

CORONAVIRUS FALLOUT

Vegetable growers count huge losses

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Vegetable farmers are incurring severe losses amid the countrywide shutdown that has been imposed to contain coronavirus spread.

One such farmer Saad Mia said he cultivated bitter melon on a 45-decimal but now he was not getting right price for the vegetable because of rapidly decreasing demand of perishable vegetables.

Our correspondent found Saad, who grows vegetables at Haripur village in Cumilla's Meghna upazila, at Shyambazar wholesale market in Dhaka while he was separating rotten bitter melons from the good ones.

"I am offering these vegetables at Tk 60 per kilogramme which is half of its production cost. Still, I do not have customers," he said, adding that he brought around 50 kg bitter melons at Shyambazar.

He later sold his vegetables to a retailer at Tk 40 per kg in front of the correspondent.

According to Saad, he cultivated the bitter melons risking his life amid the Covid-19 outbreak and had a bumper production, yet he had a lot to worry about his future considering the situation.

"I am ruined. I will lose over Tk 1 lakh this season," tearful Saad said.

Amid the countrywide shutdown, people nowadays are visiting kitchen markets less often. Besides, many are prone to buy dry foods and slow perishable items.

Vegetable farmers are bearing the brunt of this situation. The situation was so bad that in some cases farmers were also seen not plucking their vegetables and letting those damage in the fields.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Bitter gourds gone bad are dumped at a corner of Shyambazar kitchen market in the capital. The shutdown has left many avoiding kitchen markets, resulting in poor sales. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: MAHBUB KHAN

STAY HOME, STAY WELL

Clean all accessories

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Along with clothes and hands, it is also necessary to disinfect accessories such as rings, bracelets, watches, mobile phones or even wallets.

Experts suggest washing hands with soap or using hand sanitiser to mitigate the risk of catching and spreading the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), but people have to remove all accessories and sanitise those as well before washing hands.

Kaoser Alam, medical officer of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, said, "During the days of shutdown, we stay inside our homes but some of us may have to go outside for groceries."

"So, we wear masks and wash hands properly, but we rarely care

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Don't commit genocide

Myanmar president orders civil servants, military officials

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Nearly three months after the International Court of Justice's ruling on the Rohingya genocide case, Myanmar President has asked civil servants, military officials and the general people "not to commit genocide".

In an order issued by Myanmar President's Office on April 8, it directed all ministries, regions and state governments "to ensure that its personnel, officers, staff -- whether military or other security forces, or civil services -- and locals, under its control or direction, do not commit the acts mentioned in Articles II and III of the Genocide Convention."

The order, published on April 9, in Myanmar's Ministry of Information says each ministry, region and state government shall transmit any credible information that it may receive from subordinates about possible acts to the president's office. They were also asked to provide a quarterly report on relevant developments.

This came in response to the January 23 ruling by the ICJ, the top UN Court, that had asked Myanmar to prevent acts of genocide against the country's persecuted Rohingya minority and to stop destroying evidence.

In November, the Gambia filed a suit against Myanmar alleging it was committing "ongoing genocide against its minority Muslim Rohingya population", which forced around 740,000 Rohingyas

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Pakistan accepts repatriation proposal



Bangabandhu addressing members of the Awami League Parliamentary Party at Engineering Institute on April 11, 1972.

APRIL 11, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

NEPALESE MESSAGE TO BANGABANDHU

The prime minister of Nepal Kirtinidhi Bista has sent a message of greetings and good wishes on behalf of his majesty's government to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his government on the historic occasion of the inaugural convening of the Constituent Assembly of Bangladesh.

GOVT PROSECUTORS FOR WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL APPOINTED

The government has appointed SR Pal and Serajul Haque as the chief government prosecutors of the War Crimes Tribunal to try the Pakistani prisoners of war for their atrocities and genocide in Bangladesh.

BHUTTO ACCEPTS INDIA'S OFFER FOR TALKS

Pakistan President ZA Bhutto says today that he has sent his reply to the Indian prime minister's letter dated April 9, 1972, accepting her proposal for a meeting of the emissaries of the two countries to prepare a summit meeting between him and Indira Gandhi.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Don't lift curbs prematurely

Warns WHO as Trump considers opening US economy

AGENCIES

The World Health Organization (WHO) has warned countries to be cautious about lifting restrictions introduced to curb the spread of the new coronavirus as global death toll from the pandemic soar passed 100,000.

The United Nations agency would like to see an easing, but at the same time "lifting restrictions could lead to a deadly resurgence," WHO

Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a press conference.

Extraordinary measures from New York to Naples to New Delhi have seen businesses and schools closed in a desperate bid to halt the virus's spread, and the IMF has warned that the world now faces the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression.

More than 103,536 people have died of COVID-19 with 1.7 million infections detected globally, according

to a Johns Hopkins University tracker, with nearly 70 percent of the fatalities in Europe.

The United States, now the pandemic's epicentre, became the first country to record more than 2,000 virus deaths in one day and is closing in on Italy's 18,849 fatalities -- currently the highest national figure.

With more than half a million reported infections, the United States already has more coronavirus cases

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Army personnel and law enforcers struggle to manage traffic at the capital's Nayabazar as many ventured out around noon yesterday. Inset, army personnel halt some people near Buriganga second bridge for ignoring restrictions.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



Make a list of those vulnerable

Writ seeks food aid, medicines for the poor in a week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer yesterday sent a legal notice to the authorities concerned of the government requesting them to make a list of the country's financially vulnerable people and distribute food and medicines among them through the army within a week.

The move is aimed at helping the people during the crisis which

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



PRAYER TIMING APRIL 12

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-35	12-45	4-45	6-24	7-45
JAMAAT 5-10	1-15	5-00	6-28	8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION