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Litchis flood Dinajpur

Prices within reach of most lovers of seasonal fruit

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Litchis have hit the markets in Dinajpur and the price is also within the reach of the lovers of this juicy fruit.

According to local traders and orchard owners, this year litchis have flooded the district's lone wholesale market in Kalitola area of Dinajpur town earlier than they did last year.

Litchis are being plucked early as the growers fear that the fruit would be attacked by pests amid the extreme heat and untimely rain.

Traders at several other fruit markets echoed the fruit sellers in the wholesale market.

While visiting the market in Dinajpur town yesterday, this correspondent saw many offloading litchis from vans in bulk for sale.

The varieties of the fruit include Madraji, Bedana, Kathali and China-3.

Trader Babul Hossain said 100 pieces of Madraji litchis were being sold for Tk 80 to 150. It was around Tk 200 last year.

The price of 1,000 pieces of the other varieties ranged between Tk 6,000 to Tk 8,000.

The traders hinted that the price might go up in the upcoming days.

Litchi growers say Dinajpur was producing more and more litchis every year.

According to officials of Department of Horticulture in Dinajpur, litchis are being grown on 4,733 hectares of land this year.

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A seller with a heap of litchis at a market in the town of Dinajpur, renowned for producing great quality litchis in the country. Production of litchis has been rather high this year compared to that of the last year and the prices are reasonable too.

PHOTO: KONGKON KARMAKAR

FARUK MURDER CASE Court orders seizure of MP Amanur, 9 others' assets

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A Tangail court on Monday ordered confiscation of assets of 10 fugitive accused, including Awami League lawmaker Amanur Rahman Khan Rana and his three brothers, in a case filed for killing Tangail AL leader and freedom fighter Faruk Ahmed.

Senior Judicial Magistrate in Tangail Golam Kibria passed the order as the accused did not appear before the court. They were also summoned to appear before the court by June 16, court sources said.

The 14 accused in the case are Amanur, AL lawmaker from Tangail-3 (Ghatail), his three brothers Shahidur Rahman Khan Mukti, former mayor of Tangail municipality; Jahidur Rahman Khan Kakon, and Saniyat Khan Bappa, former Chhatra League leader; Amanur's aides Kabir Hossain, Babu

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US Senate passes 9/11 terror bill

Allows victims to sue Saudi Arabia and other countries for sponsoring terror

REUTERS, Washington

The US Senate yesterday passed legislation that would allow victims of the Sept 11 attacks to file lawsuits seeking damages from Saudi Arabia, setting up a potential showdown with the White House, which has threatened a veto.

The Saudis, who deny responsibility for the 2001 attacks, strongly object to the bill and have threatened to sell up to \$750 billion in US securities and other American assets in retaliation if it becomes law.

The "Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act," or JASTA, passed the Senate by unanimous voice vote. It must next be taken up by the US House of Representatives, where no vote has yet been scheduled.

If it became law, JASTA would remove the sovereign immunity, preventing lawsuits against governments, for countries

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'4 JMB men killed RU Prof Rezaul'

RMP commissioner claims before media

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Four operatives of the banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) took part in the killing of Rajshahi University teacher Prof AFM Rezaul Karim Siddiquee, police claimed.

They planned to kill Prof Rezaul on April 16, but could not execute the plan due to lack of coordination among themselves, said Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP) Commissioner Md Shamsuddin at a press briefing at the RMP headquarters yesterday.

As the professor used to go to the campus almost every day, the JMB men chose Saturday to kill him since streets usually have fewer people on that day, he said.

After getting the order for the killing, the four went to Rajshahi and took shelter in some houses in the city's Kharkhari area. They observed his movements and planned the execution, he added.

Of the four, Maskawat Hasan alias Sakib alias Abdullah was arrested in Gaibandha on Sunday night. The three other killers who were directly involved in the attack were yet to be arrested, police said.

Sakib, a student of Rangpur Polytechnic Institute, was placed before the court of Rajshahi Metropolitan Magistrate Khalid Hasan on Monday afternoon and he gave a confessional statement, they added.

