

Tomato boon for Faridpur grower

Farmer Bipul Ghosh planted 44,000 seedlings on 6 acres of land and expects 10kg tomato from each plant

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Farming of hybrid varieties of tomato has brought good luck as well as handsome profit for farmer Bipul Ghosh in Faridpur Sadar upazila.

The young farmer from Shibrapur area has cultivated different hybrid varieties of tomato like Noble, Mintu Super, Ispahani Dipali, Bipul Plus, Chameli, Bizli, and Sumo on his six acres of land this year.

During a recent visit to Bipul's farm this correspondent saw some labours were tending the tomato plants while others were collecting ripe tomato from the tomato plants.

"I planted 44,000 tomato seedlings on six acres land spending Tk 24, 0000 this

year and hope to get at least 10kg tomato from each plant. At present, I am selling per kg of tomato at Tk 15 directly from my land," Bipul said.

Bappy Ghosh, manager of Bipul Agro Farm, said "We have planted the tomato seedlings in October last year and started harvesting tomato from the fast week of January this year. We get nearly 850kg of tomato daily."

Bipul said alongside tomato, he has been cultivating different varieties of vegetables and crops on his land since 1982.

Faridpur Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) Deputy Director Kartik Chandra Chakraborty said Bipul had not only made a fortune, but also set an example of others.



Students pull a rope to move this boat across Boalia canal in Patuakhali's Galachipa upazila to go to their school at the other side of the waterbody.

PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN

Risky boat ride to attend school

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Locals including a good number of students have to cross Boalia canal between Ratneshwar and Panpatti villages in Patuakhali's Galachipa upazila amid risk on a small country boat locally known as 'kheya'.

To take the boat across the canal, they have to pull a long plastic rope tied to poles on two sides of the canal.

Over 150 students regularly cross the canal to go to Panpatti to attend classes at Bangabandhu High School, Panpatti High School, Nuria Government Primary School, Tularam Government Primary School and Panpatti Dakhil Madrasa.

During a recent visit to the area, this correspondent found several students including Prashanto Sheel, Deen Islam and Eva pulling the rope to cross the Boalia canal by the boat that carried about 30 people, mostly students.

"We have to cross the canal daily in this way. A few students fell into the canal while pulling the rope in different times," said Prashanto Sheel, a seventh-grader at Bangabandhu High School.

"Sometimes the boat tilts sideways, letting water soak us," said Mukta, an eighth-grader at the same school.

"Once several students including me got fever, cold and cough as we were soaked," said Romana Begum, a seventh-grader.

Israt Jahan Asma, an assistant teacher of Bangabandhu High School, also a member of Patuakhali zila parishad, said, "Many students have to cross the canal amid risk by the boat to attend classes in their educational institutions at Panpatti. I, too, cross the canal by that small boat. I informed the higher authorities of the matter on several occasions but to no effect."

Meanwhile, a bridge constructed about two

kilometres north of Ratneshwar Kheya Ghat is virtually of no use to the students.

Sudhir Chandra Karmakar, headmaster of Bangabandhu High School, said, "To cross the canal, we earlier paid Tk 20,000 per year to the boat owner who himself pulled the rope to carry the students across the canal by the boat. But this year, he demanded Tk 30,000, which we failed to meet."

"Now the students have to cross the canal by pulling the rope themselves, which poses risk. We are trying to negotiate with the boat owner," he added.

Contacted, Galachipa Upazila Nirbahi Officer Shah Md Rafiqul Islam said, "I have heard about the matter and will inform the higher authorities for a solution. I am also thinking of making a temporary arrangement for pulling the boat by a paid man to reduce the risk of the students while crossing the canal."



Some farm labourers take care of the tomato plants at Bipul Agro Farm at Shibrapur village in Faridpur Sadar upazila. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

'Drug dealer' killed in Jashore 'gunfight'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

An alleged drug peddler was killed in a reported gunfight with police in Jashore's Chougachha upazila early yesterday.

The deceased, Johurul Islam, 40, was accused in at least 10 cases, including for drug peddling and extortion, filed with different police stations of the district, Officer in Charge (OC) of Chougachha Police Station Rifat Khan Rajib said.

OC Rajib said a team of police took position near Ballapur High School around 3:30am, following information that a consignment of contraband drugs was being smuggled to the capital by a group of drug peddlers.

Meanwhile, sensing the presence of police, the drug peddlers opened fire on the law enforcers, prompting them to fire back in self-defence, he said, adding that, at one stage, Johurul came in the line of fire and died on the spot, while his other cohorts managed to flee the scene.

The law enforcers also recovered a pistol and 100 bottles of Phensidyl from the spot.

Youth held with arms

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Police arrested a youth and seized a gun and bullets from his possession in Gouripur upazila on Saturday night.

The arrestee, Billal Hossain, 22, is son of late Kajal Mia of Kumri village.

Acting on a tip-off, a police team raided Mashkanda area and arrested Billal with a country made gun, two bullets and a knife, police said.

Safety of thousands compromised for decades

Residents of ten villages in two unions of Dighinala upazila await a permanent bridge on a hilly river

ANVIL CHAKMA, back from Khagrachhari

Thousands of residents in ten villages under two unions of Dighinala upazila have been risking their lives to cross the Maini river for ages, without a permanent bridge on the hilly river.

The residents of Boalkhali and Dighinala unions have been making a makeshift bamboo bridge, about 300 feet long, on the river during the dry season every year. They cross the river in boats during the monsoon when the river swells up, damaging the makeshift bridge.

A significant number of the people who cross the river on a daily basis are school children of all ages.

Farmers and others whose livelihoods depend on reaching their produce and goods to nearby markets across the river also face immense sufferings every day.

Villagers said nearly 13 years ago, in 2007, four people died after they fell into the river while crossing the bamboo bridge. But after all these years, the authorities are yet to take any step to ensure a safe passage over the river for thousands of citizens.

During a recent visit to the area, this correspondent saw how people from all walks of life, especially students and farmers, cross the risky bridge to go about their everyday business.

Sudarsan Chakma, from Katarung Chhara in Bowalkhali union, said the bridge is the only means of communications for all the surrounding villages and they suffered severely during the last rainy season when the bridge got damaged due to strong current.

"The bridge has to be repaired immediately... before things get worse again this monsoon."

Kamal Chakma, another resident of the same village, said school going children suffer the most during the rainy season.

"Without a bridge, the farmers also can't transport their produce and goods to the weekly market during the monsoon. We would be relieved of the sufferings if a permanent bridge was made on the river urgently," he added.

Echoing the sentiment, Tito Chakma, of Udal Bagan village in Dighinala union, said they have

endured years of sufferings and the authorities should take steps before the upcoming monsoon to ensure safe communications for the villagers.

On way to his school, Rupesh Chakma, a tenth grader at Udal Bagan High School, said they risk their lives while crossing the river to and from their school every day and a permanent bridge over the river would make their lives safer.

Buddha Sadhon Chakma and Pinki Chakma, SSC examinees from the school, said many of their classmates sustained injuries while crossing the bridge.

Newton Chakma, an assistant teacher at the school, said most of the 525 students enrolled at the school live across the river and they put their lives in danger on a daily basis to cross it.

Contacted, Bowalkhali Union Parishad Chairman Chayan Bikash Chakma said, "A concrete bridge would benefit thousands of residents in the two unions... I already wrote a letter to the authorities, urging to build a bridge [on the Maini river]. I hope the authorities will take steps [in this regard] soon."



Without any safer mode of communications available, villagers, young and old, use the makeshift bamboo bridge to cross the Maini river in Khagrachhari's Dighinala upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh			
College Education Development Project (CEDP)			
Bhawal Badre Alam Govt. College			
Gazipur-1702			
Invitation for Tenders			
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Education.	
2	Agency	University Grants Commission/National University.	
3	Procuring entity name	IDGM and Principal, Bhawal Badre Alam Government College, Gazipur.	
4	Procuring entity code	N/A.	
5	Procuring entity district	Gazipur.	
6	Invitation for	Renovation and Refurbishment of ICT Lab, Classroom, Washroom, Lab & Medical Centre.	
7	Invitation Ref. No.	Bhaka/2020/CEDP/135	
8	Date	15/03/2020	
KEY INFORMATION			
9	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (National).	
FUNDING INFORMATION			
10	Budget and source of funds	Development Budget (Government & IDA Credit).	
11	Development partners	International Development Association (IDA), World Bank.	
PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
12	Project code	224017200	
13	Project name	College Education Development Project (CEDP).	
14	Tender package No.	W-1	
15	Tender package name	Renovation and Refurbishment of ICT Lab, Classroom, Washroom, Lab & Medical Centre.	
16	Tender publication date	15/03/2020	
17	Tender last selling date	30/03/2020 at 5.00pm.	
18	Tender closing date and time	31/03/2020 at 1.00pm.	
19	Tender opening date and time	31/03/2020 at 3.00pm.	
20	Name & address of the office	IDGM and Principal, Bhawal Badre Alam Govt. College, Gazipur.	
	Selling tender document	IDGM and Principal, Bhawal Badre Alam Govt. College, Gazipur.	
	Receiving tender document	Office of the IDGM and Principal, Bhawal Badre Alam Govt. College, Gazipur/Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Gazipur.	
21	Opening tender document	IDGM and Principal, Bhawal Badre Alam Govt. College, Gazipur.	
	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	Will not be held.	
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER			
22	Eligibility of tenderer	1. The tenderer shall have a minimum number 05 years general experience in refurbishment activities (renovation/repair/extension) and physical services. 2. The tenderer shall have satisfactory completion of refurbishment activities of minimum BDT 45,00,000 (forty-five lac) only under maximum 01 contract in the last 03 years. 3. The required average annual construction turnover shall be greater than BDT 2,00,00,000 (two crore) only over the last 03 years. 4. The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of the tenderer shall be BDT 55,00,000 (fifty-five lac) only. 5. Other requirements as per TDS.	
23	Brief description of goods or works	Finished cast-in-situ mosaic work; Painting with plastic emulsion paint of best quality and approved colour; Supplying, fitting and fixing glazed wall tiles; Supplying, fitting and fixing GP (Homogeneous) glazed floor tiles; Painting to door and window frames, shutters and any type of MS rod, FI bar, MS box, MS angle grille, gate; Supplying, fitting and fixing of aluminium sliding window; Supplying, fitting and fixing in Aluminum door frames, window, partition and curtain wall; Supplying, fitting and fixing window grille, high window grille, ventilation grille, sky window grille; Supply fitting & fixing of wall paneling; Supply fitting & fixing of perforated metal & wooden ceiling and Supply fitting & fixing sound system, washroom basin, commode (high and low) and fittings, other sanitary works and various electric works.	
24	Brief description of related services	Related service shall be in accordance with Section 4: Particular condition of contract, Section 6: Bill of Quantities.	
25	Tender document price	BDT 1,500.00 (one thousand five hundred) only through Treasury Challan, Challan Code No. 1-2501-0001-2366.	
26	Tender name	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)
	Renovation and Refurbishment of ICT Lab, Classroom, Washroom, Lab & Medical Centre	Bhawal Badre Alam Govt. College, Gazipur	1.60 lac (only through Pay Order)
27	Name of official inviting tender	Professor Masuda Sikder (1347).	
28	Designation of official inviting tender	IDGM and Principal.	
29	Address of official inviting tender	Bhawal Badre Alam Govt. College, Gazipur.	
30	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 02-9262299	Mobile: 01712-116985
31	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.		
Professor Masuda Sikder (1347) IDGM and Principal Bhawal Badre Alam Govt. College, Gazipur			
GD-512			