

# Grapes of hope in hilly Sherpur

Youth turns experimental vines into a growing venture

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

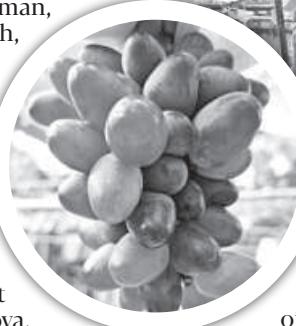
Bunches of grapes in vibrant shades of red, black and green in the hilly Meghalay village of Sherpur's Sreebardi upazila have opened new horizons for agricultural entrepreneurs in nearby areas.

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 Balkonur, 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 Meghalay," 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 35,000 takas so far and hope for a good production with reasonable profit. I will expand the garden next year," he said.

Mohammad Shakhuat 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.

## Late night drive turns fatal

2 cousins die, 1 hurt as car hits divider in Mohakhali

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two cousins were killed and another critically injured after a private car lost control and hit a divider near the Mohakhali flyover in Dhaka's Banani early yesterday.

The deceased are Nazmul Huda Rintu, 42, and Shawkat Hossain Kanan, 37, of Old Dhaka's Hazaribagh area, said police.

Hasnat, 36, another cousin, was injured in the accident and receiving treatment at a hospital with critical injuries.

All three of them run tannery businesses separately and were involved in other professions.

The car caught fire following the collision around 2:30am in Mohakhali. The accident took place when they were going towards Mohakhali from Banani.

According to family, the three went out for a drive on Friday night around 7:00pm.

Locals rushed Shawkat to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared him dead. Nazmul was taken to Kurmitola General Hospital but later died from his injuries.

Siddiq Hossain, sub-inspector of Banani Police Station and the investigating officer of the case, told The Daily Star, "The driver, Rintu, lost control of the vehicle and crashed into the divider. One



SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

## 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 bridge beside the damaged one," he said.

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, Asraf 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 Gla Bangladeshi.

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.

## 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 Dakkhil Madrasa in Patuakhali's Dashmina upazila, raising questions about the quality of the construction work.

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.

Mosfigur 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."



PRAYER TIMING  
AUGUST 10

Faz Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-25 12-45 4-45 6-41 8-00  
JAMAAT 5-00 1-15 5-00 6-44 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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  
Phone No. 02-223350954

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/egp/25-26/02	Computer & Computer accessories	10-Aug-2025 10:30	25-Aug-2025 11:30	25-Aug-2025 12:30
2	1136850	Doa/egp/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)).

*Anisul Haque*  
66-825

S.M. Anisul Haque

Executive Architect

(Circle-Co-Ordination, Division-Services)  
Sthapatya Bhaban, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000  
Phone No. 02-223350954



Joint Venture Investment Opportunity in Strategic Industrial Zones

A unique and high-potential opportunity is now available for visionary investors seeking to establish a strong foothold in Bangladesh's rapidly expanding industrial sector. Three strategically located industrial land parcels are being offered for joint venture development:

1. 500 Satak (5-Acre) Industrial Plot - Prime location on the bank of the Adamjee River in the Payra Port area, with direct connectivity to a four-lane highway.

2. 200 Satak Plot - Ideally situated beside the approach road to the Payra Port office, offering excellent visibility and streamlined logistics.

3. 113 Satak Land Parcel - Located adjacent to the Mosheshkali Highway in Hoanek Mouza. This site is in close proximity to the Matarbari Industrial Zone, an area currently experiencing significant Japanese investment in large-scale infrastructure projects, including the Matarbari Deep Sea Port and a major coal-fired power plant.

These land parcels are particularly well-suited for the establishment of:

- Oil refinery (BPC has approved)

- Bulk liquid or drum bitumen storage

- Large-scale oil storage tanks

- Modern silo facilities

- Synthetic footwear manufacturing units

- Battery production plants

- Tyre manufacturing industries

- Other heavy or light industrial and logistics enterprises

The selected investor will be required to independently finance both the capital investment and ongoing working capital for the venture.

Investment inquiries may:

Phone: +8801973897993, +8801798211861 (Coordinator)

Email: f.karim@swlimited.com



Joint Venture Investment Opportunity in Strategic Industrial Zones

A unique and high-potential opportunity is now available for visionary investors seeking to establish a strong foothold in Bangladesh's rapidly expanding industrial sector. Three strategically located industrial land parcels are being offered for joint venture development:

1. 500 Satak (5-Acre) Industrial Plot - Prime location on the bank of the Adamjee River in the Payra Port area, with direct connectivity to a four-lane highway.

2. 200 Satak Plot - Ideally situated beside the approach road to the Payra Port office, offering excellent visibility and streamlined logistics.

3. 113 Satak Land Parcel - Located adjacent to the Mosheshkali Highway in Hoanek Mouza. This site is in close proximity to the Matarbari Industrial Zone, an area currently experiencing significant Japanese investment in large-scale infrastructure projects, including the Matarbari Deep Sea Port and a major coal-fired power plant.

These land parcels are particularly well-suited for the establishment of:

- Oil refinery (BPC has approved)

- Bulk liquid or drum bitumen storage

- Large-scale oil storage tanks

- Modern silo facilities

- Synthetic footwear manufacturing units

- Battery production plants

- Tyre manufacturing industries