

Bangladesh: where fruit varieties meet elegance

SHYKH SERAJ

This season, the country produced a lot of mangoes. I have offered mangoes to my relatives, friends, and office colleagues as gifts. In the last four decades of my journey in agricultural journalism, I have seen hundreds of agricultural entrepreneurs from home and abroad, reaching the top of success. I also have a rooftop farming initiative, managed by my wife Shahana Seraj. During this COVID-19 pandemic, we had the opportunity to eat fresh vegetables from our very own rooftop farm. There are also a couple of mango trees on the roof; a small mango orchard you could say. This year, farmers from different districts have sent me mangoes from their orchards as a token of love and I got absolute satisfaction by distributing it among my near and dear ones.

Mango production in our country is increasing day by day. We are one of the top 10 mango producing countries in the world. Of all the fruits, mango is the most produced fruit in Bangladesh. According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), the country has produced about 12 lakh (1.2 million) tonnes of mango in the 2019-20 fiscal year. There are mango orchards in

districts. Amrapali accounts for about half of the total mangoes produced in the country. Mango is no longer a seasonal fruit. The Baromashi (Year-long) mango variety, katimon is being cultivated. Probably you would recall Major Solaiman of Feni's Sonagazi, who is producing 80 varieties of mangoes across the wide banks of his 33-acre aquaculture farm. He gets about 20 to 25 tonnes of mango a year. Major Solaiman has 70 mango trees of Bari-11 variety. His trees are only five years old. He said at least 100kg of mango could be harvested from each of these trees.

Many farmers have proved that the farmers of our country are capable of showing a unique and strong will. Even only two decades ago, mango and jackfruit were the main fruits of this country. Usually the additional fruits grown in the trees of the farmer's yard were available in the market. Fruits have come from the yard to the field. According to the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), 72 different fruits are now being cultivated around Bangladesh. At present, over 50 lakh (5.07 million) tonnes of fruits are produced in about 157 thousand hectares of land in the



Shykh Seraj at a fruit orchard of an agro-entrepreneur in the capital's Purbachal.

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.



about 235 thousand acres of land. As a result, each tree produces an average of 77 kilograms of mango.

I remember, even a decade ago, mango was the only fruit of the northern region of the country. In Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj, the country's farmers were dependent on Himsagar, Gopalbhog, Lengra and Fazli varieties of mangoes. Amrapali has broken down the geographical barriers of mango cultivation in the country. At present, mango is being cultivated commercially in 30

country. Of which, mango, banana and jackfruit account for about 63 percent of the total fruits produced (BBS-2018). Farmers have increased the cultivation of new fruits. There are dragon fruit, rambutan, avocado, strawberry, baukul, applekul, fig and many more. Even apples are being grown on the soil of our country. The growth of production of various varieties of fruits is increasing every day.

By producing fruits, the farmers have also added their names to the

fruits. Such as Pepe (Papaya) Badsha, Peyara (Guava) Atique, Kul (Plum) Sirajul, Aam (Mango) Kashem, Malta Babul, Khejur (Date plum) Motaleb, Lichu (Litchi) Kitab, Kola (Banana) Kader. Almost all the fruit growers of the country are familiar with these names. In the 80s, at Ishwardi's Salimpur village in Pabna, the son of a lower-middle-class family, Shahjahan Ali Badshah chose agriculture as a way to eliminate unemployment. He started an integrated farm of modern fruits on only 85 decimals (0.85 acres) of land. Badshah became very famous through his papaya production. He is now the owner of a huge agricultural farm with an area of 67 acres. Atique, who couldn't get any job even after getting a diploma in agriculture, started his guava orchard with a lease of only 2 acres of land 10 years back. Guava cultivation has changed his fortune. Now his orchard size is about 87 acres. Seeing his success, many young people in the area have joined guava cultivation. As a result, Thai guava has become one of the most

lucrative cash-crops in the Natore-Rajshahi belt. Such is the story of Kashem, Babul or Kader. Fruit farming has changed the story of their lives. The number of such farmers is growing all over the country. They have built their empires by brain and labour. Following their footsteps, Bangladesh has become an example of success in fruit production. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), fruit production in Bangladesh has been growing at a rate of 11.5 percent for the last 18 years. Along with the fruit growers, various initiatives of the government have played an important role in achieving the success.

Various fruits are being cultivated on the roofs of city houses. Remember, in the 80s, when I was doing Mati O Manush (Soil & People) on Bangladesh Television, the cultivation of Kazi Peyara on the roof of the house became quite popular. Now the rooftop entrepreneurs are cultivating not only guava but also sugarcane, jamrul (star apple), dragon

fruit, papaya, olive, tamarind and teen (fig) among foreign fruits; they're also doing bananas on rooftop. The role of nurseries in the country behind this expansion of fruit cultivation is significantly immense. According to the Agriculture Information Service (AIS), the number of registered nurseries in the country is 18 thousand. The number of unregistered nurseries is even higher. The amount of investment is more than USD 236 million. More than 500 thousand people are involved in this sector. In these nurseries, besides domestic fruits, seedlings or saplings of different varieties of foreign fruits are available. Nurseries are also playing a role in variety development. However, many are bringing scion, saplings and seedlings from outside the country without following the quarantine system, but the certification has to be ensured first, otherwise harmful germs might spread through the seedlings.

