



PHOTO: STAR

SAVOURY SUMMER DELIGHTS

Green mango season is here

RBR

Mango is known as the king of fruits and justifiably so!

While the season for ripe mangoes is just around the corner, the crown prince – green mango – has already arrived in all its glory and taken the spotlight at Dhaka's bazaars.

In this sweltering heat, everyone desires a tangy and sour drink to keep cool and there is nothing quite like a tall glass of chilled, green mango mocktail.

Our love for Kalboishakhi is always peppered with picking unripe mangoes from the lawns or fields and eating them with just a little salt. The heat wave puts such a damper on our appetite that we seek a spicy, sharp taste to stimulate the palate. And green mangoes provide the right kind of tanginess one needs to ward off extreme heat.

Looking back, I fondly recall open terraces heady with the smell of spices from the mango pickles soaked in mustard oil. The green skin of the sour fruit is scored with knife cuts and generously marinated in chilli and turmeric powder. This is then sundried for days until it is ready to be soaked in mustard oil – an unbeatable, old pickle recipe and a crowd favourite.

Green mango in your papaya salad, chutney with a hint of five spices, jars of Kashmiri achars, sundried *aam churs*, or just dried green mango – all these



are now being made in almost every household and stored for the year.

Charred mango wedges, green chilli, mint leaves, and salt; if you like it sweet then maybe a little sugar – your *aam panna* is ready! Shredded mango slivers mixed with burnt chillies and a pinch of molasses make the best deshi sour concoction you can have. Green mango in our everyday lentil soup not only cleanses your palate but also gives you a refreshing feel.

The tangy fruit with a firm flesh and deep green skin is sliced or diced for salsa and salads. And there is no comparison to our kind of simple, mango salsa

– *aam bhorta*. And every house in Dhaka has a *kancha aam* speciality going on for them.

Md Anwarul Huque is the managing director of Raj Chapai Agro Fruit Producer in Rajshahi, the mango capital of Bangladesh. He explains the trade dynamics of mangoes.

"There are retail and wholesale customers for green mangoes. The business of unripe mangoes is there, but not as thriving as that of ripe

mangoes. Truckloads of this summer crop are sent to pickle factories every season, besides catering to the needs of small-time buyers. The best mango for pickles is green fazli but Lokhon bhog also rule the green mango market. There is plenty of scope to profit on the green mango season, which has not yet reached its potential."

According to Huque every year the growers in Rajshahi sell fruits that have fallen off during storms. "We sell them for Tk 10 a kilogramme and traders send them to Dhaka, where they are sold at exorbitant prices at the beginning of the season," informed Huque, adding that if a client wants only green mango then specific gardens are booked for them.

This year, because of unprecedented storms in the month of Falgun, almost 50 percent of mango blooms did not mature and thus the mango harvest will be only 30 to 40 percent of what it usually is. The untimely spring storms stalled the green mango season by 15 days so the full-blown *kancha aam* will hit the Dhaka markets by the end of April and continue for a month. The season will be very short. So, make the best use of the time, green mangoes are in supply during the hot summer days.



Pro-China party

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Muizzu, 45, had been among the first to vote yesterday, casting his ballot at a school in the capital Male – where he was previously mayor – and urging Maldivians to turn out in high numbers.

"All citizens should come out and exercise their right to vote as soon as possible," Muizzu told reporters.

The Maldives, a low-lying nation of some 1,192 tiny coral islands scattered some 800 kilometres (500 miles) across the equator, is one of the countries most vulnerable to sea level rises caused by global warming.

Muizzu, a former construction minister, has promised he will beat back the waves through ambitious land reclamation and building islands higher, a policy which environmentalists argue could even exacerbate flooding risks.

5 factors

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Fourthly, the BNP does not want to be in the middle of infighting or violence between Awami League grassroots leaders.

And lastly, the BNP's like-minded parties boycotted the national polls with it and the party does not want to offend its allies.

