



Banana boon for farmers

Bumper yield, high demand bring smile to organic banana farmers in Bandarban

SANJOY KUMAR BARUA, Bandarban

The organic banana orchards of Bandarban are every farmer's dreams. They yield well and churn good profits. Not to mention, these highly nutritious fruits are sweet, delectable and loved by children and adults alike.

Growers in all seven upazilas on the hilly terrain cultivate different species of bananas, starting from the locally famous 'Bangla kola' to other species like Champa, Anaji, Sagar and Surjyamukhi.

The produce of this region is high in demand as harmful chemicals are not used to ripen or preserve the fruits. They are naturally high in nutrients like vitamin B, soluble fibres, and moderate amounts of vitamin C, manganese and potassium.

Rempu Mro, a farmer of remote Chimbuk area, said, "There is no need to add preservatives, as there is no stockpile of the fruit for the high demand."

Shah Alam, a wholesaler at Bandarban Bazar, said, "The health conscious people of Dhaka and Chittagong understand the value of these organic fruits and hence, there is high demand from there."

"The production cost is low and farmers can get fair prices for their produce," he added.

The fruits develop in large hanging clusters, that growers sell to wholesalers directly from the orchards. Ideally, wholesalers make such purchases twice a week, as yield and demand are both high.

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Organic bananas being sold at a Bandarban market recently. Growers have had a good yield this year.

PHOTO: SANJOY KUMAR BARUA

Take steps to trace Mubashar

Academics from home and abroad urge PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Academics from home and abroad, who had worked with missing North South University (NSU) teacher Mubashar Hasan, have urged the prime minister to take steps to find him.

"We're deeply concerned for the safety and wellbeing of our close friend and former colleague, Dr Mubashar Hasan who disappeared on the 7th November 2017 in Dhaka," they said in a petition signed by 275 academics from different countries.

The online petition, started by his colleagues in Griffith University in Australia, was submitted to the offices of the prime minister and home minister on Monday.

"Dr. Mubashar Hasan, a Bangladeshi professor and internationally renowned policy analyst working at North South University, is a highly valued and respected member of the academic

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The 'Butcher of Bosnia' jailed for life

UN court convicts Mladic for genocides

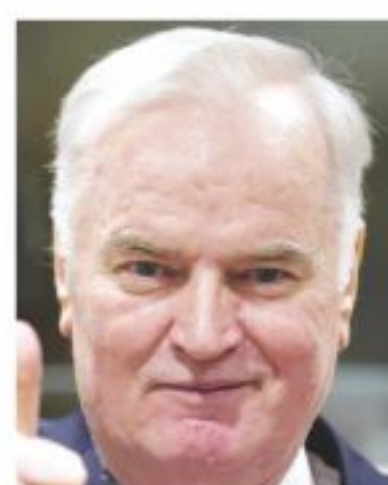
REUTERS, The Hague

A UN tribunal yesterday convicted former Bosnian Serb military commander Ratko Mladic of genocide and crimes against humanity for orchestrating massacres and ethnic cleansing during Bosnia's war and sentenced him to life in prison.

Mladic, 74, was hustled out of the court minutes before the verdict for screaming "this is all lies, you are all liars" after returning from what his son described as a blood pressure test which delayed the reading-out of the judgment.

The UN Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) found Mladic guilty of 10 of 11 charges, including the slaughter of 8,000 Muslim men and boys at Srebrenica and the siege of the Bosnian capital Sarajevo, in which more than

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CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY 1971

Ex-Jamaat MP, 5 others to hang

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six Gaibandha men including a former Jamaat-e-Islami lawmaker have been given capital punishment for committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War in 1971.

"All the offences proved were diabolical in nature for which all the six accused are found to have had contribution, complicity and participation," said the International Crimes Tribunal-1 as it delivered the verdict in a case yesterday.

The three-member tribunal headed by Justice Md Shahinur Islam found the six accused guilty in all three charges of abducting, torturing and killing unarmed civilians brought against them.

The other two members of the special tribunal are Justice Amir Hossain and Judge Md Abu Ahmed Jamadar.

Of the six, Jamaat's ex-MP Abu Saleh Md Abdul Aziz Mia, 65, was the founder and commander of local Razakar force. The other convicts -- Ruhul Amin alias Manju, 61, Abu Muslim Md Ali, 59, Abdul Latif, 61, Najmul Huda, 60, and Abdur Rahim Mia, 62, -- were members of the auxiliary force of the Pakistani army in 1971.

Of them, only Latif is now in jail and the rest are absconding. The tribunal has directed the home secretary and the inspector general of police to take necessary step to arrest the fugitives.

On execution of the convicts' capital punishment, the tribunal said, "They be hanged by the neck till they are dead."



Abdul Aziz

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Recover 13 canals from grabbers

Taskforce asks Dhaka Wasa

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The river saving taskforce of the government has asked Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) to free its 13 canals from illegal occupants.

The directive came at a taskforce meeting chaired by Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan at his office yesterday.

The decision comes as Dhaka dwellers still shudder at the memory of flooded streets in monsoon.

Experts blame filling-up of canals and other water bodies for the waterlogging. The Wasa is in charge of maintaining 26 canals flowing through the city.

The taskforce also directed the WASA

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Party at airport as flight delayed

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Passengers waiting for a flight in Canada made the best of a bad situation by turning their airport delay into a big party.

Two men armed with an accordion and a guitar led a round of songs and dancing at Toronto airport when the flight's passengers discovered their journey to St John's would be delayed by around 30 minutes.

The crowd sang "Grey Foggy Day", "Sweet Forget Me Not", and "Music and Friends" together with a boy as young as 10 joining in.

The party was caught in a series of videos uploaded by Michelle Sacrey Philpott, who told CTV News that the gathering was "just Newfoundlanders having fun, enjoying each other's company".

"Music. Culture. That's where our heritage is from," she added.

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Tonu's family wants justice

CID quizzed her family members

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The family of Sohagi Jahan Tonu has once again sought justice as they were quizzed at the CID headquarters in the capital yesterday.

The CID officials, who interrogated five members of the family, wanted to know whether they had any proof to substantiate their claim that a security personnel and his wife were involved in the sensational murder.

"We told them to take them [the security personnel and his wife] in custody and interrogate them," Tonu's brother Anwar Hossain Rubel told The Daily Star.

"We all asked for justice."

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Jaywalkers, mostly students, climb over a fence at Science Lab intersection on Mirpur Road yesterday instead of using the footbridge a few yards away. They risk accidents and force vehicles to slow down just to avoid climbing stairs.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Mnangagwa to be Zimbabwe president

The sacked VP returns home after military-political pressure ends Mugabe's four-decade-long rule

REUTERS, Harare

Zimbabwe's former vice president Emmerson Mnangagwa will be sworn in as president tomorrow, marking a new era for the country ruled by Robert Mugabe from independence nearly four decades ago until his swift downfall this week.

The ruling ZANU-PF party has nominated Mnangagwa to fill the vacancy left by Mugabe on Tuesday and he will be sworn in tomorrow, said Jacob Mudenda, the speaker of parliament.



Mugabe sacked Mnangagwa as vice president two weeks ago to smooth a path to the succession for his wife Grace, who is much younger than the 93-year-old leader. Mnangagwa fled for his own safety and the military seized control, shattering Mugabe's authority.

He returned to Zimbabwe on Wednesday, a ZANU-PF official said. Mnangagwa issued a statement from hiding on Tuesday calling on Zimbabweans to

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