

Boro sapling sale falls in Lalmonirhat

Many farmers switching to other crops due to low price of paddy

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Boro sapling markets in the district see much less than expected buyers during the ongoing peak cultivation season as farmers are losing interest in the cultivation due to low market prices of paddy.

"I returned home with 125 bundles of boro saplings from Durakuti market as I didn't get any buyer after waiting for three hours," said Mafidul Islam, 50, a farmer of Shalmara village of Bhalabari union in Aditmarri upazila.

"For the last ten years, I have been buying and selling boro saplings at different markets in greater Rangpur region but the business is dull due to shortage of customers this year," said Noor Jamal Miah, 45, at Nababherhat in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

"Now we are selling one maund of paddy for Tk 500-520 although the production cost was Tk 600-620. Why will we cultivate paddy if we have to sell the produce below the production cost?" said Tobarak Ali, 58, of Durakuti village in the same upazila.

Harendra Nath Barman, 60, of Harati village in the upazila said he has prepared



PHOTO: STAR

The paddy sapling market at Durakuti in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila sees only a few customers during the ongoing peak boro cultivation season as the number of paddy growers has reduced due to low market prices of the crop this year.

three bighas of land for boro farming although it was eight bighas last year.

"As I earlier sustained loss in paddy farming, now I cultivate the crop only to meet the family need," he said.

Delowar Hossain, 62, a farmer of Falimari village in Aditmarri upazila, said this season he does not need

paddy saplings as he has switched to other crops.

Officials of the Department of Agricultural Extension said they have targeted boro cultivation on 51,767 hectares of land in five upazilas of the district and half of the land area has been brought under the paddy cultivation so far.

It seems the target of boro

farming will not be achieved in the district this season, locals said.

Admitting the situation, Lalmonirhat Sadar Upazila Agriculture Officer Enamul Haque said farmers are losing interest to grow boro paddy due to low market prices of the crop this year.

Cattle trader 'shot dead' by BSF

UNB, Kushtia

A Bangladeshi cattle trader was shot dead and another injured allegedly by members of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) in Mohammadpur Dangerpara area of Daulatpur upazila on Monday night.

The deceased was identified as Mamun, 25, son of Moho Ali of Dangerpara village.

Witnesses said BSF members from Sarkarpara camp in Murshidabad opened fire at a group of cattle traders numbering 4-5 while the latter were entering India around 8:30am.

Family members of Mamun claimed that Mamun died on the spot during the firing and Alim received bullet injuries when he tried to bring back Mamun's body.

Lt Col Azad, commanding officer of BGB Battalion-47, said they had heard that the body of the deceased was in Indian territory while injured Alim went missing after the incident.

BGB has sent a letter to BSF, protesting the incident.

Pre-UP poll clashes leave 23 hurt in Patuakhali

House of BNP nominated candidate vandalised in Jessore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

At least 23 people were injured in clashes over upcoming union parishad (UP) elections slated for March 22 in Baufal and Dashmina upazilas of the district in the last two days.

Of them, four were sent to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital with serious injuries.

The injured include three siblings Sumon, 25, Noman, 22, and Sakib, 30, of Dhulia village in Baufal upazila, and Md Sohel, 18, of Arojbeji village in Dashmina upazila.

Police and locals said around 11:00am yesterday, a group of Awami League men attacked the three siblings, supporters of BNP-nominated Dhulia UP chairman candidate Abdul Jabbar, leaving them seriously injured in Fultala

Kheyaghat area in Baufal upazila when they were returning home from nearby Kalishuri Bazar. The injured were later rushed to the hospital.

"When we reached the area, a gang of 20/25, led by AL backed UP chairman candidate Abdur Rob hacked us," said Sumon, one of the injured.

In Dashmina upazila, at least 20 people were injured in a clash between the two factions of AL in the upazila town on Monday night.

At least eight business establishments were ransacked during the incident, said police.

The clash took place when the supporters of AL nominated chairman candidate Goutan Roy and AL rival candidate for Dashmina UP tried to gather in front of the upazila party office.

On information, police rushed to the spot and

brought the situation under control, said Additional Superintendent of Police Md Foyez Ahmed.

In Jessore, criminals vandalised the house of BNP nominated UP chairman candidate SM Moshir Rahman in Monirampur upazila of the district yesterday, reports our Benapole correspondent.

Police and locals said a gang allegedly led by rival candidate Moniruzzaman Monir's younger brother attacked the residence of Moshir Rahman, incumbent chairman of Shyamkur Union Parishad in the upazila, as he along with his supporters were busy filing up nomination paper for the upcoming UP polls.

Later, Moshir informed the upazila nirbahi officer and Monirampur police about the matter.

