

Great leader of soil and people

SHYKH SERAJ

March 17, 1920. The river Madhumati was flowing at her own will while its tributary Baigar has been alongside for many years. The smell of Robi crop was all around in Tungipara. Sheikh family heard the cry of a new born. It was the moment of arrival of the liberator of (Bangalees) Bengalis, the people who were suppressed for ages. Growing up amid the joys and sorrows of Madhumati, the farming families and changes of seasons, this boy became a young man who always craved for emancipation. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who later became the ultimate leader of Bangladesh, brought us our independence and gave birth to a country named Bangladesh. I went to Tungipara in Gopalganj in March this year. Memories of the father of the nation were everywhere. Struggle of marginalized, peasants, and labourers gave him the impetus to enter politics when he was pretty young. The seed of politics and will to work for people were sown inside during his student life. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was an incomparable name in mass communication, oration and awakening the hardworking people in every corner of Bangladesh. If you go through his autobiography, 'The Unfinished Memories' and the 'Diary in Jail', you will get to know the depths of his mind, the landscape of his vision and his passion for the Bengal and its people. It is a new challenge for the people who have been deprived of land for many years. When day labourers of one district used to go to the other to harvest paddy, they would return with some paddies they received for their wages. They would carry those by boat. These people were called 'Dawal'. The autocratic government people started blocking the paddy boats of the Dawals and an announcement was made to confiscate the paddy and the boat if the paddy was not deposited to the government storage. Sheikh Mujib formed a movement on behalf of the Dawals and also awakened the ordinary people on behalf of the peasants and labourers.

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman played an outstanding role in every noteworthy

movements for the betterment of Bengal. While Salam, Barkat, Rafiq, Jabbar and many others sacrificed their life in the Language Movement of 1952, Mujibur Rahman started a hunger strike at Faridpur prison. Bangabandhu became the leader with pure inspiration, and hope and aspiration of all the people residing in the then East Pakistan.

I saw an elderly farmer returning home from his farm work in Tungipara. I requested him to share any memory of Bangabandhu if it comes to his mind. "The government men were taking away rice from my house as I was in debt. Hearing the news, Sheikh Mujib came running and repaid the loan from his own pocket. After getting the money when policemen were leaving the spot Bangabandhu told them from the back, "The money has been paid, now you have to fix everything you have ruined." "Such a brave and kind man he was," added the old man.

All that Bangabandhu did and said was for the people of Bangladesh, especially the marginalized and the peasants. He was always vocal. If we see the attendants of the March 7, 1971, speech of Bangabandhu, we'll

Shykh Seraj is Bangladesh's pioneer development journalist. He received country's two highest civilian honours, Swadhinata Puroshkar and Ekushey Padak, respectively. He is a BIDS, Ashoka and Bangla Academy Fellow. He also received highest award for agricultural journalism from the United Nations, FAO A.H. Boerma Award, Gusi Peace Prize (Philippines) and many other prestigious accolades at home and abroad. At Channel i, he's the Founder Director and Head of News. He's also Director and Host of Channel i's popular agro-documentary, Hridoye Mati O Manush.



Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is seen wearing 'mathal' (a special hat) at a popular folk programme 'Gambhira song' on January 10, 1973.

PHOTO: WWW.MUJIB100.GOV.BD

see most of them were ordinary people—farmers, labourers, students and people from all walks of life, but a significant portion of them was farmers. Farmers were at the forefront in the steps taken by Bangabandhu during the Liberation War as well as after the independence of Bangladesh. Bangabandhu thought very intensely about ensuring the constitutional rights of the farmers.

Article 14 of the constitution of Bangladesh states, "The main responsibility of the state is to liberate the working people—peasants and workers and to liberate other backward groups from all forms of exploitation." Article 16 of the constitution states, "In order to wipe out the discrimination in living standards between urban and rural people, he called for an agricultural revolution." He said, "No matter how

boastful we try to be, we must not forget, we all are rooted in the soil and farming."

