

## SHERPUR HILLS

# Cultivation of cashew nut gaining ground

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The cultivation of cashew nut is becoming popular among farmers in hilly areas of Sherpur district.

Since 2021, some 100 farmers have engaged in cultivating cashew nut in Nalitabari, Jhenaigati and Sreebordi upazilas for the first time in the region, said Mohammad Shakhaat Hossain, deputy director of the Department of Agricultural Extension in Sherpur.

"The cultivation, initiated under a pilot programme titled "Cashew Nut and Coffee Research, Development and Extension Project", has a bright prospect in this hilly region due to suitable weather condition and more small and marginal farmers are getting involved every year," he said.

If the cultivation expands further, it will boost domestic production and generate high revenues as cashew nut fetches good prices in market, the official added.



Shahidul Islam, director of the project, said the demand for cashew nut is growing every year. Presently, the country has an annual demand for 60,000 to 65,000 tonnes of cashew nut, but the domestic production stands at only 3,000 tonnes per year while rest of it is imported mainly from Vietnam and India.

Five years from now, the production of cashew nut in the country's hilly areas is expected to be around 25,000 tonnes, and will continue to increase gradually over time, he added.

According to the official, around 160 saplings can be planted in 100 decimal of land. The plants begin bearing cashew nuts after two years, each producing around 15-20 kilogrammes initially. The production gradually increases as the plants get matured.

The raw fruit is sold at Tk 200-220 per kg, but after processing, the dry fruit fetches Tk 1,800-1,900 in local markets. There are 22 cashew nut processing facilities in the country, he informed.

"So far, the pilot project has generated enthusiasm among the local farmers, and many more, including agro entrepreneurs and unemployed youths, are showing interest in cashew nut cultivation," said Md Abdul Wadud, upazila agriculture officer in Nalitabari.

Golam Maula, a farmer from Nalitabari's Samoschura area, said he had cultivated cashew nut on one acre land and earned a good profit from his harvest.

Uma Hajong, a farmer from Beltoil village, said they are getting adequate support from project officials.

Prof Dr Abdur Rahim, former dean of the Faculty of Agriculture at Bangladesh Agricultural University, said boxing glove or kidney-shaped cashew nut is considered among the best dry fruits. It has around 50 percent fat, as well as rich with Vitamin E and minerals including magnesium, zinc and copper.

Anti-oxidants present in cashew nut make skin look radiant and glowing. It also has anti-inflammatory, analgesic, anti-diabetic, anti-cancer, anti-microbial and cardio-protective properties, he added.



A rickshaw-puller rests by the roadside, exhausted after a grueling morning of hard work under the blistering sun. Although monsoon rains had briefly brought some relief, high temperatures are once again becoming the norm in the capital. The photo was taken in the Tejturi Bazar area yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## COX'S BAZAR

# Eid tourism expected to generate Tk 700cr

MOKAMMEL SHUVO, Cox's Bazar

Businesspeople expressed hope that tourism during Eid-ul-Azha holidays will generate over Tk 700 crore in transactions in Cox's Bazar.

The Cox's Bazar sea beach has been witnessing a massive tourist influx during the Eid holidays from across the country, boosting the coastal town's tourism-based economy.

Cox's Bazar has over 500 hotels, resorts, cottages, and guesthouses, with a capacity to accommodate roughly 187,000 people daily. Hoteliers anticipate an average daily footfall of over 70,000 from June 12-19, with the total number of visitors this Eid expected to exceed 900,000.

Abu Morshed Chowdhury, president of Cox's Bazar Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said, "During Eid-ul-Fitr, about 1.2 million tourists came here, generating over Tk 1,000 crore in 13 sectors. This time, we are expecting around 800,000 to 900,000 visitors and a minimum of Tk 700 crore in business activity."

It is not just the hotels reaping the benefits -- restaurants, retail stores, beach activities, local transport services, and tourist attractions are also witnessing a booming business, he added.

According to Mukhimm Khan, general secretary of the Cox's



Bazar Hotel, Motel and Guesthouse Owners' Association, the tourist influx surged since June 8.

"This is one of the peak times of the year for business. On June 9-10, between 100,000 and 150,000 tourists arrived each day. Around 95 percent of rooms in upscale hotels, motels, and resorts have been booked in advance," he said.

Despite no major promotional offers, the demand is so high that room rates have little room for negotiation.

"Hotels that usually offer 50-70 percent discounts during the off-season are now offering no more than 10-20 percent," he added.

The Kolatoli Hotel Resort Owners' Association reports

that shops near the beach have seen their sales triple during the holidays.

