

Grass cultivation makes ten thousand families self-reliant

BSS, Rangpur

More than 10,000 extremely poor families have become self-reliant through commercial cultivation of sweet jumbo grass in sandy char areas of the Brahmaputra basin in the past few years.

Expanded cultivation of the Australian hybrid variety grass has also been helping the char people boost animal husbandry and eradicate abject poverty to lead a better life.

They have achieved success with assistance of Chars Livelihood Programme (CLP), funded by UK Aid through DFID. The programme has been helping char people in 10 north-western districts since 2008.

Expanded cultivation of the grass has led to better milk production due to fatter cattle, fewer deaths of cattle and less fodder crisis during the rainy season.

After the successful grass cultivation, a number of local NGOs have launched expanded farming programmes of the grass on over 8,000 acres of land with assistance of CLP.

Agriculture and Environment Coordinator Mamunur Rashid of RDRS Bangladesh, one of the implementing organisations of CLP, said farming of the grass has been expanding fast in char areas in recent years.

Following successful grass production, the char people have been meeting demands of malnourished children and eradicating abject poverty through selling cattle-heads.

Besides, owners of the bigger dairy farms of Bogra and other areas in the northern districts have been purchasing the nutritious grass at better rates to feed their cattle.

Senior Agriculture Officer of RDRS Bangladesh Anup Kumar Ghosh said the grass growers get the first harvest after one month of sowing seeds and get a total of eight harvests every month from January to August.

"The growers have been earning a net profit of Tk 80,000 on an average annually through cultivation of the grass on one acre char land excluding the production cost of Tk 20,000 after feeding their cattle," he said.

Farmers Shahjahan of Bozra Diarkhata village, Faridul Islam and Abdul Baten of Jadur Char village, and Mintu Mian of Nalita Khata village said they sowed the seeds on their 20 to 30 decimals of land this time some four months ago.

"We are meeting the total fodder demand of our 22 to 30 cows and we have sold the produced grass between Tk 20,000 and Tk 30,000 in three harvests so far and received expected profits, and there will be five more harvests," they said.

Farmer Wahed Ali of Kachir Char in Sadar upazila of Kurigram told the news agency that he has cultivated the grass in an one-acre land this time and already sold the produced grass at Tk 55,000 so far after feeding 20 cows.



A five-storey community centre under construction on the land of Sharafatganj Park in the capital recently. The city corporation, which is supposed to ensure civic amenities to the residents, is itself denying them a much-needed open space.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Once was a green patch

How many parks does Dhaka city need? According to rules, it should be 92, one for each ward. But we have only 54, with several of them having ceased to exist and many threatened. At least 10 parks have been replaced with a community centre, kitchen market, mosque, rickshaw garage or truck parking lot, mostly by the city corporation itself. This is the picture when an urban expert, Prof Nazrul Islam, says every 10,000 city residents need an open space of four acres -- park or playground -- for healthy development of children and prevention of diseases related to physical activities. The Daily Star reports how and why we are squeezing our breathing spaces in our metropolis where 15 million people cram. The second report of the series is published today.

DISAPPEARING DHAKA PARKS

SHARAFATGANJ

EST: 1960-70s

SIZE: 0.102 ACRES

WARD: 81 (OLD)

HELEMUL ALAM

Another green patch that has been lost from Dhaka city's landscape was once called Sharafatganj Park. Again it is the city corporation that took over the land and started construction of a five-storey community centre.

In a few years, except some elderly people of the area, nobody would even know there used to be a park on Distillery Road in Gendaria. There were children's rides, shade umbrellas, a gymnasium and also a two-storey community centre, almost all facilities for recreation and proper health and mental development of the local people.

A local ward councillor, during the mayoral period of Sadeque Hossain Khoka between 2002 and 2011, initiated the construction of the community centre with approval from the city corporation, said Ansar Ali Khan, chief executive officer of Dhaka South City Corporation.

