

Wholesalers

FROM PAGE 12
section of businessmen sensed that a crisis was coming.

As the prices of the tuber kept on rising, the businessmen bought potato stocks in cold storages in the last few weeks at higher rates hoping to make a hefty profit.

At a meeting with businessmen and members of the cold storage association, the Department of Agriculture Marketing (DAM) on October 20 fixed potato prices at Tk 35 a kg for retailers, Tk 30 for wholesalers and Tk 27 at cold storage level.

According to the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB), potatoes were sold for Tk 40 to Tk 45 a kg at different retail markets in the capital yesterday, up from Tk 20 to Tk 25 a kg a year ago.

Md Muslem, owner of Urmi Banijjalayal at the capital's Shyambazar wholesale market, said hoarders now fear that they may incur a huge loss as the government has already fixed the prices.

He said he sold his total stock at a cold storage about 12 days ago. He, however, did not disclose the amount.

Yesterday, Muslem was wholesaling a stock from another cold storage.

While talking to this correspondent, he received a call from a hoarder in Bogura. The two exchanged heated words over the phone.

"I am selling potato for Tk 30 a kg as per the government's directives, but he [hoarder] is pressing me to sell it at a higher rate."

Muslem said hoarders were threatening him of stopping the supply if he did not comply.

Echoing the views of Muslem, another wholesaler Nurul Haq at Shyambazar said he was receiving similar threats.

He said potatoes at cold storages in Munshiganj and Rajshahi were sold for Tk 32 a kg and Tk 33 a kg respectively yesterday.

"If the hoarders can sell potatoes at higher prices there, then why would they send it to Dhaka?" questioned Haq, also the cashier of Potato Wholesalers Association in Shyambazar.

On Wednesday afternoon, the association in a meeting decided to follow the government-fixed rate.

Wholesalers at Shyambazar yesterday sold potatoes at the rate fixed by the government (Tk 30 a kg). However, retailers at the same market were found selling the vegetable for Tk 39 to Tk 40 a kg.

Hanif Mia, owner of New Mohanagar Arot at Shyambazar, said a new potato crop usually starts hitting the markets during this period of the year.

"But the situation is different this year. Farmers are yet to sow seeds in many districts due to prolonged rain. Hoarders know it very well that it will take another two months for growers to harvest the new crop. That's why they have slowed the supply of potatoes to markets," he said.

Wholesalers have urged the government to strengthen its monitoring of potato supplies from cold storages to cool down potato prices.

Talking to The Daily Star, Mozammel Hoque Choudhury, secretary of Bangladesh Cold Storage Association, said a section of businessmen slowed the supply of potatoes from cold storages to make an extra profit.

In a letter issued on Wednesday, the association asked the cold storage owners and stockists to take steps to ensure smooth supply of potatoes and cooperate with the government officials and agencies concerned in this regard.

About 393 private cold storages are operating in the country and around half have potato stocks, according to the association.

'This isn't a reality show'

FROM PAGE 12
November.

At the drive-in rally in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, one of a handful of battleground states expected to decide the election, Obama lashed out at Trump's behavior and declared him "incapable of taking the job seriously."

But he also issued a stark reminder of 2016, when opinion polls showed Hillary Clinton as the clear favorite -- only for her and her supporters to be shocked by a Trump victory on election day.

"We can't be complacent. I don't care about the polls," the former two-term president told the rally outside a baseball stadium.

"There were a whole bunch of polls last time. Didn't work out. Because a whole bunch of folks stayed at home.

And got lazy and complacent. Not this time. Not in this election."

He told supporters that too much was at stake to have four more years of Trump leading the nation, seeking to contrast his successor -- a Republican real estate mogul and ex-reality TV star -- with his former vice president.

"This is not a reality show. This is reality," Obama said. "And the rest of us have had to live with the consequences of him proving himself incapable of taking the job seriously."

Obama, who governed for two terms and remains one of the most popular figures in the Democratic Party, blasted Trump for his handling of the coronavirus pandemic, noting that the president himself had fallen victim to the virus.

Three girls raped

FROM PAGE 12
raping a woman and filming the scene in Noakhali, has been arrested and expelled from the party.

