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MANGO IN RAJSHAHI BELT

Despite good yield, growers not all smiles



ANWAR ALI

A drought without incessant rains or severe storms have blessed four mango-producing districts in Rajshahi division with good yields but the region's farmers are yet to see good fortune.

Mango trees on 83,673 hectares of land in Natore, Naogaon, Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj are expected to yield 8.52 lakh tonnes of mangoes this year.

Last year, the region's mango production was 7.76 lakh tonnes after fruit loss during storms, Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) officials said.

If no major calamity occurs till mid-July, the region's mango production is likely to increase by nearly one lakh tonnes this year, said Sirajul Islam, additional director of

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Rickshaws and other vehicles negotiate an inundated street in the capital's Bangabazar area yesterday afternoon. Locals said the road got flooded after rain for half an hour or so as plastic bottles and other garbage clogged the drains there.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

LIVEABILITY INDEX

Dhaka fourth least livable city in world

HELEMUL ALAM

Dhaka has been ranked the fourth least liveable city in the world by the Economist Intelligence Unit's annual global survey.

The EIU's Global Liveability Index ranks 140 cities based on more than 30 qualitative and quantitative factors across five broad categories: stability, health care, culture and environment, education and infrastructure.

Bangladesh's capital had ranked the third least liveable city in the EIU's Global Liveability Index 2019 and the second worst in the 2018 index.

This year, Dhaka has been ranked 137th among 140 cities with 33.5 points. It scored 55 in stability, 16.7 in healthcare, 30.8 in culture and environment, 33.3 in education and 26.8 in infrastructure.

Auckland, New Zealand's most populous city, has been ranked as

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PANDEMIC, ROHINGYA CRISIS

Dhaka, Tokyo agree to work together

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and Japan have agreed to work together to tackle the Rohingya crisis and the challenges posed by the pandemic.

The consensus was reached when Japanese Ambassador Ito Naoki called on State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam MP at his office on Tuesday.

They also discussed bilateral relations and issues of common concerns, said a foreign ministry statement.

Both sides recalled Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's groundbreaking visit to Japan in 1973 which laid the rock-solid foundation of the bilateral relations.

The state minister conveyed his deep appreciation for Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga's recent participation at the event celebrating Bangabandhu's birth centenary and the golden jubilee of the Independence of Bangladesh.

The two sides agreed to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of their diplomatic ties in 2022 in a befitting manner.

Shahriar Alam thanked Japan for the

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ROAD TO FREEDOM

THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Tikka Khan offers general amnesty

JUNE 10, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZZA SAJEN

PAKISTAN DECLARES AMNESTY

The Pakistani Government offered today a general amnesty extending to military deserters and politicians and asked refugees to return home.

The offer, issued in Dhaka by Lieutenant General Tikka Khan, military governor of East Pakistan, omitted an earlier government statement that returning refugees would be carefully screened for "anti-state elements."

"It is an amnesty," Radio Pakistan said, "to all classes of people, such as students, labourers, businessmen, industrialists, civil servants, the armed forces and other law enforcement agencies, political workers and leaders, who are welcome to come back."

It said reception centers had been set up along major routes in East Pakistan near the Indian border to receive returning refugees and provide food, accommodation, medical assistance and transportation to their homes.

"When they come," the government announcement said, "they will realise the falsehood of the propaganda of enemies of the state."

It said business, agriculture, industry, schools and communications in East Pakistan were back to normal and that adequate food stocks were on hand.

REFUGEE FLOW CONTINUES

Bangladeshi refugees continued moving into the troubled Indian town of Barasat as five foreign planeloads of medical supplies

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'Traveling to Bangladesh very risky'

CDC of US keeps it at Covid Level 4

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh remains among the countries ranked highest for Covid-19 risk by US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as the US national public health agency lowered restriction levels of 110 other countries and territories.

Bangladesh is currently on a "Level 4: Covid-19 Very High" rating which discourages all travel to, and recommends travel only for fully vaccinated individuals, according to the CDC website.

The CDC's new ratings, first reported by Reuters and posted on the CDC website on Monday, include 61 nations that were lowered from its highest "Level 4" rating, the agency confirmed to Reuters on Tuesday.

An additional 50

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Last US gold coin sells for \$18.87m



AFP, New York

A 1933 US gold coin that was never issued after Franklin D Roosevelt removed America from the gold standard sold for a record \$18.87 million at a Sotheby's auction in New York Tuesday.

The auction house described the 1933 Double Eagle, the last US gold coin made and intended for circulation, as "one of the most coveted coins in the world" and it didn't disappoint.

The \$20 coin, designed by the American sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens, sailed past its pre-sale estimate price of between \$10 million and \$15 million.

It also smashed the record for the most expensive coin in the world, set by a 1794 Flowing Hair silver

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Mob beats two robber suspects dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Two suspected robbers were beaten to death by a mob in Narsingdi's Belabo upazila around 8:00pm on Tuesday.

The dead are Jewel Mia, 30, and Nadim Mia, 30, of Raipura upazila in the district.

Though locals claimed that they were robbers, family members of Jewel said he was called out from his house and killed.

Shafayat Hossain, officer-in-charge of Belabo Police Station, said a road stretching from Dorikandi bus stand to Borochor on Dhaka-Sylhet highway is infamous for frequent robberies.

Around 8:00pm, locals claimed to have spotted an auto-rickshaw, carrying three to four men with sharp weapons. As they shouted "robbers", a mob gathered from nearby areas immediately, the OC said

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Macron vows to defy security fears after slap

AFP, Paris

French President Emmanuel Macron will continue to greet crowds during his travels despite a security scare that saw him slapped by a man in the south of France, a government spokesman said yesterday.

Macron shrugged off his assault on Tuesday in the village of Tain l'Hermitage, calling it an "isolated event" and "stupidity", and he went to chat with and fistbump onlookers later in the day in the nearby town of Valence.

"Obviously his trips are going to continue: the president will remain in contact with the French

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PRAYER TIMING JUNE 10

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-05 12-45 5-00 6-50 8-15
JAMAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-55 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A group of migrant workers wishing to go to Saudi Arabia queues inside the office of Saudia airlines at Sonargaon Hotel in the capital's Karwan Bazar yesterday to get their flights rebooked. They had missed their flights as they could not book hotel for their on-arrival institutional quarantine in Saudi Arabia.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

TRAVEL WARNINGS

US eases them for some countries

France, Belgium ease curbs; Russia reopens Covid hospitals after surge in cases

AGENCIES

The United States eased travel warnings for dozens of countries as vaccinations boost hopes of a return to normal life, while France and Belgium further relaxed their Covid-19 restrictions yesterday, allowing restaurants and cafes to serve indoors.

With more than 3.7 million lives lost globally, many nations are still struggling to contain their coronavirus outbreaks. But the rapid vaccine rollout in wealthier parts of the world, including Europe, is allowing the return of some activities considered unthinkable just a few months ago.

French restaurants, cafes and bars resumed serving customers indoors yesterday, following a seven-month shutdown.

"It's a pleasure to have a coffee inside. Normal life is gradually resuming," said transport employee Hammou Mraoui, enjoying a coffee in a bar in the Meudon suburb of Paris.

With the easing of the curfew in France, venues are not only open, they're staying open later too.

The new measures also saw gyms open their doors to the relief of eager fitness buffs like Stephanie Moscoso.

"I put on the alarm clock this morning, it was super early, I saw the sun, I said to myself: this is the beginning of a new life!" said the 35-year-old, who hit her local gym in Paris at 8:00 am.

If all goes to plan, French authorities will drop the

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