



Meraz and his friends with tree saplings near the bank of the Karatoa river in Bogura.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Meraz on a mission

The student planted 2,100 saplings in Bogura's 12 upazilas while his university remained closed due to the outbreak of Covid-19

MD MIZANUR RAHMAN HIMADRI

There are some who complain about anything. And there are some who make the best use of any situation.

Abul Bashar Meraz definitely falls in the latter category.

When the outbreak of Covid-19 forced resident students to return to their homes after their educational institutions closed down, Meraz also left Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), where he is a master's student, for his home in Nashipur village Bogura's Gabtoli upazila.

During almost six months of his stay-at-home, he did not just confine himself to his own comfort, but chose to do something worthwhile for the community. He made quite an impact among inhabitants of 12 upazilas in the district during this time by planting 2,100 tree saplings.

Between June till mid-August, Meraz, with the help of several of his neighbourhood friends, also students at different universities, planted saplings of various timber, fruit and medicinal trees at as many as 21 locations in the upazilas.

Villager Sohel Rana, from Kollapara in Kahalu upazila, said, "A few months back, a university student came here one day and he planted tree saplings alongside a road and different other open places in the village. The rural road has now turned green -- as if my village has once again regained its life amid the pandemic."

Appreciating the initiative, Abdullah al Fattah, from Gabtoli upazila, said as a means to protect nearby areas from erosion, Meraz and his friends also planted trees on the banks of the Jamuna,

Karatoa, Ichhamothi and Bangalee rivers in Bogura.

Other places they planted saplings include Sabgram road in Bogura Sadar, Bijoynagar in Sherpur, Lekurhaat in Gabtoli, Rahimabad in Shahjahanpur, Bererbari in Dhunat, Pathanpara in Sonatola, Talore rail station in Dupchanchia and a government primary school in Nandigram.

Explaining the motivation behind his mission of planting trees at so many places, Meraz said when a paved road near his house started to crumble during the monsoon rain of June, he realised that the road would not get as damaged if it had trees on its sides.

Besides, "tree is our true friend as it's the primary provider of oxygen [in the atmosphere] and supply of which is crucial for Covid-19 patients. So, everyone, especially students and the young generation, should come forward and plant trees across the country for a green Bangladesh," he added.

Imbued with the motivation, Meraz and his friends then started planting saplings along the road in his village and took on the mission to protect other vulnerable areas, especially roads and river banks, in the district by doing the same.

Meraz first put down the Tk 5,000 that he had saved up from his pocket money. Others soon started to contribute, with cash or saplings, for the cause after seeing his post on his Facebook account.

The team of Meraz and friends do not just finish their duties by planting the saplings only. They assign local volunteers who look after the young trees.

TORTURE ON BOY Restaurant owner's brother arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Police arrested the brother of a restaurant owner in connection with a case for torturing a 13-year-old employee in Kurigram's Rajibpur upazila on Thursday.

The incident took place at Sayeem Hotel in Machh Hati area around 10:30pm.

Police said Mamota Begum, mother of the teenage victim, Sagar Hossain of Joyanchar village under Dangdhara union in Jamalpur's Dewanganj upazila, filed a case with Rajibpur Police Station against restaurant owner Sayeem Hossain and his brother Shafi Alam in connection with the incident.

Officer in Charge (OC) of Rajibpur Police Station Nabiul Hasan said, being informed by the locals, police rescued Sagar and handed him over to his family through a local NGO, Department of Social Welfare.

They also arrested Shafi from the spot, but the restaurant owner Sayeem managed to escape the arrest, added the OC.

Quoting locals, police said Sagar was absent in his work on Wednesday due to illness.

But, owner Sayeem became furious when the boy joined his work on Thursday and demanded his arrears of previous one week.

At one stage, Sayeem and Shafi tied the boy to a pole inside the restaurant's kitchen and tortured him mercilessly.

1,500 marginalised people receive govt grants in Lalmonirhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A total of 1500 marginalised people in Lalmonirhat district have recently received financial grants from the government's social welfare department. Each of them in five upazilas and one municipality of the district has received Tk 18,000 financial grant. The local administration has handed over the government grants to the people of the marginalised communities to increase their work efficiency.

These marginalised communities include Rabidas (cobbler), Narosundar (barber), cottage artisans and potters in different areas. These people from different villages in the district struggle to survive.

