



Jalaluddin nursing his brinjal field at Bohorom village in Ranihat union of Chapainawabganj Sadar upazila. Applying bagging method, an effective alternative to the use of chemical pesticides, he has started getting good yield this season.

PHOTO: STAR

Eco-friendly bags to protect brinjal from pests

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

A farmer of Sadar upazila in the district is using environment-friendly bagging method, an effective alternative to the use of chemical pesticides, at his brinjal field this season.

Jalaluddin, 58, of Bahorom village in Ranihat union of Sadar upazila, became interested in using the specialised bags, imported by a local businessman from China, following its successful application in different mango orchards of

Chapainawabganj district last year.

The alternative method appears as a blessing against the backdrop of random use of pesticides and fungicides that threaten ecological balance and public health, said scientists of the Regional Horticulture Research Station, Chapainawabganj.

"I came to know about the bagging method from a local agriculture officer and bought the bags, each for Tk 3. I planted brinjal on 15 decimals of land by spending only Tk 5,000 and,"

Jalaluddin said during this correspondent's visit to his field on Friday.

"I stopped spraying chemical pesticides after bagging the fruits for the first time this year. Knowing the matter, people buy the brinjal at Tk 20 per kg while it is selling for Tk 12 to 15 in the local market.

"I earned about Tk 15,000 by selling brinjal in last one and a half months. I expect to earn Tk 15,000 to 20,000 more from the same field this season," Jalal said.

"I have become a buyer of

Jalal's brinjal as it is free from chemicals, said Durul Huda, chairman of Ranihat union parishad.

When the brinjal reaches two to three days, the bags are put on the fruits and remain so till the harvest. The same bag can be used several times after harvesting the crop.

By protecting brinjal from diseases and pests, the cheaper and safer method will boost the quality of yield, said Dr Sorof Uddin, senior scientific officer of Regional Horticulture Research Station.

Tree felling rampant at govt forest in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Trees are allegedly being felled in the forests in Bhaluka upazila of Mymensingh district and processed at sawmills located nearby.

Over 50 sawmills are located in the forest areas of the upazila, including 12 adjacent to the National Park at Kadirgrah, locals said.

Having an alleged nexus with a section of officials and employees of the forest department, unscrupulous people have been plundering gazari and akashmoni trees in Bhaluka forest, they said. The destruction of trees has driven away forest wild-

life due to loss of their habitats, locals said.

In 2010, the government declared 80.50 acres of land of Kadirgrah and Palgaon areas as a National Park and protected area to save the gazari trees, wildlife and birds from extinction. As part of the afforestation programme, the government also planted akashmoni trees in the forest, sources said.

Meanwhile, some 10 sawmills have been set up by vested groups at Kadirgrah, Kachina, Batajor, Palgaon, Tamat and Dhakuria villages, within five kilometres of the national park, where plundered trees are being sawed openly. But the con-

cerned authorities have not taken any steps to check the activities, which have been going on for years, it was also alleged.

Taking advantage of the situation, many furniture shops have opened in the area, sources said.

Md Abu Taher, beat officer of Kadirgrah Beat in Bhaluka Range, said many people also planted Akashmoni trees in their homesteads for financial gain along with the government.

Md Saidur Rahman, beat officer of Hobarbari Beat, said he had informed the district administration about the illegal sawmills several times, but they are

yet to be evicted.

Both officials denied plundering forest trees or there being any involvement of forest staff in the racket.

Admitting the presence of illegal sawmills in the forest area, Md Sakhawat Hossain, assistant land commissioner of Bhaluka, said he conducted a mobile court four months ago and fined a sawmill. Massive drives will be conducted soon to evict sawmills from forest areas, the official said.

Gobinda Roy, divisional forest officer of Mymensingh, said necessary action against the owners of sawmills in the forest area would be taken soon.



Huge quantities of logs, obtained from illegally felled trees of a protected forestland in Bhaluka upazila under Mymensingh district, lie on the premises of a saw mill at Batajor in Bhaluka.

PHOTO: STAR

BSF detains Bangladeshi farmer

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) detained a Bangladeshi farmer at Kamalpur frontier under Shibganj upazila of the district yesterday.

