

# Unemployed youth 'finds gem' in unused pond

Youtube tutorial on pearl culture turns his life around

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Once unemployed, 30-year-old youth Sujan Hawladar is now a successful pearl farmer.

He first started culture of pearls in a small pond beside his house in Chapli village of Kalapara upazila. Now he has set up his pearl farm in three unused ponds in the area.

Without passing secondary level in school, Sujan, son of Ali Hossain Hawladar, had not been able to succeed in landing a job or a profession. But thanks to a Youtube tutorial he saw in 2019, on how to cultivate pearls, Sujan has found his source of financial independence.

All that changed in January of 2019 when the video clip on pearl culture -- posted by pearl farmer Ruhul Amin from Balapukur village in Lalmonirhat's Aditmari upazila -- aroused his interest in the trade.

After he spoke with Ruhul Amin over phone, Ruhul Amin himself came over to his house and gave him hands-on training on techniques of cultivating pearls in ponds.

Ruhul Amin told this correspondent that after collecting quality oysters found in natural water bodies, previously fabricated



Sujan Hawladar displays a designed pearl, below, which he cultured in his pond in Chapli village of Patuakhali's Kalapara upazila.

PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN



in a mesh pouch for 45 days, the oysters start forming pearls around the objects placed in them.

Manure has to be applied in the pond for the next 7 to 8 months till the pearls are matured enough for extraction, Ruhul added.

While visiting Sujan's pearl farm, pouches filled with oysters were seen submerged in a pond, with tops of the pouches attached to floating devices that are tied to rows of ropes. Workers were seen applying manure in the water.

Sujan said he initially collected 700 freshwater oysters from local water bodies for culturing pearls in the first pond that had an area of 30 decimals.

Before submerging, the placing of the designed object or the nucleolus is done at home. Then nine oysters are put in a specially crafted mesh pouch, which is later submerged in the pond with a floating device on top. Each pouch is placed three feet apart in the pond.

It takes about nine months for a designed pearl to mature, while it takes about two and a half years for a round pearl to mature.

Sujan said cost of his first production of pearls was a bit high because on top of the Tk 40 thousand he spent on preparing the pond, he also had to bear expenses of his trainer Ruhul. But nine

months later, he made Tk 80,000 from 400 pearls that matured properly.

He is now culturing about eight thousand oysters in total three ponds and he hopes to make a good profit from sale of pearls.

There is a market for designed artificial pearls in the country as well as in foreign countries. Several Indian buyers often collect local pearls, but there is no proper distribution channel in the country to cater to the local demands.

Without a proper distribution channel developed in the country, it would be difficult for local artificial pearl producers to sustain in the long run, Sujan observed.

## Youth hacked to death in Manikganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Unidentified criminals hacked a young man to death in Sadar upazila.

The deceased, Shaniram Malo, 32, was son of late Haridas Malo of Rajanagar village in the upazila.

Being informed by the villagers, police recovered Shaniram's body from a field, about half a kilometre from his house, yesterday noon and sent it to Manikganj Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Quoting the victim's family members, police said Shaniram, who used to work at sweetmeat shop in Laxmimandap area in Manikganj town, got married about six years ago.

But the couple got separated within a year of their marriage and since then Shaniram had been living with his parents.

Victim's nephew Bikash Malo said his uncle went to sleep around 10:00pm on Tuesday night with taking his meal.

At around 2:00 am, they hear a noise coming from Shaniram's room and when they went there they saw he was not in his room.

Later, they searched for Shaniram at every possible places but failed to know his whereabouts, he added.

Mohammad Irfan Ansari, resident medical officer (RMO) at Manikganj Sadar Hospital, said victim's body bore several marks of injuries in all over the body.

## Indian national dies in Jashore jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

An Indian national fell sick and died in Jashore Central Jail yesterday.

The deceased, Shamim Samir, was son of Dhanendra Nath of Balrampur district in India's Uttar Pradesh.

Samir entered Bangladesh from India illegally through Rangamati border, Jashore Central Jail Jailer Tuhin Kanti said.

The chief judicial magistrate of Rangamati sentenced Samir to one-year imprisonment on March 8, 2019, the jailor said, adding that he was sent to Feni jail.

In March of 2020, Samir was shifted to Jashore Central Jail. Three letters were sent to the Indian government asking them to take Samir back after his sentence expired. But there was no response, Jailer Tuhin said. He fell sick when he went to take a bath yesterday morning and was rushed to Jashore General Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

## The tale of three siblings

Sowing seed of hope even in the face of dire poverty

ABU BAKAR SIDDIQUE AKAND WITH MD MIZANUR RAHMAN HIMADRI

Long ago, paddy growers used to conduct land levelling employing a levelling board drawn by a pair of cows to catalyze the yield of crops. In modern days, equipment in place of cows to level the ground has often been in practice. But, what seems to be the rarest sight is the one where two boys, in place of cows, do the same job. They draw the levelling board with another boy poised on it.

They produce rice on a piece of arable land that they don't even own, and that too without a cow that could ease their job. Despite poverty taking them to that level, the siblings are not missing out on the school education in a remote area where most people are day labourers, rickshaw-van pullers, house helps, tea vendors, and peasants by profession.

This is the story of Arafat Sunny, 14, Shakil, 7, and Sayeem, 5, sons of tea stall owner Tofazzal Hossain of Tengra Uttarpara village in Gazipur's Sreepur upazila.

Sunny is a student of Class IX of Alhaj Nawab Ali Adarsha High School while Shakil is a sixth grade from a local Hafazia madrasa and Sayeem is a student of Class I of Tengra Government Primary School.

At the early stages of life when most children pass a carefree life, they are leaving no stone unturned to make their ends meet, said their mother Fatema Khatun, who is a housewife.

As their father's income is too little

to run the family, the kids got diehard to do something for the family, she said.

"Initially, we planned to produce crops. But we did not own any land. One year ago, my mother took the lease of 35 decimals of land from one of our neighbors spending Tk 70,000 the amount she saved over long," said Sunny.

"But we had neither experience nor any kind of instrument to cultivate lands. But we did not sit idle. With the guidance of some elderly farmers and my mother, we prepared paddy seedbed near our residence," he said.

"We hired a tractor for Tk 2000 to make our land arable. When the seedlings grew, we planted them on the land. We don't have any cattle to plough the land," he added.

"Following ancient traditional method, we used a ladder and one of our brothers sat on the ladder. Then we, the rest two brothers, pulled the ladder to level the land," he added.

"Finally, our dream came true. Our paddy plants started growing," said Sunny.

In the first phase, they harvested their crops in October. Then, they restarted their journey targeting the second phase. Again, they planted paddy last week.

Fatema said, "My three sons are very young. But they are working hard to produce crops."

"It is very surprising that they have realized the reality at a very early stage of their lives. I am proud of them," she added.



Two underage siblings, in place of cows, draw a levelling board with another poised on it to level a paddy field at Tengra Uttarpara village in Gazipur's Sreepur upazila as poverty denies them even cattle required for the job.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



Since his school remain close due to the Covid-19 pandemic, 10-year-old Ruhul, a Class III student, took this job at a shop in Hili Bazar and earns Tk 100 per day by sewing jute bags to add some extra money with his father's meagre income. The photo was taken from Dinajpur's Hakimpur upazila a few days ago.

PHOTO: STAR

**Chattogram Fish Harbour**  
Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation

Ref. No. 33.03.1561.008.07.001.19.19 Date: 05/01/2021

**e-Tender Notice**

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

Ser.	Tender ID	Name of work	Tender publication date	Last selling date	Closing date	Opening date	Tender method
1.	533399	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of 1600 KVA Electric Substation (Complete)	06.01.2021	21.01.2021	21.01.2021	21.01.2021	OTM

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>). Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

General Manager

**Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project 1:**  
National Single Window Implementation and Strengthening Customs Modernization  
National Board of Revenue (NBR)  
Internal Resource Division  
IDEB Bhaban (10th Floor), 160/A, Kakrail, Dhaka -1000, Bangladesh

**Invitation for Tenders**

**GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH**

1	Ministry/Division	Internal Resource Division
2	Agency	National Board of Revenue (NBR)
3	Procuring Entity Name	National Board of Revenue, Represented by Project Director, Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project-1: National Single Window Implementation & Strengthening Customs Modernization
6	Invitation for	Vehicles Rental Services for Project Management Unit
7	Invitation Ref. No.	1(111)/NSW/Vehicle Hiring/2nd Phase/2020/533
8	Date	06 January 2021
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>		
9	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM) : National Competitive Tender (NCT)
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>		
10	Budget and Source of Funds	Development Budget, Government of Bangladesh
11	Development Partners	N/A
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>		
12	Project / Programme Name	Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project-1: National Single Window Implementation & Strengthening Customs Modernization
13	Tender Package No.	NBR - NC6
14	Tender Package Name	Hiring of Vehicles Rental Services for Project Management Unit
15	Tender Publication Date	January 07, 2021
16	Tender Last Selling Date	January 31, 2021
		<b>Date</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Time</b></span>
17	Tender Closing Date and Time	February 01, 2021 <span style="float: right;">12.00 PM</span>
18	Tender Opening Date and Time	February 01, 2021 <span style="float: right;">12.30 PM</span>
19	Name & Address of the office(s)	<b>Address</b>
20	Selling, Receiving & Opening Tender Document	Office of the Project Director, Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project-1: National Single Window Implementation & Strengthening Customs Modernization, Address: IDEB Bhaban (10th Floor), 160/A, Kakrail, Dhaka - 1000, Bangladesh
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>		
21	Eligibility of Tenderer	As mentioned in Tender document.
22	Brief Description of Goods	Vehicles Rental Services of Sedan Car and Microbus
23	Price of Tender Document (Tk)	Tk. 2,000/- only (Non-Refundable).
24	Lot No	Identification of Lot
		<b>Location</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Tender Security Amount (Tk.)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Completion Time in Weeks / Months</b></span></span>
25	1.	Hiring of Vehicles Rental Services for Project Management Unit
		<b>Project Area</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Tk 500,000/-</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>December, 2023</b></span></span>
26	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Khondaker Muhammad Aminur Rahman
27	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Project Director
28	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Office of the Project Director, Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project-1: National Single Window Implementation & Strengthening Customs Modernization, IDEB Bhaban (10th Floor), 160/A, Kakrail, Dhaka -1000, Bangladesh
29	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Phone: + 880-2-55130654-58, E-mail: pdns.w.nbr@gmail.com
30	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the Tender proceedings.	

GD-33 (Khondaker Muhammad Aminur Rahman)  
Project Director