovered the bodies of an unidentified man, a teenager and a child.

Three rapists get life

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A court here on Wednesday sentenced three people to life imprisonment for raping a 15-year-old girl in 2013.

The lifers are Sawpan, Jinnu and Helal of Miapara village in Sadar upazila.

Judge Ratneshwer Bhattacharya of Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal also fined them Tk 20,000 each. In default, they are to suffer another one year in jail.

According to the prosecution, the trio violated the girl near an irrigation pump at the village on April 23 in 2013 and fled the scene.

The victim's father filed a case with Sadar Police Station against Swapan, Jinnu, Helal and Sohel Mia of the area.

The court acquitted Sohel as the charge brought against him could not be proved.

One killed over land dispute

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A man was killed and four others were injured in a clash over land between two groups of people at Madhupur village in Tarakanda upazila on Wednesday afternoon.

The victim was identified as Arshed Ali, 37, son of Sohrab Ali of the village.

There had been a long-standing dispute between Arshed and his cousin Rahim Uddin over the ownership of a piece of land. At around 5:00, they locked in an altercation over the issue that led to a clash between the members of the two families. Arshed and four others were injured in the clash. They were taken to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) where Arshed died around 7:00 pm, police said.

Illegal structures demolished to free Karatoa in Bogra

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

The district administration yesterday demolished illegal structures on both sides of the Karatoa River.

The drive was conducted by a mobile court to free the river from encroachment.

Police, members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and other concerned bodies joined the drive led by executive magistrate Habibul Hasan Rumi.

Contacted, the magis-

trate said the illegal structures in Chelopara, Nababbari and Sutrapur areas of Bogra town were demolished at the instructions of the district administration.

The structures belonged to Majed Hossain, Motiar Rahman, Ananda Kumar, Farid Uddin, Sanjit Kumar and Jobaidul Islam.

Upon a writ petition filed by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA), a High Court bench comprising Justice Mirza Hussain

Haider and Justice AKM Zahirul Hoque ordered the concerned authorities on June 22 to immediately stop dumping and discharging of waste into the Karatoa River in Bogra and Gaibandha.

The court also issued a rule asking the authorities concerned to explain in four weeks why they should not be ordered to take necessary steps to protect the river from encroachment and pollution and restore its natural flow.



PHOTO: STAR

The district administration removes illegal structures on the Karatoa River at Chelopara in Bogra town yesterday.

AL infighting leaves one dead, 30 hurt in Magura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidaha

An Awami League (AL) activist was killed and 30 others were injured during a clash between two groups of the ruling party's local unit in Shatruijtpur union of Magura Sadar upazila yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Nannu Hossain, 40, of Rupdah-Sundarpur village in the upazila.

Police and locals said there had been a long-standing conflict between the two groups--one led by AL Shatruijtpur union unit vice president Salam Haji and the other by general secretary Eklas Hossain--over establishing supremacy in the union.

In the Sadar Upazila Parishad election held on July 21, the supporters of Salam Haji campaigned for AL-backed chairman candidate Rostom Ali while the supporters of Eklas Hossain campaigned on behalf of district AL vice-president Abu Nasir Bablu. Rostom Ali won the election.

The trouble began around 10:30am when some AL men belonging to the two rival groups locked in an altercation over the election issue at Rupdah-Sundarpur village. Hearing the news, the supporters of Salam and Eklas rushed to the spot and swooped on each other.

At least 31 people from both sides were injured during the clash that lasted for an hour. Of the injured, 20 were admitted to Magura Sadar Hospital where Nannu, a supporter of Eklas, succumbed to his injuries soon after admission. The rest of the injured were given first aid at the hospital.

At least 25 houses were looted and vandalised during the clash.

Sudarshan Kumar Roy, ASP of Magura Sadar Circle, said police had to fire rubber bullets and teargas shells to disperse the clashing groups. Additional police have been deployed there, he added.

Farm fish poisoned to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Miscreants poisoned to death about a hundred maunds of fish in a farm at Jaramnadi village in Sundarganj upazila under the district Wednesday night.

The miscreants poured pesticide into the fish farm of Tamizuddin of Jaramnadi village at dead of night, locals said, adding that all the fish died afloat due to the serious poisoning of the water.

The farm workers saw the horrible scene in the morning.

"The price of the fish would be around Tk 3 lakh. Most of the rotten fish has been dumped under the earth to prevent spread of bad smell," said Tamizuddin, owner of the fish farm.

A case was filed with Sundarganj police station.

None was arrested in this connection.



PHOTO: STAR

Around a hundred maunds of fish die afloat at a farm of Jaramnadi village in Sundarganj upazila under Gaibandha district as criminals poured insecticide there on Wednesday night.