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SHAH CEMENT

Mango export drops 85pc since 2016

The credit goes to DAE officials, exporters

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

Mango exports have declined by around 85 percent since 2016 due to negligence of a section of agricultural officials and exporters' violation of rules of good agricultural practices for greater profits.

Many importing countries recommend good agricultural practices that ensure the fruits are produced, packed, handled, and stored safely to minimise risks of food safety hazards.

Under these practices, the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) advocates exporters to select contract farmers ahead of the mango season. These contract farmers would then follow prescribed methods of cultivation and produce the best quality of safe, organically grown mangoes for export.

The exporters would then buy these mangoes from the contract farmers, complete procedures for packaging, testing by the DAE's Plant Quarantine Wing, and prepare for export.

But two years after the country began mango exports in 2015, exporters began to ignore the contract farmers and

YEAR	MANGOES EXPORTED (tonnes)
2015	165 (1st year)
2016	665
2017	324
2018	231
2019	<100

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People looking at the burnt home of local Awami League leader Sheikh Zakaria in Mashiali village of Khulna's Phultala upazila yesterday noon, hours after three were killed and six injured in a shooting incident and another was beaten to death nearby. Locals set 11 homes and business establishments of the AL leader and his family members on fire following the shooting.

PHOTO: DIPANKAR ROY



Irene Khan made UN special rapporteur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former secretary general of Amnesty International Irene Khan has been selected as the next United Nations Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

Khan is the first woman to be appointed to this mandate in its 27 years of existence.

The United Nations Special Rapporteurs are independent investigators who examine the situation of human rights all over the globe. They report directly to the UN Human Rights Council and the UN General Assembly but do not receive

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Rights Situation in 2019 Bangladesh saw no improvement

Says UK report, lauds it for hosting Rohingyas

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The UK has lauded Bangladesh for continuously playing a vital role in hosting the Rohingyas, but observed that the overall human rights situation in the country in 2019 saw no improvement.

In its annual Foreign and Commonwealth Office Report on Human Rights Democracy, UK said the number of death sentences issued in Bangladesh increased -- two executions were carried out in Bangladesh in 2019.

At least 327 death sentences were issued in 2019 compared to 319 in 2018. In November, six of the seven people convicted over the Holey Bakery terrorist attack in 2016 received death sentences, said the report published on Thursday.

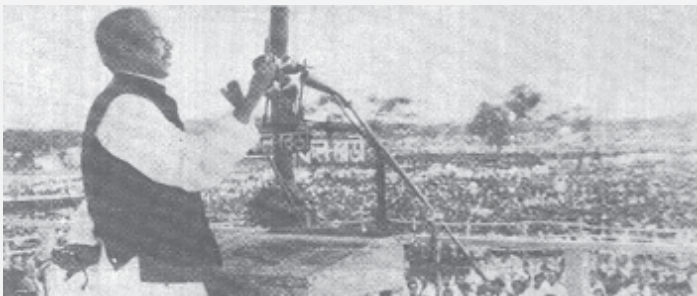
"Reports of extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, and attacks on journalists and others continued during the year," says the report that UK considers an essential guide to the British government's work and to the global human rights landscape over the year.

In July, Bangladesh government submitted initial country report to the

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Shun parochialism



Bangabandhu addressing a mammoth gathering at Adamjeenagar, Narayanganj on July 18, 1972.

July 18, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGABANDHU VISITS NARAYANGANJ

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today visits Adamjeenagar, Narayanganj and addresses a mammoth public meeting attended by workers in large number. The prime minister reiterates his advice to workers to shun parochialism. "I advise you to give up parochialism not as your minister but as your Mujib Bhai, Bangabandhu and Father of the Nation," he says.

In an emotion-choked voice Bangabandhu says that he would rather prefer his death to see the workers quarreling among themselves over regionalism. He regrets that some people are

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Two more doctors die from Covid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two more doctors died of Covid-19 while undergoing treatment at two city hospitals yesterday.

