

Chui jhal, must-have for a southerner’s Eid

PARTHA CHAKRABORTY, *Bagerhat*

It’s a long, held heritage of the southerners to use “chui jhal” (piper chaba) along with other spices to cook meat. This spice is extremely popular in the region throughout the year. However, the demand multiplies before Eid-ul-Azha.

In Bagerhat, seasonal traders have set up mobile shops selling the item in different places. Crowds at these shops are a common scene. At regular times, it is sold at Tk 600 to 1,000 per kilo. But at present, it’s being sold at Tk 800 to 2,000 depending on the size.

According to Bagerhat Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), the spice is cultivated in the south-western districts of Bagerhat, Khulna, Narail, Jashore and Satkhira.

At present, its popularity as a spice is also increasing in other districts. Chui is a creeper plant; its stems are grey, and the leaves are like betel leaves. The roots and stems of chui jhal are all medicinal.

The spice goes wonderfully with duck, beef and goat. Gauranga Das, a vendor in Bagerhat’s Kachua upazila, said the item sells well all year round. However, during Eid-ul-Azha, sales shoot up. As a result, wholesalers raise prices, and retailers also have to sell at higher prices.

Depending on the size of the stem, it’s sold at Tk 800 to 2,000 per kilo, he added.

Saddam Sheikh, who came to buy the spice, said, “Even if the price goes up a little, chui jhal is a must have for our household to cook meat.”

Ilias Kabir, a buyer, said, “The chui jhal price may go up further before Eid. So I’ve come to buy it in advance to avoid crowds.”

Azizur Rahman, Bagerhat deputy director of DAE, said about 30 tonnes of the spice is produced by cultivating on 15 hectares of land in the district. Its market value is more than Tk 1.5 crores.



For southerners, Eid-ul-Azha is almost unimaginable without chui jhal -- a type of plant stem that’s used as a spice, especially for cooking meat. Due to increased demand in Khulna, spice traders have set up mobile shops like these, where each kilo is being sold for Tk 300 to 1,800. This photo was taken from Khulna city’s Boro Bazar yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

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MINIMISING WATERLOGGING CDA-CCC joint probe body submits report with recommendations

ARUN BIKASH DEY, *Ctg*

A joint probe committee of Chattogram Development Authority (CDA) and Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) has submitted a report to the mayor with six short- and 11 long-term recommendations to resolve the city’s waterlogging problem.

The committee was formed following a meeting of CDA and CCC on June 22, chaired by Chattogram City Corporation Mayor Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, after most of the port city’s low-lying areas recently remained underwater for several days.

CDA Chief Engineer Hasab Bin Shams was made its convener, and CCC Chief Engineer Rafiqul Islam member secretary.

The short-term recommendations include refraining from throwing waste into canals and drains, legal actions against grabbers, cleaning water bodies regularly, and removal of pipelines set up by different organisations that obstruct water flow.

The long-term suggestions include land acquisition for the project of digging new canal from Bahaddarhat Baroipara to Karnaphuli River, taking steps so that household and kitchen-market waste cannot be thrown into canals and drains, ensuring silt trap and trash trap, formation of drainage and waste management cycle, building new water reservoirs, entrusting the charge for the management of 40 tidal regulators to a specific organisation, and removal of earth from the box culvert on Sheikh Mujib Road.

Both the sources at CDA and CCC confirmed that the recommendation report was submitted on Thursday.

To know about the next course of action following the submission, this correspondent phoned the mayor, but he did not respond to the calls. The CDA chief engineer did the same.

The committee convener Rafiqul Islam declined to give further details.

Similar refusal came from Mobarak Ali, a member of the committee and a ward councillor of Chattogram City Corporation.

He said the mayor himself will talk about it to journalists if necessary.

In a dire state for 50 years

Khulna’s lone infectious disease hospital grappled with poor infrastructure, lack of manpower



PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

DIPANKAR ROY, *Khulna*

Khulna Infectious Disease Hospital has been facing multiple problems for over the last fifty years. This, in turn, has made it almost impossible to offer quality treatment to patients.

The 20-bed hospital, established near Khulna-Jashore highway at Mirerdanga area in 1968, provides treatment to those infected with tetanus, diphtheria, chickenpox, rabies, mums, diarrhoea, pneumatic tetanus, varicella, measles and hydrophobia.

This is the only infectious disease hospital in the south-western region, where patients have been coming from 21 districts for treating such diseases for over 50 years.

In the six-ward hospital, there are no separate

wards for male and female patients. Although almost half the patients are children, no paediatrician has been appointed in a long time.

During a recent visit to the hospital at Phulbari gate, this correspondent found the hospital building in a dilapidated and risky state, due to lack of renovation.

Three buildings for staffers have already been abandoned, with the northern side entirely unprotected.

According to the civil surgeon office, the hospital, built on four acres of land, started its journey with 20 beds. Although 54 years have passed, the number of beds has not increased, neither has the number of staff. However, the number of patients is increasing day by day.

In 2018, 5,498 patients were admitted to the

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5 killed in road crashes across country

STAR REPORT

Five people were killed in separate road crashes across the country in the last two days.

In Joypurhat Sadar upazila, a man was killed and another was injured in an accident yesterday.

The deceased is Dowlat Ali (58) of the upazila, and the injured is Razu Mia.

Quoting witnesses, police said Razu Mia was heading to Naogaon’s Damoirhat upazila on his motorcycle.

As he reached Jitarpur, he hit Dowlat while crossing the road. He died on the spot.

Locals rescued Razu and rushed him to Joypurhat Modern Hospital.

In Thakurgaon Sadar, two people were killed and four injured in a head-on collision between a truck and three-wheeler on Thakurgaon-Panchagarh highway at Bhulli village on Thursday.

The deceased are Khalilur Rahman (60), driver of the three-wheeler, and Parvez (35) of Kumarpur village.

Md Keramat Ali, OC of Moidandighi Highway Police Station, said the accident occurred around 11:30pm.

Injured Akhter Hossain (35), Supiar Rahman (40), Azijul Islam (45) and his wife Hasina Begum (40) from Panchagarh’s Boda upazila took treatment at Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital.

A case was filed with Thakurgaon Police Station in this regard, the OC said.

In Faridpur, two people were killed when an auto-rickshaw overturned and caught fire after being hit by a speeding truck on Dhaka-Khulna highway on Thursday night, said police.

The accident occurred around 9:30pm in Arkandi area in Madhukhali upazila, said Kankan Biswash, officer-in-charge of Kanaipur Highway Police Station.

One passenger died on the spot and another was declared dead by doctors at the upazila health complex, he said.

The identities of the deceased could not be known, reports UNB.

“The truck has been seized and legal action will be taken in this regard,” said the OC.

Japan ex-PM Abe assassinated

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The suspected killer admitted targeting the politician and said he held a grudge against an organisation he believed Abe was connected to, police said.

Police declined to give details of the “particular organisation” mentioned by the suspect, saying investigations were ongoing, but several Japanese media outlets described it as a religious group.

“I am stunned, outraged, and deeply saddened by the news that my friend Abe Shinzo, former Prime Minister of Japan, was shot and killed while campaigning,” US President Joe Biden said in a statement.

“This is a tragedy for Japan and for all who knew him... He was a champion of the alliance between our nations and the friendship between our people.”

Similar messages of

sympathy and shock poured in from around the world following news of Abe’s death.

Russian President Vladimir Putin called the death an “irreplaceable loss”. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson hailed the leadership role taken by the former premier, saying the UK stands with Japan “at this dark and sad time”.

India announced one day of state mourning, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailing Abe as a global statesman.

Abe had been making a campaign speech outside a train station when two shots rang out.

Security officials were then seen tackling a man in a grey T-shirt and beige trousers.

Kyodo news service published a photograph of Abe lying face-up on the street by a guardrail, blood on his white shirt. People were crowded around him, one administering heart

massage.

Abe was showing no vital signs when he was taken to a hospital. He was declared dead at 5:03 pm (0803 GMT), having bled to death from deep wounds to the heart and the right side of his neck.

