

Fruit exhibition ends in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Vivid colour and aroma filled the atmosphere at the capital's Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council as unique and rare fruits along with mundane ones were showcased in the National Fruit Exhibition 2012.

Vibrant and full of life, yesterday was the last day of the three-day exhibition, organised by the Department of Agricultural Extension, where viewers checked out an incredible variety of fruits that are produced all over the country.

A magnificent pyramid was built at the entrance using jackfruits, bananas, pineapples, grapefruits, coconuts, mangoes, guavas, and dates.

A customer at a mango stall was overwhelmed by numerous varieties of the fruit and could not decide which ones to take. There was Basharat Pasanda, Bogla Gutti, Bari Am Amrupali, Rotna, Bou Bhulani, Ashshina, Nak Fazli, Tilla Farash and Lohachur among many others.

"I finally decided to take one or two of each variety," she said.

Gigantic jackfruits each weighing about 50kg along with the smallest variety called "Jhumka Kathal", it's size being a bit bigger than one's fist, caused wonders among the public.

The fruit that seemed the strangest was called "Gol Fol" translated as "The Round Fruit" because of its precise spherical shape. It has spikes all over and is not edible. The fruit is used for decorations.

The three-day exhibition ended with a closing ceremony where producers of the best quality fruits were awarded prizes and fruits were distributed among the guests.

Fruits which were not sold at the exhibition will be given away to orphanages, said one of the organisers.



A myriad of succulent fruits, specialities of this season, on display at the end of a three-day National Fruit Exhibition 2012 at Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Labour leader shot in capital

Two held with firearms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two men were caught with two pistols and five bullets by locals near the capital's Sadarghat Launch Terminal yesterday minutes after they had allegedly shot a labour leader of the terminal in a nearby hotel.

A mob gave the duo, Zihad and Rafiq, a good beating and afterwards police arrested them.

The injured, Abul Hossain, 35, was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for treatment.

Office-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, Abu Bakar Siddique, said the duo called Abul out of his room at Hotel River View at around 11:30pm and shot him twice.

Hearing the gunshots and the victim's cries, the locals came forward and caught the duo as they were fleeing the scene, he said.

Police suspect that the attack might be over the leasing out of a ghat, where goods are loaded and unloaded from boats, which Abul had been running on behalf of its lessee, Alamgir Hossain.

PRIVATE COACHING Teachers demand scrapping of restriction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A section of school teachers yesterday protested the government's recent policy which says that government and non-government school, college and madrasa teachers cannot offer private coaching to students of their own institutions.

Terming the policy "hasty" and "whimsical", they demanded that the government scraps the decision within seven days and refrains from issuing a gazette notification on the policy.

A tougher programme will be announced if the policy is not cancelled within seven days, they warned.

The "Policy-2012 to stop teachers from doing coaching business in educational institution" was finalised by the education ministry on June 14.

It states that teachers can provide

tuition at their residences to a maximum of 10 students of other institutes a day upon receiving prior permission from their respective heads of the institutions.

The protesting teachers, under the banner "Bangladesh Teachers' Association", were addressing a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

The policy should be cancelled taking the fact of the financial condition of teachers and the development of the merit of students into consideration, they said.

The association leaders said it was whimsical to stop private coaching without increasing the salaries of teachers and solving different problems faced by teachers.

"The government should have solved the problems faced by teachers first and then talked to us about the issue before taking such a decision," said the association President Abul

Bashar Hawlader.

The government had not formed a separate pay scale for teachers and had not even increased their salaries. If private coaching was banned, the condition of teachers would worsen further, he said.

"We smell a conspiracy here," Bashar alleged, saying that the policy bans teachers from offering private coaching but did not say anything about the coaching centres that were continuously mushrooming around the country.

"A section of so-called teachers and people around the education minister had formulated the policy," he alleged.

All types of coaching should be banned if the government really wants to stop this practice, he said.

Without clarifying, he said the nation would lose its merit if the policy came into effect.

Another HC contempt rule against Mahmudur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued another contempt of court rule against Mahmudur Rahman, acting editor of Bangla daily Amar Desh, for publishing a malicious and false report on Sunday on Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik's UK residences.

