



College teacher Abdullah Al Mamun is sharing views with farmers and educated youths at his integrated fruit and vegetable garden at Taltala village of Durgapur union under Lalmonirhat's Aditmari upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

Teacher setting precedence to dissuade farmers from tobacco farming

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

A college teacher in Lalmonirhat has started a different kind of campaign to dissuade farmers from tobacco cultivation and to make them aware. He is neither distributing flyers nor holding meetings.

The college teacher is inspiring the farmers by setting a precedence of success by cultivating vegetables and fruits in the land usually used for tobacco cultivation. His campaign has elicited a positive response in the area. Farmers stuck in tobacco cultivation are being attracted to the success of the college teacher in agriculture.

Abdullah Al Mamun, a lecturer of the Department of Philosophy at Lalmonirhat Government College, resides at the bordering Durgapur union of Lalmonirhat's Aditmari upazila. This is an area that is prone to tobacco cultivation. Most

of the farmers are stuck in tobacco cultivation here.

College teacher Abdullah Al Mamun said that he has planted 800 malta trees on his five bighas of land at a cost of Tk three lakh. He planted eight hundred papaya trees of different varieties in the garden. Guava trees have also been planted in the garden. In the empty space of the garden, he is producing various types of vegetables including red spinach, gourd spinach and chilli.

Each papaya tree yields 100 to 120 papayas weighing one and a half to two kilograms each. I am selling these papayas at the rate of Tk 8-10 each kg from the garden. I am hoping to earn more than Tk seven lakh by selling papaya from my five bighas of land, he said.

I'm not working in the agriculture sector just to make a profit. I am setting an example of

success in agriculture to inspire other farmers to shun tobacco cultivation. I want that farmers do not consider tobacco cultivation as profitable, he said adding, 'I dream that farmers in my area will be aware of the harmful impact of tobacco cultivation and turn away from it. My area will be tobacco free.'

Local farmers and youths through the orchard of the teacher to see his success in cultivating various fruits and vegetables on the same land. Farmers are also showing interest in integrated fruit and vegetable cultivation and educated youths are also showing interest to explore the sector.

Local farmer Abul Kashem said, he has been fascinated and inspired by the college teacher's success on integrated fruit and vegetable cultivation. He will cultivate fruits

and vegetables in all the lands where tobacco is cultivated. 'We used to think that only tobacco cultivation was profitable. But that's not right. Cultivation of fruits and vegetables is more profitable than tobacco,' he said.

The success of the college teacher in agriculture has opened our eyes, he said.

Shamim Ashraf, deputy director of Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Lalmonirhat, said, that a different kind of campaign by the college teacher against tobacco cultivation has been fruitful. His success in agriculture has attracted farmers. Many of them have given up tobacco cultivation and become interested in integrated fruit and vegetable cultivation.

DAE is providing advice and technical assistance to the interested fruit and vegetable growers, he said.

Russell's resolutions

A CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

Just before Russell Khondokar was getting prepared to take the SSC exams, the world around him came tumbling down.

Russell was on the verge of giving up all hopes as both his parents had died before his first major public exam. As if he did not have enough obstacle at such a young age, a rare disease weakened his arms to such an extent that he lost the ability to even hold a pen to write with.

But the double blow could not hold him down. Russell not only crossed the hurdles of SSC and HSC exams, he bagged his BCom Honours degree in accounting with 'first class first'.

Russell was born in 1994 to Shahanara Begum and Abdul Wadud Khondokar, residents of Lalpur village in Chandpur Sadar upazila. He was only a fifth grader when symptoms of monomelic amyotrophy (MMA) started to weaken muscles in his arms and fingers.

When he moved in to his maternal grandfather's house following his parents' death, he considered discontinuing his education as both his hands lost all strength.

But after finding out that a volunteer scribe can write on his behalf in the upcoming SSC exams, he took the opportunity.

The talented and resilient young man did not have to look back ever since. With all out support from his grandparents, Russell tutors students to cover for his educational expenses.

He is now studying for masters in accounting at Chandpur Government College, from where he earned his Honours before. Confident as ever, Russell now aims to become a civil servant by passing the Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examinations.

Contacted, Chandpur Civil Surgeon Sakhawat Ullah said they already approved Russell's application seeking attestation for his disability due to MMA disease, so the authorities would allow a scribe for him at the BCS exams.

On his preparations for the BCS, which starts on October 29, Russell with unwavering resolve said he was confident that he would do well in the exams and eventually he would prove his worth by making contributions to the society through the job of his dreams.



