

### 3 held with Yaba, hemp in two dists

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Law enforcers in separate drives detained three alleged drug peddlers with 1100 pieces of Yaba tablets and 15 kilograms of hemp in Jashore and Jamalpur early yesterday and on Monday night.

Our Benapole correspondent reported that Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) detained a suspected drug peddler and seized 1100 pieces of Yaba tablets in Sharsha upazila of Jashore on Monday night.

The arrestee Khairul Islam, 19, is son of late Monir Hossain of Ogrobhulot village in the upazila.

Commanding Officer of BGB 21 Battalion Lt Col Imran Ullah Sarker said, a BGB team, acting on a tip-off, raided Khairul's house and arrested him with the Yaba pills.

The arrestee was later handed over to Sharsha Police Station the same night.

Away in Jamalpur, Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested two youths with 15 kilograms of hemp from the district town early yesterday.

The arrestees, Sonet Bepari, 22, son of Selim Bepari, and Arjan Ali, 21, son of late Asgar Bepari, are residents of Polobandha village in Islampur upazila.

Being tipped-off, a team of DB police conducted a drive under Jamalpur-Sherpur Bridge around 12:30am, detained the two and seized 15 kilograms of hemp packed in two plastic bags from their possession, Sub-Inspector (SI) of Jamalpur DB police Jasim Uddin said.

After filing of a case under Narcotics Control Act with Sadar Police Station, the arrestees were produced before a court that sent them to jail yesterday, the SI added.



Paddy growers at Dumuria village under Dewlbari-Dobra union in Pirojpur's Nazirpur upazila usually grow saplings on a high bed, locally known as kandi, as most of the villages under the union remain waterlogged and covered with different water plants round the year.

PHOTO: STAR

# Innovative way to tackle sapling crisis

Paddy farmers in low lying areas of Pirojpur make seedbeds on raised fields to meet their requirement

HABIBUR RAHMAN, Pirojpur

Geographically most areas under Dewlbari-Dobra, Kalardoaniya and Malikhali unions in Nazirpur upazila remain waterlogged and covered with different water plants including water hyacinth all the year round.

As a result, it is quite impossible for the farmers in those areas to cultivate Aman, which is the main season for paddy in the southern parts of the country.

However, as the water level started decreasing with the arrival of winter, it created an opportunity for the local farmers to grow Boro paddy in the marshlands.

But, growing paddy sapling is a bigger challenge for local growers.

Usually farmers across the country grow paddy saplings on plain land and without any serious difficulty, but it is too difficult here as there is hardly any suitable land available, local farmers said.

"Usually we grow paddy saplings on a high bed, locally known as kandi," farmer Sudhir Ranjan Bepary of Beel Dumuria village said, adding that it is difficult to find such land in the areas as most of the farmers grow Robi crops there.

"Sometimes, we have to grow the saplings on plain land in distant villages and then carry those to our cropland," Ali Hossain of the village said.

"It's not that easy to grow paddy in marshlands as the areas remain covered with thick water plants," farmer Anukul Mondal of Pakuria village said, adding that paddy growers have to face serious difficulties, especially arranging the saplings.

"Most of the farmers in our locality mainly depend on Robi crops and if embankments are built here production of paddy and Robi crops will surely increase," said Samiran Halder, a member of Dewlbari-Dobra Union Parishad (UP).

"Growers in Dewlbari-Dobra union can only grow paddy during the Boro season when the water level starts decreasing," Union Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer Premananda Halder said.

Dewlbari-Dobra UP Chairman Mohammad Waliullah said although Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADCO) constructed an embankment in his union, more embankments are needed for agricultural development.

"Alongside growing paddy sapling, life is very challenging in the marshlands as the entire communication system depends on waterways there," Nazirpur Upazila Agriculture Officer Digbijoy Hazra said.

His department has a target to bring around 13,000 hectares of land in the upazila under Boro cultivation this year, which was 10,000 hectares the previous year, he added.



Officials hand over books to teachers concerned at a programme at Officers Club in Kalapara upazila headquarters in Patuakhali on Saturday as seven primary schools got a library each, named after seven Birshreshthas, recipients of the highest gallantry award for their supreme sacrifice during the Liberation War.

