



A tree nursery in Paschim Kuniari village in Pirojpur's Nesarabad upazila.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Nesarabad tree nurseries face difficult time

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

When most sectors have started to recover gradually from losses due to months of Covid-19 restrictions, the tree nurseries are witnessing a sharp fall in sales this year in Nesarabad, an upazila known for producing a high volume of tree saplings.

The bulk of fruit, flower and timber saplings -- produced at nearly two thousand nurseries located in Swarupkathi and Atghar Kuriyana unions of the upazila -- are purchased by wholesalers from different areas and shipped out all over the country.

Sapling sales were low but steady during the months when curbs were imposed to contain the outbreak last year. But despite the lifting of the restrictions months ago, the sales have hit rock bottom this year, said nursery owners in the upazila.

The plummeting sales might be a sign that

many of their end customers might have lost the financial capacity due to the negative impact of the coronavirus situation, speculated Younus Ali, a tree nursery owner in Paschim Kuniari village in the upazila.

He did not worry much last year as the sapling sales remained within the range of his expectation, but he could not even sell more than half of the saplings produced in his nursery this year, he added.

Mohammad Younus, owner of another nursery in the same village, said he did not see such situation in his 20 years in the profession. "Usually, almost all fruit tree saplings are sold out every year, but I haven't been able to sell one-third of my saplings this year."

A huge stock of mango, litchi, malta, pomegranate and other fruit tree saplings still remain unsold at his nursery on 2.5 bighas of land, he added.

In order to make room for producing new saplings, the unsold saplings, which grew larger in size, will need to be relocated to larger areas, said many nursery owners.

But the process will only add to their cost, said Mohammad Rubel, a nursery owner in Paschim Kuniari village.

Downplaying the gravity of the situation, Nesarabad Upazila Agriculture Officer Chapal Krishna Nath said the sales at tree nurseries -- on which over 20,000 people depend for their livelihoods in the upazila -- have no reason to fall since there was no bar on transport of agricultural goods during the months of Covid-19 restrictions.

However, he said that restriction on organising agricultural fairs during the period might have had some impact on the sale of saplings produced at the nurseries in Nesarabad.

'Setubandhan' building bridge between birds and humans

A youth organisation in Nilphamari plays crucial role to increase bird populations

EAM ASADUZZAMAN

Six years ago, a group of schoolboys of Khalisha Belpukur village of Saidpur upazila, took an auspicious initiative to conserve birds setting artificial nests where their feathered friends could lay eggs and incubate them comfortably.

Now anyone paying a visit to the village or the adjacent villages will be amazed to see the abundance of birds in the area. The nests made of earthen pitchers have provided safe havens for the birds and have proven to be a catalyst for increasing bird populations in the area.

The initiators said that they came up with the idea seeing that there was a dearth of large trees in the area and some birds do not prefer the trees of foreign origin.

In course of time, their initiative has turned into a movement with the participation of people from all walks of life.

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change rewarded the boys for their contribution to conserving birds a couple of years ago.

Alamgir Hossain, leader of the boys, said, "Six years ago while visiting our orchard in the village, I noticed that birds looking for suitable trees for making nests but failing to find those."

People randomly fell large trees to make a quick profit or plant trees of foreign origin, which birds do not prefer making nests, he added.

Being concerned, Alamgir discussed the matter with his friends to do something for

the birds. Later, they formed an organisation titled 'Setubandhan', symbolizing the linkage between humans and birds.

Raising funds on their own, they purchased earthen pitchers and ropes setting them in tilted position on branches of trees in the area. They stuffed dry leaves and straw inside the pitchers on the host trees.

Birds, particularly of local species, namely wagtails, doves, owls, mynas, shrikes made the pitchers their homes laying eggs and raising hatchlings.

"We also hold awareness-raising programmes in schools and house yards, hang signboards and posters in crowded places spreading the message to conserve birds for saving the environment," he added.

Ahsan Habib, (23), a member of Setubandhan, said, they have expanded the area of their movement to the adjacent villages and also rescue sick and wounded birds which become victims of natural calamity or unwanted incidents.

