

# BLUE DART

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## Down to Earth

### Seasonal Fruits and Their Consumption Patterns in City

By ASM Nurunnabi

The seasonal fruits occupy an important place in the business of sidewalk eatables. Through most of our people, by and large, are hard pressed to spend extra money beyond their essential needs, they seem to harbour a definite craving for the native seasonal fruits. This perhaps explains the existence of so many food vendors on sidewalks and their brisk business at all seasons.

Various types of fruits according to our seasons are sold on the sidewalks. To make their wares easily accessible to customers with small means, the fruits with some size are cut into small pieces carrying low price tags. A cursory view of the business in some areas suggests that, depending on the seasons, the favourite items are cucumber, water melons, pineapples, papaya, green coconut, etc. When the temperature rises in summer, the items mainly offered are sugarcane juice, water melons and iced shorbat, ice cream, green coconut, black berries and sweet hog plum (amra) when in season also draw a large number of customers.

At all seasons, fruits of one kind or another are amply available. We find in the bazars large supplies of them. Yet the irony is that the majority of the people being poor, many of such fruits remain out of reach of

many of them. Some of the conspicuous areas of the city where the fruit vendors operate extend from one end of Baitul Mukarram to the old railway gate across Gulistan and Stadium areas. They also operate in front of some important office blocks in the Motijheel Commercial Area. The hospitals in the city also provide suitable locations for the fruit vendors.

In the old part of the Dhaka city, the Sadar Ghat area, the Moulvibazar area, and the district court areas play dominant roles in the fruit trade. Badamtal is said to be the largest fruit market in the country. Supplies of various kinds of fruits are made to the different parts of the country. Turnovers in this respect amount to a daily average of Taka one crore as reported.

Among the fruits, bananas occupy a more important place in the market. There is a large area in the market known as Kolapatti where transactions to the tune of Taka 5 to 6 lakh per day is said to be a routine affair. In its range and variety, flavour and sweetness, mango occupies a unique place. Though mango is a native fruit, nowadays it has become relatively costly even in season. It is rather a gastronomic luxury and out of reach for many. On the city sidewalks, one may see fruits like papaya, pineapples,

melons, etc, being sold in cut pieces to suit the lean pockets of customers, as already noted, but none will ever find mangoes being sold in like manner, ie, in cut pieces. The reason apparently is that the price of a good quality mango usually is so prohibitive for a man living on a low budget that he tends to forget about it.

Other summer fruits that possess gastronomic attraction are jack fruit and water melons. Once jack fruit was favourite among common people because it was comparatively cheap. Now, because perhaps of reduced supply of this fruit on account of gradual denudation of such trees, the price of this fruit has lately become steep with consequent deprivation for many common people. The same is the story about water melons. Some observers have noted that, in spite of the high prices of these fruits and their plentiful supply in the bazars, the people placed more comfortably financially, and those who can't check their temptation even with lean budget, we find many ready buyers for them. This seems to be the stark reality of urban consumption, when considered against the background of the vast segment of the city population hard put to fend for even two meals a day in which there is no place for fruits of any kind.

## Deve Gowda govt falls

From Page 1  
Gowda said he knew when he took office 10 months ago that he could be threatened by the Congress, which toppled two other short-lived governments in 1979 and 1991 in similar fashion.

"I knew Congress was going to ditch me. I was expecting it," he said in an 80-minute speech that went from humorous derision to anger.

Gowda, an unexpected choice for prime minister last June, said he was leaving office with no regrets. "I am satisfied, in this 10 months, I have not betrayed my people. I have not betrayed my nation."

Congress which governed India for all but five of its 50 years, denounced the policies of the United Front government and demanded that Gowda resign. But its accusations are widely seen as a pretext for Congress' bid to regain power.

Backstage talks reportedly focused on whether Congress and the United Front could combine again under a new leader after Gowda's resignation.

Neither party wants an election that likely would benefit the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party. The BJP is largest party in the legislature and has been gaining strength in each of the last three elections.

Hours before the legislature convened, a delegation from the 14-party coalition went to Gowda's home to appeal to him to step aside. Gowda refused.

