

Bumper watermelon yield delights hill farmers

The fruit from Rangamati has huge demand in Dhaka and Chattogram

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

The hill district sees bumper watermelon yield this season, much to the delight of the growers.

The juicy summer fruit has already started arriving in the local markets with huge quantity. The prices, however, remain high.

Currently, a big size melon is selling for Tk 100 to Tk 150 in the district town and a small size for Tk 50 to Tk 80, said farmers.

The growers are showing interest in cultivating the fruit for its fair price, said officials at Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Rangamati.

About 200 hectares of land have been brought under watermelon cultivation this year while the fruit was cultivated on 150 hectares of land last year, they said.

During a recent visit to Samataghat Bazar in Rangamati town, this correspondent found the growers selling watermelons on their engine-run boats. The market at Samataghat bazar is set up twice every week (Wednesday and Saturday).

The juicy fruit is mostly cultivated in Naniarchar, Baghaichhari, Jurachhari, Barkal, Longadu and Sadar upazilas. Growers are now harvesting watermelon in their lands.

Suraja Chakma of Rangapani village in Rangamati Sadar upazila said she bought a watermelon from College gate bazar in the town recently. It was very tasty.

Harun Mia, a farmer of Myni area in Longadu upazila, said he cultivated watermelon on two bighas of land spending Tk 40,000. He has already sold the juicy fruit for Tk 30,000 till now. He is still expecting over one lakh watermelons from his land.

Another grower Ronal Chakma, 35, of Naniarchar upazila, said he cultivated the fruit on two acres of land.

He hopes he will get 1 lack watermelons from his land this time.

Trader Mohammad Ismail Hossain from Chattogram, who came to the weekly market, said watermelon in the hill district has huge demand in Dhaka, Chattogram and other parts of the country as the fruit is very sweeter here.

Rangamati DAE Deputy Director Paban Kumar Chakma said they always provided necessary assistance to the growers to help them to get better yield.



Farmers selling watermelons on their boats at Samataghat Bazar in Rangamati town.

PHOTO: STAR

No plan, no coordination

FROM PAGE 16

"Either Rajuk engineers or foreign experts would be hired or we will seek help from the technical experts of Hatirjheel project to lead the technical team," he said.

"We will apply a realistic and easy method to do the job."

As to whether they had decided how to demolish such a huge building, Oliur said, "We have just decided to demolish it."

Asked the same question, Rajuk Chief Engineer ASM Raihanul Ferdous said they had planned to pull down the building by dismantling the building's column and beams with explosives.

Asked who was going to

do that, Ferdous, one of three project directors on behalf of Rajuk of the Hatirjheel project, said some Chinese experts would be brought in for the work.

As to whether he knew who those Chinese experts were and when they would arrive, Ferdous said, "I don't know. The army officials involved in the Hatirjheel development project are supposed to hire them."

Asked whether they would involve local engineering experts in the demolition work, Ferdous said he did not know that yet.

Contacted, Rajuk's relevant director for development control, Begum Tanjila Khanam, said, "I

know nothing about the building demolition scheme. The related file did not go through my office. I came to know about it this morning."

Rajuk board member for development control Abul Kalam Azad said, "I am not aware of it. The chairman may know everything. I don't know how it all is going ahead."

"I do not know how the decision has been taken or what method [will be used] to pull down the building."

This correspondent could not reach Rajuk Chairman Md Abdur Rahman for comments despite repeated attempts.

Mehedi Ahmed Ansary, a professor of civil engineering at Buet, said controlled

demolition could be one method of demolishing the building.

In this method, the entire building collapses within its structure without harming anything outside.

"But for that, we neither have trained experts, equipment nor the technology," he said.

The other way may be to do it manually. "But in any case, a comprehensive engineering demolition plan must be at hand to avert any loss of life and property," he said.

Ansary, however, suggested that given the financial value of the building it could also be used for a hospital or dormitory for readymade garments workers' welfare.

Still the highest in the region

FROM PAGE 16

"Child marriage denies a girl autonomy in her home and in sexual and reproductive decisions, reduces her chance of being educated, undermines her future and blocks her from realising her full potential in life," the report read.

An estimated 800 million women alive across the world got married when they were children, according to the report.

In the light of the report, experts observed that although Bangladesh made remarkable progress in many areas in recent decades, it could achieve very little in terms of curbing the menace of child marriage.

As per Bangladesh law, the minimum age for marriage for men and women are 21 and 18 respectively.

However, a special provision in the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2017 allows parents to marry off their

children earlier by obtaining a court order.

"Poverty and security concerns play a vital role in prompting parents to marry off their daughters at an early age," said Bangladesh Mahila Parishad President Ayesha Khanam.

"We have done well in some social indicators. But social security, violence against women and female children etc are some key factors that push parents to marry off their daughters before they reach the legal age of marriage," she said.

