

Affordable beef packages at Krishak Bazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

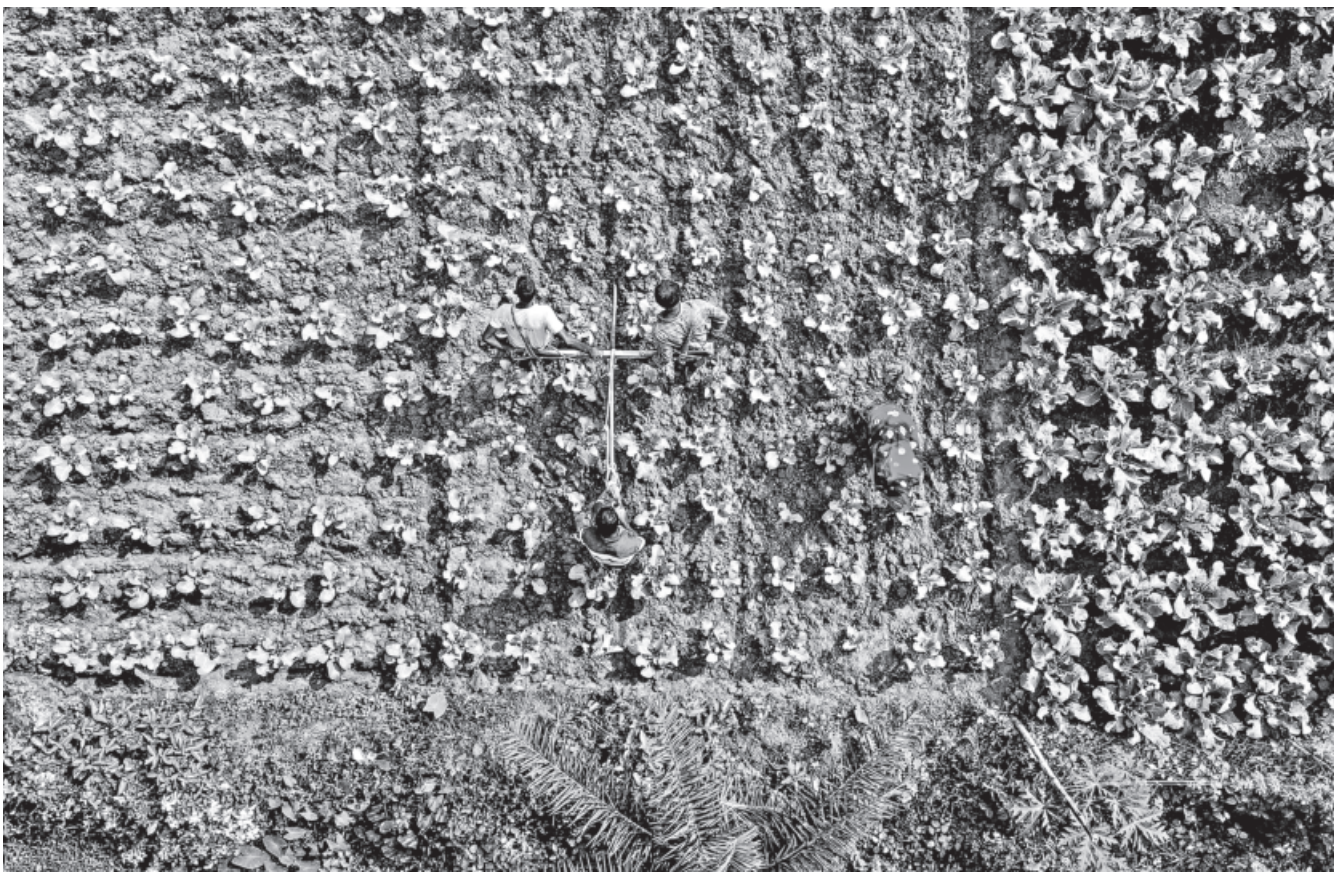
Rampant inflation over the last year has resulted in many items like beef, oil and eggs almost become luxury items for the average Bangalee families. For many, it almost becomes a choice between eating something like beef for a day or surviving through month.

To provide some relief to consumers, the Krishak Bazar (Farmers' Market) in Patuakhali's Kalapara upazila recently launched a beef combo package with two options – one where customers can purchase 200 grammes of beef along with three pieces each of potatoes, onions and green chillies for Tk 200, or just 500 grammes of beef for Tk 325.

After the package was launched, it received overwhelming response from local consumers.

