

Bottle gourd farming boon for Meherpur farmers

AMANUR AMAN, Back from MEHERPUR

Hundreds of farmers in Meherpur are happy to make good profit by farming bottle gourd this year. Due to favourable weather, low labour cost and high demand, farming of the popular item is increasing day by day in the district.

According to the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), farmers of around 30 villages in the district cultivated bottle gourd on around 475 bighas of land this year. This is 125 bighas more than last year.

The farmers have now captured the markets across the country, DAE sources said.

Robiul Islam, a 43-year-old farmer at Madna village in Sadar upazila of the district, has been farming bottle gourd for the last seven or eight years. This correspondent talked to him at Benagari field where he farmed bottle gourd on three bighas of land. "I have been lucky farming this vegetable," Robiul said.

According to Robiul, he went to a foreign country selling his two bighas of land 10 years back, but had to return to Bangladesh with empty hands within two years.

"Bottle gourd farming has given me three bighas within five years," Robiul said.

Farmers of Madandanga, Amjhupi, Subidpur, Chandbill, Teghoria shared this view.



PHOTO: STAR

A bottle gourd field in Meherpur Sadar upazila.

Abul Kashem, an assistant teacher of Gopalpur High School in Amjhupi union, is known as a good vegetable-grower in the area. He has cultivated bottle gourd on five bighas of land. "People, especially marginal farmers, are being benefited by gourd farming in this area," Kashem said.

According to Kashem, a lot of farmers have become solvent within two or three years of bottle gourd farming. Many have built houses, many have bought more land and many are sending their kids to school.

Farmers said their product is being sent to different areas including Dhaka, Chittagong, Barisal and Gopalganj.

According to DAE offi-

cial and the farmers, bottle gourd farming gradually gained popularity in the areas in the last seven or eight years.

Suitable weather, low production cost and good demand inspired the farmers. Early harvesting ensures a handsome price for the commercial growers. The farmers are using different varieties of seeds, they added.

AKM Kamruzzaman, agriculture officer of Meherpur Sadar upazila, said production cost of bottle gourd on one bigha is Tk 10,000 on average, and the return is Tk 40,000 to Tk 45,000.

The official said farmers need to use fertilisers like urea, TSP, MP and gypsum,

which have to be purchased. But farmers mostly use locally processed cowdung as manure in producing the vegetable, which keeps the production cost low. "It doesn't require much pesticide," said the official.

According to nutrition specialists, bottle gourd is a popular vegetable across the world due to its high nutrition value.

Dipak Kumar Paul, a professor of Applied Food and Nutrition Department of Kushtia Islamic University, said green bottle gourds are used as curry. The leaves and tender stem are also used as delicious and nutritious vegetables. It is an easily digestible vegetable which keeps the body cool and prevents constipation.

Motorbike lifter killed in mob beating

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A motorbike lifter was beaten to death by an angry mob in Kanhor area on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in Mymensingh's Trishal upazila on Tuesday night.

The victim was identified as Hafizur Rahman, 30, son of Nurul Islam Munshi of Vollah village in Kalihati upazila of Tangail district.

Quoting local people, Md Moniruzzaman, officer-in-charge of Trishal Police Station, said the incident took place when a gang of three was fleeing after lifting a motorbike from the area around 7:30pm.

As a hue and cry was raised in the area, locals chased the gang. At one stage, the gang members opened fire, injuring a youth, the OC said.

After a long chase, locals caught one of the gang members and beat him up mercilessly. He died on the spot, police said.

However, two other gang members managed to flee the scene, leaving the motorbike, police said.

On information, police rushed to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to MMCH morgue for autopsy.

Police also recovered a pistol and the motorbike from the spot.

A case was lodged with Trishal Police Station. None was arrested in connection with the killing, the OC said.

The youth, Al Amin, 18, son of brick field labourer Tota Miah, was admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) with bullet wounds in his back, police said.

ATTACK ON NOOR'S MOTORCADE 42 more BNP-Jamaat men sent to jail on surrender

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

The Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court in the district ordered sending 42 more BNP-Jamaat men to jail rejecting their bail prayers after they surrendered to the court in the case for attack on the motorcade of Asaduzzaman Noor, the then lawmaker of Nilphamari-2 constituency, on December 14 in 2013.

Of the accused, 34 Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) activists surrendered to the court yesterday noon while the rest Jamaat men to it on Monday, said Court Inspector Sukumar Mohonta.

The BNP activists include Rafiqul Islam, vice president of Laxmichap union unit of the party in Sadar upazila, and Sakimuddin, former president of the same union.

The Jamaat men include prime accused Abu Helal, general secretary of district unit of the party, and Abdul Malek Kazi, ameer of Tupamari union unit of Jamaat.