In an earlier speech introducing the motion, Gowda indicated he was surprised by Congress' move.

## Zinat

From Page 1  
That Ershad must resign from the chairmanship of the party, the three leaders told this correspondent last night. "They will meet today to decide the next course of action," one source said.

Shah Moazzam Hossain and Kazi Zafar Ahmed were contacted by The Daily Star over telephone. Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury could not be reached as he was away in Chandpur last night.

The three leaders of the party on Thursday had demanded Ershad's resignation from the post of chairmanship of the party on "moral grounds."

They had also demanded that Anwar Hossain Manju, secretary general of the party resign from his cabinet post in the Awami League government.

Of the three, Kazi Zafar Ahmed was expelled again from the party on Thursday by the chairman for his "anti-party activities."

Naziur Rahman Manju, additional secretary general of Jatiya Party talking to The Daily Star last night said, "Zinat was removed from the podium of the party following demands from the mid-ranking leaders and workers of the party."

Asked about the demands of the three 'rebel' leaders of JP, Naziur Rahman said, "Officially, we are yet to receive the statement." "We can discuss the matter at the presidium meeting if we receive their written statement," he added.

Naziur Rahman also said that a meeting of the JP presidium which was scheduled to be held yesterday was cancelled. It will be held on April 14, he added.

Talking to this correspondent last night Shah Moazzam said, "Zafar's expulsion from the party bears no meaning. The question of the chairman's authority in the party has already been raised."

"It is a whimsical and non-political decision we are trying to salvage the JP."

Kazi Zafar Ahmed said "It (expulsion) further proves how a political party is being reduced to a one man show."

"This is a move triggered by an apolitical section of the party against political elements. We have raised the question of basic principles," Zafar said.

gress decision to end its backing for him, saying it had never tried to interfere in policy making during his government's term.

Jaswant Singh, speaking for Bharatiya Janata Party, accused the government and Congress of bringing shame on India through their personal disputes and partisan politics.

"Go, depart, leave these chairs," he said, "Go back to the people," he said, urging elections.

Last-ditch efforts to patch up the Congress-Front rift on Thursday broke down.

## Intellectuals

From Page 1  
relentlessly to put the country on right track, Hasina said.

The intellectuals assured the Prime Minister of their all-out cooperation and said they would stand by her side on issues relating to people's rights and welfare.

They suggested that all logical issues should be projected in a positive way. They felt that the party and the government should act as separate entities.

Those who attended the meeting included Neelima Ibrahim, Poet Shamsur Rahman, Prof Kabir Chowdhury, Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof A K Azad Chowdhury, Syed Shamsul Haq, Prof Muntaseer Manun, AAMS Arefin Siddique, ABM Musa, Santosh Gupta, Abed Khan, Syed Hasan Imam, Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir, Asaduzzaman Noor, artist Shahabuddin, Nirmalendu Goon, Mahadev Saha, Rafiqunnabi, Kabari Sarwar, Tarana Halim, Lucky Inam and Dr Inam Ahmed.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Commerce and Industries Minister Toefel Ahmed, Agriculture and Food Minister Matiya Chowdhury, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Mohammad Noor Uddin Khan, State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed, and Awami League leaders Abdul Jalil, Moazzaf Hossain Palto and Abdul Mannan were present.

## BNP programme

From Page 1  
front organisations to actively participate in the programme.

As part of the programme, the DDP district unit BNP will hold a rally in front of party's city office at Nabab Yusuf market tomorrow at 10 am.

After the rally, it will submit memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka, said a press release.

Dhaka district BNP President Barrister Nazmul Huda MP has requested all leaders and workers of BNP and its front organisation to make the programme a success.

Meanwhile, an emergency meeting of Dhaka city BNP will be held at 6 pm today at 29 Minto Road, official residence of the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament.

City BNP convenor Sadeq Hossain Khoka MP has requested pro-BNP ward commissioners and all concerned to attend the meeting.