On Sunday, the same HC bench had issued another contempt of court rule against Mahmudur over another report.

The court also made 19 leaders of Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum and Legal Aid Committee's United Kingdom unit and the reporter concerned respondents to the rule.

The HC bench of Justice Manik and Justice ABM Altaf Hossain summoned the 21 respondents on July 18 while giving them two weeks to explain their role in this regard.

The report was headlined "Ainjibi Forum raises question on multiple houses of Justice Manik in Britain".

It stated that the leaders, at a press conference in London on June 14, had said that three of four residences owned by Justice Manik were bought after he was appointed an HC judge.

During yesterday's proceedings, Barrister Rakanuddin Mahmud, Advocate Shafiuddin and Barrister Ruhul Quddus Kazal said Justice Manik was appointed an HC judge after he had bought the residences in 1981, 1982 and 1983.

Justice Manik said what he earned during his student and professional life in London was enough to purchase the residences.

8 killed, 47 hurt in road accidents

METRO DESK

Eight people were killed and 47 others injured in separate road accidents in Dinajpur, Dhaka, Chittagong, Bagerhat, Rangpur, Natore and Narail on Sunday and yesterday.

Our Dinajpur correspondent reports, a bus crushed Md Nuruzzaman, 12, son of Ketab Ali, on Dinajpur-Thakurgaon highway at Jailmore in Birganj yesterday morning.

In another accident, Jalal Uddin died as a microbus hit him before Parbatipur Upazila Health Complex at Haldibari. BSS adds, motorcyclist Alamgir Hossain, died when a truck ramed his motorbike on Dohar road in Konakhola of Keraniganj upazila in the capital on Sunday noon.

In Chittagong, garment worker Belal Uddin, died and 15 others got injured as their staff bus overturned at Fakirhat in the city on Sunday night.

The injured were rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

UNB from Bagerhat says, two people died and 15 others got injured when a bus overturned after hitting railings of a bridge and a rickshaw on Pirojpur-Bagerhat road in Dashkhali area of Morelganj upazila yesterday morning.

The deceased are Dinesh Das of the upazila and Hamidul of Fakirhat.

Of the injured, four were rushed to Khulna Medical College Hospital while the others to different hospitals in Bagerhat and Pirojpur.

Following the accident, locals put up barricades on the road, disrupting traffic movement for about two hours.

In Rangpur, bicyclist Mofiz Uddin died when a truck hit him on Rangpur-Dhaka highway before Hena girls' college in Mithapukur yesterday afternoon.

In Natore, two local journalists were injured as their motorbike fell down on Natore-Rajshahi highway at Banbelghoria in the town yesterday.

They are Mahbubur Rahman of Maasranga TV and Kamrul Islam of the Dinersheyshey.

In Narail, Jorina Begum was killed and 15 others were injured as a tempoo collided with a Nasimon on Lokshipasa-Mohajan road in Rajupur area of Lohagara upazila yesterday.

Injured Fayek, Api, Anjona, Biswajeet, Biplob, Titi, and Year Ali were admitted to the upazila health complex. Later, Fayek and Ali were shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

