Sweltering heat pushes up demand for green coconuts

Middlemen pocket big profits, depriving growers

M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL,

Green coconuts bring high profit to traders especially during summer when demand for the fruit containing refreshing sweet water sees rise in different places including capital Dhaka.

On the other hand, the growers of the nutritious fruit in the southern region have to remain 'satisfied' with small prices.

The trees are planted in June and July and bear fruits after four or five years, said Md Riaj Bahadur, agriculture officer of Rajapur.

Local small traders buy coconuts from the farmers, then it is sold to businessmen who carry it to Dhaka to sell it to warehouses, said Rahman Sheikh, a trader who brings coconut to Dhaka.

"Each coconut is bought for Tk 13 to 15 from the farmers by the local collectors. I buy it from them for Tk 20, and sell it for Tk 29 to 32 to the warehouses in the capital. There the fruit sellers or vendors purchase it for Tk 36 to 45 and sell it to consumers for Tk 45 to 60 or more, depending on the situation," he said.



Green coconuts being loaded onto a truck at Bagri of Rajapur upazila under Jhalakathi district for transporting to capital Dhaka as the fruit with refreshing drink sees high demand amid the ongoing sweltering heat of the summer.

"We load 5,000 to 6,000 coconuts on a truck for each trip to Dhaka and do it six times in a month. We earn Tk 5 to 10 by selling each coconut and monthly profit stands up to Tk 2 lakh," said Bachchu Howlader, business partner of Rahman.

Rahman and Bachchu, who have continued the business for about 20 years, said they collect green coconuts from the southern region as its quality is high and price reasonable.

"I am surprised to know that a green coconut is sold for

Tk 60 to 70 in the capital while we get only Tk 12 to 15 for each. The traders are becoming rich but we are remaining poor," said Md Hasan a coconut grower of Rajapur.

Several other farmers of the area echoed the same.

Lightning kills 4 in 2 districts

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Lightning killed a Jubo League leader and three others in Habiganj and Moulvibazar districts yesterday.

Three people including a Jubo League leader were killed by lightning in Sadar and Lakhai upazilas of Habiganj.

The deceased are Ramjan Ali, 40, president of Bullah Union Parishad unit of Jubo League in Lakhai upazila, day labourer Shafiqul Islam, 40, son of Mosabbir Ali of Bhadhikara village in the upazila, and farmer Abid Ali, 22, son of Abdur Razzak of Kakiabda village in Sadar upazila.

The three were killed as thunderbolts struck them in the afternoon, said Nazim Uddin, officer-in-charge of Habiganj Police Station. Meanwhile, a fisherman

was killed by lightning in Baralekha upazila of Moulvibazar the same day. The deceased was identi-

fied as Mustak Ahmed, 40, son of Aftab Ahmed of Khechurigul village.

Police and locals said a thunderbolt struck Mustak when he was going to catch fish in a haor around 9:00am.

He died on the spot, said Debashis Sutradhar, subinspector of Baralekha Police Station.

MYMENSINGH, SHERPUR

Missing schoolboy, bike rider found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Two missing people have been found dead in Mymensingh and Sherpur districts.

Police recovered the body of a minor schoolboy from a jute field at Dhanikhola village in Trishal upazila of Mymensingh on Friday, two days after his missing. The deceased is Md

Islam of Dhanikhola village, and a Class I student of Dhanikhola Governemnt Primary School. He went missing on April 3. Locals found the body in

the area and informed the police in the afternoon, said Md Moniruzzaman, officer-in-

charge of Trishal Police Station. The law enforcers rushed

to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

The boy might have been strangled following a family feud, said the OC.

A case was filed in this connection.

In Sherpur, the law enforcers recovered the Sajeeb, 8, son of Shafiqul body of a motorcyclist, who went missing on April 13, from a jute field in Bandherkura Shashan area under Nalitabari upazila of the district the same day.

They also arrested four people -- Hafizul Islam, 18, Ashraful Haque, 20, Mukul Miah, 24, and Jahidul Islam,

25, of Bishgiripara village of Ramchandrakura union in Nalitabari, -- in connection with the incident. The victim is Rokon

Miah, 23, son of Fazlul Haque of Telikhali village in Haluaghat upazila. Rokon, who used to carry

passengers on rent, went out of home with his motorbike on Wednesday night and went missing, said police.

The body was sent to Sherpur General Hospital morgue for autopsy, said OC Fashiur Rahman of Nalitabari Police Station.

