

# Strawberry cultivation expands in Rangpur region

SDILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

In Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, Hasan Zahid, 35, started cultivating strawberries on a small piece of land in 2017 to pursue his hobby. Following a promising yield, he gradually expanded cultivation to four bighas.

"Now I earn around Tk 4-5 lakh annually after expenses by cultivating strawberries, while employing four workers," he said.

Visiting Zahid's plantation recently, this correspondent observed neat rows of plants covered with polythene for mulching.

Like Zahid, many others in Rangpur region are now showing an ardent interest in cultivating strawberries, a high-value exotic fruit. The region's long, cool winters, fertile soil, and relatively dry conditions make it well-suited for strawberry cultivation.

Agriculture experts said with use of improved seedlings, modern cultivation methods, and effective market management, Rangpur could become one of Bangladesh's major strawberry-producing hubs.

According to the Department of Agricultural Extension, around 47 hectares of land across Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Rangpur, and Nilphamari districts have been brought under strawberry cultivation this season, up from only about six hectares in the region just five years ago.

Strawberries generally grow well in temperatures between 10-20 degrees Celsius, which is typical from November to February in Rangpur. Farmers prepare raised beds

in October-November and plant 10,000 to 12,000 seedlings per bigha.

Organic manure, cow dung, and fertilisers like TSP, MOP, and urea are applied in specific amounts. Polythene is laid at the base of the plants for mulching to reduce weed growth, retain soil moisture, and keep the fruits clean. Flowers appear 60-70 days after planting, and harvesting continues between December and March.



While strawberry cultivation offers good returns, it requires higher investment than traditional crops. The total cost per bigha — including seedlings, fertilisers, mulching polythene, irrigation, bamboo, and labour — ranges from Tk 1,20,000 to Tk 1,50,000. On a hectare, production costs can reach around Tk 9-10 lakh.

The cost of producing each kilogramme of strawberries is approximately Tk 150-160, while it fetches a wholesale price of Tk 300-600 per kg.

According to DAE data, yields average 6-10 tonnes per hectare. As such, farmers can earn profits of Tk 2-3 lakh per bigha.

Abdur Razzak, 34, from Bajra village in Kurigram, has been cultivating strawberries commercially on 12 bighas since 2022. He now also produces his own seedlings, which reduces costs significantly.

"The demand for strawberries is strong. Wholesalers come directly to the fields, although we receive only about half the market price," he said.

Khoimuddin Bepari, a fruit wholesaler at City Bazar in Rangpur, said strawberries currently sell in the retail market for Tk 700-800 per kg, but farmers receive Tk 350-400 per kg.

"There are market challenges. If strawberries cannot be sold on time, they spoil quickly. Transportation and storage costs are also high," he explained.

Despite these challenges, strawberries from Rangpur are now being sent across the country, including Dhaka, after meeting local demand.

Sirajul Islam, DAE additional director in Rangpur region, expressed optimism about the crop's future.

"Strawberry emerges as a promising crop in Rangpur's soil. Many young entrepreneurs are achieving success by cultivating strawberries using modern mulching methods," he said.

The DAE provides technical advice to farmers and has taken initiatives to train those interested in strawberry cultivation, he added.

## China

FROM PAGE 4

Shafiqur also alleged that during a past "fascist period," symbols of Bangladesh-China friendship were undermined, citing the renaming of the China Friendship International Conference Centre.

Describing the long-delayed Teesta River project as "the cry of Bangladesh," he stressed its implementation and said his party would support any initiative to advance it.

He welcomed China's reported plans to support specialised hospitals and build residential halls for Dhaka University students, calling them examples of "genuine friendship."

Ambassador Yao Wen said Bangladesh and China are comprehensive strategic cooperative partners.

Referring to Eid-ul-Fitr, he said the programme aimed to support local residents and that China would continue projects to improve people's well-being.

Later, at a press conference in Moghbazar, Jamaat leaders criticised recent government decisions to appoint administrators to city corporations and district councils, as well as changes in leadership at several public universities.

## Actor Shams Suman

FROM PAGE 3

In recent years, he had stepped away from regular television appearances.

His film credits include "Mon Janena Moner Thikana" (2016), "Cox's Bazar e Kakatuya" (2016), "Chokher Dekha" (2016), "Priya Tumi Sukhi Hou" (2014), "Ayna Kahini" (2013), "Hello Amit" (2012), "Nomuna" (2008), "Bidrohi Padma" (2006), and "Joyatra" (2004).

In 2008, he received

the National Film Award for Best Supporting Actor for his performance in "Swapnopuron."

Suman was also associated with the recitation group Swanar at the Rajshahi University, where he developed his early grounding in performance. Though less visible in recent years, his work across stage, television, and film remains part of a defining period in Bangladeshi acting.

## Nine killed

FROM PAGE 4

bus while legal action was under way, said Dhanbari Police Station OC Nurul Salam Siddique.

In Kishoreganj, six were killed in road accidents in Sadar, Katiadi and Itna upazilas on Monday, reports our correspondent.

A truck lost control and veered off the Bhairab-Kishoreganj regional highway near Achmita George Institution in Katiadi upazila around 11:00am, and hit farmer Imon Mia, 26, on the roadside, leaving him dead,

said Khurshed Alam, in-charge of Katiadi Highway Police Outpost. Irfan, 16, and his pillion, Naushad, 20, were injured

after he lost control on the motorcycle at Nilganj intersection around 2:00pm. Irfan died at Kishoreganj General Hospital. Naushad passed away at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

A bus hit an oncoming CNG-run auto-rickshaw at Chaudashata in Sadar upazila, killing an unidentified woman.

An unidentified child died after being hit by a motorcycle at Binnati under the upazila, said Kishoreganj Sadar OC Abul Kalam Bhuiyan.

A truck hit a motorcycle in Mriga of Itna upazila, leaving the motorcycle rider Jayanta Gope, 32, dead, confirmed union parishad chairman Darul Islam.

## Surge in measles overwhelms

FROM PAGE 3

The child required Intensive Care Unit (ICU) support, but the hospital's ICU had been non-functional for over a year due to a lack of manpower.

Several other hospitals reportedly declined to admit him, citing the risk of measles infection to other ICU patients, hospital sources said.

The incident triggered outrage and grief, drawing attention of higher authorities.

Health Minister Sardar Md Sakhawat Husain visited the hospital late Monday night and assured that ICU services would resume within a day and that some measles patients would be shifted to the DNCC hospital.

During a visit to the Infectious Diseases Hospital yesterday, this correspondent saw many patients lying on the third and fifth floors.

Mobashwara Akhter, a nine-month-old measles

patient from Savar, was admitted to the hospital four days ago, but could not get a bed or any space inside the ward. Her parents were forced to place her near the stairs on the fifth floor.

"We have nothing to do but stay here," said her father, Anwar Hossain.

A nurse said 38 patients, most with measles, were being treated against 25 beds on the fifth floor, forcing many to stay on the floor.

Five-month-old Aditya Rajbangshi from Tangail also could not get a bed and was receiving treatment on the floor.

"A local hospital referred him to Shishu Hospital in Dhaka, but that hospital again referred him to this hospital," his mother, Tumpa Rajbangshi, said.

Hospital superintendent Tanzina Jahan said measles cases have been rising since January, with a further increase in February and this month.

"Measles outbreaks

usually occur at five-year intervals, with the last in 2019. We are seeing a rise in measles cases this year," she told The Daily Star.

She said 63 patients were admitted yesterday, compared to 78 the previous day.

Of the hospital's 100 beds, 25 are dedicated to HIV patients.

Measles patients also cannot be kept with chickenpox patients, limiting available space for measles patients and forcing some to stay on the floor.

A total of 21 doctors and around 60 nurses are working at the hospital, which also vaccinates about 1,500 outpatients daily, in addition to treating patients with other infectious diseases, she said.

"Following the minister's instructions, we have reopened the ICU," she said, adding that four additional doctors have been assigned to handle the increased patient load.

## Security beefed

FROM PAGE 3

kinds of people, including muggers and drug addicts. That is why I have directed all units across Bangladesh to deploy forces to ensure safe and orderly Eid travel," he said.

He added steps are being taken to prevent passenger harassment, overcharging of fares, and traffic congestion during the Eid rush.

Meanwhile, Rab has launched round-the-clock security operations across the capital as large numbers of residents leave the city.

Rab-10 Commanding Officer Mohammad Kamruzzaman said around 15 million people are expected to leave Dhaka, leaving many residential areas vulnerable to theft and robbery.