"This is a very good initiative at a time when spiraling prices of essentials have left people grappling to make both ends meet. Normally, beef is not sold in markets below 1 kg in quantity, which makes it difficult for people from middle or low-income families to buy beef. Therefore, this

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Farmers in Khulna use a manual plow to keep the base of their cauliflower plants free from weeds. This activity helps the plants grow faster and ensures an overall good yield. The photo was taken from the Chakundia village of Dumuria upazila of Khulna recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Nazirpur's lifeline: Where boats keep the market afloat

KM HABIBUR RAHMAN, Pirojpur

On the canals of Pirojpur's Nazirpur upazila, men can be observed selling vegetables straight from their boats at the Boithakata floating market.

"I have been coming to the market every Tuesday and Saturday to sell vegetables since my childhood. We mainly rely on boats to communicate to different areas within the upazila as we don't have any feasible alternatives in the absence of proper rural roads connecting the areas," said Iskandar Ali, 65.

Md Abual Hossain, another vegetable seller, echoed him.

Numerous others were seen coming to the market from different areas in the upazila -- including Manoharpur, Sonapur, Padmadubi, Beel Dumuria, Pakuria, and Madhubhanga villages -- all using boats to buy and sell an array of goods such as rice, pulled rice, plant saplings and vegetables.

Almost all activities in the market, including transactions, are conducted on boats.

"We are largely dependent on boats for buying or selling goods, as it is the only convenient mode of transport in this area," said Nanna Mia, a local.

Vast areas within Daulbari, Dobra, Kolardoania and Malikhali unions of Nazirpur upazila; Boldia union of Nesarabad upazila in Pirojpur, and some areas under Barishal's Banaripara upazila are mostly marshland. Thus, they do not have well-developed rural road communication, thereby making boats the most important mode of transport in the area. As a result, boats are an important part of the local economy.

While the boats can usually serve this purpose without any issues, the dry season often negatively impacts this. During the dry



season, the water level in the marshes and canals falls, making it difficult for boats to navigate the water.

"Crops are usually harvested when the dry season is approaching. As a result, using boats to sell our harvest can sometimes be difficult when water in these canals dry up," said Abdur Razzak, a local resident.

Mizanur Rahman, a businessman at Boithakata Bazar, said there is only one road from the market that connects to the Nazirpur upazila headquarters. Other than that, there is no direct road communication facility in the area. "It would have benefited the people of the region significantly if the various areas could be connected through rural road networks," he added.

Contacted, Arup Ratan Singha, upazila nirbahi officer of Nazirpur, said they are aware of the poor road communication facilities

within four unions under the upazila.

"We have addressed this issue in our monthly development meeting. The upazila administration will communicate with concerned departments of the government for developing the rural road networks in the upazila," he said.

"At present, we are prioritising renovation of the around 17-kilometre-long Nazirpur-Boithakata road that connects the four unions with the upazila headquarters," the UNO also said.

"The upazila administration has some limitations in conducting construction of roads and bridges. On the other hand, the Local Government Engineering Department can do these development works on a larger scale," he added.

Contacted, BM Mahmudul Hasan, upazila engineer of LGED in Nazirpur, could not provide any information in this regard as he had joined the office only a month back.

JOURNO KILLING
Former cop placed on 5-day remand

UNB, Sylhet

A Sylhet court yesterday placed former additional deputy commissioner of Sylhet Metropolitan Police Sadeq Kawsar Dastagir on a five-day remand in connection with the killing of journalist ATM Turab during the July uprising.

Sylhet Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Abdul Momen ordered the remand while Dastagir was produced before the court.

Advocate Abdur Rob, lawyer for the plaintiff, said a seven-day remand had been sought, and the court granted five days.

A Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) team arrested Dastagir from Sherpur on Wednesday.

The murder case was filed by the deceased's brother Abul Hasan Md Azraf on August 19.

PRAYER TIMING	
DECEMBER 20	
Fazr	Zohr
Asr	Maghrib
Esha	
AZAN 5:25 12:45 3:45 5:24 7:00	
JAMAAT 6:00 1:15 4:00 5:27 7:30	
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION	

Students' fair price shop draws good response

PARTHA CHAKRABORTTY, Bagerhat

Students from the Kachua upazila in Bagerhat recently came up with a fair price shop initiative in the Signboard area. The initiative drew a large crowd on Friday as customers flocked to the spot to purchase essential commodities at significantly lower prices.

Organised by Kachua General Students' Society and supported by "Cholo Paltai", the shop aimed to provide fresh produce directly from farmers to consumers, bypassing intermediaries.

The shop, which opened at 9:00am and operated until stocks lasted, offered items like potatoes and onions in limited quantities and other vegetables without restrictions. Imported onions were sold at Tk 90 per kg, lentils at Tk 100 per kg, bottle gourd Tk 20-30 each, green chillies at Tk 70 per kg, aubergines at Tk 60 per kilogram, potatoes at Tk 70 per kg, sweet pumpkin at Tk 30 per piece, hyacinth beans at Tk 60 per kg, and four eggs for Tk 46.



