

Mokbul's magnificent cattle farm

SHYKH SERAJ

Holy Eid-ul-Azha is knocking on our doors. In Bangladesh, we celebrate this Islamic event of sacrifice, popularly known as Qurbani Eid. Half of the total number of cattle sacrificed countrywide throughout the year, is done on this very day. Every devout Muslim tries to participate in the sacrifice. And to sell attractive bulls and cows for Qurbani Eid, farmers do beef fattening the entire year. It is an established trade now. We can meet the country's cattle demand with our own production. A few months back, I went to Bhatara, located in Dhaka's Badda area to visit Engineer Mokbul Hossain's livestock farm. He left the engineering profession and established his farm, eight years back. The purpose has always been to provide people with good quality meat, dairy and other agro-products. Mokbul primarily started his farm to raise cows for milk. He was inspired by watching Hridoye Mati O Manush (Soil & People in Heart, aired on Channel i) and also visited many countries to learn more about livestock farming. His customers became so impressed with the quality



Engineer Mokbul Hossain talks with Shykh Seraj at his cattle farm in the capital's Bhatara area. Photo: Hridoye Mati O Manush

Shykh Seraj is Bangladesh's pioneer development journalist. He received country's two highest



civilian honours, Swadhinata Puroshkar and Ekushey Padak, respectively. He is a BIDS, Ashoka and Bangla Academy Fellow. He also received highest award for agricultural journalism from the United Nations, FAO A.H. Boerma Award, Gusi Peace Prize (Philippines) and many other prestigious accolades at home and abroad. At Channel i, he's the Founder Director and Head of News. He's also Director and Host of Channel i's popular agro-documentary, Hridoye Mati O Manush.

of the milk and had suggested him that he could go for raising cattle for meat, selling pure mustard oil and also fresh ghee (clarified butter). Since 2017, engineer Mokbul Hossain started beef fattening. With an infrastructure approved scientifically, under tin shade, mother cows and bulls are being raised. Local baby cows are raised and fattened with organic feed. This way he saves feed expenses while ensuring pure healthy meat for his customers. The owner says every cattle in his farm makes a sure sale. Usually, the customers who buy pure milk from the farm, buy the bulls, goats and sheep too.

Ahead of this year's Eid-ul-Azha, the farm has bulls worth Tk two crore (USD 236,000). Mokbul hopes to earn a good profit from the upcoming

Qurbani Eid. He has over 150 eligible bulls for Qurbani. He bought the bulls from various districts across the country, all by himself. Some were 11 months old, some were 9, and some were a year old. Now they're ready for sale.

"Some people use growth hormones and steroids to fatten the cows; how do you see this", I asked Mokbul. "My stand is very transparent. Those who do it dishonestly will not last", Mokbul replied.

Mokbul says those sellers won't get any returning customers. He believes such deceitful trade is only temporary and filthy.

"I fatten cows naturally with grass, hay and normal feed and my customers always come back to me after getting quality meat", added Mokbul.

He even designed his farm in a way so that cows get enough sunlight. He could do this as he's a professional Civil Engineer.

"I used my techniques. Every cow gets at least two hours of sunlight a day inside the farm", said Mokbul.

Engineer Mokbul Hossain has turned himself into a complete agro entrepreneur. Agriculture-centric activities have occupied his thoughts and passion. He knows how to make profit from his agricultural initiatives. It is indeed challenging to market the cows according to customer's expectations because there are customers who still have doubts about beef fattening by growth hormone and steroids. So, marketing the cows fattened with 100pc local feed while tackling those doubts is not easy at all,

says Mokbul. And Mokbul Hossain is doing it perfectly and professionally to satisfy his loyal customers. He is using social media in a methodic and commercial approach to market the cows amid the pandemic restrictions and convincing people that his cows are organically fattened and are the best ones to buy.

"I have around five thousand fixed customers who look at me keenly for quality products. I want to provide them with the best ones to the best of my ability", says Mokbul.

What Mokbul has done for his cattle is quite remarkable: he met nutritional demands and made it easy and hassle-free for the customers to let them buy the best organic cow. That is why the demand is increasing every day and so far, he has been able to do