## Hearty reception awaits cricketers

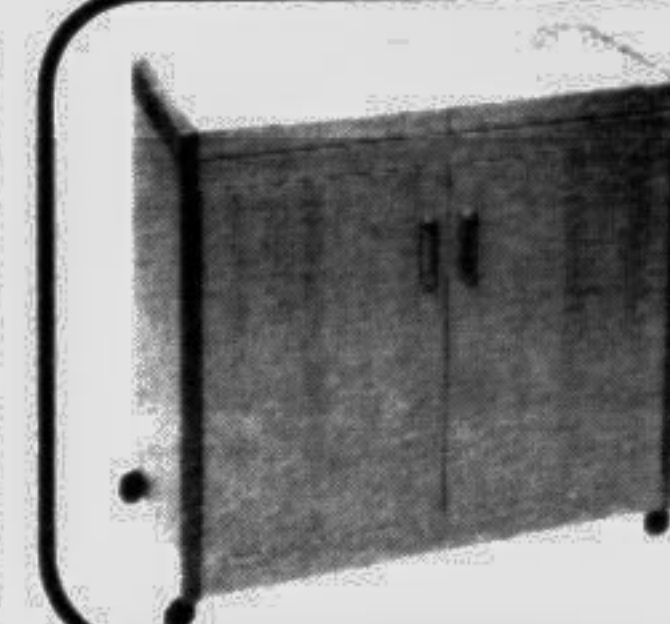
A hearty reception and a galore of gift boxes are awaiting the 1999 World Cup qualifier Bangladesh team when it returns home on April 13, reports UNB.

A Bangladesh Biman flight will carry the national heroes from the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur.

Members of the national cricket team are likely to pay a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Bangladesh Cricket Board will organise a victory procession with the cricketers in the city.

A large number of motorbikes, cars and other vehicles will escort the cricketers in the colourful rally.



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## Piracy in Bay: 10 arrested

CHITTAGONG, Apr 11: A large police team in a pre-dawn swoop today arrested ten people and recovered huge quantities of goods looted from the BWTC ship on April 7, reports BSS.

The alleged pirates were arrested from Daulatpur village of Paliya thana after a five-hour operation. Additional Police Super (North) Sheikh Maruf Hasan told journalists at the press club here this afternoon.

About one hundred police forces cordoned off the village and arrested the dacoits from a wedding ceremony.

Later on the basis of the confession, police recovered the looted goods including five foreign made suitcases, five tolas of gold ornaments, blankets, sarees, spices, cosmetics, recharge lights, folding umbrella and torch lights.

## Jubo League leader held in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Apr 11: Police arrested a Jubo League leader from his residence at Shahjadpur bazar in the district today, reports UNB.

The arrested leaders, Nasir Uddin, 28, is accused in eight cases under terrorism law. Shahjadpur police said.

## Gas supply

From Page 1  
company found disqualified under the financial criterion had the maximum level of horizontal drilling experience in Bangladesh," said a source.

"This company had conducted horizontal drilling under at least five to six rivers. It is currently conducting horizontal drilling under three more rivers in the south-eastern part of Bangladesh."

Later the Jalalabad Gas Company and Petrobanga requested the ADB to review the case of this 'disqualified' company in view of its wide experience in Bangladesh. But the ADB refused to consider the request and asked the pre-qualified companies to submit their financial proposals.

But none of the five companies participated in the financial bidding, the sources said. Only one company that did not even participate in the pre-qualification bid submitted a proposal saying it has a joint-venture agreement with one of the five pre-qualified companies.

At this stage, the ADB postponed the financial bidding.

Now, the ADB has again asked the five pre-qualified companies to submit their financial proposals.

One of the objectives of augmenting gas supply to the Chhatak region is to provide gas to a private cement factory which is also being co-financed by the ADB. The cement factory, to be set up soon, will need around 10 million cubic feet gas per day.

## Fresh polarisation

From Page 1  
at the conference, would be given an institutional shape "to consolidate the national solidarity and undertake various programmes in future."

Besides the Jamaat, all the factions of Muslim League, Islami Shashantara Andolon, Kheleafat Majlis and some other like-minded parties, groups and individuals had also attended the CNS.

Talking to The Daily Star, BNP leader M Morshed Khan, MP, one of the organisers of the conference, said that the CNS steering committee would meet soon to chalk out its next course of action for "economic emancipation and protection of the national independence."

Termining the CNS a platform for all irrespective of political beliefs, Khan said, "It must come up with the expectation of the people of all shades of opinion."

On allying with the parties known for their anti-liberation role during the War of Liberation, Morshed Khan said, "As a freedom fighter, I think, after 25 years, we should not look back but towards the future of the nation."

Commenting on the ruling party's move, he said, "I don't see it from a negative point of view. It's good that the culture of talking has started of late."

Two days after the CNS, Prime Minister and AL chief Sheikh Hasina met the leaders of 11 Left parties at the International Conference Centre in the city Wednesday.

The nearly three-hour meet agreed in principle to "consolidate the unity of all the pro-liberation forces and resist any move by the anti-liberation political parties and groups."

Commenting on the AL chief's meeting with the parties, an influential member of Sheikh Hasina's cabinet told The Daily Star on condition of anonymity, "On the question of protecting the country's independence, the Left parties have extended their cooperation to us."

Workers' Party leader Rashed Khan Menon who had attended the meeting said his party will support all moves by the ruling Awami League for boosting the spirit of the Liberation War. Defending the Shikha Chirantam, Menon also demanded trial of the war criminals.

When contacted, BSD leader Bazur Rashid Feroz told the Daily Star, "We assured the PM of our all-out cooperation as regards resisting any act by the anti-liberation communal forces and upholding the spirit of the Liberation War."

He termed the CNS a platform of extreme-rightist parties.

"Through Wednesday's move, the process of dialogue among the pro-liberation parties have begun and it will continue", AL acting general secretary Abdul Jalil said.

Sirajganj College VP arrested

SIRAJGANJ, Apr 11: Police arrested the VP of Sirajganj Islamia Govt College Students Union, Tipu Sultan, from his Dhanbandhi residence in the town on Thursday night, reports UNB.

Sadar Thana police said they arrested Tipu Sultan, a leader of the Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal, in connection with a case filed against him. He was sent to jail hajat.

Kidnapped schoolgirl killed

SIRAJGANJ, Apr 11: Miscrants violated and killed a schoolgirl who was kidnapped from her house at village Protap in Ullapara thana on Thursday night, reports UNB.

The miscrants kidnapped Beauty Khatun, 14, a class nine student of Protap High School, at gunpoint, police said.

Mohiuddin

From Page 1  
Minister Salahuddin Yusuf and State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Prof M Amanullah visited Ahmed in the hospital in the evening and stayed there for sometime.

His wife Rebeka Mohiuddin has urged the countrymen to pray for early recovery of the Awami League leader.

## Hundreds stranded at ZIA

From Page 1  
Syrian Vice President Abdul Hatim Khaddam, who was due to make a brief stopover at Delhi Airport on his way back home from China, was compelled to land at the ZIA, changing his route to bypass India, yesterday afternoon.

Schedules of at 14 international flights of various airlines to and from ZIA between 6:50 am and 10:25 pm yesterday remained uncertain till filing this report at midnight last night.

The flights scheduled for departure were: Riyadh bound Saudia at 12 noon; Calcutta bound Indian Airlines at 3:30 pm; Jeddah bound Biman at 5 pm; Calcutta bound Biman at 5 pm; Jeddah bound Biman at 5:30 pm; London bound British Airways (BA) at 8:55 pm.

However, Biman's Calcutta flight was rescheduled for 3 pm today (Saturday) and BA's London flight was expected to depart at 2:20am today, airport sources said.

Flights scheduled for arrival were: Kuwait Airlines from Kuwait at 6:50 am, Biman from Jeddah at 8:50 am, India Airlines from Calcutta at 5:40 pm, Biman from Dubai at 8 pm, Biman from Hong Kong at 8:05 pm, Emirates from Kuala Lumpur at 8:05 pm and Singapore Airlines (SQ) from Singapore at 10:25 pm.