During his visits across the nation, Bangabandhu drew attention to various issues like agricultural heritage of different regions, condition of farmers, diversified crops and their rotation. He reminded about the unique features of the soil of this country. Father of the Nation Bangabandhu as the head of the government and head of the state got only 1,314 days to rebuild independent Bangladesh. His visionary, long-term and well-thought-out vision is in every aspect of Bangladesh's development. During the post-liberated period in 1972, the production of food grains in the country was 1.1 crore (11 million) tonnes. It was not enough for 7 crore (70 million) people during that time. The Bangabandhu government

had provided food subsidies for two years after independence to curb down the food shortage. In the first five-year plan, more investment was made in mainstream agriculture, irrigation and other input facilities. Cooperatives played an essential role in Bangabandhu's agricultural development and food security. He discussed his thoughts with eminent economists, university professors and many other people from relevant fields. He took various initiatives to make the plan up-to-date. He thought of a two-tiered cooperative. There has been much research on his cooperative ideas. Active researchers and economists of that time still carry that memory and strategies. Bangabandhu told everyone to become a down-to-earth person so that people can contribute to the country in the best manner possible.

His speech at the Bangladesh Agricultural University on February 13 in 1973 provides a complete outline and philosophy for agricultural production and food production. He urged the agriculturists to go to the village. He said the gap between village and the city should be bridged. He also mentioned that modern and mechanized agriculture should be embraced. He also stressed on the issue that farmers should be honoured and respected. In 1973, Bangladesh Rice Research Institute was institutionalized through Act No 10. Initiatives for research of different crops, except rice, were taken at the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute. Horticulture Development Board, Cotton Development Board, Seed Certification Agency, Rubber Development Programme, Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation, Fisheries and Livestock Research Institute and Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council, the highest body for research coordination were reconstituted.

The ministry of jute was established to expand the potential of the golden fibre of Bengal. Today, Bangladesh's progress in agricultural development is appreciated and followed all over the world. We are getting excellent benefits of Bangabandhu's dream and initiatives. The world is amazed at the foresight of an undisputed leader.

Father of the Nation Bangabandhu is in the heart of our farmers and evolution of the farming sector of Bangladesh. Today, we're experiencing an extraordinary agricultural awakening. I have been walking in rural Bangladesh for more than four decades. In the farmer's field, I have seen many adverse conditions and hardships of the agrarian population. I have also witnessed thousands, lakhs of people focus on agriculture with confidence. This confidence comes from the great leader Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, whose motto was never to look back and fight back with what you have. Most profound homage on the 45th martyrdom anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family members.



A recent photo of some of the floating seedbeds at Nagdora Beel in Mohanganj upazila of Netrakona.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Saplings being prepared on floating seedbeds

The effort being undertaken to help farmers in flood-hit Netrakona, Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Netrakona is making floating seedbeds for poor and marginal farmers who have been affected by the recent floods.

Around 6,000 farmers, nearly half of whom are very poor, were affected in the district where three back-to-back floods damaged seedbeds on 575 acres, Aus fields on 45 acres and vegetables on around 4 acres of land, said Habibur Rahman, deputy director of DAE in Netrakona. The damage has been estimated at over Tk 76 lakh.

With the help of the affected farmers, as many as 120 floating seedbeds are being prepared to produce saplings on 15 acres of land in flood affected Sadar, Barhatta, Mohanganj, Khaliajuri, Kalmakanda and Purbodhala upazilas in Netrakona.

The saplings will be ready for distribution among the affected farmers within a month, he also said.

Mostafa Kamal, upazila agriculture officer in Mohanganj, said local farmers have made 36

floating seedbeds in Nagdora Beel, a water body in the upazila, where they are growing saplings of BR-22, a late variety of rice.

The saplings produced there would be distributed among the poor and marginal farmers in the first week of September, he added.

Three back-to-back floods damaged seedbeds on 575 acres, Aus fields on 45 acres and vegetables on around 4 acres of land in Netrakona.

A Phulpur-based voluntary organisation, HELDS Foundation, has also come forward and joined hands with the effort.

Their volunteers are preparing floating seedbeds for Aman saplings for distribution among flood-affected farmers in Phulpur upazila of

Mymensingh, said Tasfique Haque, secretary of the organisation.

"We came forward to assist the local agricultural department as about 1,500 farmers in the upazila, which is still under floodwater, had not been able to prepare seedbeds for Aman cultivation."

Local farmers helped them make the floating seedbeds and local agriculture officials advised them on how to prepare the beds with banana tree and water hyacinth.

