4 of a family FROM PAGE 12

Entering the house, they found the bodies in three rooms.

FROM PAGE 12

markets.

practices.

said.

buy mangoes randomly from local

These mangoes were also certified

by the DAE's Plant Quarantine Wing,

which among other duties inspects

and regulates the export of plants

and plant products according to the

requirements of importing countries,

as maintaining good agricultural

destination countries, especially in

the US and in Europe, most of the

mangoes that were bought from local

markets were found to be infected

with pests. These were accordingly

As the rate of rejection rose, the

demand for the Bangladeshi fruit

continued to fall in the importing

countries, DAE officials and farmers

Rabiul Islam, a mango producer of

Kansat in Chapainawabganj, said, "We

survived the losses from producing

safe export-quality mangoes because

the demand for safe mangoes has

luckily increased in local markets.

Local buyers are also choosing our

mangoes. If we had to depend only on

export, we would have had to suffer

the contract farmers in Rajshahi got

any opportunity to sell mangoes for

export this year, and only one farmer

of Chapainawabganj managed to sell

"When we go for producing export-

quality mangoes, our expenditure goes

up," said Ismail Khan, general secretary

of Shibganj Safe Mango Producers'

Association, an organisation of 200

Ismail said he provided some 10

"If we harvest three tonnes of

tonnes of Amrapali variety of mangoes

mangoes from an orchard, we hardly

get one tonne of quality mangoes

for export. So, the price of export-

quality mangoes rises," he told this

Contract farmers were trained to

produce sufficient quantities of safe

If the embankment collapses,

four more upazilas of Tangail will be

Currently, about 1.3 lakh people

in 151 villages in six upazilas of the

district have been affected by the flood.

was flowing 68 cm above the danger

In Munshiganj, the Padma river

Some 13 shelters have been

some 10 tonnes to exporters.

According to DAE officials, none of

much more losses.

mango producers.

correspondent.

from floodwater.

mark, yesterday.

flooded.

to exporters this year.

rejected and then destroyed.

the

However, on reaching

Gani was a rickshaw-van trader. Besides, he used to give people loans and take interests on them, the police officer said.

Shafiqul Islam, additional superintendent of Tangail police, said the four might have been killed a couple of days ago. Police were investigating the incident, he added.

After visiting the spot, Sanjit Kumar Roy, superintendent of Tangail police, told journalists that they have already got some clues, but would not disclose those now for the "sake of investigation".

He hoped that they could identify the killers soon through probe.

Meanwhile, a team of Criminal Investigation Department collected evidence from the spot, said Riazul Hoque, special superintendent of police of the CID.

Irene Khan

FROM PAGE 12

any remuneration for their efforts to maintain their independence.

Khan will be taking up the position in August 2020, and will maintain it for three years.

She will be taking the responsibility of documenting violations of the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

She would also be responsible for gathering information on threats, violence, harassment, persecution or intimidation directed at persons seeking to exercise or to promote the right to freedom of opinion and expression, especially the persecutions of journalists or other professionals in the field of information.

She will also be advising governments, advocating on behalf of those whose rights are affected, and mobilising international support for the cause.

Her responsibilities would also include mobilising international and national communities, including civil society, governments and international organisations, to address the human rights issues.

Khan was also the first woman to head Amnesty International. She had also served as the director-general of International Development Law Organisation, an intergovernmental organisation dedicated to the promotion of rule of law.

Argentinian 'dirty war' suspect hiding in Berlin: report AFP, Berlin

An Argentinian-German man wanted in Buenos Aires for crimes against humanity committed in the "dirty war" waged by the country's former junta has been hiding in Berlin where authorities have refused his extradition, Bild daily reported

prepared at Srinagar, Louhajang and Tongibari upazila.

AFP, Moscow

Mango export drops 85pc since 2016 practices -- that include using the prescribed quantity of pesticides and insecticides, using the fruit-bagging method of cultivation, and harvesting the fruit by engaging skilled labourers both farmers and DAE officials mentioned.

> As per these rules, exporters have to ensure compliance with the "good agricultural practices" beginning from cultivation to packaging the mangoes, said Md Fazlul Haque, additional director of DAE's Plant Quarantine Wing.

> But while exporting, businessmen prefer buying mangoes from local markets, ignoring contract farmers to avoid paying them a "good price".

> "Buying the best quality mangoes for export requires paying the contract farmers well. But what happened in the last few years is that some businessmen avoided paying the farmers -- instead they bought mangoes from the markets at lower prices and managed the test results in their favour," said the DAE official.

