



Pirojpur traders source seasonal vegetables from different districts to meet the crisis of vegetable supply, triggering the price hike of the items in the local kitchen markets. The photo was taken from a kitchen market in the district town yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## IMPACT OF BULBUL Vegetable prices shoot up by 50pc in Pirojpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

The prices of seasonal vegetables have shot up almost 50 percent in the town's kitchen markets this year because of the cyclonic storm 'Bulbul' that damaged vegetable gardens on vast tracts of land in the coastal area on November 10.

Retail prices of the vegetables, including cabbage, cauliflower, bean and tomato, now range from Tk 50 to Tk 100 a kilogram, which was around Tk 50 a kg in the kitchen markets last year, said vegetable traders.

The storm damaged the vegetable gardens this time just before start of harvesting vegetables, which created a shortfall in vegetable supply in the local markets, said Jahangir Alam, a vegetable trader of the town.

They are now collecting vegetables from different districts to meet the crisis and due to this, the prices of the vegetables are increasing every day, said Jahangir.

The districts include Jashore, Kushtia, Khulna and Bagerhat.

During this season, the seasonal vegetables were around Tk 50 per kg last year, said buyer Kamrul Islam, adding, that the prices of the vegetables have shot up this time because of Bulbul.

It has now become impossible for general people to buy winter vegetables due to this abnormal price hike, said another buyer Afroza Khanam of the town.

Abu Hena Mohammad Jafar, deputy director of Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Pirojpur, said due to the cyclonic storm, this year's vegetables were badly damaged and this created a shortfall in its supply triggering a crisis in the kitchen markets.

Cyclone Bulbul has caused losses of Tk 116 crore at different sectors in seven upazilas of the district, according to statistics of the deputy commissioner's office.

About 558 hectares of agriculture land have been damaged in the district due to the storm.

## Hindu house 'vandalised' in Sonaimuri

The family alleges a UP member led the attack

A CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

House of a Hindu family was allegedly attacked and vandalised in Palpara village of Sonaimuri upazila on Monday night.

Members of the family alleged that Swapon -- a member of Ward 1 in Deoti Union Parishad and also general secretary of Awami League's unit in the ward -- led the attack.

Locals said Swapon along with his cohorts was gambling in the evening at a place near Palpara, a Hindu dominated area.

After Sarwar Hossain Ripon, a local resident, raised objection to their gambling, Swapon and his son Rumman locked in scuffle with Sarwar and beat him up.

Palpara resident Ripon Chandra Sutradhar, son of Jagadish Chandra Sutradhar, was having tea at a nearby tea

stall during the scuffle.

Later, around 9:00pm, Swapon along with his son Rumman led a gang of around 20 to 25 men who vandalised and ransacked two rooms in his house, Ripon said.

Ripon and his family members escaped the attack unscathed, but his mother Geeta Rani, 60, was physically assaulted by the attackers.

After rampaging through the house for nearly 30 minutes, the attackers left the house and threatened to drive them out of the village, he added.

Local Hindus said they were living in fear after the incident.

Swapon, however, refuted the allegation brought against him or his son.

Sonaimuri Police Station OC Abdus Samad said he did not receive any written complaint till 7:00pm.



PHOTO: MOSTAFASHABUJ

Bogura Forest Department in cooperation with International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) rescued this Himalayan griffon vulture, scientific name Gyps himalayensis, from Rameshwar Bazar area in Bogura's Gabtali upazila on Monday.

## A jewel named Manik

Disabled JSC examinee preparing himself to be a computer engineer

FIROZ A MUZAHID with ABDUL WAHED

Education is dropped down the list of priorities when survival tops the list for many children having disabilities from birth.

But Manik Rahman, born with multiple congenital disabilities, was fortunate enough to be born to educated parents who did not give up on him.

Born in Chandrakhana village of Kurigram's Phulbari upazila, Manik has no arms and a deformed shorter leg. He was also born with cleft lip and cleft palate, an opening or split in the roof of the mouth and the upper lip.

But none of these physical impediments could hold the 14-year-old back from pursuing education and appearing in this year's Junior School Certificate Examination (JSC).

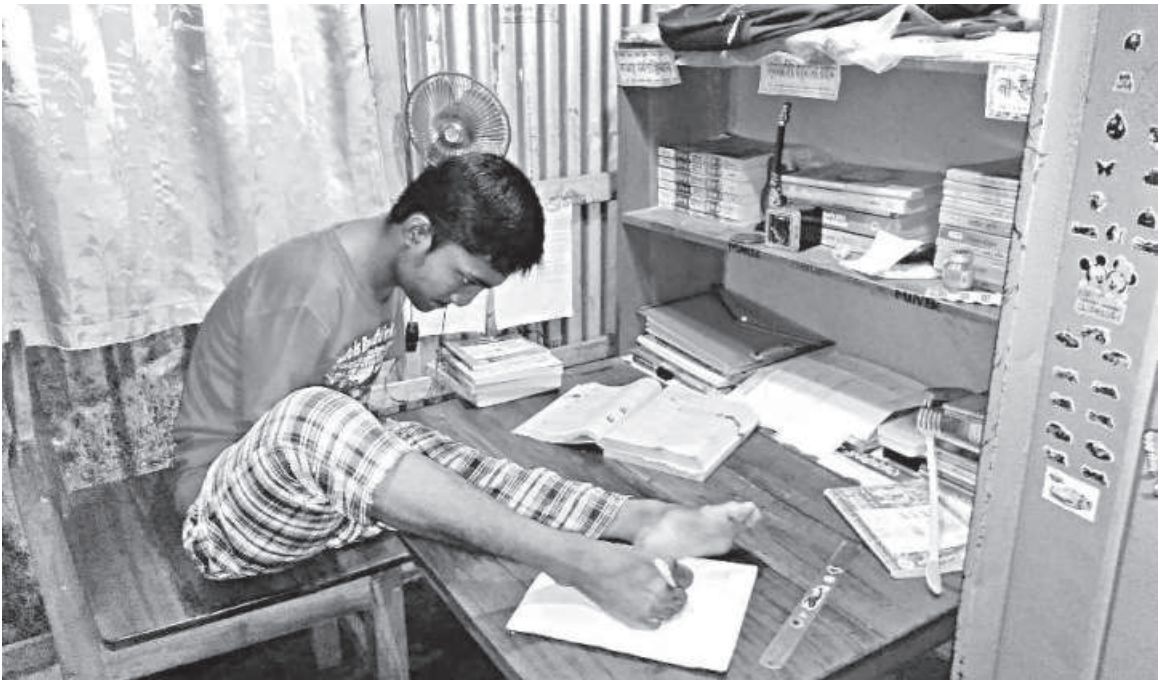
Manik has come this far because his parents, especially his college teacher mother Mariam Khatun, a master's degree holder, always believed in him and protected him in every step of the way.

From his early age, when Manik started to show interest in reading and writing, Mariam and her husband, Mizanur Rahman, a drugstore owner and also a master's degree holder, took on the challenge of doing everything possible for their son's education.

Mariam said it took years of patience to train her son in holding a pen with the toes in his right leg -- the only good limb of his body.

"It took a long time for Manik to be able to hold a pen with his toes. I spent hours training him every day. Slowly, he started to scribble something illegible. After a while, with consistent practice, he eventually learned how to write letters. Now he has come a long way from that stage and his writing is quite nice."

Manik's parents then got him



JSC examinee Manik Rahman during his studies at his home in Chandrakhana village of Phulbari upazila recently.

PHOTO: ABDULWAHED

admitted at a primary school run by an NGO. He later got admission at Phulbari Government Primary School, from where he took the Primary Education Completion (PEC) examination in 2016 and secured the national scholarship under "talent pool" grade.

This year, Manik attended the JSC exams from Fulbari Jachhi Mian Government High School in the upazila.

"My husband and I took turns in tutoring him until the seventh grade. For eighth grade, we got him a house tutor for two subjects. We both are still tutoring him for the other subjects," his mother said.

"Now we've been trying to train

him to be self-reliant. He now can eat using spoons and needs minimal assistance while taking a shower or using the restroom," she added.

Mizanur, the boy's father, said Manik's cleft lip and cleft palate were fixed through several medical surgeries at his early age and they have been doing everything in their capacity to make things easier for Manik, the older of their two sons.

Their younger son, Mahmudur Rahman Muhim, is nine years old and he is in third grade in school.

Mizanur said Manik keeps himself engaged in studies for around eight hours daily and to ensure his comfort, he has recently made for him a customised wooden desk on which

he can easily write and study while sitting in his chair.

Since Manik has set the target to be a computer engineer, his parents got him a desktop and a notebook computer as well. Manik now uses the computers to write, draw or edit videos.

"I was born without arms, but only by writing with my toes, I reached eighth grade in school. I want to be a computer engineer and I am preparing myself for it," said Manik with sparkle in his eyes.

"For the ones who have disabilities like me, I would say that give it your best shot just like I do and you will also succeed in reaching your goals. There's nothing in the world man can't do."

## FF buried without full state honour

Negligence of police blamed for the incident in Narsingdi's Monohardi, 2 cops withdrawn

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Md Abul Hashem, 75, a valiant freedom fighter who died on the first day of December, the month of victory, was buried without full-fledged state honour allegedly due to negligence of police in Monohardi upazila of Narsingdi.

Following reaction among the locals, also in the social media, the district police administration withdrew two police officials and expressed sorrow to the bereaved family and to the countrymen.

"The withdrawn police officials are Masud Rana, sub-inspector, and Bazlur Rahman, assistant sub-inspector, of Monohardi Police Station. Departmental investigation will be conducted regarding the matter," said Zakir Hasan, additional superintendent of police in Narsingdi.

Family members and local freedom fighters said Motiur Rahman, former commander of upazila Muktiyoddha Sangsad, informed Monohardi Police Station immediately after Abul Hashem's death at 4:00pm on Sunday at his village home of Char Mandalia.

His janaza was scheduled to be held at

10:00am on Monday but it was shifted to 11:00am following suggestion from the police.

"Thousands of people assembled at the place for the namaz-e-janaza, where two officials on behalf of the UNO were also present. After waiting for police till 11:30am, we arranged the funeral prayer there. But proper state honour could not be given to my freedom fighter father as police did not arrive in time with necessary equipment," said Babul Mia, son of Abul Hashem.

As the matter went viral, the UNO and the officer-in-charge of Monohardi Police Station reached the late freedom fighter's house on that noon and expressed their sorrow.

Narsingdi Deputy Commissioner Syeda Farhana Kawnine told The Daily Star, "Our men went there with the national flag and bouquet of flower but police couldn't reach there timely with bugle and other equipment. And so, full state honour could not be provided to the heroic freedom fighter."

Md Shahidullah, Char Mandalia union unit commander of Muktiyoddha Sangsad, said it is a sorrowful matter that a glorious son of the soil did not get state honour due to negligence of police.



Many people, including solvent ones, stand in a long queue on the premises of Dinajpur Institute yesterday as Trading Corporation of Bangladesh starts selling onion at Tk 45 a kg when the market price of the common cooking ingredient remains over Tk 200 a kg. A good number of them had to leave frustrated after waiting for hours as one tonne of onion brought in a truck for sale was too inadequate to meet the demand.

PHOTO: KONGKONKARMAKER