The saplings on the seedbeds would be ready for planting within 25 days and those would be those would be handed over to the affected farmers for free, he said.

Contacted, Abdullah Al Mamun, agriculture officer in Phulpur upazila, said seedbeds on eight acres of land were damaged in recent floods in the upazila.

With support from farmers and volunteers, they used three acres of land to make 12 floating seedbeds, which they named "Community Seedbeds," he said. "Affected farmers also helped us prepare seedbeds on 416 trays."

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Upazila: Manikganj Sadar, District: Manikganj.
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No.LGED/UE/Manik/2020/548 Date: 20.08.2020

Invitation for e-Tender Notice No.-01/2020-21 (NOTM)

e-Tender are invited in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following work as stated below.

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Name of work	Tender Last selling (Date & Time)	Last Date & Time of Security Submission	Tender Closing & Opening (Date & Time)
01.	483836	e-Tender/PEDP4/MNK/SAD/2019-20/W14.1006	Construction Boundary wall including Gate of KAFATIYA Govt. Primary School under Manikgonj Sadar Upazila District Manikganj.	13-09-2020 15.00 PM	14-09-2020 10.30 AM	14-09-2020 11.00 AM
02.	484959	e-Tender/PEDP4/MNK/SAD/2020-21/W1.09956	Construction of Additional class Room of SHANBANDHA Govt. Primary School under Manikgonj Sadar Upazila District Manikganj.	13-09-2020 15.00 PM	14-09-2020 10.30 AM	14-09-2020 11.00 AM

These are 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 required in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)/Contract Number (01716366825).

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GD-1299

GAZI WIRES LIMITED
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Steel & Engineering Corporation)
28-FIDC Road, Kalurghat, Chattogram-4212, Bangladesh.

Tender Notice (NCT)

1	Procuring Entity Name	Managing Director, GAZI WIRES LIMITED (BSEC), 28-FIDC Road, Kalurghat, Chattogram-4212, Bangladesh.
2	Procuring Entity District	Chattogram.
3	Invitation for	(1) Uniform for Workers and Staffs (2) Wall Calendar and Desk Calendar
4	Invitation Ref. No	(1) GW/PUR/74/OTM(NCT)/2020-2021 Dated: 20-08-2020 (2) GW/PUR/071/OTM (NCT)/2020-2021 Dated: 20-08-2020
5	Procurement Method	Open Tender Method (NCT)
6	Budget and Source of Funds	Gazi Wires Limited's Own Fund.
7	Tender Publication Date	20/08/2020
8	Tender Last Selling Date	08/09/2020 (During Office Time)
9	Tender Closing Date and Time	Date: 09/09/2020 Time: 11.30AM (Bangladesh Betar time)
10	Tender Opening Date and Time	Date: 09/09/2020 Time: 11.45 AM (Bangladesh Betar time)
11	Name & Address of the office(s)	Address: BSEC Bhaban, 102-Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh. 1) Cash Section, Bangladesh Steel & Engineering, BSEC Bhaban, 102-Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh. 2) Cash Section, Gazi Wires Limited, 28-FIDC Road, Kalurghat, Chattogram-4212, Bangladesh.
	(a) Selling of Tender Document	
	(b) Receiving and Opening of Tender Document	1) At the office of Gazi Wires Ltd., 28-FIDC Road, Kalurghat, Chattogram-4212, Bangladesh.
12	Price of Tender Document (Each)	BDT. 1,000.00 (One Thousand)
13	Brief Description of Goods	
	Tender Package No.	Description of Goods and works
	GW/PUR/74/OTM(NCT)/2020-2021	Uniform for Workers and Staffs
	GW/PUR/071/OTM (NCT)/2020-2021	Wall Calendar and Desk Calendar
14	Regarding Tender Document	The Tender Document may be purchased by the interested tenderers on the submission of a written application to the addresses as mentioned in serial no. 11(a) and upon payment of a non refundable fee BDT. 1000.00. The method of payment will be in the form of cash in favour of Gazi Wires Ltd. No Tender will be sent by Courier or mail. One tender document cannot be used for submission of tender proposal (s) by more than one tenderer.
15	Special instruction	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Tenders without showing any reason.

(Md. Akter Hossain)
Deputy Chief Executive (Mechanical)
Head of Commercial
For-Managing director

GD-1297