

Good yield, fair price make mustard growers happy

QUAMRUL ISALM RUBAIYAT, Thakurgaon

Combating adverse weather in Thakurgaon and Panchagarh, mustard farmers have achieved bumper production of the cash crop in the current season.

They are happy due to good production and fair price in the local markets during the on-going harvesting season. Mustard farmers are busy cutting and threshing the crop in the two northern districts as harvesting is going on in full swing.

Farmers and agriculture officials expect to exceed the production target as the cultivation area was also higher than the target.

Though the farmers had faced problems at the pod forming stage of the mustard cultivation season because of severe cold and dense fog, they were able to overcome the adverse situation successfully by taking necessary measures, including spraying of pesticides.

"Mustard was cultivated on 9,790 hectares of land against the target of 8,840 hectares, with the production target of 11,492 tonnes in Thakurgaon. About 13,366 tonnes of mustard were produced by harvesting 8,150 hectares till March 19," said district Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) Deputy Director (DD)

Maududul Islam.

In Panchagarh, farmers cultivated mustard on 2,370 hectares of land against the target of 2,110 hectares, with the production of 3,887 tonnes against the target of 2,722 tonnes, said DD of district DAE Shamsul Huq.

The farmers have cultivated mainly six varieties of mustard -- BARI Sarisha 9, BARI Sarisha 11, BARI Sarisha 14, BARI Sarisha 15, Tori 7 (a local improved variety) and Bashori (Indian).

Mustard is being sold between Tk 1,400 and Tk 1,800 per maund (one maund = 40 kg), depending on quality, in the local markets of the two districts this season.

During this correspondent's recent visit to different villages in Thakurgaon and Panchagarh, farmers' said harvesting of the crop will be completed late this month.

Anil Barman, 45, of Kestapur village in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila, told this correspondent that he cultivated high-yielding variety of mustard on one bigha of land spending about Tk 4,000, and produced six maunds of mustard. He sold his produce for Tk 1,600 per maund and made a profit of Tk 5,600.

Sirajul Islam, 60, of Sahapara village in Boda upazila of Panchagarh,

told this correspondent that he cultivated mustard on one-and-a-half bighas of land and produced nine maunds of mustard.

"Mustard cultivation needs only light irrigation twice, and is easier and less costly than cultivation of other crops, but it brings good profit. It is done in the period between Aman and Boro paddy farming," he said.

October to mid-November is the suitable time for mustard cultivation and it takes 65 to 70 days to get the yield, said farmers and officials. But many farmers in Thakurgaon and Panchagarh cultivate the crop till late December, they said.

The farmers are interested in cultivating the crop as they have been getting bumper yield and expected prices in recent years, DAE officials said.

The DAE authorities campaigned among the farmers for cultivating hybrid varieties of mustard invented by Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute (BARI) in the time between Aman and Boro to get more profit.

DAE, BARI and other organisations distributed quality mustard seeds while commercial banks disbursed agriculture loan among farmers in the two northern districts for cultivation of the cash crop.



Farmers harvest mustard at a field of Yakubpur village in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

Cops' free medical camp for FFs in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Tangail police organised a free health camp for the freedom fighters (FFs) on the occasion of the Independence Day to show respect to the glorious sons of the soil.

About 300 freedom fighters, who fought against the Pakistani occupation force for the independence of the country, were provided free check ups and medicines for their different complications at the day-long programme at Tangail Zila Shilpakala Academy in the town yesterday.

Beside the treatment facilities the FFs were also given T-shirts as gifts.

After getting the free health care facilities many FFs expressed their satisfaction

and thanked police for the honour.

FF Mohammad Shahed Ali of Tangail Sadar upazila, who has been suffering from diabetic and heart diseases, came to the camp with his daughter as he is unable to move without other's help.

"I was provided free blood and diabetic tests at the camp," Shahed Ali said.

"I have been suffering from kidney related complication and got necessary medicines from the camp," another FF Sheikh Abdur Gafur Arzu said.

Expressing gratitude to the FFs on behalf of police department, Tangail Superintendent of Police Sanjit Kumar Roy said "We would not be in the job if they had not fought for the country's independence."



Freedom fighters receive free treatment as the police department arranged a medical camp in Tangail district Shilpakala Academy premises as a token of honour for the heroic sons of the soil on the Independence Day yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Grocer found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Police recovered the throat-slit body of a 55-year-old man from near his house in Pabna Sadar upazila yesterday.

The deceased, Md Abdur Rashid, son of late Wahed Ali Bishwas of Koladi village in the upazila, was owner of a grocery shop in this locality.

BCL activist murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachari

A Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activist was stabbed allegedly by men of his rival group in the town on Saturday.

The incident took place near the PDB residential area. Locals took him to Sadar Hospital in a critical condition. Later, he was referred to Chittagong Medical College Hospital. He died on the way to the hospital the same day.

The victim was Md Russell, 18, a BCL activist of Khagrachari municipality ward No 6.

Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Shahadat Hossain Tito said the attackers were identified and police are conducting drives in different places to catch them.

Russel's body was handed over to his family members after autopsy at Sadar Hospital on Sunday.

Addict kills wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A woman was killed allegedly by her drug addict husband in Khagdohor Golgonda area of Sadar upazila yesterday.

The victim was Azufa Khatun, 25, wife of Arif Mia of the area.

Biplob Kumar Chanda, sub-inspector of Kotwali Police Station, said Arif used to quarrel with his wife Azufa on various occasions.

The couple went for sleep Sunday night.

Neighbours found Azufa's body lying on the bed and informed police around 11.00am, said the SI. Arif was not there.

Police sent the body to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

The body bore injury marks on the neck and mouth.

Police suspect Arif fled after strangling his wife.

MYMENSINGH BLAST House owner sued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Police on Sunday filed a case against the owner of a house where a student of Khulna University of Engineering and Technology was killed and three others suffered burn injuries in Square Masterbari area under Bhaluka upazila.

The accused is house owner Abdur Razzaq Dhali, said Md Mamun-or-Rashid, officer-in-charge of Bhaluka Police Station.

Md Towhidul Islam, 24, died on the spot and his three fellows got burn injuries when the gas line exploded on the third floor of the six-storey AS Tower in Bhaluka early Sunday, said Md Raihanul Islam, additional police superintendent.

INDEPENDENCE DAY IN DISTRICTS



1) Students stage a docudrama at Shaheed Khokon park in Bogra, depicting the barbarity of Pakistan occupation forces on the night of March 25 in 1971, 2) students of Al Amin Model Madrasa make an artistic display in Chandpur Stadium, 3) kids act out a scene in Nayarpur upazila of Tangail and 4) students make a gesture of pledge at Rafiq Uddin Stadium in Mymensingh yesterday, and 5) Ghatka Dalal Nirmul Committee arranges a candlelight programme on the premises of Shaheed Smriti Stambha in Manikganj town just before the countrywide one-minute blackout at 9:00pm on Sunday.

PHOTO: STAR