The attackers on the motorcade of Asaduzzaman Noor, also present lawmaker and minister for cultural affairs, killed four activists of ruling Awami League's front organisation at Ramganj Haat of Tupamari union of Nilphamari Sadar upazila.

The investigation officer of the case, sub-inspector Mostafizur Rahman submitted charge sheet in Chief Judicial Magistrate's

Court on March 15 accusing the 207 people, all involved with the politics of BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami and their front organisations.

On the night of December 12 in 2013, several thousand BNP-Jamaat activists protesting the execution of war criminal Jamaat's assistant secretary general Abdul Kader Molla attacked the houses of minority Hindu community in several villages of Polashbari and Laxmichap unions in Sadar upazila, mentioned the charge sheet.

Upon arrival from Dhaka on December 14, Asaduzzaman Noor in a motorcade went to visit the houses of affected people and gave them some assistance.

At the time of his returning, several thousand BNP and Jamaat activists attacked his motorcade at Ramganj Haat of Tupamari union under Sadar upazila.

The attackers killed Md Khorshed Alam, president of Tupamari union unit of Krishak League, local Jubo League activists Forhad Hossen and Lebu and Chhatra League activist Murad Hossen.

On the same night, Babul Akhtar, officer in charge (Investigation) of Sadar Police Station, filed a case mentioning names of 14 people and 150 unnamed ones as accused.

Dead bodies of first, second and seventh of the 14 named accused were found in Nilphamari and Bogra districts within a few days.



PHOTO: STAR

Activists of Awami League (AL) demonstrate blocking Munshiganj-Srinagar road in Kola union of Sirajdikhan upazila under Munshiganj district yesterday protesting the party's nomination as the chairman candidate in the upcoming union parishad election to a person who recently joined AL from BNP.

2 Benapole customs officials injured by BCL men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Two high officials of Benapole Customs House were injured in an attack allegedly by the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) during the auctioning work at the office yesterday noon.

The injured officials are Joint Commissioner Mostafizur Rahman and Deputy Commissioner Nitis Chandra of Benapole Customs House.

"A group of activists of Benapole unit of Chhatra League locked in an altercation with the joint commissioner about the auction work. At one stage they attacked him. When we tried to save our boss, I and two other officers also came under attack," said Nitis Chandra.

Demanding arrest of the attackers, Benapole Customs Officers Association brought out a procession, held a meeting and started work abstention.

In the afternoon they formed a human chain.

The deputy commissioner

and the superintendent of police of the district visited the spot.

"Informed, the police rushed to the spot and chased off the attackers. Joint Commissioner Mostafizur Rahman filed a case with Benapole Land Port Police Station against six named ones and 22 others in connection with

the incident," said Apurbo Hasan, officer in charge of the police station.

Additional policemen were deployed to avert further unwanted incident in the area.

Anwar Hossain Bipul, secretary of Jessore district unit of Chhatra League, claimed that their activists were not involved with the incident.



PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Officials of the customs house in Benapole land port close the main gate of the office as they start work abstention yesterday demanding arrest of the attackers who had injured two high officials of the house the same day.

SNIPPETS

MP Liton's bail extended again

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A court here yesterday further extended interim bail of Manjurul Islam Liton, ruling party lawmaker from Gaibandha-1 constituency, till March 7 in a case for shooting a schoolboy of Sundarganj upazila in the district. Senior Judicial Magistrate Muniruzzaman Sikder passed the order when Liton appeared before the court with a petition seeking permanent bail, said advocate Sirajul Islam Babu, the lawmaker's lawyer.

Woman beaten to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A woman was killed allegedly by her drug addict husband at Ashkur village in Gobindganj upazila of the district on Tuesday. The deceased is Anjuara Begum, 35, wife of Monir Hossain of the village. In the evening, Monir beat Anjuara mercilessly, leaving her dead on the spot following an altercation. The law enforcers later arrested Monir in this connection, said Mozammel Huq, officer-in-charge of Gobindganj Police Station.

4 Dakhil invigilators fined

UNB, Chuadanga

A mobile court here on Tuesday fined four invigilators Tk 1000 each for helping examinees adopt unfair means during Dakhil examinations. The court, led by Executive Magistrate Munibur Rahman, imposed the fine on the four on-duty teachers at Chuadanga Alia Madrasa centre 12 noon. Shafiuddin of Dingadah Dakhil Madrasah, Idris Ali of Hazrahati Dakhil Madrasah, Ashrafur Islam of Begumpur Madrasa and Muktar Hossain of Shorabaria Dakhil Madrasa were found assisting the examinees in cheating in the English 2nd paper examination just when Executive Magistrate Munibur Rahman entered the centre.

