

21 lakh trees planted in memory of the martyred in 34 districts

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Jagorani Chakra Foundation (JCF), a non-governmental organisation (NGO), has planted a total of 21, 03,382 fruit producing trees in 34 districts across the country in memory of those martyred during the 1971 Liberation War.

The trees include mango, litchi and coconut. They were planted in the months of August and September.

Officials of the NGO said this at a press conference at Jashore Press Club yesterday. JCF organised the conference.

Azadul Kabir Arzoo, executive director of JCF, Adity Arzoo, its deputy executive director, Kazi Mazed Nawaz, director (programme), Azizul Haque, director (microfinance), and Hasib Nawaz, public relation officer, were present at the press conference.

Tourist goes missing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

A tourist from the capital went missing in Nafakhum waterfall, a famous tourist spot in Thanchi upazila, yesterday.

The victim, Ariful Hasan, 26, is a resident of Mirpur area in Dhaka.

The incident occurred when Ariful along with some of his friends were bathing in the waterfall around 9:00am, Thanchi Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Ariful Haque said, adding that at one stage he was hit by a huge wave and went missing.

It will take time to conduct a rescue operation as the incident occurred in a remote area, the UNO added.



Haripada Kapali is all smiles in his field full of Haridhan, which he discovered, at Ashan Nagar in Sadhuhati union under Jhenaidah Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: AZIBOR RAHMAN

Haridhan farming on the decline

Jhenaidah agriculture officer blames it on scanty rain

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah

Cultivation of Haridhan, discovered by Haripada Kapali in 2006, has decreased in six upazilas due to scanty rainfall.

Sadar upazila Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer (SAAO) Milon Kumar Ghosh said he is in charge of Sadhuhati union and visits the area very often. Haripada hailed from Ashan Nagar village in the union, he said.

"Haripada discovered haridhan variety in 2006 and its cultivation spread quickly as it is very productive. Four thousand hectares of land had been brought under Haridhan cultivation from 2006 to 2009. This continued for a few years. In course of time, cultivation decreased due

to scanty rainfall. This variety is suitable for lowlands where rain-water remains stagnant. If rainfall is sufficient farmers can grow up to 20 to 22 maunds per bigha," the SAAO said.

This year, only 20 to 30 bighas of land had been brought under this variety, but its cultivation has increased in the lowlands of Cumilla, Sylhet, Rangamati and Khulna. This variety is under research at Bangladesh Agriculture University, Mymensingh, he added.

Haripada's nephew Rupkumar Biswas said his maternal uncle passed away on July 6 in 2017. "Haripada thought about how he could get bumper production, and always picked up tall paddy plants

from the field," Rupkumar said.

"One day, while working on plot BR-11, Haripada found a bunch of paddy which was stout and tall. Haripada took special care of it and facilitated its growth in a natural way. He sowed the seeds in separate places and measured the production. In this way he produced this variety and named it Haridhan. This is how its name and fame spread all around," Rupkumar said.

Rupkumar added that he had cultivated Haridhan on 10 decimals of lowlands in 2017 and got bumper production. This year he has cultivated it on eight decimals and expects to get good production, he added.

Mozibur Rahman of the same

village said he has cultivated Haridhan on one bigha this year and expects to get bumper production. Many farmers are not cultivating Haridhan due to shortage of water, he added.

Sadar Upazila Agriculture Officer Mofakkharul Islam said Haridhan is suitable for lowlands. Due to scanty rain the farmers are losing interest in this variety, he said, adding that it is available in flood-affected areas.

Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding, Bangladesh Agriculture University, Mymensingh, Prof Dr Mohammad Anwar Hossain said whether this variety will be recognised or not will be decided by the government after thorough research and experiment.

Once again rape attempt on running bus

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Police arrested a bus driver on charge of attempting to rape a female garment worker in the vehicle on Satoria-Manikganj road at Dhulla under Satoria upazila in the district on Tuesday night.

The arrestee is Jamal Mia, 35, son of Mohammad Raiz Uddin of Baliati Charpara village in Satoria upazila.

The victim woman works at a garment factory in Bathuli area of Dhamrai upazila in Dhaka.

While returning home in Satoria on a bus transporting workers from the factory, she faced the brutality when the vehicle reached Dhulla area of Satoria-Manikganj road at around 11:00pm.

"After the end of the work at the factory on Tuesday night, on their way to home by the bus, other workers were dropped at Dhulla. Getting me alone in the bus, driver Jamal tried to rape me after switching off the lights of the vehicle.

"I was released after agreeing to the driver's condition that I would not tell anyone about the rape attempt. I got down from the bus in Satoria Bazar Bridge area and told the incident to my father who was waiting there to take me home," she said.

After getting complaint, police arrested the accused driver Jamal from Satoria Bazar the same night, said Aminul Islam, officer in charge of Satoria Police Station.

The garment worker filed a case against the bus driver with the police station yesterday for attempting to rape her, he said.

Little Lamia

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On information, a team of detectives raided Ashraful's rented flat and rescued the victim, who was found in a critical condition, officers said.

They arrested Sharmin from the flat and filed a case with Airport Police Station.

"Her face was bruised so much that she could not be identified at first," Moazzem Hossain said.

There are marks of torture all over her body, he added.

A male and a female police constable have been taking care of her at the hospital.

Lamia, a motherless child, said she always dreamt of escaping.