In Barishal, a lot of guavas are cultivated, but the farmers do not get fair price for guava during the

season as they can't preserve it. There is no factory to make jam-jelly from guava. As a result, the farmer gets into trouble with the fruits they produce. This problem is not only in the case of guava but also in the case of pineapple or mango. Mango yields in the Philippines were very well last year. It has improved so much that more than 20 lakh (2 million) kilograms of mango have been produced. As a result, farmers were not getting the price of mango. This can happen in a market economy. The country's agriculture department stood by the mango farmers. They undertook various activities very quickly. One of their activities was 'Metro Mango'. They had set up numerous stalls for selling mangoes in different cities. The department also arranged mango export for the farmers. They convinced Walmart and they allocated free stalls for selling mangoes on behalf of the farmers. Everyone stood by the side of the farmer. They knew if the farmer loses, it will have a detrimental effect on the entire farming sector.

In our country, although lockdown has not had any effect on fruit transportation, it definitely had an impact on customers. The customer reduced the purchase of fruits due to the spread of the coronavirus pandemic. As a result, a lot of mangoes remained unsold. And lots of mangoes had rotten. We comprehend the importance of fruit processing where developed countries are way ahead. I think industries should come forward for fruit processing. From different fruits, jam jelly can be manufactured and other foods as well. Pineapple juice is a great option. In addition, different foods can be produced from malta, watermelon, melons and other fruits. Our potential with fruit is huge. There is a big market for fruits all over the world. With that in mind, we have to think about fruit cultivation. Fruit preservation facilities and modern market structures need to be built immediately. Along with the government, the industrialists have to come forward to create a field for trade-in fruits. Fruit exports can play a vital role in creating a fantastic market. If fruits can be produced and marketed in compliance with exports, it will optimistically turn into the golden sector of agriculture.

Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development
Kotbari, Cumilla
www.bard.gov.bd
No. 47.63.0000.033.26.096.12/1137, Date: 29.07.2021

e-Tender Notice

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

Sl. No.	Description	Name of work	Tender ID No.	Tender publication (date & time)	Tender closing & opening (date & time)	Method of tender
01.	Installation & Commissioning of Deep Tube well in/c construction of Pump House at BARD Campus.	Works	596059	29.07.2021; 10:30am	17 Aug 2021 15:00pm	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 Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited through online at any branch of registered banks within closing date and time. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Milan Kanti Bhattacharjee
Director (Administration), BARD

GD-1393



Isolated Rangabali upazila of Patuakhali to get much-anticipated electricity connection by August 15.

PHOTO: STAR

Electricity to connect isolated Rangabali upazila through sub-marine cables

About 23,000 families are getting connection by Aug 15

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Rangabali upazila, formed on February 5, 2012 comprising five unions, is isolated from the mainland.

The upazila, which is surrounded by several big rivers adjoining the sea including Agunmukha and Ramnabad, has not had electricity connection so far.

Solar panels and generators were the source of power for about two lakh residents of the upazila. The Rural Electrification Board (REB) has brought the residents of the upazila under the connection of electricity laying submarine cables through the bottom of three separate rivers. About 23,000 consumers will get the much-desired electricity connection by August 15.

A sub-station with a capacity of 10 MW has been constructed in Gahinkhali area to provide uninterrupted power supply to the upazila. A 320-kilometre-long distribution line and seven-kilometre-long sub-marine line have already been laid. As a result, about 23,000 consumers of Char Montaz, Rangabali, Chhota Baishadia, Boro Baishadia and Chalitabunia unions of the upazila are coming under the purview of electricity.

Of these, about 7,000 connections are being provided in Char Montaz Union, about 6,000 in Rangabali, about 4,000 in Chhota Baishadia, 5,000 in Bara Baishadia and 1,000 in Chalitabunia.

Mizanur Rahman Taslim, a resident of Kaciabunia village in Rangabali union, said, "We have been deprived of electricity for so long due to being cut off by the river. Now that I am getting electricity, my children will be benefited in various ways including education."

General Manager of Patuakhali REB Md Razzakur Rahman said construction of sub-station and distribution line has been completed to provide electricity connection in isolated Rangabali Upazila.

"We hope that by August 15, about 23,000 consumers of the upazila will get their much-desired electricity connection. This will lead to socio-economic development of the area," he added.

Rangabali Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Mashfaqur Rahman said that development activities were being hampered due to lack of electricity for so long. After the electrification of the whole upazila, the life and livelihood of the people here will be greatly improved. Small industries will develop. Employment will increase and unemployment will decrease, he added.