In Savar, a 12-year-old was raped by her neighbour Mizanur Rahman on Wednesday, said police.

Saiful Islam, inspector (investigation) of Savar Model Police Station, said the victim went out of home early morning. On her way, Mizanur picked her up, confined her at a rented flat in the area and raped her.

Yesterday morning, the victim's father filed a case against Mizanur and the rented flat owner's son Shariful Islam. Shariful was made an accused for helping Mizanur, the police official said.

Police could not arrest any of the duo till yesterday evening.

In Narayanganj, an 11-year-old girl was raped by her neighbour in the district's Shiddhirganj on Wednesday, said police.

The victim has known accused Nasir, 19, from before. On Wednesday evening, he took her to an isolated place and raped her. Two of Nasir's friends helped him in the rape, said Kamrul Islam, officer-in-charge of Shiddhirganj Police Station.

The victim's mother filed a case against four, three of whom were juveniles, he said, adding that all of the accused were arrested and produced before court with five-day remand plea each.

In Mymensingh, members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-14) arrested rape accused Zakaria, 20, in the district's Sadar upazila.

Jonaed Afrad, senior assistant superintendent of police who is currently posted to Rab-14, said Zakaria offered sedative mixed curd to

the 17-year-old girl and later raped her. In Noakhali, Jubo League leader Mujibur Rahman Sharif, accused of raping a woman and filming the scene, has been expelled from the party following his arrest.

Chatkhil upazila unit Jubo League convener Mohammad Ullah Patwary and the same unit's joint convener Sajjad Hossain announced the expulsion through a press statement.

Early Wednesday, Sharif forcibly entered into the victim's room, raped her at knife-point and filmed the scene. The 29-year-old woman is a wife of a Saudi-expatriate and a mother of two.

Sharif was the president of Noakhola union unit Jubo League under the same upazila. He was accused in eight criminal cases, said police.

Police taking Sharif along with them raided different spots in the area on Wednesday night and recovered a pistol, two-round of bullets, five cans of beer, a laptop and condoms.

He was then produced before a court with a total of 20-day remand prayer in three cases. Of these, first case was filed allegedly for rape, second in pornography act and third for possession of illegal firearms.

In the district's Begumganj upazila, police arrested Sirajul Islam, 65, retired sergeant, and his son Mahbub, 35, following a rape case filed by a woman.

In the case, the woman mentioned, Sirajul Islam promised to find a job for her and marry her. But later he denied it. His son Mahbub threatened her and took her signature on a white paper as she forced Sirajul to marry her.

[Our Correspondents from Savar, Narayanganj and Noakhali contributed to this report]

Nepali firm likely to buy

FROM PAGE 12
"We wrote to Anmol stating that we will supply the vaccine once it passes the trials," Dr Mohammad Mohiuddin, manager (quality and regulatory operations) at Globe, told The Daily Star.

Nepal will buy BANCOCVID "for sure" after its successful clinical trials, the ambassador told journalists at the Globe facility.

"We anticipate that this vaccine will be cheaper [for Nepal]. Another reason is the dominant virus strain in South Asia, which is causing the infections, is the same in Bangladesh and Nepal... So this vaccine will be more effective," Banshidhar said, adding that his government is exploring other sources of vaccine as well.

Globe Chairman Harunur Rashid said different foreign governments and corporations have shown interest in BANCOCVID.

"Orders of some 20 million doses are in the pipeline," Harunur said.

Globe Biotech on July 2 announced that it had been developing a Covid-19 vaccine and "had successfully completed the preliminary animal trials".

On October 5, the company announced it had received "very promising" results from the pre-clinical trials on rabbits and mice and were ready for clinical trials.

On October 15, three Covid-19 vaccine candidates, including BANCOCVID, were included in the draft landscape of the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b) is going to administer human trials.

A memorandum of understanding was signed between the icddr,b and the Globe on October 15.

24 more die

FROM PAGE 12
infections, raising the total number of confirmed cases to 3,94,827.

Bangladesh is currently 17th in the list of worst affected countries in the world in terms of the number of cases.

The position is one step ahead Italy and one step behind Germany, according to worldometer. info.