Her father Iqbal Sardar of Barishal's Gaurnadi upazila is a labourer in Dhaka. Lamia used to live with her grandmother before she was employed by Ashraful.

"They used to lock me inside a room when they left the flat. I did all the work at home and took care of their little baby."

Ashraful and his wife used to shave her head so that her hair would not fall on food, she said.

Ashim Kumar Saha, head of child surgery, said, "The child is out of danger and she needs more time to recover physically but the mental shock may take years to recover from."



Pabna journalists bring out a silent procession covering their faces with black cloth yesterday seeking punishment to the attackers of Habibur Rahman Swapan.

PHOTO: STAR

Punish Swapan's attackers

Pabna journalists demand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Journalists in the district yesterday brought out a silent procession covering their faces with black clothes seeking exemplary punishment to the attackers of journalist Habibur Rahman Swapan.

They also submitted memorandums to the prime minister and the home minister through the deputy commissioner and the superintendent of police in this regard.

The journalist leaders said it was a planned attack on Swapan to stop independent voice. They said this before starting the procession as part of their three-day agitation demanding punishment to the attackers.

Members of Pabna Press Club led by its President Shibojit Nag and Secretary Akhinur Islam Remon paraded the main streets of the district headquarters to realise

their five-point demand, including security of the journalists.

Other demands include punishment to the attackers of Swapan, his better treatment and justice for the journalists who came under attacks in Pabna during the last few years.

"Sometime a few people are arrested but the real attackers remain unpunished. And so, such an attack continues," said Pabna Sangbadpatra Parishad President Abdul Matin Khan.

Superintendent of Police Md Rafikul Islam, however, said the police investigate such incidents and try to arrest the attackers.

Critically injured Swapan, staff reporter of The Daily Sangbad and president of Pabna Reporters Unity, is now undergoing treatment at Comfort Hospital in the capital. Unidentified criminals attacked him at Pathartola on Saturday when he was returning home on a rickshaw.

Teenager held with Yaba in Khagrachhari

UNB, Khagrachhari

Police in a drive on Tuesday night detained a teenage boy along with 22 pieces of Yaba tablets from Taidong Colony area in Dighinala upazila of the district.

The arrestee, Sohag Hossain, 18, is son of Abul Kalam of the area.

Officer-in-Charge of Dighinala Police Station Uttam Chandra Deb said a police team, acting on a tip-off, conducted a drive in the area and arrested Sohag and seized 22 pieces of Yaba tablets from his possession.

Two found dead in Chuadanga, Sylhet

UNB, Chuadanga, Sylhet

Two men were found dead in Chuadanga and Sylhet yesterday and the day before.

Police recovered the body of a man, who went missing a month ago, from Habibpur village in Jibannagar upazila of Chuadanga yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Ziarul Islam Zia, 38, son of Aizel Mandal of Habibpur village.

The victim's wife Sukjan Khatun said Ziarul went out of house on September 14 and remained missing since then.

Officer-in-Charge of Jibannagar Police Station Sheikh Gani Mia said local farmers spotted the body at a garden yesterday morning and informed police.

Police recovered the body and sent it to Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy, said the OC.

Meanwhile, the law enforcers recovered the body of a young man from the Surma river at Pirpur village of Sylhet Sadar upazila on Tuesday.

The deceased was identified as Sumon Ahmed, 27, son of Abdul Malik of the village.

Enamul Hossain, a member of Tukur Bazar Union Parishad, said Sumon locked in an altercation with his elder brother Abdul Karim over a trifling matter on Tuesday afternoon.

At one stage of altercation, after being chased by his brother Sumon jumped into the Surma river and went missing.

On information, a team of divers from local fire station went to the spot and recovered the body, said Shafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Jalalabad Police Station.

FAKHRUL AND RAMESH AMONG MP ASPIRANTS VISIT PUJA MANDAPS IN THAKURGAON

Call to celebrate Durga Puja without fear

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Aspirants of different political parties in the upcoming parliamentary election are visiting the puja mandaps in the district to meet Hindu devotees on the occasion of the Durga Puja.

As almost one-third of the voters in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila are from the Hindu community, the leaders are trying to visit every mandap.

A total of 455 puja mandaps have been set

up in the district to celebrate the biggest religious festival of the Bangalee Hindu community, of which 202 are in Sadar upazila.

Awami League presidium member and lawmaker Ramesh Chandra Sen started visiting the mandaps on Tuesday.

Ramesh urged people to celebrate the puja without fear as the government has taken all measures for keeping peaceful atmosphere because it believes in ensuring

the same facilities for people of all religions.

He urged the people to extend support to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for building a prosperous nation where people of all religions enjoy equal rights.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir started visiting the mandaps yesterday.

Fakhru said Durga comes to earth to eliminate all wrongdoings, injustice and inequity to establish a peaceful society.

Arunangshu Datta Tito, AL upazila unit president and Bangladesh Puja Uddhapan Parishad district president, also visited mandaps.

Aspirants from Jatiya Party, Workers Party of Bangladesh and JSD are also visiting puja mandaps to meet Hindu devotees.

Political leaders in Thakurgaon-2 and Thakurgaon-3 constituencies are also visiting puja mandaps.



Awami League Presidium Member Ramesh Chandra Sen, left, visits Ramkrishna Asram mandap while BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, right, talks to Hindu devotees at a puja mandap of Khochabari village in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR