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Mangoes worth the wait this year

Mango harvest to be delayed due to not-so-warm summer; fruits going to be bigger, tastier for early rainfall



ANWAR ALI and RABIUL HASAN

The ban on harvesting Gopalbhog mangoes, to ensure natural ripening, ended on May 20. Yet, most growers in Rajshahi division, that covers the four highest mango producing districts, are sitting idle. Their reason is that the harvest would be delayed due to the lack of heat required to ripen mangoes this summer.

Near the end of cultivation, the day's temperature is required to be above 35 degrees Celsius for the mangoes to

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A patient being carried to a health complex across the sandy shoal of Teesta basin in Kapasia. A large number of people in char areas remain without primary healthcare owing to lack of proper roads and shortage of physicians.

PHOTO: STAR

HC order on Khaleda's bail today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday fixed today for passing orders on three petitions filed by BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia seeking bail in connection with three cases.

The HC bench of Justice AKM Asaduzzaman and Justice JBM Hassan fixed the date after concluding hearing on the petitions.

Advocate Khandker Mahbub Hossain placed arguments before the HC on behalf of Khaleda Zia, while Attorney General Mahbubey Alam opposed the bail petitions.

Of the three cases, two were filed in Comilla. One was filed on charge of vandalising vehicles on January 25, 2015 and the other on charge of killing eight people and injuring 25-26 by setting fire on a passenger bus in Chaudagram on February 2 the same year.

The third case was filed by Raihan Faruki Imam with a Narail court on September 24, 2015 against Khaleda for making a statement about

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Ban on student, teacher politics to be placed at cabinet today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A proposal on two previous decisions on banning student and teacher politics at educational institutions is expected to be placed at the cabinet meeting today, said education ministry sources.

The decisions, made in a cabinet meeting during the Ershad regime, have not been implemented yet.

However, the issue came up once again in 2014 when many public universities, medical colleges, polytechnic institutes and government colleges saw incidents of violence and clashes.

Sources said the decisions to ban student and teacher politics on campus were taken at a cabinet meeting on December 8, 1986.

According to them, educational institutions would be freed of politics to ensure an atmosphere conducive to education.

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Bangladesh has to respond strongly

Says ex-NHRC chief as ICC seeks Dhaka's opinion on whether the int'l court has jurisdiction to act on Rohingyas facing 'crime against humanity' in Myanmar

PORIMOL PALMA

Bangladesh has a legal obligation to provide an affirmative opinion to the International Criminal Court (ICC) allowing The Hague-based tribunal to exercise jurisdiction over forced deportation of the Rohingyas -- a possible crime against humanity, says a legal expert.

"Genocide is the greatest form of international crime that the humanity knows, and it's not confined within Myanmar and Bangladesh in this particular case. This has an implication for the humanity at large," said Prof Mizanur Rahman in an interview with The Daily Star on May 21.

Bangladesh must give an emphatic and affirmative response to the ICC initiative whatever geopolitics is there, said Mizanur, a law professor at Dhaka University and former chairman of National Human Rights Commission.

He made the observations in relation to a letter from the ICC pre-trial chamber early this month, inviting Bangladesh to submit by June 11 its opinion on whether the court can exercise jurisdiction over the matter.

Some 700,000 Rohingyas fled military crackdown in Rakhine since August last year. Rights groups said thousands were killed, women raped

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Dhaka sits on its response to The Hague

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Although almost 20 days have passed, the government remains undecided on its reply to the Hague-based court on whether it could exercise jurisdiction to investigate the deportation of Rohingyas from Myanmar to Bangladesh.

The silence and indecision of the government have created confusion among experts and rights activists. They have also prompted eminent citizens of the country to urge the government to act.

The pre-trial Chamber sent a letter on May 7 and sought Bangladesh's submission of observations, either publicly or confidentially, by June 11.

Earlier on April 9, the prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, asked the International Criminal Court (ICC) to rule on whether it had jurisdiction over the deportation of Myanmar nationals, a possible crime against humanity.

Highly placed sources said Dhaka was in a dilemma. The policymakers of the government were apparently divided over the issue of whether to respond to and support the ICC pre-trial chamber's

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Largest freshwater pearl up for auction



CNN ONLINE

The world's largest known freshwater pearl is going on sale at a public auction in the Netherlands next week. Known as "The Sleeping Lion" due to its unique shape, the rare natural object weighs almost 120 grams (4 ounces) and is over 2.7 inches long.

Along with its size and animal-like appearance, the pearl is renowned for its approximately 300-year history, during which it changed hands between colonial merchants, noble jewelers and European royals, including Catherine the Great.

The Sleeping Lion will be sold at the Venduehuis auction house in The Hague on May 31, with top estimates valuing it at 540,000 euros (\$632,000).

The pearl is of Chinese origin and is believed to have formed between 1700 and 1760, during the Qing dynasty, according to Venduehuis. Following

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12	29	3:40	6:44

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JAMAAT 3-55 1-15 5-15 6-54 8-35

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Bank official murdered in Ctg home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The body of a bank official was found with his throat slit in his own home in Chittagong city's Doppul area under Bandar Police Station yesterday afternoon.

The deceased was identified as Sajal Nandi, 48, son of late Sadhon Nandi from Boalhhali upazila's Jasthapura union.

"He was the cash officer of Rupali Bank at Saltgola Branch and lived with his wife," said Assistant Commissioner (Port) Kamrul Hasan of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP).

His wife Ruma Dey is an employee of a Non-Government Organization (NGO) 'Proshika' in Chittagong, the AC said. Quoting his wife, the AC told The Daily Star, "Ruma left the house for work around 8:15am. At the time, Sajal was still at home."

"Criminals at some point in the morning entered the house after his wife left. They killed him," he said.

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PHOTO: RAJIB RAHMAN

With Eid just around the corner, vermicelli producers in Chittagong are passing busy days as demand for the thin noodles have risen. Although produced in unsanitary conditions, vermicelli continues to sell for Tk 1,300-1,400 per maund. The photo was taken from the port city's Lama Bazaar area yesterday.

N Korea summit hopes revived

S Korea leader says Kim committed to 'complete' denuclearisation; Trump says plans proceeding 'nicely'

REUTERS, Seoul/Washington

US officials crossed into North Korea yesterday to hold talks on preparations for a possible summit, a U.S. newspaper reported, as North Korean leader Kim Jong Un reaffirmed his commitment to meet with U.S. President Donald Trump.

Both Pyongyang and Washington are pressing ahead on plans for a meeting between the two leaders after Trump pulled out of the scheduled June 12 summit on Thursday, only to reconsider the decision the next day.

The Washington Post, citing a person familiar with the arrangements, said Sung Kim, a former US ambassador to South Korea and former nuclear negotiator with the North, was leading the preparations on the US side.

He crossed into North Korean territory with Allison Hooker, the Korea expert on the White House National Security Council. They met with Choe Son Hui, the North Korean vice foreign minister, the Post said. Pentagon official Randall Schriver is also in Seoul currently, the Post said.

The meetings are expected to continue on Monday and Tuesday and are focused on the issue of North Korea's nuclear weapons program, it said.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in said earlier that he and North Korea's Kim agreed at a surprise meeting on Saturday that the possible North Korea-US summit must be held, Moon told a news conference in Seoul.

Kim reaffirmed his commitment to "complete" denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula and to a planned meeting with Trump, Moon told a news conference in Seoul.

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