"All the like-minded political parties are against joining the election. So, we must respect their views too," said a standing committee member, adding that this was why Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami tried to ensure none of its leaders ran.

Goyeshwar Chandra Roy, a standing committee member of the party, said the party earlier decided not to join any election held under this regime.

"Tens of thousands of BNP leaders and activists are facing cases and more than 27,000 party men were sent to jail over the January 7 parliamentary polls. Amid such a situation, we don't want to run into further trouble by joining the polls," he said.

However, some party leaders are hellbent on running as independents despite the BNP's warnings of punitive actions.

BNP leaders believe that those who hold posts in the party would surely withdraw from the polls race.

According to the party's central office, 49 leaders submitted nomination forms and around 35 leaders are still in the race.

"Some have withdrawn and some others have promised to withdraw," Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, senior joint secretary general of the party, said.

The BNP has already sent a message to the candidates that those who will not follow the party instructions will have to face the music.

Sources said most of the BNP leaders running don't hold any party posts.

AL chief's directive for MPs largely unheeded

FROM PAGE 1
Subarnachar upazila chairman.

Some aspirants in question said the party directive came way too late as they had already invested quite a lot in the race.

Asibur Rahman Khan, son of AL presidium member and Madaripur-2 MP Shahjahan Khan, is running for Madaripur Sadar upazila chairman.

He told The Daily Star that there was no turning back now.

"It would have been easier for us to decide had the party told us this before the declaration of the polls schedule. I feel like the party has made a hasty decision and it might not be enforced in the first phase."

AL lawmaker Mohammad Ali of Noakhali-6 has fielded his wife and son for the chairman post of Hatia upazila, which goes to polls in the first phase.

Ali told The Daily Star that he received the party directive but he was observing the situation.

"Time will tell what to do," he added.

Bogura-1 AL MP Sahadara Mannan's younger brother Minhaduzzaman Liton, also Sonatala upazila AL president, is in the race for Sonatala chairman. He is also the incumbent.

Sahadara's son Sakhawat Hossain Sajal is running for the post of Sariakandi upazila chairman.

Bogra-1 comprises these two upazilas.

Eleven union parishad chairmen from Sariakandi wrote to Hasina asking her to intervene and get Sajal off the ballot.

Minhaduzzaman claimed that the fact that he is the brother of Sahadara should not matter as he is the incumbent and known as the upazila AL president.

He said he would not quit the race.

BRTA finds 10 reasons

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This means deaths by road crashes saw a 18.75 percent rise this year from the last, although number of accidents remained almost the same.

Nur added that mobile courts across the country filed 2,113 cases and realised Tk 41.65 lakhs worth of fines from April 1 to 20.

Meanwhile, highway police prosecuted 8,592 vehicles for over-speeding and operating unfit and illegal vehicles.

"The drives will continue," he added.

BRTA'S 10 REASONS

The reasons, according to the BRTA, for the spike in deaths on road are: drivers' carelessness leading to loss of control over wheels; rash driving; reckless overtaking; carelessness of pedestrians while crossing the road; operation of three-

wheelers and other illegal vehicles on highways; bikers disobeying traffic rules; drivers not following traffic signs and road markings; illegal parking on highways; and no dividers on roads with two-way traffic.

Asked whether the BRTA and other authorities concerned have no liability behind the accidents when thousands of vehicles are in operation without fitness clearance and drivers have no valid licences, the chairman did not give any direct reply.

Till April 15, 6.17 lakh vehicles did not go through the mandatory fitness tests. The number was 4.79 lakh in July 2019.

BRTA data shows there are 35,782 registered buses that are aged over 20 years, and 37,275 trucks and lorries over 25.

Nur said they were working to

determine the actual number of vehicles without fitness clearance, because many of the vehicles mentioned in the BRTA data no longer exist on roads.

When another reporter reiterated whether the BRTA holds no responsibility, he said, "I have already said that everybody has liability to bear."

