



Bibha Mandol, below, from Purbo Sayera village in Bagerhat Sadar upazila, is among the farmers who found success in cultivating 'Black Horse' watermelon on canopies set up around fishing ponds in the upazila.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

# Watermelon on canopies around fishing ponds: a success story

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Many farmers in Bagerhat's Sadar upazila are raking in good profits, sometimes up to 120 percent, by growing an off-season variety of watermelon on the banks of fishing ponds.

Under a project titled 'National Agricultural Technology Programme (NATP, Phase 2)', the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in the upazila is providing technical know-how and assistance to farmers in cultivating the watermelon variety named 'Black Horse'.

Taking advantage of easy access to irrigation water from fishing ponds, a farmer can make a profit between Tk 30 thousand and Tk 35 thousand out of an investment between Tk 25 thousand and Tk 30 thousand on one bigha of land.

Enticed by the prospect, a growing number of farmers are trying their luck on the 'Black Horse' in the district.

Currently, the 'Black Horse' is being cultivated on 10 acres of land in Bagerhat Sadar upazila alone, said Sadiya Sultana, agriculture officer in the upazila.

They have been providing all sorts of support to interested farmers as the variety is less prone



to diseases, delicious and most importantly, profitable, she added.

Bibha Mandol, from Purbo Sayera village in Sadar upazila, is among the farmers who found success in cultivating 'Black Horse' watermelon on three and a half bighas of land around two fishing ponds.

She said her total expense on the garden was Tk 7 thousand as she was able to save some money that she would otherwise need to spend

on mesh canopies, supported by bamboo, around the ponds. She already had the canopies set up on the banks of the ponds from one of her previous farming projects. Besides, she saved an additional amount by not engaging any paid labourer at the garden.

She succeeded in growing 350 plants of the 'Black Horse' variety and the plants started to bear fruits 45 to 60 days later. She so far sold nearly 70 maunds of

the watermelon, which weighed between three and seven kilograms each. Each of the fruit is selling for about Tk 100 to Tk 280, depending on weight.

Since the profit margin on 'Black Horse' watermelon is higher than that of many vegetables such as cucumber or pumpkin, she is planning on planting more of the variety, she also said.

Another farmer, Joydeb Das, from the same village, spent Tk 25 thousand to grow the watermelon on nearly 33 decimals of land surrounding his fishing pond.

This is a more convenient way of looking after the fish farm, while at the same time, irrigating the watermelon garden with water from the pond, he added.

Farmer Nazmul Alam, who cultivated the variety on four bighas of land in the same village, said he would grow 'Black Horse' watermelon in a larger area next year as market response he received toward the variety has been quite positive.

After learning about the prospect of making higher profits, many farmers growing other crops are also expressing interest in cultivating 'Black Horse', he added.

# Carrrom trade changes his lot amid pandemic

Parvej earns Tk 30,000 from selling the boards per month

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah

A carrrom factory owner in Jhenidah is earning good profit by making boards amid coronavirus situation as the game of carrrom has become very popular in the district during the current ongoing pandemic situation.

Workers of the factory said they are busy making carrrom boards all the day long amid the pandemic as its demand is very high now. They work till 10:00pm at the factory every day.

Parvej Hasan, 26, son of Md Reazuddin of Arpara village in Kaliganj upazila, is the owner of the factory named 'Reazuddin wood house'.

While talking to this correspondent on Monday noon, the factory owner said due to extreme poverty, he had to give up his study in 2008 when he was the student of Class VIII and started to work at a local furniture factory.

He further said his father has no land and it is tough for his father to run their eight-member family. They live on three decimals of land. In 2009, he was again admitted at Class IX under Open University. He will sit for the degree exam this year.

He added that he set up this factory in

2019 where seven workers work every day.

Before March 8, he sold only 60 carrrom boards but during the pandemic, he is selling 100 pieces per month. During this time, the demand of carrrom has increased surprisingly. Especially the students are buying carrrom boards as their schools and colleges remain closed due to coronavirus outbreak. They pass time at home by playing carrrom.

Besides, the traders of Dhaka and Chattogram are purchasing a good number of carrrom boards from him during the situation, said Parvej.

They make carrrom boards in different sizes. A small sized board costs around Tk 800/900 to make and they sell at Tk 1200/1300 while a large sized board costs at Tk 2500/2600 to make and it is sold at Tk 3000/3500.

He added that he earns Tk 25000/30000 from selling the carrrom boards per month.

Arafat Hossain, a student of class nine at Government Naldanga Bhusan Pilot Secondary School, said he has bought a carrrom board from Parvej.

He along with his sisters play carrrom during the time as their school is closed, said Arafat.



The workers at Reazuddin wood house in Arpara village of Jhenidah's Kaliganj upazila paint carrrom boards recently.

