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Welcome, winter

Good supply from growers around Dhaka to bring down vegetable prices in a week

SOHEL PARVEZ

Increased production of winter vegetables is pushing down their prices, easing pressure on common people who bore the brunt of exorbitant prices in the last three months.

Traders said prices of vegetables would decline further in two to four weeks with production continuing to rise.

"Vegetable markets were unstable in the past few months because of loss of crops to heavy rainfall. Now it is returning to stability," said Lokman Hossain, general secretary of Karwan Bazar Kitchen Market Wholesalers' Association.

Prices of cauliflower, sold at Tk 20 apiece now, would come down to Tk 5 in three to four weeks, he said.

A kilogram of brinjal is being sold at Tk 60 in retail markets now while it was as high as Tk 80 two months ago. A bundle of red amaranth, sold at over Tk 20 two months ago, will drop significantly, traders said.

Prices of other leafy vegetables such as

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Clockwise from left, farmers prepare seedbeds for cauliflower, take care of bottle gourd and water cabbages in Sirajdikhan upazila of Munshiganj. Varieties of winter vegetables have already started appearing in city markets. Traders say their prices will come down in two to four weeks as vegetable production continues to rise. Inset, a red spinach field in the upazila. The photos were taken a week ago.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Robbers run bus, kill one

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was killed and two others were injured after robbers, posing as the bus driver and passengers, beat them up inside a moving bus and threw them off on a road in the capital's Turag area early yesterday.

The dead is identified as Abdul Momen, 30. The injured are Abdur Razzak, Momen's brother-in-law, and another passenger Rafique, 70.

Razzak, who suffered minor injuries, told The Daily Star over the phone that they had gone to the airport to see off his son Sunday night.

Failing to get a train to Sirajganj, he said, they got on a

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CHILD MARRIAGE IN BANGLADESH

Strong awareness yet high prevalence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The majority of Bangladeshis are aware of the minimum legal age for marriage and the disadvantages of getting married earlier, but that awareness is not reflected in the social practices here, according to a study by UK-based Plan International.

The survey conducted in three countries, including Pakistan and Indonesia, found Bangladeshis more aware than other nationals, but still Bangladesh has the high-

est number of early marriage in the group.

Some 73 percent females in Bangladesh get married before they turn 18. The rate in Indonesia is 38 percent and in Pakistan 34.8 percent.

The findings of the study commissioned by development organisation Plan International and UK-based research body Coram International were presented yesterday at a press meet at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

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Biharis show India's way

SHAKHAWAT LITON

People in Bihar have voted against politics of arrogance, intolerance and communalism causing a humiliating defeat for the ruling BJP led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, according to Indian media analyses.

Though it is a state-level election and the defeat will not remove Modi from office, its consequences are immensely significant as NDTV says the Bihar loss is expected to impact both the government's policies and the BJP's politics.

The defeat also sparked crucial question whether Modi, who led the BJP to an overwhelming win in the national election only one and a half years ago, is being waned as the

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Her mission blue stays unfulfilled

Asma Kibria passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

She had spearheaded an unprecedented protest in the country, demanding punishment of the killers of her husband Shah AMS Kibria and other victims of the bomb and grenade attacks during the last BNP government tenure.

The peaceful programme named Shantir Shopokkhke Nilima (Blue for Peace) elicited a huge response from the countrymen with intellectuals, politicians, cultural and human rights activists, teachers, professionals, housewives and the public in general lining up in their

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A SNAP FROM THE PAST... Eminent painter Asma Kibria, wife of slain Awami League leader SAMS Kibria, along with poet Shamsur Rahman, AL presidium member Suranjit Sengupta and Gonoforum President Dr Kamal Hossain releasing a pigeon at a city playground on March 03, 2005. On that day, they launched a campaign, "Shantir Shopokkhke Neelima", demanding punishment to Kibria's killers. Asma died of cardiac arrest at a city hospital yesterday.

FILE PHOTO

6 to die for killing child

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A Mymensingh court yesterday sentenced six people to death for killing an eight-year-old boy, Farhad, over a family feud in Muktagacha upazila in 2010.

The court also awarded a woman life-term imprisonment in the murder case.

The death penalty awardees are Abdul Quddus, 60, his son Saheb Ali, 35, Ibrahim alias Ibra, 55, his son Mohammad Jewel, 35, Abdul Majid Madhu, 70, son of Gahor Sheikh, Montaz Ali Monta, 60, son of Kasimuddin, hailing from Kheruajani village in Muktagacha upazila, said Court Inspector Nowjesh Ali Miah.

Of the death convicts, Saheb Ali was tried in absentia, he said.

The court also gave life-term imprisonment to Saheb's mother Kamola Khatun, 50.

According to the case

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'Medicine man' for the poor

AFP, New Delhi

It's early morning but already "Medicine Baba" Omkarnath Sharma is pounding the pavement in one of New Delhi's upscale neighbourhoods, collecting the well-heeled's leftover pills, capsules and syrups.

Like a modern-day town crier, the 79-year-old calls to residents to bring out their medicines, rather than throw them away, to donate to the Indian capital's millions of desperate poor.

"All of us have some medicines lying around in our houses but we end up throwing them in the dustbin," said Sharma, whose affectionate title

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COUNTRYWIDE DRIVE

592 more held

STAR REPORT

At least 592 more people were arrested on Sunday in different districts in an ongoing crackdown against suspected troublemakers, according to police headquarters.

The drive began on Friday night as per the police headquarters' directive to maintain law and order across the country following the recent killings of two policemen and other subversive activities.

Of the arrestees, many of them are reportedly BNP and Jamaat leaders and activists.

Earlier, over 1,500 people were arrested in the drive till Saturday.

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KL defers new deal on labour recruitment

Seeks to include a Malaysian firm in the G2G Plus MoU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The expatriate welfare ministry yesterday withdrew the draft agreement on labour recruitment in Malaysia from the cabinet following a request from the Southeast Asian country.

"The draft of the Memorandum of Understanding for sending workers to Malaysia under the G2G Plus system was withdrawn as it is yet to be finalised," Cabinet Secretary M Shafiul Alam told reporters after the weekly cabinet meeting at the secretariat.

The deal was drafted last week after series of talks between Dhaka and Kuala Lumpur in recent months.

Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, in a letter on Friday, requested Bangladesh Expatriate Welfare Minister Nurul Islam to incorporate the "selected Malaysian company's proposal" in the draft MoU, said a ministry official.

Some six lakh Bangladeshi workers are currently employed in Malaysia. The Southeast nation in June announced that it would recruit 1.5 million more in

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