





Mango growers feeling the squeeze

Poor marketing, shipping, weather, lack of buyers amid pandemic causing losses

RABIUL HASAN with anwar ali

Amid the coronavirus scare, a lack of buyers due to inadequate measures for marketing and transportation leaves mango growers worried.

Farmers said the authorities had assured them of facilitating marketing and transport amidst the coronavirus-driven shutdown this year.

But days ahead of the mango harvest, beginning in the end of May, farmers said buyers could not visit their orchards to buy mangoes due to a lack of transport as well as harassment and illegal toll collection on roads.

"Besides, mangoes will rot as there is no market. We're not even thinking about fair prices, our best efforts will be put towards recovering production costs," said Anwar

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Farmers harvesting Boro paddy at an inundated field in Tangail's Basail upazila. Heavy rain of the past few days has submerged about 35 hectares of croplands in the upazila. The photo was taken on Sunday.

PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

New banknotes with Bangabandhu's image



Students of Bangla Bazar Girls' High School handing over Tk 1,001 of their saved up money to Bangabandhu on June 2, 1972.

June 2, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGABANDHU'S MEETING WITH TRADE UNION LEADERS

Representatives of 40 Tongi-based trade unions call on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at his official residence today. They assure the prime minister of their full support for the government's industrial development plans. The prime minister calls upon the workers to devote themselves to the task of rebuilding the nation by increasing

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Keep food supply chain intact

Ekushey Padak-winning agricultural economist Dr Jahangir Alam talks to The Daily Star on the challenges for food and agriculture sector in the time of pandemic

PORIMOL PALMA

TDS: Do you think that Bangladesh may face a famine?

Jahangir: Globally, there will be a famine, for sure. Many of the countries are under lockdown for three to four months. They are not being able to go for food production. Farm inputs are not reaching farmers. This means there won't be any surplus of food. Countries that are heavily dependent on imported food will not be able to import food from the international market as per their need even if they have the purchase capacity. It's because every nation will try to meet their food demand first.

If you talk about Bangladesh, I think we are still in a good position. Our Boro yield is good. What's important now is to help farmers harvest and preserve it properly. Public procurement has to be extensive. The challenge, however, is for the Aman and the next Boro season. We need to do everything so that farmers can

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MURDER IN LIBYA 'Ring leader' of trafficking gang arrested

Says Rab; Libya condemns killing of 26 Bangladeshis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rab yesterday claimed to have arrested an alleged ringleader of the human trafficking gang that kidnapped and murdered some of the 26 Bangladeshi workers in Libya on Thursday.

Kamal Uddin alias Haji Kamal, 55, has trafficked more than 400 people to Libya over the last decade, said Lt Col Rakibul Hasan, commanding officer of Rab-3, at a press briefing at his Tikatuli office.

The Rab team arrested Kamal in the capital's Shahjadpur area in the morning after the victims' families complained.

Some of the Bangladeshis killed and injured in the firing were sent by Kamal, and their families paid ransom to him when the victims were held captive and tortured, the CO said.

During primary interrogation, the arrestee claimed he had sent a portion of the money to his counterpart abroad

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Migrants can slip into poverty

Rights bodies warn of Covid-19 fallout

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Regional rights bodies across Asia and the Middle East fear millions of migrants -- if repatriated home without compensation amid the coronavirus pandemic -- may face indebtedness and their families may slip into poverty.

They demanded a transitional justice

mechanism to address the grievances and claims of the repatriated workers who have lost their jobs as a result of the pandemic.

Migrant Forum in Asia, Lawyers Beyond Borders Network, Cross Regional Centre for Migrants and Refugees, South Asia Trade Union Council, and Solidarity Center made the call in a statement yesterday.

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PRAYER TIMING JUNE 2

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:05	12:45	5:00	6:45	8:15
JAMAAT 4:40	1:15	5:15	6:50	8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



An altercation breaks out among people waiting outside a Covid-19 sample collection booth on Ring Road in the capital's Mohammadpur area yesterday morning. Every day, 30 samples are collected at the booth, set up by the health directorate in association with Brac, for the coronavirus testing.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

LatAm virus cases top 1m

Brazil has second-highest caseload in world as UK, Russia ease lockdowns

AFP, Moscow

Countries across Europe took bolder steps in easing coronavirus lockdowns, with schools, pubs, parks and pools reopening in places, while in Latin America the outbreak grew more dire with infections passing the one million mark.

The deadly disease has now killed more than 372,000 million people and infected at least 6.1 million since emerging in China late last year.

It has ravaged economies and threatens to tip the world toward a recession not seen in decades, while hemming billions of

people in across the globe under lockdowns to slow its deadly march.

But from Russia to France, Italy and Britain, countries have started to emerge from months-long lockdowns, cautiously returning to a new post-pandemic version of normal.

Bars were set to serve again in Finland and Norway -- albeit with distancing restrictions or shortened hours -- while some schools in Britain and Greece opened doors again yesterday.

But the decision to allow schools to

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Two 'drug dealers' killed in 'shootout'

STAR REPORT

Two suspected drug peddlers were killed in 'separate gunfights' with the BCB and Rab in Bandarban and Gazipur yesterday.

In Bandarban's Naikhyangchhari upazila, a suspected Rohingya drug peddler, Abdur Rahman, 25, was killed in a "gunfight" with the BCB.

"He belonged to

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