

# Aman yield exceeds target in Moulvibazar

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

The production of aman paddy this season exceeded targets in seven upazilas of the district, much to the delight of farmers.

The district's total aman yield this season has stood at 2.78 lakh tonnes against the target of 2.58 lakh tonnes, said Mohammad Shahjahan, deputy director of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) in Moulvibazar.

Harvesting of the major crop in the area is nearly complete.

The success in production has been achieved despite the fact that aman paddy on thousands of hectares of land got damaged due to flood this year, especially in the haor areas in the district, said DAE officials.

Aman was cultivated on 97,360 hectares against the target of 96,473 hectares in the district this year.

Farmers Ishaq Ali and Ayub Ali of Kathaltoli village, and Golam Mostafa of Dakkhin Bazar area in Barlekha upazila, said aman plants were growing well following recent rainfall after a temporary drought-like situation.

Shahidul Islam, 24, at Bhuksimul village of Kulaura upazila, said he did not face any problem in plantation of aman seedlings as the frequent rainfall was helping a lot.

The area sees good yield of the crop this season as the authorities concerned have taken steps to assist them, he said, adding that NGOs in the area distributed short-term loan to farmers for aman cultivation.

Mojnu Miah, 35, of Begbanpur in Hakaluki Haor area, said he got 50 maunds of paddy from his land.

Ashok Das, 48, of Khagtega village in Juri upazila, said he is feeling happy seeing the bumper output of aman paddy on his six bighas of flood-affected haor land.

Robi Das, 34, a farmer at Panchgaon village in Rajnagar upazila, cultivated aman paddy on his half acre of land. "I got 20 maunds of paddy spending Tk 5,000. I expect to earn net profit of Tk 4,000 to Tk 5,000 from selling the paddy," he added.

Farmers of other areas said they will also cultivate aman paddy due to less production cost and more profit.

Barlekha Upazila Agriculture Officer Md Kutub Uddin said aman was cultivated on 7,900 hectares of land against the target of 7,820 hectares in the upazila this year. The rain after the receding of floodwater was the reason for the bumper production, especially in haor areas, he added. Also, it was sunny while the aman plants were under floodwater, so the plants got the nutrients they needed, Kutub Uddin said.



Farmers harvest aman paddy in Hakaluki Haor area in Moulvibazar. They are very happy with the bumper production of the crop this season.

PHOTO: STAR

## Elephants kill farmer in Sherpur

12 trampled to death in five months

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sherpur

An indigenous farmer was killed by wild elephants in Jhinaigati border area in the district on Wednesday night.

The deceased was Uttam Marak, 55, son of late Madan Sangma of Shandhahura village in Jhinaigati upazila.

A herd of wild elephants came down from Meghalaya, state of India in search of food around 7:00pm and swooped on the village, said locals.

During the chase, Uttam was trampled by the herd.

He later died at Sherpur Sadar Hospital, said Md Yakub Ali, chairman of Nolkura Union Parishad.

At least 12 people were killed in a spate of attacks of wild elephants in the border area in the last five months.



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## Raj Punnah begins December 21

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Raj Punnah, the biggest and most colourful traditional festival of the Bohmong Circle, will begin in Bandarban on December 21.

17th Bohmong Circle Chief Engineer U Chaw Prue announced the programme schedule at a press conference held at the royal palace yesterday.

On the opening day, Bohmong Raja will collect jhum taxes from the headmen of 109 mouzas and around 1,000 karbaris (chief of a para) under the Bohmong circle.

People belonging to Bohmong Circle also bring different kinds of traditional gifts for the king during the festival.

A traditional fair will be held at the historical Rajar Math in the town during the three-day Raj Punnah.

Tourists from home and abroad will gather in Bandarban to celebrate the programme.

Royal family sources said the Bohmong dynasty has been celebrating the Raj Punnah festival in Bandarban from 1875 to collect jhum taxes.

## Declare Dec 1 'Freedom Fighters' Day'

Gaibandha FFs urge government

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Freedom fighters of Gaibandha have urged the government to declare December 1 'Freedom Fighter's Day' to honour thousands of freedom fighters who fought for the country's independence during the Liberation War.

While addressing a rally organised by district unit of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) they sadly said although numerous days are being observed across the country on different occasions but there is no particular day to honour the war heroes.

Local freedom fighters brought out a procession hoisting national flags that paraded main roads of the town and held the rally at rail crossing area yesterday where they urged the prime minister to declare December 1 'Freedom Fighter's Day'.

## Drug peddler jailed in Pirojpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

A Pirojpur court yesterday sentenced a man to 10 years' imprisonment for selling drugs.

The convict is Nesaruddin Sheikh, 32, of Sheikpara area in the town.

District and Sessions Judge Md Golam Kibria also fined him Tk 50,000.

According to the prosecution, Rapid Action Battalion arrested Nesaruddin with 510 Yaba tablets from Pirojpur Sadar upazila last year.

Later, a case was filed with Sadar Police Station, accusing the arrestee.

After examining witnesses and evidence, the judge found him guilty and pronounced the verdict.



## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Bangladesh is seeking applications from Bangladeshi Nationals to fill the following positions:

Vacancy No.	Post Title	Category	Duty Station	No of Positions
Job ID 16-15	Gender Field Officer – Cox's Bazar	Service Contract (SB4 Level)	UNFPA Field Office in Cox's Bazar	1 (One)

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For Details of the Job Description and instructions to apply, Please visit our website: <http://www.unfpabgd.org>. Only short-listed candidates will be called for written test/interview. **Any attempt to unduly influence UNFPA's selection process will lead to automatic disqualification of the applicant.** Application should be received no later than **17:00, Saturday, 10 December, 2016.**

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