He had received more than 100 units of blood in transfusions over four hours, Hidetada Fukushima, the professor in charge of emergency medicine at Nara Medical University Hospital, told a televised news conference.

Members of the public laid flowers near the spot where Abe fell. TV Asahi reported that Abe’s body would be transferred to his Tokyo home today.

It was the first killing of a sitting or former Japanese leader since a 1936 coup attempt, when several figures including two ex-premiers were assassinated.

Post-war Japan prides itself on its orderly and open democracy. Senior

Japanese politicians are accompanied by armed security agents but often get close to the public, especially during political campaigns when they make roadside speeches and shake hands with passers-by.

The killing might change the practices, analysts said. Abe served two terms as prime minister, stepping down in 2020 citing ill health.

The hawkish conservative had pushed for the revision of Japan’s pacifist constitution to recognise the country’s military, and stayed a prominent political figure even after his resignation.

Kishida, who won the premiership with Abe’s backing, said the LDP would continue election campaigning today to demonstrate its resolve to “never give in to violence”, and to defend a “free and fair election at all cost”.

West seeks to unblock

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The situation was similar in settlements in Donetsk. Vadym Lyakh, the mayor of Sloviansk in Donetsk, said a woman was killed overnight when Russian shelling hit a residential building.

Britain’s defence ministry said Russian forces were likely to be pausing to replenish before undertaking new offensive operations in Donetsk. The ministry said Russia’s immediate tactical objective might be Siversk, a small industrial city in the north of Donetsk.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, in his video message, said the raising of the Ukrainian flag on Snake Island in the Black Sea on Thursday was a sign his country would not be broken.

“Let every Russian captain, aboard a ship or a plane, see the Ukrainian flag on Snake Island and let him know that our country will not be broken,” Zelensky said.

Television’s beloved ‘Maa’

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cancer, barely took any break from the craft she loved so much – acting. Her love for acting began at the age of four, in her first play on stage. Born as Majeda Mollick in May 1947, she started her career in radio in 1962, in film in 1964 and in television in 1968. She went on to make history as a part of “Dompoti”, the first drama serial of Bangladeshi Television.

Throughout her illustrious career, Sharmili went on to star in about 400 films and 150 tele-fictions – with the latter parts portraying the role of a mother on screen. And what a mother she was – her warmth, grace and simplicity won over the hearts of everyone who is least aware of films and television programmes in the country.

Among hundreds of her meticulous TV and film roles, she played notable ones in “Malancha”, Agun”, “Abirvaab”,

“Poush Pala”, Phaguner “Meherjaan”, “Abar Hava Bodol”, “Brishtir Pore”, “Amader Ananda Bari”, “Anchol (2006)”, “Aguntuk”, “Poshak”, “Chheleti”, “Uposhonghar”, “Chena Manusher Panchalee”, and “Dhupchhaya”.

Unfortunately, the veteran actress never won a National Film Award for her efforts. “It does not bother me at all,” she had told The Daily Star. “The affection and respect that people show me, wherever I go, are my awards.”

Many noted actors wrote on social media to pay tributes to the great actress. “The entire acting fraternity lost its Amma,” wrote eminent actress Suborna Mustafa on Facebook. “Her earnest smile and grace were motherly – Sharmili Aunty was truly the ‘mother’ of the screens,” wrote Dhallywood ‘king’ Shakib Khan. Sharmili’s namaz-

e-janaza was held after Juma prayers yesterday at the Uttara Sector-II mosque. Later, she was laid to eternal rest at Banani Graveyard.

Nasa

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engineering test photo on Wednesday – the result of 72 exposures over 32 hours that shows a set of distant stars and galaxies.

The image has some “rough-around-the-edges” qualities, Nasa said in a statement, but is still “among the deepest images of the universe ever taken” and offers a “tantalizing glimpse” at what will be revealed in the coming weeks, months, and years.

“When this image was taken, I was thrilled to clearly see all the detailed structure in these faint galaxies,” said Neil Rowlands, program scientist for Webb’s Fine Guidance Sensor at Honeywell Aerospace.