

PATUAKHALI

# Salinity tolerant jute sees successful farming

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

A salinity-tolerant variety of jute sees successful cultivation in Kalapara upazila under the district, much to the happiness of farmers and agriculture officials.

"Once jute was cultivated in the area but the lands gradually became unfit for growing common varieties of jute due to increase of salinity. We invented a salinity tolerant variety of jute that has already been

approved by National Seed Board," Dr Mahmud Al Hossain, acting scientific officer of the Jute Research Institute at Pakhimara village in Kalapara upazila.

"We arranged cultivation of this new variety at farmers' level this year and initially about 25 acres of land of 250 farmers in five villages under the upazila have been brought under the cultivation of salinity tolerant jute.

"As the variety is growing

well, more farmers are showing interest to cultivate the cash crop. We have a plan to introduce salinity tolerant jute on vast areas as there is 1.55 lakh hectares of salinity-prone land in Patuakhali district.

"Besides, around 10 lakh six thousand hectares of land in 18 coastal districts remain uncultivated due to salinity. Cultivation of salinity tolerant jute there would bring good profit to farmers," he said.



PHOTO: STAR



Salinity tolerant jute sees successful cultivation on the land of Pakhimara Jute Research Institute in Kalapara upazila under Patuakhali district. Inset, jute researcher Mahmud Al Hossain.

## 5 to die for killing minor boy in Jamalpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

A court here yesterday sentenced five people to death for killing a minor boy after abduction in Sadar upazila in 2001.

The death penalty awardees are Tofayel Islam Hira, 35 his father Lokman Ali, 57, of Darihamidpur village; Anwar Hossain, 37, his father Aynul Haq, 60, and Sohel Rana alias Shipon, 36, of Nandina Kharkharia village in the upazila.

According to the prosecution, there was a family feud between Lokman and his

brother Lutfur Rahman. As a sequel to that, Lokman's son Hira with the help of Sohel and Anwar picked up Muttasim Billah, 7, son of Lutfur Rahman, an expatriate in USA, from in front of his house at Amlapara in the district town on May 31, 2001.

Later, they took Muttasim to Aynul's house at Nandina Kharkharia village and strangled him.

Following a general diary (GD) filed by Muttasim's family with Sadar Police Station, police arrested Shipon. On the basis of his confessional statement, law enforcers recovered

Muttasim's body from a room of Aynul's house 80 days after the murder.

Muttasim's maternal uncle filed a case, accusing with Jamalpur Police Station, accusing Hira, Lokman, Anwar, Aynul, Sohel, and Faruk. After investigation, police pressed charges against the six.

After examining the records and witnesses, Additional District and Sessions Judge Mohammmed Waheduzzaman Shikdar handed down the verdict, acquitting Faruk as allegation brought against him could not be proved.

Witnesses said the robbery gang, split into three groups, carried out the robbery in the Sylhet-bound vehicles around 8:00pm.

Policemen were present

near the spot but they did not take any steps to prevent the robbery, witnesses added.

Refuting the allegation, Delwar Hossain, officer-in-charge of Companiganj

handed down the verdict, acquitting Faruk as allegation brought against him could not be proved.

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