Chairman of Saidpur Upazila Parishad Moksedul Momin said that they extend support to Setubandhan whenever it requires and have requested the livestock department to treat sick or wounded birds.

Bird watcher Shahin Zajangir Alam expressed satisfaction seeing the affinity of the birds with the people of the area.

The birds can be seen loitering closer to humans fearlessly.

Deputy Commissioner of Nilphamari Hafizur Rahman Chowdhury said, "We've taken steps to set up a wildlife rescue and treatment centre in Saidpur soon."



A wagtail is seen peeping through a nest made of earthen pitcher at Khalisha Belpukur village in Nilphamari's Saidpur upazila. Hundreds of such nests are installed in a bid to increase bird populations.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Record number

FROM PAGE 12

production will increase further," said Barisal Fisheries Officer (hilsa) Bimal Chandra Das.

Alauddin Mia, a fisherman in Bhola Sadar, said they have been netting hilsa for some time now. Around 300 maund were caught three days ago, which is comparatively more than the desired amount.

Hilsa trader Zaheer Sikder said some of the hilsas being sold at the markets are carrying eggs. He said big-sized hilsas are being sold at Tk 1,000 per kg, and 600 to 900 grammes at Tk 900.

"During the 22-day fishing ban, 680 people had been jailed through 899 mobile courts," said Anisur Rahman Talukder, deputy director of the Divisional Fisheries Office.

"At the time, a total of Tk 2,336,300 fine was imposed while 9 lakh metric tonnes of fish and 60 lakh metres of nets were seized," he said.

One die in a day

FROM PAGE 12

The number of confirmed cases and deaths started declining in early August.

In the 24 hours preceding 8:00am yesterday, the DGHS reported 154 Covid cases after 13,072 tests were carried out across the country.

This took the total number of confirmed cases to 15,70,835. The positivity rate was 1.18 percent.

A total of 157 Covid patients recovered in the 24-hour period, raising the recovery to 97.70 percent.

The only deceased, a male Covid patient aged between 71 and 80, was undergoing treatment in a Dhaka hospital.

England, Aus thru

FROM PAGE 12

Reeza Hendricks for two. Quinton de Kock and Van der Dussen rebuilt the innings with their second-wicket stand of 71.

Adil Rashid broke the stand as he sent back De Kock out for 34 but Van der Dussen combined with Markram to take the assault to the bowlers.

In reply, England started well but Jason Roy suffered a calf injury and had to be helped off the field.

Anrich Nortje then sent back Jos Buttler, for 26 before Tabraiz Shamsi trapped Jonny Bairstow lbw for one.

Moeen and Dawid Malan hit back in a partnership of 51 but Shamsi once again put the brakes.

Moeen hit Shamsi for a towering six but got out next ball attempting another big one which instead went straight into the hands of David Miller.

Malan kept up the attack with Liam Livingstone, who hit Rabada for three straight sixes, to keep the chase on track despite losing his partner in the next over.

But Livingstone fell for 28 and South African bowlers took charge. Rabada sent back Chris Woakes, skipper Eoin Morgan and Chris Jordan for the tournament's third hat-trick.

45 nations set to pledge to protect

FROM PAGE 12

The statement did not give the total amount of funding, but said the measures would include "leveraging over \$4 billion of new public sector investment into agricultural innovation, including the development of climate-resilient crops and regenerative solutions to improve soil health".

Some environmental activists say Britain has shifted the way host countries of climate summits or COPs run the global gatherings.

Jennifer Morgan, executive director of Greenpeace, said the UK media announcements often turned out to be exaggerations.

"We actually want to find things to celebrate here, but it's hard when there is a constant

concern that everyone is getting played," she said in a statement.

The sentiment was shared by tens of thousands of young people around the world. Dozens of events took place yesterday worldwide to demand cuts in fossil fuel use and immediate help for communities already affected by climate change, particularly in poorer countries.

COP26 negotiations will pause today ahead of what is shaping up to be a frantic week of shuttle diplomacy, as ministers arrive to push through hard-fought compromises.