The corporation, which is responsible for the maintenance of parks and open spaces in the city, indeed has destroyed many parks over the years turning the city into a concrete jungle, said an official of the corporation on the condition of anonymity.

Sohel Ahmed, a resident of nearby Murgitola, said, "We used to walk and jog at

Sharafatganj Park. I played there in my childhood too. The city corporation is denying the residents such basic facilities."

Another local, Jotsna Akhtar, said, "We, the women of the area, strolled around the park after leaving our children there for playing. Elderly people also exercised there."

An official of DSCC said the construction work of the complex has been stopped for the last one and a half years as the contractors concerned are not getting payment due to a fund shortage.

The corporation started constructing the community centre complex on 4,447 sq ft of land, demolishing the old two-storey community centre in 2004. According to the plan, the community centre would house a library, a gymnasium and a ward councillor's office.

The residents said the new complex will offer all modern amenities but it has snatched one of the few open places where they could breathe fresh air.

The authorities should have utilised the park land properly, they added.

Md Belal Uddin, one resident, said, "A park is not only for playing and walking but also a place where different social and religious activities take place which strengthen relationship among the locals."



Food and Agriculture Organization Of the United Nations

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The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations invites bids for **Procurement of Seeds/Grain silos** under project OSRO/BGD/404/EC. The bids should be submitted in the format indicated in the ITB Document. ITB document can be downloaded from the organization's Website: <http://www.fao.org/bangladesh/fao-in-bangladesh/employmentprocurement/en/>. Closing date and Time for submission of Bids is **13 May 2015, 12:00 Hrs.**

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দি পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন, ২০০৬ ও পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা, ২০০৮ অনুযায়ী আইন, বিচার ও সংসদ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়ের আইন ও বিচার বিভাগের অধীনস্থ বিভিন্ন আদালত/ট্রাইব্যুনালে ব্যবহারের জন্য ০২ (দুই)টি সিডান কার ক্রয়ের নিমিত্তে প্রকৃত পরিবেশক/এজেন্ট বা সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

১।	কাজের নাম	আইন, বিচার ও সংসদ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়ের আইন ও বিচার বিভাগের অধীনস্থ বিভিন্ন আদালত/ট্রাইব্যুনালে ব্যবহারের জন্য ০২ (দুই)টি সিডান কার ক্রয়।
২।	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	আইন ও বিচার বিভাগ, আইন, বিচার ও সংসদ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়।
৩।	এজেন্সী	আইন ও বিচার বিভাগ।
৪।	দরপত্র আহ্বানের সূত্র ও তারিখ	স্মারক নং-১০.০০.০০০০.১২৬.২৬.২২০.১২-৭৬৪ তারিখঃ ২৭-০৪-২০১৫খ্রিঃ।
৫।	দরপত্র আহ্বানের পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।
৬।	অর্থায়নে	আইন, বিচার ও সংসদ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়ের আইন ও বিচার বিভাগের অধীনস্থ দেওয়ানী ও দায়রা আদালতসমূহ কোডের অনুকূলে চলতি ২০১৪-১৫ অর্থ বছরের বরাদ্দকৃত রাজস্ব বাজেট।
৭।	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	১৩-০৫-২০১৫খ্রিঃ তারিখ পর্যন্ত যে কোন দিন অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে সিনিয়র সহকারী সচিব, বাজেট ও উন্নয়ন, আইন ও বিচার বিভাগ, আইন, বিচার ও সংসদ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা এর অফিস কক্ষে (ডেবন-৪, কক্ষ নং-৭১৭)। ফোন-৯৫১৫২২২।
৮।	দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	১৪-০৫-২০১৫খ্রিঃ তারিখ বেলা ২:৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত সিনিয়র সহকারী সচিব (বাঃ ও উঃ), আইন ও বিচার বিভাগ, আইন, বিচার ও সংসদ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা এর অফিস কক্ষে (ডেবন-৪, কক্ষ নং-৭১৭) রক্ষিত থাকবে।
৯।	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	১৪-০৫-২০১৫খ্রিঃ তারিখ বেলা ৩:০০ ঘটিকায় উপ-সচিব (মতামত-২) ও সভাপতি, দরপত্র উন্মুক্তকরণ কমিটি (TOC), আইন ও বিচার বিভাগ, আইন, বিচার ও সংসদ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা এর অফিস কক্ষে (কক্ষ নং ৭১০)।
১০।	কাজের বিবরণ	কার ১৪৫০-১৫০০ সিসি, ৪ দরজা, ৫ আসন চালকসহ ২০১৫ সনের পূর্বে নয়/সর্বশেষ মডেলের কার এবং এতদসংক্রান্ত সিডিউলে বর্ণিত শর্ত মোতাবেক।
১১।	সিডিউলের মূল্য	প্রতিসেট=১,৫০০/- (এক হাজার পাঁচশত) টাকা।
১২।	টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটি	সিডিউলে বর্ণিত শর্ত মোতাবেক।
১৩।	অভিজ্ঞতা ও যোগ্যতা	সময়মত গাড়ি সরবরাহে সক্ষম এমন অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রকৃত পরিবেশক/এজেন্ট বা সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান দ্বারা সিডিউলে বর্ণিত শর্তাবলী পালনে সক্ষম।
১৪।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম, পদবী ও ঠিকানা	জনাব মিজানুর রহমান খান, যুগ্ম-সচিব (প্রশাসন-২), আইন ও বিচার বিভাগ, আইন, বিচার ও সংসদ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়, ঢাকা। ফোন-৯৫৪০৮৮৬
২।	কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ছাড়া যে কোন দরপত্র সম্পূর্ণ বা আংশিক গ্রহণ/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।	