"In such situations, incidents of burglary and mugging tend to increase, especially as many homes remain vacant," he said after inspecting the Sadarghat Launch Terminal.

To prevent crime, Rab has

intensified patrols across key areas, particularly at night, focusing on empty homes and less crowded neighbourhoods.

Monitoring has also been strengthened at major transport hubs, including Sadarghat and the Sayedabad Bus Terminal, to prevent harassment and overcharging, said the Rab official.

Passengers have been asked to report any such incidents to the Rab control room, which will operate 24/7 throughout the holiday.

The Bangladesh Coast Guard has also increased security at key river terminals nationwide. Personnel have been deployed at major launch terminals, ferry ghats, and river crossings under its four operational zones — Dhaka, Bhola, Chattogram, and Mongla.

At Sadarghat yesterday, coastguards were checking passengers at pontoon entry points and inspecting launches to ensure safe travel during the busy Eid period.

## Last-minute Eid shopping frenzy

FROM PAGE 3

Large crowds were observed around shops selling dresses, shoes, and cosmetics at Muktijoddha Market and Cooperatives Market at Mirpur-1.

Mofizul Islam, a Mirpur resident, said he went to Cooperatives Market after

receiving his salary and bonus yesterday.

"I am buying three-piece outfits and shoes for my wife and younger sister, a lungi and panjabi for my father, and shoes and dresses for my children," he said.

Mehedi Hasan, who planned to travel to Barishal

by launch yesterday, purchased multiple items from Karwan Bazar Supermarket, including shirts, three-piece outfits, and panjabis for his family and close relatives.

"I am going straight to Sadarghat launch terminal after shopping. I try to give

everyone dresses during Eid and come to this market to buy at lower prices," he explained.

Abdul Jalil Mollah, proprietor of Messer's Bhai Bhai Saree House, noted that although customer numbers increased yesterday, the sales have not been as expected.



**Housing and Building Research Institute**  
Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering Division  
120/3, Darus Salam, Mirpur, Dhaka-1216  
[www.hbri.gov.bd](http://www.hbri.gov.bd)

Memo No- 25.14.2600.000.000.14.0226.26-171

Date: 16-03-2026

### e-Tender Notice

e-Tender will be invited in the National e-GP system portal <https://www.eprocure.gov.bd> for procurement of the following goods and services

Tender ID No.	Description	Tender Document last selling Date and Time
1245911	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Geophysical Survey Instrument for HBRI and supply of PVC pipes compatible with downhole seismic survey for the research project titled Empirical Correlations between Standard Penetration Test (SPT) Blow Counts and Shear-Wave Velocity (Vs) Across Different Geological Formations in Bangladesh	05-Apr-2026 15:00

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 (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

Dr. Partha Saha  
Senior Research Engineer  
Housing and Building Research Institute

GD-633

**চট্টগ্রাম বন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষ**  
বন্দর ভবন, চট্টগ্রাম ৪১০০  
[www.cpa.gov.bd](http://www.cpa.gov.bd)  
**সতর্কীকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

সাম্প্রতিক সময়ে অতি উদ্বেগের সাথে লক্ষ্য করা যাচ্ছে যে, চট্টগ্রাম বন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষের আহবানকৃত চট্টগ্রাম বন্দরে শিপ হ্যান্ডলিং অপারেটর ও বার্থ অপারেটর লাইসেন্স প্রদানের আধায়ে বন্দরের উর্ধ্বতন কর্মকর্তা এবং বিভিন্ন প্রভাবশালী মহলের রেফারেন্স দিয়ে একশ্রেণির অসাধুচক্র বিভিন্ন লোকের নিকট থেকে অনৈতিক সুবিধা গ্রহণ করছে, যা গর্হিত অপরাধ। সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, চট্টগ্রাম বন্দরে হ্যান্ডলিং কার্যক্রম পরিচালনার নিমিত্তে শিপ হ্যান্ডলিং অপারেটর ও বার্থ অপারেটর লাইসেন্স প্রদানের লক্ষ্যে অনুমোদিত লাইসেন্সিং নীতিমালা-২০২৫ অনুযায়ী বিজ্ঞপ্তির শর্ত পূরণকারী লাইসেন্স গ্রহণে ইচ্ছুক প্রতিষ্ঠান সমূহকে যথাযথ দলিলাদি দাখিল সাপেক্ষে প্রয়োজনীয় সংখ্যক লাইসেন্স প্রদান করার বিষয়টি কর্তৃপক্ষ বিবেচনা করতে পারে। সরকারি বিধিবিধান, নীতিমালা ও প্রচলিত আইন মেনে যাচাই বাছাই প্রক্রিয়া সম্পন্ন করা হবে। এমতাবস্থায় অসৎ প্রতারক চক্রের মাধ্যমে বা আর্থিক লেনদেনের মাধ্যমে আলোচ্য লাইসেন্স পাওয়ার কোন সুযোগ নেই। চবক এর উর্ধ্বতন কর্মকর্তা, বিশিষ্ট ব্যক্তিদের নাম/পরিচয় ব্যবহার করে অসৎ উদ্দেশ্য হাসিলকারী এসব প্রতারক চক্রের প্রলোভন থেকে সকলকে সতর্ক থাকার পরামর্শ দেয়া হলো। উপরন্তু এধরনের কর্মকাণ্ডে কেউ সম্পৃক্ত হলে বন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষ দায়ী থাকবে না। প্রতারকচক্র কাউকে প্রতারিত করতে চাইলে তাদেরকে নিকটস্থ আইন প্রয়োগকারী সংস্থার নিকট সোপর্দ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

