

Boro yield may exceed target in Bogra this yr

MAMUN-UR-RASHID, Bogra

Farmers in 12 upazilas of the district are busy harvesting and processing early planted boro paddy. Though there is a labour crisis in some areas, harvesting has been gaining momentum since last week.

Farmers and officials of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) are expecting bumper yield of boro in the district as the crop has

grown well due to favourable weather condition this year.

While visiting the paddy fields in different upazilas of the district, this correspondent found farmers working cheerfully to gather the ripened paddy from early in the morning to late at night.

Farmers are afraid that nor'westers and heavy rain may occur at any time, and the crop may be lost.

The local DAE office provided farmers with

logistic support, including seeds, fertilisers and necessary equipment, during the time of boro cultivation across the district, farmers said.

Rubel Hossain, a farmer at Hat Phulbari village under Sariakandi upazila, said, "I brought two bighas of land under early boro cultivation this season, spending Tk 9,500. I hope to make a profit of Tk 12,000, but the price is not satisfactory at all."

"Paddy is being sold in

the local market at around Tk 650 per maund, against the production cost of Tk 500 per maund," he added.

Chandi Das Kundu, deputy director (DD) of DAE, said they have fixed a target of producing over 8 lakh tonnes of boro paddy on 1,89,000 hectares of land across the district this season.

The boro production target might be crossed as the farmers are getting high yield, the DD added.



PHOTO: STAR

Coastguard seizes a trawler with 10 lakh shrimp fry from the Meghna River at Hizla in Barisal district on Saturday night. The fisheries department later released the fry to the Kirtonkhola River.

Hossain Ali Murder Another JMB man held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

Another member of outlawed Jaam'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) was arrested yesterday in connection with the murder of Christian-convert Hossain Ali in Kurigram town.

The arrestee is Hasan Firoz alias Mokhles, son of Reazul Islam of Sarpukur village under Aditmari upazila of Lalmonirhat district, and a chemistry (Honours) third year student at Kurigram Government College.

Police arrested him from Kaunia bus stand area under Rangpur district in the morning. Hossain Ali, 65, was hacked to death on the road near his house by three JMB men at 7:00am on March 22.

Police later produced Firoz before the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court in Kurigram. The court sent him to jail.

On April 28, police arrested two JMB men, Mahub Hasan Milon and Abu Nasir Rubel, from Nakkatirhat Darul Ulam Dakhil Madrasa in Rajarhat upazila of Kurigram district.

3 kids drown in canal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Three kids drowned in a canal at Damodhartapi village under Purba Pagla union in South Sunamganj upazila of Sunamganj district.

The deceased are, Halima, 8, daughter of Tazibur Rahman, her brother Sajid, 6, and Shahed, son of Jahir Ali. They are all from the village.

Rafiqul Islam Khan, chairman of Purba Pagla union, said the kids drowned while they were playing beside the canal.



PHOTO: STAR

Border Guard Bangladesh and police are making preparations to send to respective homes six teenage boys, who returned from Indian shelter homes following their rescue from traffickers there, at Hili land port in Hakimpur upazila under Dinajpur district yesterday.

Six trafficked boys return from India

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Six teenage boys, who were trafficked to India at different times, returned home yesterday through Hili land port in Hakimpur upazila of the district.

They are Nayem Ahmed, 13, son of Dhalu Mia of Panchpeer village under Ghoraghat upazila; Md Russel, 13, son of Md Delwar Hossain of Rostamnagar; Kalu Mia, 15, son of Ziar Uddin of Gulshangarh vil-

lage under Parbatipur upazila; Md Nannu, 15, son of Rezaul Bepary of Mohendrarodi village under Razoir upazila of Madaripur; Hasibul Haque, 16, son of Borhan Uddin of Charpayatoli village under Shakhipur upazila of Shariatpur; and Kamal Murmu, 14, son of Bishuram of Goreya area under Thakurgaon Sadar upazila.

Immigration officials of India handed over the six to Md Rafiquzzaman, officer-

in-charge (OC) of Immigration Station in Hakimpur upazila.

Rafiquzzaman said the boys had been trafficked to India through different borders at different times. Later, Indian police rescued the boys and put them at shelter homes.

They returned home after spending 10 to 16 months at shelter homes following court orders, the OC said, adding that they were handed over to their parents.

11 sued over Apr 27 Sundarbans fire

UNB, Bagerhat

Bangladesh Forest Department filed a case against 11 people in connection with the fire that broke out in Tultala area of the Sundarbans under Chandpai Range in Sharankhola upazila of the district on April 27.