> Most of the mangoes were found to be pest-infected and were eventually rejected in destination countries, especially in Europe, resulting in poor exports these last few years, he noted. The country produces around 12 lakh tonnes of mangoes a year and can

> export at least 10 percent of the fruit without having any impact on local demand, said a mango researcher at Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute.

> When farmers first began producing safe mangoes following a Chinese method of using fruit bags in mango trees (to combat fruit flies) in 2015, the potential of mango exports came to light.

> For the first time, 165 tonnes of mangoes were sent to Europe and the Middle East that year. Of this, only 10 tonnes were from Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj districts with the rest from southern districts, according to the DAE.

Next year saw the highest export of mangoes till date -- 665 tonnes -- of which 90 percent were from Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj, the major mangoes following good agricultural mango-producing districts in the

country.

Inspired by the 2016 export, the farmers of Rajshahi region produced some two crore safe mangoes with an export target of 5,000 tonnes in 2017. But they managed to sell only 2.8 tonnes to exporters that year.

Most of the 324 tonnes of mangoes exported in 2017 were bought from markets and not from the contract farmers, DAE officials and farmers confirmed.

In 2018, most contract farmers were once again unable to sell their produce to exporters and only 231 tonnes of mangoes were exported that vear.

Last year, mango exports fell to below 100 tonnes -- an 85 percent decline since 2016.

The loss suffered by farmers in 2017 prompted the region's Agro Food Producers' Society Convenor Anwarul Hoque to file a complaint with the Prime Minister's Office on July 10 that year.

In the complaint, Anwarul stated that some officials of the DAE's Plant Quarantine Wing were biased to insecticide-using producers, and they certified "non-organic" mangoes for export resulting in losses to the organic mango farmers.

three-member committee А headed by Mohammad Mahfuzul Haque, chairman of Bangladesh Food Safety Authority, probed Anwarul's allegations.

While the probe report, signed on November 1, 2017, could not find evidence of DAE's backing for insecticide-using producers, it found "neglect and apathy" of officials to organic mangoes and recommended promotion of safe mangoes.

It also detected a lack of coordination among farmers of safe mangoes, exporters, and DAE's quarantine wing officials. But farmers of safe mangoes say

the probe report's recommendations were never implemented and they witnessed repetitions of the 2017 situation in the following years and a sustained fall in exports.

Mango exporter Md Shahabuddin of Feni said all exporters are not the

same and reputed exporters do not flout rules when buying mangoes for export.

"Dishonest exporters in league with dishonest officials are exporting low quality mangoes for profit. Their malpractice is hurting our reputation."

He points out that agricultural officials have to certify when exporters buy mangoes from a garden and they also test the mangoes and certify after exporters take those to a quarantine station.

'You see, officials are involved in two phases and still their certified mangoes are being rejected abroad."

Usually, exporters pay around Tk 20 per kg, and sometimes as much as Tk 40, higher than the market price for mangoes, when they buy from contract farmers. The price goes further up if farmers incur higher costs for production, he said.

Many exporters want to avoid this extra expenditure, saying they compete with Indian and Pakistani exporters in foreign markets, he also said.

The exporter observed there are large market possibilities for Bangladeshi mangoes in European, Middle-Eastern, and Asian countries.

"Yet, we cannot explore this potential for those dishonest people and due to lack of a standard policy for mango exports."

This year during peak mango season, exports were hit hard by lockdowns and travel restrictions across the globe due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Only late in the mango season did exporters become active and start procuring mangoes for export. An agro farm sent a sample consignment to Switzerland on July 12.

DAE's Fazlul Haque said the government is considering setting up quarantine stations in Rajshahi and some other regions to end safe mango farmers' woes.

'One of our projects to set up such stations is awaiting approval," he said, adding that the field-level stations would help exporters source local mangoes.

At present, exporters have to take mangoes to Narayanganj for testing.

Flood situation may worsen in northern parts FROM PAGE 12

may peak between July 25 and July 26. Sirajul said leakages have appeared at 26 places of the Bhuapur-Tarakandi road, which is also an embankment along the Jamuna, due to pressure

allocated along with livestock feed. level yesterday.

"Flooding started in the lowlying areas of the upazila but the executive engineer of the local WDB. In Jamalpur, the overall flood situation turned worse as the Jamuna

Over eight lakh people of 625 villages under seven upazilas and seven municipalities have been affected by the flood.

have taken shelter on high grounds of villages and on concrete bridges.

the Brahmaputra was flowing 91 cm above the danger mark, Dharla 62 cm and Dudhkumar 81 cm above, said Ariful Islam, executive engineer of

upazila, said she has been living on an embankment for the last one week as her home was under four to five feet water.

