

# Haor farmers opt for maize amid flood risks, higher profits

TAFSILUL AZIZ

Farmers across the haor region of Kishoreganj are rapidly shifting from paddy to maize cultivation, citing lower risks from early floods, reduced production costs and higher market returns, officials and growers say.

The transition reflects a broader change in the district's haor economy, where recurring crop losses and declining profitability in rice farming have prompted growers to adopt maize and, to a lesser extent, vegetables as alternative crops.

According to the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), maize was cultivated on 12,210 hectares of land in the district this year, with a production target of 1,20,509 tonnes. The figure marks a sharp rise from 4,450 hectares in 2017, indicating a steady expansion over the past decade.

Farmers said maize offers a critical advantage in haor areas – it can be harvested before the onset of monsoon floods, unlike boro paddy, which remains vulnerable to early inundation and adverse weather.

"Maize is more profitable and less risky," said Ali Hossain, a farmer in Nikli Sadar, adding that he cultivated the crop on four acres this season.

He expects to earn around Tk 4-4.5 lakh by selling his produce at about Tk 1,400 per maund, against a production cost of roughly Tk 1.5 lakh.

Another farmer, Nasir Uddin, expanded maize cultivation from one acre last year to five acres this season, having made a profit previously.



He said he expects sales exceeding Tk 5 lakh, compared to an investment of about Tk 2 lakh.

Farmers also noted a significant rise in maize prices. A maund of maize that sold for Tk 700-750 a few years ago is now fetching Tk 1,300-1,500, further incentivising the shift.

During a recent visit to Nikli, large stretches of land that previously grew paddy were found covered with maize.

Families, including women and children, were seen drying, threshing, and processing the crop in open spaces, such as school grounds and roadside areas.

"Earlier, we cultivated paddy on these lands despite the risk of floods and hailstorms," said farmer Abu Sayeed. "This year, we switched to maize and are satisfied with the yield."

Maize cultivation has expanded notably in haor upazilas such as Nikli, Mithamoin, Bajitpur and Austagram, according to local agricultural officials.

Sadiqur Rahman, deputy director of the DAE in Kishoreganj, said farmers' growing interest is driven by stable prices and favourable yields.

"Maize was once rarely seen in haor areas, but now it is widely cultivated because it faces less risk from early floods," he said.

He added that agricultural officials are regularly advising farmers on maize cultivation, which is also considered a nutritious crop, further contributing to its rising popularity.



An employee undergoes a health test at an on-site screening camp organised by Unico Hospitals PLC at The Daily Star Centre as part of the newspaper's 35th anniversary initiative to promote staff well-being. The three-day event will conclude tomorrow. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

# Timber market takes over school playground in B'baria

MASUK HRIDOY, Brahmanbaria

Students of Fordabad Adarsha High School in Brahmanbaria have been deprived of their only playground for nearly two decades, as the field has been used as a timber market since 2004, allegedly with the approval of school authorities.

Located in Banchharampur upazila, the field beside the Titas River was once a lively space for football and cricket. Locals say the market began on a temporary basis but gradually expanded, now occupying almost the entire field.

Although Monday is officially designated as market day, trading reportedly continues from Saturday through Tuesday, with timber and construction materials stored on the field year-round.

During a recent visit to the site, this correspondent saw around a hundred makeshift shops built with bamboo, stacks of timber, and the constant movement of vehicles and buyers, fully occupying the space. At a glance, it is almost impossible to recognise the spot as a school's playground.

Students say the long-standing situation has left them without opportunities for sports and outdoor activities. A student of the school, Jisan Ahmed, said, "We cannot play because of the timber market. This has been the situation for many years. If the field

was kept for students, it would have benefited us."

Former student Shahin Ahmed recalled a different time. "After school, we used to play here every afternoon. Now the field remains occupied by the market. Many young people now spend time loitering outside," he said, adding

Locals, requesting anonymity, alleged that school representatives regularly collect money from traders, despite the market being officially weekly.

Head teacher Faruk Mia acknowledged the long-standing operation of the market, saying part of the funds supports school



that the lack of sports often leads to frustration among the youth.

Guardians have also voiced concern. A Guardian named Shafiqul Islam said, "Children are always on their phones now. It is affecting both their studies and character. If the school field is used as a market, where will they play?"

expenses. However, he added that the issue could be reviewed.

Banchharampur Upazila Nirbahi Officer Tarikul Islam said authorities will look into the matter and take necessary actions if the educational environment or student activities are compromised.

# Baul Abul Sarkar walks out of jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur



Renowned baul singer Maharaj Abul Sarkar was released from Kashimpur High Security Central Jail-2 in Gazipur yesterday morning.

