

Aloe vera, a plant with herbal qualities

Cultivation of the plant bears bright prospect for earning

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

Badsha Miah, a small farmer of Dulalia village in Chatail upazila under Tangail, now leads a somewhat solvent life with his six-member family by cultivating aloe vera, a medicinal plant, on a piece of land adjacent to his house.

Earlier he cultivated paddy on the same land but it did not bring that much profit.

Badsa collected 20,000 aloe vera saplings from Sherpur and Natore for Tk 40,000 and planted those on his 30 decimals of land in 2012.

"Bangla months of Baishakh and Jaishtha (mid-April to mid-June) are the best time to plant aloe vera and yield of leaves starts after 18 months of plantation. Moreover, each plant gives six to seven saplings as transformed trunk," said Badsa.

"The aloe vera leaves are thick and fleshy and I can harvest 30 to 35 maunds of leaves from the 20,000 plants in a month. I sell the leaves to the traders of Karwan Bazar in the capital at Tk 800 per maund."

"The business brings me Tk 15,000 to Tk 20,000 a month, after covering Tk 5,000 as production cost," he said.

Abdul Khalek of Prabari



PHOTO: STAR

Abdul Khalek nursing his aloe vera field at Porabari village in Tangail Sadar upazila.

in Tangail was found selling aloe vera juice to the people at Charabari Bazar for Tk 10 a glass.

"Earlier working as a handloom worker in other's factory I struggled to maintain my four-member family with the little income. Seeing a hawker earning well by selling aloe vera, I started farming the medicinal plant on my 10 decimals of land adjacent to my house four years ago."

"I started selling its juice two years ago. People like to

take it with hope to cure different diseases including costiveness and skin and urinary problems. Now I can earn Tk 300 to Tk 400 a day by selling the juice," he added.

Aloe vera leaves are used in producing cosmetics and medicines, said Mohammad Osman Gani, sub-assistant agriculture officer in Tangail Sadar upazila.

The cultivation of the plant can create employment opportunity for the

youth, he added.

Aloe vera is a tonic for human immune system and helps to fight illness in general, herbal doctors said.

Various research studies are underway to explore the potential of the aloe vera components to boost immunity and fight the HIV virus, treat certain types of cancer (particularly leukemia), and manage diabetes, they said.

Doctors, however, suggest taking aloe vera as per suggestion of the authorised medical practi-

SAIDPUR RAILWAY WORKSHOP

Staff make memorial with thrown away carriages, engines

Place wreaths in honour of 178 martyrs

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

Workers and officials of Saidpur Railway Workshop placed floral wreaths yesterday at the altar of their newly built memorial Adama Swadhinata in honour of the 178 martyrs of the workshop who were burnt alive by the barbaric Pakistan forces during the Liberation War.

From early morning of the 45th Victory Day yesterday, workers and officials began to assemble to place wreaths at the memorial beside the main gate of the workshop while the members of railway security force saluted.

It is a unique example of dedication and innovation as old and thrown away spare parts of rail engines and carriages were used to make the memorial in the shape of a running train.

Monjur-ul-Alam Choudhury, former divisional superintendent (DS) of the workshop, inspired the railway staff to build the memorial as he was deeply shocked to know how brutally the barbaric Pakistan army and their collaborators, mostly Biharis, killed the 178 people by throwing them into the burning furnace used to melt iron plates.

The 19-foot-high memorial, designed by a panel of railway staff, includes our National Flag made of steel plate at the top representing creation of the nation, said Nur Ahmed Hossain, present DS of the railway workshop.

Below the metallic national flag at the top, there is a miniature broiler and a red coloured burning furnace, serving as reminders of throwing of the railway workers and officers to be roasted alive by Pakistan army and their

collaborators.

At the left side is a rail engine attached with a gear indicating motion of a newborn nation and at its right, the shade (roof) of the railway workshop rising step by step is shown.

On a flat brass plate attached in the front there is inscription of the famous poem of late Shamsur Rahman, "Tomake pabar jonne hey swadhinata-----".

The workers and officials voluntarily built the memorial from their obligation to

have the post-independence generation realise how great sacrifices their forefathers made for freedom of this nation, said workshop DS Nur Ahmed Hossain.

Workers took part in building the memorial with thrown away materials like scrap MH plates of rail carriages, MH pipes used at coach floors, angles, old rusty rail tracks, old nuts, bolts etc to build the memorial, said Moksedul Momin, president of Saidpur Railway Workshop unit of Sramik League.



