

# Grapes of hope in hilly Sherpur

Youth turns experimental vines into a growing venture

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Bunches of grapes in vibrant shades of red, black and green in the hilly Meghadol village of Sherpur's Sreebardi upazila have opened new horizons for agricultural entrepreneurs in nearby areas.

Such cultivation in a garden is the first of its kind in Sherpur, said the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE).

Md Mizanur Rahman, a postgraduate youth, initiated the cultivation in 2022. He collected different varieties of grapes from within and outside the country, including Asian and European types. These include Baikonur, Akollo, Dixon, Black Magic, Green Long, Mascot Blow, Flame, Super Nova, Early Red and Joy Seedless.

Mizanur said his father, Jalal Uddin, brought home 10 grape saplings of two varieties from India out of sheer interest in 2022. These were planted in their homestead and, within just 10 months, began bearing sweet fruits.

Encouraged by this early success, Mizanur decided to expand his efforts, planting 50 different grape varieties



on 35 decimals of land. The fruitful harvest is attracting large numbers of curious visitors.

Now there are 150 plants in his garden, 35 of which are bearing fruits. The plants yield between 10 and 12 kilogrammes each, while the rest, still young, have produced three to four kilogrammes per plant. Some green grapes have already been sold locally at Tk 300 to Tk 400 per kilogramme. The plants can produce fruits for decades if well nurtured, Mizanur said.

Asked about his investment, Mizanur said he has so far spent Tk 2,50,000, mainly to collect saplings. Labour costs are comparatively lower in the hilly areas, he added.

"I have started producing grape saplings to expand cultivation to an additional 150 decimals of land in Meghadol," he said.

Mizanur's father, Jalal, said a few saplings brought from India out of curiosity have now become a source of hope for a reasonable income. At first, they were unsure whether the saplings

would survive, but over time they grew well and began bearing fruits, he added.

They have started producing saplings, and some 50 farmers from nearby villages have bought from their garden. Each is being sold at Tk 300 to Tk 600, depending on variety, and demand is increasing every season.

Abdul Wahab, a retired Ansar member from adjacent Chandapara village, said he bought some saplings to start cultivation this season.

Monir Hossain from Sherpur town said he bought five saplings from Mizanur's garden.

Shah Alam of Gorjoripa village in Sreebardi said he started grape cultivation on 10 decimals of land last year, and the fruits in his garden are now mature. "I have invested Tk 35,000 so far and hope for a good production with reasonable profit. I will expand the garden next year," he said.

Mohammad Shakhauat Hossain, deputy director of the DAE in Sherpur, said they have visited the vineyard on various occasions and are providing technical support.

The weather in the hilly areas is very suitable for grape cultivation, he said, adding that the low cost is attracting more farmers. If the cultivation gains ground, it could help change the economic condition of the mostly poor hilly farmers, he hoped.

## Students lock CU hall canteen for serving stale food



A CORRESPONDENT, CU

Students of Chittagong University's (CU) AF Rahman Hall locked the hall canteen and an adjacent shop yesterday, alleging that they were selling unhygienic and stale food.

They said repeated complaints to the administration had gone unheard and vowed not to reopen the facilities until their 13 demands were met.

The incident took place around 2:30pm.

Witnesses said trouble began when the owner of the canteen served food to a student without washing his hands. When the student objected to the matter, the owner reportedly replied, "Eat it if you want, or leave it."

Angered by this, students of AF Rahman Hall and nearby Alaul Hall locked the doors of the canteen.

Later, AF Rahman Hall residential teacher Morshedul Haque, assistant proctors Korban Ali and Nurul Hamid Kanan inspected the canteen and the hall's dining room.

They said stale khichuri and rotten eggs were found during the visit.

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## 5 years without a bridge

Residents of 25 Jamalpur villages face continuous hardships



SAHIDUL ISLAM NIRAB, Jamalpur

For more than five years, people from at least 25 villages in two Jamalpur upazilas have been suffering after a bridge over the Jhenai river in Sarishabari upazila collapsed during the 2020 floods.