However, BA's London flight was expected to arrive at 12:50 am today and SQ's Singapore flight at 10:42 pm last night.

Meanwhile, over two hundred home-bound Bangladeshi passengers got stranded in Pakistan as a Biman flight from Saudi Arabia was compelled to land at Karachi Airport in the afternoon.

However, a Kuwait Airlines flight landed at ZIA in the evening overflying India without taking any service of the Indian ATC, airport sources said adding that the three Haj flight rescheduled last night were supposed to operate in the same way. But, the *modus operandi* could not be confirmed from Biman.

Anxious people were seen thronging the enquiry booth in front of the departure lounge for flight information. Card phone booths were overcrowded as all wanted to let their families know about the developments.

Some airlines took their passengers to different city hotels for rest because of the uncertainty.

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## আইসিবি'র বিনিয়োগ সেবা আরও সম্প্রসারিত

আগামী ২ বৈশাখ ১৪০৪, ১৫ এপ্রিল ১৯৯৭

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## Battle for ICC Trophy

From Page 1  
Scottish team by 72 runs. The cricket-crazy nation after a brief respite, will be eagerly awaiting to see its cricketers add another feather in their caps by defeating the mighty Kenyans today.

A win for Bangladesh will not only enable them to lift the ICC Trophy after five previous abortive attempts, but also help cricketers to settle an old score with Kenya, who had defeated Bangladesh in the fifth ICC Trophy in 1994 which eventually dashed our hopes for a World Cup berth.

But this time around, Bangladesh, who are enjoying an unbeaten status with eight wins and a rain-forced draw against Ireland in the second round, are confident enough to roll up the tourney in a befitting manner.

The Bangladesh team, led by Akram Khan, is likely to field the same eleven which played in the previous match against Scotland. But it will definitely be the toughest encounter for Bangladesh as the Kenyans, who are still basking in the pride of defeating the mighty West Indians in the last World Cup in 1996, are also in a fine fettle with their skipper Maurice Odumbi in a scoring spree.

Bangladesh coach Gordon Greenidge and tour manager Gazi Ashraf, however, believe that if their players maintain their natural game, a win would not be a big deal.

Meanwhile, a reception was accorded to the Bangladesh cricket team at the Hotel Crown Prince in Kuala Lumpur yesterday for their glorious victory in

the ICC Trophy semi-final against Scotland.

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader, now in the Malaysian capital to greet the Bangladesh cricketers for achieving the World Cup berth, was present at the reception, according to a message received in Dhaka.

Team captain Akram Khan, addressing the reception, sought blessings of the countrymen for their victory in the final match.

## DMP request

From Page 1  
portunity of the celebration resorted to such activities.

Police picked up 295 people from various parts of the city for creating public nuisance on the day.

DMP officials said police will be deployed in 80 points of the city today to prevent recurrence of Wednesday's frenzied jubilation.

While special police teams will patrol the city streets plainclothes policemen, including 10 teams of the Detective Branch of DMP, will keep an eye on the jubilation.

Bangladesh cricketers and officials from Kuala Lumpur have also urged the countrymen not to create a situation that will hamper their morale.

BSS adds: Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) yesterday imposed a ban on exploding crackers, and sprinkling of colours in the city, in order to maintain law and order, ensure smooth movement of vehicles and protect the honour of women including school and college-going girls.

নূতন ভবনে শেরাটিন হোটেল শাখা

গ্রাহকদের আরো উন্নততর আন্তরিক সেবা প্রদানের লক্ষ্যে সদ্য নির্মিত ত্রিশ গজ দূরবর্তী অত্যাধুনিক নূতন ভবনে শেরাটিন হোটেল শাখা স্থানান্তর করা হয়েছে। গত ১লা এপ্রিল '৯৭ ইং থেকে নূতন ভবনে কার্যক্রম শুরু করেছে।

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১, মিন্টু রোড  
ঢাকা

পুরাতন ঠিকানা  
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শেরাটিন হোটেল শাখা  
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দেশ ও জাতীর প্রতিশ্রুতিবদ্ধ একটি ব্যাংক

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