Station officer (Dhansagar station) of Chandpai Range Sultan Mahmud filed the case with Sharankhola Police Station on Sunday night.

The case was filed under under Section 26 of the Forest Act 1927, said Shah Alam Miah, officer-in-charge of the police station.

Police already arrested two suspects -- Nazrul Islam and Sohel Halder of Pochem Rajapur village -- in the case.

The Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest and a Unesco-listed world heritage site, witnessed four fire incidents in just one month. Three cases were lodged against 28 people in connection with the fire incidents.

Drug addict burns wife to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Burnt by husband on Sunday night, a garment worker died at the burn unit of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital around 9:00pm yesterday.

The victim is Salma Khatun, 30, wife of Sahabul Islam of Diar Baghoil village in Ishwardi upazila under Pabna district.

Sahabul set her afire after pouring kerosene on her around 11:00pm on Sunday as she refused to give him her salary money, family sources said.

Locals rescued her and took her to Ishwardi upazila health complex from where she was shifted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

With around 80 percent burn injuries on the body, she died at the hospital at 9:00pm yesterday, said hospital sources and relatives.

The victim's cousin Md Sumon Islam, who attended her at the burn unit of the hospital, said, "My cousin Salma worked at a garment factory in Ishwardi EPZ. Her husband often tortured her to force her to give away her salary."

"On Sunday night he asked Salma to hand over the amount that she got as salary,



Salma Khatun

As Salma refused, he brought her outside the house and set fire after pouring kerosene on her," Sumon said.

Sahabul's nephew Md Jibon Hossain told this correspondent, "My drug addict uncle set fire to my aunt for money. He often tortured her."

"Following a case by the victim's uncle, police arrested her mother-in-law while the culprit husband went into hiding after the incident," said Biman Kumar, officer in charge of Ishwardi Police Station.

SNIPPETS

Two Jamaat men held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Police yesterday arrested two activists of Jamaat-e-Islami from Pirgachha and Mithapukur upazilas of the district. The arrestees are Anwarul Islam, 37, son of Abul Khayer of Durgapur village in Mithapukur, and Md Rafiqul Islam, 40, son of late Mohir Uddin of Jabdiganj village in Pirgachha upazila. They were arrested in cases for subversive activities, said Assistant Superintendent of Police Md Saifur Rahman.

Farmer dies of heatstroke

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A farmer died of heatstroke in Akkelpur upazila of Joypurhat district on Sunday. The deceased was identified as Abu Hossain, 30, son of Kasir Uddin of Malancha village in the upazila. Witnesses said when Abu along with other farmers was harvesting the paddy at his village, he suddenly fell. He later died at the upazila health complex. Doctors said he died from heatstroke.

Mugger arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Police arrested an alleged mugger from Paratongi area in Muktagachha upazila of the district early Sunday. They also seized a knife and Tk 1000 from his possession, said Mohammad Fazlul Karim, officer-in-charge of Muktagachha Police Station. The arrestee is Yusuf Hossain Farazi, 21, son of Tara Farazi of the area.

12 houses gutted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhalakathi

Twelve houses of Ashrayan (a government housing project for homeless people) were gutted in a fire at Indrapasa in Rajapur of the district on Sunday. The fire originated from an electrical short circuit around 1:00pm. On information, firefighters rushed to the spot and brought the blaze under control after two hours of hectic efforts, said Sheikh Munirul Giash, officer-in-charge of Rajapur Police Station.

Mysterious death of 2 siblings

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Two siblings died mysteriously at their grandfather's house at Char Bagat village in Madhukhali upazila of the district yesterday. The deceased are Taki Mollah, 5, and his six months old sister Tahera, children of architect Abdullah Al Mamun Saplu. Abdullah used to live at Mohammadpur in the capital with his wife and children, said family members. Taslima, mother of the victims, said she woke up early in the morning and went to domestic works, leaving her two children asleep on the bed. After a few hours, her sister-in-law noticed that the children did not respond. A local doctor confirmed that they were dead, said the mother. Abdullah along with his mother went to India for her treatment 17 days ago, leaving his wife and children at his father's house. The death of the two siblings is mysterious and the bodies were sent to Faridpur Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy, the officer-in-charge of Madhukhali Police Station said. There were injury marks in the upper part of their necks, said Dr SM Khairul Islam of forensic department of the hospital.



PHOTO: STAR

Twelve inter-district robbers, arrested by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) from different areas of Tangail, Bogra and Narayanganj districts during the last few days, are kept on the premises of Tangail Rab camp yesterday.

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