



Farmer Shahidul Islam works at his onion seed field at Madhabpur village in Natore's Naldanga upazila.

Good price brings smile to onion seed growers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Onion seed farming in the district is gaining popularity as the growers are earning a handsome amount of money from its cultivation. Rafiqul Islam, deputy director of Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Natore, said about 86 hectares of land in the district have been brought under onion seed cultivation this year while it was 78 hectares in 2018. Farmer Shahidul Islam, 38, of Madhabpur village in Naldanga upazila, said he has been cultivating onion seed for a decade. It is more profitable than other crops, he said, adding that the soil of the region is suitable for its cultivation. "I have cultivated onion seed on eight decimals of land spending Tk 5,000 and got 30 kg of seeds this year. I am hopeful to make a profit of Tk 1 lakh this year," Shahidul said, adding that "I was a poor grower ten years ago, but at present I have

changed my luck by cultivating onion seed." Shahidul further said he got 52 kg of onion seeds and sold per kg at Tk 3,000. He earned profit of Tk 1.44 lakh from his 16 decimals land. Rashedul Islam, 30, of the same village, said he cultivated onion seed on 20 decimals of land spending Tk 40,000 this year. He hopes to get 60 to 70 kg of seeds from the land. He expects to earn a profit of Tk 1 lakh this season, said Rashedul. Nabir Uddin of Bangabaria village in Natore Sadar upazila said he has cultivated onion seed on 33 decimals of land spending Tk 20,000 this year. He made a profit of Tk 20,000 by selling onion seeds last year, Nabir added. The DAE official said farmers have achieved bumper production of onion seed this year as the weather was favourable. He also said they are trying to inspire more growers of the district for cultivating onion seeds as it is very profitable.

PHOTO: STAR

BCL man jailed for stalking teacher

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A mobile court sentenced a Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leader to 10 days' imprisonment for stalking a female schoolteacher in Muktagachha upazila yesterday. The convict is Mominul Islam, organising secretary of BCL Muktagachha Shaheed Smriti Government College unit. Mominul has been stalking the teacher for a week, said Mohammad Ali Mahmud, officer-in-charge of Muktagachha Police Station. On information, police arrested Mominul from his residence on Monday night. He was then produced before a court, led by the upazila nirbahi officer, that pronounced the verdict. Mominul was later sent to jail.

7 drug addicts kill widow after gang rape

Sakhipur police unearthed mystery of the murder after six months

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Widow Nazma alias Dhalabanu, 42, of Sakhipur upazila was strangled to death after she was raped by seven drug addicts at her house at Protima Bonki village in the upazila last year. Local police unearthed mystery of the killing on Sunday, over six months into the incident. Lutful Kabir, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Sakhipur Police Station, said Nazma's decomposed body was recovered from the bathroom of her house on October 5 last year. Nazma lived at the house alone as her husband died about ten years ago. Her two sons work in Dhaka. Her younger son Azizul Miah later filed a case with the police station, accusing unidentified assailants. Tracing the missing mobile phone of Nazma, Sub-Inspector Shamsul Haque, investigation officer of the case, arrested Alamgir Hossain, 22, of Mucharia Pathar village in the upazila on Saturday.

Alamgir gave confessional statement to Sumon Kumar, senior judicial magistrate in Tangail under Section 164 on Sunday (April 21), described the brutal killing and disclosed names of six other drug addicts involved in the crime. Taking drugs, Alamgir and six others went to the house of Nazma and six of them forcefully raped her after stuffing a scarf in her mouth to swallow her screams. When the last man went to rape Nazma, she was dead. They later left the house after keeping her body into the bathroom. They also took away her mobile phone set and gold ornaments, said the IO. OC Kabir said police previously arrested another accused Habibur Rahman about one month ago. The arrestee was later sent to jail through a court, he said. Police are raiding different areas to arrest other accused in the case, said the police official.



Locals formed a human and held a rally on Dhaka-Paturia highway near Paturia ferry ghat in Manikganj's Shivalaya upazila yesterday protesting death of transport worker in a road accident. Azad Talukder was run over by a covered van on the road on April 21. The protesters also demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the covered van driver.

PHOTO: STAR

Bridging upazilas of Pirojpur and beyond

With three finished bridges and four more on the way, all upazilas of the district will soon be accessible by road from the rest of the country

HABIBUR RAHMAN, Pirojpur

The entire district of Pirojpur will soon be accessible by road from the rest of the country and vice versa -- thanks to seven new river bridges that are to be completed during the tenure of the present government. Among those, construction of three new bridges have already been completed and two are under construction. Preparation for construction of the other two are currently underway. After all the new bridges are made open to public, residents of Pirojpur's all seven upazilas, separated from each other by rivers, will no longer need to cross multiple rivers in order to reach the district headquarters. Masud Mahmud Sumon, executive engineer of Roads and Highways Department (RHD) in Pirojpur, said after the bridges are completed, the southern district will come under direct road link with the rest of the country, generating a wave of economic development in the region. As part of the vision, Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) has finished construction of the Sheikh Hasina Bridge over