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation
BSC Bhaban, 1st Floor, Saltgola Road
Chattogram

Corrigendum

Invitation for Local Re-Tender for Supply of 1000 Metric Ton Cold Rolled Steel Sheet in Two Sizes

This is to notify for all concerned that due to pandemic situation, caused by Corona Virus (COVID-19) and accordingly government has issued circular on 13th July, 2021 for overall activities/movement restriction for specific period, above subject tender, published on 07th July, 2021 in The Daily Star, The Daily Financial Express, The Kaler Kantho and The Daily Azadi, have been amended as mentioned below:

Tender Ref. No.	SI	Description	Existing	Amended
28.03.0000.041.01.004.20 (CRSS-29) Dated: 23rd June, 2021	13	Tender last selling date	01-08-2021	17-08-2021
	14	Tender closing date and time	02-08-2021 Time: 1200 Hours (BST)	18-08-2021 Time: 1200 Hours (BST)
	15	Tender opening date and time	02-08-2021 Time: 1205 Hours (BST)	18-08-2021 Time: 1205 Hours (BST)
	16	Offer validity time	31-08-2021 Time: 1700 Hours (BST)	16-09-2021 Time: 1700 Hours (BST)

All other terms & conditions will remain unchanged.

GD-1394

ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন

বর্জ্য ব্যবস্থাপনা বিভাগ
নগর ভবন, ঢাকা
www.dscc.gov.bd

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন এর আওতাধীন এলাকায় নিয়োজিত সকল ওয়ার্ডের প্রাথমিক বর্জ্য সংগ্রহ সেবা প্রদানকারী/প্রাইমারী কালেকশন সার্ভিস প্রোভাইডার (পিসিএসপি) এর মেয়াদকাল প্রত্যেক পিসিএসপি প্রতিষ্ঠানের কার্যাদেশে উল্লেখিত তারিখ মোতাবেক সমাপ্ত হবে। এমতাবস্থায়, বর্জ্য ব্যবস্থাপনা কাজের গতিশীলতা ও মানোন্নয়নের লক্ষ্যে নতুন নিবন্ধন কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ করা হয়েছে। সেলেক্টে, আগ্রহী প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহকে প্রধান বর্জ্য ব্যবস্থাপনা কর্মকর্তার দপ্তর হতে টাঃ ৫০০০/- (টাকা পাঁচ হাজার মাত্র) মেয়র, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন বরাবর পে-অর্ডার (অফেরতযোগ্য) জমা প্রদানপূর্বক আগামী ২৪ শ্রাবণ ১৪২৮ বঙ্গাব্দ (০৮ই আগষ্ট ২০২১), বেলা ৪.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে আবেদনপত্র সংগ্রহ এবং বাৎসরিক এককালীন টাকার পে-অর্ডারসহ উক্ত সময়ের মধ্যেই তা জমা প্রদানের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো। উল্লেখ করা যাচ্ছে যে, প্রত্যেক ওয়ার্ডে একটি পিসিএসপি প্রতিষ্ঠান বাৎসরিকভিত্তিতে নিবন্ধন এবং নিয়োগ করা হবে। যা প্রত্যেক বছর নতুনভাবে নিবন্ধিত হবে। একটি প্রতিষ্ঠান একাধিক ওয়ার্ডে আবেদন করতে পারবে।

মোঃ বদরুল আমিন
এয়ার কমডোর
প্রধান বর্জ্য ব্যবস্থাপনা কর্মকর্তা

ডিএসসি/পিআরডি/১৬/২০২১-২০২২
জিডি-১৩৯০

বর্জ্য ব্যবস্থাপনা বিভাগ
ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন, ঢাকা

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Roads & Highways Department
Office of the Superintending Engineer
Road Circle, Moulvibazar
E-mail: serhdmoulvibazar@gmail.com
Phone: 02-41110074

Memo No. 35.01.5800.07.07.86.21-1297 Date: 29/07/2021

2nd Addendum of Tender Document

This is for the information of all concerned tenderers that the following amendment has been made of the tender document for "Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Operation and Maintenance of a Real-Time Web-Based Toll Collection System of Rustompur Toll Plaza at 193rd KM of Dhaka (Katchpur)-Bhairab-Jogodishpur-Shaistaganj-Sylhet-Tamabil-Jaflong Road (N-2) Road under Habiganj Road Division during the year 2021-22", vide Issue No. 35.01.5800.07.07.86.21-1199; Date: 06/07/2021. **This addendum shall be an integral part of the tender document.**

Reference	As in Notice/Document	Amended
Tender last selling date Tender Notice (Srl. 17)	04/08/2021	11/08/2021
Tender closing date and time Tender Notice (Srl. 18)	05/08/2021 and 12:00pm	12/08/2021 and 12:00pm
Tender opening date and time Tender Notice (Srl. 18)	05/08/2021 and 12:15pm	12/08/2021 and 12:15pm

A. K. Shamsuddin Ahmed
Superintending Engineer, RHD
Road Circle, Moulvibazar

GD-1391