They are SM Nur Uddin Baki Rumi, assistant professor of surgery at Kushtia Medical College, and Kohel Karim, doctor of medicine at Dhaka National Medical College.

Rumi breathed his last around 2:30am at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), said Mily Dey, director of Bangladesh Doctors' Foundation (BDF) Trust.

He tested positive for coronavirus on July 3 and was admitted to BSMMU on the same day.

Meanwhile, Karim breathed his last around 3:15pm at Intensive Care Unit of Popular Medical College Hospital where he was admitted with coronavirus symptoms a few days ago, said Mily.

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Solar probe reveals tiny 'campfires' on sun's surface



REUTERS, Washington

A solar probe built by the European Space Agency and Nasa has delivered the closest photos ever taken of the sun's surface, revealing a landscape rife with thousands of tiny solar flares that scientists dubbed "campfires" and offering clues about the extreme heat of the outermost part of its atmosphere.

"When the first images came in, my first thought was, 'This is not possible - it can't be that good,'" David Berghmans, principal investigator for the Solar Orbiter spacecraft's ultraviolet imager at the Royal Observatory of Belgium, told reporters on Thursday.

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4 of a family murdered at Tangail home

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Four members of a family were found murdered inside their home in Tangail's Madhupur yesterday.

Assailant(s) hacked them and slit their throats, said police, after recovering the bodies.

The victims are Gani Miah, 45, his wife Tajiron, 37, son Tajel, 14, and daughter Sadia, 9.

Locals said Gani, of Golabari village in Madhupur upazila, constructed a house at Masterpara in Madhupur municipality area around a year ago and started living there.

They got a stench from the house yesterday morning and informed Madhupur police of the matter.

Tarek Kamal, officer-in-charge of Madhupur Police Station, told The Daily Star that a police team went to the spot and found the house locked from outside.

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3 killed in 'gunfights' with cops

STAR REPORT

Two suspected yaba traders were killed in what police said was a gunfight in Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar early yesterday.

Around the same time, an unidentified man was killed in a "shootout" with police in the capital's Boshila area.

No policeman was reported shot or injured in these incidents.

The deceased in Teknaf -- Faruk Hosen, 37 and Ajidul Huq, 26 -- were brothers, said Pradip Kumar Das, officer-in-charge of Teknaf Police Station.

Based on a tip-off about a consignment of yaba being smuggled in from

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A bridge on Basail-Mirzapur road collapses due to strong currents of floodwater, snapping communications between parts of the two upazilas in Tangail. Six out of the district's 12 upazilas are hit hard by flood which has affected about 1.3 lakh people so far. The photo was taken in Basail's Kanchanpur village on Thursday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Flood situation may worsen in northern parts

Heavy rains likely in some areas next week

STAR REPORT

Although floodwater has started to recede in the northern districts, flood situation may deteriorate there again by the middle of the next week.

"Water level of the rivers in this region may rise as there may be heavy rainfall upstream [from Bangladesh] by the middle of the next week," said Arifuzzaman Bhuiyan, executive engineer of Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC), yesterday.

Flooding in the northern districts may prolong for the next couple of days, he warned.

Currently, floodwater is heading towards the central parts of the country.

Low-lying areas of some districts adjacent to the capital may be inundated. But there is no chance for the water to enter Dhaka city, added the engineer.

District flood situation

In Tangail, water of all rivers is increasing, as heavy flow upstream from the district continues.

The Jamuna river was flowing 88 cm above the danger mark on Thursday. On Friday, the river rose by another 11 cm, said sources in the Water Development Board (WDB).

Water in the tributaries of the Jamuna, Dhaleswari and Jhenai rivers also increased, flooding fresh areas, especially the chars.

The district's WDB Executive Engineer Sirajul Islam said, based on their forecast, after decreasing for a couple of days, floodwaters may start to rise again from July 21 and

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PRAYER TIMING JULY 18

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-15 12-45 5-00 6-54 8-15
JAMAAT 4-50 1-15 5-15 6-58 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION