

# Fortune favours organic mandarin growers

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

Things turned around for Murshed Mia and his wife Swapna Begum ten years ago when they tried their luck in organic farming of mandarin in Moulvibazar's Juri upazila.

Their profit from the first harvest was one of the success stories in the area and many others followed suit.

Not to be confused with orange, another fruit of the citrus species, mandarin is smaller and oblate in shape and sweeter and stronger in taste. Commonly called Kamola, the orange-coloured ripe fruit can be peeled easily and split into segments.

After finding out how chemical-tainted fruits pose threat to human health, Murshed and Swapna decided to grow fruits following only organic methods.

With that objective in mind, they contacted local office of Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE). From there they collected a variety called "Mandarin Bari" and planted 800 of the saplings on five acres of land in Lalchhara village. Their investment over the years reached to around Tk 50,000.

Murshed said this harvest season, he already sold 12 to 13 thousand pieces of mandarin to wholesalers for Tk 1,30,000 and he plans on planting another 300 saplings of the fruit tree on an additional three acres of land.

Inspired by his success, at least a hundred others are now growing mandarin on hilltops of Juri upazila.

Jasim Uddin, agriculture officer in the upazila, said yield of pineapple or other crops from dry soil of the hills is not satisfactory and that is the reason why the farmers in the area are choosing mandarin.

The local growers are quite happy with mandarin as they are getting high yield of the fruit. Spending around Tk 7,000 on one acre of land, a grower can make around Tk 20 to 25 thousand from sale of the fruit.

Mandarin harvest in Juri upazila has so far been excellent and the DAE in the upazila estimated that its production will reach 485 tonnes this year as opposed to last year's 480 tonnes, the official said, adding that a large amount of foreign currency could be saved if more mandarin was produced locally rather than imported.

Monir Mia, another mandarin farmer in



A farmer displays mature mandarin in his orchard at Lalchhara village of Moulvibazar's Juri upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

Lalchhara village, said in previous years, he had to sell green mandarin due to infestation of insects in ripe fruits.

But this year, he has been able to sell ripe mandarin at good prices as the insect attack could be minimised with the use of natural fertiliser and constant care of the trees.

"I sold each mandarin for Tk 5 to 8 last year. But this year, its quality and size have improved and I got Tk 10 to 12 for a piece. Adequate rainfall coupled with natural fertiliser also played a vital role," he said.

Fruit trader Umed Mia, who came from Bhoirab to buy mandarin from orchards in Juri, said quality of the fruit in Juri is better this year.

"Instead of using chemical fertilisers and insecticides, the fruit here is grown

following organic methods with the use of vermicompost and bio-pesticides. Each weighing 150 to 200 grams, it's tastier than the imported ones and highly popular in local market," he also said.

Dr Md Sharaf Uddin, chairman of Agroforestry and Environmental Science department at Sylhet Agricultural University, said yield of mandarin in the upazila has been good this year due to favourable weather conditions.

Juri Upazila Nirbahi Officer Asim Chandra Banik said farmers in the area are being encouraged to cultivate mandarin as local climate and soil are suitable for its farming.

According to DAE, there are 812 mandarin orchards on nearly 93 hectares of hilly landscape across six unions in the upazila.

# Thakurgaon dist AL's council today

A faction alleges 'manipulation' by anti-Liberation elements

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

The district unit Awami League (AL) will hold its council today.

The council, being held after about five years instead of stipulated three years, has failed to draw much enthusiasm among the stakeholders, said several activists and observers.

AL Presidium Member Ramesh Chandra Sen, also lawmaker of Thakurgaon-1 constituency, will inaugurate the council at Zila Parishad Auditorium in the town, where AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader will attend as chief guest.

District unit's incumbent President Dabirul Islam, also lawmaker of Thakurgaon-2 constituency, and incumbent General Secretary Sadek Quraishi have announced their candidature for the district president post while existing Joint Secretary Dipak Kumar Roy is the only candidate for general secretary post.

A total of 280 councillors will attend today's programme, said Mostafizur Rahman Ripon, district unit's publicity and publications secretary.

Seeking anonymity, several district AL leaders said after declaration of Quraishi-Dipak panel for the council, Ramesh Chandra Sen asked the other candidates not to vie for the posts.

They alleged that the Ramesh-Quraishi group arranged setting their followers as councillors in most cases through influencing the ward, union and upazila level councils.

"The presidium member and his followers are now busy to form a pocket

committee, depriving the dedicated party activists," said Advocate Abu Zafar Shamsuddin, former president of AL's Sadar upazila unit.

He alleged that people from families of Razakars (collaborators of Pakistan occupation army during the 1971 Liberation War) are playing important role in the policymaking of Ramesh-Quraishi group.

Denying the allegation, Ramesh Chandra Sen said, "Awami League believes in democratic practice. Everyone can vie for any post and councillors will elect the leadership."

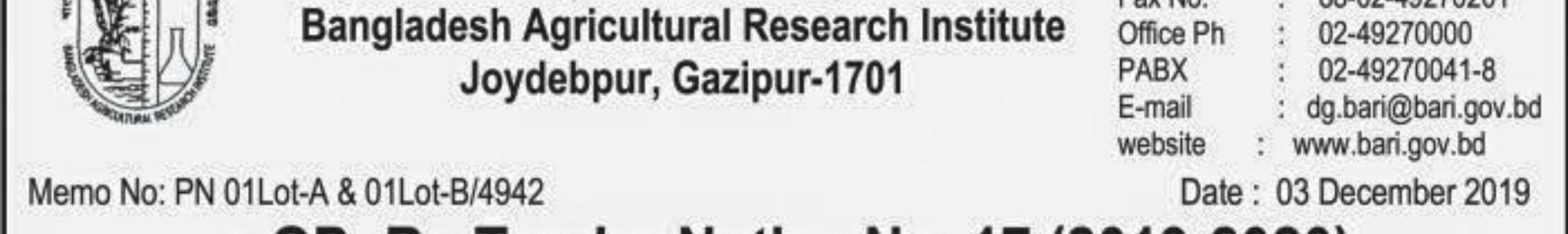
Contacted, Dabirul Islam said, "Ramesh Chandra Sen and Sadek Quraishi suspended councils of Bialiangi and Haripur upazila units as the areas are under my constituency (Thakurgaon-2). This was done with the aim of making a pocket committee."

"I expect party chief Sheikh Hasina to interfere and give a decision which would restore the party's image in its stronghold," he said.

AL Joint Secretary Advocate Jahangir Kabir Nanak will be present as main speaker at today's council with Dabirul Islam in the chair.

Central AL's Organising Secretary BM Mozammel Haque, Organising Secretary Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury MP, Finance and Planning Affairs Secretary Tipu Munshi, and International Affairs Secretary Dr Shammi Ahmed have been invited to attend the programme as special guests.

The last council of Thakurgaon district AL was held on October 16 in 2014.



Memo No: PN 01Lot-A &amp; 01Lot-B/4942

## e-GP: Re-Tender Notice No. 17 (2019-2020)

e-Tender is invited in the e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following goods. Details are given below:

SI No.	Package No.	Tender ID & Ref. No.	Description of goods	Tender documents last selling (date & time)	Tender closing date & time	Tender opening date & time
1.	PN 1Lot-A	393553 & IRN : 367	Research & Field trial materials (03 Items)	22.12.2019 17:00	23.12.2019 11:55	23.12.2019 11:55
2.	PN 1Lot-B	393730 & IRN : 368	Research & Field trial materials (04 Items)	22.12.2019 17:00	23.12.2019 15:00	23.12.2019 15:00

The interested persons/firm may visit the website [www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) to get the details of the tender. This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

Project Name: "Development and expansion of bio-rational based integrated pest management technologies of vegetables, fruits and betel leaf" Project.

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GD-1990

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Name of work	Tender document last selling/ downloading date and time	Last date and time for tender security submission	Tender closing date and time	
ID: 393572, e-GP/29/EE/NAT/ 2019-20/W3.17	Repair Base Type-II, Carpeting, Potholes & Sealcoat at 31st (p) & 32nd (p) km of Singra-Gurudaspur- Chatmohore Road (Z-5209) under Road Division Natore during the Year 2019-2020.	18-Dec-2019 17:00	19-Dec-2019 11:50	19-Dec-2019 12:00
ID: 393573, e-GP/30/EE/NAT/ 2019-20/W3.18	Repair Base Type-II, Carpeting, Potholes & Sealcoat at 32nd (p) & 33rd (p) km of Singra-Gurudaspur- Chatmohore Road (Z-5209) under Road Division Natore during the Year 2019-2020.	18-Dec-2019 17:00	19-Dec-2019 12:00	19-Dec-2019 12:10
ID: 388474, e-GP/31/EE/NAT/ 2019-20/W3.19	Repair Base Type-II, Carpeting, Potholes & Sealcoat at 8th (p) & 9th (p) km of Ahmedpur-Baraiagram- Gurudaspur Road (Z-6015) under Road Division Natore during the Year 2019-2020.	18-Dec-2019 17:00	19-Dec-2019 12:10	19-Dec-2019 12:20

Accepted tenders will be opened online immediately after closing time.

A.H.M. Javed Hossain Talukdar  
ID No. 602211  
Executive Engineer (C.C), RHD  
Road Division, Natore

GD-1986

## Salmonirhat free day today

The previous day, while fleeing, Pakistani occupation forces damaged a portion of the Teesta railway bridge with bombs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Salmonirhat

Today on December 6 in 1971, freedom fighters declared Salmonirhat, a northern district bordering India, free from occupation of Pakistan forces.

The headquarters of Sector 6 of the Mukti Bahini, liberation forces of Bangladesh, was located in Salmonirhat's Burimari Hasor Uddin High School in Patgram upazila.

Freedom fighter Abdul Karim, 75, a retired railway employee in Salmonirhat town, said at the time, many non-Bengali Urdu-speaking people, mostly railway employees, lived in the town as railway's divisional office was situated there.

During the Liberation War, with the help of those people, Pakistani occupation forces launched attacks on Bangalees, picked up women by force and tortured Bangalees at torture cells, he also said.

Shafiqul Islam Mantu, 71, a platoon commander of the freedom fighters and a resident of Thana Road in the town, said as directed by Sector Commander Air Marshal Khademul Bashar, the freedom fighters attacked Pakistan forces at different points in the district on December 3.

Two days later, on December 5, the Pakistanis started fleeing Salmonirhat and on their way out, they damaged a portion of railway bridge on the Teesta river with bombs, he added.

Abu Bakkar, a commander of the freedom fighters in Salmonirhat Sadar upazila, said at dawn on December 6, they declared Salmonirhat free and hoisted Bangladesh national flag in the town while chanting "Joy Bangla".

Date : 28/11/2019

### Invitation for Re-Tender (OTM)

01.	Invitation for	Supply of Brand PC & UPS for Office of the Registrar (Admin-5), University of Dhaka
02.	Closing date of selling tender schedule	Date: 10/12/2019 Time: Until (Tuesday) 05:00pm
03.	Tender closing date and time	Date: 11/12/2019 Time: (Wednesday) 12:00 noon
04.	Tender opening date and time	Date: 11/12/2019 Time: (Wednesday) 12:30pm
05.	For detail information contact to	Central Store Section (Room No. 214/KA) & Notice Board, Office of the Registrar, University of Dhaka.

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University of Dhaka

GD-1988

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