Ayesha observed that the provision "underage marriage in special circumstances" was spreading a wrong message in the society and the government's compromising attitude further sapped the fight against the menace.

According to the statistic of Bangladesh Police, 17,073 incidents of violence against women and children took place in 2017. The

number came down to 16,253 last year.

According to experts, a large number of incidents of child marriage go unreported till date.

Earlier this month, Unicef published a global report highlighting the connection between climate change and child marriage.

Environmental disasters linked to climate change were threatening lives of over 19 million children in Bangladesh. This prompted many families to opt for child marriage, the report said.

It also noted that climate change made the poorer section of the population to migrate to the capital Dhaka and other major cities where children are often pushed into marriage as well as laborious tasks in dangerous environment.

According to a Unicef report published last year, the rate of child marriage increased in Bangladesh

despite a drop worldwide. At present, one out of every five girls across the world tie the knot before reaching the age of 18, according to the UN organisation.

Never too late

FROM PAGE 16

"When you get older you lose a lot of your memory. I knew the schedules very well, but when I came here I had forgotten everything, including how to write and read," Eusebia was quoted as saying by Sputnik News.

She can now read and write again, and hopes to learn how to use computers.

A video has been circulating on the internet showing Eusebia coming to the class with her teacher and taking down notes along with her classmates who also resumed their studies with her.

Her inspirational story has touched many on the internet, with netizens praising her as an example of strength and resilience.



Mymensingh City Corporation authorities during an eviction drive yesterday demolished six illegal structures in Teenkona Pukurpar area of Mymensingh town.

PHOTO: STAR

Girl kills self

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A schoolgirl killed herself in Basail upazila of the district on Monday night.

The deceased was Dipa Sutradhar, 14, daughter of late Ganesh Sutradhar of Basail Purbopara village, and a student of Class VIII at Basail Pilot Girls' High School.

Quoting family members, Taleb Miah, sub-inspector of Basail Police Station, said Dipa's mother saw her hanging from the ceiling of the house with a piece of cloth around 9:30pm.

Being informed, police recovered the body and sent it to Tangail General Hospital for autopsy, he said.

Reason behind her suicide could not be known immediately, said the SI, adding that an unnatural death case was lodged with the police station in this regard.

Trader hacked dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Unidentified criminals hacked a trader to death in Madhupur upazila on Monday night.


The deceased, Abdul Jalil, 58, of Alipur village in the upazila, was a trader of different seasonal crops.

Quoting local people, police said Matiur Rahman, one of the neighbours of Jalil, found him lying on a road near Ashura Government Primary School with severe injuries around 11:00pm.

He later took him to Madhupur Upazila Health Complex with the help of other villagers, where the doctors declared him dead.

Being informed, police recovered the body and sent it to Tangail General Hospital for autopsy, Assistant Superintendent of Police (Madhupur Circle) Kamran Hossain said, adding that criminals first hacked Jalil with sharp weapons and then slit his throat to confirm his death.

Police recovered a machete from a nearby pond yesterday morning, he said, adding that they were trying to unearth the motive behind the gruesome murder.



Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Center Project

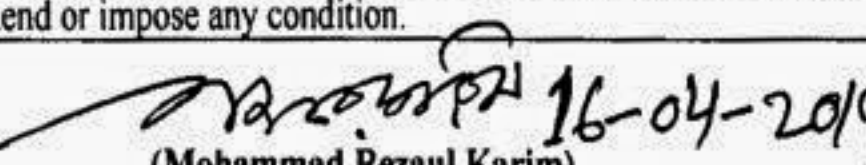
EXPORT PROMOTION BUREAU

Invitation for Tender (OTM)

Selection and Appointment of Firm for Organizing Overseas Study Tour Program

Sealed Tenders are hereby invited from reputed firms/organizations as per the Public Procurement Rules (PPR), 2008 for following services of Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Center Project as per terms and conditions stated below:

1	Ministry/Division	: Ministry of Commerce.
2	Procuring Agency	: Export Promotion Bureau.
3	Procuring Entity Name	: Bangladesh China Friendship Exhibition Center Project
4	Procuring Entity code	: 170101-224004100
5	Procuring Entity District	: Dhaka
6	Invitation for (Name of Works/Services and Tender package)	: For selection and appointment of Firm for organizing of Overseas Study Tour Programs. Two Packages. (a) Organizing Study Tour Program in Brazil and South Africa (b) Organizing Study Tour Program in United Kingdom and Russia.
7	Invitation Reference No	: 26.02.0000.006.14.074.18/658
8	Date	: 16/04/2019
9	Procurement Method	: Open Tendering Method (OTM)
	Procurement Sub-Method	: Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)
10	Budget and Source of Funds	: Own Fund of Project.
11	Development Partners	: China Government
12	Project/Programme Code	: 170101-224004100
13	Project/Programme Name	: Bangladesh China Friendship Exhibition Center Project
14	Tender Package No	: 13
15	Tender Package Name	: Arrangement for Foreign Study Tour/Foreign Training /HR Capacity Building Programs
16	Tender Publication Date	: From 17-04-2019 to 19-04-2019
17	Tender Schedule Selling/Buying Date& Time	: From 17/04/2019 to 30/04/2019 (during office hours).
18	Tender Submission Date and Time (Last/Closing Date and Time)	: From 22/04/2019 to 02/05/2019, Closing time at 2:30 PM on 02/05/2019.
19	Tender Opening Date and Time	: 02/05/2019 at 3:00 PM
20	Name & Address of the Offices/ Places for:	
	(a) Selling/Buying Tender Documents	: Project Office, Bangladesh China Friendship Exhibition Center, Export Promotion Bureau, TCB Bhaban (4th Floor), 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215;
	(b) Receiving/Submitting Tender Documents	: Office of the Secretary, Export Promotion Bureau. TCB Bhaban (4th Floor), 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215;
	(c) Place of Opening Tender Document	: Conference Room, Export Promotion Bureau. TCB Bhaban (4th Floor), 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215;
21	Place and Date of Pre-Tender Meeting	: Not Applicable
22	Eligibility of Tenderer and Documents to be submitted	: (a) The tenderer must have at least 5(Five) years of experience as service provider in public sector as prime contractor/management contractor in organizing overseas study tour programs under aegis of Government Departments/Organizations/Agencies. Details of those have been described in the tender schedule/tender document. (b) Tenderers shall submit attested copy of (1) Updated Trade license (2) VAT registration certificate, (3) Up to date Income Tax Certificate (4) Updated license as contractor/consultant from any Government Organization, (5) Experience certificate for same nature of work during last 05(Five) years from any Govt./Autonomous/Govt. owned organization (6) Bank solvency certificate (7) Bank account statement of last 2(Two) years in favour of average transactions/turn-over of at least BDT.30(Thirty) Lacs yearly from the same nature of business. In this regard, cash deposit/deposits in the bank accounts is/are not acceptable. (8) Original copies of all documents shall be submitted before Tender Evaluation.
23	Brief Description of Works/Services/Goods	: For selection and appointment of Firm for organizing of Overseas Study Tour Programs. Two Packages: (a) Package-1: Organizing Study Tour Program in Brazil and South Africa (b) Package-2: Organizing Study Tour Program in United Kingdom and Russia. Details of Works/Services have been described in the tender schedule/document.
24	Brief Description of Related Services/Submission of other documents/details	: Tenderers will provide information and submit documents indicating their competence to perform the expected services. These documents/particulars may be brochures, printed descriptions regarding conducting similar types of business/assignments by the tenderer in last 05 years etc.
25	Price of Tender Document	: Tk. 1,000/- (One Thousand) only
26	Period for Completion	: 120(One hundred Twenty) days
27	Tender security money(Refundable)	: Tk. 1,40,000/-(Taka One Lac Forty Thousand) Only (i.e. Tk. 70,000/- for each package of tour program) in the form of Pay Order or Bank Draft in favour of Project Director, Bangladesh China Friendship Exhibition Center.
28	Name of Official Inviting Tender	: Mohammad Rezaul Karim
29	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	: Project Director, Bangladesh China Friendship Exhibition Center, Export Promotion Bureau (EPB)
30	Address of Official Inviting Tender	: TCB Bhaban (4th Floor), 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215.
31	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	: Tel. No- 02-8189038, 01718532976. E-mail Address : rezatax65@yahoo.com
32	Other Terms/Special Conditions to follow and more documents to be submitted by the tenderer	: (1) Special experience Certificate from concerned organizations for completion of works of same nature successfully as prime contractor/organizer during last 03(Three) years with a value of single work order, of not less than of Tk.30,00,000/- (Taka Thirty Lac) shall be submitted. (2) For each package of tour programs, price shall be quoted separately. Quoted price shall be supported by analysis in separate sheet/sheets, mentioning head wise cost of item of works/services. (3) All other relevant and necessary forms and papers/documents shall be enclosed with the tender documents. (4) Intending Tenderers or their authorized representatives may be present during opening of submitted tenders. (5) If the Tenderer submits any false/incorrect or forged documents, the tender security will be forfeited as well as appropriate legal measures shall be taken against them. (6) If selected tenderer fails to perform the assigned jobs, in that case, the project authority reserves the right to cancel the work order and to forfeit the tender security as well as reserves the right to take appropriate legal action against that/those. (7) All the rules, regulations, terms & conditions and General conditions of Contract, which have been described in PPA-2006 and in PPR-2008, are applicable for this Tender and all of those, shall be complied/followed by all concerned parties/Organizations. (8) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders as well as reserves rights to change, amend or impose any condition.



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