Premchand Rabidas of Bhadai area in Aditmari upazila said he is very happy to receive the government grant amid the pandemic. With the money, he will repair his roadside

shop. He will also buy various items used in sewing shoes with the amount.

Dhaneshwar Chandra Rabidas from Kalmati area in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila said the Tk 18,000 government grant would help them a lot in the crisis time. He would repair his shop and buy some shoe accessories with the money.

"Our income has come down due to coronavirus outbreak. The government grant will really help us financially in the challenging time," he said.

Kohinur Islam, owner of a barber shop in Dalpatti area of Lalmonirhat town, said he could not repair his shop due to lack of money. He has recently received Tk 18,000 financial grant from the government's social welfare department. He will renovate the shop with the money.

Fani Chandra Das, who is dependent on bamboo and cane work

at Mahishkocha village in Aditmari upazila, said he lost his capital during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Fani added that there was no money to buy bamboo. He is going to start a new business after getting the government grant in the crisis time.

"I got the opportunity to make a living by buying bamboo and cane with the grant money," he said.

MA Matin, deputy director (DD) of the Lalmonirhat district social welfare department, told The Daily Star that the government has given the financial grants to marginalised people to improve their work skill.

The government has been assisting marginalised people to increase their income, he added.

They will keep vigilance on those marginalised people who have received the government grants, said the DD.



A woman from marginalised community expresses her happiness after getting Tk 18,000 financial grant in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

TORTURED BY ADDICT HUSBAND Housewife lands in Rangpur hospital



Severely beaten by her husband, victim Parvin Akhter is now undergoing treatment at Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

PHOTO: STAR

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Brutally tortured by her drug addict husband, a newlywed housewife is groaning with severe pain at Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH) with injuries all over her body, including both hands and legs.

The incident took place in Palli Bidyut area under Rahimanpur union in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila on Friday night.

The victim, Parvin Akhter, 24, daughter of Shafiqul Islam of Malancha village in Baliadangi upazila, was married to Nur Islam, a resident of Palli Bidyut area in Sadar upazila, only a couple of months ago.

Being informed by the villagers, police raided the village the same night and detained Nur around 11:30pm.

Medical Officer at Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital Sakib Ibne Abdullah said victim Parvin was beaten mercilessly with an iron like object and her body bore marks of injuries all over including both the hands and legs.

After conducting X-ray it would be clear whether there is any fracture, added the doctor.

Before leaving for RMCH for better treatment, Parvin told this correspondent at Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital on Friday midnight that she was married to Nur just eight months ago.

Soon after the marriage, Parvin came to know that her husband is a drug addict and he often used to torture her when she protested him, she said.

Parvin said she went to her parental house on Thursday and after returning to her in-laws' house on Friday afternoon she noticed that Nur had already taken drugs and was behaving abnormally.

Meanwhile, soon after reaching her in-laws' house Nur forcibly took her in a room, locked the door from inside and started beating her mercilessly with an iron rod, leaving her seriously injured, she added.

Hearing cry for help, her in-laws entered the room by breaking open the door and rescued her.

They took injured Parvin to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital, where the doctors gave her primary treatment, before referring her to RMCH.

While talking to this correspondent, Nur's niece Mim said her drug addict uncle beat his wife mercilessly with an iron rod and left her severely injured. They took injured Parvin to RMCH as per the doctor's advice, she added.

Officer in Charge of Sadar Police Station Tanvirul Islam said after the incident they raided the village and detained Nur from there.

Thakurgaon Senior Judicial Magistrate Ariful Islam sent Nur to jail when police produced him before his court on Saturday evening, after victim's father filed a case with Thakurgaon Sadar Police Station the same afternoon.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department
Emergency Multi-Sector Rohingya Crisis Response Project
Workshop Bhaban (Level-3), Agargaon
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.0000.954.11.002.2020.562;

Date: 17-09-2020

Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI) (Consulting Services – Firms Selection [International])

Country: Bangladesh

Name of Project: Emergency Multi-Sector Rohingya Crisis Response Project (EMCRP)

Assignment Title: Consultancy Services for Feasibility Study of Resilient Infrastructure Building Project (RIBP).

Reference No. (as per Procurement Plan): EMCRP/AF/FS/87

Grant No.: IDA-D4190

The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received grant from the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank Group toward the cost of the Emergency Multi-Sector Rohingya Crisis Response Project (EMCRP), and intends to apply part of the proceeds for the consulting services of Feasibility Study of Resilient Infrastructure Building Project (RIBP).