Russell Khondokar

PHOTO: COLLECTED

NEWS

Vision loss due to glaucoma

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to glaucoma cannot be restored, it is important to have regular examination of eye pressure so a diagnosis can be made in its early stages and treated appropriately. If glaucoma is recognised early, vision loss can be slowed or prevented. If the condition persists, the patient may generally need treatment for the rest of his or her life.

There are several types of glaucoma, like open-angle glaucoma, angle-closure glaucoma, normal-tension glaucoma, glaucoma in children, pigmentary glaucoma and angle recession glaucoma (after trauma), etc.

The signs and symptoms of glaucoma vary depending on the type and stage of condition.

For example, in case of open-angle glaucoma, symptoms include patchy blind spots in side periphery of one's vision, or central or tunnel vision in the advanced stages.

In case of acute angle-closure glaucoma, symptoms include severe headaches, eye pain, nausea and vomiting, blurred vision, halos around lights or eye redness.

As chronic forms of glaucoma can damage vision before any signs or symptoms are apparent, be aware of these risk factors: being over 60, having a family history of glaucoma, having certain medical conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure and sickle-cell anaemia, previous eye injury and taking corticosteroid medications, especially eyedrops, for an extended period.

Steps that can help detect glaucoma in its early stages include: regular comprehensive check-ups by an eye specialist, knowing family's eye health history and taking prescribed eye drops regularly if you have glaucoma.

Untreated glaucoma will eventually cause blindness. So, regular eye check-ups by a specialist -- at least once every six months -- is necessary.

US military supplies

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shipped is correct, it is untrue that nothing moved from Defense depots.

"State and Defense believed," the memorandum continued, "until recently that the two statements represented an accurate accounting of our military supply to Pakistan. Much to their surprise, however, a GAO investigating team acting on orders from Senator [Edward] Kennedy has discovered that the initial orders issued by ISA to put the 'hold' into effect were not followed completely by the services and that there has been substantial leakage."

SOVIET AIR OFFICIAL'S VISIT TO INDIA
Air Marshal Pavel Kutakov, the commander-in-chief of the Soviet air force, arrived today in India for a six-day visit.

The Soviet marshal's visit, following that of Deputy Foreign Minister Nikolai Firubin, was seen as reflecting the increasingly close ties between India and the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union was India's largest supplier of arms and the Indian air force

Iraqis kill 11 in revenge for deadly IS attack

AFP, Baghdad

Residents of an Iraqi village have killed 11 people in retaliation for a deadly attack claimed by the Islamic State group, an Iraqi security official said.

The inhabitants of the majority Shia village of Al-Rashad in the eastern Diyala province killed 11 people on Wednesday in the predominantly Sunni neighbouring hamlet of Nahr al-Imam, the security official who preferred to remain anonymous said.

The assailants accused the residents of Nahr al-Imam of being behind an attack on Al-Rashad the day before in which 15 people were killed, an increase from an initially reported toll of 11.

Another 26 people were injured in the Tuesday attack on Al-Rashad, according to the latest figures from security sources.

The Sunni militant IS group -- which considers Shias to be "heretics" -- claimed the Al-Rashad attack on Wednesday night.

Al-Rashad is known to have many members of security forces among its residents and is populated mostly by members of the Bani Tamim tribe, from which the governor of Diyala hails.

The Iraqi Fiqh Council, the authority on Islamic jurisprudence for Sunnis in the country, condemned the "terrorist attack" on Al-Rashad, as well as the "horrific revenge" on Nahr al-Imam.

The IS group took over large swathes of Iraq and Syria in 2014, declaring itself a new "caliphate" for Muslims.

Iraq declared the defeat of IS in December 2017, but a low-level insurgency has persisted in the country, flaring up at various points.

Man held

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regarding the Cumilla incident on a Facebook page. Photos of various incidents that happened outside the country were uploaded on that page, falsely claiming that those incidents took place in Cumilla.

Uttam is the administrator of that page, which was trying to harm the communal harmony and incite communal violence in the country, according to the press release.

Samir Kumar Sarkar, officer-in-charge of Labanchara Police Station, said Rab handed over the arrestee to them after the DSA case was lodged.

2 killed

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supporters of Chhoto Shah Alam, the OC added.

Around six months ago, his two other supporters were killed in a clash between the groups. IIP member Shah Alam's men then fled the village, he said.

But they returned when the election schedule was announced recently.

