



# Sweet fruits at bitter prices

**CITY CORRESPONDENT**

Mangoes, the king of the summer fruits, have flooded markets while lichi is about to make a swift exit.

But the prices of both the mouth-watering items this year are beyond the reach of the ordinary people.

The first batch of Himsagar, Gopalbhog and Lengra, the three most famous and popular varieties from Rajshahi, are already in the city. There are also Guti, Lalmohon or other 'deshi' (ordinary) mangoes now being sold everywhere from footpaths to fruit markets.

Fruit traders at New Market and Karwan Bazar told the Star City that most of the mangoes still taste a little watery as they were plucked premature.

"These are known as 'Baishakhi mango' as they are artificially ripened to sell them at exorbitant prices at the beginning of the season," said Akbar Hossain at Karwan Bazar.

"The 'real and class' varieties will start arriving after at least 10-14 days," Akbar said.

However, Himsagar and Gopalbhog were being sold yesterday at both the markets at Tk 50-60 a kilogram. Lengra is rare and costs Tk 60-70.

Some traders deceive people with some 'deshi' varieties taking advantage of their resemblance with Gopalbhog and Himsagar, alleged a customer at New Market. These sweet deshi mangoes actually sell between Tk 25 and 35 a kilogram, he said.

Mature Lengra, Kohitur, Khirsagar and Fazli will appear on the markets by the end of the Bangla month of Jaistha, traders said.

Experts said the mango production this year was not up to the mark because of intermittent rain, dense fog and cloudy sky in Chaitra that spoiled the mango

Production of lichi also did not live up to the expectations. It appeared only 10-12 days ago and is now about to disappear from the markets. A hundred of Rajshahi lichi costs Tk 180-225. Even the 'deshi' variety this year sells between Tk 80 and Tk 120.

Jackfruits are also available at Tk 40-100 a piece depending on their sizes. But the supply of quality jackfruits will take some more time to come, traders said.

Kalojam (a black juicy fruit akin to cherry) is being sold at Tk 50 a kilogram and Jamrul (a greenish white fruit) at Tk 40-50.

Meanwhile, watermelons have almost disappeared while Bungi and Futi (yellow melons) sell between Tk 20 and Tk 40 a piece.

# 'Dismantle commercial bldgs in Gulshan, Banani R/A'

## Rajuk to cancel plot allocations after June 1

**CITY CORRESPONDENT**

Rajuk has finally lost its patience with house owners in Gulshan and Banani who have converted their residential plots into commercial ones, which is strictly forbidden under town development rules.

From now on allocation of plots in those areas will be cancelled after June 1, 2004. Earlier Rajuk set a May 10 deadline for owners to stop redesigning their residential properties.

"We have extended the deadline to allow owners enough time to dismantle their commercial buildings. It is our goal to make sure that all residential areas stay residential and environmentally-friendly,"

said Rajuk chairman Iqbal Uddin Chowdhury.

"We cannot and will not extend the date anymore. It's also the first time we have taken such a tough stand."

It was found that a total of 139 illegal structures in the Gulshan and Banani were being used for commercial purposes (restaurants, schools, market, mini-malls and boutiques). Rajuk sent out letters warning the violators they risked losing their plot allocation. The circular was also carried in all major newspapers.

But the owners alleged they never received the letters. Moreover some have even taken legal action against Rajuk itself.

In most cases owners duped Rajuk by showing false designs to get past the red-

tape.

"Some dishonest Rajuk officials helped them to trick the authority, otherwise, it's not possible to construct business structures in residential areas," a Rajuk official said.

In other parts of the city like Uttara, however, Rajuk is fairing is much better. There it has found 22 commercial structures and most have been transformed.

"Among the 22 structures, 21 are now residential which is really encouraging. This should be a clear message to other violators," the Rajuk chairman said.

In a city where space is of a premium, the increasing number of commercial enterprises is not only spoiling the beauty of residential areas but also adding an extra burden in terms of traffic,

pollution and utilities. It comes as no surprise that Rajuk's tough stance is being welcomed.

"Because Gulshan is fast becoming a commercial area, so traffic congestion has increased and we have little or no privacy," complained a resident.

But while that might be true, it is believed that the situation has been allowed to drift as most owners are allowed to operate knowing they are protected by influential persons.

"They were allocated plots for building homes, but later they started running guest houses, restaurants, shops or other businesses. And nobody can say or do anything since they are protected by high-ups in the government," a Rajuk official was quoted as saying.

## PROPOSED JATRABARI STADIUM

# Status of land still up in the air

**AVIK SANWAR RAHMAN**

The project proposal for much-talked-about Jatrabari Stadium could not be finalised, as the youth and sports ministry is waiting for the verification of state land for the stadium from the Deputy Commissioner's (DC) Office.

Local people have long occupied the area and the authorities are verifying their right to land and whether anyone needs compensation in the wake of eviction.

The ministry could not estimate the cost of stadium construction because of the occupation.

"The plan outlining budget for the stadium could not be forwarded to the planning ministry because of the occupation of state land. We will lay out the proposal after we get confirmation from DC's office," Sports Secretary Abu Solaiman Chowdhury said.

"We got a proposal for the stadium in Jatrabari, but we are not sure about the status of land," he said.

The decision on Jatrabari Stadium came from the Prime Minister's Office, as local lawmaker Salauddin Ahmed made it a pledge to the electorate during the 2001 general election.

Salauddin suggested about 12 acres for the stadium. State Minister for Sports Fazlur Rahman and Deputy Commissioner MA Momen found the area feasible for a stadium during a recent visit.

"The minister and the DC found it feasible as the stadium needs 10 acres and the road network and position of land are also

favourable," the secretary said.