Arafat Rahman, a tourist from Dhaka, said, "The weather has been good, and there's a huge crowd. Prices have gone up -- whether it's food by the beach, horse rides, or bike rentals -- but the atmosphere is lively and clearly profitable for the businesses."

Eid holidaymakers are swarming popular destinations beyond the beach, including the scenic Marine Drive, Himchhari Waterfall, the rocky beaches of Inani and Patuarek, Ramu's Buddhist Monastery, Adinath Temple in Maheshkhali, Burmese Market,

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

## Of overflowing emergency and lingering

He also mentioned that the number of inpatients was lower than usual. "We are trying our best to provide emergency services. Operation theatres are ready round the clock," he added.

However, these correspondents found only four doctors in the emergency ward and learned from the Ansar personnel that three doctors were working inside the OT.

Though the Ansar personnel stated that only one OT was operational, Prof Kenan claimed that six beds in three operation theaters were ready for use.

## PRAYER TIMING

JUNE 11

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-05 12-45 5-00 6-50 8-15

JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-55 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## 52,000 tonnes

FROM PAGE 3

Azaz said on the first day of Eid alone, 10,614 tonnes of waste were collected from DNCC's 54 wards through 1,902 waste transport trips. On the second day (Sunday), 7,353 tonnes were removed in 1,429 trips, and by 2:00pm Monday, 2,922 tonnes were cleared.

Addressing concerns about waste seen on roadsides, Azaz explained that each secondary transfer station has a 5-tonne capacity, which was overwhelmed during Eid as volumes soared to five to six times the normal rate. "These were cleared as quickly as possible," he said, acknowledging

minor delays due to manpower shortages.

At another press briefing, DSCC Administrator Shahjahan Mia officially announced the end of the waste removal campaign. He said that this year's waste was cleared ahead of schedule, surpassing targets.

He added that most temporary cattle market waste -- including bamboo structures and litter -- had also been removed, with final clean-up work ongoing.

A total of 23,284 cleaning staffers were deployed across both city corporations, supported by 2,900 vehicles for waste transportation.

In a Facebook post, LGRD Adviser Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain said that 100% of sacrificial waste in all 12 city corporations was cleared by 10:00pm on Eid day.

"All 487 wards under the 12 city corporations -- 100% waste removal completed by 10:00pm. This was made possible through collective planning, tireless work, and genuine commitment," he wrote.

He added that 40,104 tonnes of waste were cleared nationwide with the help of 35,272 personnel.

FROM PAGE 3  
a cow hit him, fracturing his right hand.

"I haven't been called in yet because the doctors have deemed mine to be less urgent," Obaidul told this newspaper.

Contacted, Prof Abul Kenan, the hospital's director, said the number of patients usually increases during the Eid holiday.

While he did not explain the reason for the rise, staff at the hospital mentioned that road accidents increase

during Eid, contributing to the surge in patient numbers. Additionally, more patients from upazila and district-level hospitals are referred to NITOR because doctors are unavailable during the holiday period.

Prof Kenan mentioned that the emergency ward typically handles 250 patients daily during normal times, but this number rises to over 300 during the Eid holiday.

He said 45 doctors were deployed for three shifts in

## TENDER NOTICE

### CORRIGENDUM No. 2, RFP BGD-UNHCR RFP-1303

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sub-Office in Cox's Bazar hereby announces amendment No.2 to the following tender:

TENDER REFERENCE NUMBER	ITEM DESCRIPTION
BGD-UNHCR RFP-1303	FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FRAME AGREEMENTS FOR THE PROVISION OF CLEANING, GARDENING AND JANITORIAL SERVICES FOR UNHCR OPERATIONS IN BANGLADESH

#### Amendments

Annex A - Terms of reference.

Annex D - Financial Offer Form

Submission Deadline

The minimum take home salary within clause 9.

Revision to Formula

25 June 2025

Interested and bona fide vendors are invited to participate in this Request for Proposal (RFP) by accessing and downloading the tender documents at the following web link: <https://www.unhcr.org/Public/Notice/266578>

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT:** You are requested to inform us of the receipt of this RFP by using a message functionality in Cloud ERP Supplier portal or by sending an e-mail to [BGDCOSUP@UNHCR.ORG](mailto:BGDCOSUP@UNHCR.ORG) against this negotiation as to:

- Your confirmation of receipt of this RFP

- Whether or not you will be submitting a Proposal

**Sending your confirmation above will enable us to send you any updates or any changes in the tender documents.**

**Proposal to be submitted:** Proposal must be submitted through the Cloud ERP portal. In case you have never registered before, you can register a profile using the registration link <https://idcs.c87ac6c2db8444cb41e7c1be0c0c329.identity.oraclecloud.com/ui/v1/signin>. Supplier Registration (oraclecloud.com) and follow the instruction in guides available in the UNHCR website: [https://faersysaasaprod1fa.oacs.oraclecloud.com/faces/PrePostRegisterSupplier?prcModule=30000009859468&\\_adf.ctrlstate=1a62dnl8q\\_6038\\_&\\_affLoop=368535968425491138\\_&\\_affWindowMode=08\\_&\\_affWindwid=null\\_&\\_affS=168\\_&\\_affMFC=88\\_&\\_affMF=08\\_&\\_affMFR=9118\\_&\\_affMFD=19208\\_&\\_affMF=DH=10800\\_&\\_affMFC=88\\_&\\_affMFR=968\\_&\\_affMFG=08\\_&\\_affMFO=0](https://faersysaasaprod1fa.oacs.oraclecloud.com/faces/PrePostRegisterSupplier?prcModule=30000009859468&_adf.ctrlstate=1a62dnl8q_6038_&_affLoop=368535968425491138_&_affWindowMode=08_&_affWindwid=null_&_affS=168_&_affMFC=88_&_affMF=08_&_affMFR=9118_&_affMFD=19208_&_affMF=DH=10800_&_affMFC=88_&_affMFR=968_&_affMFG=08_&_affMFO=0) to register as a prospective supplier and UNHCR Supplier portal registration manual. Do not create a new profile if you already have one. Use the forgotten password feature in case you do not remember your password or username from previous registration.

**Bid submission deadline:** Wednesday, 25 June 2025 - 05:00 PM Bangladesh time.

**Kindly note that hard copy submissions will not be accepted. All offers must be submitted exclusively through the Cloud ERP portal.**

## Dengue outbreak sparks protests in Barguna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Activists from Students Against Discrimination staged a protest at the Barguna Press Club yesterday, raising alarm over what they called a "dire dengue situation" in the district.

They claimed at least 10 people have died and 1,500 have been infected with dengue in Barguna.

However, official figures report two deaths and 1,204 cases this year. Nationwide, dengue has claimed 23 lives, with 5,115 infections reported so far.

Activist Nasrin Akhter Shimu blamed the poor administration at Barguna General Hospital and local health authorities for the rising death toll.

Later in the morning, around 11:00am, the Barguna Sadar upazila unit of the BNP formed a human chain and rallied at the same venue, demanding the resignation of the health adviser over the worsening situation.

Among the deceased are Upoma, daughter of former district BNP president Nazrul Islam Molla, and Monalisa Zerin, daughter of ex-lawmaker Zafrul Hasan Farhad. Their sudden deaths have triggered public outrage and intensified protests.

Currently, 158 patients are admitted to Barguna General Hospital -- the district's only major healthcare facility for nearly 1.2 million residents. Of its 55 sanctioned doctor posts, only 10 are filled, and five of those doctors are on leave.

Dr Md Rejwana Alam, superintendent of the hospital, said the deputy commissioner already raised the issue with the health adviser, and a list of vacant positions has been sent.

## Residents suffer as vital road in sorry state

MOHSIN MILON, Benapole

Residents of Benapole Municipality have long been facing hassle with their daily commute as around 1.5-kilometre stretch of the Benapole-Bahadurpur road has been lying in a sorry state.

The road was dug up around a year back, but it was later only levelled with a road roller spending Tk 5 lakh. Further repairs remain suspended due to fund constraints, said municipality sources.

The municipality authorities claimed that repair work will begin once a nearly Tk 240 crore contract under the Resilient Urban and Territorial Development Project (RUTDP) is signed.

The Benapole Municipality Office itself, as well as numerous educational institutions including Benapole Degree College, are located along this vital thoroughfare in the town, used by around 50,000 people and hundreds of vehicles daily.

"Many rickshaw and easy-bike drivers either avoid the road or charge double fare. Its present condition is having a negative impact on student attendance," said Kamruzzaman Shanti, principal of Benapole Degree College.

"The road is unusable. No vehicle wants to come here, and if they do, they charge extra fare..." said Abid Hossain, a local student.

Mosharraf Hossain, municipality engineer, said new allocations are needed to fix the road.

Dr Kazi Najib Hasan, administrator of Benapole Municipality and also Sharsha upazila nirkhali officer, said, "We've submitted a project proposal to the LGED."

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Principal  
Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College, Sylhet

No: 59.14.0000.129.07.029.24-2567

**e-Tender Notice**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<a href="http://www.eprocure.gov.bd