



PHOTO: STAR

Belal Hossain keeps harvested bitter gourds beside his farmland at Karnapur village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila. He will later take the vegetable to a local market for sale.

LALMONIRHAT

Farmers all smiles as bitter gourd yield high

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Cultivation of bitter gourd in Lalmonirhat has increased from last year as farmers are earning good profits from selling high-yield variety of bitter gourd. Belal Hossain, 48, a farmer at Karnapur village in Lalmonirhat Sadar, is now busy harvesting his crop. He sells around 15 maunds of bitter gourd at up to Tk 800 per maund per week, he says, adding that he invested Tk 40,000 in farming bitter gourd on three bighas of land. "I will sell my crop until July," he added.

Nuru Miah, 42, another farmer of the same village, says he takes care of his bitter gourd field as he

earns good profit from the vegetable. "We spend a handsome figure for buying pesticides and insecticides," he says.

Manowar Hossain, 56, a farmer at Bara Kamlabari village of Aditmari upazila, says they earned unexpected profit from selling bitter gourd last year when it fetched Tk 1,100 per maund. "Production is higher this year than last year," he said, adding that he cultivated bitter gourd on five bighas. "I also cultivated a local variety of bitter gourd on two bighas, but the production of local variety bitter gourd is less than that of the high yield variety," he adds. He says he sells local variety of bitter gourd at Tk 1,500 per

maund.

Haripad Chandra Sen, 62, of Hajiganj village of Aditmari upazila, says it takes about Tk 400 for producing one maund of high yield bitter gourd, while it takes Tk 900 to produce the same quantity of the local variety. "We can get up to 40 maunds of high yield bitter gourd per bigha, but only 7-8 maunds of the local variety from the same land," he says.

"All my family members work in the bitter gourd and other vegetable fields, so I never hire labourers," says farmer Taherul Islam, 48, of Chaparhat village in Kaliganj upazila. "Bitter gourd is a profitable crop, and we are highly inter-

ested in farming it," he said.

Officials of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) report that bitter gourd was cultivated on 180 hectares this year, as compared to 160 hectares last year, with 130 hectares being used for high yield and 50 hectares for local varieties.

Safayet Hossain, deputy director of Lalmonirhat DAE, says many villages in the district are known for vegetable farming, and farmers cultivate vegetables round the year. "Vegetables produced in the district are sent to the capital and other parts of the country after fulfilling local demand," he says.

15 injured as rival AL groups clash in Jhenidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Supporters of incumbent chairman of Dogachi Union Parishad Md Foyezullah, and those of AL nominated chairman candidate Ishaque Ali Joardar, locked in a clash at Kolomomkhali village in Sadar upazila yesterday morning.

Foyezullah is also a member of Sadar upazila unit of AL, and Ishaque Ali is president of Dogachi union unit of the party.

Police and locals said Foyezullah became angry as Ishaque Ali was nominated to run for the chairman post of the union in the election scheduled to be held on April 23.

As the news spread, the two rival groups brought out processions at Kalomomkhali Bazar at around 10:00am. At one stage, they locked in a clash, leaving at least 15 people from both sides injured.

Being informed, police rushed to the spot and

fired rubber bullets to disperse the clashing groups.

Of the injured, Mofiz Uddin, 45, son of Akbar Ali of Madhunathpur village, Toyeb Ali, 48, of Haripur village, Lucky Begum, 38, wife of Pikul Joardar, and Hena Begum, 40, wife of Mizanur R a h m a n o f

Modhunathpur village, were admitted to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital, while the rest took treatment at different clinics in the district

town.

Jumarat Ali, a resident of the area, told this correspondent that the two leaders were responsible for the clash. Contacted, Ishaque Ali Joardar and Md Foyezullah blamed each other for the clash.

Contacted, Hasan Hafizur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station, said police have been deployed in the area to avert further clash.



PHOTO: STAR

Around 500 maunds of potatoes piled up in farmer Jalal Khan's field at Char Dumuria village in Munshiganj Sadar upazila have been damaged by criminals, using toxic chemicals.

Restaurant

FROM PAGE 16

fresh meals for the homeless.

Minu, whose popular food joint Pappadavada has been operating since 2013, was struck by the sight of homeless people digging for food from the garbage bins behind her kitchen.

"I have often seen the homeless and the hungry, especially the aged, rummage through garbage scouring for food," she told The Hindu. "They are looking for some leftovers or stale food to quell their hunger, and it disturbs me."

So when she opened a second branch in another part of the city last week, she also installed a fridge outside and named it "Namma Maram" (the tree of goodness). The fridge is always stocked with about 50 packets of freshly cooked food from the restaurant, for people to reach for when they are hungry. "I was asked, 'What if someone, not necessarily needy, took the food?'" she said. "My answer was, 'I'll just put my faith in the goodness of the folks.'"

