



A pheromone trap set at a bottle gourd garden of Gobindanagar village in Gouripur upazila under Mymensingh district. PHOTO: STAR

CHEMICAL-FREE VEGETABLES Less cost, more profit

Gouripur farmers use pheromone traps instead of chemical pesticides

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh
Around 2000 vegetable farmers in Gouripur upazila under the district are benefiting by using environment-friendly pheromone traps instead of chemical pesticides this season.

"I cultivated mainly kakrol (teasle gourd) on 40 decimals of land this year. As per the suggestion of local agriculture officials, I set 2/3 pheromone traps on every five decimal of land and no pest attack was seen so far," said Fazlul Haque, 45, a farmer of Gobindanagar village in Gouripur upazila.

Like him, some 300 farmers of the village are using pheromone traps. "We learnt about the use of pheromone traps from a field day organised by agriculture office a few months ago. That time the office distributed the traps for free," said Ruhul Amin, 54, another farmer.

"Now we are happy that the cost of pesticide has reduced and the price of our produce is better than previous years," said Johor Uddin, 55, a vegetable farmer who spent only Tk 500 to make his 20-decimal cultivation free from pest.

AGM Gulam Mustafa, sub-assistant agriculture officer in Gouripur upazila, who is assigned for 13 villages including Gobindanagar, said the farmers are now interested to use environment friendly pheromone traps that costs much less than

chemical pesticides. A farmer has to spend Tk 60/70 to set a pheromone trap for a three-month season, he said.

"The local agriculture office has distributed 150 pheromone traps for free this year under Agriculture Rehabilitation Programme. Many farmers are interested to buy the traps and we have informed the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) in Mymensingh about the increasing demand," added the official.

Under National Agriculture Technology Project from 2012 to 2015, hundreds of farmers of the upazila were trained on agriculture technologies and use of balanced doze of chemical and bio-fertilizers and natural pest control, said Md Sadiqur Rahman, Gouripur upazila agriculture officer.

Under the project, we formed 100 groups titled 'Common Interest Groups' involving the farmers to assist their cultivation in the upazila, he said.

Md Altabar Rahman, deputy director of DAE in Mymensingh, said, "Pheromone traps are available at the district headquarters. At its primary stage, its supply might be hampered at upazila level. I have already asked the upazila agriculture offices of the district to increase the supply of pheromone traps according to demand."

SNIPPETS

Dyke construction demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur
Hundreds of erosion victims of eight villages in Kawkhali upazila formed a human chain on boats on Sandha River yesterday, demanding construction of a dyke to stop onslaught of the river. Organised by the people of Paul community of Sonakur village hundreds of people from Badamtala, Subidpur, Chirapara, Meghpal, Gandharbo, Ashoya and Raghunathpur villages joined the programme from 10:00am. The speakers said several important structures and establishments including schools, madrasas, mosques, Amrajhuri union parishad building and Kawkhali Food Warehouse are facing the threat of erosion by the river.

36 shops gutted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban
A fire gutted at least 36 shops in Ruma upazila of the district yesterday. Locals said the fire originated from a stove of one Jamal's shop and soon engulfed 35 adjacent shops at Ruma Bazar around 12:20pm. As there is no fire fighting unit in the nearby areas, members of Bangladesh Army with the help of locals and police doused the blaze after three hours of frantic efforts. The extent of losses caused by the fire could go up to Tk 50 lakh, Ruma Upazila Parishad Chairman Aung Thoai Sing Marma said.

2 cousins drown in pond

A CORRESPONDENT, Sathkhira
Two cousins drowned in a pond at Baduria village in Shyamnagar upazila of the district yesterday. The victims were identified as Asadur Rahman, 6, son of Abdur Rob Molla, and Monira Khatun, 5, daughter of Mominur Molla of the village. Quoting victims' uncle Nuruddin Molla, police said the cousins all of a sudden fell into a pond near their house while playing on its bank and drowned around 9:30am. Officer-in-Charge Enamul Haque of Shyamnagar Police Station said locals recovered the floating bodies from the pond.

Youth found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainavabganj
Police recovered body of young man from the Pagla River in Shibganj upazila of the district yesterday. The victim, Golam Rasul, 22, son of Shafiqul Islam, was a resident of Sadashibpur village. Quoting deceased's family members, police said Rasul went out from his house on Thursday evening and did not return home. Sub-inspector Mahfuz Alam of Shibganj Police Station said locals spotted Rasul's floating body in Kansat area in the morning and informed the police. Police recovered the body around 11:30am and sent it to Sadar Hospital Morgue for autopsy.

Two killed in Jessore 'gunfights'

Arms seized after fight with robbers in Sundarbans

STAR COUNTRY DESK
Two youths were killed in separate incidents of 'gunfight' among gangs in Jessore municipality area while the coastguard recovered 10 firearms, a mobile set and a boat after a gunfight with robbers in the Sundarbans yesterday.

