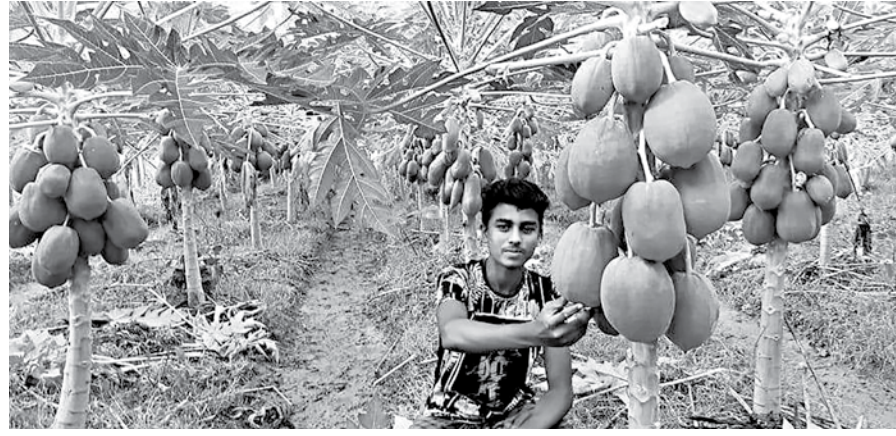


Papaya cultivation in fallow land sees success in Moulvibazar

Hybrid 'Babu' variety shows huge potential



Farmer Ali Hossain Liton of Khoajpur village of Sindurkhan union under Sreemangal upazila in Moulvibazar has seen the face of success cultivating hybrid 'Babu' variety of papaya.

PHOTO: STAR

MINTU DESHWARA

Farmers are enjoying tremendous success cultivating papaya in fallow lands in Sreemangal upazila of Moulvibazar district, thanks to bumper yield and a reasonable market price.

Favourable weather conditions and the availability of cheap fertilisers led to a huge harvest this season, according to the farmers.

Farmer Ali Hossain Liton of Khoajpur village of Sindurkhan union under Sreemangal upazila has seen the face of success in papaya cultivation.

This is the first time he has cultivated hybrid 'Babu' variety of papaya in one bigha of land. The yield has been very good and so is the price.

Other farmers in the area are also being encouraged to cultivate the papaya variety seeing his success.

He said, "I have planted hybrid Babu variety of papaya on one bigha of land along with other vegetables. Saplings were planted in the field in the last week of January. The plants bore flowers and fruits in the first week of May. At the end of July, the fruits became mature for harvesting."

"I have already sold about 1,200 kg of papaya and earned Tk 25,200," he said, adding that he will be able to sell papaya for eight consecutive months and earn Tk one lakh and he spent only Tk six thousand for cultivating papaya in the land.

"If you cultivate this variety, you don't have to use much pesticide. Additionally, the variety is resistant to Yellow Mojahex virus," he further said.

Other farmers are also showing interest to cultivate the variety of papaya.

With help from the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Liton's initiative has become a success story that other farmers in the region are now trying to replicate, according to the DAE office in

Moulvibazar.

The DAE is trying to introduce the high yielding variety of papaya in other upazilas of the district.

"In addition to the appealing appearance, the papaya of this variety tastes as sweet as honey," Liton said.

Besides, it also has a higher demand in the market, he added.

Bidhan Das, another resident of the same area, said that papaya is a profitable crop if it can be cultivated well.

Sajjad Mia, a fellow farmer who visited the farm, said this variety tastes as good as it looks.

Abdul Kuddus, a trader of papaya in Bandarbaraz area in Sylhet city, said the demand for ripe papaya is very low during winter, but its demand as a vegetable remains the same all year round.

Sreemangal Upazila Agriculture Officer Nilufar Yasmin Monalisa Sweety said the cultivation of hybrid varieties of papaya has increased in the upazila. Farmers are getting benefits in a short time by cultivating hybrid 'Babu' variety.

Liton stands as an epitome of success. Seeing him, many farmers have become interested in papaya cultivation, she said.

She also added that the agriculture department is imparting various trainings to the papaya farmers including dealing with the virus.

Dilip Kumar Adhikari, additional director of the DAE office in Sylhet, said papaya contains a lot of nutrients. All kinds of support are being given to increase the interest of farmers in papaya cultivation.

"We are in constant touch with the Upazila Agriculture Office and have been providing all kinds of assistance as required. If the unemployed youths come forward to cultivate papaya, we are ready to cooperate with them in all possible ways," he added.

Aman cultivation in full swing

Pirojpur farmers passing busy time in planning seedlings

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

Aman cultivation is going on in full swing in almost all the upazilas of the district.

Farmers in the district are passing busy time planting seedlings of Aman, the main crop of the southern part of the country including Pirojpur.