After testing total of 14,958 samples yesterday, the positivity rate stood at 11.34 percent.

With this, the overall positivity rate stands at 17.77 percent.

In the meantime, 1,687 Covid-19 patients have recovered, taking the total number of recoveries to 3,10,532, which is 78.65 percent of all confirmed cases.

Among the 24 dead, 18 were male and six were female and all of them died in hospitals.

One of them was aged between 21 and 30 years, two between 41 and 50, eight between 51 and 60 and the remaining 13 were above 60, added the release.

Misery mounts for Italy

FROM PAGE 12
"My employer is insisting that I return sooner," said Mosharraf, adding that he works at a restaurant in Palermo.

"I could lose the job if my return is delayed," he said.

He has been searching for a ticket for the past few days and will try to get a refund from the Turkish Airlines after he reaches Italy, he said.

Italy recently withdrew its flight embargo for Bangladeshis with valid stay permits.

Turkish Airlines, Qatar Airways and Emirates then started carrying Bangladeshi passengers to Italy. However, only Biman will operate a direct flight to Rome.

Zubair Khandaker said he had been trying to get his Turkish Airlines

return ticket re-issued. But rather than waiting any longer, he went to the Biman office yesterday to get a ticket for the special flight.

Zubair, who is from Brahmanbaria, said he came home in August last year and was supposed to return in May. His Italian stay permit will remain valid for a year from now.

"I am facing financial hardship at home. I want to go back now," he said.

Md Asif Molla, who lives in Napoli, said he came home on September 3 last year and was supposed to return in February.

However, he extended his vacation till April 2 to attend a family programme and subsequently got stuck amid the pandemic.

Son 'kills mother over property'

FROM PAGE 12
Huma suggested that his mother sell some of the land that Belal owned to pay back the money, but she refused. This angered Huma, who then planned to kill his mother, Noakhali Superintendent of Police (SP) Md Alamgir Hossain said.

After police recovered the body parts, Huma filed a murder case with police on October 8 accusing unknown people of killing his mother.

Fifteen days later, police arrested five suspected killers, including Huma, yesterday and arranged a press briefing where they said Huma was the one who planned the killing and executed it with the aid of six friends.

Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Chattogram Range Md Anwar Hossain and SP Alamgir briefed journalists at his office.

DIG Anwar said three arrestees, including the prime accused Huma,

confessed to the killing before a court under section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure yesterday.

After interrogating the arrestees, police recovered a kitchen cleaver, a machete, a shovel, a pillow and a shari that was worn by the victim.

Anwar said the body was recovered over two days, and on the second day, Huma filed the murder case.

"Several police teams led by SP Alamgir worked for 15 days to unearth the clueless murder. They [were able to] identify the killers and recover the weapons used in the killing," he said.

When SP Alamgir consulted locals, police suspected Huma's involvement in the killing. With the investigation going on, they first detained Huma's friend Nirob, 26.

Acting on information from Nirob, police arrested Huma's neighbour Nur Islam Kashai, 38, and recovered

After failing to get his return ticket from Turkish Airlines reissued on time, he went to buy a Biman ticket.

"I will be able to earn the money if I get to work there for a month," said Asif, adding that his stay permit will expire early next year.

He came to Dhaka from his village in Madaripur's Shibchar four days ago to look for a ticket.

Asked about the hefty ticket price, Biman Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Mokabbir Hossain said the plane which will be used for the special flight will not carry any passenger when it returns from Rome.

Nearly 15,000 people are desperately waiting to return to their workplaces in the European country.

the sharp weapons used in the murder and the victim's clothes.

Nirob and Nur Islam confessed their involvement in the killing before a court later, the SP said.

Based on their confession, police arrested Huma.

After interrogating him, they arrested his cousin Kalam alias Mamun, 26, and another cousin's husband Sumon, 25, he said.

As part of the plan, Huma and the others had a meeting on the night of October 6 to execute the plan.

All seven of them then strangled Noor Jahan to death with a pillow on her face. After she died, they cut the body into pieces and scattered across Amir's paddy field, police said.