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Interested candidates are requested to send their detailed CV with a photograph to HR manager, LCBS Dhaka, House 39-B, Road #14/A (Satmosjid Road) Dhanmondi, Dhaka. Or email it to hr@lcbshdaka.com

Last date of application: 6th May, 2015 for Manager and 10th May, 2015 for Trainers & Consultants.

www.lcbshdaka.com **LCBS Dhaka**

Elections

FROM PAGE 3
A female student, who had to pay Tk 80 for travelling from Dhaka City College to Lalmitia, Block-B, said, "It is a big day for mamas but a rainy day for people like us, from middle-class families."
The authorities should take punitive action against such offenders. But with a wide smile, the rickshaw-puller who carried the girl, said, "As all the year round, we suffer financial hardship, let this day be ours."

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Senior Project Officer (Energy)

The ADB-Bangladesh Resident Mission (BRM) was established to assist its Headquarters in the implementation of projects and programs, in project processing, country programming, and economic and sector work. It also coordinates ADB's activities with other resident diplomatic and donor missions, NGOs, academic institutions, local think tanks, private sector and other members of the civil society.

Description of Responsibilities
Contributes to the Bangladesh Resident Mission (BRM) by handling loan/grant/technical assistance (TA) processing and administration, portfolio management, general sector activities, covering public and private sector operations. Acts as BRM focal point in the Power and Energy Sector and leads BRM sector work, including in the areas of programming, processing and analysis. Provides overall coordination in the sector, and supports BRM management and South Asia Energy Division (SAEN) in the dialogue with the government on sector issues. Takes the lead role in the administration of assigned loans, grants and TAs, and a co-team leader/team member role in the implementation and processing of assigned SAEN-led loans, grants and TAs. Takes the lead role in the processing of TAs as assigned. Administers assigned projects; assists in overall monitoring of the status and performance of the ADB's Bangladesh sector portfolio.

For more details about the position, visit
<http://www.adb.org/site/careers/current-opportunities>

Reporting Arrangement

- Supervisor: Country Director/Deputy Country Director and/or designated International Staff
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Specific criteria include

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