PHOTO: STAR

# A laudable initiative for remote primary kids

7 schools in Kalapara get rich library, named after Birshresthas

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Seven libraries named after the seven Bir Shreshthas (bravest Liberation War heroes) have been set up at seven government primary schools in Kalapara upazila to give opportunity to the students to learn about the Liberation War and its heroes.

The library at Champapur Government Primary School is named after Motiur Rahman; the one at Modhuya Patua Government Primary School is named after Hamidur Rahman; the one at Pubo Patua Government Primary School is named after Munsir Abdur Rouf; the one at Lalia Hatkhola Government Primary School is named after Mohiuddin Jahangir; the one at Chandupara

Government Primary School is named after Mostafa Kamal; the one at Dakkhin Dabluganj Government Primary School is named after Nur Mohammad and the one at Hazikanda Government Primary School is named after Ruhul Amin.

Two non-governmental organisations -- ActionAid and AVAS -- jointly took the laudable step to encourage primary school kids to learn about the bravest heroes of the Liberation War, said Monirul Islam, project manager of AVAS.

These libraries will play a vital role in helping primary school kids to learn about the world, he said.

Each library got over 4,500 books on the Liberation War and its heroes

and also on many other subjects, Monirul said. The total cost was Tk 2.30 lakh, he added.

A two-day-long training workshop on how to run the libraries ended on Saturday at Kalapara Officers' Club auditorium. It was attended by 20 people, including 14 teachers from all seven schools.

At the closing session, Executive Director of AVAS Rahima Sultana Kajol handed over books and bookshelves for the libraries to the teachers of the schools.

"It is a laudable step in the month of liberation and will help the new generation to know about the heroes," said Kalapara Press Club President Mejbah Uddin Mannu.

# RANGPUR SUGAR MILL Production resumes after three days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Rangpur Sugar Mill Ltd in Gaibandha resumed production yesterday morning after being shut for three days due to collapse of the foundation base of the boilers.

The mill started crushing sugarcane on December 7, but after 30 minutes of operation, the machine went out of order due to a major fault and remained shut down for three consecutive days.

According to officials of the mill, they were compelled to shut down as the foundation base of three boilers nearly collapsed half an hour after crushing started. A team of experts from Dhaka rushed to the mill and replaced the damaged portion of the boilers.

Meanwhile, the sugarcane growers had to halt supply of the item to the mill. The sugarcane piled up in the mill's compound is drying up, growers said.

This year, the mill fixed a target of crushing 80,000 tonnes of sugarcane from 5,780 acres land and producing 5,600 tonnes of sugar. Last year, the mill produced 3,135 tonnes of sugar by crushing 47,000 tonnes of sugarcane. The mill expects to achieve its target this season.

This season, the mill will run for 50 days as adequate sugarcane is being harvested from the mill's farm and eight sub-zones of sugarcane fields in the district, said Rangpur Sugar Mill Ltd Managing Director Anower Hossain Akanda.

This year, production of sugarcane is satisfactory, so the mill is expected to achieve the target of sugar production, he added.

# Hope revives Windies

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short, was then taken for three fours by Hope in an over that cost 16.

Mahmudullah was brought on to defend six runs in the final over, which was never on the cards against a sublime Hope, and West Indies got to the target in risk-free fashion, taking two singles and two couples.

Bangladesh's fielding became frayed in the end stages, with Nazmul Islam dropping a catch off Keemo Paul in the 48th over, which also saw an overthrow that allowed Hope to retain strike.

It all looked lost for West Indies just around an hour before the triumph when skipper Rovman Powell was the fifth batsman out with the score on 157 in the 34th over, caught off his opposite number Mashrafe Bin Mortaza. Before that, their innings got off to a bad start when Chanderpaul Hemraj was trapped in front by off-spinner Mehedi Hasan Miraz in the second over.

Hope then put together two 50-plus partnerships -- a 65-run second-wicket stand with Darren Bravo before he was castled by Rubel and a 64-run third wicket stand with Marlon Samuels, who was caught behind off Mustafizur

Rahman in the 30th over. Shimron Hetmyer did not last long as he swivel-pulled Rubel straight to deep square leg three overs later.

