



Aubergine farmers all smiles

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Aubergine cultivation has been bringing good profit for growers in different villages under Krishnapur union of Sadarpur upazila for 15 years due to low production and labour cost.

"Two hundred and ninety hectares of land have been brought under brinjal cultivation in the upazila this year. BP hybrids, Iret, Sinduri, white brinjal are cultivated here," said Upazila Agriculture Officer Bidhan Roy.

Abul Bashar, 35, a brinjal farmer of Shoidubi village, said he has been cultivating aubergine on 40 decimals of land for three years. It is more profitable than other crops, he said, adding that the soil of the region is suitable for its cultivation.

Shahed Ali Mollah, 30, of Math Shoidubi village said he cultivated brinjal on one bigha of land spending Tk 45,000 this year. He hopes to get 120 maunds to 140 maunds of the crop this year. The price is Tk 800 to Tk 1,200 per maund, he added.

He expects to earn profit of Tk 1 lakh this year, he added.

Wholesaler Amzad Hossain said he buys aubergine from the farmers at Tk 800 to Tk 1,200 per maund and sells it at different markets at Tk 1,200 to Tk 1,500.

"We arranged training and conducted campaigns for brinjal farmers. Cultivation of brinjal is profitable as it requires low production cost and less labour," added Bidhan Roy.

Growers busy packing aubergine in Shoidubi Badhanoghat area under Sadarpur upazila of Faridpur. The photo was taken on August 24.

PHOTO: SUZIT KUMAR DAS

Man arrested with arms at Benapole

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a man with arms and ammunition from Mahishdanga in Benapole border area on Monday.

The arrestee is Rahmat Ali, 35, son of Mozammel Haque of Mahishdanga Miajharpara under Benapole Port Police Station.

Jessore Camp Rab-6 acting Commander Senior ASP Khodadad Hossain said Rab members raided the border area on secret information and arrested Rahmat.

They also seized a US-made 9mm pistol, another firearm, four bullets and two magazines from his possession.

Returnees count extra money for bus fare in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Taking advantage of the rush of passengers returning to their workplaces after celebrating Eid-ul-Azha, different bus services in the district have been realising more than the actual fare from the passengers.

The helpless passengers pay the extra money as they have to join work after the holidays.

They alleged that the transport owners and workers were realising almost double the normal fare.

On a visit to the New Bus Terminal in the district on Saturday, this correspondent saw a large number of passengers standing in front of the counters of bus services, including Nirala Super Service, Soniya and Sokal Sandhya services, for buying tickets.

Abdur Rahman, a Dhaka-bound passenger, said he went to the ticket counter of Nirala Super Service and the ticket master demanded Tk 250 instead of Tk 160, which is the actual fare.

"I bought the ticket at the increased price. What could I do? I have to join my office on Sunday," he added.

Another Dhaka-bound passenger Mohammad Ali, who works at a private organisation in the capital, was waiting for a bus of Soniya AC Bus Service. He said he bought an AC ticket for Tk 400 while the normal fare was Tk 250.

Sokal Sondhya, Dhaleswari and Jhatika bus services were also realising almost double the normal fare from the passengers.

Before Eid, the government had

declared that no additional bus fare would be realised from the passengers and action would be taken against those who realised additional fare. But the transport owners and workers did not care about the declaration and harassed the passengers for additional fare, several passengers alleged.

District Bus-Minibus Owners Association General Secretary Rashedur Rahman Tabib told journalists that, like in other places across the country, additional fare will be taken from the passengers in the district for three to four days after Eid.

"The buses return empty to Tangail after dropping passengers in Dhaka. Additional fare is being taken from the passengers to cover the fuel costs of the buses returning empty," he added.

3 murdered in dists

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Three people were murdered in Jessore, Rangpur and Jamalpur in last two days.

A woman was killed at her residence in Rajanigandha area of Jessore town on Friday night, reports our Benapole correspondent.

The deceased, Kalpana Begum, 35, was living with her two daughters at a rented house after separation from her husband.

The victim's daughter Mehzabin said a man named Rubel killed her mother by hitting her on the head.

"Informed, police recovered the body around 10:00pm and sent it to Jessore General Hospital for autopsy.

Our Dinajpur Correspondent reports: Criminals stabbed a three-wheeler driver to death in Gangachara upazila of Rangpur yesterday.

The victim was Abul Kalam, 32, son of Abul Haque of Nekihat village under Rangpur Sadar upazila.

People of Bolorampur village found Kalam's body at a bamboo cluster in the morning and informed police who recovered the body and sent it to Rangpur

Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

"Many stab marks were found on the body. Police are trying to detect the killers," said Moshir Rahman OC of Gangachara Police Station.

Our Jamalpur Correspondent adds: A man was hacked to death allegedly by his wife's brother at Nababpur village in Jamalpur Sadar upazila early yesterday.

The deceased is Majharul Islam Chhotan, 30, son of Abu Taher of the village.

Chhotan married Lobana Aktar Lipu, daughter of his paternal cousin Fazlul Haque, four years ago and it triggered a feud between the two families, police quoted locals as saying.

Chhotan and Lipu quoted living in Dhaka. A few months ago, the couple returned to their village home and started living there, said Nasimul Islam, OC of Sadar Police Station.

Lipu's younger brother Khalid Hasan Saran, 24, hacked Chhotan indiscriminately beside his house around 12:30am yesterday.

Hearing screams, relatives rushed in and took Chhotan to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital where he died, said the OC.

