

SHERPUR HILLS Cashew nut cultivation 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 Shakhsa 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.

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Residents suffer as vital road in sorry state

MOHSIN MILON, Benapole

Residents of Benapole Municipality have long been facing immense 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

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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,

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Capital cleaned

FROM PAGE 3

structures and litter had also been removed, with final clean up work ongoing.

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

At the national level, Local Government Adviser Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain said on Facebook 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 also calling it a "victory of our promise."

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

First return

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Hajj this year, which officially began on June 4.

In total, 222 return flights will return pilgrims from Saudi Arabia to Bangladesh.

To facilitate smooth immigration procedures, dedicated counters have been set up under the supervision of the Immigration Police and Special Branch, with clear guidance provided to pilgrims.

Additionally, luggage belts 5 through 8 have been reserved exclusively for Hajj passengers, with Ansar personnel assisting in baggage collection.

The Hajj flight schedule began on April 29 and continued through to June 1, during which 220 flights carried pilgrims to Saudi Arabia. These included 106 flights operated by Biman Bangladesh Airlines, 75 by Saudia, and 37 by Flynas.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs also reported that 19 Bangladeshi pilgrims have died during this year's pilgrimage.

Of overflowing emergency and lingering

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

the emergency department, including the operation theatres, during the vacation.

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.

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.

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



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

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 Rejwanul 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.

Clash leaves 15 injured in B'baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

A clash between two groups of villagers over a trivial dispute at a roadside restaurant left at least 15 people injured in Sarail upazila of Brahmanbaria on Monday night.

The altercation broke out around 8:00pm at Pathanpara Mor near the Sarail Nasirnagar-Lakhai regional road, halting traffic for nearly two hours, according to police and witnesses.

Locals said the row began when Rabbi, a youth from Kuttapara village, asked for a tissue after dining at a restaurant called Arabian Fuchka House.

When staff told him they had run out, an argument followed.

Restaurant owner Mujibur Rahman stepped in to mediate, but he soon got into a scuffle with Rabbi.

The situation quickly intensified, drawing supporters from Kuttapara and neighbouring Pathanpara villages.

Both groups clashed violently in the dark using torchlights, stones, and makeshift weapons.

The fighting, which lasted about two hours, triggered panic in the area and disrupted vehicular movement on the Sarail Nasirnagar-Lakhai road until 10:00pm.

Police rushed to the spot on receiving information and brought the situation under control.

Sarail Police Station OC Rafiqul Hasan said, "We acted swiftly to control the situation. No formal complaint has been filed yet, and no arrests have been made."

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

Date: 04.06.2025

e-Tender Notice

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

SL. No.	Tender/Proposal ID, Reference No.	Description of the Tender	Tender Document last selling Date & Time	Tender Closing & Opening Date & Time
1.	1125254, 59.14.0000.129.028.24-2566 Date: 04.06.2025,	Supply of Medical and Surgical Supplies (Chemical Reagent, Lot-02, Auto Biochemistry Analyzer : Vitros Machine -350 Reagent) for the financial year of 2024-2025.	18-Jun-2025 16:00	19-Jun-2025 12:00

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 Banks branches.

Further information & guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Professor Dr. Md. Ziaur Rahman Chowdhury
Principal (In-Charge)
Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College, Sylhet

GD-1388

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.	The minimum take home salary within clause 9.
Annex D - Financial Offer Form	Revision to Formula

Submission Deadline 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 against this negotiation as to:

- Your confirmation of receipt of this RFP
- Whether or not you will be submitting a Proposal