



Many paddy fields in Chapainawabganj district now see mango trees at intervals as increasing number of farmers are switching to cultivation of the delicious summer fruit that brings more profit. The photo was taken from Sajjan village in Chapainawabganj Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

C'nawabganj reaps reward of mangoes

RABIUL HASAN with ANDREW EAGLE

In the red, hard and dry soils around Chapainawabganj, characteristic of the Barind region in general, even an adept farmer finds it challenging to grow crops such as rice. But in such conditions, mango orchards thrive. Encouraged by fair prices and an efficient marketing system, more and more farmers are turning to mangoes to secure a better livelihood. At least 500 hectares of mango plantations are being added to the district's landscape annually, with orchards even appearing in char (land-mass emerging from riverbed) areas.

"Until recently we used to sow paddy," says farmer Mohammad Rokib from Laxmanpur village in Nachole upazila. "Through paddy we could barely achieve solvency due to its production costs and selling prices. But with mangoes, solvency is easy."

other crops. "I used to earn about Tk 60,000 per year from the land," he says. "But from the mango orchard I can easily earn Tk 1.5 lakhs. Besides, we can still grow other crops under the shade of the mango trees."

Farmer Hashem Ali from Sadar upazila's Sajjan village has likewise benefited. "We hardly achieved fair prices for paddy and other crops," he says, "but with mangoes good prices are usual." He planted his mango orchard covering four bighas five years ago.

An improved marketing system for mangoes is also benefiting the area's farmers. "We used to have to go to Dhaka to sell mangoes," says grower Hasan Al Sadi from Chhatrajitpur village in Shibganj upazila. "Nowadays wholesalers visit Chapainawabganj to buy direct, and they pay cash."

The district's mango production has steadily increased over the past decade. In 2007 there were approximately 16.5 lakh mango trees in the district producing 1.6 lakh tonnes of mangoes. This year there are over 20 lakh trees. Last

year's harvest was 2.4 lakh tonnes from 18 lakh 74 thousand 900 trees.

"Mango growers are getting higher prices than farmers of paddy, jute and other crops," says Monjurul Huda, deputy director of the Department of Agricultural Extension in Chapainawabganj. "Understandably, there is great interest in commercial mango cultivation."

"Mango tree coverage is also anticipated to decrease local temperatures and encourage more rainfall, a useful counterbalance to the negative impacts of deforestation," he adds.

"Mangoes are now the most important cash crop in the region," says senior scientific officer of the regional horticulture research station Dr Sorof Uddin. "The livelihoods of many people depend heavily on mangoes."

Indeed the mango orchards provide employment for many, involved in tending the trees as well as harvesting and packing work. According to Dr Sorof Uddin the region has a long history of mango production and grows at least 350 varieties of the fruit.

Girl saved from child marriage

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

A 14-year-old girl was saved from marriage, thanks to the timely intervention of the upazila nirbhai officer (UNO) of Akhaura under the district yesterday.

The marriage ceremony of the schoolgirl, daughter of Juton Miah of Hirapur village in Akhaura, was scheduled to be solemnised at 2:00pm.

Being informed, Akhaura UNO Mohammad Shamsuzzaman sent a police team led by Shahinul Islam, assistant sub-inspector of Akhaura Police Station to the village. They persuaded the girl's parents not to marry off the girl before her maturity and also took assurance for continuation of her study.

POTATO FARMING IN LALMONIRHAT

Good yield, good price

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Nearly 20 thousand potato growers in the district are happy due to good production of the item and its fair prices in the local markets during the ongoing harvesting season.

Many tobacco growers, who cultivated potato after leaving the previous harmful cultivation this year, are also delighted to get the profit.

Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) in Lalmonirhat brought 7,200 hectares of land under potato farming in five upazilas of the district this season while it was 5,500 hectares in the last season, DAE officials said.

Farmers said each sack (containing 84 kg of potato) is selling for Tk 870 in the local markets, adding that they got expected yield this year due to good seeds and favourable weather.

Shamsul Islam, 55, a farmer of Guriyadah village in Sadar upazila, said he got 173 sacks of potato after cultivating the item on 108 decimals of land spending Tk

45 thousand this season.

"I have earned Tk 87 thousand from selling 100 sacks of potato last week," Shamsul added.

If properly taken care of, farmers can produce 120 to 140 kg of potato in each decimal of land, said Mobarok Hossain, 58, a potato grower of Mondolerhat village in the same upazila.

Abdul Khaleque of Bhadai village in Aditmari upazila, who has been cultivating tobacco for the last 15 years, said after cultivating tobacco on five bighas of land he decided to grow potato on three bighas of land this year.