During primary interrogation, the arrestees confessed that they strangled Rokon, took away his motorbike and dumped the body in the area, he said.



Locals render voluntary service to repair a one-kilometre road from Posaid Adivasipara to Tengra in Sreepur in Gazipur district yesterday as their earlier appeal to the authorities concerned fell on deaf ears.

Man hacked to death by

wife, her lover in Jessore Husband sued for throwing acid on wife in Pabna

STAR COUNTRY DESK

A man was killed by his wife and her lover at Basotpur village in Sharsha upazila of

Rahman, 40, son of Moinuddin of the village, was an expatriate in Malaysia, reprts our Benapole correspondent.

in-charge of Sharsha Police Station, said Fazlur's wife Bilkis Begum, 25, had an extramarital affair with her neighbour Abu Syed.

police that she and her lover killed her husband.

connection.

reported that a housewife came under acid attack inside her mother's house at Mallikpara in Dublia village under Pabna Sadar upazila

Akhter Doly, 30 wife of Md

Medical College Hospital The victim alleged that her husband often tortured

was admitted to Pabna

her since they were married in 2001. Recently, she was tortured and forced to leave the house. After that, Saima filed a case, accusing her husband and his family

"My husband and his family members threw acid on me for refusing to with-

Grabbers feast on schools

sub-committee visited the

school around a year and a half ago and had recommended in its report to evict the shops, but that too never happened. "We're facing extreme

difficulties due to the shortage of classrooms. The standing committee even recommended constructing a new building but that could not be done due to lack of land," said the head teacher.

This school is one of the 23 state-run primary schools in the capital whose land have been illegally occupied and the sub-committee visited, said the district primary education office (DPEO) of Dhaka.

The DPEO submitted a report to Directorate of Primary Education (DPE) on March 30 with "progress" about its efforts to recover

The Daily Star correspondents visited four such schools earlier this month and found the land of the schools was still under the occupation of government bodies and influential people. ALMOST NO PROGRESS

In September, 2014, the then Dhaka district primary education officer submitted a report to the primary and mass education ministry saying that land of 54 state-run primary schools had been occupied illegally.

Later, the sub-committee of the parliamentary standing committee visited 23 schools in December that year and in January last year as these schools had more problems than the rest, Shaheen Ara

Begum, district primary education officer of Dhaka, told The Daily Star. The sub-committee led by

AKM Zahangir Hossain MP submitted its report with findings and recommendations. It has held four meetings so far and asked DPEO in its last meeting in December last year to come up with a progress report on the recovery of land. But the actions, in almost

all the cases, were limited only to sending letters to different offices, according to the March 30 progress report. The report mentioned that some portions of land of three schools had been recovered.

"It takes time since recovering land is a long process. But many progresses have been made," Shaheen Ara told The Daily Star.

Some sensitive and public interest issues were involved and that was why they had to move slowly and carefully, she claimed.

Dhaka Wasa, for example, installed water pumps on school land and those cannot be removed immediately. In a few places the land were being occupied by slums of Urduspeaking people, she said.

Visiting Gendaria Mahila Samity Govt Primary School, it was found that the classrooms were crammed with children. Due to the classroom crisis,

the school authorities built two small classrooms on the compound. "But that too was inadequate. Notices were served and letters were sent. but nothing happened," said head teacher Riaz Parvez.

The sub-committee in its

breaking the wall between the school and Shimanta Library.

Contacted, Kazi Sultan Ahmed Tokon, general secretary of Shimanta Library, claimed the government allotted the land for Shimanta Library in 1964. Shimanta Khelaghar Ashor is an organisation of the library, he said.

He said the school authorities were falsely claiming that they own the entire land showing fake mutation papers. "They showed the fake papers to the ministry [subcommittee] and convinced

Despite repeated attempts, this newspaper could not get

sioner to evict the shops.

The case of FKM

The Bangshal school uses 26 rooms on the first and second floors of the primary school, according to the subcommittee report.

out approval, disrupting the

school, said the report, recommending shutting down the primary level operations of Bangshal school. It suggested that the pos-

academic activities of the FKM

session of the first floor be returned to of FKM school But the suggestion remains

in paper only. The Daily Star found FKM running academic activities in

six shabby rooms on the ground floor. There are six shops at the entrance to the building.

"We struggle to accommodate 260 students in six rooms. But when it rains the floor of the school corridor and classrooms go under water," said Kazi Laila Akhter, head teacher of FKM Government Primary School.