During the June flood, she had to stay on the embankment for 12 days. In Lalmonirhat, though floodwaters have started to recede from houses, in many areas, roads are still submerged. There is an acute crisis of food and drinking water in the flood-hit areas.

Flood victim Narendra Nath, of Jagatber village in Sadar upazila, said floodwaters have receded from their houses, but they cannot travel for work as roads are still under water. He is now jobless.

Our correspondents from Tangail, Jahela Bewa, a resident of Char Lalmonirhat, Brahmanbaria and Jamalnur conti ributed to the story

Shun parochialism FROM PAGE 12

sowing seeds of discord among the workers. They are visiting the workers' quarters and spreading hate campaign among workers of different districts. Bangabandhu maintains that all the workers and people of Bangladesh have only one identity -- Bengali. There can't be any differentiation on district-basis, he adds.

Mentioning that his government has exempted land tax upto 25 bighas the prime minister says that he has a demand on the peasants: produce one maund more in every bigha. PM WARNS MURDERERS

Adamjeenagar In his

speech, Bangabandhu sounds a note of stern warning against those who are engaged in political murders. He mentions that at least 70 workers of Awami League have been murdered during the last six months. He says that during the 24 years of Pakistan, nobody ever dared to touch his political workers. But as he is now in power, some quarters are taking advantage of the situation and killing his political workers. The prime minister observes that political assassination is no politics and would never bring any good to the country. He wonders whether these elements have misjudged his forbearance as weakness. He says that his government is determined to maintain law and order at any cost. Bangabandhu asks the criminal elements to rectify themselves or face the consequences. CHINESE HELP FOR UN ENTRY SOUGHT

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad today gives it to understand that China will not exercise its vote in the Security Council to thwart Bangladesh's entry to the UN in September. The foreign minister has dispatched a letter to Peking soliciting her help for Bangladesh's entry to the UN. SOURCES: July 19, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dianik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

Solar probe

FROM PAGE 12

The spacecraft, launched from Florida in February, snapped the images in late May using the probe's Extreme Ultraviolet Imager as it orbited nearly 48 million miles (77 million km) from the sun's surface, or roughly halfway between the sun and Earth.

The "campfires" are believed to be tiny explosions, called nanoflares, and could explain why the sun's outer shield, the corona, is 300 times hotter than the star's surface. Scientists are awaiting more data from the spacecraft's other instruments to know for sure.

"We've never been closer to the sun with a camera, and this is just the beginning of the long epic journey of Solar Orbiter," said Daniel Müller, ESA's Solar Orbiter project scientist.

Scientists typically have relied upon Earth-based telescopes for closeups of the sun's surface. But Earth's atmosphere limits the amount of visible light needed to glean views as intimate as those obtained by the Solar Orbiter.

Many along with their livestock

There is a scarcity of drinking water, cooked food and hygiene facilities. People are in dire need of water purifying tablets and dry food.

In Kurigram, yesterday afternoon, local WDB.

ankar Madhabnur under Raiibpur

reluctance to go to the shelters before Dewanganj upazila yesterday noon.

floodwaters reach their homes. According to sources at the district administration, 65 metric tons of rice, dry food for 700 people and Tk 4 lakh for children's food have been

In Brahmanbaria, the Titas river continues to rise due to incessant rain. It was flowing 6 cm above the danger

town protection dam is yet to be submerged," said Ranjan Kumar Das,

was flowing 123 cm above the danger mark at Bahadurahad Chat

yesterday.

Luis Esteban Kyburg is accused of leading an Argentinian naval unit between 1976 and 1983 that was allegedly involved in torturing and killing abducted political opponents of the dictatorship.

Some 30,000 people were "disappeared" in the "dirty war" waged by Argentina's last military dictatorship against suspected leftwing political critics.

Argentinian judicial authorities filed an extradition request for Kyburg in 2015, the daily said.

But German authorities have rejected the demand because Kyburg is a German citizen, and therefore cannot be extradited to face trial elsewhere, the daily added.

Prosecutors in Berlin were not immediately available for comment when reached by AFP.