PHOTO: STAR

The martyrs' memorial built in honour of 178 workers and officers of Saidpur Railway Workshop, who were brutally killed by the Pakistan occupation forces and their local collaborators during the Liberation War.

Missing woman, schoolboy found dead

STAR COUNTRY DESK

A woman and a schoolboy were found dead in Mymensingh and Narayanganj districts yesterday and the day before.

Police recovered the body of a young woman from Sreepur village in Muktagachha upazila of Mymensingh on Tuesday, seven days into her missing, reports our correspondent.

The victim is Halima Akhter, 25, daughter of Janu Sheikh of Char Aadpakia village in the

upazila. Police and family sources said Halima went out of house on December 9 and since then, she did not return home.

Local people found the body at a bush in Sreepur village on Tuesday evening and informed the police.

The law enforcers rushed to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy, said Abu Mohammad Fazlul Karim,

officer-in-charge of Muktagachha Police Station. The reason behind the death will be known after getting the autopsy report, said the OC.

In Narayanganj, the law enforcers recovered the decomposed body of a missing schoolboy from a ditch in Itbhati area under Arahazar upazila of the district yesterday.

The dead is fourth grader Ismail Hossain Riad, 11, son of Md Firoj of the area, reports our correspondent.

On Friday, Riad went out of house to go to a local mosque for Islamic studies and since then he remained missing.

Yesterday noon, locals found the body in the area and informed the police.

The law enforcers then rushed to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to Narayanganj General Hospital morgue for autopsy, said OC Md Sakhawat Hossain of Arahazar Police Station.

Riad might have been killed after abduction, said police.

Robbers loot valuables from teachers, students

UNB, Laxmipur

Robbers looted valuables worth Tk 3.5 lakh from a group of students and teachers of Laxmipur Polytechnic Institute after injuring 10 of them in Brahmanbaria Sadar upazila early yesterday.

Police said some 120 students and teachers of the institution went on an education tour to Sylhet from Laxmipur in two buses and a microbus on Monday.

While returning to Laxmipur, a gang of robbers intercepted their microbus near Brahmanbaria police camp.

The robbers looted cash, mobile phones and other valuables after taking them hostage at gunpoint and beating up 10 students and a teacher, leaving them injured.

Akul Chandra Biswas, officer-in-charge of Brahmanbaria Sadar Police Station, said police arrested five of the robbers.

Man held in arson case in Joypurhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Police yesterday arrested a village doctor in a case for torching a truck in Joypurhat Sadar upazila in the district.

The arrestee is Abdur Rahim, 70, locally known as rajakar Rahim, of Koro Chawkpara village in the upazila.

Police said Rahim incited people to torch a potato loaded truck on Hitchmi-Madhainagar road at the village on January 26 this year.

In Satkhira, the law enforcers in separate drives arrested 19 people, including two activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir, from different parts of the district in the last two days, reports UNB.

BSF hands over two Bangladeshis

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Indian Border Security Forces (BSF) handed over two Bangladeshi youths to Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) on Tuesday hours after they had been detained for crossing the border illegally through Chilmary border in Daulatpur upazila.

The detainees, Alauddin Ali, 35, a Chowkidar (watchman) of Chilmary Union Parishad, and Dulal Hossain, 30, who drives his motorbike on rental basis, are residents of Bhagjoti village in the upazila.

Chilmary Camp Commander Nayek Subedar Zakir Hossain of BGB 47 Battalion, said a BSF team from Charbhadra Camp in Murshidabad district of Paschim Banga, India, detained the two from near border pillar No-85/12 (r) when they crossed the border line mistakenly on their motorbike around 1:30am.

Businessmen

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Security Press in Nashik. We are planning to launch it by April 1 next year," a senior Home Ministry official yesterday said.

During the Saarc summit in Kathmandu last year, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced business visas with 3-5 years' validity for citizens of all Saarc nations. The step was aimed at boosting regional trade across South Asia.

Among the citizens of Saarc countries, citizens of Nepal and Bhutan do not require any visa to enter India.

V-DAY CELEBRATION IN DISTRICTS



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PHOTO: STAR

Students' artistic display at 1) Rafiq Uddin Bhuiyan Stadium in Mymensingh town, 2) Pirojpur Stadium, 3) Shah Abdul Hamid Stadium in Gaibandha town, 4) Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra town, and march past in 5) Chapainawabganj Stadium and 6) Thakurgaon Government Boys' High School ground on the 45th Victory Day yesterday.