Minu isn't new to making bold, unconventional decisions. Three years ago, she quit her well-paying, stable bank job to fulfil her dream of becoming an entrepreneur. That's when she opened the first outlet of Pappadavada, a restaurant serving popular local dishes like appams, egg curry, and of course pappadavadas, which are papadums dunked in a rice batter and deep fried. The Namma Maram initiative is an extension of her passion for outside-the-box ideas.

But the project isn't something she wants to claim as her own. Instead, she wants it to become a community activity, a movement that she hopes will spread across the city -- at other restaurants, homes, hostels, and anywhere else where there's a chance of food going to waste. Until then, she's committed to filling the fridge with 50 packets every single day, even if the food she has to offer isn't rich or extravagant.

"I am not saying I am going to give biriyani, but I will ensure there is food inside," she said. "There will be something here every day, and eventually I hope there will be so much that no hungry person will leave here hungry."

In the short time that the fridge has been running, several homeless people have already lined up to collect free meals. Since the fridge is open 24x7, people have been leaving food in it too -- about 200 to 300 packets find their way into the fridge every single day. That is quite a significant contribution from locals, considering the fact that 40 percent of food in India goes bad even before it can be consumed.

Mini has only one request -- that the food people leave should be well packaged and fresh, not stale. She's even left a marker beside the fridge for people to write the date on the packets they leave behind. "Someone asked me why I bothered to set up a fridge, when I could just put food out for people in a tray," she explained. "But that is the whole point of installing a fridge -- so food won't spoil."

Mini insists that Namma Maram is not an elaborate scheme to boost sales at her new restaurant, and to prove it she discourages customers from buying food at her shop to leave in the fridge. "This is not a campaign to make people invest more in charity; the idea is to use what you already have, to donate the food that you might waste. We bear the cost of the fridge and the electricity, and keep it open for 24 hours a day, every day."

"What I can say is that, 'If you have extra food at home, or if you eat out and find that you have extra food, come and drop it in this refrigerator.'"

TANGAIL

Another accused confesses to raping garment worker

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Trip Supervisor Rezaul Karim Jewel, one of the accused of gang-raping a female garment worker on a running bus, gave a confessional statement under Section 164 in a Tangail court yesterday.

Hamidul Islam, additional judicial magistrate, recorded Rezaul's statement, said Khan Hassan Mostofa, inspector (Investigation) of Dhanbari Police Station, also the investigation officer of the case. Rezaul was later sent to jail.

Earlier on Saturday, Abdul Khalek Bhutto, helper of the bus, also gave confessional statement to Luna Ferdousi, senior judicial magistrate in Tangail.

Bus driver Habibur Rahman Nayan, the main

accused in the case, is on remand at Dhanbari Police Station. He will be produced before the court today after expiry of his remand.

Earlier on Saturday, the trio was produced before the senior judicial magistrate's court, which placed Nayan and Jewel on a three-day remand.

The victim's husband filed a case against nine transport workers and leaders, including the three bus staff, with the police station under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act on Friday night.

The rest of the accused transport leaders, who allegedly tried to protect the rapists, have gone into hiding.

"We are launching drives at different places to arrest

them," said Mujibur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Dhanbari Police Station.

The female garment worker, aged around 23, was returning from a relative's house in Dhanbari upazila of Tangail to her house in Gazipur on a Binimoy Paribahan bus early Friday morning, police said, quoting the victim. She was only passenger in the bus that had four staff, including the driver, on board.

Around 6:00am, when the bus was on the Tangail-Mymensingh Road in Madhupur upazila the transport workers locked the gate and windows. They also tied her hands and legs and gagged her. Three of the bus staff then took turns to rape before throwing her out of the bus at a desolate place by the road.

Nalchhity ward commissioner lands in jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhalakathi

A ward commissioner of Nalchhity Municipality was arrested on Sunday night on charge of assaulting a woman, said Mahmud Hasan, assistant superintendent of police (ASP) in Jhalakathi.

The arrestee is Palash Talukder, commissioner of Ward No 1 under Nalchhity

Municipality.

Nazma Akhter Koli, accountant at the local office of Delta Life Insurance Company at Nalchhity, filed a case with Nalchhity Police Station against the ward commissioner and his four accomplices for assaulting her.

According to the case statement, Palash went to the insurance office with his gang and assaulted Koli,

they also vandalised the furniture at the office.

Her father and brother were also attacked when they came forward to save her, Koli said, adding that the attackers were men of her father's rival.

Detectives arrested Palash with the help of local police, the ASP said.

Palash was yesterday produced before a court that sent him to jail.