Earlier, Bangladesh did not fully capitalise on the perfect platform provided by a 111-run third-wicket partnership between Tamim Iqbal and Mushfiqur Rahim after West Indies won the toss. Opener Liton Das was felled by an Oshane Thomas yorker that struck him on an unprotected right ankle and he had to retire hurt on five in the second over. Imrul Kayes's problems against the high pace of Thomas were exposed yet again -- he was late on the ball to be bowled in the first ODI -- as he was out to a tame poke outside off stump to be caught behind in the fourth over.

Mushfiqur joined Tamim with the score on 15, who put the pressure back on West Indies with two boundaries in the next two overs -- a one-bounce four to midwicket off a Kemar Roach free-hit and a clip through the same region off Thomas. Mushfiqur turned Thomas off his hips for four in the pacer's next over and Tamim consolidated the early initiative by hitting Keemo

Paul for a six -- off another free hit -- over long on in the 11th over. He followed that with a straight driven four that showed his class and also that the wicket was a more easy-paced one than the one for the first match.

With a square-cut boundary off Paul in the 13th over and two of his favoured swept boundaries in the following over against off-spinner Roston Chase, Mushfiqur raced to 36, overtaking Tamim on 33. When he reached his 32nd ODI fifty by running his 62nd ball down to third man for a single off Rovman Powell in the 21st over as Bangladesh reached 112 for one, a total close to 300 seeded on the cards. Tamim reached his 43rd fifty off his 61st delivery with a tuck off the pads off Powell two overs later, but then he slog-swept leg-spinner Devendra Bishoo straight down deep midwicket's throat to depart for a 63-ball 50 in the third ball of the 24th over.

A quiet period followed as Bangladesh added seven runs from the next 19 deliveries and the pressure led to Mushfiqur playing away from his body and edging Thomas to the keeper to depart for 62 off 80 balls. From

132 for three, Shakib and Mahmudullah Riyad added 61 runs for the fourth wicket in 13.5 overs. In the 41st over, Mahmudullah was out for 30 after being caught at cover off a leading edge against Powell.

Soumya Sarkar did not last long before being caught off Bishoo for six, which is when Liton resumed his innings, having come back from the hospital with a scan that showed no major damage. He however added just three runs before being caught off Paul in the 46th over.

Shakib got a reprieve when, on 46, he was caught off a Thomas no-ball in the 45th over. He celebrated his good fortune by smashing the free hit for a six, bringing up his 40th fifty off 54 balls. That over cost 16 runs and included two more boundaries off Shakib's bat.

After Shakib's dismissal, bowled by a very slow slower ball from Roach for a 62-ball 65, Bangladesh lost momentum against a slew of slower balls bowled by Roach and Thomas, with Mehedi and Mashrafe taking just 16 runs in the last three overs, and in the end that proved decisive.

# Nasa probe

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oxygen and hydrogen atoms bonded together. The mission scientists believe that the hydroxyls exist across the asteroid, locked in clay minerals.

This means at some point over its lifetime, Benu interacted with water -- although it's too small to host water itself. But Benu was probably once part of a larger asteroid, and the liquid water would have been present on this "parent" body.

"The presence of hydrated minerals across the asteroid confirms that Benu, a remnant from early in the formation of the solar system, is an excellent specimen for the OSIRIS-REx mission to study the composition of primitive volatiles and organics," said Amy Simon, OSIRIS deputy instrument scientist at Nasa's Goddard Space Flight Center. "When samples of this material are returned by the mission to Earth in 2023, scientists will receive a treasure trove of new information about the history and evolution of our solar system."

The mission scientists were encouraged to learn that they were also accurate in predicting and modelling Benu's actual shape, including diameter, rotation rate and inclination, almost exactly.

But now that OSIRIS-REx is up close and personal with Benu, it has found the asteroid's surface more rocky than expected, with more boulders. This means the mission scientists will need to make more observations at closer range to ensure from where a sample can be taken from the surface in 2020.

OSIRIS-REx will continue to survey the asteroid by flying by its north pole, equator and south pole, sometimes as close as 4.4 miles away, to determine mass.