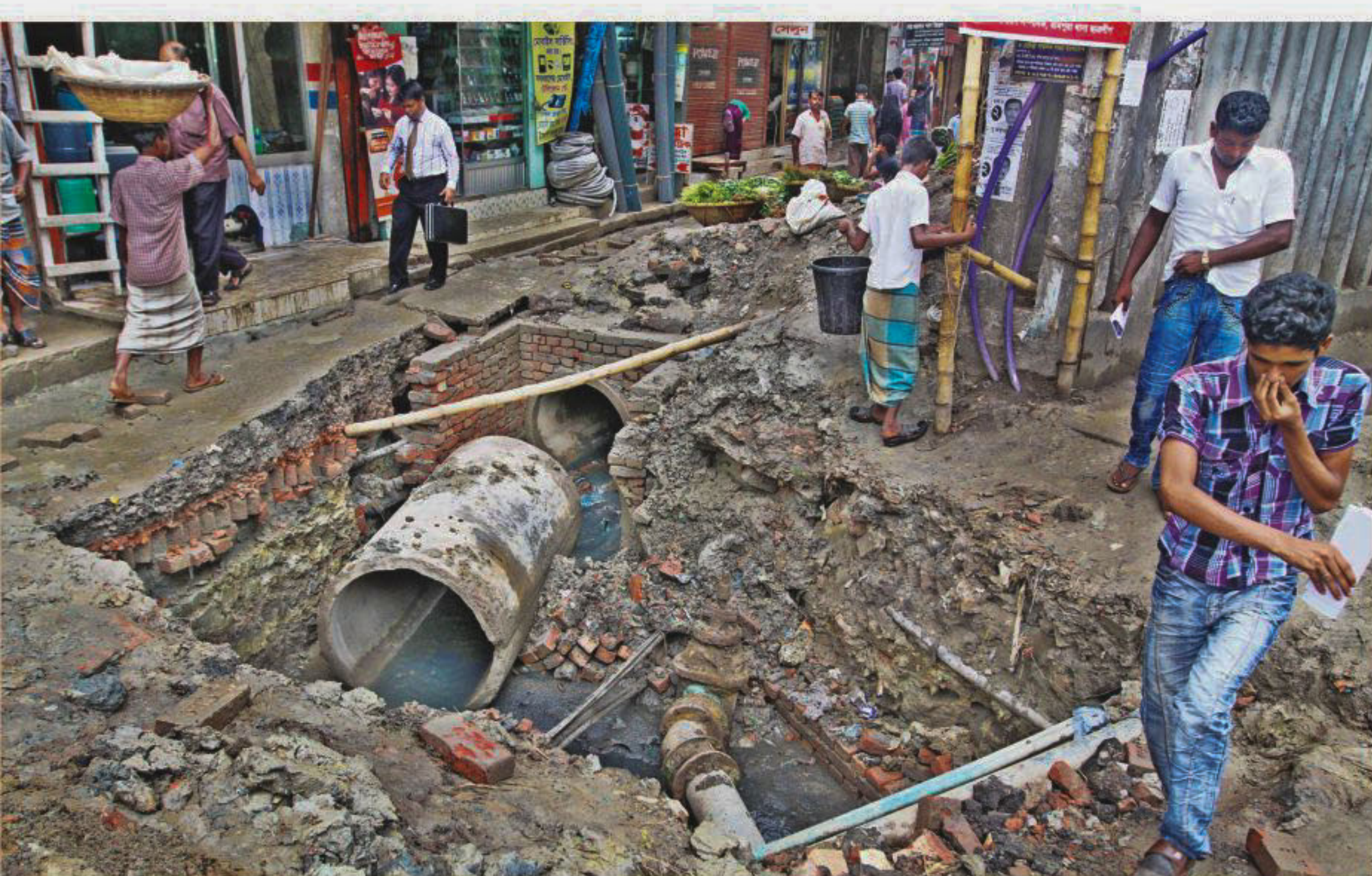


PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

This end of Ulan Road in the capital's Rampura has been left dug up for development work for the last six months by Dhaka Wasa, making the locals and passers-by suffer. The photo was taken yesterday.

Half-day hartal called in Sylhet today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

BNP backed Jatiyatabadi Swechhasebak Dal called a half-day hartal today in Sylhet protesting a Dhaka court's verdict which sent the party's vice president to jail in connection with an abduction case.

Swechhasebak Dal's Vice President Shamsuzzaman Zaman's bail was cancelled yesterday and he was sent to jail. Princia Parvin Pinki, wife of Sylhet Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal Joint Secretary Iftekhar Ahmed Dinar, filed the case accusing Zaman and others of kidnapping her husband who went missing on April 1.

However, district and city unit BNP will not support the hartal as they have been organising programmes separately for the last four months.

Contacted, Nasim Hossain, BNP's senior vice president, said they were not involved in the decision made to call the hartal.

Meanwhile, Biswanath upazila unit BNP President Jalal Uddin was released on bail yesterday in a case filed against him for vandalising vehicles during hartal hours on April 23.

On the day, three opposition men were killed in the clashes between BNP and police.

Three cases were filed against 8,000 BNP men in connection with the violence carried out during the hartal, called after the disappearance of BNP leader M Ilias Ali.

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