Kyburg himself told Bild that he was "waiting here. Court in Germany, not in Argentina. I'm waiting.

yesterday, as women in opposition have teamed up to contest President Alexander Lukashenko in an election next month. The ex-Soviet state has been ruled since 1994 by Lukashenko, a former activists who said they faced threats of collective farm director who has claimed that the country does not want a woman president. The 65-year-

Belarus is targeting female activists

with misogyny and discriminatory

tactics, Amnesty International said

old is running for a sixth term in the August 9 poll. The authorities have cracked down on the opposition, barring and detaining would-be candidates and detaining more than 250 people at

Amnesty condemns Belarus for 'misogyny' ahead of poll the authorities of targeting woman involved in politics in "gender-specific ways'

> "The Belarusian authorities are wheeling out practices that smack of misogyny," said Marie Struthers, the group's Eastern Europe and Central Asia director.

> Amnesty gave testimony from sexual violence and of their children being taken into care.

> The election will be contested by Lukashenko and another four candidates including a woman opposition candidate, Svetlana Tikhanovskaya.

Tikhanovskaya put herself forward after her husband Sergei Tikhanovsky, a popular vlogger, was detained and

to run after gathering the necessary signatures.

On Thursday she announced an alliance with the campaign teams of two popular opposition figures who have been barred from standing, Viktor Babaryko and Valery Tsepkalo.

Babaryko, an ex-banker, has been detained over suspected financial crimes. Amnesty has recognised him as a prisoner of conscience along with Tikhanovskya's husband.

To promote their joint campaign, Tikhanovskaya, 37, posed punching a fist with Babaryko's female campaign chief and Tsepkalo's wife.

Tikhanovskaya said last month she received an anonymous phone call threatening to jail her and put her children in care. She said she

In a report Amnesty accused barred from standing. She was allowed considered withdrawing from the poll.

Amnesty accused Lukashenko "tokenistic" appointments of loyal women politicians and said he "routinely makes sexist statements".

Lukashenko claimed in May that Belarusian society "has not yet matured enough to vote for a woman". He said this was "because according to the constitution, our president has strong powers".

The president does not appear in public with any woman partner.

In his electoral declaration he said he is still married but his wife, whom he wed in 1975, is never seen with him in public.

He is has a teenage son, Nikolai, who accompanies him to public engagements.

The spacecraft also carries plasmasampling instruments to offer researchers further data.

"That combination really allows us to make links and connections to what's happening on the sun and what's happening at the spacecraft," said Holly Gilbert, Solar Orbiter project scientist at Nasa.

Iwo more

FROM PAGE 12

With them, at least 71 physicians so far died with Covid-19 infection while 11 others passed away showing symptoms of the virus, according to BDF

On the other hand, Foundation for Doctors' Safety Rights and Responsibility said 67 doctors died of Covid-19 while 10 others died after showing coronavirus symptoms.

3 killed

FROM PAGE 12

Myanmar, police raided Nazirpara Chakbazar area around 2:00am, said the OC.

Sensing police presence, a group of drug traders opened fire targeting law enforcers, who then retaliated, he added.

While the rest of the drug traders escaped, the two brothers sustained bullet injuries during the "gunfight".

Police took them to Teknaf Health Complex where doctors declared them dead, the OC claimed.

Police recovered 20,000 yaba pills, two locally-made firearms and 11 bullets from the spot and filed three cases in this regard, he added.

The bodies were kept at Cox's Bazar Medical College for autopsy, reports our correspondent in Cox's Bazar.

Meanwhile, the identity of the nan, aged around 35, who died in the capital's "shootout" had not been known.

According to a report by subinspector Sajedul Haque of Mohammadpur Police Station, the shootout took place around 3:00am when a team from the police station went to the Bosila Garden City area to apprehend a suspect.

During a "gunfight", the man was injured by bullets and rushed to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead, read the report.

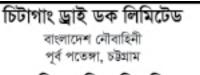
The body was sent to the hospital morgue for autopsy.

JOB OPPORTUNITY KANEKO CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

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তালিকাভুক্তির বিজ্ঞপ্তি

protests this week.