"Potato farming seems more profitable than that of tobacco," Khaleque said.

Mansur Ali, 52, of the same village, said he took the wrong decision not to cultivate potato instead of tobacco this season.

Bidubhushan Roy, deputy director of DAE in Lalmonirhat, said agriculture officials have provided timely support to the farmers to make the potato farming a success this year.



This recent photo shows farmers engaged in sorting potatoes at a field of Chinipara village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

Arrest 'rapist' UP chairman

Civil society members tell Tangail rally

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Members of civil society and different rights and development organisations demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the chairman of Nagbari Union Parishad (UP) in Kalihati upazila, who allegedly raped a woman on March 14.

They made the call at a human chain in Tangail Court area yesterday. They also held a rally and brought out a procession in this regard.

Speakers at the rally alleged that UP Chairman Maksudur Rahman Milton called the housewife to his office saying he will hold arbitration following an altercation with her neighbour over demarcation of their houses.

Milton later picked her up on his motorcycle saying that the arbitration would be held at Kalihati and took her to Elega Resort. He raped her there. She was later sent to Tangail General Hospital.

Khan Mohammad Khaled, president of Zila Jouno Hoirani Nirmulkoron Network, its General Secretary Mahmuda Akter Sheli and district Brac representative Munir Hossain Khan spoke.

They later submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner to realise the demand.

Ashok Kumar Sinha, officer-in-charge of Tangail DB police, said they are raiding different areas to arrest the accused.

Fair or gambling?

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Local people demanded immediate steps to stop gambling at a fair in Birganj upazila of the district.

They made the call at a human chain at Kuritakia village yesterday.

Md Taslimul Alam, chairman of the union parishad, said local influential person Tofazzal Hossain Raja organised the fair on March 9 and since then gambling and drug peddling have been taking place there.

Despite repeated pleas, the authorities concerned are yet to take any steps to stop the gambling at the fair, said President of Paltapur union Awami League Abdur Rahman.

Despite repeated calls, this correspondent could not reach Raja for his comment on the issue as his cellphone remained switched off.

Birganj PS Inspector Mohseul Goni said they did not give permission for the fair, but Raja held it after getting a High Court order.

They have stopped the fair, he said.

But, the fair continued as of filing of this report around 5:30pm yesterday.

MISUSE OF BRUR FUND

Ex-VC, four officials charge-sheeted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday handed over a charge sheet to a court inspector against former vice-chancellor and four officials of Begum Rokeya University in Rangpur (BRUR), on charge of misappropriation of funds and misuse of power.

The court inspector will submit the charge sheet to the court concerned.

The accused are former vice-chancellor Prof Dr Abdul Jalil Mia, Assistant Registrar Shahjahan Ali, Deputy Director (planning and development) ATM Golam Firoz, Assistant Director (finance and accounts) Khandakar Ashraf Alam and Assistant Registrar Morshed Ul Alam Rony.

Dr Jalil now teaches at Rajshahi University while Shahjahan Ali is on bail. A prayer is pending with a

Rangpur court for confiscation of the properties of three others, said Court Inspector Monoj Kumar Joy.

Rangpur ACC official Akbar Ali placed the charge sheet before the court inspector, naming 21 people as witnesses.

Public Prosecutor Abdul Maleq said Dr Jalil appointed 273 people during 2011 and 2012 without any approval of the University Grants Commission (UGC). Their salaries are being paid from the development fund of the university, Maleq added.

ACC Assistant Director Abdul Karim filed a case against Dr Jalil with Kotwali Police Station on December 12 in 2013, accusing him of misuse of power, misappropriation of university development funds and hiring people without UGC's permission.

The court inspector said the case would be transferred to Rangpur District and Sessions Judge's Court.

Truck with rice for poor seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Detectives seized a truck laden with rice meant for the poor at Sakhipur upazila of the district on Saturday night.

Acting on a tip-off, the law enforcers seized the truck carrying 4,000 kg of rice in 80 sacks from in front of the food godown in the municipal area around 9:30pm, locals said.

The driver of the truck, however, managed to flee from the scene sensing presence of the law enforcers, they added.

Upazila food controller Abdul Latif could not say where the rice was being taken.

Officer-in-Charge of Tangail DB police Ashok Kumar Sinha said they took the rice to the DB office, adding that they did not know which are the rice was allocated for.

"We are investigating the matter to find out who was behind it," the OC said.

A case was filed against the driver and unnamed others with Sakhipur Police Station in this regard, he added.