The 200-metre-long concrete bridge was a vital link between Sarishabari and Madarganj upazilas. Its collapse cut off road communication, forcing thousands of residents to take long detours for daily activities, increasing travel time and costs significantly.

Locals said the bridge was the only convenient route for residents of at least 20 villages in Kamrabad and Satpua unions of Sarishabari, and Shidhuli and Adarvita unions of Madarganj.

Since the collapse, they have

organised human chains and submitted petitions several times, demanding a new bridge or repair of the damaged one.

"The worst affected are students. They cannot reach school on time because of the long detours. Immediate steps should be taken to rebuild the bridge," said Babu Miah, a member of Kamrabad Union Parishad.

Hundreds of people from the western side of the river, including Kamrabad and Satpua unions, used to rely on the bridge to reach Sarishabari upazila headquarters for work, markets and healthcare.

Now, many have to use risky boats or travel several extra kilometres.

"We have been facing immense trouble since the bridge collapsed. The government should urgently build a new concrete bridge here,"

said Abdul Bari, a farmer from Shuakur village.

Waiting under the scorching sun on the riverbank, Morgina Begum of Shesua village said, "I have been waiting for over half an hour just to cross the river. The authorities must act quickly to ease our suffering."

Another resident, Asrafur Islam, added, "The bridge collapsed years ago, but no concrete action has been taken. This is an emergency — the bridge must be rebuilt soon."

Sarishabari Upazila Engineer Jahidul Hasan acknowledged the residents' suffering caused by the bridge collapse in 2020, which he said was due to strong flood currents.

"An expert team from the LGED head office has visited the site several times. There is a plan to build a new bridge beside the damaged one," he said.

## AGM Shamsul Kamal passes away, aged 89

CITY DESK

AGM Shamsul Kamal, founding chief executive officer

of the Chittagong Stock Exchange and the Central Depository Bangladesh Limited, breathed his last yesterday at Evercare Hospital.

He was 89 years old, said a press release.

Kamal also served as managing director of Reckitt & Benckiser and held a senior position at Glaxo Bangladesh.

He was involved in social work through Rotary International and Underprivileged Children's Educational Programs (UCEP).

He is survived by three daughters and five grandchildren.

Relatives, friends, and well-wishers have been requested to pray for the salvation of his soul.



PRAYER TIMING	
AUGUST 10	
Fazr	Zohr
4:25	12:45
Asr	Maghrib
4:45	6:41
Esha	
8:00	
JAMAAT	
5:00	1:15
5:00	6:44
8:30	
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION	

## Plaster falls off newly built madrasa building

Locals question quality of Tk 3.19cr project

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Plaster is falling off the walls of a newly constructed four-storey academic building at Modhya Bogura Nuria Dakhil Madrasa in Patuakhali's Dashmina upazila, raising questions about the quality of the construction work.

Locals have alleged that substandard materials were used by the contractor, Abul Kalam Azad, who was awarded the Tk 3.19 crore project by the Education Engineering Department (EED) under the 2019-20 fiscal year tender.

Construction began on February 24 in 2020, and classes in the new building commenced in January this year.

A recent visit to the site revealed extensive peeling of plaster from the walls. Residents claimed that a low ratio of cement and poor-quality sand was used.

"We protested during construction, but the contractor did not pay any attention," said one local.

Md Mizanur Rahman, superintendent

of the madrasa, said, "Plaster started falling off in early April, just three months after classes began in the new building. The condition makes it look like it was built 20 years ago."

He said he had informed the relevant authorities about the issue.

Contacted, contractor Abul Kalam Azad said although the project is in his firm's name, he did not personally carry out the work.

"Someone else handled the construction," he said, adding that he is unaware of any irregularities in the materials or workmanship.