Following his confessional statement, law enforcers arrested three more JMB operatives in the city's Kharkhari area on Monday night, said Shamsuddin. The RMP chief, however, did not disclose their identities "for the sake of investigation".

He said the three were placed on a five-day remand each yesterday.

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'I will fight until the last'

Prof Rezaul's daughter pledges

STAR REPORT

Slain Rajshahi University teacher Prof AFM Rezaul Karim Siddiquee's daughter Rizwana Hasin has told the CNN that she will fight until the killers of her father are punished.

"I will fight until the last to get them [the attackers] what they deserve for their deed," she told CNN which carried a report titled "Bangladesh Professor: Daughter's fury over slaughtered father" yesterday.

"How can they do this? How can anyone do this? I can't express my emotion as a daughter, seeing his picture, seeing him lying on the road. Three hours he laid there, slaughtered," she said.

The CNN report says that a statement from ISIS blamed the deceased professor of "calling to atheism", but the family refutes

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Scientists clone Zika for vaccine



BBC ONLINE

US scientists have cloned the Zika virus - an important step towards fast-tracking a vaccine against the disease.

The man-made copy is a replica of the strain that is spreading across the Americas and has been linked to brain deformities in newborn babies.

In tests at the University of Texas, the clone could infect mosquitoes - the carrier of Zika - and cause disease in laboratory mice.

Experts say they can use this in experiments to design a good vaccine. It is hoped a candidate will be ready for testing in the coming months.

But it could be many years before there is a safe and effective jab that can be offered to the general public. Zika can cause serious harm to unborn babies, but it often has no visible symptoms in the mother.

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US DIPLOMATS' SECURITY US envoy in town for talks

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

US Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security Gregory B Starr arrived in Dhaka yesterday to discuss security of American diplomats with top civil and security officials.

Starr is leading a large US delegation to Dhaka following the visit of Nisha Desai Biswal, assistant secretary of state for South and Central Asian affairs. Biswal toured Bangladesh on May 4-5 following the brutal killings

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SIBL
Social Islami Bank Limited
Prayer Timing May 18
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-10 12-45 5-00 6-36 8-00
JAMAAT 4-45 1-15 5-15 6-40 8-30
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Prosthetic legs are being made, bottom left, and fitted to children, top left, at the 20-day-long Prosthetic Limb Fitment Camp at the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation in the capital. Umme Kulsum, right, had lost a leg when she was only four years old. Now the class-VI student can walk again. The photos were taken on Sunday.

PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL



Limbs for the needy

20-day camp in Nitor gives hope to children with tragic past

MH HAIDER

What Umme Kulsum remembers about her childhood is full of unfulfilled dreams and aspirations but the six-grader will surely be able to chase her dreams in her youth with the prosthetic leg given recently.

The shy little girl looked hopeful at the National Institute of Traumatology & Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (Nitor) in the second week of this month as she got registered with Jaipur Foot Prosthetic Limb Fitment Camp beginning on May 8.

Recounting the fateful incident that turned her life upside down at the age of four only, she said the thought of not being able to walk tormented her for all these years.

The girl child from a poor family living in the capital's Mohammadpur was crossing a road to a small departmental store to buy a candy when a

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3 bombings in Baghdad kill 77

REUTERS, Baghdad

At least 77 people were killed and more than 140 wounded by three bombings in Baghdad yesterday, police and medical sources said, extending the deadliest spate of attacks in the Iraqi capital so far this year.

Islamic State claimed one suicide bombing which killed 38 people and wounded over 70 in a marketplace in the northern, mainly Shia Muslim district of al-Shaab.

A car bomb in nearby Shia Sadr City killed at least 28 dead and 57 wounded, and another car blew up in the mixed Shia-Sunni neighbourhood of al-Rasheed, south of the capital, killing six and wounding 21, the sources said.

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi ordered the arrest of the security official in charge of al-Shaab's security after the attack, Abadi's office said in a statement, without giving a reason for the detention.

Attacks claimed by IS in and around the city last week

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