Locals first noticed the head and another part of Noor Jahan's body on October 7 afternoon and informed police, who later recovered other body parts.

Senate body

FROM PAGE 12
appeals court judge whose confirmation would expand the top US judicial body's conservative majority to 6-3, was poised to win the 22-member committee's approval with unified support among its 12 Republican members even with the Democrats vowing to stay away.

In announcing their boycott of yesterday's vote, Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer and Judiciary Committee Democrats said of Barrett's nomination: "This has been a sham process from the beginning."

They added that they "will not grant this process any further legitimacy by participating" in the committee's vote just 12 days before the US presidential election between Trump and Democrat Joe Biden in which tens of millions of ballots have already been cast.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer

PWD City Division, Dhaka

www.pwd.gov.bd

Open Sculpture Model Design Competition

Memo No. 25.36.2600.130.17.000.20.688

Date: 22.10.2020

Ministry of Liberation War Affairs in association with Public Works Department has undertaken the project "Construction of Swadhinata Stambha at Suhrawardy Udyan, Dhaka (3rd Phase)" to celebrate Golden Jubilee of the independence of Bangladesh. The 7th March Speech of Bangabandhu (Founder and Father of the Nation) and Surrender of Pakistani Army on 16th December will be represented in the form of sculpture to mark the emergence of Bangladesh as a free and prosperous nation within this monumental project. Both the sculptures competition will be national anonymous architectural design competition that will be organized by Ministry of Liberation War Affairs with the able support of Public Works Department.

Brief	Double-base whole body sculpture of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to represent his 7th March Speech of 1971		
	& Sculpture replicating Surrender ceremony of Pakistan Army at the Ramna Race Course Ground in Dhaka (the capital of Bangladesh) on 16th December 1971		
Site	Allocated plot at Suhrawardy Udyan, Dhaka		
Prizes	First Prize	Tk. 5,00,000.00 (Taka Five lac) and Certificate	
	Second Prize	Tk. 3,00,000.00 (Taka Three lac) and Certificate	
	Third Prize	Tk. 2,00,000.00 (Taka Two lac) and Certificate	
Jurors	1. Tapan Kanti Ghosh, Secretary, Ministry of Liberation War Affairs, Chairperson 2. Md. Ashraful Alam, Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Member 3. A.S.M. Aminur Rahman, Chief Architect, Department of Architecture, Member 4. Hamiduzzaman Khan, Professor, Department of Sculpture, University of Dhaka, Member 5. Nisar Hossain, Dean (Acting), Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka, Member		
Eligibility	The Sculptor (Team Leader) must be a citizen of Bangladesh		
Registration	1. Eligible Sculptor/Group of Sculptor will have to pay an amount of BDT 5000/= in cash at PWD City Division Office from 01.11.2020 – 05.11.2020 between 10:00am to 5:00pm. 2. Upon receiving the amount PWD will issue a unique registration code against the participants. 3. The Design Brief will be available both in the websites of MOLWA and PWD.		
Queries	Queries will only be addressed in writing form and to the following email: ee_city@pwd.gov.bd with 'Q-unique registration code' as subject.		
Timeline	Registration	08.11.2020 – 12.11.2020	
	Receiving queries	15.11.2020 – 16.11.2020	
	Reply to queries	19.11.2020	
	Submission	03.12.2020, Sunday, 09.00am to 01.00pm at PWD Suhrawardy Udyan site office, Dhaka.	
Venue	Suhrawardy Udyan, Dhaka		
Contact	Mohammad Showkat Ullah Executive Engineer PWD City Division, Public Works Department, Segunbagicha, Dhaka Mobile: + 8801882-115074 ee_city@pwd.gov.bd		
	This advertisement also available at www.molwa.gov.bd and www.pwd.gov.bd		
	Mohammad Showkat Ullah Executive Engineer PWD City Division, Dhaka		
GD-1690			