it magnificently. He has customers in Baridhara, Gulshan, Banani, especially the areas near Badda. Most people prefer red medium-sized cows. Mokbul keeps up the communication with his customers and he recently brought those cows from Thakurgaon district. Generally, Mokbul buys cows, aged one to one and half years old, with prices ranging from Tk 28,000 (USD 330) to Tk 40,000 (USD 471). Then he raises them for a year. His average monthly feed cost behind each cow is Tk 3,000 (USD 35.36) to Tk 5,000 (USD 58.93). A positive change is seen among customers as well. They are now deeply concerned about the quality of the cows. Engagement of educated people in farming, efforts from the livestock department, and media campaigns have made farmers, consumers and traders, aware of the positive ideas on beef fattening. Now, customers can recognize a steroid-fed cow. Amid the coronavirus outbreak, Mokbul is operating his sales on social media, particularly through Facebook. The feed Mokbul gives to the cows is completely different. He mixes wheat, rice, corn, mustard and other oils with hay. He makes the unique feed himself. It is very nutritious and pure, says Mokbul. Another important feature of Mokbul's farm is that it is absolutely neat and clean and the cows get plenty of space. Since childhood, Mokbul saw his parents raise livestock animals and he applies the same exact method at his farm. According to each cow's weight, he provides the necessary feed. That is why his cows look very healthy and active at the same time. An estimate says, the demand for sacrificial animals increases by 10pc every year ahead of Eid-ul-Azha. Last year, the demand was 1 crore 10 lakh cattle (10.1 Million). But due to the COVID-19 crisis, the demand fell by 20pc. This year, the situation can be the same. The concerned authority expects the demand for cattle during this Qurbani will be 1 crore (10 million). Buyers and sellers are also expecting to sell and buy cattle through online platforms. I wish both the buyers and sellers good luck and hope to write another in-depth article on nationwide cattle demand, market preparation and other relevant matters before Eid-ul-Azha.

OXYGEN AT HOME

Bagerhat launches delivery service

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

The district administration of Bagerhat yesterday launched a service to provide oxygen cylinders to homes of patients with severe Covid-19 infection.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Muhammad Azizur Rahman inaugurated the operations of the service from the premises of Bagerhat Puratan Court Mosque.

The hotline number for the service is 018 8630 5309.

Bagerhat Civil Surgeon KM Humayun Kabir hoped that the initiative will meet the needs of critical Covid patients who are taking treatment at home.

Bagerhat DC Mohammad Azizur Rahman said the delivery of oxygen-

filled cylinders to patients' homes is undoubtedly a praiseworthy initiative of Sheikh Tonmoy, member of parliament from Bagerhat-2 constituency.

"We look forward to seeing a successful implementation of this initiative. People of Bagerhat will not die due to oxygen shortage -- thanks to this initiative," he also said.

Sardar Nasir Uddin, chairman of Bagerhat Sadar Upazila Parishad, said Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists in the district of Bagerhat have been given training for the purpose.

Mohammad Moniruzzaman, president of BCL's Bagerhat district unit, said, the BCL activists were prepared to deliver oxygen cylinders to homes of severe Covid patients.



COVID-19 FALLOUT

Jhenidah mango growers feel the pinch

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Loss in sales amid the pandemic situation has put hundreds of mango growers in Jhenidah in extreme financial difficulties.

Many of the growers said unable to sell their produce, they could not pay off lease money for the orchards.

While visiting Jhenidah's largest mango market in Kotchandpur upazila, mango growers told this correspondent that compared to previous years, the number of mango traders, who buy the produce from them, has dropped drastically at markets this year.

With the fall in buyers, the prices of mango are also plummeting. As a result, their earnings from dwindling sales cannot even cover the cost of leasing orchards and nurturing mango trees in the orchards.

As opposed to Tk 40 to Tk 45 per kilogram of mango last year, the fruit is selling for only Tk 20 to Tk 25 per kg this year, they lamented.

Moshir Rahman, a mango grower from Solaimanpur village in Kotchandpur upazila, said that this year he spent Tk 3.50 lakh on insecticides, fertiliser and irrigation for his mango orchard on 25 bighas of land.

So far he made only Tk 2 lakh from sale of mango that would be sold for at least Tk 8 lakh if the situation was normal.

The sudden drop in income has him pondering how he would repay his loans and provide for the family, he added.

Another mango grower, Abdul Hamid, from Chuadanga, said considering a huge demand of Amropali and Fazli varieties of mango in markets of Jhenidah and Chuadanga, he spent Tk 3 lakh on a 25-bigha orchard this year.

But he anticipated incurring of huge losses this time as the mango was selling for only Tk 25 a kg.

Ashraf Ali, a mango trader, told this correspondent that thanks to the Covid situation, reaching different markets has become difficult and expensive.

The situation has been compelling them to buy lesser amounts of mango this year, resulting in great losses for mango growers, he also said.

Sanjoy Biswas, president of Kotchandpur mango market, said around 70 mango wholesalers at the market buy and sell about 8,000 maunds of mango every day and so far, they paid Tk 15 lakh in revenues to the government this year.

The government should provide assistance to mango growers and traders in financial troubles so the rural economy does not collapse, he also said.

Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh
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File No. 30.31.2600.413.03.016.21/1638 Date: 30/06/2021

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). Package information is available in tender notice under e-GP System Portal.

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>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches. Detailed name of work, Tender ID and closing date & time are as follows.

Sl No.	Name of work	Tender ID	Opening and closing date & time
1	Procurement of CPU Module Mother Board for ALCMS & 400 KVA UPS for AGL system at HSIA.	561137	29-Jul-2021 12:00

Further information and guidelines is available in the e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk.


Md. Al-Mamun
 Executive Engineer (EM)(C.C.)
 E/M Division-2, CAAB, Dhaka

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তারিখঃ ৩০/০৬/২০২১খ্রিঃ
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e-Tender Notice

Memo No. 35.01.8549.195.31.031.21-1096 Dated: 30/06/2021

This is to notify all concerned that e-Tender has been invited in the e-GP Portal <http://www.eprocure.gov.bd> for procurement of works. Interested person/firms can see details by visiting the www.eprocure.gov.bd.

Name of the work: Re-Construction of Flexible Pavement at Ch. 29+500 to Ch. 43+500 Km (Bhurungamari to Sonahat Bop Camp), Rigid Pavement at Ch. 36+000 to 36+200 Km & 38+500 to Ch. 38+800 Km (0.50 km), 3 Nos. Double Vent 2x3.00m (Clear) long & 3.00m (clear) height RCC Box-Culvert at 42th Km (Ch. 41+779), 43rd Km (Ch. 42+819) & 44th Km (Ch. 43+478) & Single Vent 1x6.00m (Clear) long & 6.00m (Clear) height RCC Box-Culvert at 43rd km (Ch. 42+119) on Kurigram (Dasherhat)-Nageshwari-Bhurungamari-Sonahat Landport Road (N-506). Necessary Drain, protective work & other supporting works with Improvement of Kurigram(Dasherhat)-Nageshwari-Bhurungamari-Sonarhat Landport (N-506) into a National Highway under Road Division, Kurigram during the year 2019-2020. (WP-04)

Tender ID No.	Tender Ref. No.	Tender last selling date & time	Tender closing date & time	Tender opening date & time
592250	eGP-03/SE/RRC/DEV/2019-20 (Re-Tender)	01-Aug-2021 17.00	02-Aug-2021 14.00	02-Aug-2021 14.00

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GD-1303

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project-1 (BRCP-1)
Ministry of Commerce
Level-12 (West side), Probashi Kollayn Bhaban
71-72, Eskaton Garden Road, Dhaka-1000

Request for Expressions of Interest for Individual Consultant (National)

Memo No. 26.00.0000.066.24.002(2).18-589 Dated: 30/06/2021

The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received an amount US\$ 150 equivalent credit from the International Development Association (IDA) -- a member of the World Bank Group -- for financing the cost of the Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project (BRCP-1), parts being implemented by the Ministry of Commerce and intends to apply part of the proceeds for procuring the individual consultancy services of following position for its Project Implementation Unit (PIU). The development objective of the project is to improve conditions for trade through improving connectivity, reducing logistics bottlenecks and supporting the adoption of modern approaches to border management and trade facilitation.

BRCP-1-MOC now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services. **Details of the qualification requirements and responsibilities are available in Terms of Reference (TOR):**

Position	Education	Experiences	Major Responsibilities
BRCP/MOC/SD: 14 Data Management Consultant for BTP (16 Months)	Bachelor degree from a reputed and recognized university in Computer Science and Engineering (CSE), ICT, Software Engineering or related discipline.	A minimum 5 (five) years of experience in IT Sector with 3 (three) year experience in Website Management, Content Development and Upload.	Design and develop contents for the BTP Website and Mobile Application as per the requirement of the Ministry of Commerce; Write php code using best software development practices; Create website layout/user interfaces by using standard HTML/CSS practices; Conduct Search Engine Optimization (SEO) for the BTP Website;

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraphs 3.14 to 3.18 of the World Bank Group's Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, Procurement in Investment Project Financing, Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services, July 2016 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank Group's policy on conflict of interest. A Consultant will be selected in accordance with procedures for recruiting Individual Consultants set out in the Procurement Regulations. A copy of the TOR and necessary forms of the assignment may be obtained from the address below during 09.00 to 17.00 hours or downloaded from the website: www.mincm.gov.bd and www.brpc-1.gov.bd. EOI shall be submitted on or before 27/07/2021 at 03:00pm in sealed envelope delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by e-mail) to the undersigned and be clearly marked "Request for Expressions of Interest for Selection of [Data Management Consultant]". **Necessary documents in support of educational qualifications and experience & skills shall have to be submitted.**

Md. Mijanur Rahman
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GD-1301