The demand for playgrounds is growing among city dwellers, as the capital is increasingly going crowded and people have hardly any place to roam around, let alone sports.

National players are also demanding better stadium. Bangabandhu Stadium is under renovation for soccer and athletics and Mirpur stadium for cricket.

"Jatrabari stadium is likely to find its place in the next annual development programme," Solaiman said.

## 'MIGHTY' MOBILE COURT



Traffic came to a standstill blocking most of Mirpur Road near Kalabagan when a mobile court went into operation there yesterday.

# useful telephonenumber numbers

**COURIER SERVICES**

**International**  
Air Borne Express- 9561371, 9561372, 9550724  
Air Couriers Int'l (BD) Ltd.- 8815970  
Aramex International Courier- 9558003, 9559582, 9565075  
Airspeed Express- 9563494  
Asian Courier Services Ltd.- 8313543  
Baishakhi Courier Service- 9558606  
Banmgladesh Express Co. Ltd.- 9565114  
Bangladesh Courier Service- 9563989  
Bengal Express- 9560642, 9552666  
Bangladesh Int'l Courier- 953636  
Continental Service Ltd.- 9552948, 9558425  
DHL Worldwide Express- 9881703-7, 9886305-9, 9882057  
Enem Express- 9330699  
Fedex Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.- 9565114  
Modhuban Courier Service- 9550884  
Overseas Courier Service- 9352431, 8321169  
Pacific Courier- 9568446  
Reliance Express Service- 9558515, 7110249  
Sky International service- 9660442  
Skynet world Wide Express- 9558062, 9560258, 7114787, 7113184  
TNT Express- 9566662, 9558239, 8618155  
Union Courier Service- 9341722  
United Parcel Service Air alliance Ltd.- 8826429, 8810223

**National**  
Asian courier Service Ltd.- 8313543  
BAE- 9884851  
Central Courier Service- 9881118  
Confidence Courier Service Ltd. 9567036  
Chisty Courier- 7110177-9,  
Cosmopol Services- 9552793, 9557975  
Dhaka Courier Services- 7236222

Dolphin Courier- 9558802  
Dreamland Courier Service- 9550326, 9566975  
Pioneer Courier Services- 9561727, 9569759  
Probashi Courier Services- 9346359  
Rainbow Express Parcel Services Ltd.- 8322773, 8315703  
Reliance Express Services- 9558515, 7110249  
Sundarban Courier Services- 9551984, 9556189, 9551656  
Sunrise Courier Services- 9568751  
World Runner Express Ltd. 9112068, Fax - 880-2-9112068

**TIPS**  
Do you know according to Dhaka City Corporation, you must deposit your waste at the collection site between

**LIBRARY & INFO-**

**Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers**

**Central Public Library-** 8626001-4,  
**Shishu Academy-** 9564128  
**Shilpakala Academy-** 8614673  
**Bangla Academy-** 8619550  
**Islamic Foundation-** 9550280, 9556407  
**Nazrul Institute-** 9114602  
**Ford Foundation-** 8116133  
**Alliance Francaise-** 8611557  
**British Council-** 8618867-8, 8618905-7  
**Community Development Library-** 8113769, 8113604  
**Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka-** 9126525-6  
**Indian Information Centre & Cultural Library-** 8615096  
**The Russian Cultural Centre-** 9116314, 9118531, 9118314  
**Drik Photo Gallery-** 9120125, 8112954, 8123412

**OUTING**

**Museum and Zoo**  
**National Museum-** 8619396-9  
Open: 10 am 5 pm, Friday 3 pm- 8 pm, Thursday closed  
**Muktijuddha Jadughar-** 9559091  
Open: 10:30 am 6:30 pm, Sunday Closed  
**Bangabandhu Smiti Jadughar-** 8110046  
Open: 10 am 5 pm, Wednesday closed  
**Ahsan Manzil**  
Open: 10 am 5 pm, Friday: 3 pm - 7 pm, Thursday Closed  
**Shishu Jadughar-** 9666466  
Open: 10 am- 6 pm, Sunday Closed

**CITY BUS ROUTE**

Bus No.	Route	Starts from
1	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 10, 11, 12	Golap Shah Mazar
2	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 1, 2	Phoolbaria bus station
3	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Mahakhali-Airport-Azampur	Phoolbaria bus station
4	Shyampur-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Airport-Tongi	Shyampur
5	Sayedabad-Kamalapur-Motijheel-Airport-Joydebpur-Gazipur	Sayedabad
6 A	Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Gulshan 1, 2	Kamalapur
6 B	Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 1, 2	Kamalapur
6 C	Motijheel Shapla chattr- Malibagh- Farmgate- Gulshan 2	Motijheel Shaplachattr
7	Sadarghat-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 2	Sadarghat
8	Chittagong-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asad Gate-Kalyanpur-Gabtohi	Chittagong Road
9	Demra Rani mahal-Motijheel-Kalbagan-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 10, 11, 12	Demra Ranimahall
10	Sadarghat-Gulistan-Kakrail-Malibagh-Rampura-Biswa Road-Tongi Bridge	Sadarghat
11	Sayedabad-Motijheel-Fakirapool-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Tongi Bridge	Sayedabad
11/A	Sayedabad-Khilgoan-Malibagh-Rampura-Airport-Tongi Bridge	Syedabad
12	Shanir Akhra-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asadgate-Mohammadpur	Shanir Akhra
13	Motijheel-Shahbagh-New Market-Jhigatola-Shangkar-Mohammedpur	Motijheel
14	Signboard -Motijheel-Shahbagh-New Market-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 12	Signboard (Chittagong Road)
15	Chittagong Road-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Mirpur 12	Chittagong Road
24	Gulistan-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Airport-Uttara-Bipile	Gulistan