PHOTO: STAR

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Prime Minister's Office  
Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority  
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111, Bir Uttam C.R Dutta Road, Dhaka-1205  
[www.beza.gov.bd](http://www.beza.gov.bd)

Memo No. 03.07.00.00.055.014.035.2020-1878 Date: 10.09.2020

### e-Tender Notice (OTM)

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

Tender ID No.	Name of work	Publication date	Last selling date and time	Closing and opening date and time
492520	Procurement of Furniture (2 Tables, 8 Chairs, 2 Steel Almira, 2 File Cabinet) for Establishment of WTP & DTW in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Shilpanagar Project.	10 September 2020 12.01pm	27 September 2020 05.00pm	28 September 2020 05.00pm
492521	Procurement of Total Station & Other Office Equipment (1 Tab & 2 Scanner Machine) for Establishment of WTP & DTW in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Shilpanagar Project.	10 September 2020 12.01pm	27 September 2020 05.00pm	28 September 2020 05.00pm

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. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from helpdesk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)). The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders/proposals.

  
**Md. Helal Ahmed**  
Deputy Secretary  
Project Director (Addl. Charge)  
Establishment of WTP & DTW in  
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib  
Shilpanagar Project, BEZA

GD-1435



This bridge, built on Chandrakura Canal in Nilphamari Sadar upazila about a year ago, is unusable for commuters due to the lack of approach roads.

# EPZ workers suffer as bridge lies with no approach roads

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Nearly six thousand workers of different factories at Uttara Export Processing Zone (EPZ) in Nilphamari are suffering immensely while communicating to their destinations as a bridge on Chandrakura Canal is lying without approach roads for a year.

The 33-foot-long and 18-foot wide bridge on Darwani-Khansama road at Joychondi village under Sonarai union of the district is the only way of communication for hundreds of workers from surrounding 20 villages and it is only 400 metres from the boundary wall of Uttara EPZ.

Sadar Upazila Engineer of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) Nuruddin Ahmed said Shah Anwar construction, a private owned company, was given the work order to construct the 33-foot-long and 18-foot wide concrete bridge on Chandrakura Canal along with 1,800 metre approach roads on both sides at a cost of Tk 1.53 crore.

Although the contractor concern completed the bridge construction work about a year ago, but kept the approach roads on both ends incomplete due to unknown reasons, causing untold suffering to thousands of villagers, especially the EPZ workers.

Shah Ahasan Habib Babu, convenor of Jagrato Sonarai, a voluntary organization, said this is just an utter negligence of LGED as they are yet to take any action against the contractor concern though the deadline of the work expired over a year ago.

Seventy-year-old Naliny Roy of the area said as this is the only way of communication for them, local people built a makeshift wooden-bridge six months ago.

Mousumi Akhtar, a worker of a factory at EPZ, said they often have to face odd situation while crossing the makeshift wooden bridge as both ends remain crowded during office time.

She said sometimes they even fail to attend their workplace in time.

PHOTO: STAR

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Department of Environment  
[www.doe.gov.bd](http://www.doe.gov.bd)

Memo No. 22.02.0000.039.14.007.20/006

Date: 09/09/2020

## Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI)

for

**Financial Management Specialist (FMS) (Package No. SD1) of BEST Project**

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a Project Preparation Advance (PPA) from the World Bank towards preparation of proposed Bangladesh Environmental Sustainability and Transformation (BEST) Project, being implemented by the Department of Environment (DOE). Now, DoE invites EOI from the competent individuals for the Procurement Specialist.

### 2. Scope of Services:

The Financial Management Specialist (FMS) will assist the Project Director and Project Implementation Unit by providing requisite services with regard to the management of the financial aspects under the preparation of BEST project. Detailed scope of works (Terms of Reference) and other information will be in Department of Environment's website ([www.doe.gov.bd](http://www.doe.gov.bd)).

### 3. General Qualification and Experience:

- The FMS shall have at least Master's degree in Finance/Accounting from nationally recognized institution. An advanced degree in ACCA/CA/ICMA will be given priority.
- At least five years' experience after acquiring stipulated qualification in financial management, audit or accounts.

### 4. Specific Skills and Experience:

- Prior experience of donor funded and public sector projects will be accorded due weightage.
- Excellent writing and communications as evidenced by a body of written work.
- Demonstrated Computer Skill (Proficiency in using computer desktop application MS Office (Word, Excel, and Power Point).
- Skill in analysis of proposals using formula in Excel or other similar software.

5. BEST Project now invites eligible applicants to indicate their interest in providing the services. The Applicants are requested to submit their: (a) CV (Curriculum Vitae), which will indicate that they are qualified to perform the assignment; (b) expected remuneration and (c) submission letter and all other details requested above should be submitted as per standard format given with ToR in [www.doe.gov.bd](http://www.doe.gov.bd).

6. The Financial Management Specialist (FMS) will be selected in accordance with the "World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers (July 2016)". It is expected that the Consultant's service will commence within one month of hiring. Duration of the consultancy services would be over the period of 18 (Eighteen) months.

7. Expression of Interest (EOI) shall be submitted by September 27, 2020 up to 4:00pm either in sealed envelope clearly marked "Expression of Interest (EOI) for Selection of the Financial Management Specialist (FMS)" in the email's subject line or on top of the envelope or through email sent to the following undersigned address. EOIs received after the last date of submission will not be considered for short listing.

8. The Project authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOI without assigning any reason, whatsoever.

**Mohammed Solaiman Haider**

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