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১। চিটাগাং দ্রাই ডক লিঃ কর্তৃপক্ষ আগামী ০২ (দুই) অর্থ বৎসরের (২০২০-২১ ও ২০২১-২২) জন্য নিদ্নবর্ণিত গ্রুপ সমূহে মালামাল সরবরাহকারী হিসেবে তালিকাস্তুক্তির নিমিত্তে নির্ধারিত ফরমে ব্যবসায়ী/সরবরাহকারী/মন্থুদদার/প্রস্তুতকারকদের নিকট হতে দরথাস্ত আহবান করা যাচ্ছেঃ

ক। হার্ডওয়্যার রঙ্ক ও লৌহজাত দ্রব্য, খ। বৈদ্যুতিক দ্রব্য, গ। কাঠ ও কাঠ জাতীয় দ্রব্য, ঘ। স্টেশদারী ও প্রিন্টিং সংশ্লিষ্ট দ্রব্য, ও। জাহাজ/গাড়ির যন্ত্রাংশ ও মেশিনারী জাতীয় দ্রব্য, চ। গোশাক ও বিবিধ দ্রব্যাদি।

২। তালিকান্তুক্তির শর্তাবলীঃ

জডি-১১৫৬

ক। সরবরাহকারী তালিকাচ্রক্তির জন্য আগ্রহী সরবরাহকারীগণকে তালিকাচ্রক্তির ফি বাবদ টাঃ ১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) মাত্র (অফেরতযোগ্য) এবং সকল গ্রুপের জন্য সন্মিলিতভাবে জামানত হিসেবে চিটাগাং দ্রাই ডক শিঃ-এর অনুকুলে ২,০০,০০০.০০ (টাকা দুই লক্ষ মাত্র) টাকার পে-অর্চার/ডিডি (ফেরতযোগ্য) এবং হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স আয়কর ও মুসক সাটিফিকেট, মালিকানা/অংশীদারীতের চুক্তিপত্র, লিমিটেড কোম্পানির ক্ষেত্রে আর্টিকেল অফ এসোসিয়েশন এবং মেমোরেভাম অফ এসোসিয়েশন এবং ব্যাংক অচ্ছলতার সননপত্রসহ নির্ধারিত ফরমের সাথে সংযুক্ত করে। চিটাগাং দ্রাই ডক লিঃ এর বাণিষ্ঠ্যিক বিভাগে আগামী ৩০ জ্বলাই ২০২০ তারিথের মধ্যে জমা দিতে হবে।

খ। নির্ধারিত ফরম টাঃ ৫০০.০০ (টাকা পাঁচশত মাত্র) মূল্যে (অফেরতযোগ্য) ক্যাশ সেকশন, চিটাগাং ড্রাই ডক লিঃ, পূর্ব পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম হতে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।

উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক (বাদিজ)

১৮ জুলাই ২০২০

Bangladesh saw no improvement

FROM PAGE 12

UN Committee Against Torture (UNCAT) on measures it had taken to uphold its commitments under the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT).

It was welcomed but the Committee raised allegations of widespread and routine commission of torture and ill treatment by law enforcement officials, and the absence of statistical data on the implementation of the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act, the report said.

During the UNCAT review, Bangladesh stressed that it had promoted the gradual replacement of the death penalty by other forms of punishment, although had not taken any steps to abolish the death penalty, the UK report adds.

Stating that violence by organisations associated with political parties continued throughout 2019, it said in October, a student from the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology was beaten to death by members of the student wing of the Awami League, allegedly for posting material online, which was critical of the government.

It said under the 2018 Digital Security Act (DSA), 42 people were arrested, often on charges of hurting religious sentiment, or undermining law and order. The provisions of the DSA were criticised as empowering the government to arrest and detain journalists, human rights activists, and political opponents.

In April, Bangladesh dropped four places to 150 (out of 180) in the Reporters Without Borders Press Freedom Index; its lowest ever position.

Throughout the year, UK ministers met opposition Minister Sheikh Hasina, the report said.

Referring to Amnesty International, the report said Bangladesh's former Prime Minister and leader of the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party, Khaleda Zia, imprisoned since February 2018 on corruption charges, was not receiving adequate health care.

It said gender-based violence remained a concern, mentioning the murder of Nusrat Jahan Rafi, a female madrasa student who complained to the police about harassment by her principal. Women habitually are harassed in public, making travelling

The UK report said Bangladesh continued to play a vital role in hosting a significant number of the Rohingya people and maintained its commitment to the voluntary, safe, and dignified return of the Rohingyas to Myanmar.

However, there were reports of significant criminality in the refugee camps in Cox's Bazar,

where approximately 855,000 Rohingya refugees are living. These included around 30 murders, gender-based violence, abduction, illegal drug rading, and human trafficking.

In September, the government introduced restrictions on access to the internet in the camps, citing security concerns following a peaceful rally in the Kutupalong camp on 25 August - a decision that was criticized by the rights groups.

politicians, media representatives, and indigenous leaders, and in April the then Minister for Asia, Mark Field, raised human rights concerns with Prime

on foot or public transport difficult.