SNIPPETS

Schoolgirl electrocuted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A schoolgirl was electrocuted in Charbata union under Subarnachar upazila of the district yesterday. The deceased was identified as Riya Akhter, 15, daughter of Abdul Baten Khokon of Punu Haji Bari in the union, and a student of Class IX of Charbata RG High School in the upazila. The victim's father said Riya was electrocuted when she went to turn off the electric switch.

15 auto-rickshaws burnt

UNB, Laxmipur

Fifteen CNG-run auto-rickshaws were burnt as the gas cylinder of an auto-rickshaw exploded at Charchamita Bazar in Sadar upazila of the district early yesterday. Monayem Hossain, an officer at Laxmipur Fire Service Station, said the explosion occurred around 3:30am at a garage of Momin Ullah in the area. On information, a firefighting unit rushed in and brought the fire under control, the officer said.

54 robbers held in Sundarbans

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Coastguard members arrested 54 alleged forest robbers from Kokilmoni area near the Sundarbans in Sharankhola upazila of Bagerhat district on Monday, says a press release. A team of the coastguards, acting on a tip-off, raided the area on the Pashur River and arrested the 54 robbers along with an engine-driven boat. The law enforcers also seized six machetes and five knives from their possession. The arrestees were later handed over to Dangmari forest officer, added the press release.

Fire guts 14 shops

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A fire gutted at least fourteen business establishments at Balla Bazar in Kalihati upazila of the district on Monday night. The fire originated from an electric short circuit at a tailoring shop at the market around 10:30pm and soon engulfed 13 other adjacent shops, Chand Mahmud, chairman of local union parishad, said. On information, a fire fighting unit from Tangail town rushed to the spot and brought the blaze under control. The affected shop owners claimed that the extent of losses caused by the fire could go up to Tk 1.5 crore.

Rapist gets life

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A court here yesterday sentenced a youth to life imprisonment for raping a teenage girl at Dhamswar village under Daulatpur upazila of the district. The convict is Akhil Chandra Rajbangshi, 30, son of Subol Chandra Rajbangshi of the village in the upazila. The court also fined him Tk 10 thousand. In default, he is to suffer one year more in jail, court sources said. According to the prosecution, Akhil raped the girl while she was returning home around 10:00pm after watching television at a neighbour's house on June 14, 2008. The victim later filed a rape case with the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal in Manikganj, accusing Akhil. After examining the witnesses, Judge Hasina Raushan Jahan handed down the verdict.

3 youths stabbed

UNB, Chuadanga

Three people, including two siblings, were stabbed in Sadar and Alamdanga upazilas on Monday night. In Sadar upazila, BCL activist Sajal, son of Zahurul Ali and an activist of Bangladesh Chhatra League, was injured when his rivals stabbed him at Satgari village at around 9:00pm. He was admitted to Sadar Hospital. In Alamdanga upazila, criminals stabbed two siblings - Mohsin and Abu Musa - at Gupinagar village over previous enmity, leaving them seriously injured. They were also admitted to the Sadar Hospital.

CLASH OVER CRICKET MATCH

One killed, 25 hurt in Faridpur

A CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A man was killed and 25 others were injured in a clash between two groups of villagers yesterday over a cricket match at Baliachora village in Bhanga upazila.

The deceased is Jamal Sheikh, 38, son of Sohrab Sheikh of the village.

There had been a long-standing rivalry between two groups led by Billal Sheikh and Bakles Harkara of the village over establishing supremacy in the area, police said quoting Kawsar Bhuiyan, chairman of Algi union parishad.

Both the groups locked in a fierce clash yesterday morning as a sequel to an earlier

clash over a cricket match among children at a local madrasa playground on Sunday.

They swooped on each other with sharp weapons, leaving 26 people from both sides injured.

Villagers took the injured to Bhanga Upazila Health Complex where the doctors declared Jamal Sheikh, a supporter of Bakles, dead around 9:00am.

On information, police went to the spot and brought the situation under control, Officer-in-Charge Mizanur Rahman of Bhanga Police Station said, adding that additional police have been deployed in the area to avert any further incident.

Fishermen demand steps to check robbery in Bay

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Several hundred fishermen formed a human chain at Sheikh Russel Square in Pathorghata upazila town at around 11:00am yesterday, demanding immediate steps to check robbery in the Bay.

They also submitted a memorandum to the minister for home affairs through the upazila nirbahi officer in this regard.

Different organisations, including Barguna District Fishing Trawler Owners' Association, Trawler Labourers' Union, Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation Ghat Labour Union and fishermen took part in the hour-long human chain.

They also announced six-point demand at the programme. The demands include

necessary steps to free the Bay from robbers, who are involved in killing, kidnapping and torturing of fishermen.

At a street corner meeting, Golam Mostafa Chowdhury, president of Barguna District Fishing Trawler Owners' Association, said a gang of robbers recently kidnapped and shot dead a fisherman named Ismail Hossain at Kachikhali area in the Bay. They also kidnapped another fisherman named Reaz Hossain, who is still untraced.

We want arrest and punishment of the culprits as soon as possible, he added.

Md Alam Mollah, a trawler owner, said robbers often kidnap fishermen and then demand ransom from their families. If the ransom is not paid they kill the fishermen or torture them inhumanly.



PHOTO: STAR

Fishermen, trawler owners and workers form a human chain in Pathorghata upazila town in Barguna district yesterday demanding effective actions to stop random attack, abduction and murder of fishermen by robbers in the Bay.



Jhenidah Press Club forms a human chain in front of Jhenidah Press Club, left, and The Daily Star Readers' Forum organises a similar programme on Station Road in Bogra town yesterday, protesting recent filing of a barrage of cases against The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam across the country.

Teacher fined for keeping mobile at SSC exam centre

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A schoolteacher was fined for keeping mobile phone at an SSC examination centre in Khansama upazila yesterday.

Ramanath Roy, a teacher of Ramnagar High School in the upazila, was performing duty as an invigilator at Goaldighi High School centre.

Khansama UNO Sajebur Rahman entered the centre during the mathematics examination, found a cellphone in Ramanath's possession and fined him Tk 1000.

ATTACK ON HINDUS IN CHIRIRBANDAR UPAZILA

15 Jamaat-Shibir men sent to jail on surrender

35 others held with petrol bombs in Bhola

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A court here on Monday sent 15 Jamaat-Shibir men to jail, rejecting their bail prayers in a case for attacking Hindus in Chirirbandar upazila of the district in 2012.

The accused are Joynal Abedin, 40, Motiar Rahman, 45, Shahdat Hossain, 48, Momtaz Ali, 45, Momdel Hossain, 40, Khoyrat Ali, 38, Abdul Jabbar, 52, Md Rubel, 24, Abdur Rahim, 28, Habibur Rahman, 25, Hasan Ali, 27, Md Hiruzzaman, 26, Md Shahiduzzaman, 25, Md Liton Mia, 25, and Khokon Haque, 27.

Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Ahsanul Haque passed the order when they surrendered to his court in the afternoon, said Abu Syed, court inspector.

Bolaibazar, a Hindu dominated area of Chirirbandar upazila in the district, came under attack by Jamaat-Shibir men on August 4 in 2012.

During the incident, the attackers assaulted the Hindus of the area, torched their houses, looted valuables and cattle. Around 600 people took part in the attack.

They also left 50 people injured and vandalised 35 houses. Later, a case was filed in this connection.

Police recently submitted a charge sheet against 92 people including Jamaat-Shibir men of the upazila in connection with the case.

Many accused are on bail while others yet to be arrested, said Anisur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Chirirbandar Police Station.

Away in Bhola, police arrested 35 leaders and activists of Jamaat-e-Islami


and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir with petrol bombs from Nayanbari area in Lalmohon upazila of the district yesterday, reports UNB.

District unit Jamaat ameer Mostafa Kamal and Lalmohon upazila Shibir president Abdullah Al Mamnu were also among the arrestees.

Informed that some Jamaat-Shibir men were holding a secret meeting at the house of Nurullah at Nayanbari in the morning, a police team raided the house and arrested the 35 people, said Assistant Superintendent of Police M Rafiqul Islam.

The law enforcers also seized seven petrol bombs and a number of books on jihad from the spot.

They were arrested on charge of planning subversive activities in the area, said the ASP.



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Tender for Printing Annual Report of the Bank for the Year 2015

- 1) Sealed tenders are invited from reputed firms/design house/printers for printing Annual Report of the Bank for the year 2015.
- 2) The tender schedule may be obtained from Establishment Division, Head Office [Sena Kalyan Bhaban (5th Floor), 195 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka] of BASIC Bank Limited between 10:00 A.M. to 05:00 P.M. of all working days at a cost of Tk. 500/- only. No schedule will be sold after 05:00 P.M. of March 3, 2016.
- 3) Sealed tenders have to be dropped in the tender box kept at Establishment Division of BASIC Bank Limited, Head Office [Sena Kalyan Bhaban (5th Floor), 195 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka] on or before March 6, 2016.
- 4) The participating company must have experienced Graphics Designer (must be experienced in Apple/Mac OS) and they must be capable to work under high pressure.
- 5) The successful bidder must agree to prepare inner design with text as per requirements of the Bank.
- 6) The participating company must have adequate workspace for group discussion and proof reading.
- 7) Other terms and conditions can be found in the tender schedule.

Deputy General Manager
Establishment Division