The BRTA is a regulatory body that is supposed to deal with road transport-related regulations.

In other countries, there are separate departments to deal with the enforcement issues.

"It is not possible for the BRTA to do all these things with such limited manpower. If you want to blame us, you can. That's why we were talking about waging a social movement [to reduce road crashes and deaths]."

Cumilla-10 MP AHM Mustafa Kamal's younger brother Golam Sarwar said he would be running in Cumilla Sadar (south) upazila. Sarwar is the incumbent there.

AL Joint General Secretary and Kusthia-3 MP Mahabubul Alam Hani's cousin Aaur Rahman Ata, also Kusthia city AL general secretary, is running for the sadar upazila chairman post.

Manikganj sadar upazila chairman aspirant Israfil Hossain is the cousin of former health minister and Manikganj-3 MP Zahid Malek Swapan.

Shariful Haque, a brother-in-law of Anwarul Ashraf Khan Dilip, the AL MP for Narsingdi-2, is running for Palash upazila chairman.

A cousin and a nephew of Nilphamari-1 AL MP Aftab Uddin Sarkar are running for the Dimla upazila chairman post.

Pabna-1 MP and deputy speaker Shamsul Haque Tuku's younger brother Abdul Baten is vying for the post of Bera upazila chairman, while Golam Hasnain Russell, eldest son of Pabna-3 AL MP Maqbul Hossain, aspires to be Bhangura upazila chairman.

Chuanganga-2 MP Ali Azgar Tagar's younger brother Ali Monsur Babu is running for Damurhuda upazila chairman post that goes to polls in the first phase.

Dinajpur-5 MP Mostafizur Rahman Fizer's younger brother Mushfikur Rahman Babul is an aspirant of Phulbari upazila chairman post.

A cousin of Cox's Bazar-2 MP Ashek Ullah Rafiq and nephews of Liberation War Affairs Minister and Gazipur-1 MP AKM Mozammel Haque, Chuadanga-1 MP Solaiman Haque Joardar, and Maulvibazar-1 MP Shahab Uddin are in the race.

College student dies in Joypurhat bike crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A college student was killed in a collision between two motorcycles in Joypurhat yesterday.

The victim is Sourav Hossain, 21, of Khasbadda village under Panchbibi upazila of Joypurhat. He was an HSC examination candidate, said Humayun Kabir, officer-in-charge of Joypurhat Sadar Police Station.

He said Sourav was heading to Joypurhat on a motorcycle from Panchbibi area in the morning. When he arrived at Shimultoli village of Joypurhat-Hili road, his motorcycle collided head-on with another motorcycle from opposite direction, leaving him critically injured.

Locals first took him to Joypurhat 250-bed General Hospital. Later, doctors referred him to Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital in Bogura for better treatment. He died on the way, said police.

'Drug addict' uncle stabs nephew to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A young man was killed and his brother injured when their uncle stabbed them in the Kamrangirchar area of Dhaka yesterday.

The deceased is Tamim Hossain Sifat, 23, a resident of Keraniganj's Jinjira area. There were several stab wounds on his body including the chest.

His brother Tamim Hossain, 24, is receiving treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital with stab wounds in the throat.

According to family sources, the brothers were employed at their maternal uncle Ripon Mia's electric shop in the Nurbagh area of Kamrangirchar.

The incident took place when they came to Ripon's residence to take lunch around 4:00pm and discovered that Ripon's younger brother, Rakib Hossain, was physically abusing their grandmother, Tamim told reporters at DMCH.

"I tried to restrain my uncle (Rakib) from assaulting her. At one stage, he attacked me with a knife," he said.

Tamim said Rakib also stabbed his brother Sifat indiscriminately as he tried to prevent the attack. They were rushed to DMCH where doctors declared Sifat dead around 6:15pm, said family sources.

The victim's uncle Ripon said his brother Rakib is a drug addict and is unemployed.