He is Salim Mia, 27, son of Lt Col Jahid Hasan, commanding officer (CO) of BGB-43 Battalion in Naogaon, said Salim Mia, 27, son of Fazlur Rahman of Shialmara village in the upazila, crossed the border mistakenly when he went to work in his land near border pillar No 190 at around 9:00am.

BSF personnel of Pajbari camp caught Salim and handed him over to the Indian police.

5 stolen bikes recovered, 4 arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Detectives arrested four members of an organised inter-district gang of motorbike lifters from Dhaka and Gazipur early yesterday.

The arrestees are Abdul Jalil, 35, Rafiqul Islam alias Mamun, 30, Sohagh Miah, 30, and Murad Munshi, 30.

On information, a team of the Detective Branch (DB) of Police, led by sub-inspectors Molo Chakraborty and Shahidul Islam, raided different areas of Uttara in Dhaka and Gazipur and arrested the four, said Imdad Hossain Gazi, officer-in-charge (OC) of DB, Mymensingh.

Police also recovered five stolen motorbikes from their possession.

During primary investigation, the arrestees confessed their involvement in stealing of the bikes, the OC said.

The arrestees were produced before a Mymensingh court in the afternoon seeking a 10-day remand for each.

Without fixing the date for hearing on the remand prayer, the court sent them to jail, police said.

Drug addict stabs wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A housewife sustained severe stab injuries in an attack by her drug-addict husband over a family feud at Nauri village in Ishwarganj upazila of the district yesterday.

The victim, Jharna Begum, 23, wife of Tara Mia, 28, of the village, is now undergoing treatment at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

Local people caught Tara from the spot and later handed him over to the police.

Police said the couple often used to engage in altercation over Tara's drug addiction.

An altercation took place between the two when Tara returned home in a drunken state around 10:00am. At one stage, Tara started stabbing Jharna indiscriminately with a sharp weapon.

Hearing screams, villagers rushed to the spot and caught Tara from there, Officer-in-Charge Borhan Uddin of Ishwarganj Police Station said.

Two drug addicts jailed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A mobile court jailed two drug addicts for six months each for taking Yaba at Shalmara village in Aditmari upazila of the district on Monday night.

The convicts are Hanif Miah, 24, son of late Abdus Sobhan, and Madhu Miah, 25, son of Abdul Karim. Both are residents of the village.

A mobile court led by Aditmari UNO Jahurul Islam, arrested Hanif Miah and Madhu while they were taking Yaba, police said.

Housewife tortured for 'dowry' hospitalised

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

A newly married housewife was tortured by her mother-in-law and other members of the family, allegedly for dowry, at Karnapur village under Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila on Monday evening.

The victim was admitted to Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital.

"My hands were tied, and I was tortured by my mother-in-law Sakhina Begum. My husband, father-in-law and three other members of the family were present but they didn't protest or try to save me," the victim said at the hospital at noon yesterday. "I was tortured as my parents didn't pay the due money after four months of marriage," she added.

The victim, Nurjahan Akhter, 20, is daughter of

Noor Islam of Purbo Bhelabari village in Aditmari upazila of the district.

Nurjahan was married to Nabirul Islam, 28, son of Jasimuddin of Karnapur village in Mogholhat union of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, four months ago. The bridegroom and his family members demanded Tk 1,50,000 as dowry, but the bride's family paid only Tk 15,000.

"The bridegroom and his family members demanded the rest of the amount but I didn't respond to them as they arranged the marriage ceremony willingly after choosing our daughter Nurjahan," said Noor Islam. "It was not possible to pay the dowry demanded, and it is not possible at present as I'm a day labourer living hand to mouth," he added.

"After one month of our marriage, I became victim of torturing over the due money. My husband, his parents and other members of the family tortured me physically and mentally every day, but I tolerated it as I know my parents are poor," Nurjahan said. "I wanted to go my parents' house but my mother-in-law didn't allow me," she added.

Contacted over mobile phone, Nabirul Islam said his wife was tortured as she tried to divide the family, but she was not tortured for dowry. "My mother got angry when she was attacked by my wife," he said.