Local people under the banner of Nagbari Union Civil Society stage a demonstration in Tangail town yesterday demanding arrest of union parishad Chairman Maksudur Rahman Milton for allegedly raping a woman.

PHOTO: STAR

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
 Ministry of Education
 Education Engineering Department
 Office of the Executive Engineer, Sylhet Zone, Sylhet
www.eedmoe.gov.bd

Invitation for e-Tender

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of works mentioned below under Sylhet Zone, Education Engineering Department, Sunamganj district.

Sl No.	Tender Reference No.	Package No.	Name of works	Tender ID	Last date & time of selling documents	Last date & time of submission documents
01	e-Tender-45/Furniture/NGM002FXEN/EED/SZ/2016-2017 Date: 16/03/2017	01	Manufacturing & supplying of Furniture for Academic Building at Chhatak Jalalia Alim Madrasa, Chhatak, Sunamganj	92226	12/04/2017 Time: 17.00	13/4/2017 Time: 12.00
02	e-GP-46/Non-Govt. Madrasa/XEN/EED/SZ/2016-2017 Date: 16/03/2017	01	Construction of Single Story Academic Building with 4-storied foundation including Sanitary Water Supply & Electrical Works at Damodhartapi Mahmudpur Dakhil Madrasa, Dakhin Sunamganj, Sunamganj	92258	04/04/2017 Time: 17.00	05/4/2017 Time: 12.00

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents of following packages from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks' branches up to 04/04/2017 & to 12/04/2017 at Time 17.00. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Nazrul Hakim
 Executive Engineer
 Education Engineering Department
 Sylhet Zone, Sylhet

GD-597

চিটাগাং ড্রাই ডক লিমিটেড
 বাংলাদেশ নৌবাহিনী, পূর্ব পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম

সীমিত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

২৩.০২.১৫৬৫.৩৪১.৫৩.০০৬.১৭.৩২১ তারিখঃ ১৬-০৩-২০১৭ইং

০১।	ক্রমকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম	চিটাগাং ড্রাই ডক লিমিটেড, বাংলাদেশ নৌবাহিনী, পূর্ব পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম।
০২।	ক্রমক্রম মাল্যমাল এবং পরিমাণ	বৈদ্যুতিক সরঞ্জামাদি (ট্রেন্ডারের তফসিল মোতাবেক)।
০৩।	দরপত্রের নথি নং	২৩.০২.১৫৬৫.৩৪১.৫৩.০০৬.১৭.৩২১ তারিখঃ ১৬-০৩-২০১৭ইং।
০৪।	ক্রমের প্রক্রিয়া	বোলা দরপত্রের মাধ্যমে।
০৫।	উৎস	নিজস্ব তহবিল।
০৬।	দরপত্র গ্রহণের তারিখ ও শেষ সময়	২০ মার্চ ২০১৭ইং হতে ০৪ এপ্রিল ২০১৭ইং বেলাঃ ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত (অফিস চলাকালীন সময়)।
০৭।	দরপত্র জমাধানের শেষ সময়	১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
০৮।	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	০৪ এপ্রিল ২০১৭ইং বেলাঃ ১২:৩০ ঘটিকা।
০৯।	দরপত্র বিক্রয় ও গ্রহণের স্থান	চিটাগাং ড্রাই ডক লিমিটেড, বাংলাদেশ নৌবাহিনী, পূর্ব পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম।
১০।	ক। দরপত্র গ্রহণের স্থান	চিটাগাং ড্রাই ডক লিমিটেড এর হিসাব বিভাগ।
খ।	দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম	চিটাগাং ড্রাই ডক লিমিটেড।
গ।	দরপত্র খোলার প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম	(১) চিটাগাং ড্রাই ডক লিমিটেড, বাংলাদেশ নৌবাহিনী, পূর্ব পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম। (২) দরদাতা এবং অনুমোদিত প্রতিনিধি দরপত্র খোলার সময় উপস্থিত থাকতে পারবে।
১০।	টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্টের মূল্য	টাকাঃ ৮০০.০০ (আটশত মাত্র) টাকা (অপেক্ষাকৃত)।
১১।	যোগাযোগের মাধ্যম	ফোনঃ +৮৮০-৩১-২০১১১৭, ফ্যাক্সঃ +৮৮০-৩১-২০১১২৩
১২।	বিশেষ নির্দেশাবলী	চিটাগাং ড্রাই ডক লিমিটেড কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন/সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করে।

উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক (বাণিজ্য)