He left the prison premises around 11:15am.

Abul Hossain, the jailer of Kashimpur High Security Central Jail 2, Gazipur, confirmed the development to The Daily Star.

Family members were present at the gate to receive him. However, he did not speak to journalists.

The jailer said that Sarkar was released after the bail documents reached the prison and were verified.

Sarkar was arrested in a case filed by Mufti Md Abdullah, imam of Ghior Bandar Mosque, with Ghior Police Station on charges of hurting religious sentiments. On November 20, 2025, Detective Branch (DB) of the police arrested him in Madaripur.

# Man hacked to death in Jhalakathi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

A man died at Barishal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital early yesterday, a day after he was hacked in Nalchhity upazila of Jhalakathi.

The deceased was identified as Iqbal Hossain Howlader, 45, of Khagrakhana village in the upazila. According to locals, he had been "slightly mentally imbalanced" for the last few years.

Earlier, miscreants hacked him in front of Khagrakhana Model High School and fled the scene, confirmed Ariful Islam, officer-in-charge of Nalchhity Police Station. However, he could not provide further details about the murder.

He said police personnel recovered the critically injured Iqbal from Khagrakhana village around 11:00pm on Sunday and rushed him to Nalchhity Upazila Health Complex, from where he was referred to Barishal. He later died while undergoing treatment at the hospital, said the OC.

On the other hand, SM Bayzid Ibne Akbar, additional superintendent of police (Jhalakathi Sadar Circle), said, "After investigation, I will be able to provide details about the incident."

# Govt's submissive

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government's promise to stop mob violence, it has demonstrated an extreme failure to do so. It warned that the administration's passive stance towards extremist groups is creating a terrifying situation in the country.

Meanwhile, the "WE CAN" alliance cited Article 28(3) of the Constitution, which guarantees equal rights and safe access to public spaces for all citizens.

It stressed that a citizen's gender identity or sexual orientation can never justify violence, adding that gender-diverse individuals have equal rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

Both organisations

described the incidents as a serious blow to human rights and democratic values.

They called for swift arrests and exemplary punishment of those involved in the Shahbagh, Rangpur, and Kushtia attacks through transparent investigations.

They also warned that a democratic Bangladesh cannot be achieved without fostering tolerance and respect instead of fear and violence.

The statements were signed by prominent rights activists, including Sultana Kamal, Shaheen Anam, and teachers from various universities, including Anu Muhammad and Gitirra Nasreen.

# Kakina Zamindarbari

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and poet, said the two-storey palace was built with a unique blend of architectural styles, with main features combining European design and Mughal ornamentation. It includes a royal court, guest house, hawa khana, hidden chambers and passages that still bear witness to its past grandeur. "Once, this palace regularly hosted drama [jatra] and puppet performances, musical events, and various cultural festivals. As a result, Kakina became known as one of the major cultural centres of northern Bengal," he said.

Around 1925, following years of financial crisis, revenue complications, and administrative shortcomings, the estate

was auctioned off. Once the feudal system was abolished, the palace fell into gradual decline due to the lack of government or administrative attention. After the independence of Bangladesh, neglect, encroachment, and natural decay left the palace in ruins.

Visiting the palace recently, this correspondent observed that the roof has collapsed and wide cracks have appeared in the walls. The royal court, guest house, and most other parts of the palace are in a dilapidated condition. "A part of the palace now hosts the Uttar Bangla College. Nearby stands the Kakina Mahima Ranjan Memorial High School. There are also Kakina Janomilon Kendra,

Mission House, Kachhari Ghar, and the historic Hawa Khana, which still helps preserve parts of the palace," said Abdur Rouf Sarkar, principal of the college.

"It is necessary to preserve and renovate the Kakina Zamindarbari through immediate government initiatives before it is lost to oblivion. If this historic architectural landmark is restored, it could facilitate local tourism prospects."

Contacted, Abu Sayeed Inam Tanvirul, field officer of the Rangpur Divisional Department of Archaeology, said they were aware of the palace's present condition.

"We will visit the area and take steps to bring the palace under the DoA's protection," he added.