As the news of their return reached their opponents, another fight broke out between the two groups in Kacharikandi village yesterday, resulting in the deaths of two supporters of Chhoto Shah Alam, said OC Azizur.

The injured were admitted to different hospitals in the district, the OC added.

It's unfortunate

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government to immediately take necessary steps to collect all the due appropriate taxes, VAT and other relevant charges from the revenues earned by the companies.

Finance secretary, Bangladesh Bank governor, NBR chairman, law secretary, post and telecommunications secretary, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) chairman and information and communications technology secretary have been asked to comply with the directive.

The HC also ordered the NBR to submit a report on collection of taxes from the companies after every six months.

The court kept the writ petition as a continuous mandamus case, meaning any citizen can move a prayer before it seeking necessary directives to this end.

China builds fastest

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based on light — Jiuzhang 2 — can carry out calculations 100 trillion times faster than the world's fastest existing supercomputer, the physicists noted in another study, published in the journal Physical Review Letters on Monday.

In conventional computers, the most basic unit of information is a bit, and data is fundamentally stored in binary codes of 1s and 0s. On the other hand, quantum computers make use of the special properties of the smallest particles in the universe which can exist in multiple states — as zeros and ones at the same time, or in any position between.

This flexibility of quantum particles allows for quantum bits, or qubits, using which many different calculations can be performed simultaneously, scientists said.

While there are many approaches to achieve quantum computing, the

Chinese team has built two different systems — one is the light-based photonic quantum computers, and the other is a superconducting quantum computer that needs to be kept at very low temperatures to work efficiently.

In photonic quantum computers, light's energy units, the photons, are manipulated with mirrors, beam splitters, and phase shifters, while in the latter the state of the qubits is manipulated using an electromagnetic field.

The scientists also claim that their sampling calculation using their superconducting quantum computer is about 1,000 times more difficult to do on a classical computer.

"We estimate that the sampling task finished by Zuchongzhi in about 1.2 h [hours] will take the most powerful supercomputer at least 8 yr [years]," the scientists wrote in the study.

Rescue of half-sunk ferry

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salvage Shah Amanat, another rescue ship will be hired from the private sector.

The Shah Amanat was being moored at the ferry terminal around 9:35am when it started leaning heavily to the starboard and tipped over within a few minutes with at least 14 trucks and lorries. Thankfully, the water is not deep enough for the ferry to sink completely.

Ten of the vehicles that either sank or began drifting about in the water have been brought to the shore by the Hamza, another rescue ship of the BIWTC. Of the four other vehicles, three trucks have been located and one is yet to be found, said Fazlur Rahman, chief of operations at Bangladesh Inland

Water Transport Authority.

Disgruntled owners of the vehicles were seen waiting at the terminal throughout yesterday.

"They [the authorities] do not seem to be too eager to pull the vehicles out of the water without delay," said Harunur Rashid, whose two lorries were in the water.

"I don't know when I will get them back. I bought these on credit. What's my fault? I am suffering due to the ferry operators' fault," he told reporters.

The half-sunk ferry next to a pontoon has been slowing down ferry operations on the Padma, causing long tailbacks on both sides of the river.

Cooked-up

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death while the other died by drowning.

"No one was raped and not a single Mandir was torched or destroyed. However, a couple of [idols of] deities or Goddesses were vandalised," he said.

In recent years, Momen said, there has been a proliferation of Puja venues in every place, including individual houses, as the government pays money for every Puja venue and there is a shortage of police personnel to monitor all of them 24/7.

To avoid such incidents of abuse, he said the Puja organisers should not leave their venues unattended.

The foreign minister said a drug-addict person reportedly left a copy of the Holy Quran near the foot of an idol when there was no worshipper or organiser at the Puja venue and another person took a photo of it and put it up on the social media platform Facebook that sparked outrage leading to vandalism and ransacking.

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01.	EDCL(Bogura)/PUR/LT/2021/402 Dt. 28/10/2021	01 (one) Pc Material Handling Scissor Lift for EDCL, Bogura (Details as per Tender Schedule & Specification)	Tk. 750.00/set Non-refundable	Closing : 24/11/2021 at 12.00 PM Opening : 24/11/2021 at 12.30PM

Tender schedule will be sold from the Accounts Department of Essential Drugs Company Limited, Dhaka on payment as stated above during office hours on all working days (except Friday, Saturday and Govt. Holidays). No tender schedule will be sold on the opening date of the tender

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