চবক জরুরিঃ ৪৪/২০২৬  
সাইজ ৫x৩

আদেশক্রমে  
চট্টগ্রাম বন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষ

GD-637

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Bangladesh Police  
Police Headquarters, Dhaka  
[www.police.gov.bd](http://www.police.gov.bd)  
**INTERNATIONAL RE-TENDER NOTICE**

Memo No.44.01.0000.024.02.002.25.683 Date: 16/03/2026

Sealed tender is hereby invited from the breeders/principals/suppliers in the official pad for supply of Horses as required by Bangladesh Police in fiscal year 2025-2026

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Home Affairs		
2. Agency	Police Headquarters, Dhaka		
3. Head Of Procuring Entity	Inspector General Of Police, Bangladesh.		
4. Invitation for	Procurement Of Horse		
5. Invitation Ref no	44.01.0000.024.02.005.25./ 08 (2025-2026)		
6. Date	16 March 2026		
KEY INFORMATION			
7. Procurement Method	One Stage Two Envelopes Tendering Method (OSTETM)		
FUNDING INFORMATION			
8. Budget and source of Fund	GOB Revenue		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
9. Tender Publication Date	17 March 2026		
10. Last selling Date	15 April 2026		
11. Closing date and time	16 April 2026 at 12.00 hrs		
12. Opening Date and Time	16 April 2026 at 12.30 hrs		
13. Name and address of the office	Add. DiG (Transport), level-4, NCCOM Center, Police Headquarters, Phoenix Road, Fulbaria, Dhaka-1000		
Place of selling /Receiving/ opening tender document	Transport Section, level-4, NCCOM Center, Police Headquarters, Dhaka-1000		
14. Date and time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	06 April 2026 at 15.00 Hrs Office room, Addl. DiG (Transport), level-4, NCCOM Center, Police Headquarters, Dhaka		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER			
15. Eligibility of tenderer	i) Up to date trade license ii) Up to date income tax certificate iii) VAT registration certificate iv) Other requirements described in the Standard Tender Document		
16. Price of Tender Document (BDT)	TK. 4,000 (Four Thousand) Only (Non-Refundable).		
Brief description of goods			
Package	Identification of item	Tender security amount in USD or EURO/PY	Completion time
PKG-31	Horse	\$ 3,200.00 (Three Thousand Two Hundred)	180 days
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS			
18. Name of official inviting tender	Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman, BPM		
19. Designation and address of the official inviting tenderer	Addl. DiG (Transport), level-4, NCCOM Center, Police Headquarters, Dhaka-1000		
20. Contract detail of official inviting tender	Phone--88 02 223384779 e-mail: addldigtrans@police.gov.bd		
21. Special Instruction			
a. No tender will be received after the deadline of the submission			
b. The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all/ any tender or annul the tender process without causing any reason			
c. The Procuring Entity also reserves the right to omit, increase or decrease the quantity of tender item(s).			
d. The bidders must abide by the decision of the HOPE			
e. The procurement process will be performed according to the Public Procurement Act-2006 & PPR- 2025			

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