Noor-e-Ferdousi, the on-duty doctor in Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital, said Nurjahan was tortured physically, and she is now under treatment at the hospital.

Picnic boat robbed, 10 people injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Armed robbers stabbed 10 co-travellers and took away cash, cell-phone sets and other valuables from the Meghna River in Narayanganj while a boat carrying 80/85 participants of a picnic party was returning from Chandpur on Monday night.

Of them, Hridoy, 16,

Babu, 28, and Jafar, 28, all hailing from Narayanganj district, were first treated at Munshiganj General Hospital and later shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital the same night.

"A gang of 5/6 robbers on a boat stopped our boat in Sambhupura area of Narayanganj and began to stab the people on board

indiscriminately to create panic," said Mithu, one of the organisers of the picnic party.

"They robbed Tk 1.5 lakh and 80/85 mobile sets from us and fled the scene with the booty, he said.

After returning to their destination, the organisers of party held boatman Safiuddin and handed him over to the police.



PHOTO: STAR

Physically challenged SSC examinee Arifa Akhter, 16, and her parents pose with Robin Khan, director of Rangpur Group, as the latter went to their Khorarpur Shahitiri village home in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila yesterday, gave some monetary help and assured taking responsibility of her educational expenses, following a report published in The Daily Star the same day. Arifa, also struggling with poverty, had achieved GPA-5, the highest grade, in her Junior School Certificate Examinations.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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Request for Expressions of Interest for Selection of Consulting Firm (Lump-sum)

EOI Ref. No. 263/CZ Date: 31/01/2016

The Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, RHD, Chittagong Zone, Sarak Bhaban, Agrabad, Chittagong has been allocated public funds from the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GoB) toward the cost of Revenue Budget, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of these funds to payments under the contract for the provision of consultancy services for the project by a Consulting Firm (National).

The services include:
Consultancy services for feasibility study and detailed design (road, bridges & culverts) for proposed road Eidmony to Chowfaldandi Bridge approach (approximate length 18.00km to 25.00km) under Cox's Bazar Road Division.

The experience, resources and delivery capacity required are a) The consulting firm shall have experience as prime consultant for at least 01 (one) number similar type of service (feasibility study with detailed design for proposed road) during the last ten years b) General information including legal documents i.e. company registration/trade license, TIN & VAT registration certificate, income tax certificate etc. c) List of similar nature of services completed and in progress d) Relevant experienced and professional qualified personnel & staffs e) Availability of resources to carryout the assignment f) Administrative strength, logistics and financial capability g) The financial capability should be shown as financial turnover supported by a registered Audit Firm for the last three years. The REOI would be reviewed on the basis of the following: i) Registration of firm ii) Availability of key professionals with CV's iii) Turnover of the consulting firm iv) Experience of the firm(s) in similar tasks v) History of litigation (if any) in courts or any arbitrations proceedings vi) List of award winning project by consultancy firm.

The Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, RHD, Chittagong Zone, Sarak Bhaban, Agrabad, Chittagong now invites eligible applicants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants are invited to provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar operating conditions, availability of appropriate professional qualification and experience among staff, etc.). Applicants may associate with other applicants to enhance their qualifications, and though not mandatory, association with foreign firms is not encouraged in this instance.

A consultant will be selected using the Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) procurement method in accordance with the Public Procurement Rules 2008 issued by the GoB. It is expected that consultancy services for feasibility study and detailed design (Road, bridges & culverts) for the processed road Eidmony to Chowfaldandi Bridge Approach under Cox's Bazar Road Division will be commenced in March, 2016 at Cox's Bazar and shall be completed in June, 2016.

Interested applicants may obtain further information by applying to the address below during normal office hours.

Expression of Interest shall be submitted by 3.00pm on 01/03/2016, in sealed envelope delivered to Additional Chief Engineer, RHD, Sarak Bhaban, Agrabad, Chittagong and be clearly marked "REOI for selection of a consulting firm for providing consulting services for feasibility study and detailed design for the proposed road Eidmony to Chowfaldandi Bridge approach under Cox's Bazar Road Division". The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all EOIs.

Bidhan Chandra Dhar
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Chittagong Zone, Chittagong