"Rakib often mistreats my parents. As he was assaulting my mother today, my nephews tried to resist him and got stabbed in the process," Ripon said.

Md Masud, assistant sub-inspector of DMCH Police Outpost, the body of Sifat was sent to the hospital morgue for autopsy.

Dhaka looks for Doha's greater role

FROM PAGE 1

Asked if Dhaka would seek petroleum from Doha under deferred payment, he said, "We sought to buy oil from Saudi Arabia under deferred payment. As there would be discussion on fuel purchase, we may also talk about the deferred payment."

Al Thani comes to Bangladesh as the two countries celebrate 50 years of bilateral relationship. Bangladesh is one of the 10 countries that the emir is visiting this year.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin will receive the emir at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport this afternoon. He will fly to Dhaka from the Philippines.

The next morning, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Emir Al Thani will hold a bilateral meeting at the Prime Minister's Office.

The emir will then join the official lunch to be hosted by President Shahabuddin at the Bangabhaban. Foreign Minister Hasan Mahmud will also have a courtesy meeting with the emir.

Recognising the friendship between Bangladesh and Qatar, a park under construction at Balurmath of Mirpur's Kalshi and a street from Mirpur ECB Chattar to Kalshi Flyover will be named after the emir. He is scheduled to inaugurate the structures tomorrow afternoon.

Around 4,00,000 Bangladeshis are staying in Qatar, the second largest expatriate community there, while the bilateral trade is more than \$3.6 billion. Bangladesh currently imports 1.5 million tonnes of LNG (liquefied natural gas) a year under an agreement.

Last year, the two countries also inked an agreement for deployment of 1,129 members of Bangladesh Armed Forces to Qatar. "We will raise the issue of deploying them during the visit," said a foreign ministry official.

Foreign Minister Hasan Mahmud said Dhaka and Doha will ink six agreements on double-taxation avoidance and tax evasion, cooperation in legal matters, shipping, mutual investment promotion and protection, exchange of prisoners and formation of a joint business council.

The two sides will also sign five MoUs on manpower, port management, higher education and scientific research, cooperation in

youth and sports, and cooperation in diplomatic training, he added.

Md Ruhul Amin, secretary of expatriates' welfare ministry, said the MoU on manpower will facilitate both sides to address problems of Bangladeshi migrant workers.

Hasan Mahmud said Bangladesh would seek investments in various sectors, including in renewable energy and financial sectors, port management, and ask for sending more skilled manpower and exporting ceramics, leather and garment products, and pharmaceuticals.

A foreign ministry official said Qatar is eager for port management in Chattogram and Matarbari.

"We expect the visit of Qatar's emir to be a milestone in our relationship," the foreign minister said.

Asked whether Qatar and Bangladesh would discuss the Israel-Iran tension and the Palestine crisis, Hasan Mahmud said, "Our position on Gaza is very clear. We have always been by the side of the Palestinians. In any international forum, Bangladesh spoke for them strongly. Qatar is also playing a mediator role between Israel and Hamas."

"We want the killings of the Palestinians by Israel to end. The whole Muslim world wants this. As Qatar is mediating this, the issue may be discussed."

3 universities

FROM PAGE 1

the private educational institutions that follow an international curriculum to remain closed this week and reopen on April 28.

According to the Met office, the temperature in the capital reached 38.2 degree Celsius yesterday while the highest – 42.2 degrees Celsius – was recorded in Pabna and Chuadanga.

The Met classifies temperatures between 40 and 41.9 degrees C as severe heatwaves.

It forecasts rain and thunder accompanied by temporary gusty wind at one or two places in Sylhet division and temporarily partially cloudy weather elsewhere today.

The heat wave is likely to continue, it says, adding that day time temperature may fall slightly over Rangpur and Rajshahi divisions. Due to a rise in moisture incursion, the people will continue to feel discomfort.

On Saturday, the National University asked its affiliated colleges to suspend classes until further notice.