17 gamblers held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested 17 gamblers from Birganj upazila in the district early yesterday. They also seized a microbus and Tk 1.34 lakh from their possession. The arrestees are Nur Hossain, 40, Taken Das, 30, Rezaul Islam, 38, Emran, 35, Nabab Ali, 30, Aminul Islam, 38, Aminul Islam, 38, Md Jashim, 34, Sushil Roy, 40, Md Rubel, 35, Mashful Hossain, 35, Enamul Haque, 40, Md Ishrafil, 40, Md Pappu, 25, Md Mostaque, 37, Monirul Islam, 25, and Md Farukh Hossain, 30, said police.

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INVITATION FOR TENDERS

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Sl. No.	Procuring Entity	Tender Name	Price of Tender Document	Eligibility of Tenderers	Time for completion of the work	Amount of Tender security	Name and address of the office from where tender documents will be obtained & to be dropped.	Last date & time for selling tender document.	Last date & time for tender submission	Date and time for tender opening	Special Instructions
1.	Pubali Bank Limited, Establishment Division, Head Office, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.										
2.		i) Civil, Electrical & Networking works at Present Premises of Kushtia Branch, Kushtia. ii) Civil, Electrical & Networking works at Present Premises of Saidpur Branch, Nilphamari. iii) Enlistment for Civil, Electrical, Signboard work and supply, & installation of Air-cooler, Security Item, Furniture and different types of works at Pubali Bank Limited. iv) Supply, installation & Commissioning of New 10 KVA to 15 KVA (Prime) capacity of Diesel Generator at CDA Corporate Branch, Chittagong. v) Supply, installation & commissioning of Brand New Air Coolers at (a) Daulatgonj Branch, Comilla, (b) Mohila College Branch, Sylhet.	Tk.2,500/- (Tk. Two thousand five hundred) only for Sl. No. (i), Tk.1,200/- (Tk. One thousand two hundred) only for Sl. No.(ii), Tk.500/- (Tk. Five hundred) only for Sl. No. (iii), (iv) & (v) each (non-refundable).	i) Minimum work experience of 3(Three) years in Building renovation/interior works for Sl. No. (i) & (ii) and in AC for Sl. No. (v) and in similar nature of works for Sl. No. (iii) & (iv). ii) The tenderer must have experience during 3 (Three) years in completion of work(s) in same nature costing minimum Tk. 30.00(Thirty) Lac in a single work order for Sl. No. (i) & (ii) and 12.00(Twelve) Lac in a single work order for Sl. No. (v). iii) Having valid trade license, up to date Income Tax clearance certificate and VAT registration certificate (copy to be submitted). iv) Must be financially solvent (solveny certificate to be submitted).	30(Thirty) Calendar days for Sl. No. (i), (ii), (iv) & (v) (who are not capable to do the works in the schedule time need not participate)	2.5% of total bid amount in the form of Payment Order favouring Pubali Bank Limited, Head Office, Dhaka - 1000. "No tender will be considered without tender Security (Earnest money)".	Pubali Bank Limited, Establishment Division (12th floor), Head Office, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka - 1000.	Up to 6.00 PM (BST) on 25.02.2016	Up to 11.15 AM (BST) on 28.02.2016	At 11.30 AM (BST) on 28.02.2016 in presence of bidder (if any)	i) Tender document along with an MS Excel Calculation sheet to be submitted in sealed envelope. ii) Pubali Bank Limited reserves the right to accept partly or fully any quotation or reject any or all quotations without assigning any reason whatsoever and is not bound to accept the lowest quotation. iii) Lowest price is not the only criteria to accept the bid. Quality job with competitive price shall be appreciated.

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INVITATION FOR TENDER(IFT)

For Engineering Equipment (Specialized IT Equipment for Fabrication Lab)

Name of Project	Fabrication Lab for the Department of Architecture, BRAC University, under (HEQEP-AIF R3-CP 3061)
Source of Fund	Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP)
Tender Package No.	GI
IFT Ref. no and Date	ARC-BRACU/AIF/CP-3061/OTM-GI/2016
Name of Tender	Supply & Installation of Engineering Equipment's (Specialized IT equipment's: CNC Router, Laser Cutter, 3D Scanner, 3D Printer & Accessories) for Fabrication Lab.
Time of Delivery	As per Tender Documents
Price of the Tender Documents	BDT 1000.00 (non-refundable)
Tender Security	As per Tender Documents
Tender Document Available	Accounts Department of BRAC University University Building # 06, 6th Floor, 49 Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh Telephone: 04478444044
Date and Time for Selling Documents	22 February to 6 March between 09.00 am to 3.00 pm Except Friday and Saturday
Tender Dropping Place, Date and Time	Procurement Department of BRAC University University Building # 03, Ground Floor, 41, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212 7 March, 2016 between 10.00 am to 3.00 pm
Tender Opening Place, Date and Time	Fabrication Lab of Department of Architecture, BRAC University, Building # 04, 9th Floor, 44, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh 7 March, 2016 at 03.30 pm

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