

Good prices bring smile to brinjal growers

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

The brinjal growers in the district are happy to get good prices of the vegetable amid high demand during this Ramadan.

"Now we are selling one kg of brinjal for Tk 20 to 22 in the field but we sold it for Tk 8 to 10 just before the Ramadan. I have already sold 800 kg of brinjal from my two bighas of land and hope to sell more 500 kg during this holy month," said brinjal grower Mansur Ali at Fulgachh village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

"A farmer can get 600 to 800 kg of brinjal from each bigha of land and the cultivation cost stands between Tk 2000 to 2500. Due to favourable weather we have got good yield of brinjal, and we are also getting its

fair prices," said Atoar Rahman, another brinjal grower of the same village.

"We all the six family members work together for farming brinjal and other vegetables in our 50 decimals of lands. Mainly we use vermicompost, and sometimes we use pesticides to kill the insects in the brinjal field," said Nur Hossain of Durakuti village in Lalmonirhat Sadar.

"I have already earned Tk 14 thousand from selling 700 kg of brinjal and hope to earn Tk 6 thousand more from selling the remaining brinjal in the field," he said.

A brinjal retailer at Durakuti Bazar in Lalmonirhat Sadar said they purchase brinjal from the growers in the field, and sell it for Tk 25 to 28 per kg in the local market.



Farmers harvest brinjal at a field of Fugachh village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

COUNTRY

10 held while returning from India illegally

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessor

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) on Tuesday night arrested 10 Bangladeshi nationals while they were returning home from India through Boro Achra border under Benapole Port Police Station without passports.

Nayek Subedar Abdur Rahim, camp commander of BGB 26 Battalion, said a team of the border guards, acting on a tip-off, conducted a drive in the area on Tuesday night and detained five women, four men and a child.

BGB arrested the Bangladeshis while they were entering the country without valid documents, Rahim added. They hail from different areas of Jessor and Narail districts. The arrestees were later handed over to Benapole Port Police Station. A case was filed in this connection.

Minor girl abducted for ransom

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A minor girl was abducted from a mosque at Achintapur village under Sadar upazila on Tuesday.

The victim is Monira Khatun, 5, daughter of Ramjan Ali of the village.

Ramjan Ali said he fell asleep in the mosque close to his house after Asr prayers. At the time his daughter Monira was by his side. When he woke up he did not find his daughter there.

At around 10:00pm, an abductor phoned Ramjan and demanded Tk 3 lakh as ransom for release of his daughter.

Biplab Kumar Nath, officer in charge (OC) of Sadar Police Station, said an abduction case was filed with the police station yesterday morning.

Law enforcers have already launched a drive to rescue the girl and arrest the abductors, the OC added.

Woman killed over family feud

UNB, Gazipur

A woman was killed allegedly by her son-in-law over a family feud at Narayanganj village in Sreepur upazila on Monday.

The deceased was identified as Marzia Begum, 45, wife of Shahjahan of the village.

Locals said Anwar locked in an altercation with his wife Sonia and her mother Marzia over a family feud on Monday afternoon.

At one stage, Anwar stabbed the duo with a sharp weapon, and fled the scene.

Locals rushed them to Sreepur Upazila Health Complex where Marzia died while undergoing treatment, Asaduzzaman, officer-in-charge of Sreepur Police Station, said.

Fratricide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A young man was killed allegedly by his elder brother at Baghasura village in Madhabpur upazila of Habiganj district on Monday.

The deceased was identified as Uzzal Miah, 18, son of Phul Miah, 45, of the village. Police said Kashem Miah, 28, hit his brother Uzzal with a steel jug following a family feud.

Seriously injured Uzzal was rushed to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital where the on-duty doctors declared him dead.

Kashem went into hiding soon after the incident, said Md Monir Mollah, officer-in-charge of Madhabpur Police Station.

A case was filed in this connection, said police.



Artistic wood works, a model sailing boat and an easy chair, made by Abdus Sattar Fakir for presenting to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.



PHOTO: STAR

KUAKATA BEACH

Artistic furniture from areca wood delights tourists

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Fancy furniture made from areca nut trees has drawn attention of locals as well as tourists from home and abroad, thanks to the innovative pursuit of Abdus Sattar Fakir.

"Usually areca tree is used to make fence or soko (a small bridge) or as fuel but I am making nice-looking furniture from it, to the surprise of many people," said Sattar, 65, at his workshop in Zero Point area of Kuakata beach in the district.

He makes different types of furniture including chair (priced at Tk 10,000), easy chair (Tk 18,000), tea-table (Tk 8,500), rocking bed (Tk 25,500), and four-seated sofa-set (Tk 32,500).

"The items made from areca tree are very strong and durable. Lastly I have made an easy chair and a model sailing boat to gift to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina," Sattar said.

"The three feet and three inches long and ten inches high sailing boat and five feet long and two feet five inches wide easy chair are very nice-looking and people come to my shop to see it, he said.

"There is a two feet eight inches long baitha (paddle) attached to the boat while setting of cockle and shell of snail adds to its beauty.

"I submitted a letter through the Patuakhali DC on May 17, seeking appointment of the prime minister and still waiting for the opportunity to meet her with the gift," said Sattar, adding that in 1975, he was charmed to hear the speech of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at a meeting in Kalapara.

"Many locals, even tourists from home and abroad, buy furniture from my workshop as the items are very stylish. I cannot make furniture as per demand as I have to work alone," he said.

Sattar said he initiated making such furniture as a hobby five years ago and started the work on commercial basis in July last year.

Earlier he worked as a motorcycle mechanic.

"I bought a rocking bed from Sattar's shop as the nice-looking thing beautified my house," said Dusal Karmaker of Kalapara upazila town.



Law enforcers arrest eight troublemaker brokers on the premises of Pabna General Hospital yesterday.

PABNA GENERAL HOSPITAL

8 brokers jailed, fined for harassing doctors, patients

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A mobile court awarded imprisonment and fine to eight outsiders arrested from Pabna General Hospital yesterday.

"The arrestees, working as brokers, often harassed doctors and patients of the hospital. They were punished following specific allegations," said Executive Magistrate Saidul Islam, who conducted the drive in the morning.

Of the convicts, Jahangir Hossain, 55, Nazmul Hossain, 26, Swapon Hossain, 28, and Rawshan alias Babu, 38, got six months' imprisonment and fine of Tk 10 thousand each while Rani Hossain, 19, Rafikul Islam,

20, Abdul Momin, 25, and Monir Uddin Moni, 27, were fined Tk 10 thousand each.

Brokers aided by outsider criminals often pressure the doctors to refer the patients to their chosen diagnostic centres, sources said.

They often harass patients and their attendants inside the hospital, even extorted the patients' relatives during release of dead bodies, said victims.

A meeting of the hospital management committee held at the hospital auditorium on Monday decided to take tough action against brokers and outsider troublemakers. Drives will continue to keep the brokers and outsiders away from the hospital premises, said an official.



Teenage Jahangir Alam serves as guide for tourists eager to see elephants at Teknaf Wildlife Sanctuary.

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