Our Benapole Correspondent reports: Police recovered the bodies of two unidentified youths who were killed in 'gunfights' among criminal gangs at Jessore Municipality Park and Natunhat on Jessore-Benapole Road early Saturday, said Ilias Hossain, officer in charge Jessore Kotwali Police Station.

"Sub-inspector Shahidul Islam of Kotwali Police Station brought the body of a bullet-hit youth aged below 30 to the hospital around 2:15am. It was brought over one hour after his death," said Kajol Kanti Mallik, attending doctor at Jessore General Hospital.

"The police brought the body of another youth around 3:15am. He was also killed earlier," the doctor added.

The police are trying to find the identities of the dead, the Kotwali OC said.

A Correspondent reports from Bagerhat: The coastguard recovered 10 locally made firearms, a mobile phone set and a boat after a gunfight with the robbers at Chandpai Range of the Sundarbans' East Division yesterday.

The robber gang 'Jahangir Bahini' left the firearms, cell phone set and the boat while fleeing after a gunfight with the coastguard in Harbaria Baintola Canal area, said Lt Fariduzzaman Khan, staff officer (Operation) of the coastguard's West Zone at Mongla. No injury was reported.

Acting on a tip, the coastguard made the drive. Sensing their presence, robbers fired at them and the law enforcers retaliated.

The fight continued for about half an hour, the officer said.

KID FAILS TO DO WELL IN EXAM Guardian turns crazy, beats teacher

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

A guardian of a student beat up a primary school teacher at Pirojpur Sadar upazila of the district yesterday as her child failed to be among the top three positions in the examination.

The victim is Mitali Khanam, an assistant teacher of Odonkathi Government Primary School in the upazila.

Mitali said Shimu, mother of Jeni, a Class I student in the school, and her mother Shahida Begum became very angry with the teachers, making allegation of partiality, as Jeni did not get a top position in the examination.

After declaration of the result, Mitali came out of the school. Shimu and Shahida, who were waiting outside, beat her up mercilessly and left the scene.

Mitali's colleagues took her to Pirojpur Sadar Hospital. Md Sarwar Hossain, an assistant teacher of the school, said, "How will we teach the children if we are beaten up by the guardians?"

Sumon Howlader, president of school managing committee, said they will take steps after a meeting of the committee.

Masumur Rahman Biswas, officer-in-charge of Pirojpur Sadar Police Station, said, "We will take steps against the perpetrators after filing of a case."

300 cylinders damaged in Bogra blast

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

About 300 empty gas cylinders were damaged in an explosion at Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation Depot in Shajahanpur upazila of the district yesterday.

The accident occurred when a gas cylinder exploded with a big bag while the labourers of the depot were unloading a truck with 378 empty cylinders, quoting witnesses, police said.

The explosion damaged at least 300 cylinders and also burnt three trucks at the depot.

An unidentified labourer of the depot was also injured in the explosion.

Bamboo bridge only means

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Local people, mostly students of three educational institutions in Kalapara upazila, are crossing a bamboo bridge on a canal amid risk of accidents due to lack of an iron bridge on it in Dhankhali union.

The institutions are Purbo Londa Government Primary School, Gilatala Government Primary School and Londa Dakhil Madrasa.

The attendance of students in the schools and madrasa is being decreased during the ongoing rainy season as the situation worsened further this time, said Md Nurul Islam, headmaster of Gilabunia Government Primary School.

Tenth grader Farzana Yeasmin of the madrasa said they have to face untold sufferings to attend their classes when they use the bamboo bridge or boat crossing Londa canal. "At the time of using the bamboo bridge, we often fell into the canal and our books and dresses got wet," she said.

Md Hiron Mia, an assistant teacher of Londa Dakhil Madrasa, said despite repeated pleas, local upazila parishad chairman is yet to take any steps to build an iron bridge on the canal.

To mitigate people's sufferings, immediate steps will be taken to build an iron bridge on the canal, said Abdul Motaleb Talukder, chairman of Kalapara Upazila Parishad.



Students of different educational institutions in Kalapara upazila of Patuakhali cross a bamboo bridge on a canal amid risk of accidents. PHOTO: STAR

15 Rakhaines hurt by land grabbers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

At least 15 people of Rakhaine community were injured in an attack over a piece of disputed land in Mistrepara area near Kuakata under Kalapara upazila on Friday.

Of the injured, Achechu, 40, Mouchachee, 45, and Macheeng, 35, were admitted to the upazila health complex while the rest to different local clinics.

Achechu was referred to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital as his condition worsened.

The incident took place in the evening when a local gang tried to grab 1.51 acres of land in the area.

According to the victims, a gang of 25/30 allegedly led by Binoy, Prodip and Zakir Hossain came to the land and tried to set up a signboard there.

The Rakhaine men came under an attack when they tried to resist the grabbers.

