

Ordinary man on extraordinary mission



Trees planted along the sides of Hatibandha-Sinduna road in Lalmonirhat's Hatibandha upazila, by Abdur Razzak, inset, from Dakkhin Sinduna village in the same upazila.

PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Abdur Razzak is no ordinary tree lover. He plants trees anywhere but on his own land, and he even took loan from the bank for the purpose -- to ensure a hospitable environment for future generations.

A resident of Dakkhin Sinduna village in Hatibandha upazila, Razzak is married with two children. The 37-year-old holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Hatibandha Alimuddin Degree College and supports his family from his modest income as an employee at a private firm. He tutors students after work to support his passion for trees.

Erosion of the nearby Teesta river and recurrent droughts in the area devastated Razzak's family six times in the past. Taking lessons from the experience, he made it his mission to do something about it. After realising that afforestation

Razzak, an employee at a private firm, tutors students after work to support his passion for trees.

might be a solution to the sufferings, Razzak started planting trees alongside public roads in the upazila in 2007. He also plants trees around educational institutions and houses of worships.

Till date, Razzak planted around 1.25 lakh trees and about seventy percent of those -- medicinal, fruit and timber -- have survived, Razzak said.

"In 2014, I took a loan of Tk 25 thousand from Sonali Bank. I spent the money for buying

saplings that I planted alongside government roads. I haven't been able to pay off the loan yet."

Nearly 45 kilometres of roads -- Hatibandha-Sinduna, Hatibandha-Pathantari, Hatibandha-Champafal and Hatibandha-Dhubni -- and roughly four kilometres of land around different establishments of the upazila are now blanketed in trees planted by him, he said proudly.

He plants trees in the greater interest of the community. And that is why he chooses public roads and land around different educational and religious establishments so that no particular individual, including his family members, can claim ownership of the plants in future.

"I don't expect any personal gains from the trees I planted and I dream of turning the world greener by planting trees till I breathe my last," Razzak said with

twinkle in his eyes.

His father Nurul Haque, a farmer, said he initially did not like it when his son started spending money out of his own pocket to plant trees on someone else's land.

But after realising that Razzak's act is vital in maintaining environmental balance, he now feels proud of his son's work, he also said.

Villager Mozammel Haque said it seemed like a crazy idea when Razzak was spending his own money to plant trees along the roads. But now that the trees are providing shade for pedestrians, he and others in the area are more appreciative of Razzak's benevolent deed.

Contacted, Hatibandha Upazila Nirbahi Officer Samiul Amin said as Razzak has become an inspiration for others in the area, they recommended his name for an environmental award given by the forest department.

Barbaric torture on woman

Case filed, 9 arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Nine people were arrested on Friday in for brutally torturing a woman at a remote village in Baufal upazila on Thursday.

The law enforcers arrested the nine on Friday night after a video of the woman, being tortured at Charmiyajan village in Chandradwip union, went viral on social media.

The 20-year-old victim is undergoing treatment at Barishal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital, Patuakhali Superintendent of Police (SP) Mohammad Shahidullah said at a press briefing at his office yesterday.

The viral video shows a young man beating up a woman with a stick while some other people, holding sticks, standing beside them.

Moreover, another youth is seen kicking the woman even after she went unconscious.

Meanwhile, victim's father-in-law Abdus Salam Hawladar filed a case with Baufal Police Station against 18 named and 10 to 12 other unnamed people on Thursday night.

The arrestees are Shakil Hossain, 40, Shah Alam Gazi, 50, Zafar Hawladar, 40, Hridoy Biswas, 19, Sajib Hawladar, 19, Monir Mridha, 35, Parvez Mir, 35, Yusuf Mridha, 30, and Azizul Haque, 45. They all

hailed from Charmiyajan village.

Of them, prime accused Shakil was arrested from his father-in-law's house in Nazirpur union of the upazila, the SP said, adding that the arrestees will be produced before the court.

Locals said at least 25 people were injured when supporters of two UP member candidates -- Kamal Hossain and Babul Hawladar of Ward 5 under Chandradwip Union -- clashed on Thursday over the UP elections, which was scheduled to be held on April 11 but postponed due to the Covid-19 situation.

At one stage of the clash, the victim appeared on the scene and tried to protect her husband from the rivals, who then beat her mercilessly.

Later, locals rescued the victim and her husband and admitted them to Baufal Upazila Health Complex, from where they shifted to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital for better treatment.

A local youth captured the video of the incident and shared it on social media the same day.

According to the Baufal health complex, the woman sustained serious injuries in various parts of her body. Her right leg was broken, and she underwent surgery.

Her husband suffered fractures in his arms and legs.

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Watermelon growers worried over countrywide lockdown



Farmers remain busy nursing watermelon field at Chalitkhali village in Pirojpur Sadar upazila, but they are worried over selling the fruit due to countrywide lockdown.

PHOTO: STAR

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

Hundreds of watermelon growers of Pirojpur Sadar upazila are in great worry regarding the shipment and sale of their produce as countrywide lockdown has been going on since May 5.

Farmers have said that the fruits are ripe for sale and they will have to be sold within a week otherwise the fruits will perish.

"Most of our buyers are from Dhaka and other distant places," said farmer Mohammad Liton from Chalitkhali village under Sikder Mollic union in the upazila.

"If lockdown period is extended, our buyers won't come," he said.

Another farmer Md Jakir Hossain of the village has also said that if buyers from distant areas don't come, they will have to sell them to the local buyers at cheap rate.

"But local buyers don't pay the proper price of our fruits," he said.

"Last year, we also faced the same problem as lockdown was enforced when our fruits were ripe for sale," said Md Ripon Sikder of the village.

However, this year production cost of watermelon has increased as it did not rain during the cultivation period. As a result, farmers had to use more fertilizer and pesticides to prevent insect attack.

"If it rained, our production cost would decrease," said farmer Md Gias Khan. As it didn't rain this year, there have been more attacks of viruses and insects, he added.

"In spite of it we are happy with the good production of the fruits," he said.

Watermelon is mostly cultivated at Chalitkhali village in the upazila. After harvesting aman paddy, both farmers from Chalitkhali village as well as nearby Kachua upazila of Bagerhat district grow watermelon at the

village.

Usually a farmer has to spend Tk 30,000 to cultivate watermelon in one bigha (33 decimals) of land and they can earn Tk one lakh from the same land, said the farmers.

Shepon Chandra Ghosh, Pirojpur Sadar upazila agriculture officer, has said that though lockdown is going on, there is no reason for the farmers to be worried.

"We will help the farmers sell the watermelon with the help of local administration so that the buyers don't have to face any difficulty in transporting the fruits," he said.

Farmers will get good price of their fruits during the month of Ramadan, he added.

This year watermelon has been cultivated in 100 hectares of land in Pirojpur Sadar upazila which was only 25 hectares last year, the agriculture officer further said.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Health Services Division Health Economics Unit 14/2, Topkhana Road (3rd Floor), Dhaka-1000



Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Recruiting Research Firm (National)

1.	Ministry / Division	Health Services Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
2.	Procuring Entity Name	Health Economics and Financing Operational Plan
3.	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
4.	Expression of Interest for selection of	Research Organization
5.	EOI Ref No	45.05.0000.003.31.002.21.605
6.	Date	April 13, 2021
KEY INFORMATION		
7.	Procurement Method	QCBS
8.	Budget and Source of Funds	GoB (Development)
9.	Development Partner	NA
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
10.	Project / Programme Code	NA
11.	Project / Programme Name	Redesigning Career Path of Public Sector Health Care Providers for Effective Service Delivery in Bangladesh
	Date	Time
12.	EOI closing date and time	May 02, 2021 14:00 Hours
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT		
13.	Brief description of the Assignment	Healthcare network is guided by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) in Bangladesh. The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) under MoHFW is the largest implementing authority to provide health services across the country. There are approximately 25,600 medical doctors are working under DGHS. A remarkable number of these medical doctors are deprived from getting their promotion particularly those who do not have post graduate medical degree. Hence a portion of medical doctors working in public sector are reluctant to provide healthcare services causing difficulties to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in Bangladesh. To address the current situation, Health Economics Unit has decided to conduct a study on the "Redesigning Career Path of Public Sector Health Care Providers for Effective Service Delivery in Bangladesh". The prime aim of this study is to design the model on the career path for medical doctors working in public sector as well as to develop an action plan for execution. The findings of this study will utilize to develop a complete guide line regarding career path for medical doctors in public sector.
14.	Experience, Resource and Delivery Capacity Required	To be selected, the organization must have the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Familiarity with the health, nutrition and population sector program Extensive expertise on healthcare related exercises Proven ability to manage and conduct large data set Expertise in use of STATA/SPSS statistical software for data analysis Proven expertise in quality report writing & policy recommendations in English Organizations having experience on working with human resource development / designing career path and designing organogram would be considered as added value
15.	Other details (if applicable)	EOI should be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked "Request for EOI for "Redesigning Career Path of Public Sector Health Care Providers for Effective Service Delivery in Bangladesh" to the undersigned
16.	Indicative start date (month / year)	June, 2021
17.	Indicative completion time (month / year)	December, 2021
18.	Other Detail (if applicable)	Not Applicable
19.	Association with foreign firm is	Not Applicable
20.	Phrasing of Services	Not Applicable
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
21.	Name of Official Inviting Expression of Interest (EOI)	Dr. Mohd. Shahadt Hossain Mahmud
22.	Designation of Official Inviting EOI	Director General (Additional Secretary), Health Economics Unit and Line Director (Health Economics and Financing)
23.	Address of Official Inviting EOI	Health Economics Unit, 14/2, Topkhana Road (3 rd Floor), Dhaka 1000.
24.	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Telephone-9586822, Fax: 9582207 e-mail: dg@heu.gov.bd, mahmud5212@yahoo.com
The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all EOIs.		

GD- 787

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&
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