**STATUTORY NOTICE**  
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH  
HIGH COURT DIVISION  
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)  
Company Matter No. 299 of 2026  
IN THE MATTER OF:  
An application under section 81(2), 81(3) and 396 of the Companies Act, 1994.  
AND  
IN THE MATTER OF: Gobinda Chandra Saha, Share Holder and Managing Director of ABG JAPAN BANGLA COMPANY LTD., House-66 (3rd Floor), Road 13, Sector-14, Uttara, Dhaka, Bangladesh. -----Petitioner.  
-Versus-  
The Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms, 1, Kawran Bazar, TCB Bhaban, Dhaka. -----Respondent.  
Notice is hereby given to all concerned that an application under Section 81(2), read with Section 85(3) and Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994, was filed before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh for condonation of delay in holding the Annual General Meetings of ABG JAPAN BANGLA COMPANY LTD. for the calendar years 2024, 2025, and 2026. The said petition was admitted on 7th April, 2026, by the Honorable Justice Mr. Sikder Mahmudur Razi of the High Court Division. Following the publication of this notice, the petitioner is directed to submit an affidavit-in-compliance within 30 (thirty) days from the date of such publication. If any person is interested in the said application, he/she may appear on the date of hearing either himself or through his/her Advocate. A copy of the said application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of prescribed fees.  
Ripon Chandra Bhowmik, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh  
Ghoriana, Room No 123 (1st Floor), 16, Pirana Paltan, Dhaka-1000. Mob: 01747-570627

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"দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি"  
চিটাগাং ড্রাই ডক লিমিটেড (সিডিডিএল) এর জেটি ১ ও ২ এর অব্যবহৃত অংশ সূত্রে ব্যবহারের নিমিত্তে ফেটার পাইল এবং বোলাড স্থাপন কাজ সম্পাদনের জন্য উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে, যা বিস্তারিত ওয়েবসাইটে (www.cddl.gov.bd/notice) দেওয়া হলো।  
খবির উদ্দিন আহমেদ  
ক্যাডেন্ট বিএন  
মহাব্যবস্থাপক (উৎপাদন ও রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ)  
GD-823

**বারডেম জেনারেল হাসপাতাল**  
(বাংলাদেশ ডায়াবেটিক সমিতির একটি প্রতিষ্ঠান)  
ইব্রাহিম মেমোরিয়াল ডায়াবেটিক সেন্টার  
শাহবাগ, ঢাকা-১০০০  
নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির সংশোধনী  
গত ০৬.০৪.২০২৬ তারিখের দৈনিক ডেইলী স্টার ও বাংলাদেশ প্রতিদিন পত্রিকায় প্রকাশিত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির সিনিয়র স্টাফ নার্স পদের যোগ্যতা নিম্নরূপ হবে-  
(1) Three Years Diploma in Nursing Science & Midwifery/Midwifery or BSc Nursing.  
(2) BSc in Nursing degree holders will be given preference.  
Only short listed candidates will be called for interview.  
নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী অপরিবর্তিত থাকবে।  
For details please visit BIRDEM & BADAS Website:  
www.birdembd.org & www.dab-bd.org  
GD-820 Director General

**Pragati Insurance PLC.**  
Head office: Pragati Insurance Bhaban, 20-21, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215.  
Tel: PABX: 55012680-2 Fax: 880-2-55013694  
Symbol of Security  
**PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION**  
This is for kind information of all concerned that the Board of Directors of Pragati Insurance PLC. in its 341<sup>st</sup> meeting held on April 12, 2026 at 3.00 p.m. unanimously decided/recommended as under:  
1. Date & Time of the 40<sup>th</sup> AGM : June 18, 2026 at 12:00 Noon.  
2. Venue : By using digital platform (Zoom meeting).  
3. Recommended Dividend for the year 2025 : Cash dividend @ 27% and Stock dividend @ 03% Subject to final approval of the shareholders in the 40<sup>th</sup> AGM.  
4. Record date : May 12, 2026  
5. Comparative statement 2025 2024  
i) Earning Per Share (EPS) after tax : Tk. 5.31 Tk. 5.24 (Re)  
ii) Net Asset Value (NAV) per share : Tk. 57.36 Tk. 53.82  
iii) Net Operating Cash Flow per share : Tk. 1.44 Tk. 3.13  
6. Notes:  
(a) The shareholders, whose names appear in the Share Depository register on May 12, 2026 will be eligible to participate in the meeting & receive dividend.  
(b) The Shareholders bearing BO Accounts are requested to update their respective account with 12 digit e-TIN & any other changes in the particulars through their Depository Participant (DP), and the shareholders bearing Folio Numbers are requested to submit their e-TIN certificate & Bank Account Number to the Share Department of the company latest by 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2026, failing of which Income Tax will be deducted at source @ 15% instead of 10% from cash dividend as per Income Tax Act, 2023 under the Section-117 (Kha).  
(c) All shareholders/stakeholders are requested to up-date their respective Bank Account through their Depository Participant (DP) for depositing their Cash dividend through BEFTN.  
By order of the Board of Directors  
Sd/-  
Mohammad Jafar Ali, FCS  
Company Secretary  
Dated: Dhaka April 12, 2026