

BELABO UPAZILA IN NARSINGDI

Coffee cultivation shows promise

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

Coffee, a popular drink that used to be an import-dependent commodity, is now being cultivated successfully in some parts of the country.

Salahuddin Ahmed of Nilokkhia under Belabo upazila in Narsingdi, is one such coffee cultivator who has found success in his venture.

The 33-year-old took inspiration from social media and received support and advice from the local agriculture office to begin cultivation two years ago.

Visiting his plantation recently, this correspondent saw the trees bearing the red coloured fruits, from which coffee beans will be harvested and processed.

Many locals are visiting the garden to see his initiative.

"I planted 135 saplings on 33-decimal land investing Tk 1 lakh. I was inspired to produce coffee and nuts by watching videos on YouTube. I collected the saplings from the local agriculture office under a govt project and nurtured those for two years. I expect to sell the harvest this season for Tk 3 lakh that will bring in a profit of Tk 2 lakh. The trees have grown well and strong and no additional cost will be needed for the next season. I hope

I will get a huge response from next season onward," Salahuddin said.

"The local agriculture office provided me with training on how to cultivate coffee. I sold coffee powder in the local market at Tk 2,500 per kg and it has great demand. I also plan to prepare saplings for cultivation in my additional 10 decimal land. Besides, the saplings are in demand in our area as many others are interested in cultivating it," he also said.

"I manually processed the fruits to produce coffee powder and sold it to a local who visited my plantation and placed an order," Salahuddin added.

According to the Department of Agriculture and Extension (DAE) in Narsingdi, the district's soil is acidic and temperature is moderately warm, which are favourable conditions for coffee cultivation.

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Salahuddin took up coffee farming about two years ago with help from the local agricultural office. As he expects a profit of Tk 2 lakh this year against his investment of Tk 1 lakh, many in Narsingdi's Belabo upazila are now becoming interested in coffee cultivation.

PHOTO: STAR

Ensure climate justice: speakers

STAR REPORT

Development projects that harm the environment should be discarded and plans that address the needs of climate change victims should be prioritised, said speakers at an event yesterday.

Sharif Jamil, coordinator of Waterkeepers-Bangladesh, proposed the recommendations and demands on the last day of this year's Climate Justice Assembly, held at Siddheswari campus of Stamford University.

People are suffering due to lack of climate justice. Climate justice and compensation should not have to rely on grants as having access to it is a civil right.



Sultana Kamal

Around 33 proposals and demands were presented at the two-day event.

"People are suffering due to lack of climate justice. Climate justice and compensation should not have to rely on grants as having access to it is a civil right," said rights activist Sultana Kamal.

Lidy Nacpil, coordinator of Asian Peoples' Movement on Debt and Development, emphasised the necessity to replace the use of fossil fuels with renewable energy.

"Renewable energy is cheaper and more sustainable as it does not require regular purchase. However, political will is important to move away from fossil fuels," she said.

Stressing on the environmentally harmful impact of profound use of non-renewable fuels, she said, the affected people and communities deserve compensation.

"And this compensation is not a donation, it is their due," she added.

Climate crisis a problem born from the overuse of non-renewable energy which leads to 91 percent of global carbon emissions, said Stuart MacWilliam, director of Global Gas and Oil Network.

"Moving away from fossil fuels will not only help address climate change, but also have a

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JAMAISHASHTHI MAACHER MELA

A festival of FISH LOVERS

KONGKON KARMAKAR, from Joypurhat

If someone visits Joypurhat's Panchsira Bazar now, they will observe the place has transformed into a bustling fish market, with buyers and sellers engaging in spirited transactions over a wide variety of fish from early hours of the day.

The array of fish varieties graces the stalls, mostly local varieties such as rohu, katla, mrigel, chital, baghair, boal, and Indian salmon, among others, creating an atmosphere of festivity and commerce.

The "Jamaishashthi Maacher Mela", a popular fish fair, kicked off at Panchsira Bazar under Kalai upazila of Joypurhat yesterday. Historically,

and traditions.

Villagers and traders from distant locations eagerly wait for this time of the year to travel to Panchsira Bazar and partake in the festivity.

Bimal Kumar, a fish trader from Madaripur village, said the fair serves as a platform to encourage fish lovers and farmers alike.

"This year, a kilogramme of fish is being sold between Tk 250 and Tk 850 based on varieties. A large 22-kg Indian salmon fish was sold this morning," he said.

Anwar Ali, Kalai upazila fisheries officer, said, "These events encourage fish farmers and traders, promoting enthusiasm and participation in the trade."



sons-in-law used to buy fish from the fair for their brides' households. The fair begins on the first Saturday of the Bangla month of Agrahayan.

Like every year, the fair is drawing thousands of locals, alongside traders and visitors from different districts.

Over the decades, the fair has become an occasion for family reunions, bonding, and festivity for the community, showcasing local customs

Despite the recent economic downturn faced by the fisheries sector, the fair continues to thrive. However, in light of the rising market prices, fish sellers acknowledged a slight reduction in sales compared to previous years.

They emphasised that the fair is still facilitating substantial transactions and creating a sense of camaraderie among fish enthusiasts.

Three of a family hurt in attack over land dispute

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Three people of a family -- including a schoolteacher -- were injured in an attack allegedly by their neighbours following a land dispute in Manikganj yesterday.

The incident happened at the victims' house at Baghjan village in Sadar upazila.

Nabinur Rahman, 36, a teacher of Manikganj Monno International School and College; his elder brother Mubarak Hossain, 46, and nephew Mahin Ashraf Johas, 17, a college student, have been hospitalised, said family members.

Nabinur and Ashraf were admitted to Manikganj 250 bed hospital, said Medical Officer Dr Shahrin Geeti.

Mubarak, who works at Tejgaon BG Press in Dhaka, was sent to the capital's Pangu Hospital, added the medical officer.

Nabinur said on his return home from school, he saw several of his neighbours attacking his brother and nephew with iron rods and sharp weapons.

"As I tried to stop them, they started hitting me as well...," he said.

Manikganj Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Abdur Rauf Sarkar said, "We have heard about the incident. We will take legal action once a complaint is filed in this regard with the police station."

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Access to water a concern for them Says study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Half of the people with disabilities in Bangladesh have problem in personally collecting water from sources, while 14 percent find it difficult to access drinking water at home when needed, said a study.

The study titled "Nationwide Assessment of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and incontinence situation of persons with disabilities and older people in Bangladesh", was conducted by Bangladesh Society for the Change and Advocacy Nexus (B-SCAN) in collaboration with icddr.b.

A total of 2,378 individuals from 32 districts, including 1,253 with disability, participated in this study conducted between November 2022 and October 2023. Of the participants with disability, 47 percent were aged above 70.

Kazi Farhat Tabassum and Mehedi Hasan revealed the key findings at a discussion held at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Add people with disabilities in policy-making
- Develop user-friendly infrastructures
- Sustainable, inclusive WASH work plans
- Technical and financial resources

Around 55 percent of persons with disability do not have privacy at their bathing place while above 90 percent said they lacked access to wheelchair-friendly entry paths and height-adjustable commodes, as per the study.

"More than 90 percent of them face physical constraints as the primary barrier while collecting drinking water, while 16 percent are dependent on caregivers. Besides, WASH facilities being available at a distance from home adds to their burdens," said Tabassum.

More than half of the female respondents with disabilities did not use sanitary napkins during their last menstruation, indicating an urgent need for a change in the future to maintain their menstrual hygiene.

Both people and policy makers should be made aware in this regard for sustainable and impactful

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2 killed, 4 hurt in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Two people were killed and four others injured in road accidents yesterday.

A 25-year-old died and three others sustained injuries as a passenger bus hit two motorbikes from behind on Dinajpur-Rangpur Highway, reports UNB.

The deceased, Munna, was from Khansama upazila. The injured -- whose identities could not be known immediately -- were admitted to a hospital, said SI Dulu Mia of Kotwali Police Station.

BSS from Bogura reports, a motorcyclist was killed and another injured as his bike hit a covered van on Bogura-Natore highway. Bharat Chandra Barman, 26, died on the spot.



PHOTO: TITU DAS

Devotees from the Harijan community pray in waist-deep water in the Kirtonkhola river of Barishal town yesterday, marking "Surjo Puja".

Masked men beat madrasa teacher in Natore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

A madrasa teacher was beaten by unidentified miscreants in Natore on Friday night.

The miscreants picked up Saidul Islam in a white microbus and later beat him up, alleged family members.

The incident took place in Majdigha village under Sadar upazila, said Nasim Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Natore Sadar Police Station.

Saidul is principal of Majdigha Noorani Hafeji Madrasa. Besides, he is said to be a local organiser of the Islami Andolon Bangladesh.

Saidul said that he was in the madrasa around 7:00pm when at least five masked men stormed inside and picked him up in a white microbus.

"They broke my left arm," he added. Later, they dropped him in Chikur Mor area, he said. Locals then admitted him to Natore Modern Sadar Hospital.

Police went to the spot after receiving information, said the OC, adding that legal actions will be taken.

Earlier, miscreants took three leaders of BNP and Jamaat and beat them up.