"We've repeatedly requested the [high] school authorities to vacate at least the first floor, but they didn't pay any heed," she said, adding that the high school authorities occasionally rents out the hall room on the third

floor. Mizanur Rahman, acting headmaster of Bangshal High School, refuted the allega-

tions. "We want to give them the first floor, but who will compensate us. We spent money for constructing the floors,' he said. The school land is a Waqf property and therefore they have the same rights like that of the primary school, he

claimed. Again, the DPEO sent letter to DPE to write to Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education for shutting the primary section of the Bangshal school and handing floor over to FKM.

"We've sent letters to deputy commissioner for evicting the shops," said Shaheen Ara.

Suritola Model Govt Primary School in Old Dhaka has some other problems. The school was in the list of 54 schools, but was not one that the sub-committee had visited.

Apart from a water pump set up by Wasa on its land, the authorities of the privatelyrun Ramna Railway High School, now renamed as Suritola High School, holds classes on the third and fourth floors of the school building.

Ramna Railway High School stood, near the Osmani Auditorium. Following demonstrations by teachers and students, the government uals. allowed it to temporarily hold classes in Suritola primary school.

But they never got their own place.

rules, our school schedule is standing committee] either from 7:30am to 2:15pm, and end of this month or on early Ramna school starts after next month. Getting the noon. Due to conflicting report, we'll take our next school times, we need to share step."

schools," said A Rahman, head teacher of Suritola primary school, which has around 928 students. "No doubt, Ramna school is an education institute

the classrooms to accommo-

date students of both

where children of this area are studying. But running the schools together is a problem. We want the government to change the school timings for the benefit of students of both schools," the head teacher said. An influential person has

built a five-storey building on a portion of the land of MA Alim Govt Primary School in Sutrapur. On the other side of the

school compound, the fourstorey building of the school has eight rooms. The school has no room

for playground. The sub-committee recommended filing a case with the land tribunal.

thana education officer to file the case. Some Urdu-speaking people constructed rooms on 30 decimals of a 36-decimal

plot belonging to Shahin

Govt Primary School in

Mohammadpur, the progress

The DPEO only asked the

report said. The sub-committee suggested making a list of them before evicting them. The DPEO only served a letter to the local ward commissioner

to this end.

Nazira Bazar Govt Primary School, Chhoto Katra Govt Primary School, Shishu Shikhkha Samity Govt Primary School, Bangla Bazar Govt Primary School, Gabtoli Govt Primary School, Pallabi Govt Primary School, Bonoful Govt Primary School, Abdul Mannan Govt Primary School, Khalilur Rahman Govt Primary School, Taltola Govt Primary School, Borabo Govt Primary School, Dhanmondi 1-no Govt Primary School, Motijheel Govt Primary School, Dilkusa Govt Primary School, P & T Govt Primary School, Khilgaon Staff Quarter Govt Primary School, No-37 Dharmik Para Govt Primary School, Matuail Paschim Para In 1989, the government Govt Primary School, and acquired the land on which Brahman Chiran Govt Primary School are on the list of schools whose land had been occupied by government bodies or influential individ-

Sub-committee chief AKM Zahangir Hossain said, "We've asked them [DPE and the ministry] to give a followup report about the schools "As per the government in the next meeting [of the

he was asleep around 3:00am. Police arrested Bilkis

Jessore district on Friday night. The victim, Fazlur

Moniruzaman, officer-

Fazlur and Bilkis got locked in a quarrel yesterday night when Syed was hiding under the bed. Bilkis and Syed hacked Fazlur to death while

Begum and Abu Syed. They sent Fazlur's body to Jessore Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy. Bilkis confessed to the

A case was filed in this

Our Pabna correspondent

on Thursday night while she and her children were asleep. The victim is Saima

Mostafa of the village. She

members of torturing her.

draw the case," the victim said. Saima filed another case with Anaikula Police

Station, accusing her husband and his relatives for throwing acid on her, Md Golam Rasul, officer-incharge (OC) of the police station, said.