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার			
জেলা সুপারের কার্যালয়			
ফরিদপুর জেলা কারাগার			
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি			
পর নং-৫৮.০৪.২৯০০.১০৪.০৪.০০৯.২০-		তারিখঃ ০৬ কার্তিক ১৪২৭ বঙ্গাব্দ ২২ অক্টোবর ২০২০ খ্রিস্টাব্দ	
১	দরপত্র আহবানকারীর নাম	:	জেলা সুপার, ফরিদপুর জেলা কারাগার।
২	সংস্থ/কারাগারের নাম	:	ফরিদপুর জেলা কারাগার।
৩	দরপত্রের নাম	:	ফরিদপুর জেলা কারাগারের ০১/০১/২০২১ হতে ৩১/১২/২০২১জি পর্যন্ত সময়ের বিভিন্ন প্রকার খাদ্যদ্রব্য সরবরাহের নির্দিষ্ট কারা ঠিকাদার/ব্যবসায়ী/সরবরাহকারী নিয়োগের দরপত্র।
৪	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির বরাত ও তারিখ	:	ঢাকা বিভাগীয় দপ্তরের পর নং-৫৮.০৪.২৬০০.০৬১.০৪.০১১.২০২০-৮১৯(১৭) তারিখ ২০/১০/২০২০জি।
৫	ইচ্ছুক দরদাতাদের ন্যূনতম যোগ্যতা	:	দরপত্র সিডিউলে উল্লেখিত শর্তাবলী অনুযায়ী।
৬	বাংলা ও ফান্ড প্রাপ্তির উৎস	:	জাতীয় রাজস্ব তহবিল।
৭	দরপত্র আহবান পদ্ধতি	:	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।
৮	দরপত্র দাখিল প্রাপ্তির স্থান	:	১। কারা উপ-মহাপরিদর্শকের কার্যালয়, ঢাকা বিভাগ, ঢাকা। ২। জেলা সুপারের কার্যালয়, ফরিদপুর জেলা কারাগার।
৯	দরপত্র দাখিল বিরতের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	:	০৮/১১/২০২০জি বেলা ২:৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১০	দরপত্র জমা দেয়ার স্থান	:	(ক) ফরিদপুর জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয় (খ) ফরিদপুর কোতামালা থানার কার্যালয় (গ) প্রধান ফটক, ফরিদপুর জেলা কারাগারে প্রাপ্ত দরপত্র বাজে।
১১	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়	:	০৯/১১/২০২০জি বেলা ৯:০০ ঘটিকা হতে ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১২	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	:	ফরিদপুর জেলা কারাগারের প্রশাসনিক ভবনে ০৯/১১/২০২০জি তারিখ বেলা ১২:৩০ ঘটিকার সময়।
১৩	দরপত্র মূল্যায়ন কমিটির সভা	:	০৯/১১/২০২০জি বেলা ২:০০ ঘটিকা।
১৪	দরপত্র দাখিলের মূল্য	:	খাদ্যদ্রব্য সরবরাহের দরপত্রের সিডিউলের মূল্য= ৭৫০/- (সাতশত পঞ্চাশ) টাকা।
১৫	জামানতের পরিমাণ	:	১। খাদ্যদ্রব্য দরপত্রের জামানত প্রপ-ক) = ৪৫,০০০/-, (খ) = ৪০,০০০/- এবং (গ) = ৪৫,০০০/-, (ঘ) = ৩০,০০০/- এবং (ঙ) = ৪০,০০০/- টাকা।
১৬	কার্যবাসের সমসীয়া	:	০১/০১/২০২১জি হতে ৩১/১২/২০২১জি পর্যন্ত।
১৭	দরপত্রের সাথে যে সকল কাগজপত্রাদি সংযুক্ত করতে হবে	:	দরপত্র সিডিউলের উল্লেখিত শর্তানুযায়ী।
১৮	দরদাতাদের প্রতি বিশেষ নির্দেশনাবলী	:	দরপত্র সিডিউলের শর্তাবলী পাঠান্তে যথাযথভাবে অবহিত হয়ে দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।
১৯	দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য তথ্যাবলী জানার জন্য সংশ্লিষ্ট কারা কর্তৃপক্ষের দপ্তরে যোগাযোগ করা যেতে পারে।		
২০	কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন/সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাখিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন।		
আল মামুন জেলা সুপার ফরিদপুর জেলা কারাগার			
জিডি-১৬৮৫			