"Saran surrendered to the police around 3:30am and confessed to the murder.

Kuakata beach buzzes with tourists

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Housewife Shahnaz, who came to Kuakata beach from Faridpur with her five-member family to enjoy their Eid holidays, was seen walking along the beach on Friday and enjoying the natural scenario alongside the sea.

"We are very happy for getting chance to visit this place and enjoying our time," Shahnaz said, adding that this is the place where you can see the sunrise and sunset very clearly.

Another tourist Ashiqur Rahman from Dhaka said, "I took a bath in the sea and enjoyed the sunrise from the beach, which is very charming."

"I will visit a few Rakhine villages here to know their history," Ashiqur said, adding that he has bought some homemade products like bed sheet, shirts, punjabi and women's dresses from

Rakhine market.

Like Shahnaz and Ashiq, hundreds of tourists from different parts across the country came to Kuakata beach to celebrate their Eid holidays.

Alongside enjoying the sunrise and sunset from the beach, most of the tourists visit some other places like Rakhine market and the famous Buddhist temple.

Abdul Motaleb Sharif, secretary of Kuakata Hotel-Motel Owners' Association, said a good number of tourists came here to enjoy their Eid holidays this year and the number would have been more if the condition of the road was good.

All hotels and motels here are newly decorated to attract the tourist, he said.

Tourist police alongside members of other law enforcement agencies are deployed at different points to ensure security of the visiting tourists, Inspector of Tourist police Khalilur Rahman said.



Hundreds of tourists from different parts of the country are visiting Kuakata beach to enjoy their Eid holidays. The photo was taken on Friday.

PHOTO: STAR

Generosity of a DC

Elderly ultra poor Sanu Mia gets new house

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhalakathi

Eighty-five-year-old Sanu Mia, an ailing ultra poor man, now lives in a new house, thanks to the generosity of

the deputy commissioner (DC) of Jhalakathi.

At the twilight of his life, Sanu Mia was living a lonely life at his

broken house at Bagri in Rajapur upazila headquarters under Jhalakathi, often struggling to have three square meals a day.

Hearing about his plight, Jhalakathi Deputy Commissioner Md Hamidul Haque went to the spot to meet Sanu on June 7.

The DC with his own money arranged a new corrugated tin-made house at Sanu's land and handed it over to him in mid July.

On August 4, Sanu Mia went to the DC's office in Jhalakathi, 17 kilometres from Rajapur, for giving thank to him.

Surprised to see Sanu, the DC embraced him.

"Getting thanks and blessings from a father-like person like Sanu Mia is the best award of my service life," said the DC, who also bought new dress as gift to Sanu ahead of the Eid-ul-Azha.

"The DC Sir has changed my life. Now local chairman and political leaders regularly take care of me," said Sanu with tears of joy.



Sanu Mia, 85, poses with Jhalakathi Deputy Commissioner Md Hamidul Haque and others in front of the new tin-made house arranged by the DC at Sanu's land at Bagri in Rajapur upazila of the district.

PHOTO: STAR

VILLAGERS CLASH

2 killed, 30 injured in Habiganj, Kishoreganj

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Two people were killed and at least 30 others injured in clashes between rival villagers in Habiganj and Kishoreganj yesterday and on Friday.

Our Moulvibazar correspondent reports: A man was killed and at least 20 others were injured in a clash between two groups of villagers over establishing supremacy in the panchayet (village committee) in Bahubal upazila of Habiganj on Friday.

The deceased, Juned Mia, 30, was a resident of Khagaura village.

Habiganj Additional Superintendent of Police Pervez Alam Chowdhury said there had been a longstanding feud between one Saikat Mia and Sngahat Union Parishad (UP) Member Rahim Mia over establishing supremacy in the village committee.

As a sequel to the enmity, they filed separate cases against each other earlier while an altercation took place between their supporters around 9:00pm on Friday.

UP member Rahim said, at one stage, Saikat's men stabbed one of his supporters Juned with a sharp weapon, which triggered

a clash between the two groups that left 20 others from the two sides injured.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Bahubal Police Station Golam Dostagir said seriously injured Juned was first taken to Habiganj Sadar Hospital and then referred to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital as his condition deteriorated.

Juned died on way to the hospital around 10:00pm, the OC said, adding that the injured took treatment at different hospitals and clinics.

In Kishoreganj, a youth was killed and at least 10 others were injured in a clash over land dispute in Mithamoin upazila yesterday, our Mymensingh correspondent reports.

The deceased, Babul Mia, 30, was son of late Murshid Mia of Bhajakpur village.

Quoting locals, police said there had been a rivalry between Babul and one of his neighbours Dulal Mia over the ownership of a disputed land.

As a sequel, Dulal's men attacked Babul and his supporters with sharp weapons that left at least 11 people including Babul injured.

Critically injured Babul was rushed to Kishoreganj General Hospital where the doctors declared him dead, police said.

Elderly woman takes own life

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Police recovered the hanging body of an old woman from her residence at Samoskathi village in Manirampur upazila of Jessore early yesterday.

The deceased was Insan Bibi, 70, wife of late Badsha Mollah of Dakuria village in the upazila.

After her husband's death many years ago, she stayed with her younger son Hasan Ali at Samoskathi village.

"She committed suicide by hanging herself in the house at 3:00am yesterday. I went to the spot after getting the news. The house members said Insan Bibi was ill for a long time. Earlier she tried to commit suicide several times," said local union parishad member Akter Hossain.

The old woman was mother of two sons and three daughters.