Local farmers said plantation of Aman seedlings is almost completed without any trouble this year.

A number of farmers in the district said usually they face different troubles, mainly flash flood and seedlings crisis, during the peak cultivation season every year.

Grower Rafikul Islam of Togra village in Indurkani upazila said as the area did not witness any natural calamity, farmers were able to save the saplings from getting damaged.

They even started the cultivation in due time this year, he said.

Plantation of Aman saplings is expected to be completed within a week, another farmer Nasir Uddin of Upepur village said, adding that the plantation started around two weeks ago.

Indurkani Upazila Sub Assistant Agriculture Officer Ibrahim Sarder said plantation of Aman seedlings has already been completed in most of the areas under the upazila.



Farmers in Pirojpur's Indurkani upazila are seen busy planning Aman seedlings.

PHOTO: STAR

Hopefully, plantation of the seedlings will be completed within next week, the officer added.

Pirojpur Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) Deputy Director (DD) Dr

Mohammad Nazrul Islam Sikder said Aman cultivation is going in full swing and without any delay as there was no sapling crisis this year.

According to Pirojpur DAE, the department has a target of bringing

around 64,383 hectares of land under Aman cultivation this year.

Of the target, over 70 percent have already been done, while the rest is expected to be completed within a week time.

PROTESTING HARASSMENT ON ROADS

Truckers go on 96hr strike from today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Goods carrying transport workers in Dinajpur has called a 96-hour strike from today, protesting unauthorized extortion on roads and highways and harassment by police and officials of Bangladesh Road Transport Authorities (BRTA) in the name of checking documents and valid driving licence.

The strike is scheduled to begin from 6:00am this morning.

Leaders of Dinajpur District Truck, Tank-Lorry, Covered-Van and Tractor Workers Union announced the decision during a press conference at Dinajpur Press Club yesterday. Transport leaders said they called the strike to press home their four-point demand, including implementation of 2006, 2013 and 2017 Industrial Ordinances Act.

The other demands include end of harassment and rampant extortion on highways and roads in the name of checking valid documents.

Altaf Hossain, president of the organisation, alleged that some local influential people collecting illegal toll from goods carrying vehicles at different places.

Those areas include Hili Land Port in Hakimpur upazila, Dhaka-Mor and Rail-Gate area in Birampur upazila, Bhaduria Bazar in Nawabganj upazila, Barapukuria Coalmine and Maddhapara Rock Mining areas and Ambari-Haat in Parbatipur upazila, and a number of areas in Dinajpur Sadar upazila.

Farmers' leader Azizul Islam said due to the strike local growers will face serious difficulty in transporting their goods.

Farmers will be the worst sufferer as they mostly depend on these goods carrying vehicles, he said.

An unplanned bridge!

LGED constructed the bridge spending over Tk 4 crore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) has decided to construct a road leading from Ruma Mukh to Galengya in Bandarban's remote Ruma upazila by cutting a nearby hill.

Earlier, it constructed a bridge over the upazila's Paindu canal without any road connected to it.

"We spent Tk 4.16 crore to construct the bridge," said Nazmus Sadat Md Zillur Rahman, executive engineer of Bandarban unit LGED.

"We constructed the bridge first, while taking

initiative to make the road leading from Ruma Mukh to Galengya," he said, adding, "We will have to cut some portions of a hill near the bridge, the construction of which was completed in June."

"The road will be around 24 kilometres and its construction will require Tk 42 crore."

"We will apply for the clearance certificate to cut hills from the environment department before starting the road construction work."

Contacted, Srirop Mazumder, assistant director of Chattogram environment department

said, "The higher authorities will have to decide whether the LGED should be given permission to cut the hill to make the road."

Uhla Ching Marma, chairman of Ruma upazila, said "A few hills will have to be cut but if the road is constructed, indigenous people of around 22 villages will be benefited."

However, locals voiced that they didn't want hills to be cut down.

"We don't want any road by cutting hills and destroying biodiversity of the forest [on the hills]," said Rum Klam Mro, a local of the area.

US congressional body reviews role of law enforcers

FROM PAGE 1

violations. Sanctions are a critical tool to advance accountability for human rights abuses, she said, adding that targeted individual sanctions will help spur change in Bangladesh.

Meenakshi Ganguly, South Asia director at Human Rights Watch, echoed the views of Baeyens.

"We believe that US should impose targeted sanctions against top security forces. This could spur accountability. There needs to be increased scrutiny of officials to make sure that they do not serve under the United Nations flag during peacekeeping missions," said Ganguly.

She pointed out that successive governments have been responsible for the human rights situation in Bangladesh.

"Since 2009, nearly 600 people have become victims of enforced disappearances. We documented 86 cases where the victims are still missing. They are still outside the protection of the law," said Ganguly.

Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee from Houston said, "Once you are being heard by the commission, our mission is to continue being truthful. Bangladesh has already been exposed. I have heard it; the commission has heard it."

The speakers said they are recommending sanctions because they do not believe Bangladesh will investigate enforced disappearance cases.

"The government has been warned time and time again of the scale of the human rights abuses, and the scale of impunity. But the lack of any action demonstrates that the government is not going to hold the perpetrators accountable,"

said Baeyens.

Md Ashrafuzzaman, liaison officer for the Asia Human Rights Commission, said, "The government defends and denies that the crime exists in Bangladesh. A judicial officer had so far only investigated one case, following a habeas corpus petition. The High Court ruled that the police had forcibly disappeared a homeopathic practitioner. The rule was issued in 2017 but so far, no steps have been taken."

"Why is there repeated denial, what is the reason behind the government not investigating? It is the state's responsibility to find out where the victims are regardless of political views," said Sanjida Islam Tulee, who runs Maayer Daak.

She also briefed the commission at length about how she had multiple meetings with law enforcement agencies, who confirmed to her that her brother Sajedul Islam Sumon was being arbitrarily detained in custody.

Renowned photojournalist Shahidul Alam said, "When I was taken to court, the judge said that my family should consider themselves lucky that I wasn't disappeared. The government's primary accountability is to the people. Why has not a single case been investigated?"

Bruce Vaughn, specialist in Asian Affairs at Congressional Research Service, moderated the session.

AMBASSADOR'S LETTER
The Bangladeshi ambassador sent a letter to the commission on Monday to inform it about the government's stance on this issue.

This newspaper has obtained a copy of the letter.

"We have heard some of those allegations

before and investigated the matters with due seriousness. We are concerned that there has been a pattern for quite some time to label all cases of missing with enforced disappearance with obvious intention of maligning the government and its achievements," said the letter.

"In many cases the 'perceived' victims have reappeared proving the allegations of so-called 'enforced disappearance' false," it added.

The letter stated that these are being caused by people impersonating law enforcement agencies.

It said the government has investigated many such cases and found "no evidence of government involvement".

The letter also discredited a recent report by Human Rights Watch on enforced disappearances.

"[This was] built on questionable sources of information and should not be believed. For example, the recent study published by the Human Rights Watch is dependent on interviews with unidentified individuals, including 60 interviews with unnamed people, 81 citations from unnamed individuals, and 7 witnesses who are allowed to remain anonymous. While Bangladesh takes seriously and investigates every reported disappearance, it cannot, logistically or legally, give credence to anonymous sources that make such allegations," said the letter.

The ambassador concluded by asking the commission to extradite Rashed Chowdhury, a convicted killer of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. "The killer has been sheltered in the US and yet to be returned despite our sincere efforts with the US government," said the letter.

বাংলাদেশ পানি উন্নয়ন বোর্ড

Office of the
Executive Engineer
Chattogram O&M Division-II
BWDB, Chattogram
Tel. No. 031-650612

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর
চট্টগ্রাম পণ্ডর বিভাগ-২
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ফোনঃ অফিসঃ ০৩১-৬৫০৬১২
E-mail: xen.ctg2@gmail.com

Date: 29-08-2021

e-Tender Notice-02/2021-22
Re-Tender: 1st Call

An e-Tender has been invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of the following works.

Sl No.	Tender ID	Package No. & description	Location of the works/supply	Tender/proposal document last selling date & time	Tender/proposal closing & opening date & time
1	601982	Package No. BR/CTG-2-15 Bank Protective work at the left bank of Feni river (Border River) from km. 9.750 to km. 10.900=1150m near Karalachara BGB camp (East side) in Upazila-Matiranga, Dist-Khagrachari in connection with Border River Bank Protection & Development Project (Phase-2), under Chittagong O&M Division-II, BWDB, Chittagong during the year 2020-2021. (Package No. BR/CTG-2-15). (Remaining part)	Matiranga, Khagrachari	09-September-2021 2.30pm	09-September-2021 4.00pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to 2.30pm on 09-09-2021.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) (01762625528-31) (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

Nahid-Uz-Zaman Khan
Executive Engineer
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- The application form can also be collected by post from IBA office by sending (i) a bank draft/pay order of Tk. 800/- drawn in favor of " Director, IBA, R.U" from any scheduled banks (ii) a 10"x8" size self addressed envelop with a postage stamp of Tk. 35/-. The filled-in-application form should reach the IBA office by **October 05, 2021** during office hours (from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.).
- Attested photocopy of all academic certificates, one copy passport and one copy stamp size photographs must be attached with application form during submission.

Professor Dr. A.K. Shamsuddoha
Director

Contact : IBA Office- 0721-711167, 0721-711286
Website : www.iba-ru.ac.bd

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