Applications invited for the post of

► Deputy Managing Director (DMD) &

Senior Executive Vice President (SEVP)

Specially for Business Development Uttara Finance and Investments Limited

Applications are invited from suitable qualified and experienced candidates for the post of Deputy Managing Director (DMD) & Senior Executive Vice President (SEVP) specially for Business Development of Uttara Finance and Investments

Qualification & Experience

The candidate must be under 50 & 45 years as on 30-04-2016 for the post of DMD & SEVP respectively and should possess the following:

 Advanced University Degree preferably in Finance, Marketing, Business Administration or in a similar related area. • Minimum 15 years & 12 years of experience as on 30-04-2016 for the post of DMD & SEVP respectively at different levels in Banks/FIs or other organizations in the financial sector. Of these 15/12 years, at least 3 years of

Vice President" for the post of DMD & SEVP respectively. Must possess outstanding quality to develop Business with commendable exposure from renowned and well groomed corporate houses of the country individually.

experience should be at the level of "Executive Vice President" and "Senior

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The terms and conditions of appointment will be those as may be specified by

The candidate should have sound knowledge of banking and non-banking financial institutions.

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Receipt of Application Application together with Curriculum Vitae, one passport size photograph and names and contact details of two references should be submitted latest by 5:30 pm on 5th May 2016, in a sealed cover super scribed with "Application for the

post of Deputy Managing Director (DMD)/ Senior Executive Vice President

(SEVP) specially for Business Development of Uttara Finance and Investments



Managing Director Uttara Finance and Investments Limited Head Office (Ext), Uttara Centre (11th floor),

the Board of Directors including salary and other fringe benefits.

নিৰ্বাহী প্ৰকৌশলী শেরপুর পৌরসভা

report said educational environment was being hampered. It recommended demolishing the shops and

them," he told The Daily Star.

Gendaria Mahila Samity's comments. The DPEO only sent a letter to the deputy commis-

"We've sent a proposal to DPE for construction of a new building as per the recommendation of the subcommittee," said DPEO

Government Primary School is deplorable.

of FKM in 1988, following a mission.

Shaheen Ara.

Privately-run Bangshal Girls' High School authorities started using the classrooms government temporary per-

The school even introduced a primary section with-

তারিখঃ ১৩-০৪-২০১৬খ্রিঃ

শেরপুর পৌরসভা কার্যালয় পোঃ-শেরপুর টাউন, থানা ও জেলা-শেরপুর স্মারক নং- প্রকৌঃ বিঃ/শের/পৌরঃ/১৬/১৪৮৭(১২)/১০

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নংঃ ০৩/২০১৫-২০১৬ এতদারা শেরপুর পৌরসভার ২০১৫-২০১৬ অর্থ বছরের বার্ষিক উন্নয়ন সহায়তা তহবিল (সাধারণ ও বিশেষ) এর অর্থ দ্বারা ১৭ (সতের)টি গ্রুপের উন্নয়নমূলক কাজ বাস্তবায়নের লক্ষ্যে অত্র পৌরসভার হালনাগাদ তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদারগণের নিকট হতে পিপিআর-২০০৯ এর আলোকে নির্ধারিত ফরমে (সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতিতে) দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। এতদৃসংক্রান্ত প্রয়োজনীয় সকল তথ্যাদি/শর্তাবলী অফিস চলাকালীন সমযে নিমুস্বাক্ষরকারির দপ্তর হতে জানা যাবে। বরাদ্দ প্রাপ্তির পর/তহবিল পর্যাপ্ততা সাপেক্ষে সম্পন্ন কাজের বিল পরিশোধ করা হবে। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন প্রকার কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে সকল দরপত্র/যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

ও স্থান

সময় ও স্থান

নির্দিষ্ট তথ্যাবলীঃ

জিডি-৮৫২

দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ, ঃ

দরপত্র বাক্স খোলার তারিখ. ঃ সময় ও স্থান

০৩-০৫-২০১৬খ্রিঃ দরপত্র বিক্রির শেষ তারিখ (রোজ-মঙ্গলবার, অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।)

(ক) জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, শেরপুর। (খ) নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, এলজিইডি, জেলা-শেরপুর। (গ) নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, শেরপুর পৌরসভা, জেলা-শেরপুর।

রোজ-বুধবার, দুপুর ২-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত। নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, শেরপুর পৌরসভা, জেলা- শেরপুর এর কার্যালয়। ০৪-০৫-২০১৬খ্রিঃ

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, শেরপুর পৌরসভা, জেলা-শেরপুর। (দরপত্রদাতা/প্রতিনিধি দরপত্র খোলার সময় উপস্থিত থাকতে

ফোন নং- ০৯৩১-৬১১৩৮

পারবেন)।

দেওয়ান রেজাউল করিম

০৪-০৫-২০১৬খ্রিঃ

রোজ-বুধবার, দুপুর ৩-০০ ঘটিকা।