Binoy, one of the alleged attackers, said "We bought the land and went there to place a signboard but Rakhaine men obstructed us."

However, Binoy could not show any valid documents of the land.

One killed in pre-poll clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

An elderly woman was killed and 15 others were injured in a clash between two rival groups in Santhia upazila on Friday.

Police arrested one Harun Miah in connection with the incident.

The deceased was Bala Khatun, 70, of Nodishukh village.

Police said the clash took place between the supporters of Lokman Hossain of Afra Bhadalia and Torap Ali of Nodishukh over hanging posters at Nodishukh village in the upcoming Koromza Union Parishad (UP) polls.

Earlier, election in the UP was not held as boundary was not demarcated.

Seven fishermen die as 2 trawlers capsize

Confirm association leaders

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Seven fishermen died as two trawlers capsized in the Bay of Patuakhali and Barguna districts.

Md Ansar Uddin Mollah, president of Kuakata-Alipur Fish Trader and Fishing Trawler Owners' Association, and Golam Mostafa Chowdhury, president of Barguna District Trawler Owners' Association, yesterday confirmed the matter.

The deceased were Delwar Fakir, 48, Abdul Goni Mollah, 48, Yusuf Howlader, 37, and Abdul Aziz Howlader, 32, of Kalapara upazila and Faizul alias Saidul, 28, of Patuakhali Sadar upazila while Solaiman, 28, and Khalilur Rahman, 30, hailed from Pathorghata area in Barguna.

On August 16, 33 fishermen aboard two fishing trawlers -- FB Saidul and FB Saleha -- went missing as the trawlers capsized during a sudden storm when they were catching fish in the Bay in Kuakata area.

All 12 fishermen on FB Saidul were able to take shelter in the Sundarbans area and 12 out of 17 fishermen on FB Saleha were rescued by other fishermen while the rest died, said Ansar Mollah, president of fishing trawler owners' association in Patuakhali.

ন্যাশনাল টিউবস লিমিটেড
(বাংলাদেশ ইম্পাত ও প্রকৌশল করপোরেশনের একটি প্রতিষ্ঠান)
১৩১-১৪২ টংগী শিল্প এলাকা
টংগী, গাজীপুর-১৭১০।

ন্যাশনাল টিউবস লিমিটেডে উৎপাদিত আদমজী পাইপ নামে ব্যাত আন্তর্জাতিক মানসম্পন্ন এপিআই, জিআই, এমএস পাইপ ব্যবহার করে জাতীয় উন্নয়নে অবদান রাখুন।

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মেরামত কাজের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক, ন্যাশনাল টিউবস লিমিটেড, টংগী, গাজীপুর কর্তৃক নিম্নবর্ণিত ৪" মিলের চাপের পুরাতন ড্রেনসমূহ অপসারণ করে নতুন LSC Sheet দ্বারা সংস্থাপন ও কমিশনিং কাজ করণের লক্ষ্যে বিভিন্ন প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছেঃ

ক্রম নং	টেডার নং ও তারিখ	দ্রব্যের নাম ও বিবরণ	আবেদী মনি (ফেরতযোগ্য)	টেডার দলিলের মূল্য (ফেরতযোগ্য)	টেডার খোলার তারিখ ও সময়
১)	এনটিএল/রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ/সিই/০২/১৬ তারিখ- ১৮-০৮-২০১৬	৪" মিলের চাপের পুরাতন ড্রেনসমূহ অপসারণ করে নতুন LSC Sheet দ্বারা সংস্থাপন ও কমিশনিং কাজ।	টংগী ২৯,০০০/- (উনিশ হাজার)	টংগী ১০০০/- (এক হাজার)	৫-৯-২০১৬ তারিখে সকাল ১২-০০ ঘটিকার টেডার ব্যাপক বন্ধ হইবে এবং একই তারিখে সকাল ১২-০০ ঘটিকায় খোলা হইবে।

উক্ত মেরামত ও কমিশনিং কাজের যাবতীয় নিয়ম ও শর্তাবলী সম্বন্ধিত টেডার সিডিউল নির্ধারিত মূল্য পরিশোধ সাপেক্ষে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে হিসাব বিভাগ, ন্যাশনাল টিউবস লিমিটেড, টংগী শিল্প এলাকা, গাজীপুর এবং হিসাব নিয়ন্ত্রক, বাংলাদেশ ইম্পাত ও প্রকৌশল করপোরেশন, বিএসইসি ভবন, ১০২ কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ, ঢাকা-এর অফিস হইতে পাওয়া যাইবে। অনিবার্য কারণ বশতঃ টেডার খোলার দিন অফিস চুক্তি / বন্ধ থাকিলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে একই সময়ে উভয় স্থানে টেডার গ্রহণ ও খোলা হইবে। টেডার খোলার দিন কোন দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হইবে না।

(মোঃ সিরাজুল ইসলাম চৌধুরী)
বিভাগীয় প্রধান (রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ)
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