Imran Hajra, a representative of the student society, explained, "Farmers normally sell their produce at low prices, but consumers pay a premium due to middlemen. We buy directly from farmers and sell to consumers at lower rates."

Moniruzzaman, organisational secretary of Cholo Paltai, said, "If students run such shops on weekends, both farmers and consumers will benefit, and syndicates will lose their grip on the market. Last week, we sold goods through a similar shop. Today, we purchased produce worth Tk 30,000 directly from farmers." Customers expressed great satisfaction with the initiative.

Nazim Sheikh, one customer, said, "The prices are much lower than the market. I've bought several items and will return every Friday."

Another buyer, Rahman Sheikh, said, "In the market, green chillies are Tk 80 per kg, but here it's Tk 70. This initiative is a blessing for ordinary people and should continue. The fair price shop has proven a win-win for farmers and buyers, sparking hope for a more equitable system."

SAINT MARTIN'S ISLAND
Man's tied-up body washes ashore

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A semi-decomposed tied-up body of a man was recovered from the north beach of the St Martin Island of Teknaf upazila in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

The hands, legs, and mouth of the body were bound with rope, said Sub-Inspector Abdur Baten, in charge of the island's police outpost.

The body was washed ashore in the morning, he said, adding that the person might have been killed 8-10 days before. There were several stabbing marks on the body, he said.

"We sent the body to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital for autopsy," he said.

North-West Power Generation Company Ltd.
ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 & ISO 45001:2018 Certified
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Office of the Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)
Sirajganj 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (Unit-1)
Soydabad, Sirajganj.

Ref: 27.28.8878.101.07.001.19.14

Date: 19/12/2024

e-Tender Notice

The following e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd):

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Brief Description of Tender	Publication Date	Last Selling Date & Time	Opening Date
1	1030845	Supply of Jockey Pump for fire water system.	18/12/2024	05/01/2025, 15:45	06/01/2025
2	1037101	Supply of Metering Tank for Water Treatment Plant.	18/12/2024	05/01/2025, 15:45	06/01/2025
3	1041888	Spare parts of Switchgear and Protection System.	19/12/2024	09/01/2025, 15:00	09/01/2025
4	1041615	Spare Parts of Battery & Battery Charger System.	19/12/2024	09/01/2025, 15:00	09/01/2025
5	1049814	Procurement of PAC/24-25	19/12/2024	08/01/2025, 15:30	09/01/2025

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP Help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

Engr. Brojendra Kumar Sarker
Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)
Sirajganj 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (Unit-1)
NWPGL, Soydabad, Sirajganj.

GD-1232

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NANNA MIA, a local

National University, Bangladesh
Head Office: Board Bazar, Gazipur
Procurement & Store Department

Memo No. PSD40-0/00074/2024/1/2598

Date: 19/12/2024

e-Tender Notice

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

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Name of works	Procurement nature, type & method	Online tender notice publication and closing date
1.	1049605	Purchase of Paper, Stationary and Toiletries Goods for National University	Goods NCT OTM	19-Dec-2024 16:00 09-Jan-2025 14:00
2.	1049203	Purchase of Steel Trunk for Examination Department in National University	Goods NCT OTM	19-Dec-2024 12:00 07-Jan-2025 12:00

The interested persons/firms may visit the website www.eprocurement.gov.bd. This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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GD-1233

**Office of the Director
Planning, Development & Works
Sylhet Agricultural University, Tilagor, Sylhet-3100**
Tel: 02-996642193

No. SAU/PDW/APP-2024-25/308/24/442

Date: 19/12/2024

e-GP Re-Tender Notice

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

Name of packages	Publication date & time	Tender ID	Downloading the e-Tender documents up to and closing date
Construction of Retaining Wall of Central Lake (Mural to Auditorium and Boishaki Chottor to Auditorium)	22-12-2024 11:00 Hrs	1053918	07-01-2025; 11:00 Hrs 07-01-2025; 12:00 Hrs
Construction of Pre-Loading of Main Road (Main Gate to Boishaki Chottor) including RCC Link Road Beside Main Gate	22-12-2024 11:00 Hrs	1054135	07-01-2025; 10:30 Hrs 07-01-2025; 12:30 Hrs
Earth filling in front of PMAC Veterinary Teaching Hospital	22-12-2024 11:00 Hrs	1054259	07-01-2025; 12:00 Hrs 07-01-2025; 15:00 Hrs
Repair and Maintenance works of Abdus Samad Azad Hall	22-12-2024 11:00 Hrs	1049638	07-01-2025; 12:00 Hrs 07-01-2025; 15:30 Hrs

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

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GD- 1234