Press council warns editor

FROM PAGE 16

arguing that the government cannot declare any public holiday on "Janmashtami and Durga puja", on October 5 and 7 last year, allegedly for only 1.5 percent Hindu population of the country.

The reports came to the attention of Chairman of Bangladesh Press Council Justice Mamtaz Uddin Ahmed.

Later, he issued a suo moto rule on the daily and mentioned that the daily had violated article-1, -10 and -19 of the code of conducts set by the council for journalists.

The chairman also asked the editor to submit, by two weeks, his explanation to the council as to why actions will not be taken against him and his newspaper's declaration be not cancelled.

The council held a hearing on the issue on February 10 and delivered the verdict on March 10.

In the verdict, the judicial committee, led by the council chairman, observed that journalism and press freedom could not be used for hurting any community, group or religious belief.

In this regard, the daily

Al-Ehsan had failed to show respect to a special community in the name of press freedom, it added.

However, the committee further observed that the council chairman's suo moto action against the daily will work as a milestone in establishing guidelines for reporting and journalism.

It was also revealed through the verdict that the editor had regretted publishing such unsubstantiated reports and assured the committee of following the codes of conduct of journalism in future.

| Bangladesh College of Physicians & Surgeons (BCPS) & Surgeons (BCPS) | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 67, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sarani, Mohakhali, Dhaka | | |
| Date: 03/04/2016 | | |
| Invitation for Tender | | |
| 1. | Ministry/Division | Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. |
| 2. | Agency | Bangladesh College of Physicians & Surgeons (BCPS). |
| 3. | Procuring entity name | Honorary Secretary, BCPS, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212. |
| 4. | Invitation for/tender package name | Supply, installation & maintenance Air Conditioner with 2 (two) years complete warranty & 3 (three) years after sales service. |
| 5. | Tender Ref No. & date | BCPS/AC/913/2016/12411 Date: 03/04/2016 |
| 6. | Procurement method | Open Tendering Method (As per PPR-8). |
| 7. | Budget and source of funds | BCPS Own Fund. |
| 8. | Tender publication date | 05/04/2016. |
| 9. | Tender last selling date | 02/05/2016 at 2:00pm. |
| 10. | Tender submission/dropping/closing and time | 03/05/2016 at 1:00pm. |
| 11. | Selling and receiving/dropping tender documents | a) Office of the Honorary Secretary, BCPS, Mohakhali, Dhaka. b) Accounts Section of DGHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka. |
| 12. | Tender opening date, time and place | 03/05/2016 at 2:00pm, Office of the Honorary Secretary, BCPS, Mohakhali, Dhaka. In presence of tenderer if any. |
| 13. | Place, date and time of pre-tender/pre-bid meeting | Place: Office of the Honorary Secretary, BCPS, Mohakhali, Dhaka. Date: 18/04/2016, Time at 12:00 noon. |
| 14. | Eligibility of tenderers | The tenderer shall have a minimum of 5 (five) years of overall experience in supply of goods. The tenderer shall have a minimum of 3 (three) years of specific experience in supply of similar goods of the subject contract. The required average annual turnover shall be greater than Tk-100 lac single contract over the last five years and the minimum amount of credit line/credit facility/liquid assets shall be Tk. 120 lac. |
| 15. | Brief description of goods and related services | Stated in tender document/as per TDS. |
| 16. | Guarantee/warranty & after sales service | (a) Installation & commission to be done by the selected bidder. (b) All the electrical appliances to install the air conditioner have to be supplied by the bidder. (c) 02 (two) years complete warranty and another 03 (three) years after sales service has to be ensured. After complete of 02 (two) years warranty, the bidder has to provide free service. After 02 (two) years for any repair work, Payment of spare parts will be borne by the BCPS authority. (d) Servicing of all the air conditioner has to be carried out twice in a year for total 05 (five) years after commissioning of the air conditioner. |
| 17. | Price of tender documents taka | Taka 1,500/- (one thousand five hundred) only in cash (non-refundable). |
| 18. | The tender security & completion time | Tender security amounts in Bangladeshi Taka will be 10% of the total price. Completion time in weeks, 6 weeks. |
| 19. | The bid security | The bid security shall be BDT 1,00,000/- (one lac) only Bank Draft or Bank Guarantee or Pay Order in favour of Secretary, BCPS. |
| 20. | Name & designation of inviting tender | Prof Md. Abdul Jalil Chowdhury, Honorary Secretary, Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons (BCPS). |
| 21. | Address and contact details of official inviting tender | Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons (BCPS), 67, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sarani, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212. Phone No: 9845005-6, 9856616-7, Fax No. 9848928, Web: www.bcpsbd.org, Email: bcps@bcps-bd.org |
| The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders without assigning any reason. | | |
| Prof. Md. Abdul Jalil Chowdhury Honorary Secretary, BCPS Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212 | | |

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