Repeated attempts to reach Md Azom, who was supervising the work in the field, went unanswered as his mobile phone remained switched off.

Mosfiqur Rahman, executive engineer of the EED in Patuakhali, said he was aware of the issue. "As a result, 27 lakh takas of the contractor's payment has been withheld. We have instructed him to redo the plastering work immediately."



**বাড়ি বিক্রয়**

উত্তরা সেক্টর নং-১১, ৫ কাটার জমির উপরে ৬ তলা বাড়ি এবং মালিবাগ চৌধুরীপাড়ায় ৪ কাটা জমির উপরে ৪ তলা বাড়ি বিক্রয় হবে।

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The selected investor will be required to independently finance both the capital investment and ongoing working capital for the venture. Investment inquiries may contact:

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**Email:** f.karim@sfwlimited.com

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH  
HIGH COURT DIVISION  
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)  
COMPANY MATTER NO 1243 OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF: An application under Sections-81(2), 85(3) & 183 read with Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994. AND  
IN THE MATTER OF: **Shamsul Alam**, S/O: Morshed Alam and Bilqis Nahar, Shareholder, Director and Managing Director of Bengal Glue & Foam (BD) Limited of Bengal House, 75 Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan-1, Dhaka, Bangladesh. ———**Petitioner**

**-VERSUS-**  
**Bengal Glue & Foam (BD) Limited** of Bengal House, 75 Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan-1, Dhaka, Bangladesh and The Registrar, Joint Stock Companies and Firms, TCB Bhawan (6th Floor), 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka. ———**Respondents**

Take notice that an application under Sections-81(2), 85(3) & 183 read with Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 was filed before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh on behalf of the above named Petitioner for condonation of delay in holding Annual General Meeting of **Bengal Glue & Foam (BD) Limited** for the calendar years 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 and to give necessary direction for holding the said meeting within a reasonable time. Upon hearing of the application on 16-07-2025 the Hon'ble Company Judge **Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel** has been pleased to admit the said application. If you are interested to oppose the said application you may appear before the Hon'ble Court either in person or through an advocate on or before the date fixed for hearing. Copy of the application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of necessary cost.

**Advocate Md. Anowar Hossain**  
Room No. 351 (Main), Supreme Court Bar Association Bhawan, Shahbagh, Dhaka-1000. Mobile: 01913391551

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH  
HIGH COURT DIVISION  
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)  
COMPANY MATTER NO 1244 OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF: An application under Sections-81(2), 85(3) & 183 read with Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994. AND  
IN THE MATTER OF: **Md. Jashim Uddin**, S/O: Idris Miah and Tahera Begum, Shareholder, Director and Managing Director of Designer Washing and Dyeing Limited of 75, Bengal House, Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan-1, Dhaka, Bangladesh. ———**Petitioner**

**-VERSUS-**  
**Designer Washing and Dyeing Limited** of 75, Bengal House, Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan-1, Dhaka, Bangladesh and The Registrar, Joint Stock Companies and Firms, TCB Bhawan (6th Floor), 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka. ———**Respondents**

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**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Department of Architecture  
Ministry of Housing & Public Works  
Sthapatya Bhaban, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000  
[www.architecture.gov.bd](http://www.architecture.gov.bd)  
Phone No. 02-223350954

Memo No. General-1268/Stha

Dated: 06-08-2025

**e-Tender Notice**

This is to notify for all concern that the following tender have published through e-GP Portal.

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Package No.	Name of works	Publishing date & time	Last selling date & time	Closing date & time
1	1136854	Doa/egg/25-26/02	Computer & Computer accessories	10-Aug-2025 10:30	25-Aug-2025 11:30	25-Aug-2025 12:30
2	1136850	Doa/egg/5-26/03	Engineering and other equipments	10-Aug-2025 12:00	25-Aug-2025 11:00	25-Aug-2025 12:00

The interested persons/firms/supplier may visit the website [www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) to get details of the tender. This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will not be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guideline are available the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

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GD-1749