the Dirgha Kaliganga river in Nazripur upazila at a cost of around TK 37 crore. The 360-metre-long bridge was inaugurated recently by Housing and Public Works Minister SM Rezaul Karim, MP, Pirojpur-1. Previously, two other bridges were constructed over the river Baleshwar. The Shaheed Fazlul Haque Moni Bridge connects Pirojpur Sadar upazila with Indurkani upazila, while the Baleshwar Bridge connects neighbouring district Bagherhat with district town of Pirojpur. Speaking with this correspondent, Minister SM Rezaul Karim hoped that all of Pirojpur will come under direct road link during the tenure of the present government. "I am trying to build a bridge over the Sandha to bring together two parts of Nesarabad upazila, while another bridge in Sreeramkathi on the Kaliganga river to connect Nazripur and Nesarabad upazilas," the minister said, hoping that communications and economy of riverine Pirojpur will undergo extensive development once all the bridges are completed. Among the ongoing constructions, the work of Eighth Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge on Barishal-Pirojpur-Khulna highway over

river Kacha started in 2017. Assisted by the government of China and supervised by RHD, the bridge is being built by China Railway 17th Bureau Group Co Ltd. The TK 822-crore bridge, scheduled to be completed by 2021, will create road connectivity between Barishal and Khulna divisions. Pirojpur RHD Executive Engineer Masud Mahmud Sumon said they were confident that the bridge will be completed within the schedule. Work of another new bridge with a price tag of around TK 115 crore started in July 2018 on the Kaliganga in Pirojpur Sadar's Kalakhali village. Supervised by LGED, the 600-metre-long bridge is being built by Navana Construction and it will establish road link between Pirojpur Sadar and Nesarabad upazilas. Abul Kalam Azad, sub-assistant engineer of LGED in Pirojpur, said residents of Nesarabad upazila experience serious difficulties when they have to cross two rivers on their way to the district headquarters in Pirojpur town. Their sufferings will end when "the construction of the bridge will be completed by the end of 2020," he added.

Getting bail, accused threaten family to withdraw case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

The family of the elderly woman, tied up for hours to a betel nut tree over a land dispute in Jamalpur Sadar upazila last week, are being threatened with false cases unless her family withdraws the case against the perpetrators. Sumon Debnath, son of the woman, Protibha Devnath, 58, from Kendua Khamarpara village in the upazila, filed the case on April 19 with Sadar Police Station, alleging that their neighbour Sultan Mahmud Fakir and four others tied up the woman in a field for hours the day before. Sumon said his mother went to the disputed land on April 18 morning when their neighbour Sultan Mahmud and his men were making preparations to make a betel leaf orchard on six decimals of land, on which court decision is still pending. Sumon was out of home when the incident took place. His mother was also raising objections as another six decimals of land belonging to her family were being encroached upon for the orchard by the workers of their neighbour, he claimed.

Soon an altercation ensued and at one stage, Sultan and his men tied his mother to a tree, Sumon said, adding that locals freed her from the spot later and he filed a general diary with Narayanpur Police Investigation Centre the same day. The next day, on April 19, Nazrul Islam, an accused in the case, was arrested and he was sent to jail after being produced before a court, said Sub-Inspector Asgar Ali, investigation officer of the case at Sadar Police Station. Sumon Debnath alleged that Nazrul and the other accused have been creating pressure on him and his family members to withdraw the case since April 21 when all the accused including Nazrul secured bail from the court. Refuting the accusation of tying up Protibha in the field, Sultan claimed that he was busy making the orchard on a portion of 16 decimals of land that he had purchased from Sumon's uncle Madan Mohon Debnath in 2007. Members of the Hindu family tried to prevent him from his work and they themselves "tied her up to put the blame on me," he also said.

10 injured in Jubo League infighting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

At least 10 people were injured, including five bullet-hit, in a clash between two factions of Jubo League, youth wing of Awami League, over taking control of a sand quarry (Balu Mahal) in Gafargaon upazila on Sunday. Injured Tajmoon, 32, Ridoy, 25, Bipul, 27, Mustakim, 20, and Tara, 25, who sustained bullet injuries, were rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) first and later shifted to National Orthopaedic Hospital in Dhaka as their condition deteriorated. Quoting locals, Officer in Charge (OC) of Gafargaon Police Station Abdul Ahad said an altercation took place between Jubo League's Gafargaon upazila unit Joint-Convener Abu Kawsar and its municipal unit Joint-Convener Tajmoon Ahmed over collecting toll from a sand quarry around 6:30pm. Though Tajmoon is the legal lease of the sand quarry, Kawsar and his men were trying to get illegal facilities from there, the OC said. As a sequel to the enmity, a group allegedly loyal to Kawsar attacked Tajmoon and his men while they were sitting in Jamtola area around 7:30pm, leaving 10 people injured, including five bullet-hit. Additional police have been deployed in the area to avert any untoward situation, the OC said, adding that none had lodged any complaint in this regard yet.

Woman found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

Police recovered the throat-slit body of an elderly woman from Roghunathpur area in Homna upazila of the district yesterday. The deceased, Punno Rani, 55, was wife of Tufan Chandra Barman of the area. Victim's elder son Shambhu Chandra Barman said after returning he did not find her mother there. Later, family members looked for her in every possible place but could not find her. Villagers spotted her throat-slit body yesterday. Punno's younger son Uzzal Barman alleged that they filed a general diary (GD) against one of their neighbours for attacking them and the latter had been pressuring them to withdraw the complaint.



The Sheikh Hasina Bridge on the Dirgha Kaliganga river in Nazripur upazila was inaugurated recently by Housing and Public Works Minister SM Rezaul Karim. A total of seven such new river bridges will bring all upazilas of Pirojpur under road connectivity.

PHOTO: STAR