Countries still need to flesh out how pledges made in the Paris deal work in practice, including rules governing carbon markets, common reporting timeframes and transparency.

US will cancel licenses

FROM PAGE 12

Yesterday, another politician was killed in downtown Dhaka, again allegedly by guerrillas, and several others were killed in country areas.

ON THE WAR FRONT

In the Dhaka-Cumilla-Chattogram sector, Mukti Bahini engaged Pakistani troops in Saldanadi of Cumilla district killing 2 and injuring 4 enemy soldiers. On the same day, in another engagement with the Pakistani troops in Kaimpur area, 3 enemy soldiers were killed.

Another group of Mukti Bahini made a repulsive attack on the occupation troops in Mandabhab area of Cumilla district inflicting 15 casualties. During this action three freedom fighters were

also injured. Mukti Bahini ambushed Pakistani troops in Radanagar killing 2 and injuring 3 enemy soldiers. In another ambush in Latimia area 2 enemy soldiers were killed and 2 were injured.

In the Jashore-Kushtia-Khulna sector, 3 Razakars were captured today with 4 rifles in Shahapur area. Mukti Bahini ambushed Pakistani army patrol in Ramkrishna killing 5 and injuring 3 enemy soldiers.

In an ambush in Gosainghat of Dinajpur district Mukti Bahini killed one enemy soldier and injured three.

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Raushan's condition improves

FROM PAGE 12

and also a lawmaker from Mymensingh-4 (Mymensingh Sadar), was flown to Bangkok by air ambulance on Friday night.

Her health deteriorated last week. She was unconscious for most of the time at the ICU of the capital's Combined Military Hospital (CMH).

Since Aug 15, Raushan had been undergoing treatment at the ICU of Dhaka CMH due to

respiratory problems and increased levels of carbon dioxide in her lungs.

Wife of late president HM Ershad, Raushan has been suffering from respiratory problems for several months, JP Chairman GM Quader told The Daily Star.

Quader, who visited Raushan at the Dhaka CMH, said infections spread to different parts of her body, including brain and lungs.

Girl jumps off bus to escape rape

FROM PAGE 12

car and rescued the girl from the side of the road.

Then, he took the girl to nearby Colora Highway Police Station where the girl later talked to media.

Contacted, the highway police station's officer-in-charge (OC) Monirul Islam said, "Hearing the incident, we arrested the bus driver and seized the bus. We suggested the girl to file case in this connection with Satoria Police Station."

Ashrafal Alam, OC of Satoria Police Station, said a case has been filed in this connection and legal action would be taken against the accused driver.

The girl suffered minor injuries and took treatment to nearby clinics, said witnesses.

After travelling few miles, all the passengers except the girl got down from the bus.

"Few moments later, I could sense something wrong. I also tried to get down from the bus. The bus driver did not stop. Rather, he (driver) stood up from the steering seat and asked the helper to drive the bus," said the girl.

"Then, the driver tried to rape me. At one stage, I jumped off the moving bus Colora area on Dhaka-Aricha highway," said the victim while talking to newsmen.

A private car was plying behind the bus. Seeing the incident, the private car driver stopped the

Slave room found at Pompeii

FROM PAGE 12

of people who rarely appear in historical sources, written almost exclusively by men belonging to the elite," said Pompeii's director general Gabriel Zuchtriegel.

The "unique testimony" into how "the weakest in the ancient society lived..."

is certainly one of the most exciting discoveries in my life as an archaeologist," he said in a press release.

Pompeii was buried in ash when Mount Vesuvius erupted in 79 AD, killing those who hadn't managed to leave the city in time.

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Memo No. CEDP/PGC/2021-21/087 Date: 03/11/2021

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e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following package:

Sl No.	Tender ID No.	Name of supply	Last date and time of tender security submission	Tender closing date & time
1.	625422	Procurement and Installation of AC and Electrical Accessories	23-11-2021 01:00pm	23-11-2021 02:00pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/herd copy will be accepted.
To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.
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Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and form e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).


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