The consulting services ("the Services") include: a) Development and updating of database of Disaster Shelters Systems (DSS) specially related in flood prone areas; (b) Identification, prioritization and screening of vulnerable areas in Bangladesh due to flood risk and interventions required for safe refuge of people and their cattle during flood; (c) Finalizing project interventions & site selection; (d) Prepare preliminary design of project interventions with estimate(e) feasibility study of the Project; (f) Prepare Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Resettlement Polity Framework (RPF), Resettlement Action Plan (RAP), Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), Labor Management Procedure (LMP) and other necessary ES documents complying with World Bank and GoB's all safeguards requirements; (g) Prepare detailed designs and bidding documents for first two packages of works with estimated cost of about US\$50 million. The duration of the assignment will be 8 months. The assignment is expected to commence on March 2021.

The detailed Draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found in the following address and website: www.lged.gov.bd.

The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are:

1. General experience of the firms;
2. Experience in similar assignments of comparable size, complexity and technical specialty; and
3. Financial soundness, appropriate personnel, logistics.

Key Experts will not be evaluated and CVs need not to be submitted at the shortlisting stage.

Consultants are requested to submit at least the following supporting documents in support of the abovementioned criteria: (a) Registration documents of the firm(s); (b) JV agreement/letter of intent (if applicable); (c) Firm's brochure; (d) Audited financial reports for last 3 years; (e) appropriate personnel & logistics; (f) records of similar experience (including nature, contract price, total input in terms of man month, employer, funding agency(s), location of services etc.).

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers July 2016, revised November 2017 and August 2018 ("Procurement Regulations") setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications, but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected. In the case of an association (JV or Sub-consultancy), all members of such "association" should have real and well-defined inputs to the assignment and in such "association" it is preferable to limit the total number of firms to a maximum of 3.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours from 0900 to 1700 hours local time.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below in person, or by mail or by email by 17.00 local time (GMT+6 hours) on or before October 15, 2020. In case of hard copy one original and three copies should be submitted.

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GD-1485

The Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd.
Gazipur
Website: www.spcl.org.bd

**International e-Tender for Supply of 500 Reams
CBS-1 Paper for MICR Cheque Print**

Electronic tenders (e-Tenders) are hereby invited from the competent manufacturers/suppliers for supply of the above CBS-1 Paper for MICR Cheque Print for this Corporation as per under noted schedule. Tender documents showing terms and conditions with specification will be available at web: 114.130.43.56 or etender.spcl.org.bd. It is to mention here that this is online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted and no hard copy will be accepted except price of e-Tender schedule and earnest money. To submit e-Tender bidders need to register on 114.130.43.56 or etender.spcl.org.bd. For more details please contact cell: 880-1534002183 & 880-1534002184. Necessary information is given below:

1. Price per e-Tender schedule : Tk 1000 (one thousand) Taka only (non-refundable).
2. Date of publish of e-Tender : 21.09.2020.
3. Last date & time for : 25.10.2020 up to 11.00am. submission of e-Tender
4. Date & time for opening of e- : 25.10.2020 at 11.15am. Tender

Bidder may collect the e-Tender schedule from the abovementioned website. Earnest money @ 3% (three percent) of the total quoted price shall have to be submitted in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order/Irrevocable Bank Guarantee from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh in favour of the Managing Director, The Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd., Gazipur along with the price of e-Tender schedule in the form of a separate Pay-Order/DD in the tender box kept at Corporation's office in Gazipur on or before the scheduled deadline for submission of e-Tender. Irrevocable Bank Guarantee may also be given as earnest money from any international commercial bank abroad with a counter guarantee from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh. e-Tender(s) without earnest money and price against procurement of e-Tender schedule shall not be acceptable. The e-Tender shall have to submit as per e-Tender guidelines mentioned at above website. Offer(s) shall be opened as per schedule mentioned above in presence of the tenderer(s) if any. 01 (one) e-Tender schedule is applicable only for one supplier/manufacturer for submitting one offer along with earnest money and price of e-Tender schedule. The authority reserves the right to reject or accept any e-Tender(s) without assigning any reason whatsoever. Submission of e-Tender after the specified time shall not be acceptable under any circumstances.

Sheikh Mohammad Shoab Nazir
General Manager (Foreign Purchase)
Phone: 08-02-9205661

GD-1483